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All About History

Catherine the Great

Russia's Ultimate Conqueror

How the unstoppable ruler enthralled an empire with sex, lies & military power

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Welcome
Russia has had its fair share of conquerors. Ivan the Terrible was the first Muscovy prince to call himself ‘tsar,’ meaning ‘Caesar’ or ‘emperor,’ and spent his life waging wars. He absorbed the khanates of Kazan and Astrakhan into the motherland, as well as the Volga and the Urals. But he also lost the Livonian War and could not gain access to the Baltic Sea. He faced constant attack from the Crimean Tatars, who burnt Moscow to the ground in 1571. Ivan eventually defeated them, but it left Russia financially ruined.

Peter the Great sought to ‘Westernise’ Russia not just through social and economic reform, but by literally moving the border westwards. He expanded into modern-day Estonia and Latvia, as well as building his glorious Saint Petersburg in lands he had captured from Sweden. But his Great Northern War was no easy victory and he also lost the Black Sea to the Ottomans.

Catherine the Great, however, ruled a third of the world by the time she died. The Russia she left behind was living through a golden age, having realised many of the reforms Peter had only dreamed of. Not bad for a minor German princess born with limited prospects, eh? Discover how Catherine not only seized power but expanded her empire from page 28.

Editor’s picks

Napoleon of the West
Soldier-statesman Santa Anna is demonised for different reasons in both Mexican and American history, but does he deserve his black legend?

Stunning photos
Discover the winners and runners-up of the first-ever Historic Photographer of the Year Awards, which celebrates the world’s greatest heritage sites.
Catherine the Great

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How the world got moving during the Industrial Revolution.

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Uncover the armoured trains that have helped win wars.

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Meet the razor-wielding gangs that dominated 1920s Sydney and the women who led them.

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Santa Anna is hated by Americans and Mexicans alike – but was he as bad as he’s made out to be?

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Was haggis, Scotland’s national dish, actually invented by Vikings?

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98 History vs Hollywood
Gunpowder went out with a bang, but how much of it actually happened?
Rhythm guitarist Paul Stanley of rock band KISS poses with his Gibson Flying V guitar. 6 January marks the 60th anniversary of the odd-looking instrument. Though its radical body design was inspired by the tailfins that epitomised American cars of the era, the Flying V was not well received in 1958. However, it found fame as the instrument of choice for artists including Stanley, Albert King and Lonnie Mack.
In London's East End, 200 armed police and soldiers faced off with two suspected Latvian anarchists. The shoot-out, known as the Siege of Sidney Street, lasted six hours, only ending when the wanted men's hideout caught fire. Winston Churchill, then Home Secretary, was also at the scene (pictured on inside left). He forbade firefighters from intervening until the criminals ceased shooting, both men burned to death. Newsreel footage of the violence shocked the country.

THE SIEGE THAT SHOOK BRITAIN

HISTORY IN PICTURES

1911
Wounded US Marines used a tank as a makeshift ambulance during the Vietnam War battle to retake Huế. The city was lost during the Tet Offensive, a coordinated strike by 80,000 North Vietnamese troops to capture 100 towns and cities on 30 January 1968. While American and South Vietnamese forces held them off, the offensive eroded US public support for the war, leading to a slow, painful withdrawal from the region. 1968.
GIVING PEACE A CHANCE

After the horrors of World War I, the League of Nations was founded to maintain world peace and held its first meeting in Paris on 16 January 1920. A precursor to the UN, 58 countries from around the globe signed up - though at the time nearly all of Africa consisted of Western colonies. The League is widely remembered as a failure, but it did prevent war between Greece and Bulgaria, fought slave traders and rescued Turkish refugees.

1920
STEAM TRAINS
Discover the evolution of the engine that drove the Industrial Revolution, from how it transformed transportation to how it was weaponised for war

Written by David Crookes, Michael Haskew, Katherine Marsh and Jack Parsons
STEAM TRAINS

Steam travel’s rise and fall

Tracking the history of the Industrial Revolution’s answer to travel

STANDING START
Scottish James Watt built the first stationary steam engine. He later improved the design so it could produce enough power to move six to eight horses an hour.

TIME TO MOVE
Richard Trevithick created ‘Puffing Devil’, the earliest steam-powered passenger vehicle. Destroyed a few days later, Trevithick went on to build the first steam locomotive designed to run on a track.

GOING PUBLIC
The Stockton and Darlington Railway became the world’s first-ever public railway to run a steam train. It was headed by George Stephenson’s ‘Locomotive No. 1’.

SPREAD DEMONS
In 1829, ‘Tender’ reached 100 miles per hour. In 1844, GWR Class ‘City of Truro’ reached 126 miles per hour.

AMERICAN STEAM
Stourbridge Lion, the United States’ original steam locomotive, began work. However, its excessive weight forced it to become a stationary boiler as the rails couldn’t support it.

CONNECTING CITIES
Built by George Stephenson, the world’s inaugural steam-powered intercity railway opened in the UK, connecting the industrial hubs of Liverpool and Manchester.

EXPRESS D’ORIENT
Twice a week

COAST TO COAST
After getting approval from the president, Abraham Lincoln, the first transcontinental railroad opened, bridging the Pacific coast to the central United States.

GOING UNDERGROUND
The first-ever underground railway, The Metropolitan Railway, opened in London. This practice continued across the world during both World Wars.

WEAPON ON WHEELS
Soldiers began modifying trains by adding weapons to them during the American Civil War. This practice was taken place in Britain as well.

THE BEGGINING OF THE END?
Dr Rudolf Diesel patented the compression ignition, or diesel, engine. Later refinements made it more economical to run than steam.

QUINTINSHILL RAIL DISASTER
At 6.45am, a train carrying a troop of soldiers crashed into a stationary passenger train near Gretna, Scotland. Twenty-nine people died.

CHANGING TIMES
Diesel locomotives were brought into regular use in the 50s and steam began to be phased out. The transition finished in the 60s.

END OF AN ERA
The last passenger steam train service ran in Britain. The next day, privately-owned steam locomotives were banned on the main line, although this was lifted in 1971 and the Flying Scotsman was exempt.

KEEPING THE PAST ALIVE
>160 heritage railways
700 operational steam locos
23,000 steam train journeys
£675 special tickets
2,440 miles oftrack
840,000 passengers

By the time George Stephenson died, Britain had about 2,540 miles of track for 840,000 passengers.

17
STEAM TRAINS
UK were developed for coastal defence and the over 100 of them during the civil war of 1918-20. teams of two or three, were classified as light or develop their own, and Soviet ones, working in the Boer Wars and the Russo-Japanese War all saw the trains in use. Meanwhile, some in the UK were developed for coastal defence and the British Expeditionary Force deployed one at the First Battle of Ypres at the start of World War I. On the Eastern Front, the Russians armed their trains with light artillery, while the Bolsheviks had over 800 of them during the civil war of 1918-20. It was in World War II that armoured trains peaked. The Polish Army used them against the invading Nazis, prompting the Germans to develop their own, and Soviet ones, working in teams of two or three, were classified as light or heavy depending on their size and weaponry. They were often armed with anti-aircraft guns, light artillery and machine guns, while some transported infantry. 

However, the train’s primary flaw was its reliance on rails — when the track stopped, so did the train. Furthermore, its vulnerability to air attacks also increased throughout World War II and as tanks improved, the armoured train’s relevance was gradually eclipsed. While only about two dozen were produced, the Legkaya Broneploshadka PL-37 Light Artillery Wagon (pictured) showcased Soviet power in the 1930s. Armed with a pair of 76.2mm field guns and six 76.2mm machine guns, it was protected by armour up to 20mm thick and held 30 men. 

Main armament
The PL-37 mounted a pair of 76.2mm Model 1902/30 field guns modified for service aboard the armoured rail car. The Model 1902/30 was an improved variant of the original Model 1902 that was deployed extensively during World War I. Its maximum range was 13.29 kilometres and its rate of fire was 80-82 rounds per minute. The PL-37 guns were mounted in traversing turrets fore and aft, and further protected by armoured embrasure collars. 

Commander’s seat
The commander’s seat was located midway along the 4.40-metre length of the car inside a cupola with elevation that allowed the officer to communicate effectively with crewmen at either end. He entered the car from the ground via a step ladder and utilised a hatch located in the top of the cupola for external visual orientation — and as an avenue of escape if the vehicle was disabled in action. 

Field of vision
Glass visors and a PTK panoramic periscope facilitated the commander’s view of the surrounding territory, allowing him to select targets and identify threats within a reasonable time to take action. Artillery direction was the primary purpose of the periscope, as the PL-37 was often deployed with infantry in a fire support role. 

Secondary armament
A complement of six 76.2mm Maxim water-cooled machine guns provided secondary armament aboard the PL-37, effective defensively against charging infantry and cavalry and in an offensive fire support role. The machine guns were placed in sleeve and half mounts in the hull and in the 76.2mm turrets adjacent to the main weapons. The Maxim was fed from a 250-round belt and its sustained rate of fire was 600 rounds per minute. 

The cupola
The commanders of the forward and rear 76.2mm guns were stationed inside the turrets with glass visors for target acquisition and field observation. Space within the turrets was quite limited, particularly during the heat of combat as crewmen serviced the weapon and responded to orders from the commander. Manual elevation wheels raised and lowered the guns. A small hatch allowed the gun commander to view his surroundings externally or exit in an emergency situation. 

Suspension
The standard rail car was constructed for combat at the PL-37 artillery wagon with a chassis supported by the Diamond brand 55-ton twin axle truck system, a proven structure that was in service prior to World War II. It was in World War II that armoured trains peaked. The Polish Army used them against the invading Nazis, prompting the Germans to develop their own, and Soviet ones, working in teams of two or three, were classified as light or heavy depending on their size and weaponry. They were often armed with anti-aircraft guns, light artillery and machine guns, while some transported infantry. 

Armour protection
The armour protection of the PL-37 was heavily loaded with 560 rounds of high explosives and armour-piercing 76.2mm ammunition. These were stored in bunkers in the mid and aft sections of the armoured rail car. Additionally, 90,000 rounds of 76.2mm machine gun ammunition were stored in readily accessible bins. Although the ammunition was a necessity, its detonation due to enemy fire would prove catastrophic, probably destroying the car and wiping out the crew. 

Crew entry
The majority of the 30-man crew entered the armoured rail car through a hatch at its centre. The troops climbed a short external ladder and then moved to their stations inside. Comfort was of little or no concern in the car’s design, and robust ammunition storage space resulted in cramped conditions. During combat, the noxious fumes of discharging weapons caused some crewmen to become ill despite ventilation. 

Ammunition storage
The standards for rail cars were continual. Technicians accessed these vital components through doors located in the lower sections of the armour plating and performed such services as wheel lubrication that allowed the armoured artillery wagon to function along the Soviet rail network. The Red Army used armoured trains effectively in defence against the German invasion in 1941, however, a large number of them were lost in action.
Grease Top Hat

Head up!
It was rare to find a fireman without a hat. More than a means to keep coal smut out of their hair, it provided some protection if they fell off their head on the cab’s low, metal ceiling. The hat might also sport a badge advertising the railway they worked for.

Oily Rag

Grease is the word
In a cab filled with hot metal and covered in grease, a rag was like a glove for everyone on the footplate.

Firing Shovel

Tool of the trade
A fireman’s most important tool, a shovel with a sturdy handle, was used to get the coal into the far reaches of the firebox. A delicate balance had to be achieved with the coal — too little and not enough pressure was created, but too much and there wouldn’t be enough air for the coal to burn. Some firemen also had a slightly more unorthodox use for the shovel — frying up eggs and bacon on the hot (and filthy) metal.

Hand Lamp

Lighting the way
Lanterns were carried by most members of staff on the railways while working at night. They usually ran off kerosene and had different coloured glass lenses — red, green and orange — to send signals to signalmen and crossing keepers.

Coal Pick

Breaking up the fuel
Just in case the lamps ran out of oil, some firemen or engineers carried a coal pick. To use it, he’d climb into the fuel bunker and swing it like a pickaxe to make sure that the coal was all the right size for the firebox.

Leather Satchel

Bagging up the goods
Leather satchels were used by firemen to keep their belongings together while on the engine. They usually held some food, a lamp for when it got dark, and, perhaps most importantly to a Victorian, a flask of tea — although this was sometimes left on the shelf above the firebox to keep it warm and nice.

Bib and Brace

Looking the part
While many Victorian drivers wore waistcoats, firemen had a bib and brace — a kind of overalls to protect their clothes — and a matching cloth jacket. They also often had a neckerchief to keep out the cold as they hurtled through the countryside in the winter and a pair of sturdy boots.
A TRAIN ROBBER

THERE IS ALWAYS A RISK THAT A METICULOUS PLAN GETS DERAILED

WILCOX, WYOMING, US, JUNE 1899

Trains travelling through the vast wilderness of the American West, often miles from help, were frequently targeted by bandits. Gold worth $41,000 was stolen from a passenger train west of Reno, Nevada, in 1870, for example, and gang leader Jesse James derailed a locomotive by loosening the track and attaching rope to steal $3,000 in 1873. In most cases, however, the biggest prize for would-be train robbers was the express car as these carried high-value freight including payroll shipments. Guarded by an expressman, they were highly desirable — and a challenge for any gang wishing to crack such a lucrative moving safe.

EARLY START

Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch gang started planning their robbery a few months before 2 June 1899. They brought 500 rounds of ammunition, blasting powder, dynamite and horses and waited patiently for a train to arrive near Wilcox, Wyoming.

FLAG THE TRAIN

The gang knew that the Union Pacific Overland Flyer No 1 was due about 2.20am, and with three mail cars, a baggage and express car and a carriage containing 300 passengers, it seemed to be an ideal target. Three men carrying Union Pacific signal lanterns flagged the train down at milepost number 609. The engineer brought it to a halt.

CONFRONT THE ENGINEER

It was a stormy night and the engineer, W.R. Jones, thought the men were trying to warn him that a small wooden bridge ahead had been damaged. Instead, masked men — including Harry A Longbaugh, aka the Sundance Kid — boarded the cab carrying revolvers. They ordered the engineer and his fireman to climb down.

START ROBBING

The fireman was told to break through the door to the first mail car with a coal pick but when it began to take too long, shots were fired. Ultimately, dynamite had to be used to blow the doors off the car.

DEAL WITH THE UNEXPECTED

The robbers were met with a sudden surprise as they noticed the headlight of another train — they didn't know the evening trains were proving so popular at this time that they were being sent out in pairs. The engineer moved the locomotive over the bridge and just as the last passenger car got across, the robbers blew the bridge up.

ISOLATE THE PROBLEM

The robbers told the engineer that he had five minutes to uncouple the two passenger cars or be shot. He succeeded and the robbers then ordered him to move the train three kilometres further along. When he struggled to get it moving, Logan struck him with the butt of his gun.

TAKE THE EXPRESS

The robbers wanted access to the express car so they ordered its messenger, Charles Woodcock, to open it. Charles Woodcock refused so the robbers blew the doors open. When they then tried to get the safe open using dynamite, they ended up blowing the car sides and roof off, too. Coins, bills and jewellery were all theirs.

TIME TO EXIT

Having uncoupled all but the express car and taken it a mile further ahead by rail, the robbers — joined by George Currie — were able to grab their booty, estimated to be worth around $36,000, and escape to the north towards a well-known outlaw enclave called Hole-in-the-Wall. They divided their spoils but they were now fugitives.

ON THE RUN

The men used a relay of horses, providing fresh legs for the escape. A posse was swiftly summoned by the sheriff to find the men and they reached Wilcox five hours after the robbery. A few days later, on 6 June, Currie, Logan and the Sundance Kid were discovered 120 kilometres away but when Logan shot the Converse County Sheriff Josiah Hazen, they escaped. Banknotes damaged by the dynamite surfaced across America for many years.
Hall of Fame

EXPERT ENGINEERS

Meet the ingenious industrialists who designed and built some of the world's greatest railway lines.

ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL

**BRITISH 1806-59**

A titan of the Victorian Industrial Revolution, Isambard Kingdom Brunel built the SS Great Britain and laid telegraph cables across the Atlantic, but he was foremost a rail engineer, working for the Great Western Railway. A stickler for detail, he got the job worth no prior railway construction experience and went on to build 25 lines as well as the Wounded Knee Viaduct, Paddington Station and the longest railway tunnel in existence at the time. He envisaged a line down to the coast where some of his ships would then take the travellers abroad and made a strong effort to decrease journey times from London to the southwest of England.

ZHAN TIANYOU

**CHINESE 1826-85**

The first-ever Chinese member of Britain's Institution of Civil Engineers, Zhau Tianyou was appointed chief engineer of the Peking-Kalgan Railway in China in 1855. The inaugural railway built in China with no foreign assistance, most believed it would never be finished because of its determined path through the mountains. Zhau put his PhD in civil engineering to good use and completed the project two years ahead of schedule and even managed to finish under budget. He helped design and build a further 14 railways and went on to found the Chinese Institute of Engineers.

GEORGE STEPHENSON

**BRITISH 1781-1848**

Known as the Father of the railways, George Stephenson wanted to create a national network of lines running at a 'standard gauge' with as few gradient changes as possible. He was recruited as an engineer on the Stockton and Darlington Railway, the first in the world designed specifically to use locomotives. A civil and mechanical engineer, he built many experimental locomotives while working in the Killingworth Colliery in Newcastle upon Tyne between 1814 and 1826. The first, the Blucher, was the only engine used for the Darlington and Stockton Railway in 1825. He was appointed the original president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1847.

JOSEPH LOCKE

**AMERICAN 1853-1906**

Never one to be defeated by adversity, this apprentice to George Stephenson tried things never before attempted in railway building including constructing lines that were thought impossible due to steep gradients. Throughout his life he worked on several railways, created the West Coast Main Line—one of the most important tracks in the UK to this day—and even designed and built the Paris and Brest Line in France.

OLIVE DENNIS

**AMERICAN 1888-1966**

Only the second woman to graduate from Cornell University with a degree in civil engineering, Olive Dennis began working as a draftsman for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1920 designing bridges. A year later, she was made the company's first 'service engineer', responsible for improving passenger experience. She invented and held the patent for a ventilation system and also played a major role in air conditioning, dimming overhead lights, reclining seats and stain-resistant upholstery. She also simplified the overcomplicated timetables to make them easier to read. As the first female member of the American Railway Engineering Association, Dennis worked for the railroad until her retirement in 1951.

SIR JOHN FOWLER

**BRITISH 1817-90**

For years, Charles Pearson, a solicitor, had been lobbying for an underground railway system in London. Finally, in 1860, the Metropolitan Railway began building tunnels under the British capital and Sir John Fowler was appointed chief engineer. Originally connecting Paddington, Euston and King's Cross, Fowler's men worked around the clock to complete it and the line was finished on 10 January 1863. Over 150 years later, the London Underground is over 400 kilometres long.

SIR EDWARD WATKIN

**ALBANIAN 1822-92**

Although a cotton merchant and Member of Parliament, Sir Edward Watkin was also a rail enthusiast. Throughout his life he was chairman of several different lines including the Metropolitan Railway and the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway. A very early pioneer for the Channel Tunnel, he envisaged a line connecting Calais and Dover in 1860, which would be connected to a new main line in the north of England and thus provide Manchester and Leeds with a direct link to the continent. However, financial and political issues halted the project and it wasn't completed until 1894.

CARL RITTER VON GHEGA

**AUSTRIAN 1812-60**

Known to his colleagues as 'Crazy Judah' this pioneer was the brains behind the Transcontinental Railway that connected the newly created state of California to the rest of the Union. He solved critical problems like how to lay track through the Sierra Nevada mountains while recruiting the initial investors and making sure Abraham Lincoln passed the 1862 Pacific Railroad Act. Unfortunately, he didn't live to see his project completed as he died six years beforehand of yellow fever.

TEODOR JUDAH

**AMERICAN 1832-63**

Known to his colleagues as 'Crazy Judah', this pioneer was the brains behind the Transcontinental Railway that connected the newly created state of California to the rest of the Union. He solved critical problems like where and how to lay track through the Sierra Nevada mountains while recruiting the initial investors and making sure Abraham Lincoln passed the 1862 Pacific Railroad Act. Unfortunately, he didn't live to see his project completed as he died six years beforehand of yellow fever.

COUNT SERGEI WITTE

**RUSSIAN 1849-1915**

Although the Trans-Siberian Railway had been ordered previously, it was only when Count Sergei Witte was appointed Russia's finance minister that the project picked up steam. Appointing the future Tsar Nicholas II as the head of the railway's committee was a shrewd move by Witte as it meant that the mammoth project was given priority. Running from Moscow to Vladivostok, the line was finished in 1906 and remains the second longest in the world.
How did Mussolini make trains run on time?

Steve Gomez

The short answer is he didn't. After becoming prime minister in 1922, Benito Mussolini spread the word that he had radically improved Italy's dilapidated railway system but most of the work had been done before his rise to power. The results also weren't the huge success that fascist propagandists claimed — the lines were hit by travel generally arrived on time but smaller services still ran behind schedule. However, the reporting of rail accidents or delays was banned, even by foreign correspondents.

What was so special about the Flying Scotsman?

Anibal Smith

The Flying Scotsman was the flagship locomotive of the London and North Eastern Railway and the star attraction of the 1924 British Empire Exhibition. In 1928, it was selected to run the London to Edinburgh line, travelling 631km in eight hours, and it set the record for fastest locomotive, reaching speeds of 160.9km/h in 1934. In 1989, 26 years after it had been retired from service, it set another record: the longest non-stop run by a steam engine, travelling 679km in Australia.

Why does no one remember Marc Brunel?

Rhoda Laver

Marc Brunel is often overshadowed by his ingenious son, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, but was also one of the greatest engineers of his own generation. Crucially, he also made a significant contribution to the railways. The French émigré made a name for himself as chief engineer of New York City, designing docks, commercial buildings and housing. However, he also had a knack for mechanical engineering and invented machines for sawing and bending timber, making boots, knitting stockings and printing. He also built a machine to mass manufacture pulley blocks for the British Navy during the Napoleonic War. However, his greatest achievement was London's Thames Tunnel. Described as the eighth wonder of the world when it opened in 1843, it was the first subway constructed under a river. The secret to its success was an invention called the tunnelling shield, which protected workers as they dug. This technology would prove essential to building the London Underground.

Next month's topic is... Women's suffrage. Send your questions to Facebook or Twitter.
The Scandalous Reign of Catherine the Great

How the unstoppable Russian ruler enthralled an empire with sex, lies and military might

Written by Jessica Leggett

She has gone down in history as Catherine the Great thanks to her dedication and devotion to her adopted country. One of the Russian Empire’s greatest leaders, Catherine oversaw its unprecedented expansion, a series of military successes and the arrival of the Russian Enlightenment. Her reign is considered the Golden Age of Russia but her time on the throne was full of salacious scandal, intrigue and hidden truths that others used to tarnish her legacy. So, what really happened during her reign?

Catherine was born in 1729 as Princess Sophie of Anhalt-Zerbst, an impoverished German royal. Her prospects were dim until Elizabeth, empress of Russia, wrote to Sophie’s mother proposing a match with her nephew and heir, Grand Duke Peter of Holstein. It was keenly accepted and Sophie was determined to seize her destiny, learning to speak Russian fluently, which greatly impressed Elizabeth. She was a perfect fit for the Russian throne.

In contrast, her betrothed was a terrible choice for an emperor. Born and raised in Germany, Peter was brought to Russia aged 16 and he hated it. He refused to convert to the Russian Orthodox Church – unlike Sophie, who converted and adopted a new name, Catherine, in 1744. A year later, the couple married in Saint Petersburg. Recalling the wedding in her memoirs, Catherine stated that her “heart predicted but little happiness; ambition alone sustained me.” Catherine thought greatness awaited her. Instead, her husband turned out to be a drunk who played with toy soldiers like a child. They despised each other and their marriage went unfulfilled for several years. But Catherine didn’t want to waste her life and she told herself that she would become “the sovereign Empress of Russia in [her] own right.”

Feeling isolated and unloved, Catherine was getting desperate. After years of marriage, there was no heir, Elizabeth was breathing down her neck and the court was watching her every move. She started a series of affairs, firstly with Sergei Saltykov, a handsome rake and court member. Elizabeth actually encouraged their relationship, hoping it would result in a pregnancy.

Catherine finally gave birth to a long-awaited heir, Paul, in 1754. The paternity is still debated today but Catherine implied in her memoirs that it was Saltykov, though possibly only to spite Peter. Regardless, she remained in her purpose and stabilised her position at court as the mother of the future emperor.

However, Catherine barely saw her baby as Elizabeth whisked him away and raised him herself. Catherine was devastated and her affair with Saltykov ended when he was sent away, too. Meanwhile, Peter’s behaviour became foolish, worrying those around him. His wife, having fulfilled her duty, couldn’t bear Russia crumbling in his insipid hands because he had failed to do his. She began to mastermind his downfall.

Elizabeth died in 1761 and Peter became Peter III. Catherine was now empress consort but it wasn’t enough — she wanted sole power. Support for her grew after Peter’s childish behaviour at Elizabeth’s funeral, where he created a game to alleviate his boredom. Taking advantage of this, Catherine openly planned for the deposed emperor, winning many admirers in the process.
Imperial Russia

Peter's behaviour was inexcusable. He skipped his own coronation and withdrew from the Seven Years' War — despite the fact Russia was winning — returning all the land that they had conquered from Prussia. His actions disregarded those killed or injured during the conflict, alarming the army. Peter's contempt for the Church and the desire to wage war against Russia's long-time ally of Denmark, escalated growing hatred towards him. He flavoured his mistress, Elizaveta Vorontsova, stating his desire to divorce Catherine and disinherit their son.

By April 1762, the situation was unmanageable. Peter publicly humiliated Catherine at a state banquet by denouncing her as a fool, leaving her in tears. Whispers spread that he had committed an impulsive act. It was unbearable. Peter publicly incensed and drunk, had ordered his guardsmen to arrest him as a puppet. Banishing his mistress, Elizaveta Vorontsova, stating his desire to divorce Catherine and disinherit their son.

The seriousness of the situation sank in as he arrived at Monplaisir to find it abandoned, with Catherine long gone.
As for foreign affairs, Catherine took massive strides in comparison to her predecessors. She patronised her former lover with titles, money and power throughout her reign. However, this was one that she sent the extra mile for. Stanislaus Poniatowski. They had had an affair back in 1756, when he was the Polish ambassador to the British court in Russia. However, it had ended after Poniatowski was forced to leave during the Seven Years’ War, which pitched Russia against British-backed Prussia. He had hoped to maintain their romance but Catherine knew this was too dangerous and told him, ‘you are only loved by both slaughtered.’

Instead, what the Polish king became known in 1762, Catherine promoted him to Poniatowski. It was the perfect chance to expand her empire and she was elected under the name of the Russian military in 1764. Straight away, Poniatowski attempted to pass a series of reforms that weren’t passed in Catherine. These losses would remain a weak pronunciator and her former lover was supposed to be her puppet, not a lone wolf. When rebellion broke out in Poland in 1794, partly in reaction to Russian influence in the country, Catherine invaded under the pretence of restoring order.

Her dominance over Poland concerned Prussia, Austria and, in particular, the Ottoman Empire, which suffered a series of defeats at her hands during the ongoing Russo-Turkish War that had also broken out in 1768. These losses added to the European power of Russia’s enemies, on closer to Catherine’s delight. However, the Treaty of Belgrade and the Treaty of Kuchuk Kainarji in 1774 and 1775 secured Crimea. Catherine received it for her empire. Catherine’s plan. She needed Poland to remain a weak protectorate and her former lover to be a useful advisor and the first of her lovers with whom Catherine shared power. She despised him on the night of the coup and Catherine allowed him to, though she longed for his return.

Angered and heartbroken, she sent Orlov away from court, never to return her favour again. During her relationship with Orlov, Catherine became close to Grigory Potemkin. Their love story is infamous but not straightforward. They met on the night of the coup and Catherine rewarded him for his loyalty by promoting him to gentleman of the bedchamber, a position that allowed them to meet frequently. Catherine had loved Catherine ever since and unlike the other men at court, he wasn’t afraid of Orlov. Catherine even thought of Orlov in her final years. However, she didn’t discourage Potemkin and, seeing his potential, Catherine began to forge a political career — the start of his dramatic tale within the court.

After suffering a severe eye injury, Potemkin disappeared from court again but later, Catherine missed him. During the trouble with Poland and the First Russo-Polish War, Orlov continued to dominate the court as Catherine’s lover. During the decade across the maps, Orlov was expanded with lands and titles and was credited for dealing with the Moscow plague riots. Catherine considered removing him, until she realised that such a move was far too controversial. Despite concerns about Orlov’s power, he stood no power over Catherine or the governance of Russia. She knew that he was too politically adept to deal with such matters, choosing to retain him. Catherine’s relationship with Potemkin sparked intrigue and jealousy from others, especially Prussia, and by 1771, she was desperate to go the front and Catherine allowed him to, though she longed for his return.

After Orlov’s dismissal, Catherine distracted herself with a new, younger lover, Alexander Yusutich, much to Potemkin’s disappointment. Catherine afterwards his dismissal in 1772, however, Catherine’s attention in Voltaire faded quickly, although she compensated him with a sizable pension and lands. Instead, her thoughts turned back to Potemkin, now a war hero thanks to his military success abroad.

When Potemkin disappeared from court again at the start of 1774, Catherine finally accepted his love. He returned and their affair started, Catherine was her new friend and Potemkin a decade younger. With his military experience, he was a useful advisor and the first of her lovers to whom Catherine shared power. She brought him up to the court as Catherine’s lover. As for foreign affairs, Catherine took massive strides in comparison to her predecessors. She patronised her former lover with titles, money and power throughout her reign. However, this was one that she sent the extra mile for. Stanislaus Poniatowski. They had had an affair back in 1756, when he was the Polish ambassador to the British court in Russia. However, it had ended after Poniatowski was forced to leave during the Seven Years’ War, which pitched Russia against British-backed Prussia. He had hoped to maintain their romance but Catherine knew this was too dangerous and told him, ‘you are only loved by both slaughtered.’
A PRETENDER TO THE THRONE
The tragic tale of the rightful heir to the Russian Empire

Catherine may have successfully seized the throne but throughout her reign she found herself under threat, all claiming to be the true heir. With the rollout of Catherine’s coup, it is easy to forget that Empress Elizabeth had plans to have her removed and replaced with a puppet and a real claim to the imperial throne. With the death of Catherine’s rival, it is easy to forget that Empress Elizabeth had signed a coup to have her brought in, but there was no one to save her. The coup was planned to have Elizabeth as the new ruler of the empire, but this was a risk too far. Her hopes and plans were never to be realized.

Unfortunately, there was a false alarm. It is clear that Elizabeth had been planning to have the rightful heir brought in and that she had made plans to have Catherine removed. There was no one to save her. The coup was planned to have Elizabeth as the new ruler of the empire, but this was a risk too far. Her hopes and plans were never to be realized.

As Catherine, she was fiercely protected, even by her jailer. In 1762, the jailer had no idea who the rightful heir was, and Catherine was separated from her family, including Yemelyan Pugachev, who attempted to overthrow Catherine before the Russian people. Catherine’s mother, Princess Teatarka, who said that she was the daughter of Empress Elizabeth and the jailer, Maris笔记本.

However, there was one person that Catherine was desperate to have released from the Russian prison, her mother, Princess Teatarka. Catherine may have successfully seized the throne, but this time the deposed was an innocent baby boy. Catherine was desperate to keep hidden from the Russian people — she was the daughter of Peter the Great.

It was during Catherine’s reign that Ivan became a threat. By the time Peter ascended the throne, Ivan was almost 22 years old. When he visited Ivan in the prison, it was clear that Ivan was not a threat, not realizing that the real danger was already within his court.

Ivan’s mental impairment was a problem for Elizabeth. One of her guards, a lieutenant, discovered his true identity and that he was the real heir. Elizabeth vowed to never sign a death warrant during her reign and did not kill Ivan and his family, instead choosing to have him released. This new arrangement lasted for just over a year before Catherine took control, reinstating Ivan as the dead emperor, including Yemelyan Pugachev. This new arrangement lasted for just over a year before Catherine took control, reinstating Ivan as the dead emperor, including Yemelyan Pugachev.

Elizabeth was determined to have a direct heir to the throne, to ensure that her lineage would continue. In 1762, Catherine was the rightful heir to the throne, but Elizabeth was desperate to keep her out of the way. Catherine was determined to have a direct heir to the throne, to ensure that her lineage would continue. In 1762, Catherine was the rightful heir to the throne, but Elizabeth was desperate to keep her out of the way.

Unfortunately, Peter’s death brought a new problem. The new heir, Ivan VI, was only two months old when he became emperor. Peter had been Peter the Great and was determined to keep the throne in the hands of his family. However, there was no one to save him. The previous rulers, Potemkin, retained his position with the support of his family.

Scandalous gossip also spread that the empress had a new lover. Potemkin retained his position with the support of his family. Scandalous gossip also spread that the empress had a new lover. Potemkin retained his position with the support of his family.

Catherine opened the Novochkaliskaya prison, and it was from here that Irenburg's Markiev Palace.

“Her sexuality became the focus of lewd jokes and crude satires designed to criticise her in Russia and further afield in Europe.”

Unfortunately, their great love affair didn’t last. Catherine and Potemkin were both passionate, but plagued with jealousy and insecurities, their relationship mutually cooled. By 1775, Catherine had a new favourite, who unlike her previous lovers, Potemkin retained his position of personal and political influence over her for the rest of her life. In fact, he was so much better that rumours swirled that he procured someone with a real claim to the imperial throne. With the death of Catherine’s rival, it is easy to forget that Empress Elizabeth had plans to have her brought in, but there was no one to save her. The coup was planned to have Elizabeth as the new ruler of the empire, but this was a risk too far. Her hopes and plans were never to be realized.

Unfortunately, her sexuality became the focus of lewd jokes and crude satires designed to criticise her in Russia and further afield in Europe. Catherine’s happiness was hampered by the array of tragic losses in October 1796 — Potemkin had passed away abroad while negotiating peace terms with the Turks after days of suffering with fever and symptoms of pneumonia. Catherine was grief-stricken. For the past two decades, he had been her pillar of strength and now she had to manage without him.

For the last five years of her life, the empress tired of her attention on Potemkin, who played a crucial role in making decisions during her reign, and began to rekindle her affair with Potemkin. Her great love affair didn’t last. Catherine and Potemkin were both passionate, but plagued with jealousy and insecurities, their relationship mutually cooled. By 1775, Catherine had a new favourite, who unlike her previous lovers, Potemkin retained his position of personal and political influence over her for the rest of her life. In fact, he was so much better that rumours swirled that he procured someone with a real claim to the imperial throne. With the death of Catherine’s rival, it is easy to forget that Empress Elizabeth had plans to have her brought in, but there was no one to save her. The coup was planned to have Elizabeth as the new ruler of the empire, but this was a risk too far. Her hopes and plans were never to be realized.

Scandalous gossip also spread that the empress was the new lover. Potemkin retained his position with the support of his family. Scandalous gossip also spread that the empress had a new lover. Potemkin retained his position with the support of his family.
THE STUART DYNASTY, WHICH RULED SCOTLAND, ENGLAND, IRELAND AND WALES FOR OVER 400 YEARS, ENDED 30 YEARS AGO AND NOW THE HOUSE OF HANOVER TAKES OVER. HOWEVER, NOT EVERYONE IS WILLING TO HIDE THEIR TRUE LOYALTIES.

WHERE TO STAY

WITH ROVING BANDS OF JACOBITES IN THE HIGHLANDS, THE SAFEST PLACE TO STAY IS RUTHVEN BARRACKS. BUILT IN THE 1740S, IT SURVIVED AN ASSAULT IN 1746 AND IS NOW A POPULAR ATTRACTION.

DON'T MISS THE JACOBITE RISING OF 1745

AS THE WAR ENGULFS LARGE AREAS OF THE BRITISH ISLES, YOU'LL NEED THIS ESSENTIAL KNOW-HOW TO SURVIVE.

HIDING YOUR TRUE LOYALTIES

JACOBITES WOULD GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO SECRETLY SHOW THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THE KING OVER THE WATER. THEY WOULD USE GLASSES ENGRAVED WITH CODED SYMBOLS TO TOAST THEIR KING.

LEARN GAELIC

IF YOU SPEND TIME IN THE HIGHLANDS, BEING ABLE TO SPEAK THE LOCAL LANGUAGE CAN HELP YOU NAVIGATE THE LOCAL creds and customs.
HISTORY HIT LIST

Discover the biggest history anniversaries, must-see exhibitions, blockbuster biopics and best books of the year

2018

1 January 1818

**Frankenstein comes to life**

Two centuries ago, science fiction hit the shelves for the first time thanks to Mary Shelley. A heady mix of Gothic melancholy, Frankenstein — or The Modern Prometheus, as it was known briefly — was very much a product of its day. While it was first published in 1818, it was written in 1816, the ‘year without summer’, when the world had been plunged into darkness following a volcanic eruption. Shelley wrote the initial draft as part of a competition to write the scariest story with her lover and future husband Percy Shelley and fellow poet Lord Byron while on holiday. But over time she expanded on it, drawing on the cutting-edge science of Galvanism, the philosophy of Jean-Jacques Rousseau and her own recent miscarriage. The macabre result is an enduring legend that has been adapted many times for both stage and screen. However, when it was first published it didn’t even have Mary’s name on it as writing books — especially a book like Frankenstein — wasn’t considered a fitting profession for a lady.

JANUARY

6 February 1918

**Women’s suffrage wins the vote**

While it would ultimately take another decade for every Englishwoman to have the right to vote, the passing of the Representation of the People Act 1918 was a watershed moment. Granting women of a certain means over the age of 30 the right to vote changed the fabric of British society forever.

Interestingly, there was almost always a small percentage of women whose investment in equity gave them a lawful right to vote — around 1 million or so were registered by the turn of the century — but the vast majority were openly denied it and suffrage movements were sweeping the western world in defiance.

Suffrage societies formed in every corner of Britain and they eventually calcified into a number of national movements designed to pressure the government to finally hear the voice of its female population, led by the likes of Millvina Fawcett and the more militant Emmeline Pankhurst. Even the suspension of suffrage during World War I wasn’t enough to derail its momentum.

The Representation of People Act was also notable for extending the vote to all men over the age of 21, regardless of whether they owned property, which was a huge step forward for working class rights.

FEBRUARY

100 years ago

The Tet Offensive bloodies Vietnam

Half a century ago, the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese People’s Army of Vietnam launched one of the most ambitious and bloody campaigns in the Vietnam War, changing the course of the conflict forever. With the war having pitched north against south, dividing the country into a bloody battlefield, the Viet Cong planned to strike at the heart of their enemies and the US troops fighting a seemingly endless war out of attrition in the heart of the jungle.

Named after the country’s traditional new year’s celebrations, the Tet Offensive caught the south and the US completely off guard, in one coordinated operation, 80,000 Viet Cong troops attacked over 100 cities and towns in the south, causing widespread fear, panic and bloodshed. It was the largest military operation of the war and left more than 14,000 soldiers dead. The sheer brutality of the attacks ultimately helped sum public US opinion against the Vietnam War and would eventually lead to America’s departure from the conflict.

**Viking Festival**

12-18 February

Celebrating York’s Norse roots, the festival takes place across the city. You can visit an encampment of Vikings to learn what they traded, the clothes they wore and the sagas they shared. The Wattlington Hoard of Viking treasures is on loan from the British Museum and you can taste mead as well as trying your hand at sword fighting and archery. The festival finale is a live-action battle with 100 warriors.

Family passes are £54.95. For more information, visit jorvik-viking-festival.co.uk

**2018 History Hit List**

Written by Dom Rosehip-Jacobs
From the moment they began their invasion of Poland, the Nazis systematically forced the nation's Jewish population into isolated ghettos. Three years later, a significant portion of the community were already being deported to concentration camps across Europe. Thousands upon thousands of men, women and children were marched from the ghettos they had been forced to live in and by 1943, only the last remnants of Poland's Jewish people remained. Knowing what fate awaited them in the camps, a small pocket of resistance rose up in the form of the Jewish Combat Organisation (Zydowska Organizacja Bojowa, or ZOB). Under orders from Heinrich Himmler, Nazi troops entered the Warsaw Ghetto the morning before Passover and were caught off-guard by a barrage of gunfire and grenades. It was a brief moment of defiance and the Nazis responded with utter brutality, killing over 11,000 Jews and destroying the ghetto entirely.
Slavery Abolition Act 1833 is passed

Throughout the 18th century and well into the 19th century, Britain had built its fortunes and power base on the backs of thousands of slaves departed from Africa and the Caribbean. Emancipation transformed a nation into an empire, one that expanded deep into the New World and filled its coffers deep off countless men and women sold into slavery. However, the mixture of a changing world economy where Britain's sugar plantations were struggling to compete with its rivals and the growing influence of abolitionist movements helped usher in this watershed moment of British political history.

With William Pitt providing royal assent, this 1807 act into the UK law of its time, the Slavery Abolition Act 1833 came into full effect on 1 August 1834. With the trade effectively outlawed, over 80,000 slaves were granted freedom. The emancipated workers were spread far and wide across the empire. From British soil all the way to the cold reaches of Canada. However, the legislation didn't include British-owned slaves in what was known as British North America, mainly due to a relatively small number of emancipated workers compared to those enslaved in other British colonies.

Chamberlain and Hitler's Munich Agreement

In the aftermath of the World War I, the borders of Europe were redrawn, resulting in entirely new nations being added to the map. One of these new countries was Czechoslovakia, which included a population of over 3 million Germans who now found themselves living outside of their homeland. This "Sudetenland", caused tension between Germany and its neighbours for decades, and proved to be one of Adolf Hitler's most popular policies when he came to power as the called for the unification of all of Germany's scattered peoples. When riots on the streets of the Sudetenland reportedly led to the death of 300 civilians—a figure that ultimately proved to be false—Hitler used the event to position German forces across the Czech border. With Germany feigning its growing military strength so openly, British prime minister Neville Chamberlain joined leaders from France and Italy to agree terms with Germany to peacefully end the war. The result was the Munich Agreement, which annexed the Sudetenland into German possession with official recognition from some of Europe's leading powers. It proved a major political victory for Hitler, strategically weakened Czechoslovakia and ultimately failed to slow Germany's growing desire for geopolitical reawakening.

Jean-Michel Basquiat dies

When Jean-Michel Basquiat was found dead in his New York studio apartment from a heroin overdose, the art world lost an expressionist like no other. Once a graffiti artist who had emerged from the notorious American underground scene of his native city, Basquiat entered the mainstream art world as a voice that championed more than just unbridled expression. He worked challenged class structure, racism and poverty using poetry, abstract art and his background in graffiti to create social commentaries that engaged his audiences as much as captivated them. The tragic death of one of the leading figures of Neo-Expressionism occurred at the very height of his fame and his collection remains one of the most lucrative with one untitled piece setting a US record of $110,500,000 in 2017.

Lawrence of Arabia captures Damascus

While immortalised on the silver screen of one cinema's most iconic films, the real Lawrence of Arabia's impact on the course of World War I and the fabric of Arabian society remains just as enduring. The Welsh-born, Oxford-educated Lawrence arrived in Egypt in 1914 as an intelligence officer before traveling to Arabia two years later to witness the revolt against Ottoman rule by Hussein ibn Ali, the emir of Mecca. Having convinced his superiors of the importance of helping Hussein, Lawrence was sent to advise the Arabian army. The diplomat proved himself to be an immensely talented strategist and his implementation of guerilla tactics helped the Arabian army strike hard at the heart of the Ottoman war effort as it fought its way to the Syrian capital. Damascus. Lawrence wasn't present for the formal surrender of the city, having just escaped from the clutches of an Ottoman prison, but arrived just a few hours after its fall. He became instrumental in the formation of a provisional government led by Hussein's son Faisal and continued to nurture strong relations between Britain, its allies and what he hoped would become a unified, sovereign Arab state.

Christopher Columbus discovers the Americas

Interestingly, Christopher Columbus is often cited as the man who first set eyes on American soil, but that's only a half-truth. While the Genoan-born explorer never set foot on American soil, his famous voyages did take him to the Caribbean and parts of South America. It was in 1492, as captain of Santa Maria, that Columbus and two other ships set out to discover a new route to the East Indies in Asia and its lucrative trade routes. What he and his fellow sailors discovered was, in fact, one of the islands in the Bahamas. Having sailed for three months from the Spanish port of Palos de la Frontera, Columbus made landfall on one of the islands and named it San Salvador ("Holy Saviour"). He named the indigenous people "Indians" or "Indiens", as he still believed he landed in the Indies, noting their friendliness upon his arrival. He eventually learned that these peaceful people had fought off attempts from other islands to enslave them. In a twist of fate—and a precursor to the booming slave trade these islands would eventually support—Columbus remained in his private journal, "I could conquer the whole of them with 50 men, and govern them as I pleased."
The Great War finally ends
11 November 1918

At the beginning of 1918, the conflict that would come to be known as World War I was moving in favour of Germany and Kaiser Wilhelm II. The mutiny of Russia on the Eastern Front and its humiliating withdrawal from the war, coupled with a naval campaign that was frustrating the British war effort, had left the Allies on the back foot. Germany and the Central Powers were poised to claim victory.

However, should there have been a swift victory in the Michael Offensive, in which Germany aggressively drove the Allies back across the Somme, turned into a decisive failure as Britain and France launched a counterattack. With the fresh influx of US troops, the British blockade of key German ports and the rise of tank and aerial warfare, Germany was forced to agree to an armistice that effectively brought the war to a close. It would be the leaders of the German army that would concede defeat, forcing the Kaiser to abdicate on 9 November 1918. Two days later, the Armistice was signed, the guns of both sides fell silent and the Great War finally came to an end.

Grapes of Wrath author John Steinbeck dies
20 December 1968

John Steinbeck died 50 years ago this winter. The writer is best known for The Grapes of Wrath, the story of dispossessed Oklahoma tenant farmers who flee to California to escape the Dust Bowl. The novel grew out of newspaper articles he wrote about the dreadful conditions of migrant farmers. Steinbeck wrote two further novels in the 1950s about the plight of Californian agricultural workers in Désierto and The Gadsden Purchase. His most enduring theme was his own California, writing romantically about both its luminous valleys and palm groves.

The Great Viking Army invades England?

In what year did the Great Viking Army invade England?

To help kickstart your year of history, we have some amazing prizes to giveaway, including tickets to one of the must-see events of 2018. The largest of its kind in Europe, Jorvik Viking Festival is a weeklong commemoration of York's Norse roots and regularly attracts over 40,000 visitors to the historic city. Taking place on 12-18 February, this year's theme will be the battle of England by the Great Viking Army in 866. Visiting history displays, walks, talks and tours around the city will also allow you to explore how the Norsemen settled down and made Medieval York the Viking capital of England. The festival includes live music from the world-renowned artist Emelie Sekist and a feast for Valhalla at the Great Viking Army Banquet.

The festival's grand finale is a dramatic 100-strong combat performance, in which Viking warriors face-off with doomed Anglo-Saxon defenders. Leading the charge will be three brothers and Viking legends – Halfdan Ragnarsson, Ulfra Ragnarsson and Senior Hakon – as well as characters from the night-time battle royale. Thanks to the Jorvik Viking Centre, which reopened last year and runs the festival, we have two ‘group passport’ for a family of up to 4 adults costs £54.95 each, these passes will give the winners free membership to the Viking Centre and also open a host of offers to them. As if that wasn't enough, there's more! The two passport winners plus seven other runners up will also receive a bundle of brand new history books, worth £100 each. These must-read page-turners will range from the Middle Ages to the modern day and cover everything from military to music history. Titles up for grabs include The Square and the Tower, the critically acclaimed Niall Ferguson, Fear 1968 by Brit Award-nominated author Mark Bowden, The Mayflower Generation by Rebecca Foster. On the cover by Barry Cudmore and The Private Life of Edward VI by John Ashdown-Hill.

For your chance to win, visit historyanswer.co.uk and answer the following question:

In what year did the Great Viking Army invade England?

A. 1066  B. 866  C. 1666
Cold War America

How Las Vegas boomed during the Cold War and taught America to love the Bomb through cocktail parties and beauty pageants

“What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas,” goes the saying. Las Vegas is America’s sin city, a year-round resort of high-rolling gamblers, low-living hedonists, couples who are wed by Elvis impersonators and families visiting this spectacular and seamy city in the Nevada desert.

In the 1950s, while the Mafia were building the city’s hotels and casinos and stars like Frank Sinatra were packing in the crowds at the nightclubs, the neon lights of Las Vegas’ “Strip” were eclipsed by another crowd-puller: the detonation flash and mushroom clouds of the atomic bomb. Massive discharges of radiation happened near Vegas and none of it stayed there.

At dawn on 27 January 1951, a US Air Force B-52 bomber dropped a nuclear warhead from 6,096 metres above Frenchman Flats — only 104 kilometres northwest of the Strip. President Harry Truman had ordered the conversion of an 800,000-acre Air Force bombing range in the barren Nevada Desert into the Nevada Proving Grounds, the heart of the United States’ Cold War nuclear programme.

The location was perfect for testing nuclear devices — the desert setting was predictable, with clear skies, low humidity and a low civilian population. Over the next four decades, until the cessation of testing in 1992 with the end of the Cold War, the Department of Energy was to test 928 nuclear devices at the site.

That first warhead, codenamed Able, was more powerful than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined. When Able exploded, 333 metres in the air above the desert floor, it emitted a blinding flash of light. The ground shook and the detonation echoed through the mountains. The distinctive mushroom cloud took shape as the heat and radiation erupted outwards, almost in slow motion, showering the surrounding area with poisonous radiation.

Technicians registered and recorded the shock waves and the radioactive fallout as they tested the bomb’s destructive potential on animals, cars, trees, houses and shop window mannequins from JCPenney. Reporters, photographers, government visitors and local dignitaries were allowed to watch from News Nob, a hill on the test site, but the flash was so bright that it could be seen 643 kilometres away in San Francisco.

Meanwhile in Las Vegas, residents were driving to the edge of the city and having picnics as they watched the mushroom cloud spread across the sky. Tourists clambered onto the diving board of hotel swimming pools to get a better view. Las Vegas was “Atomic City, USA”, and the bomb was one of its unique attractions.

The post-war years were, in the title of the English poet Jeff Nuttall’s 1968 book, the years of Bomb Culture. Rather than ending conflict forever, World War II had demonstrated that mankind had finally contrived a method for its total annihilation. The future seemed tinged with fear and touched with expectation of apocalypse.

Americans knew what damage nuclear blasts and radiation could do — they had seen the pictures of the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.
This was the height of the Cold War and the 'Duck and Cover' drills, recalls local historian Dennis McBride, whose mother worked at the site. "It's so hard to even articulate, being instilled with the sense that at any moment your life could come to a horribly frightening, bloody end."

You might think citizens would have protested about the risk of atomic fallout on their homes but Las Vegas was not like other places. People didn't only move there to work as waiters, croupiers and pool attendants, they came because of the military and scientific jobs that it created.

The best thing to happen to Vegas was the atomic tests. Casino owner Benny Binion claimed in the 1970s. Between 1950 and 1960, the city's population doubled from 40,000 to 80,000, and then doubled again in the 1970s. From the start, federal funds had always powered the city's expansion, and it was created when a 104-kiloton detonation displaced 12 million tons of earth and rock, and it's nearly 366 metres wide and 37 metres deep. Indeed, the very oddity of Las Vegas is reflected in the fact that one of the few real objections to the testing programme came from Howard Hughes. The eccentric millionaire was terrified of dust, disease and contamination, and he was worried about radiation getting into the water supply. However, the Department of Energy insisted that there was no danger and the people of Las Vegas were advised to take a shower if they had been directly exposed to any fallout. They were also issued with military dog tags, just in case any accidents occurred. Instead of protesting, Las Vegas incorporated the weapons into the leisure industry. The first test in 1951 was marked by a parade with a float adorned with a giant mushroom cloud and swastika-clad movie stars. The tests were celebrated throughout the 1950s. The Las Vegas of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Jr — the Vegas of slot machines, cabarets and free phony suppers — was also a living test ground for the effects of atomic radiation. Photographers filmed the tests from as little as 11 kilometres away, protected by nothing more than dark sunglasses. "We used to get up in the morning, drive out to the highway and watch the blast," Las Vegas resident Salt Andrea told the Las Vegas Weekly in 2002. Andrea and his wife Donna, now both in their 90s, were regular spectators of the detonations. "It looked like the sun came up again. It lit the whole area. We were assured there wasn't going to be a problem. It was real interesting. It was an attraction." Andrea, who had served as a US Navy aerial gunner in World War II, would count from the time of the blast to "see how long before the wind would come and cool the blanks." Closer to the action, Alveta McBride was a nuclear technician at the Nevada Proving Ground. As a tourist attraction and the Chamber of Commerce's prime calendar event, the detonations times and recommended the best viewing points. Benny Binion's Horseshoe Casino and the real Desert Inn capitalised on their north-facing vistas by holding 'Dawn Bomb Parties'. These all-night events saw guests dance and drink 'atomic cocktails'. Carefully coordinated with the military tests, these parties went out with a bang — the flash of a nuclear blast, brighter than the sun, went off at dawn. The mushroom cloud became one of Las Vegas' most iconic symbols, like the palm tree, the neon sign and the roulette wheel. It appeared on billboards, casino marquees and, in a reflection of the prominence of the nuclear business in white-collar local employment, on the cover of the Las Vegas High School yearbook. The Sands Hotel even adapted the traditional beauty contest — entrants for Miss Atomic Bomb wore cotton wool uniforms and skin. Unsurprisingly, those exposed to the blast site without any protection. Instead, they were sometimes told to cover their eyes or sit with their backs to the blast in case the flash damaged their sight. Afterwards, the dust from the detonations was hosed and brushed off their uniforms and skin. Unsurprisingly, those exposed in this way suffered high rates of premature death later in life — the top of the tower, President George HW Bush signed into law a moratorium on further nuclear experiments. Atomic City was well and truly gone.

The Atomic Cocktail

"It's the drink that you don't pour / Now when you take it on, you won't need anymore," the jazz singer Slim Gaillard sang on his 1945 song 'Atomic Cocktail'. "This was the height of the Cold War and the Limited Test Ban Treaty," Gaillard, who famously released Tuck and Mable's 1947 novel The Road, knew about flying and explosions. In 1945, he explained, his band came to the desert "by B-26 beatniks in the Pacific. The atomic cocktails were made direct and we were invited in Vegas during the bomb testing years. Miss Nevada (135 millilitres) of vodka, 1/2 ounces of cognac and a teaspoon of sherry in a cocktail shaker. Shake with ice, strain into a chilled martini glass, and add a further 1/2 ounces of chilled Champagne. As Gaillard sang, "boom!"
Having a blast

Different series of tests meant that Las Vegas’ tourist industry just kept on booming.

Between the first detonation in Nevada in 1951 and the 1992 moratorium on nuclear testing, 828 American nuclear tests were carried out at the Nevada Proving Ground. 100 of these were detonated above ground and 828 below but it was the aboveground ones that really drew the crowds. These were conducted in codenamed batches or series. The chart below shows all the aboveground tests that occurred in Nevada prior to the 1963 Limited Test Ban Treaty. The ‘total yield’ refers to the combined amount of energy released by all the bombs dropped in each series. For reference, one kiloton is equal to the power of 1,000 tons of TNT.

**Boomtown stats**

Las Vegas was the fastest-growing city in the United States in the 20th century.

- **1905** - The town of Las Vegas was founded in 1905 when 20 acres of land adjacent to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks were auctioned off.
- **1950** - With the arrival of Manhattan Project scientists and staff to test atom bombs in the desert, offering the population more than twice their size between 1940 and 1950.
- **1963** - The construction of the Hoover Dam from 1931 to 1935 brought an influx of workers and families to the city.
- **1977** - Post-war prosperity led to lavishly decorated hotels and casinos appearing in the desert, offering big names to attract tourists. By 1960, the city’s population had grown by 161.6 per cent.
- **1980** - By 1960, the city’s association with nuclear testing and atomic tourism continued to give Las Vegas a unique allure.

**Operation name / year**

- Ranger 1951
- Buster-Jangle 1952
- Tumbler-Snapper 1953
- Upshot-Knothole 1953
- Teapot 1953
- Project 5k 1955
- Plumbob 1957
- Project 57 1958
- Project 56 1958
- Hardtack II 1958

**Total Yield (Kilotons)**

- 40
- 72
- 104
- 252
- 167
- 345
- 0
- 0
- 0
- 0
- 46

Welcome to Atomic City, USA
Aristotle was about 40 when Philip hired him in 343 BCE. He had spent the previous 20 years studying with Plato, another great philosopher, at his Academy in Athens. However, he left the school suddenly around 348 BCE, most likely because Plato did not select him as his successor, appointing his nephew Speusippos instead.

Although Philip considered other eminent philosophers to tutor his son, he ultimately invited Aristotle to teach the precocious prince. This may have been because Aristotle, like Alexander and Philip, was Macedonian and his own father, Nicomachus, had served as the court physician for Philip’s father, Amyntas. While it would have been a great honour to train a future monarch, Aristotle never explained why he accepted the job of royal tutor. The philosopher was widely respected in his own lifetime, so would have other options after leaving Plato’s Academy. Aristotle possibly already dreamt of establishing his own rival school in Athens, which he finally opened several years earlier as punishment for an uprising against his rule.

Alexander III of Macedon, better known as Alexander the Great, built an empire that stretched from Greece to the Indian border in little more than a decade. But as well as being a mighty conqueror, he was famed for his intellect, showing a keen interest in philosophy, medicine and science. This perhaps comes as no surprise as he was taught by none other than Aristotle, the Greek philosopher whose ideas are now a pillar of Western thought. But how did this intellectual giant come to teach a teenage prince and how faithfully did the conqueror live up to his schoolmaster’s ideals?

Most of our knowledge of Alexander the Great comes to us from second- and third-hand accounts written hundreds of years after his death, which tend to give his life the soft glow of myth. The most referenced account of his life is Plutarch’s Parallel Lives, which he wrote in the 2nd century CE, nearly 500 years after the emperor’s death.

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Aristotle was given a small temple dedicated to the nymphs to use as a classroom in the village of Mieza, just outside of Pella. Incidentally, you can still see the stone seats they sat on and the shady walks the philosopher was wont to take among its ruins today. As well as Alexander, Aristotle’s school took in several other high-ranking children. Many of these would go on to become some of Alexander’s most trusted generals and companions, including Hephaestion, Pidemus, Cassander and Cassius.

Plutarch says that the class’ lessons were centred on ethics, politics, philosophy and rhetoric. Aristotle may have also lectured the group on Plato’s so-called ‘unwritten doctrines’. While these are now lost to history, they likely included Plato’s metaphysical and spiritual speculations, which were normally reserved for initiates of his Academy and not widely shared.

Aristotle also wrote short instructional pamphlets specifically to train Alexander in becoming a good king. Again, we don’t know exactly what these contained but a later biographer, Diogenes Laërtius, preserved the titles, which include On Kingship, In Praise of Colonies, Alexander’s Assembly and The Chores of Agility.

The general education of young men in Ancient Greece at that time involved a close study of poets, philosophers and statesmen. Aristotle also had an immense interest in the sciences and he made sure to teach Alexander everything he knew about biology, physics and medicine. The prince must have taken this on board as he himself had been taught by Socrates — a triumvirate that includes some of the greatest Ancient Greek minds.

Alexander took this role very seriously. When on campaign in Persia, he found out that Aristotle had published some of Plato’s aforementioned unwritten doctrines. He wrote a stern letter illustrating his displeasure, saying, “I had rather excel others in the knowledge of what is excellent, than in the extent of my power and dominion.” However anecdotal this correspondence may be, it certainly does characterise Alexander’s charisma and the ideology of Aristotle. The future leader of Macedonia believed that he was exceptional and that philosophy was sacrosanct — his education had helped him to achieve his rank. It is possible that Aristotle’s teachings had informed his self-perception as well as his ability to attain greatness.

Like most royals, Alexander was primed for success, but seldom does a prince have instruction in how to bring this quality to fruition. A major part of Aristotelian philosophy is actually concerned with making potential — a person who wants to be great is required to practice wisdom and strive for excellence. This excellence, or arete, is the Ancient Greek concept that the greatest excel through virtue, intelligence, nobility of birth and beauty of body.
Alexander the Great

In addition, Aristotle wrote about entelechy, which is concerned with how a person can realize their potential. It examines causes and effects to better understand how events unfold and how people develop. Aristotle would have taught Alexander to analyze his life to make it more excellent and how to study a range of outcomes to select the best course of action. This is to say that Aristotle would have taught the prince how to unlock his potential and this is why Alexander repaid his tutor for sharing knowledge with others, because he knew that if they were to read the philosopher's ideas, they would have access to what he saw to be the 'secret knowledge' necessary to take the world.

Alexander's education manifested itself in other ways as well. For example, he didn't strive to enslave the world through mere butchery and violence. Rather, he was known to treat the people he conquered with humanity and to have shown amnesty to the wives and daughters of the Persian emperor after defeating them in battle. While excellence is an Aristotelian ethic, the tutor would have taught the prince to read and appreciate how other revered authors treated glory, excellence and virtue. Plutarch notes that Alexander slept with a copy of Homer's Iliad under his pillow, annotated by none other than Aristotle himself. Achilles, the protagonist of the epic poem that was composed several centuries before this period, is concerned chiefly with his own personal glory and reputation, not with money or prizes. Alexander undoubtedly reflected this in his insatiable desire to conquer the world and his simultaneous charity, giving away presents and money to the soldiers and allies.

Throughout his life, Alexander's predilection for philosophy never faded. There are several anecdotes about his interactions with other eminent philosophers during his countless military campaigns across eastern Europe and Asia that suggest he had a personal affinity for their eccentricities as well as their views.

Indeed, upon meeting Diogenes of Sinope, one of the founders of Cynicism who was known for his extremely simple lifestyle — and for living in a large jar in an Athenian marketplace — Alexander addressed him and offered him anything he wanted. The cheery Diogenes merely asked the Macedonian to step out of the way so he could bathe more easily. Alexander, undoubtedly impressed, retorted, "But truly, if I were not Alexander, I would be Diogenes."

Despite these anecdotes that show a certain humility, Alexander's unprecedented military successes would eventually cause him to exhibit some very un-Aristotelian vices, like indulgences in wine, flattery, violence and excessive sleep. The conqueror even came to believe that he was a god and he is said to have remarked that only 

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OFFER ENDS 30TH SEPTEMBER 2017
In the wake of a new era for Australia, vice-hungry vagabonds ruled the streets of Sydney. Written by Tanita Matthews

Razor Gangs: Sex, Slashers & Sly Grog

In the wake of a new era for Australia, vice-hungry vagabonds ruled the streets of Sydney.

The Underbelly Down Under

Rough around the edges and savouring the pre-war era, Australia's New South Wales in the early years of the 20th century was a place where prostitution, gambling, narcotics and guns were not just tolerated, but in most instances legal. But in 1905, the country's government began to slowly erode those bad habits its inhabitants had come to enjoy.

A combination of laws passed such as the Vagrancy Act of 1902, the Gambling and Betting Act of 1906, The Police Offences (Amendment) Act of 1908, The Liquor Act of 1916 and the Dangerous Drugs Amendment Act of 1927 made street prostitution, gambling and alcohol sales after 6pm illegal. Thanks to an ever-increasing anti-narcotics movement, chemists and small-time traffickers were put out of business.

With the sales of sex, drugs and alcohol driven underground, criminals flocked together like birds of a feather. Australian tabloids, latching onto the Al Capone era that was plaguing America on the other side of the globe, declared East Sydney was "the Chicago of the South" and a "breeding place of vice".

Australia would draw a lot of parallels to the US and its Prohibition Era as it mirrored the strict laws imposed regarding the sales and distribution of alcohol on its civilians.

In the wake of a revolution for transport, the eastern part of the capital resembled shantytowns when newer and flashier homes in other areas of the city attracted the working class. As Larry Writer summarised in his book Razor: A True Story of Slashers, Gangsters, Prostitutes and Sly Grog, the areas that commonly became known as 'Razorhurst' were born from an "ill-starred confluence of between-the-wars social conditions, well-intended but wrong-headed laws and a truly extraordinary group of ambitious and ruthless crime entrepreneurs determined to cash in on the vices of beloved Australians."

Sydney's Paddington and King's Cross districts became the stomping grounds of infamous razor queens Tilly Devine and Kate Leigh and their gangs, along with Melbourne razor gang leader and standover man Norman Bruhn, and Phil "The Jew" Jeffs, a cocaine pusher and sly grog patron.

Each madam was determined to outdo the others, insisting on being the most powerful and infamous criminal their country had ever seen. Between them they forged armies of brutes who waged war on the streets of Sydney. Following on from the 1927 Pistol Act, which prohibited guns being carried, villains donned a new weapon of choice: the razor blade.

A silent but deadly accomplice to crime, thousands of men and women found themselves brutalised victims of slashings and stabbings. Sydney's streets weren't just death as much as they were a L-shaped scar on their cheek as the prey of underworld gangs. None evaded such horror at the razor gangs of Sydney and the men and women behind them.

Sly Grog Queen of Sydney

Leigh, the elder of the madams and the only Australian native of the four leaders, was born in 1881 in Dubbo, Central Western New South Wales, to Timothy and Charlotte Beahan. The eighth of 13 children, she was a wilful spirit, always in trouble for stealing, hitting other children and playing truant. After four years in a girls' home for "delinquent" and uncontrollable girls following years of maltreatment as a child, she worked as a waitress and in factories in Glebe and Surry Hills.

Soon the young woman's dreams of living beyond a mediocre pay packet prompted her to seek the company of criminals. At 21 years of age, she married her first husband, Jack Leigh, a 30-year-old carpenter and petty crook. The two had a daughter together but parted ways following a stint in the gaols when Leigh's husband was tried for assaulting another man. Leigh attempted to swing the jury in their favour by lying in court but the judge sentenced her to prison with her husband for perjury.

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"They forged armies of brutes who waged war on the streets"
"AT THE HEIGHT OF HER CAREER, LEIGH OPERATED ALMOST TWO DOZEN SLY GROGGERIES"

Following her release, she stayed once again from the straight and narrow and by 1903 she was convicted for running a brothel and placed on a 12-month good behaviour bond. The following year, Leigh, the love of gangster criminal Samuel Jewey Freeman, was sentenced again for perjury after she supplied a false alibi for Freeman, who had conducted the great Eveleigh Workshops payroll robbery. "Seven years for mucking to a man. I'll swing before I stick to another," she uttered just before she was locked away. She wouldn't be released until 1919, having served less than five years of her sentence.

"New Girl on the Block"

Born Matilda Twiss, Tilly Devine was a fabulous, fair-haired beauty. She could be as generous as she could be vicious. Born in London during the final years of Queen Victoria's reign, Devine grew up in pitiful poverty. She was determined to see better days than those where she had starved and shivered as an infant. Leaving school at the age of 12, she realised that a life in the sweatshops would not affad her the happiness she desired. A stunning young woman with big blue eyes and luscious blonde locks, she sold herself on the Strand earning almost ten times the average wage as a prostitute. As a fresh-faced 16-year-old, she met and fell in love with Australian soldier Jim Devine, a former sheep shearer and petty crook with a violent temper, and they married later that year. One year later, leaving their son behind with her own parents and she began work as a prostitute almost immediately from their Paddington flat in Sydney. Meanwhile, her husband continued to seek out whatever illegal activity he could to earn a living, from gambling to acting as a standover man for businesses, demanding protection money from illegal premises.

NEW GIRL ON THE BLOCK

But when the war was over, Devine's husband sailed back to Australia. She followed him a year later leaving their son behind with her own parents and she began work as a prostitute almost immediately from their Paddington flat in Sydney. Meanwhile, her husband continued to seek out whatever illegal activity he could to earn a living, from gambling to acting as a standover man for businesses, demanding protection money from illegal premises.
The text contains information about the criminal activities of a brothel operator named Devine, who was involved in prostitution, gambling, and alcohol smuggling. The text also mentions a rivalry between Devine and another brothel operator named Leigh, which led to violent confrontations and legal challenges. The text discusses the legal consequences faced by Devine and Leigh for their criminal activities, including charges of murder, robbery, and illegal gambling. The text also mentions the impact of the razor gang wars on the criminal underworld in Sydney during the 1920s and 1930s.
Bluffer’s Guide
The Bayeux Tapestry FRANCE, 1070s

What was it?
At 70 metres long and 50 centimetres high, the Bayeux tapestry is an astonishing work of art that has continued to attract attention for over 900 years. It depicts the story of the Norman conquest of England in 1066 in exquisite detail, starting with Harold Godwinson’s journey to Normandy in 1064 and concluding with the famous Battle of Hastings.

The tapestry is made from plain linen embroidered with woollen yarn in shades of red, yellow, green, blue and grey across nine panels. Along it runs a Latin inscription, which identifies some of the key figures shown — for example, Edward the Confessor and William the Conqueror are both name-dropped. The central panel also boasts an upper and lower border decorated with iconography.

Ships, horses and weaponry also feature in the wall-hanging’s design and provide facts about Medieval life that contemporary sources have failed to provide. Unfortunately, the tapestry remains incomplete as the last part — likely depicting William’s triumphant coronation — was lost.

Why did it happen?
The tapestry is generally considered as a work of Norman propaganda to legitimize William’s invasion of England. To that end, it tells the story from the Norman perspective, depicting Harold as an usurper and William as the rightful heir to the English throne.

However, the question over actually created the Bayeux Tapestry is still subject to debate. According to French legend it was William’s wife Queen Matilda, who made it. Along with her handmaidens, Matilda supposedly created the tapestry to celebrate the success of her husband in conquering England. As a result, it is often referred to as ‘Queen Matilda’s Tapestry’ in France.

Another theory that has received more credence is that William’s half-brother, Bishop Odo, commissioned the tapestry as it was discovered in Bayeux Cathedral, which Odo had built. If so, then it was most likely designed in England, as Odo would have been the Earl of Kent by this point and Anglo-Saxon needlework was noted for its precision and detail.

Who was involved?
William the Conqueror (1028–87)
The tapestry portrays the events leading to William’s invasion of England and his victory at the Battle of Hastings.

Odo of Bayeux (c.1030s–97)
Since the 20th century, Odo has been credited with commissioning the tapestry and is even portrayed in a scene.

Harold Godwinson (c.1022–66)
The last Anglo-Saxon king of England, Harold was killed at the Battle of Hastings, which can be seen in the tapestry.
Greatest Battles

Foreign mercenaries
Carthaginian citizens did not serve in their city’s army except as officers. The bulk of Carthaginian soldiers were foreign mercenaries, recruited from across the Mediterranean. Usually these men were very capable, and proved loyal — as long as they were paid.

Pirate tactics
As well as fearing boarding actions, the Romans preferred open-ocean running as this showed their dominance on the seas, who were not as skilled and experienced as those of their Punic enemies. Often a Roman ship would ram a Carthaginian vessel and drop in a corvus, it would not let go until the enemy ship had been captured.

Legionaries on board
Republicans Rome lacked specialist naval commanders so the soldiers who fought at sea were drawn from the legions. Ordinarily, there were 40 such legionaries onboard, but when battle was expected, this number would swell to 120.

Workhorse warship
Both Roman and Carthaginian fleets used quinqueremes, a large war galley measuring about 66 metres in length. The ships were very similar because Rome reverse-engineered an example from a captured Carthaginian vessel. Each galley would have had 300 rowers aboard, with the men seated at three levels to either side.

Boarding bridge
The 11-metre-long gangplank could be raised and lowered by means of a rope that was attached to the front via a pulley at the top of the pole. On each side was a knee-high railing. The corvus was wide enough to allow two men to cross abreast at the same time.

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Greatest Battles

10 Romans

**TROOPS 198,600**

**SHIPS 330**

**COMMAND OF THE ROMAN FLEET AT ECNOMUS**

The Roman fleet at Ecnomus was shared between the two annually elected co-consuls of 256 BCE, Marcus Atilius Regulus (pictured) and Lucius Manlius Vulso.

- **Strengths**
  - Marcus Atilius Regulus was a courageous and shrewd commander.

- **Weaknesses**
  - Lucius Manlius Vulso was not especially wise.

**ROME'S MARINES**

Rome's marines came straight from the legions and were employed aboard ship in large numbers.

- **Strengths**
  - Tough, aggressive and deadly close up.

- **Weaknesses**
  - They were principally trained for land warfare.

**KEY WEAPON**

This hooked boarding bridge was an outstanding success and allowed the inexperienced Romans to overcome the superior seamanship of their Carthaginian foes.

- **Strengths**
  - Played to the Romans' preference for close combat.

- **Weaknesses**
  - Only works if enemy targets are within range.

Battle of Ecnomus

**INVASION FLEET**

The Romans approach from the east, heading west. The Roman First Squadron, under consul Lucius Manlius Vulso, forms the right of the Roman arrowhead. The Roman Second Squadron, led by co-consul Marcus Atilius Regulus, is on the left. Behind them is the Third Squadron, with the cavalry transports. Taking up the rear is the Fourth Squadron, also known as the Triarii.

**ROMAN VICTORY**

The battle is a clear-cut victory for the Romans as they sink 30 Carthaginian galleys while losing 24. They also capture 64 enemy warships all told, while none of their own are taken.

**HANNIBAL STRIKES**

With the Roman First and Second Squadrons closing after Hamilcar's right wing, a large gap opens between them and the Third Squadron and Fourth Squadrons following behind. Seizing the opportunity, Hamilcar's light wing surges through the gap and attacks the Triarii of the Fourth Squadrons. Meanwhile, the Carthaginian left wing attacks the Roman Third Squadron and its horse transports.

**HAMILCAR FAILS**

The battered Carthaginians in the centre flee the scene. Hamilcar sweeps up the captured galleys while Regulus turns his ships to flee by rowing out to sea.

**CORVUS**

A hooked boarding bridge which allowed the Romans to overcome the superior seamanship of their Carthaginian foes.

- **Strengths**
  - Played to the Romans' preference for close combat.

- **Weaknesses**
  - Only works if enemy targets are within range.

**HANNIBAL'S FLEET**

Despite the success of his play, Hamilcar's ships are on the march for the Romans and their boarding bridges. The battered Carthaginians in the centre flee the skies. Hamilcar sweeps up the captured galleys while Regulus turns around and goes to help the hard-pressed Third and Fourth Squadrons. Hamilcar's squadron is stuck between the Roman Fourth Squadron and Regulus' incoming ships and chooses to flee by rowing out to sea.

**HAMILCAR LEADER**

Hamilcar's plan to lure the Roman fleet away from the rear divisions was a good one, even though it ended up failing.

- **Strengths**
  - Bold and cunning with strong grasp of tactics.

- **Weaknesses**
  - Unprepared for Rome's new corvus gangplank.

**CARTHAGINIAN MERCENARIES**

Wealthy Carthage relied on hired soldiers to fight its battles. These men were drawn mainly from Africa, Spain and Gaul.

- **Strengths**
  - Professional and talented soldiers.

- **Weaknesses**
  - Not as highly motivated as the Romans.

**CARTHAGINIAN QUINQUEREME**

The Carthaginian war galley was a sleek and well-constructed craft, similar to that used by the Romans, but of better quality.

- **Strengths**
  - Fast and agile.

- **Weaknesses**
  - Had trouble in defending against Roman boarding attacks.
Melita Thomas, is the author of The King’s Pearl, a new biography of Henry VIII and Mary I. It’s available now for £20 from Amberley Publishing.

Henry VIII’s divorce from Catherine of Aragon split Christianity and doomed Britain to years of sectarian violence, but its first victim was their daughter.

In the 21st century, while emotions still run hot, we have developed social norms for dealing with family breakdown. For instance, the second spouse is not supposed to criticise the first, the children learn to live with the step-parent and everyone behaves in a civilised fashion. In the 1530s, things were very different. The most high-profile divorce in English history lasted nearly ten years and changed the face of the country forever, as well as leaving deep psychological scars on the protagonists.

At the heart of the storm was Mary, the only surviving child of Henry VIII and his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. From her birth in 1516, Mary was Henry’s cherished daughter – he showed her off to ambassadors, spoke admiringly of her accomplishments and spent as much time with her as was consistent with royal duties. In Henry’s eyes, Mary had only one flaw, but it was insurmountable. Despite her charm and intelligence, she was not fit to be a monarch because she was female.

Until 1524, the king’s vision of the future involved Mary making a splendid match to a foreign prince – preferably her mother’s nephew, Emperor Charles V, or perhaps the heir to the French crown – while he and Catherine would have a son to rule England. When it became apparent that Catherine could have no more children, the king was in a quandary. Should he accept Mary as his heir or consider his illegitimate son, Henry FitzRoy, as an alternative?

Henry hedged his bets. Mary, although not officially created Princess of Wales, was called by that title and given a grand household, becoming the figurehead of the Council for Wales and the Marches as previous Princes of Wales had been. FitzRoy was ennobled with the royal titles of Duke of Richmond and Somerset.

By early 1527, Henry began envisaging a different solution. While he had not always been a faithful husband, the royal couple had been happy together, sharing a political vision of England allied to Spain and reconquering France. But their personal relationship had deteriorated, the death blow being struck when Emperor Charles jilted Mary in 1525. Henry began pondering whether his marriage to Catherine was, in fact, valid at all.

Looking back retroactively, we may think that Henry was cynical in his sudden interest in the biblical text forbidding marriage to a brother’s widow – after all, it was hardly a new taboo,
Anne Boleyn was, initially, a separate matter.

Simultaneously, the ambitious Anne Boleyn, Catherine herself was determined to fight it. The annulment of royal marriages was not uncommon but Henry encountered problems. First, desperate to defend papal authority, Henry insisted that his marriage was illegal, requested Pope Clement VII to annul it. The annulment of royal marriages was not uncommon but Henry encountered problems. First, desperate to defend papal authority, Henry insisted that his marriage was illegal, requested Pope Clement VII to annul it.

Pope Julius II had given a dispensation for the marriage in 1503 but in a time of radical religious upheaval, with attacks on the authority of the pontiff rife, Henry was probably struck anew by its relevance. His infatuation with ane Boleyn and pressed for marriage.

Henry blamed a lot of his mistreatment of Mary on Anne — we do not even know who broke the news that Henry was motivated only by his conscience, Mary probably believed them — at least until she was old enough to see that while her father might pretend his love for Catherine and that he would be delighted if the marriage proved valid, the reality was that he had fallen so deeply in love with Anne Boleyn that there could be no turning back.

As Catherine dug her heels in, Henry became frustrated and then furious. In the annals of EU, he banished Catherine from her place as queen and took the momentous decision of forbidding her from seeing Mary. He himself continued to visit his daughter but less frequently as Anne, realising that Henry's affection for his daughter was a far greater threat to her position than any love he had once had for Catherine, tried to keep them apart.

Mary was still addressed as Princess of Wales and surrounded by an extensive retinue, although she was deeply upset when Henry forbade her from seeing her mother. Her place for a special messenger, just to exchange messages about their health, were rejected. This point was later relaxed, though, and Mary and her mother did correspond.

In May 1531, Thomas Cromwell, the archbishop of Canterbury, pronounced Henry and Catherine's marriage unlawful and affirmed the ceremony that Henry had gone through with Anne Boleyn as a legally binding union. Mary was not mentioned — Henry, convinced that the pregnant Anne would have a son, did not need or want her to be pronounced legitimate. A son would be of greater importance, her half-sister, Elizabeth, and be humiliatingly treated as her inferior.

But enacting laws was not enough and Henry had to agree that she was not his heir. While she maintained her claims, it was open to her — her mother did correspond. With a flourish, Wolsey placed a giant diamond on Mary's tiny finger. Admiral Bonnivet of France, acting as proxy for the dauphin, pushed it over her knuckle. The company then heard Mass in the palace chapel, which had been hung with gold cloth. Mary delighted everyone by asking Bonnivet: “If I were the dauphin of France. If the war, she announced, she wanted to be his heir. In the celebratory feast, over 3,000 loaves of bread, 2,500 eggs and 16 and a half gallons of cream were consumed. Mary and the young Catherine sat in state, leaving Henry and his sister; another Mary Tudor, once queen of France herself, to watch the pagentry and seal the dancing.

The king was angry and exasperated — Henry and Catherine's divorce was dragged out for ten years. But enacting laws was not enough and Henry needed Mary to agree that she was not his heir. While she maintained her claims, it was open to her — her mother did correspond. With a flourish, Wolsey placed a giant diamond on Mary's tiny finger. Admiral Bonnivet of France, acting as proxy for the dauphin, pushed it over her knuckle. The company then heard Mass in the palace chapel, which had been hung with gold cloth. Mary delighted everyone by asking Bonnivet: “If I were the dauphin of France. If the war, she announced, she wanted to be his heir. In the celebratory feast, over 3,000 loaves of bread, 2,500 eggs and 16 and a half gallons of cream were consumed. Mary and the young Catherine sat in state, leaving Henry and his sister; another Mary Tudor, once queen of France herself, to watch the pagentry and seal the dancing.

The ceremony began with the Master of the Rolls reading a long sermon praising marriage. Not surprisingly, Mary cried and was "taken in arms". Certified Wesley aided Henry and Catherine if they agreed to their daughter's banishment and both solemnly affirmed their consent.

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A musical family

Mary inherited her musical talents from her father.

Playing musical instruments was an essential element of court education. Henry played several instruments and was known for his skill. Mary inherited his talent. She mastered several varieties of keyboard like the virginal, spinet, harpsichord and organ, as well as the lute and the vielle. She continued to take lessons throughout Henry's reign, mastering the skill of playing for Henry's entertainment. She was often called upon to perform at court, where she delighted the assembly with her musical talents.

In May 1533, Henry and his courtiers took part in a masque to entertain the French ambassadors. Mary played the role of Venus, goddess of love, and was praised for her performance. The masque, "The Triumph of Love," represented the union of Henry and Catherine. Mary played the lute, and her performance was a hit with the audience. The success of Mary's musical talents continued throughout her life, as she continued to perform for Henry and his court.

The strain began to tell on Mary's health and Catherine begged to be allowed to nurse her sick daughter.

The strain of being denied access to her daughter, and the stress of living in a royal court, began to take a toll on Mary. She was often sickly and weak, and her health declined. Catherine, who was a devoted mother, begged Henry to allow her to look after her daughter, but he refused. Mary was outraged by this decision, as she believed she was entitled to see her daughter. The strain on Mary's health was evident, as she became increasingly frail and weak.

Mary's execution of Jane and the Duke of Northumberland set the tone for how she would be remembered.

After Henry VIII's death in 1547, Mary had hoped to inherit the throne. However, the competition for the crown was fierce, and Mary was not a strong contender. She was eventually succeeded by her half-sister, Queen Elizabeth I.

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Mary's execution of Jane and the Duke of Northumberland set the tone for how she would be remembered. Her reign was marked by violence and treachery, and she was often portrayed as a tyrant and a dictator. However, she was also known for her love of music and her musical talents. Mary's musical legacy lives on, and she is remembered as a talented musician who brought joy to the court.

Mary went on to rule England before...
What if... France had joined Britain?

Rather than seeking Brexit, a creative solution to the Suez Crisis might have turned Britain into the EU’s biggest advocate.

Written by Jonathan O’Callaghan

In 1956, French Prime Minister Guy Mollet travelled to London with an unusual proposition for his British counterpart, Anthony Eden—would he consider a union between the two countries? France was facing economic difficulties and both nations needed to halt the Suez Crisis. Secret documents unearthed in 2007 reveal how Mollet believed the French people would accept Elizabeth II as their head of state in exchange for common citizenship. “It’s easy sitting in [the 21st century] for historians to say ‘Oh, the French would have never stood for this,’” Dr Timothy Baycroft from the University of Sheffield told us. “Well, in the 1950s, yes, they would have. They were still desperately thankful to Britain and the US.”

Rebuffed by Eden, the French formed a close friendship with West Germany, ultimately creating the European Union (EU)—but Britain could well have played a role too. While France and Germany form the backbone of Europe today, things might have been very different had the union occurred.

“Maybe the main axis of European integration would’ve formed around a Franco-British alliance,” said Dr Baycroft. “Maybe having a more dominant role in Europe, and having the leading model being a British one, the level of anti-European feeling wouldn’t have developed as significantly!”

It was ultimately the Treaty of Rome that began the European Economic Community (EEC) and the EU. This resulted partly from Franco-German cooperation, but perhaps even with more direct involvement, France would have tried to strike deals. “I think the French would have tried to keep making negotiations with as many people as possible” said Dr Baycroft. “There was a belief in France that Germany had to be built back up, and punishing them like in 1919 wasn’t the solution.”

Elsewhere, Britain could have convinced France to undergo a more peaceful process of decolonisation. In the 1960s, France had already been engaged in a war in Indochina, which would evolve into the Vietnam War. Later it was a part of conflict in Algeria that led to Algerian independence. A tighter union with Britain might have meant that the loss of colonies would have been less important to France.

Perhaps most different, though, would have been Britain’s place in the world. The Suez Crisis in 1956 essentially saw Britain and France ousted as global leaders as Egyptians seized their canal. “It was interpreted as the decline of France and Britain as world powers,” said Dr Baycroft. “The world powers were the Soviet Union and the US from then on.” But had Britain and France joined together, perhaps they could have held their own with the two new superpowers of the day.

How would it be different?

Real timeline

- Treaty of Rome
  - France, West Germany and other European countries sign the Treaty of Rome, which creates the EEC. It comes into effect on 1 January 1958.

Alternate timeline

- Treaty of Rome
  - France and Britain unite as EEC members. France and Britain, and France Western control of the vital Suez Canal, under intense political pressure. Suez Canal remains under British control on 26th March 1952.

- Suez Crisis
  - Britain and France are humiliated in Egypt, losing Western control of the vital Suez Canal under intense political pressure. A new international community.

- Cultural shift
  - Thirty years after unification, Britain and France are two of the world’s most influential cultures.
The victor of the Alamo is often painted as a treacherous dictator, but a closer look at the Mexican soldier-statesman may show he's been treated unfairly.

Written by Will Fowler

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna is arguably Mexico's worst villain. He is popularly blamed for having lost the Mexican-American War of 1846-48 on purpose for a handsome sum of money. He is also remembered as an opportunist who changed sides to power, and as the cruel, whimsical dictator – the Attila of Mexican Civilization – who demanded the ridiculous title of His Serene Highness.

According to Texan folklore, he is the mighty Napoleon of the West who crushed the valiant and outnumbered Texans that had fortified themselves in the Alamo on 6 March 1836. Contradictorily, he is also presented as the laughable buffoon who had a siesta just when Samuel Houston's enemy forces were only a mile away, losing the Battle of San Jacinto of 21 April 1836 as a result.

In Mexico, he has come to serve as the simple explanation as to why independence from Spain in 1821 did not bring progress and prosperity, but instead a period of marked instability. The so-called 'age of chaos', or 'of Santa Anna', resulted in the loss of Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Nevada and Utah, as well as parts of Colorado and Wyoming. As one critic put it, "He was the exclusive cause of all of Mexico's misfortunes."

In Texas, his tyrannical nature has helped perpetuate the narrative of the Lone Star Republic's Revolution of Independence from 1835-36 as a struggle between freedom-loving frontiersmen and Santa Anna's Saddam Hussein-like dictatorship. That the Texan Revolution was partly sparked by the slave-owning US-born settlers' reaction to the implementation of the Mexican abolition of slavery is conveniently downplayed. The Texans' decision to secede from Mexico in 1836 was no different to their choice to do so from the US to join the Confederacy in 1861: to keep their slaves.

So much of Santa Anna's black legend is thus based on half-truths and lies. He did not sell half of Mexico – the territory went to the US in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which brought the 1846-48 Mexican-US War to an end. It was signed by the moderate liberal government led by Manuel de la Peña y Peña, who had taken over following the fall of Mexico City on 15 September 1847 – and while Santa Anna was, in fact, still trying to keep the war effort going in Puebla.

However, Santa Anna did sell La Mesilla Valley (nearly 78,000km² in present-day Arizona) for $10 million in the Gadsden Purchase of 30 December 1853 as the US was threatening to wage another war and he was unable to garner support from the European powers to reject the US government's offer. Mexico went on to confine this with the loss of half of the country's territory five years earlier and it was this that resulted in the claim that he "sold half of the country."

“His tyrannical nature has helped perpetuate the narrative of the Lone Star Republic's Revolution of Independence”
Santa Anna has also been accused of being a traitor for having agreed in captivity to the independence of Texas in the Treaty of Velasco of 14 May 1836. However, all he agreed to was an attempt at reconquest in repulsing a Spanish troops into the fray throughout his life on numerous occasions. For someone who had risked his country, successfully defending the important port of Veracruz during the Intervention of 1862-67, he was accused of being a cynical, unscrupulous opportunist, mirrored those that saw him as a leader and product of his time.

Defining moment
Loss of his leg
Santa Anna came out of retirement to rejoin a French army in an attempt to expel the British from the important port of Veracruz during the War of 1812. The French campaign ended in disaster, and Santa Anna lost his leg. The injury became the focus of his career as his ideas evolved in response to the successive failure of Mexico's different constitutional experiments. His changes, however, rather than those of a cynical, unpatriotic opportunist, mirrored those of many men of his generation, who, like him, went from defending liberal ideals in the 1830s to arguing that the Mexican population was not ready for democracy by the 1840s, when one constitution after another failed to give a stable political system.

In 1821, he went from royalist officer to liberator of Mexico, from officer who risked his country's freedom to a leader. He did not lose the 1846-48 war on purpose, especially once news spread that he was obeying orders, applying the government's decree of 30 December 1835, which stated that the incumbent one in 1839, risen to power on the declared plan to establish a republic in 1823. He only started to warm towards them after the Goliad Massacre in 1836.

In 1829, a French attack on Veracruz in 1838, losing his left leg in combat and who was characteristically keen to lead his troops into the fray throughout his career, it is difficult to believe. However, he did allow himself to be bribed by President James K. Polk while he was in exile in Havana in 1845-46, leading the president to believe that if Santa Anna was allowed back into the country in August 1846, he would settle for peace and negotiate the secession of the territory. Polk was after further bloodshed. But Santa Anna fooled Polk. He pocketed the money, returned to Mexico and led the defence of his country.

Following the defeat, it was easier for blame Santa Anna for having lost the war on purpose than engage with the causal reasons why Mexico was so painfully defeated, especially once news of Polk's bribe became public knowledge. It is true that Santa Anna underwent a number of political transformations during his career as his ideas evolved in response to the successive failure of Mexico's different constitutional experiments. His changes, however, rather than those of a cynical, unpatriotic opportunist, mirrored those of many men of his generation, who, like him, went from defending liberal ideals in the 1830s to arguing that the Mexican population was not ready for democracy by the 1840s, when one constitution after another failed to give a stable political system.

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HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Discover jaw-dropping heritage pictures by the shortlisted photographers and overall winners

The Historic Photographer of the Year Awards has revealed the winner of its competition, which showcases the very best historic places and cultural sites from around the world. In its inaugural year, the contest has attracted a swathe of astonishing entries from amateurs and professionals alike, who have climbed, hiked and trekked their way to snap iconic landmarks and far-flung forgotten ruins from every corner of the globe.

The overall winning image of an abandoned former military hospital was shot by Matt Emmett from Reading. Taken at RAF Nocton Hall, Matt’s picture won him £2,500. The winning public vote photograph was a shot of Jedburgh Abbey taken on a school trip and was won by Manchester's Jenna Johnston, who walked away with £250.

The Historic Photographer of the Year Awards is a joint venture between Trip Historic, the leading online travel guide to the world’s historic sites, and History Hit, which brings unique content and insight from some of the UK’s best known historians and academics. A panel of experts, including broadcaster and historian Dan Snow, All About History’s Group Editor in Chief, James Hoare, and David Gilbert, Chair of Creative United, selected the overall winning image.

Read on to discover some of the shortlisted shots, the winning pictures, what inspired the photographers and why the judges chose them.

DOLBADARN CASTLE BY PAUL TEMPLING

Paul Templing decided to make the most of Dolbadarn Castle's location in Snowdonia National Park, Wales. An International Dark Sky Preserve, artificial lighting is intentionally restricted so that you can better see the stars. "The clouds parted just long enough to catch the Milky Way as it sunk into the horizon on this late summer's night," said Paul.

WELLS CATHEDRAL BY RICHARD NASH

Richard Nash’s entry focuses on a monument to Medieval bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury at Wells Cathedral, Somerset. Finely carved from alabaster, this statue was originally pride of place in the middle of the choir. However, it was relegated to the north aisles in the 18th century and heavily defaced. "Perhaps this shows how history changes our views on individuals," said Richard.
**MANG LANG CHURCH, VIETNAM BY TRAN HUNG DAO**

If it weren’t for the cyclist wearing the conical hat in the bottom-right, you might never have guessed that the Mang Lang Church is in Vietnam. The Roman Catholic church, built in 1892 in the Gothic architectural style by French missionary Father Joseph Lacassagne, is a shrine to Blessed Andrew of Phu Yen, the patron saint of Vietnam.

**EDINBURGH CASTLE BY DARYN CASTLE**

This shortlisted image offers a unique view over Scotland’s capital city from a gun turret of Edinburgh’s historic castle. “I found the view overlooking the city over the old cannon to be incredibly cinematic and it transported me back in time,” said Daryn from Banbury.

**WAT MAHATHAT, AYUTTHAYA, THAILAND BY MATHEW BROWNE**

Travel photographer Mathew Browne explains his shortlisted shot: “Wat Mahathat is a 14th-century temple reduced to ruins in 1767 when the Burmese army invaded Ayutthaya. Over time, a tree has grown around one of the remaining stone Buddha heads, such that it is now completely enclosed by roots with only the face peeking out.”

**BAGAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONE BY ANA CAROLINE DE LIMA**

Photojournalist Ana Caroline de Lima captured this stunning shot of Bagan, the capital city of the Old Kingdom of Pagan in modern-day Myanmar. Previously home to 10,000 Buddhist temples, 2,200 remain in varying states of repair. “There remains so much of what is original still to see that none of this stops the temples of Bagan being a unique wonder to behold,” said Ana.
Felipe de Castro Horta Hoffmann Martins captured this picture from the walls of the Jaisalmer Fort, one of the largest fully preserved fortified cities in the world. Despite overlooking a holy lake, this heritage site is actually in the heart of the Thar Desert in Rajasthan, India.

Heritage consultant Jenna Johnston from Manchester, who provides advice on building conservation projects, won the public vote with this shot of Jedburgh Abbey in the Scottish Borders. "This photo of the 12th-century Augustinian abbey, Jedburgh, was taken on a class trip in 2011. That class, and that trip, sparked my enduring love for Medieval architecture," said Jenna. Judge Dan Korn, VP Programming and Head of TV channel History, said, "Such was the quality on display, it was difficult to select a clear winner. All deserve hearty congratulations for their talents and creativity.

The overall winning image by Matt Emmett is of an abandoned military hospital in Lincolnshire that was loaned to American forces during the Gulf War. Intended to treat injured soldiers flown back from Iraq, it only ever had 35 patients. Judge James Hoare explains why he thought Matt’s image should win: "Conservation-as-found is increasingly a part of the heritage landscape and Matt captures not some frozen image of factoried past, but an image of ongoing history. This is a site with a story still unfolding, a shifting flux shaped not just of the changing value of what we have, but the changing value of our role in remembering it."
TIME TO STEP OFF THAT TREADMILL

With so many demands from work, home and family, there never seems to be enough hours in the day for you. Why not press pause once in a while, curl up with your favourite magazine and put a little oasis of ‘you’ in your day.

ETO STEP OHAT TREADMILL

PRESS PAUSE

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On the Menu

VIKING HAGGIS

OVERSIZED STAG SAUSAGE SCOTLAND, 9TH CENTURY – PRESENT

Haggis is associated with the world over with Scotland. However, an award-winning butcher has traced the national dish back to Viking invaders. Scotsman Joe Callaghan, of Callaghans of Helensburgh, Argyll and Bute and a Golden Haggis Awards finalist, spent three years researching the savoury pudding. Yet claims it was not invented by Scots, but actually left behind by Norse raiders in the 9th century. Haggis is commonly known as a savoury pudding made from a sheep’s stomach stuffed with diced sheep’s liver, lungs and heart, oatmeal, onion and seasoning. But Callaghan disputes this as well, insisting it would traditionally have been made with venison offal. Varying claims about the origins of haggis have been offered over the years with some even dating it back to Ancient Greece. The dish became synonymous with Scotland after Robert Burns eulogised it in the 1786 poem ‘To a Haggis’. It is now eaten every 25 January as part of a Burns Night banquet, in which the national bard of Scotland is celebrated.

Did you know?
The name ‘haggis’ may come from the Old Norse ‘haggw’, meaning ‘back into pieces’, according to the Victorian philologist Walter William Skeat.

Ingredients

@ 1x deer stomach
@ 1x deer heart, lungs, kidney and liver (the ‘pluck’)
@ 450g beef or lamb trimmings
@ 2 onions, finely chopped
@ 225¢ oatmeal
@ 1 tbsp salt
@ 1 tsp ground black pepper
@ 1 tsp nutmeg
@ Stock from lungs and trimmings
@ Water, enough to cook the haggis

METHOD

01 The stomach should be thoroughly cleaned, scalded, turned inside out and soaked overnight in cold, salted water. Once this is done, rinse it inside and out with clean water and pat it dry.
02 Wash the lungs, heart and liver. Place in large pan of cold water with the meat trimmings and bring to the boil. Cook for about two hours.
03 When the offal is cooked, strain off the stock and set it aside. Mince the pluck and trimmings in a bowl, then add the finely chopped onions, oatmeal and seasonings.
04 Mix the ingredients in the bowl well and add enough of the stock to moisten it all. When you’re finished, the haggis should be soft and crumbly.
05 Spoon the mixture into the sheep’s stomach until it’s just over half full. Sterilise a needle with boiling water, then sew the stomach back together. Also prick the haggis a couple of times so it doesn’t explode while cooking.
06 Put in the haggis in a pan of boiling water (enough to cover it) and cook for three hours. Keep adding more water to keep it covered.
07 To serve, cut open the haggis and spoon out the filling. Traditionally, a haggis is served with ‘neeps’ (mashed swede or turnip) and ‘tatties’ (mashed potatoes). Oatcakes can be an optional extra.

Did you make it? Let us know! www.historyanswers.co.uk | AllAboutHistory | @AboutHistoryMag
REVIEWS
The books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world this month

BECOMING HITLER
When did Adolf Hitler change from moody loner into messiah Führer?

Author Thomas Weber
Publisher Oxford University Press
Price £20
Released Out now

While you might ask, 'what is there left to say about Hitler?,' award-winning historian Thomas Weber has worked diligently to stop such doubts in their tracks. Weber has unearthed a wealth of previously hidden (in some cases overlooked) information that differenced the received wisdom that Hitler was a fervent Nazi by the end of World War I. From there, he pieces together how the Third Reich's rule was actually rationalized. Since Hitler's origins were first examined after his death and few historians have written of a man entrenched in his right-wing, anti-Semitic beliefs by the time he took the train to Munich in November 1918, to be demobilised. Weber, however, argues that the future Führer's political beliefs were still taking root at this time. They could have even diverged in an entirely different direction, as evidenced by his admission for a Marxist silye he witnessed in Berlin prior to his journey to Munich. Describing the display as 'an ocean of red flags, red scarves and red flowers,' Hitler privately admitted that he could understand its appeal. For a man who later claimed that the idea of a socialist revolution in the wake of Germany's military defeat was an event so terrible as to have rendered him blind (a reference to the fact that he was recovering from exposure to mustard gas after the war), Weber argues that it seems as if Hitler would then seek out a demonstration of this dreaded revolution. Another misconception truth Weber addresses is that, when faced with the prospect of wondering the streets in search of work, Hitler's only option was the refugee camp of Munich following the Nazi's ascendancy. So he went to work, to stop such an irresistible option that Hitler signed up without hesitation. But by signing up he was agreeing to defend a fledgling socialist revolution that was led by a Jew who had pledged his government's allegiance to Moscow. How did Hitler transform himself into a man who would one day unleash a genocidal war on both? A key turning point seems to be the moment in 1933 when Hitler came to power. The transition from a man who during the years of war had been a member of the SA to becoming the leader of the Third Reich was a profound change. Hitler was now in charge of all aspects of the state, from the economy to foreign policy. This gave him the power to carry out his vision of a 'New Order' and to implement his policies of racial purity and anti-Semitism. Weber's book provides a comprehensive look at Hitler's rise to power and his subsequent rule, offering new insights and challenges to existing interpretations of his life and actions.

THE GHOST
A larger-than-life spy thriller—and it's all real

Author Jefferson Morley
Publisher Scribe
Price £20
Released Out now

Some life stories seem almost made for thriller fiction or cinema from the first page. Others become thrillers in their own right. And some stories are firmly so absurdly bizarre that they were written as fiction, they'd be derided for their outlandishness. Somehow, The Ghost manages to be all three. Immensely ripe for a big screen adaptation, Jefferson Morley tackles the elusive and deeply fascinating character of James Angleton, the longtime head of the CIA. Through its unlikely you have ever heard of him, this senior spook was one of the most powerful men in America during the 20th century. Mixing passion, drive, ideological fervour and extreme paranoia, Angleton played a part in the Cold War, the response to the Kennedy assassination, and the advent of mass surveillance. Morley's eye-opening account is all of this, from Angleton's meteoric rise to his moribund state, often morally questionable methods, but even more often highly successful signs at the heart of Washington's intelligence network.

BETHELHEM
The history of this ancient hot spot

Author Nicholas Blince
Publisher Constable
Price £15
Released Out now

The name 'Bethlehem' famously occupies a special place in the world of Christianity as the birthplace of Jesus. But there is so much more to know about this intriguing town situated in the holy contested West Bank south of Jerusalem. As someone who divides his time between Bethlehem and the UK, author Nicholas Blince is perfectly equipped to take us on a tour of its winding back streets and its even more complicated history — and what a fascinating journey it is. Bethlehem is a place that has survived many rulers, having been conquered by the Crusaders in 1199, then returned to Muslim rule in the form of the Mamluks and the Ottomans. It was a British possession following World War I and under Jordanian rule from 1948. Israel then seized the city in 1967 during the Six Days' War. Blince unravels a story stripped of human conflict but also blessed with many rich characters and beautifully crafted buildings, while his familiarity with the city offers nuggets of local knowledge that might otherwise be missed. Indeed, it seems that Bethlehem is almost doomed to forever endure upheaval — a fact clearly outlined by its prominent role in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Blince concludes this excellent book by examining how Bethlehem stands as a bastion of its vital role in the ongoing conflict. It's an intimate portrait of a city that struggles to find its footing in the ongoing conflict. It's a story that explores its often politically loaded past from all angles.
MUDBOUND

A haunting portrait of PTSD, privilege and prejudice

Director Dee Rees Cast Carey Mulligan, Jason Clarke, Jason Mitchell, Mary J Blige Distributor Netflix

Releasing Out now

The Vietnam War

Harrowing insight into the United States’ worst tactical mistake

Certificate 15

Out now

5 STEPS TO 19TH-CENTURY ETIQUETTE

How you were considered what it would have been like being born into the 19th century’s complex code of good manners. How would you have gotten a partner in a relationship? What would you have done with a piece of news? And who would you go out with? Regency Period in the Nineteenth Century is a guide to the social dynamics of our well-behaved forebears. Elegant Etiquette is a body, occasionally tinged by black take on manners and conduct. Author Melody James reveals how to get your etiquette.

1. Introductions were important, although made with caution. When it was on an equal footing, the lower rank was introduced to the person of higher rank. A gentleman was always introduced to a lady.

2. It was generally thought best not to surprise people with introductions, but to acquire in advance whether or not they were desired.

3. Overfamiliarity was to be avoided. A gentleman should make his entourage be as well used between individuals who were not very well acquainted.

4. Hats could be overly familiar as well. Consequently, a gentleman would be expected to show the sign of calling when a call was expected.

5. Punctuality was paramount. When it came to the 19th century, it was late — it was most disrespectful to keep the rest of the company waiting.

THE VIETNAM WAR

The Vietnam War has been created perhaps more extensively than any other conflict in history, but the two world wars, be it through literature, cinema, novel cycle upon novel cycle or documentaries. From an almost comic take on the war, such as Forrest Gump, to much darker tactics or ideology were never fully thought out beyond the facts of the war, such as Forrest Gump, to much darker.
A real blast, the BBC series Gunpowder brings to life one of history's most famous assassination attempts.

**01 Anne Vaux, played by Liv Tyler, existed in real life.**

She was not related to Robert Catesby or the other plotters.

**Direction: J Blakeson Starring: Kit Harrington, Peter Mullan, Mark Gatiss, Liv Tyler Country: United Kingdom Released: 2017**

**02 The torture in the show may be gory but it is accurate.**

Grievous methods were used to persecute Catholics during James' reign, contributing to the plotters' decision to take drastic action.

Victims would be hung, drawn and quartered, or even crushed to death.

**03 Throughout the series, it is implied that King James had homosexual relationships.**

It was suspected throughout the 17th century that his male favourites at court were also his lovers because of their close relationship, but this is still bitterly denied by historians.

**04 Father Gerard was tortured at the Tower of London as depicted in the show but it was during Elizabeth's reign, not James', and had nothing to do with the Gunpowder Plot. He did eventually escape, but not with help from Catesby or the other plotters.**

**05 It may seem like dramatic licence but the schemes were injured by their own gunpowder as they were blown up, waiting for the king's forces. The blast didn't occur during the stand-off as seen the show, though — it was much earlier, after a fire quelled the powder.**

**VERDICT** A mostly accurate portrayal of the gunpowder plot with minor changes for added drama.

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