ALL ABOUT HISTORY

DARK SIDE OF THE ANCIENTS
EGYPTIAN UNDERWORLD
Path to the afterlife revealed
Death magic  Runes & rituals

D-DAY DEFENCES
Why the Nazi plan fell apart

WOMEN’S FOOTBALL
Its WWI origins and why it was banned

TUDOR TINDER
Your guide to Hampton-court

The Art of the Con
Meet the grifters who tricked their way to infamy

Charles II's Great Escape
How the fugitive Stuart king eluded Cromwell

PLUS... THE ORIGINS OF FASCISM, THE BATTLE OF POITIERS, WHAT IF AMERICA LOST IN KOREA?, WWII’S RAF IN COLOUR
LORDS OF THE NILE

Fifteen years ago, in 2004, King & Country launched its first ‘expedition’ to discover the miniature world of Ancient Egypt and its people.

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Welcome

I often think you can learn a great deal about the humility of civilisation through its religious understandings of death. Facing the end is naturally humbling, of course, so how a society chooses to approach that and the story it tells itself about what it all means can be very revealing about the culture as a whole. With that in mind, the concept of the underworld in ancient Egypt is one of the most enticing you could wish to uncover.

This issue we welcome Dr Charlotte Booth to the magazine to give us her expert insight into the Egyptian concept of death and their rites of passage into the afterlife. You can learn all about the Book of the Dead, the ancient magic incantations that were used and about the 12-hour journey souls were thought to go on. The whole story shows a reverence for death that indicates just how important they thought it was to honour those who had been lost, especially when it came to the pharaohs who were to take their place among the gods.

What might at first appear to be a rather macabre subject reveals itself to be rather inspiring and uplifting as the trials and monsters the dead are thought to meet dissipate to reveal a cyclical world of death and rebirth beyond. It was a pleasure to bring Dr Booth’s insight on all of this to the issue and I really hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

Jonathan Gordon
Editor

Editor’s picks

D-Day Defences
We welcome back Jonathan Trigg to give us the German perspective on the massive air and sea offensive.

Charles II On The Run
Melanie Clegg guides us through the amazing escape of a monarch as Charles avoids capture by Cromwell.

The Birth Of Women’s Football
David Williamson takes us back to the origins of the game during WWI and why it was banned by the FA.

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As the World Cup kicks off in France, we look at the WWI origins of the game in England and why it was banned by the authorities

70 Tudor Tinder
What was dating like in the court of the Tudor kings and queens? We explore that and chat with Alison Weir about her latest book
Yasser Arafat returned to Gaza after ten years based in Tunisia after he had made commitments to a peace process with Israel. Summits in Madrid in 1991 and the Oslo Accords in 1993 to end conflict with the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) and Israeli government had opened the door to his returning to Gaza and taking leadership of the Palestinian National Authority. He would, however, remain a divisive figure.

1994
DEFINING MOMENTS

NIXON IN USSR
In the third summit between the two leaders and the second to be held in the USSR, Richard Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev met in Moscow and would go on to sign the Threshold Test Ban Treaty, prohibiting the testing of nuclear weapons with a yield of over 150 kilotons. This would effectively stop the testing of the most destructive weapons, whether new or existing. It would remain in effect until the collapse of the Soviet Union.

1974
WHO YOU GONNA CALL?
Ivan Reitman’s Ghostbusters was released on 8 June 1984, setting studio records of $13.6 million in its opening weekend and passing Tootsie for best opening week for Columbia Pictures. Its success would not only spawn a wave of spin-off merchandising, a cartoon and a sequel, but also catapult its stars to even greater levels of fame. It was also the first big-budget, special-effects driven comedy to really land with an audience.
“Under fascism, the mission of citizens is to serve; the government’s job is to rule”
Madeleine Albright (former US Secretary of State), Fascism: A Warning, 2018
ALL ABOUT

FASCISM

We delve into the origins, means and terrible consequences of the rise of fascism in Europe and its legacy in the modern world.

Written by Jessica Leggett, Jonathan Gordon, Katherine Marsh, David Crookes
Rise of Fascism

March on Rome 1921-1922
Fascists in Italy gain the support of disgruntled unemployed war veterans who continue joining the party’s paramilitary wing, known as Blackshirts. They intimidate socialists, occupy cities, and hold a demonstration in Rome. The newly named National Fascist Party ascends to power and Mussolini is appointed Prime Minister.

Did you know?
Until the 1938 racial laws in Italy, Jews held key positions in politics and the economy.

The Fascist Manifesto Emerges 1919
Mussolini founds the Fasci di Combattimento, or Fascist Party. The Manifesto of the Italian Fasci of Combat advocates Italian nationalism.

Hitler Inspired by Mussolini 1923
Nazi Party leader Adolf Hitler admires Mussolini and attempts his own power-seizing march - the failed Beer Hall Putsch in Munich. Hitler is charged with treason.

An Unholy Alliance 1929
The Catholic Church briefly accepts Italy as a fascist state, gaining 109 acres in Rome in return for a new papal state and financial compensation, agreed in the Lateran Accords.

Mussolini Moves Away from Socialism 1915
Drafted into the Italian army, socialist journalist Benito Mussolini supports the war, breaking with socialist politics to form the Partito Fascista Rivoluzionario (PFR).

Mussolini Becomes a Dictator 1925
Mussolini consolidates his power and proclaims Italy a fascist state. He becomes Il Duce (the leader) and dismisses Parliament, barring opposition deputies.

The Fascist Brits 1932
Former Conservative and Labour MP Oswald Mosley founds the British Union of Fascists after visiting Mussolini. It is briefly supported by the Daily Mail and Daily Mirror newspapers in 1934.

Rise of the Nazis 1921
The National Socialist German Workers’ Party is founded in 1920 by Anton Drexler. It adopts a black swastika as the main component of the party’s flag and seeks nationalist expansionism as its goal. Anti-Semitic and anti-Marxist, it believes in a Volksgemeinschaft - a “people’s community” of Aryan supremacy.

Secret police emerge 1926
Italy sows the seeds of its secret police: the Organisation for Vigilance and Repression of Anti-Fascism (OVRA). It relies on tip-offs to quash anti-fascist opposition while blackmailing priests to spy on the Vatican. OVRA paves the way for Himmler’s German Gestapo in 1933.
Did you know? Italy had the second highest rate of state ownership after the Soviet Union by 1939.

**The Great Depression 1931**
The Austrian bank Creditanstalt declares bankruptcy and investor confidence in Germany collapses. Unemployment rises to 25 per cent and fascists blame immigrants, minorities and left-wing internationalism. Fascist ideas appeal to some Americans: Henry Ford would work with businesses in Nazi Germany and accept an award from Hitler.

**Fascism demands expansion 1933**
Since fascism places great importance on national strength, there’s a push for greater power and territorial expansion. Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935 and Germany annexed Austria but Hitler’s push into Poland is believed to be a step too far. Britain and France declare war.

**NAZI PARTY TAKES POWER 1933**
The Nazis are voted into power in Germany and, in April, their fascist agenda sees a boycott of Jewish businesses. Jews are gradually excluded from public life.

**French Fascists 1934**
A French Fascist and Antisemitic league, Mouvement Français, led by Marcel Bucard, riots in Paris, precipitating a financial scandal and seeking a right-wing coup d’état. It fails.

**The Holocaust 1941**
After years of oppression the Nazis began rounding up and killing the Jewish population. 6 million people will be killed. Anyone who doesn’t fit into a fascist Volksgemeinschaft is also exterminated.

**Decline of an Ideology 1945**
Fascism fails to sustain itself following victory of the Allies in WWII. Fascists are convicted of war crimes at Nuremberg.

**Spanish Civil War 1936**
The Spanish Civil War rages for three years, with Italy and Germany backing Francisco Franco's Nationalist forces against the democratically-elected Second Republic. Anti-fascist groups and individuals from around the world travel to Spain in order to defend the government and challenge the rise of fascist oppression. A banner reads, “Madrid shall be fascism’s grave”, but the fascists-leaning Falange party go on to form the ruling government.

**Brazil Favour Nationalism 1937**
Fascism goes global. Dictator Getulio Vargas cracks down on Brazilian Integralism, a nationalist, fascist, anti-liberalism movement with a green-shirted paramilitary group.

**Mussolini Heads New Party 1943**
Mussolini joined the war in 1940, keen to restore the Roman Empire in the Med. Failing, he leads a German puppet state with the Republican Fascist Party.

**Japanese Fascism 1940**
To protect the culture and characteristics of its people, Japan believes military dictatorship and territorial expansion to be the way forward. The state representing salvation. Left-wing political dissidents are arrested as Japan follows Shōwa Statism, or what some dub Japanese fascism.
Although it only stood for ten years, the New Reich Chancellery was a symbol of Adolf Hitler’s power. With the Reichs eagle and swastika above the main portal, it was clear to all who saw the building that the new German state was not to be trifled with.

Constructed as an annex to the original Reich Chancellery, the new addition was commissioned in 1935, although architect Albert Speer wouldn’t be drafted onto the project until January 1938. He was given a year to complete the building and it was a source of great pride to him that the finished article was unveiled in January 1939, two days ahead of the Fuhrer’s deadline. Having said that, the interior would remain under construction into the early 1940s.

At a cost of 90,000,000 Reichsmark, the project wasn’t cheap, and this was certainly reflected in the design. The building was 20 metres high with three storeys, and the imposing wall ran for 400 metres in length. The main entrance was a portal with four large columns, with other portals around the building leading to the Courtyard of Honour and the chancellery’s garden.

Inside was no less opulent. Hitler’s office was spacious, even though he spent very little time there, instead preferring to reside at Berghof in Obersalzberg. There were banquet halls and ballrooms, as well as a marble gallery and the government chamber, which was home to leather chairs emblazoned in the Nazi swastika and eagle sat around a long wooden table.

But the building is perhaps best known for what lay beneath it - in 1943, work began on the Führerbunker, the underground lair where Hitler ruled in his final days before he committed joint suicide with his new wife, Eva Braun.

The New Reich Chancellery just about survived the war and the battle for Berlin, surviving until 1949. Its downfall came at the hands of the Soviets who had taken control of that part of the city, who tore down the building lest it become a lasting symbol of Nazi rule. Today, nothing remains.

Green space
Outside the New Reich Chancellery, connecting to its older counterpart, was the Reich Chancellery Garden. The perfect place for a stroll, you could re-enter the New Reich Chancellery through an impressive portal that was flanked by two bronze horse statues. These statues were found again by German police in 2015 as part of an investigation into illegal art trafficking.

Belly of the beast
The Reich Chancellery is arguably best known for the Führerbunker that lurked underneath, which was built in 1943. In this labyrinth of small rooms and corridors, Hitler directed his troops when the tide turned and it was there that he stayed until the final days of the war. While its location was always somewhat of a secret, it became more so after the close of the conflict for fear of it being turned into a Nazi shrine.

A grand entrance
With four huge columns, it was impossible to miss the entrance to the New Reich Chancellery. Above the portal was the Nazi eagle, spreading its wings wide as it held the swastika in its talons, a symbol of the power wielded by the regime.
Appealing to the masses
A balcony on the first storey of the building was where Hitler would often make appearances to the public, surrounded by giant Nazi banners that hung from the side of the building. It was on this balcony that he proclaimed his 1,000-year empire, and it was here that he was made fun of after the fall of Berlin by Russian and American soldiers who posed mockingly for photographs in 1945.

The Fuhrer’s office
It has been said that the New Reich Chancellery was tailor-made for Hitler, and his office shows just how true this was. The room was apparently 400 square metres with an imposing desk. While somewhat sparsely decorated, the high ceilings created a sense of grandeur.

The Long Corridor
Measuring 146 metres long and 12 metres wide, the Long Corridor certainly earned its name. A grand passage constructed from marble and with soaring along one side, it was a symbol of Nazi opulence and power. Along one side, floor-to-ceiling windows measuring 9.5 metres in height looked out over the VoSpree right outside.

Clearing the way
In 1937, buildings on VoSpree were demolished to make room for Hitler’s new building in the heart of Berlin, showing that work on the project had started much earlier than when Albert Speer was officially brought on board. When Speer got the command to take charge, the new chancellery was built in just under a year.

Court of Honour
The idea was simple: when diplomats rolled up in their Rolls-Royces, they would be taken through the gate. They would then drive down the Court of Honour, a courtyard that had a portico at the end providing access to the New Reich Chancellery. Either side of the portico were two large statues of men and usually two guards.

General Helmuth Weidling being escorted from the bunker in May 1945
**In Focus**

**MUSSOLINI’S MARCH ON ROME**

It was the heart of the myth around Mussolini’s rise to power, but what really happened?

1. **In the midst of a political and constitutional crisis in which Italy is run by a weak and quarrelsome coalition government, the newly formed National Fascist Party led by Benito Mussolini holds a Fascist Congress in Naples on 23 October 1922. Fascist supporters have already taken control of the Po Valley and many towns in Northern Italy.**

2. **In front of an estimated 60,000 supporters, Mussolini lays out his plans for the Fascist Party to ascend to power by constitutional means through an election, but with a threat of violent action should that not come to pass. He ends by saying, “Either we will be given the government or else we must take it by marching on Rome.”**

3. **An ultimatum is made by the Fascist Party to King Victor Emmanuel III to dissolve the government and hold elections. A March on Rome begins, with fascists taking control of key points of communication in Northern Italy, adding pressure. An estimated 30,000 Blackshirts begin converging on Rome. Mussolini stays in Milan.**

4. **Prime Minister Luigi Facta and his cabinet hand in their resignations in the face of this uprising. While still acting prime minister, Facta calls for martial law to be declared in Rome to bar entry for the fascists, but the king, who would have to sign off such an order, fears blocking the armed Blackshirts could lead to civil war and refuses.**

5. **Mussolini leaves Milan for Rome, arriving 30 October. He meets the king at 11:45am to formally accept the invitation to form a government. By 3pm the cabinet has been picked and by 7pm they have all been sworn into office. It’s estimated that 12 people died in the March on Rome, inflated to 3,000 in later fascist retellings of the story.**

6. **Mussolini’s cabinet is formed of leading Fascist Party members alongside members of the military and centrist and left-leaning politicians. Mussolini himself holds the positions of PM as well as Minister of the Interior and Minister of Foreign Affairs while other fascist colleagues hold positions such as Justice and Finance.**

7. **On 31 October the Blackshirts enter Rome and a parade is arranged of some 100,000 fascists in front of Mussolini and the king to mark the formation of the new government. Less than two years later after an election, the other parties would be purged, parliament dissolved and an authoritarian government under Mussolini established.**
D-Day Aircraft

**FIGHTER PLANES OF THE NORMANDY INVASION**

"You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you..."
—Eisenhower, Letter to Allied Forces

Operation Overlord, commonly known as D-Day, was launched on 6 June 1944 with the Normandy landings. A 1,200-plane airborne assault preceded an amphibious assault involving more than 5,000 vessels. Nearly 160,000 troops crossed the English Channel on 6 June, and more than two million Allied troops were in France by the end of August.

P-51D Mustangs™ and Supermarine Spitfires were among the D-Day aircraft which provided air cover for the massive invasion, striking strongholds and fighting off German bombers. As recreated on our QuickBuild models, the planes painted the plane’s wings with stripes to ensure the Allied aircraft were not targeted by friendly fire in all the chaos of war. This was kept secret and only revealed to the troops who would take part just days ahead of the first waves.

You can create your very own fighters of the RAF at home with an Airfix QuickBuild kit. QuickBuild kits allow you to recreate a wide variety of iconic aircraft, tanks and cars into brilliant scale models. No paint or glue is required; the push together brick system results in a realistic, scale model that is compatible with other plastic brick brands.

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Fascist Propagandists
Uncover the fascist political influencers of the 20th century

**Cornelis van Geelkerken** Dutch 1891-1973
A co-founder of the Dutch National Socialist Movement, van Geelkerken created the party in the image of the German National Socialists, pretty much just translating their ideology into his native language. He was more hands-on than his leader, Anton Mussert, constantly encouraging the members. In 1934 he founded the youth division and relished his role in educating the young. From 1936 to 1940, he finally became head of the party’s propaganda.

**William Joyce** American 1896-1945
In Oswald Mosley’s British Union of Fascists, propaganda was the responsibility of William Joyce from 1934 to 1937. During his time in the organisation, he learned the oratory skills that would become the foundation of his reputation. He was kicked out of the British Union of Fascists in 1937, and in 1938 he travelled to Berlin and was recruited by Joseph Goebbels to host his own radio show. He broadcast in England to reach out to the British and try to bring the public round to the German way of thinking. Earning himself the nickname ‘Lord Haw-Haw’, he was hanged in Wandsworth Prison after the war.

**Dino Alfieri** Italian 1888-1966
A deputy since 1924, just two years after Benito Mussolini came to power, Alfieri rose to undersecretary for the corporations in 1929, then the same for press and propaganda in 1935. Just one year later, he was appointed minister for popular culture. At the instruction of Il Duce, Alfieri encouraged the Italian media to promote anti-Semitism, and he was even made ambassador to the Holy See in 1939. He survived the fall of Fascist Italy and wrote Two Dictators In Front, his memoirs of his time as a diplomat.

**Ernest Blythe** Irish 1889-1975
Twentieth century Ireland was a place of turmoil, and so fascism on the island is often overlooked. Ernest Blythe, who managed to be a member of both the Orange Order and the Republican movement at the same time, became a leading member of the Blueshirts, Ireland’s fascist movement. In the 1940s, Blythe then threw his influential word behind Aithne na hAiseirighe, a radical fascist party that supported the Axis powers.

**Ezra Pound** American 1885-1972
Writers will tend to display some sort of bias, and Ezra Pound wasn’t hiding his. Over the course of the 1930s, his poetry came to exalt fascist ideals and in 1940 he even began radio broadcasts in Rome in which he proclaimed Hitler and Mussolini to be the defenders of Europe. Pound met Mussolini in 1933 and that seems to have been the start of a shift in his writings. As Mussolini began to follow Hitler’s rhetoric more and more, so too did Pound.

On 3 January 1946, aged 39, Joyce became the last ever person to be hanged for treason in the United Kingdom.

Pound’s broadcasts continued even after the Allied invasion of Italy in 1943. They attacked Jews, President Roosevelt and Americans.
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WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY
AMERICAN 1890-1965
When Hitler rose to power in 1933, the effects were felt across the Atlantic in the United States. William Dudley Pelley, a man who had called for a ‘Christian Commonwealth’ with elements of fascism, socialism and theocracy, founded the Silver Legion of America, or the Silver Shirts. Chapters were opened in 22 states and were based directly on Hitler’s Brown Shirts, and according to Pelley it was the fulfillment of a prophecy that had been revealed to him in 1929. He managed to recruit 15,000 people to his cause, but he was arrested in 1942 and found guilty on 11 charges of sedition and insurrection.

NORAH ELAM
BRITISH 1878-1961
Perhaps better known as a suffragette, Norah Elam was also a fascist with a platform she had created after being imprisoned three times and being general secretary of the Women’s Social and Political Union. In the 1918 general election she stood as an independent candidate and warned about ‘German immigrants’. In 1949 she joined the British Union of Fascists, becoming their County Women’s Officer for West Sussex thanks to her rhetorical skill and her contributions to the group’s publications.

JOSEPH GOEBBELS
GERMAN 1897-1945
Appearance is everything under a dictatorship, and there’s usually a person in charge of making sure everything looks just so. In Nazi Germany, that job fell to Joseph Goebbels, who became minister for public enlightenment and propaganda in 1933. His role included burning books that were deemed ‘un-German’ and organising a boycott of Jewish businesses. As World War II progressed, he painted Adolf Hitler in an ever-greater light while forcing musicians, artists and editors into unemployment, and producing propaganda films for the German public. As one of Hitler’s closest confidantes, Goebbels remained loyal to his leader until his dying day, living out his final weeks in the Führerbunker under Berlin.

SAVITRI DEVI
GREEK-FRENCH-ITALIAN 1905-1982
Originally from France, Savitri Devi began to follow National Socialist and fascist ideology towards the end of her education, after earning two masters degrees and a PhD. She has become known as a ‘foemother of Nazi ideology’ and in one of her books she says that “National Socialism will rise again”. Her books claimed that Adolf Hitler was a human incarnation of Vishnu. Her ashes were laid to rest next to American Nazi leader George Lincoln Rockwell, but her work has resurfaced in far-right circles over the past few years.

CHARLES COUGHLIN
CANADIAN 1891-1979
A Catholic priest with a radio show, Father Coughlin used his platform to spread anti-Semitic sentiments, but as the stock market crashed in 1929, his broadcasts also began to attack communism and he spread messages that became more fascist over time. In 1936 he went a step further and founded Social Justice, a journal that was to promote his ideology. But he wasn’t finished – in 1938, Father Coughlin helped to promote the creation of the Christian Front, a heavily anti-Semitic organisation. Father Coughlin kept going until 1942, when he was instructed by Archbishop Edward Mooney to stop all non-pastoral activities. He continued as a priest until his retirement in 1956.
Q&A With...

JASON STANLEY

EXPLORING THE PHILOSOPHY OF FASCISM AND ITS INFLUENCE THROUGH HISTORY

HOW FASCISM WORKS

THE POLITICS OF US AND THEM

How Fascism Works is out now from Random House

Jason Stanley is the Jacob Urowsky Professor of Philosophy at Yale University and author of several books including How Fascism Works and How Propaganda Works, that explore philosophy and politics as well as Language In Context and Know How that look at broader social questions.
Q&A With...

1. **What do you consider to be the meaning of the term fascist?**

A. The great historian of fascism Roger Griffin has noted, about the ‘bewilderingly wide range of ideal types of their essential definitional traits (that have) accumulated over time’, that “there is no objective way of resolving the differences between them.” I agree with Griffin; it would be foolish not to give the literature. I think we need a term for a certain social and political structure we can see replicated in otherwise very different historical circumstances. I think we can see chains of influence between movements with this structure. There is a certain political structure that you can find in the writings of European far right thinkers - for example, Guillaume Faye’s *Why We Fight*, or the writings you find in online journals such as Counter Currents. This structure has proven to be politically effective as a tool in winning elections and maintaining power in multiple countries. It’s based on an ethnic division between ‘us’ and ‘them’, an extreme ethno-nationalism. It’s based on nostalgia for a mythic past, typically in which members of the chosen ethnic group had an empire - and it represents the present as loss of that great empire, that natural standpoint in which members of this ethnic group dominated their environment militarily, politically, and culturally.

2. **How misunderstood is the term fascist in your opinion?**

A. The use of ‘fascism’ as a generic term for authoritarianism is a terrible problem. Fascism is one specific kind of authoritarianism. What others kinds of authoritarianism have had terrible consequences as well (though some of these terrible consequences - such as Stalin’s ethnic purges - are because of a fascist element to these ostensibly non-fascist movements). Fascism is a very specific thing — it’s not a name for whenever an authority figure acts incorrectly.

3. **To what degree has our ability to recognise fascist rhetoric been inhibited by the term being used as a catchall term for things perceived to be extreme/ prejudicial behaviour in politics?**

A. It’s a serious problem, and basically makes it very difficult to discuss what is happening with the global far right. The global far right is mixed, and gaining power. But when you call them ‘fascist’, using that as a useful descriptive term, people respond ‘but what about left wing fascists?’ This response just completely destroys the possibility of debate. Yes leftists can be terrible and do bad things - Venezuela was not run by fascists. But it’s a different problem. Peter Ludlow has challenged me on this. And of course Hannah Arendt would agree with Ludlow - in *Origins Of Totalitarianism* she seems to regard the problem as with a common totalitarian structure, which can involve an us-them distinction based on race, or on class. I think as a result Arendt misses distinctive features we need to pay attention to when it’s fascism we are worried about, such as a particularly harsh version of patriarchy.

4. **The use of ‘fascism’ as a generic term for authoritarianism is a terrible problem.**

A. Some of the classic literature on totalitarianism studies communism and fascism together. But the literature that looks more exclusively at fascism tends to make salient the centrality of patriarchy and masculinity - Wilhelm Reich’s *The Mass Psychology Of Fascism* is a classic example. But this figures in the scale of Adorno, Frenkel-Brunswik, Levinson, and Sanford’s classic work, *The Authoritarian Personality*, as well. Jim Sidanius and Felicia Pratto’s *Social Dominance* Theory tells us that gender is the basic hierarchy, the one on which other hierarchies tend to be modelled. Fascism is about hierarchy - fascist ideology is all about a supposed hierarchy between ethnic groups. Fascism also uses masculinity as a tool - it represents immigrants and members of out-groups, as well as sexual minorities and gender non-conforming people as threats to masculinity, raising panic about (for example) ‘turning boys into girls’. This is such a common theme of contemporary far right movements - panic about masculinity.

5. **Most people learn about fascism in a historical context. What have you looked to add to that understanding through your philosophical background in your book?**

A. Both the good and the bad in philosophy flows from the same source, that we traffic in generalisations. Looking at the literature, I see a bewildering set of labels for an essentially similar social and political structure - ‘populism’, ‘right-wing authoritarianism’, ‘ultranationalism’. None of these labels fits the phenomenon, which is actually quite specific, and yet widespread. As in the 1920s and ’30s, the movements are linked.

6. **Mussolini’s creation of fascism is sometimes characterised as opportunistic rather than formed around a coherent political philosophy. Do you think this is correct?**

A. Fascism is about power - it’s not about belief. In *How Fascism Works*, I treat fascism as a particular set of tactics to seize power. Fascists do not need to believe that the panic they spread, for example about immigrants, is justified, in order to use it to win elections. Just using it is a fascist tactic.
**PlACES TO EXPLORE**

**REMEMBERING THE HORROR**

Some institutions that tackle the atrocities of fascism in Europe

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1. **HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF THE LIBERATION OF ROME**
   
   **ROME**
   
   This memorial museum may be one of the smaller attractions in Rome but nonetheless it is an extremely important one, highlighting some of the forgotten atrocities of WWII. Established in 1957 to document the fight for the liberation of Rome during the German occupation from September 1943 to June 1944, the museum is based in a building once used by the SS to torture members of the Italian Resistance. The exhibitions include artefacts such as pamphlets, posters and newspapers featuring anti-Semitic material on display, alongside information regarding persecution of the city's Jewish community. Across three floors, visitors can view information about the prisoners and the various cells that the SS used for solitary confinement and isolation, some of which still have messages scratched on the walls by those imprisoned. The museum also addresses the Ardeatine Massacre, when over 300 prisoners were taken from the prison and executed by the Germans on 24 March 1944, in retaliation for an attack by the Resistance against the SS the previous day.

   Open daily 9am-1.15pm, 2.15pm-8pm. Last admission 7.15pm. Closed on Christmas, New Year. The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul (9 June) and during August. Free admission but donations welcome.

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2. **THE NAZI FORCED LABOUR DOCUMENTATION CENTRE**
   
   **BERLIN**
   
   During WWII, men, women and children from all over Europe were brought to Berlin, where over 3,000 Nazi camps for forced labour were scattered throughout the city. This documentation centre is located on the site of the last, well-preserved former camp and forms part of the Topography of Terror Foundation as an educational site for visitors. Opened in 2006, there are currently two permanent exhibitions open, ‘Forced Labour in the Daily Round 1939-1945,’ and ‘Between Two Stools, The History of the Italian Military Internees 1943-1945,’ alongside other special and temporary exhibitions that explore the history of Nazi forced labour. As part of the guided tour visitors can also explore Barrack 13, where Italian military and civilian workers were housed at the camp, which was carefully restored and opened in 2010. Multimedia guides are also available to help visitors navigate around the camp as well as the surrounding neighbourhood, recounting the stories of the prisoners that should not be forgotten.

   Open Tuesday-Sunday 10am-6pm and until 8pm on Thursdays. Closed 24 & 31 December. Admission is free.

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3  AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM  OŚWIĘCIM

This memorial and museum is based on the two parts of the former camp, Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau. Auschwitz was the largest of all the Nazi concentration camps and extermination centres, with over 1.1 million Jewish men, women and children losing their lives there. There are various permanent exhibits throughout the museum, including the national exhibitions set up by the countries occupied by the Nazis, such as Czechoslovakia and Hungary, who lost citizens in Auschwitz. The ruins of the gas chambers, crematoriums IV and V can be viewed by the public, as well as hundreds of objects taken from the prisoners - it is recommended that visitors join one of the guided tours for the full educational experience. For those who wish to visit Auschwitz for research purposes, the museum's archives have a wide collection of documents and other artefacts associated with the history of the camp.

The cold and bleak surroundings of the camp will undeniably leave an impact that the majority of visitors are unable to put into words. While visiting a concentration camp can be an unsettling and harrowing experience, it is important that we educate ourselves about the atrocities that occurred under the Nazi regime; particularly as the number of survivors are decreasing and along with them, living memories of the Holocaust.

Open daily from 7.30am, closing time is dependent on the month. Closed 1 January, 25 December and Easter Sunday. Free admission to the grounds, price for guided tours vary.

4  IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM  LONDON

There are five Imperial War Museums located across the UK, but the one based in London has a permanent Holocaust exhibition on display, exploring the persecution of the Jews - as well as other groups such as political prisoners and homosexuals - at the hands of the Nazis. Numerous personal artefacts, photographs, documents and survivor testemonies are available for visitors to see and educate them about the Nazi’s notorious plan, the ‘Final Solution.’ It should be noted that the exhibition also looks at the Kindertransports, where around 10,000 children (mainly Jewish) were sent to Britain from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia to escape the Nazis, and many of whom lost their families in the war. Currently, the museum is urgingly seeking Holocaust-related material, particularly as we are losing those who witnessed the horrors of the Nazi regime. In July, the exhibition will temporarily be closed for renovation, in which new objects, materials and testimonies will be included.

Open daily, 10am-6pm, closed 24, 25 & 26 December. Free admission. Please note, this exhibition is not recommended for children under the age of 14. www.iwm.org.uk

5  THE GUERNICA PEACE MUSEUM FOUNDATION  GUERNICA

During the Bloody Spanish Civil War, which took place between 1936 and 1939, the town of Guernica was left decimated following an aerial bombing by the Nazi Luftwaffe, in support of General Francisco Franco against the Republicans. One of the worst atrocities to have occurred during the civil war, the bombing caused international outrage as it was believed to have been the first deliberate attack against civilians.

The Guernica Peace Museum Foundation, founded in 1998, is one of the few existing sites in Spain to explore the Spanish Civil War. With Guernica seen today as a symbol of peace, the museum is dedicated to disseminating ideas of how to achieve and maintain peace with its permanent exhibition exploring the subject from different points of view, alongside the history of the town. There is also a Documentation Centre within the museum, with an inventory of all available material in relation to the bombing, which is open to both researchers and the public.

March-September 10am-7pm, November-February 10am-2pm & 4pm-6pm, all Sundays until 2pm, closed Mondays and from 1-30 January. Regular tickets €5, concessions €3, tickets to the temporary exhibition €1, entry free for under-12s and on special days. www.museodelapaz.org
From the rise of the Third Reich in 1933, the Nazi regime looted countless valuable items across Europe until its collapse in 1945. Priceless artworks, such as this portrait, were taken from Jewish families during the Holocaust in a devastating attempt to decimate their culture.

Adele Bloch-Bauer, the woman in the portrait, was a wealthy patron of the arts and a close friend of renowned Austrian artist, Gustav Klimt. Her husband, Ferdinand, commissioned Klimt to paint the portrait in 1907, with a second portrait following five years later. In 1925, Adele died from meningitis, and in her will, she bequeathed her two portraits to the Austrian State Gallery, the Galerie Belvedere, following her death.

Ferdinand was forced to leave the paintings behind when he fled Austria following the annexation by Nazi Germany in 1938. In his absence, the Nazis accused him of tax evasion and seized his property in 1941, including Adele’s two portraits and four other Klimt paintings, which were handed to the Galerie Belvedere in accordance with Adele’s will. Ferdinand died shortly after the end of World War II and in his will bequeathed his estate to his two nieces and a nephew.

With the introduction of the Austrian Art Restitution Law in 1998, journalist Hubertus Czemlin went through the newly opened records of the Galerie Belvedere and discovered that paintings had not been donated but stolen and given to the gallery by the Nazis. After learning the truth, Ferdinand’s niece, Maria Altmann, filed for the restitution of the paintings but she was rejected on the grounds of Adele’s will.

In response, Altmann tried to sue the Austrian government only to find that the filing fee for the suit was too expensive. A US citizen after fleeing Austria during the Nazi occupation, Altmann took her case to the Supreme Court and in 2004, it ruled that the Klimt paintings had been stolen and that she could sue them in the United States. To avoid a legal battle, an arbitration committee was used to mediate the case – it concluded that the paintings should be returned to Altmann.

Adele’s portraits were exported to the United States in 2005 and they were subsequently exhibited for a brief period at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. While Altmann got her paintings back, the question of restitution of Nazi-looted art is still heavily debated, and sadly, a number of the artworks stolen by the Nazis were either destroyed or remain lost to this day.
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The Ancient Egyptian Underworld

We explore the death rites and rituals of the pharaohs and how they evolved over the centuries to reveal changing ideas of life, death and the afterlife

Written by Dr Charlotte Booth

The Egyptian underworld, known by many names including Amduat or Field of Reeds, is a dark and frightening place populated by demons, anti-animals and deities.

Descriptions of the underworld are found in numerous funerary texts painted onto the walls of tombs, coffins, funerary objects and papyri. The descriptions vary across the texts although the general premise is that the deceased travelled through the Amduat and would be reborn should specific rituals be carried out adequately.

The contents of the funerary texts evolved over the thousands of years of Egyptian history. However, all of the texts were laid out as a series of hundreds of spells or utterances and were not designed to be read as a continuous text. Spells for preparing the deceased for the afterlife could be used in isolation and out of sequence (i.e. instructions for hour one do not need to be next to hour two) and it is very rare for entire copies of the texts to be discovered in one place.

There are numerous texts, however, dating back as far as the 24th century BCE and each offers a different insight into the evolving relationship ancient Egyptians had with death.
PYRAMID TEXTS

The earliest funerary texts we have are the Old Kingdom Pyramid Texts and unlike later texts they did not include images, consisting purely of hieroglyphic text.

The underworld described in the Pyramid Texts was very similar to the landscape of Egypt itself with rivers and fields, abundant with crops. The idea of the deceased king and the solar god travelling through this landscape on a boat that these texts described is one that remained central to the beliefs concerning rebirth of the deceased as well as the cycle of the Sun in the centuries that followed. In this context rebirth or resurrection was intended to mean being reborn into the afterlife rather than into a physical form back on Earth.

The earliest example of the Pyramid Texts is in the pyramid of Unas of the fifth dynasty (2375–2345 BCE) and they remained in use until the reign of Ibi, eighth dynasty (2181–2161 BCE). The texts were only inscribed in the burial and antechamber of the pyramid.

The Pyramid Texts introduce the association between the deceased king and Osiris, the god of the Underworld. In later periods every deceased individual was also referred to as ‘The Osiris’. The Pyramid Texts also show a very close association between the deceased and the sun-god Ra as well as introducing the theme of the king’s ascent to the stars. Uterance 461 of the Pyramid Texts describes the king becoming a star and ruling eternally from the sky from amongst his ancestors.

“O King, may you ascend as the morning star, may you be rowed as the lake dweller, may those who are in the abyss be afraid of you, may you give orders to the spirit ... The doors of the sky are open to you, the doors of the firmament are thrown open for you, that you may travel by boat to the Field of rushes, that you may cultivate barley, that you may reap emmer and prepare your sustenance therefrom like Horus the son of Atum.”

The afterlife described within these texts was initially only for the king, although by the end of the Old Kingdom some chapters were also used in non-royal tombs.

THE COFFIN TEXTS

This movement away from an exclusively royal afterlife led to the Pyramid Texts evolving into the Middle Kingdom (2040–1778 BCE) Coffin Texts. These texts appeared in both royal and non-royal tombs but maintained the landscape of the afterlife as being similar to the Utopian idea of Egypt with verdant fields and glistening rivers.

The Coffin Texts, as the name suggests, were primarily inscribed on coffins but there was greater flexibility in how these funeral rights were being applied and therefore also appeared on tomb walls, mummy masks, and papyrus. Traditional rituals introduced in the Pyramid Texts, such as the Offering Ritual, in which offerings of food, drink, clothing and ointment were made to the deceased, evolved into a pictorial offering list known as the frieze of objects. This ensured the dead had food and belongings for all of eternity.

There was also a greater emphasis in the Coffin Texts on the heavenly travels of the ba (a human-headed bird that represents the mobility of the soul), the nourishment of the ka (the life force of a person) and the preservation of the human remains to ensure they all united in the afterlife.

Included in the Coffin Texts was a collection of additional Guides to the Hereafter the most useful of which was the Book of the Two Ways, which actually included a very helpful map of the underworld.

This map was painted on the base of coffins and depicted two paths: earth and water. The map outlines some of the dangers the deceased faced.

WHAT IS HUMAN?

An Egyptian guide to what makes a person

The Egyptians believed a human was made up of six components that needed to unite in the afterlife in order to be reborn successfully. These elements were:

1. The physical body, which was preserved through mummification.

2. The name of an individual, which was a powerful weapon. Many of the spells in the funerary texts name various components of demons and their weapons giving the deceased power over them.

3. The shadow is a confusing element described in the funerary texts as a powerful entity to be protected. When the sun sets/dies the shadow disappears only to be reborn in the morning. Therefore if the deceased individual has a shadow it shows the presence of the sun.

4. The ba was depicted as a human headed bird sometimes with arms. This bird form allowed the spirit of the deceased to physically move from the burial chamber to the tomb and constituted the most mobile aspect of the human spirit.

5. The ka was the life force of a human and was the focus of the offerings given to the deceased. It was created at the same time as the body at the start of life and remained with the body until death.
The Ancient Egyptian Underworld

A priest performs rights to the gods on behalf of the pharaoh

A painting of Osiris inside the tomb of Nefertari

The part of the soul known as the ba is depicted with a bird body to show its mobile nature
will face on their journey to rebirth, which include knife-wielding demons, lakes of fire, and gates guarded by gatekeepers that the deceased need to name to pass. The idea was that having these maps depicted on tombs and coffins would assist the dead in navigating these numerous hazards and trials so that they might find rebirth more easily.

Ultimately these paths represented tests that would prove the value of a person’s soul and their suitability to be reborn and receive an afterlife at all. While they might meet demons and monsters, they were not passing through hell as some might think – there was only one afterlife. The true punishment for living a bad life or failing these trials was not eternal hellfire as later religions would depict, but simply ceasing to exist at all.

THE BOOK OF THE DEAD

In the New Kingdom (1570-1070 BCE) a number of new books were introduced that greatly expanded the understanding of the afterlife and to prepare the dead for their journey with incantations to keep them safe. The most well-known is the so-called Book of the Dead or, as it might be more accurately translated, Spells for Going Forth by Day. There were between 189 and 192 spells contained in the Book and these were based on themes introduced in the Pyramid and Coffin Texts.

The Book of Going Forth by Day was popular with both royal and non-royal members of society and was written by a number of different priests over 1,000 years. The idea behind it was to see the dead return by day from the underworld.

One of the key scenes to be introduced in the Book of Going Forth by Day was Spell 125, which is commonly known as the Negative Confession. This spell was recited by the deceased before their heart was weighed against the feather of truth representing the goddess Maat by Anubis, guardian of the scales. This was a symbolic judging of the good and bad deeds of a person’s life, that their heart be weighed against the very concepts of truth, morality and justice.

The premise behind spell 125 is that the deceased listed everything they hadn’t done, omitting anything that had been done. An example of the ‘crimes’ not committed includes: “I have done no falsehood, I have not robbed, ... I have not stolen, I have not killed men, I have not destroyed food supplies, I have done no crookedness, I have not stolen god’s offerings, I have not told lies, I have not taken food, I have not been sullen, I have not transgressed. I have not killed a sacred bull, I have not committed perjury, I have not stolen bread, I have not cavessedropp.”

As you can see, the Negative Confession combines trivial and terrible crimes together suggesting they were weighted the same in the heart of the deceased. As an ‘insurance’ policy against any crimes committed but not mentioned, a Heart Scarab was placed over the heart of the deceased. This was inscribed with spell 30b of the Book of Going Forth by Day: “Do not stand against me as witness beside the lords of the ritual...
The Ancient Egyptian Underworld

Do not say against me, he did do it, about my actions.
Do not make a case against me beside the great god.
Tell my goodness to Ra, bend me to Neshobkau.

Following the confession the deceased is led to the scales in the Hall of the God of the Underworld, where the Weighing of the Heart takes place. The god Osiris oversees the ritual. Anubis, the god of embalming, is shown levelling the scales and Thoth, the ibis-headed god of writing and knowledge records the result.

If the deceased's heart weighs the same as the feather then it is judged that they lived a just and moral life and they will continue on their journey through the afterlife. However, if their heart is heavier it will be devoured by Ammit, devourer of the dead with the forelegs of a lion, hind legs of hippopotamus, and head of a crocodile. As a result they were sent to a fire-breathing serpent called The Fiery who denied them a body, casting their soul into oblivion.

In the New Kingdom a further set of funerary texts were produced known as the Books of the Underworld, which once more provided an afterlife exclusively for the king. These included the Book of the Amduat, Book of Gates, and the Book of Caverns.

All were concerned with the 12-hour journey of the sun-god, Ra, except the Book of Caverns, which is divided into six hours. This journey mirrored the journey of the deceased from death to rebirth.

All of these books have similarities in depiction showing the sun-god sailing on his solar barque from the western to eastern horizon along the underworld river, the nocturnal counterpart of the Nile. During this journey the sun is rejuvenated until he is reborn at dawn starting a new day and representing rebirth. The sun-god's progress is consistently opposed by the enemies of Ra, who are trying to prevent his rebirth. The most prolific is Apophis, depicted as a giant snake, who is continually defeated and restrained throughout the 12-hour journey.

EGYPTIAN MAGIC

How incantations played an important role in death rights

The Book of Going Forth by Day was the first funerary text to specify that some chapters should be written on specific objects.

For example Spell Six was to be written on shabti (or ushabti) figures. These were small servant statues placed in the tomb who worked on behalf of the deceased should it be required. The spell reads:

"O Shabti, allotted to me, if I be summoned or if I be detailed to do any work which has to be done in the realm of the dead; if indeed obstacles are implanted for you therewith as a man at his duties, you shall detail yourself or me on every occasion of making enable the fields, of flooding the banks, or of conveying sand from east to west; 'Here I am' you shall say."

However, as with most spells from the funerary texts, even if part of the text was included it was enough to render the spell powerful enough to do the job. Therefore most shabti figures only have a small part of Spell Six on them.
THE MUMMIFICATION PROCESS

A step by step guide to how a was body managed to prepare its soul for the underworld

PREPARING THE BODY
The ritual of mummification was largely reserved for the rich and powerful. It started with the insertion of a hook through a hole near the nose to pull out part of the brain. The brain was not considered important.

PRESERVATION IS KEY
The whole point of this process was to remove moisture to better preserve the body. A cut would be made on the left side of the body near the stomach and the process of removing all the internal organs would begin.

DRYING OUT ORGANS
Salt was absolutely paramount to the preservation process for a body, much as it would have been for preserving meat from animals at this time. The recently removed organs would be packed in salt to dry out.

CANOPIC JARS
The lungs, intestines, stomach and liver would be wrapped in linen after drying and placed inside canopic jars, each with a head representing a different son of Horus, each responsible for guarding that organ.

SEAT OF THE SOUL
The key organ that would not be left outside of the body was the heart as it was considered to be the home of the human soul or spirit and therefore absolutely essential for any journey into the afterlife.

PREPARING THE BODY
Continuing the process of removing moisture and preserving the body, the corpse would be rinsed inside and out with wine and spices in order to clean away some of the smells of decomposition.

PACKED IN NATRON SALT
The corpse would then be covered with natron (naturally occurring salt from dry lake beds) for 70 days so as to sap out any remaining moisture and further protect the body.

A HUMAN FORM
After 40 days of drying the body would be stuffed with linen or sawdust to give it a more human shape. It was thought to be important that the body be in good shape in the real world so that the soul could travel freely.

THE FINAL WRAP
After the 70 days of drying was completed, the body would then be wrapped from head to toe in bandages. Some 20 layers could be used in this process that could take up to 30 days to complete.
THE 12-HOUR JOURNEY

The 12-hour nocturnal journey of the sun god Ra is also by association the journey between death and rebirth of the deceased. However, the hours are represented physically rather than as an abstract concept of time and each ‘hour’ is separated by a gate protected by demons and serpents. The deceased soul was required to know the names of every part of the door, the demon and his weapons in order to pass and proceed to the next hour checkpoint.

The journey is both a physical and a metaphysical journey though, as throughout the 12 hours the sun-god, as a metaphor for the deceased, enters the netherworld as a ba spirit, which merges with the body of Osiris, and is reborn.

The nocturnal journey of the sun-god starts at sunset and is presented in different ways, meaning there is no definitive appearance of the afterlife. The most common imagery however, shows a river flowing through the centre of the underworld, which parallels the Nile, and forms the waterway of the sun.

To a certain extent this water could also be taken to represent the primeval waters of Nun that were present at the start of creation, creating a cycle of life, death and rebirth on a metaphysical scale that mirrors the journey of the individual. Along the edge of this waterway stand the blessed dead who cry out joyfully and extended their hands to touch the tow rope of the solar barque.

However, the Book of Nut, depicted in the sarcophagus of Seti I at Abydos and in the tomb of Rameses IV (tomb KV2, in the Valley of the Kings), has a different image of the afterlife. It depicts the sky goddess, Nut, swallowing the sun at night, representing sunset. The Sun then travels through her body on his solar barque until the sky-goddess gives birth to him again at dawn. Therefore in this representation, the body of Nut itself is the underworld and rebirth takes on a somewhat more literal form.

The king - later the deceased - is the key figure in the journey, accompanying the sun-god on the solar barque rather than being embodied by Ra. The god of the Underworld Osiris, although present, does not speak. His presence symbolises the body of the deceased.

In Egyptian religion the king is believed to become Osiris upon death. Once the funeral texts were adopted by non-royals the lines between the deceased king and deceased commoners blurred until all deceased were referred to as ‘The Osiris’.

The sun-god is accompanied in his barque by the deities, Werwawet (Opener of the Ways), Hator (Mistress of the Sarge), and Horus (Hemsman).
MONSTERS OF THE UNDERWORLD

APOPHIS
The enemy of the sun-god Ra. Apophis is depicted in various hours of the Underworld journey trying to intercept the sun-god. He was a giant snake and is generally shown being overcome by supporters of Ra. These include the god of chaos, Seth, the Eye of Ra, and even the sun-god in the form of the Great Cat. They attack Apophis erasing the sun-god and therefore the deceased to continue the journey to rebirth. Apophis is not known prior to the Middle Kingdom and gains in popularity throughout the New Kingdom.

AKER
This two-headed lion has one head facing forward and one facing to the rear. He is therefore often given the title of ‘He who is looking forward and behind’. He was sometimes depicted as two lions – named Duaj (meaning ‘yesterday’) and Sefer (meaning ‘tomorrow’) – sitting back to back with the hieroglyphic sign for horizon between them. Aker protected the deceased king against three demonic snakes: Herpert, Iqeru and Jagw, by ‘encircling’ the deceased king – a metaphor for burying him.

AMMIT
One well-depicted anti-animal, representative of the chaos of the underworld is Ammit, also known as the ‘Devourer of the Dead’ or ‘Eater of Hearts’. She was a demon depicted with the hind quarters of a hippopotamus, front quarters of a lion and the head of a crocodile. She is depicted seated beneath the scales in the Hall of Judgement of Osiris. Any heart which was heavier than the feather would be devoured by Ammit condemning the deceased to oblivion.

THE ROLE OF AKER, THE TWO-HEADED LION WAS TO PROTECT THE DECEASED KING AGAINST THREE DEMONIC SNAKES

sky. This not only shows the birth of a new day, the rebirth of the deceased into the afterlife but also is a recreation of the first dawn showing life is little but a perpetual cycle.

Whilst each funerary text describes the nocturnal journey of the sun-god, there are differences regarding what takes place.

This is a sample of the 12-hour journey according to the Book of the Amduat:

Hour one is just after sunset and the sun-god boards his barque to start the journey. Geographically this part of the Underworld is closest to the real world as the sun sets and disappears from the view of the living.

Hours two and three represent the entrance to the Underworld proper. It is presented as a realm of abundance dominated by water rather similar to the landscape of Egypt itself. These were known as the Waters of Osiris.

Hour four presents a contrasting landscape known as ‘Desert of Rosetau’ and ‘Land of Sokar, who is in his sand. Sokar was a falcon god of the dead. These lands are said to feature a zigzag of pathways that need to be navigated.

Hour five is where the sun-god finds the burial mound of Osiris. The goddesses Isis and Nepthys, as khe, mourn him. In the Book of Gates the Hall of Judgement of Osiris can be found in this hour and the tomb itself sits atop a lake of fire.

Hour six is halfway through the night and is when the ba of the sun-god unites with the corpse of Osiris representing the unification of

A mummy from the National Archaeology Museum, Madrid
the deceased with the spirit. This also marks the point at which the sun-god begins to regenerate and build towards his rebirth at dawn.

Hour seven and eight represent the midnight hour with a theme of the sun-god overcoming his enemies. While still gathering strength he must defeat the likes of Apophis with magic. Only once this is done can the he escape the desert island of Sokar.

Hour nine depicts a procession with the solar barque travelling through the hour with his entourage closing in on the dawn.

Hour ten shows the primordial water of Nun from which all creation began. In this water helpless bodies of those who drowned in the Nile and deprived a proper burial are depicted.

Hour XI is filled with preparation for the coming sun-rise in the eastern mountains and the rebirth of the sun-god and the deceased. It is said that at this point the eyes of the sun-god are regenerated to show his power returning. A serpent known as the 'World Encircler' surrounds the Sun protecting him at this time of rebirth.

Hour XII is the final hour of the journey and the one in which the sun-god re-emerges on the eastern horizon as a scarab beetle announcing a new day, as well as the successful resurrection of the deceased.

Such was how the Egyptian relationship with death was depicted and evolved with time. As funeral rites became more commonplace, so they also became more elaborate and in some ways more colourful for those in power. Life and death were a part of a journey and a way in which ancient Egyptians related their existence with that of the world around them and the gods. Looking at their religious texts and the stories they tell gives us an amazing insight into their beliefs and ways of thinking. It was often dark and gruesome, but in some ways that was a reflection of the dark brutality of the reality before them.
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6 June 1944 - the largest seaborne invasion in history - a great Allied victory... but the Nazi Wehrmacht was the most powerful military on the planet, and on the day itself the Germans came close to throwing an enormous spanner in the works.

Written by Jonathan Trigg

With the cancellation in late 1940 of Operation Sealion - the planned Nazi invasion of Great Britain - and the entry into the war of the United States of America in December 1941, Berlin knew it was only a matter of time before the now-Allies landed on continental Europe.

Set out in Führer Directive No 51 on 3 November 1943, Hitler's answer was to build the Atlantic Wall - der Atlantikwall - hundreds of miles of fortifications that would stretch unbroken from northern Norway all the way down to the Pyrenean border between France and Francoist Spain. It was intended to be a truly vast scheme that would create an impregnable barrier of 15,000 strongpoints manned by a third of a million men. The paramilitary Organization Todt - OT for short - was put in charge and soon 14 fortress engineer construction battalions, four regular engineer construction battalions, five rock drilling companies and two minelaying companies were working on building the Wall in France alone. Hundreds of thousands of workers were involved - many of them forced-labourers. At full pitch this host were pouring 766,000 cubic metres of reinforced concrete a month, and in total they laid a staggering 13,134,500 cubic metres. A whole new category of infantry divisions were established to garrison the new defences: the so-called 'fortress' or 'static' divisions - 15 of them in 1941 alone.

Hundreds of guns were emplaced, such as the giant 380mm ship-killers of the Batterie Todt at Cap Gris Nez, capable of hitting the English coast over 20 miles distant. By the early summer of 1944 the Wehrmacht had 59 divisions comprising 850,000 men in western Europe, with 1,552 panzers and assault-guns, including several hundred Panthers and Tigers - some of the finest fighting vehicles of the war. The Germans had even won a 'trial run' for D-Day at Dieppe back in August 1942, when a mainly Canadian force had landed on the beaches of the Normandy town and in under ten hours had been shot and blasted into ignominious flight, leaving over 4,000 of their number dead, wounded or marching into captivity.
But it was all an illusion, as a young German officer, Hans Heinze, discovered on arriving in Normandy in May 1944:

“We reached the coast but couldn’t find the Atlantic Wall. We finally did come to some bunkers surrounded by barbed wire and decided to look around. We went right over the wire without even tearing our trousers.”

As for the men manning these desultory obstacles, most of them weren’t up to much either, being middle-aged, medically unfit or convalescing: men like Martin Eiseig: “I had a chronic lung condition which technically classed me as ‘unfit for active service’. Nevertheless I was sent to France to man the Atlantic Wall,” or Gustav Winter: “I suffered very badly from frostbite during the first winter in Russia ... I lost the little fingers on each of my hands ... Also the tip of my nose, and my toes were damaged as well.”

These were the ‘fortress’ formations; disparagingly called the bodenträger (literally ‘rooted to earth’) divisions, or more simply the ‘belly army’ - many of them equipped with but a single motor vehicle; the divisional commanders’ staff car. Standing next to the old and the infirm were the men of the Ost-Bataillone (‘East Battalions’), ex-Soviet prisoners-of-war or deserters, some 60,000 of them, as well as thousands of ‘beutedeutscher’ - ‘booty Germans’ - ethnic Poles and Czechs caught up in the war against their will, like Aloysius Damski:

“I am a Pole. I was working in the office of a munitions factory in Blomberg when the manager called me in and said I could either go into the German forces or be declared ‘politically unreliable’, which almost certainly meant a concentration camp. I was only 20 years old and I loved life, so I chose the army. After training I was sent to Normandy to a mixed unit of Poles, Czechs, Russians and some German NCOs and officers.”

The guns this rag-tag army crewed weren’t all they seemed either; a motley collection of ex-Russian, French and Czech pieces, many of them of World War I vintage - some didn’t even fit the embrasures they were defending.

The German Army wouldn’t stand alone on D-Day, but what about their comrades in the air and the sea? The once-fabled western Luftwaffe was a paper tiger. The pompous and chauvinistic Hugo Sperrle had just 820 aircraft in Luftflotte 3 to face the combined might of the RAF and USAAF, and on any given day the Germans were lucky to be able to put 170 fighters into the air, as one of their number, Leutnant Thomas Beihe, admitted: “We in the fighter groups couldn’t live up to the legend of the Luftwaffe.” If anything, the Kriegsmarine was in an even worse state. Its few capital ships hiding from Allied air attack in Norway’s fjords, and her wolfpacks at the bottom of the Atlantic. The quaysides and U-boat pens of Brest, Lorient and St Nazaire were almost empty, with just three destroyers and 37 submarines tied up at mooring.

**D-Day: The American Beaches**

In the Hollywood age it is almost forgotten that America was the junior partner on D-Day. Three-quarters of the 6,939 ships of the invasion fleet were British, as were more than half the aircraft, and the Americans were only allotted two beaches of the five; Utah and Omaha. Utah was the easiest landing site. At the base of the Cotentin peninsula, its sandy length was overlooked by a few dunes.
They're Coming! Nazi Germany's D-Day

gently rising 20 metres at most. The German defenders of the 'belly' 709th Infanterie-Division were few and poorly-equipped, and the defences were paltry, as Heinrich Runder attested: "The position was very basic in construction, being made of logs rammed into the sides of a trench in the earth. The soil was very sandy you see, and the logs were needed to hold the walls up." Runder himself had been wounded in the head in Tunisia back in 1943, and wasn't looking forward to the fight he and his friends all knew was coming: "I dreaded being in action again. Some men excel in combat, and others manage somehow to struggle through, and I was in the latter category."

Emil Thiem, an ethnic German farm worker from outside Warsaw conscripted in 1940, recalled the morning of D-Day: "I was manning a mortar with my comrades, but it was in an open pit, so we stayed in a bunker a few metres away. The idea was that we would remain under cover until any enemy bombardment finished, and then we would run out to our mortar and start firing. The bombardment was terrible, and we put our hands over our ears to try and block out the noise - we kept our mouths open of course so our ear drums didn't burst - and it just seemed to go on and on... Eventually one of my comrades put his head round the corner of the bunker to try and see what was going on, and as soon as he did he was hit by shrapnel - his whole head was gone, just like that! The next thing we knew an Aim was shouting at us to come out with our hands up or he'd throw a grenade in. We'd all had enough and didn't hesitate; we climbed out of the bunker with our hands up and that was that, our war was finished."

One of the division's few combat veterans - the Knight's Cross winner Leutnant Arthur Jahne - commanded stronghold 5 (Widerstandsbunker 5 - WN5 for short) near the tiny hamlet of La Madeleine. Despite his best efforts, Allied air and naval bombardment smashed most of his stronghold, and 'swimming' Duplex Sherman tanks and assault squads did for the rest, as he complained to his runner: "It looks as though God and the world have forsaken us. What's happened to our artillery?"

In under two hours it was over - Jahne was a prisoner, WN5 annihilated and the Americans were pushing inland.

To the east was Omaha, a tougher nut. Hundred-foot bluffs crowned the sandsp, leaving five draws - exits - off the beach. Another 'belly' unit defended it: the 78th Infantry-Division. It should have been easy for the Americans, but the usually-excellent Allied intelligence had missed something - a few men from a new division; the 352nd. The standard D-Day history has it that the 352nd was an experienced formation newly-arrived in Normandy from Russia, its ranks full of hard-bitten veterans - nothing could be further from the truth. Only raised in late 1943, its cadre were veterans to be sure, but the men were almost all 17 and 18-year-old conscripts with just a few weeks' basic training behind them. But the initial

THE BEAST OF OMAHA

Omaha Beach came closest to fulfilling the Allied planners worst nightmares, as German machine-gunners swept the sands, slaughtering the landing troops. One such gunner was Heinrich Severyoh - the Beast of Omaha

Invalided west from the Russian Front following punishment for uttering 'defeatist' remarks, Heinrich Severyoh found himself manning a MG42 machine gun at stronghold WN62, overlooking Omaha on D-Day, even as the American landing craft disgorged their occupants onto the shore.

"They jumped into the cold water up to their shoulders and chests. Some disappeared under the water for a moment and, half-swimming, half-wading, they began to move slowly onto the beach in front of our stronghold. At that moment there was complete silence in the bay, not one shot was fired... Everything was so calm, so organized, that you had the impression that they were merely carrying out an exercise... We were well aware that the GIs below us were being fed like lambs to the slaughter."

Severyoh's commander, Oberleutnant Bernhard Freking, muttered "Poor swine", then gave the order "Lost!" and the Germans opened fire.

"I could clearly see the water shoot up where my machine-gun bullet hit... Panic broke out among the Americans."

"The landing craft were now coming on in waves... I concentrated on the ramps. As soon as they came down for the GIs to jump out I began to fire... The GIs tried to find cover behind the beach obstacles which still towered above the waves, or behind the corpses of their fallen comrades which were washing up and down... Until the next wave I fired at everything which moved in the water and on the beach. I sometimes used my rifle, since I could fire aimed shots at individual soldiers and at the same time give my machine-gun a chance to cool down."

By the time he was forced to flee his position due to lack of ammunition, the diminutive corporal had fired no fewer than 400 rifle rounds and a staggering 13,500 through his MG42, an ammo weight of over 560 kilograms - or more than five newborn African elephants!
bombardment failed to neutralise them, and when the landing craft hit the beaches the surviving defenders—youngersters like Obergrenadier Karl Wegner— wreaked bloody havoc.

"...I pulled the trigger up tight. The MG roared, sending hot lead into the men running along the beach. I saw some go down, I knew I had hit them. Others dived for whatever cover was out there. The bullets ripped up and down the sand... My mind rationalised it: this was war. Even so it left a sour taste in my mouth. But now was not the time to think of right or wrong, only survival."

Another 352nd machine-gunner, Henric Naabe, described the scene:

"The Americans were about 400 metres away from us. I did not sight on them individually at first, but I began firing and swept the gun from left to right along the beach. This knocked down the first few men in each line; the MG 42 was so powerful that the bullets would often pass through a human body and hit whatever was behind it. So many of these men were hit by a bullet which had already passed through a man in front, or even two men... The Americans began to run, wade or stagger forwards, trying to get out of the water and onto the sand itself. They still moved quite slowly, and because of that and the close range they were easy targets to hit."

THE GERMAN PLAN

The German commanders knew the Atlantic Wall wouldn't hold. Their plan was to counter-attack the Allied landings, among the commanders, Rommel wanted to attack the beaches, von Rundstedt wanted to wait. The Waffen-SS panzer officer, and son of Nazi Germany's Foreign Minister, Rudolf von Ribbentrop, described it thus:

"It had even leaked to us 'little troopers', as we called ourselves. Everyone knew that there were different views between Rommel and Rundstedt, because Rommel wanted to have the panzer divisions on the coast, because of Allied air superiority - 'they would not get there in time' - but Rundstedt wanted to 'operate', hold them back in the hinterland and concentrate them for big offensives. In the final analysis Hitler decided it, a compromise was found."

In Normandy this meant the men defending the beaches holding until the panzers swept forward and threw the Allies back into the sea. At Omaha, the 352nd and 716th held, and gave Dietrich Kraiss - the 352nd's commander - an unprecedented opportunity. He had an entire regiment in reserve. If he threw it forward he could force the wavering Americans to withdraw and split the Allied beaches. On the other hand, his right flank was under huge pressure and he'd lost contact with the units fighting there. Standard military procedure was clear: maintain contact with your neighbouring formations and protect your flanks. A risk-taker like Rommel might well have seen the bigger picture and defied convention, but, brave and professional as Kraiss was, he was no
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The Germans' huge artillery was lined up to the max.

American troops climb away from Omaha beach on D-Day. This photo shows the height of the cliffs overlooking the beaches from where the German defenders poured fire into the assault troops.
D-DAY: THE ANGLO-CANADIAN BEACHES

On D-Day 75,215 British and Canadians landed on the beaches, alongside 57,500 Americans. The Anglo-Canadians had three beaches: Gold, Sword and Juno. They would face only Wilhelm Richter’s 716.ID, and crush it, as Richter admitted: “My troops are lost, my whole division is finished.” The British and Canadians swept ashore and swiftly began to advance inland towards their major objective – the city of Caen. As they advanced they captured a series of pre-assigned targets, until they reached strongpoint WN17 - codenamed ’Hilman’ – all the objectives were given names of British car manufacturers or fish. Lieutenant-Colonel Richard E. Goodwin’s 1st Battalion, the Suffolk Regiment led the assault on Hilman, but its garrison of 150 held out in their underground bunkers, frustrating the Suffolks and stalling the advance.

THE JONAH OF THE PANZERS

Stalingrad and D-Day – one middle-ranking German officer linked the two in one of the most curious coincidences of the entire war

Oberst Hermann von Oppeln-Bronikowski made an impression. Tall and handsome, he had all the elegant manners of the Saxon aristocrat he was. In his black panzer uniform, with his Knight’s Cross dangling at his throat and his cigarette holder clamped between his teeth, he cut a real dash, as he had done before the war at the 1936 Berlin Olympics where he won a gold medal in the team equestrian dressage event. He’d served with distinction in World War I, becoming one of the youngest ever recipients of the Iron Cross First Class, and had continued this track record in the Second, becoming one of Germany’s famed ‘Panzer aces’ in Russia. When the Red Army launched their Operation Uranus counter-attack in mid-November 1942 in an attempt to encircle the German 6th Armei in Stalingrad, it was down to von Oppeln and his panzers to stop them. Strangely, he failed utterly, as a collection of disasters overtook his regiment; firstly, over a third of his tanks wouldn’t even start, their electric cabling having been greased through by hordes of mice sheltering in the same straw the crews used to protect their precious panzers from the numbing cold. More were lost sliding off the icy Russian roads into ditches, and the remainder were then overwhelmed by the massed T-34s of the Soviet 1st Tank Corps. With that failure, almost a third of a million German and Allied soldiers were doomed to death or captivity, and Nazi Germany’s war in the east was lost. Eighteen months later the same panzer colonel was poised to play a pivotal role in another battle of vital importance to the fate of Nazi Germany – and he would fail once more.
With the British checked, it was time for the German counter-attack plan to go into operation, as one of their own assault groups, Paul Breslaw, understood only too well: "...the static infantry were there to soak up an enemy attack... Nobody expected them to defeat a serious landing... This was why a counter-attack by our mobile armoured forces was so critical."

That 'armed force' on D-Day was 21. Panzerdivision. Previously destroyed in North Africa, it had been rebuilt with thousands of raw conscripts around a hardcore of veterans. Its commander, Edgar Feuchtinger, was an ineffectual dilettante, but its panzer regiment was led by the much-decorated and highly-experienced Oberst Hermann von Oppeln-Bronikowski. Somehow, in the confusion of the day, von Oppeln-Bronikowski managed to get one of his battalions and its 60 or so panzers through the chaos of Caen and into position beneath the Périm Ridge, above the British and Canadian beaches, and upon which Hillman sat. This was the only high ground in the area, and if the Germans could take it they could sweep down to the sea and disrupt the landings.

Von Oppeln-Bronikowski's one-legged Corps commander – General Erich Marcks – told the Saxon officers: "Whether the invasion is defeated or not depends on you; if you don't succeed in throwing the British into the sea we shall have lost the war."

Facing the Germans were Lieutenant-Colonel FJ Maurice's 2nd Battalion Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, with three Sherman squadrons of Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Eade's Staffordshire Yeomanry, and some self-propelled guns of 7th Field Regiment, Royal Artillery.

Ordered to attack, the panzers charged up the slope, only to be met by a wall of fire: "...the English opened heavy defensive fire from both tanks and anti-tank guns. Their position was tactically well-chosen and their fire both heavy and accurate."

One of the panzer commanders, Oberleutnant Herr, recalled the horror: "I personally had always been afraid of burning to death in the cockpit of my panzer, so I lengthened the lead of my neck micro-phone so I could sit behind the turret. It wasn't a sensible thing to do but I'd had such appalling experiences when I had had to extract the bodies of comrades from burnt-out panzers and put them in coffins that were as little as three-quarters of a metre long... so when my panzer received a hit the shrapnel struck me, I fell to the ground and had to feel around my knees with my hands to check that I still had legs. Blood was pouring out of me. Oberst von Oppeln-Bronikowski, in despair, asked me what to do, and I replied that if he didn't know then how on earth was I to know?"

As a German regimental history said: "The fire of the English, from their well-sited defensive positions, was murderous."

The attack failed, and with it Nazi Germany's plan for D-Day. All was lost for the Germans though. Out of sight of Maurice's Shropshire Light Infantry, a battalion of panzer-grenadiers had slipped by and, using farm tracks and sunken lanes, somehow managed to reach the sea at Lion-sur-Mer by Sword beach. If the Germans could reinforce them then they might yet ruin the Allied victory. Unfortunately for Germany, the officer in charge was Feuchtinger. Rattled and out of his depth, the inexperienced divisional commander chose instead to withdraw from the coast. "I now expected that some reinforcements would come to help me hold my position, but nothing came."

With no hope of relief, the officer commanding WN17 - Oberst Ludwig Krug - telephoned his boss: "Herr General, the enemy are on top of my bunker. They are demanding my surrender. I have no means to fight them, nor any contact with any of my units. What shall I do?"

Richter replied: "I cannot give you any further orders. You may now act on your own initiative. Auf Wiedersehen."

Krug made up his mind and led the 70 survivors out of the stronghold to surrender to the Suffolks. Hillman was taken, and along with it, to the delight of the exhausted British infantrymen, Krug's personal champagne store.
CHARLES II’S GREAT ESCAPE
After he was defeated, the king became the most wanted man in England and embarked on the greatest adventure of his life.

Written by Melanie Clegg

On 5 August 1651, a Scottish Covenant army crossed the border into England and proceeded to make its way south, their progress hampered by internal strife between King Charles and his Scottish commanders, the apathy of the troops and the overt hostility of the English. Any vague hopes that Charles might have had that he would be hailed as a conquering hero and feted in every town and village along his route would turn to ashes when he found city gates barred against him and previously loyal royalists refusing to join his army. By the time Charles and his army reached Worcester on 22 August, they were exhausted, starving and thoroughly fed up. They had been beset by mass desertions since crossing the border and now comprised a mere 16,000 men—a respectable amount in other circumstances but definitely no match for the huge Commonwealth army that was heading their way and which would attack on 2 September, the first anniversary of the Battle of Dunbar. Charles knew right from the start that it would take a miracle to beat Cromwell’s army but even while his forces were being decimated, he fought to the very end and showed remarkable courage and perseverance in the face of certain defeat as the battle descended into desperate hand-to-hand combat in the city streets. He wanted to stay until the bitter end but as dusk fell on the blood-splattered streets of Worcester and it became impossible to ignore the fact that his cause was in tatters, he finally agreed to flee the city, which involved narrowly evading capture by the enemy troops that had been ordered to seize him at his lodgings before slipping out through St Martin’s Gate in the north of the city while a few of his last remaining cavalry troops distracted the enemy by mounting a final desperate charge down the High Street. Charles was exhausted, depressed and defeated and he was about to embark on the greatest adventure of his life.

Charles did not escape from the debacle at Worcester alone; with him were a faithful band of around 60 supporters, including his friends Lord Wilmot, Lord Derby and Charles Giffard. They knew that Cromwell would waste no time before sending troops out into the countryside...
to apprehend them and so their main priority was to get as far away from Worcester as possible before finding somewhere to hide out. After they got hopelessly lost in the dark and unfamiliar countryside, Lord Derby suggested that they asked for help from a royalist Catholic family, headed by the five Penderel brothers of Boscobel House, who had sheltered him after he was injured a week earlier. The party therefore rode in the direction of Kidderminster before making their way to one of Giffard’s properties, where they sent a message to the Penderels, who were luckily more than willing to take on the huge risk of sheltering the fugitive king. As Charles was unusually tall and had a distinctive swarthy appearance, the group did what they could to disguise him by dressing him in farm labourer clothes, cutting his long dark hair, teaching him the local dialect and squashing his feet into peasant shoes, which were far too small for his enormous feet and caused him terrible discomfort. Thus disguised, Charles was taken in the early hours of the morning to a nearby copse, where he spent the day hiding with one of the Penderel brothers, while enemy troops scoured the countryside for him. They had nothing to eat or drink and there was torrential rain all day, which made them miserable but at least meant that the enemy was just as keen to get indoors and so did not search the woods as diligently as they might otherwise have done. As soon as night fell, the pair sneaked to a nearby manor for food before heading on foot to Madeley Court in Shropshire, which was close to the Welsh border. However, when they got there in the middle of the night, it was to learn that it was no longer safe thanks to an increased presence of troops in the area, and so they were forced to turn around and return to Boscobel House.

Almost a week after Charles’ escape from Worcester, Cromwell offered a reward of £1000 (around £103,500 today) to anyone who either handed Charles over or gave information that led to his arrest, while anyone caught concealing his whereabouts or helping him to escape would be executed. Charles was well aware of the risks that the Penderel family and his other friends were taking in order to help him and so he meekly did whatever he could in order to not be a burden upon them, which unfortunately meant spending a great deal of time outdoors in order to lessen the risk of being caught in their homes if troops turned up. Even though he had not properly slept for days, he therefore readily agreed when Colonel Careless, another royalist fugitive sheltering at Boscobel, suggested that they spend the day hiding in the branches of a large oak tree in the nearby wood. Even when he was at his well-rested best, Charles would have found the experience of spending several hours sitting on a tree bough extremely tiresome and it was so much worse when he was exhausted. The sleepy king ended up dosing on Careless’ shoulder several times during that long day but was thankfully awake and alert when at one point an enemy soldier rode his horse directly beneath the tree. He didn’t get much rest when they returned to Boscobel House that evening either, for it was considered prudent for Charles to spend the night in the cramped confines of the house’s priest hole as the whole area was rife with Commonwealth troops, who were searching the countryside and questioning all of the local landowners, including the Penderel brothers and their household, about Charles’ whereabouts. The following evening, he was on the move again, this time to Moseley Old Hall near Bromsgrove.

**THE SCOTTISH ALLIANCE**

Immediately after Charles I’s execution on 30 January 1649, Parliament abolished the monarchy, declared England to be a republic and prohibited any announcement of his son’s succession. Although this was disheartening, Charles’ spirits were raised when the Scottish still officially declared him their king on 5 February. However, although Charles was obviously grateful for this gesture, he knew that any Scottish support for his cause would come with conditions, most significantly a promise to add his signature to the Solemn League and Covenant, an agreement that the Church of Scotland would remain Presbyterian rather than adopting Anglicanism, and a vow to reform the Church of England along Presbyterian lines. Charles’ resistance to the Covenanters’ demands had resulted in his downfall – his son was equally unwilling to acquiesce to the Scottish but was also determined not to make the same mistake and so decided to delay for as long as possible while at the same time exploring other potential avenues that didn’t involve prostrating himself at the feet of the Scottish in exchange for his throne. However, when his other plans came to nothing, he was left with no option but to ally with the Scottish, who had made it plain that even though they had declared him king, he was not welcome until he had agreed to their terms. On 3 July, Charles’ ship arrived at Scotland, but he wasn’t allowed to land until he’d sworn an oath to uphold the Covenant. However, if Charles expected his union with the Scottish to work in his favour, he was sorely disappointed, for their army was decisively crushed by Cromwell’s army at the Battle of Dunbar in September 1650. Charles attempted to escape Scotland but was recaptured and forced to remain until they had gathered enough troops to mount an invasion.

“Charles had to spend the night in the cramped confines of the house’s priest hole”
Charles II's Great Escape

In a story full of acts of heroism, that of Anne Lune who accompanied a disguised Charles as he rode south to Bristol, is perhaps one of the most significant.

Charles’ great nemesis Oliver Cromwell would almost certainly have had the young king tried and executed if he had managed to capture him.

After the Restoration, Charles would look back on his great escape as one of the most important and exciting times in his life, even if at the time he was often frightened, hungry, cold and depressed.
Wolverhampton, another Catholic residence where he was reunited with his friend Lord Wilmot. Although he had ridden an old mill horse part of the way, he made most of the journey by foot, which meant that he was in terrible pain by the time he arrived at Moseley. Charles was already deeply impressed and touched by the risks that his Catholic subjects were prepared to take on his behalf when a priest knelt before him to wash and treat his injured feet, he was completely overcome and promised that when he regained his crown, Catholics would no longer suffer the persecutions that they had endured since the Reformation. Although he was very conscious of the need to distance himself from the Catholicism practised by his mother and her circle, which naturally led to constant rumours that he himself was a secret Papist, from this point onwards Charles would indeed feel a great sympathy and gratitude towards his Catholic subjects, who were already endangering themselves by practising their faith and yet still willingly risking their lives by helping him to escape.

Charles spent two days at Moseley Old Hall where, to his great relief, he was able to sleep in a bed (for the first time since he escaped Worcester). However, once again he found himself hurriedly stuffed into a priest hole when enemy troops arrived to search the house and interrogate the owner, Thomas Whitgreave, who was known to be a royalist sympathiser. By the time he was able to emerge from his cramped hiding place, Charles had resolved to leave Moseley and so, at the suggestion of Wilmot, moved on in the middle of the night to Bentley Hall, which was an hour away by foot and the residence of a royalist officer, Colonel Lane, and his intrepid sister Jane. The reason for this move was that Wilmot had discovered that Jane Lane, a Catholic who was required by law to apply for an official travel permit if she wished to travel beyond a five-mile radius of her home, was in possession of a permit that would enable her to travel with a male servant in order to visit her heavily pregnant sister who lived in Abbots Leigh near Bristol. The quick-witted Wilmot immediately realised what a perfect opportunity this was to get Charles out of the area and the plan was made all the more attractive by the fact that Bristol was then one of the main ports in England with ships leaving for destinations all around Europe, including France. In the early hours of 10 September, eight days after his escape from Worcester, Charles, who went by the alias of Will Jackson, once again donned servant clothes and assumed the local accent before setting off on the road south. With Jane Lane perched behind him on his horse. At first they made good time, but then were forced to halt in Bromsgrove when they discovered that their horse had lost a shoe. As the servant, it was Charles’ task to deal with the blacksmith, who turned out to be a great admirer of Cromwell. When Charles asked him if there was any news about the aftermath of Worcester, the smith replied that ‘that rogue Charles Stuart’ had not been captured, upon which Charles mischievously and not a little ruefully told him that if that rogue were taken, he deserved to be hanged more than all the rest, for bringing in the Scots, upon which the smith grinned and told the fugitive king that he ‘spoke like an honest fellow’, upon which they parted on the best of terms.

The rest of the journey south passed without incident, although they encountered Commonwealth troops several times along the way. On one occasion, they stayed with one of Jane’s relatives but while she slept in comfort upstairs Charles spent the evening with the servants and was even asked to turn the spit in the kitchen, which he did so badly that the cook loudly scolded him for being useless. On 12
Boscober House
Boscober was home to the Penderel family, which was headed by five devoutly Catholic brothers. Luckily for Charles they were more than willing to help him escape and they sheltered him for several days.

Madeley Court
Charles knew that he had support in Wales and so it was decided that he should move on to Madeley Court, close to the Welsh border. But on arriving there, he was immediately turned away as the area was rife with enemy patrols searching for him.

Kidderminster
After narrowly escaping the debacle at Worcester, Charles and his band of fellow fugitives headed for Kidderminster but ended up getting lost due to the darkness and unfamiliarity of the countryside. They stopped at Kirkacre Heath close by in order to make a proper plan for Charles’ escape.

Worcester
A strategically important city close to the Welsh border, it was here that Charles and his Scottish army clashed with Cromwell’s troops in September 1651. The battle lasted for several hours and after the royalist army was driven back into the city, involved fighting in the streets, where they were decisively defeated.

KING CHARLES II
His escape after the battle of Worcester in 1651 and how he evaded capture before sailing to freedom.

Moseley Hall
After leaving Boscober, Charles went, mostly by foot, to Moseley Hall, where his injured feet were tended by a Catholic priest, Father John Huddleston. Many years later, when Charles was on his deathbed, Huddleston visited him and administered the last rites so that Charles died as a Roman Catholic.

Bentley Hall
The residence of Captain Lane and his courageous sister Jane who would ride with a heavily disguised Charles to Bristol when it was decided that he should move further south.
September, they reached their destination, Abbots Leigh, where they remained for three days with Charles remaining in character as Will Jackson throughout the stay so that not even Jane's sister and her family knew his true identity. There was a scare early on when one of the servants, who had fought in Charles' own regiment, tried to describe the king to a friend and when asked if it was true that he was unusually tall, gestured towards Charles without realising who he was, and said that he was three fingers taller than Mistress Lane's new servant. Meanwhile, another servant, the butler John Pope, who had once worked for Charles' father, quietly informed Jane that he had instantly guessed that Will Jackson, with his close cropped hair, curious accent and unusually big feet, was not all that he seemed. Luckily for Charles and Jane, Pope was extremely loyal and the perfect accomplice when it came to discreetly making enquiries in nearby Bristol about the next sailings to France or Spain - only to discover that there were no suitable ships for almost a month. Charles definitely couldn't wait four weeks so Pope suggested that he move further south to Torr House, near Sherborne in Dorset, the residence of the Wyndham family, who had perfect royalist credentials as they were connected by marriage to Charles' former wet nurse. The Wyndhams hoped to smuggle Charles out of the country from one of the many West Country ports, most likely nearby Lyme, and began negotiations with a Captain Ellesdon, who might be prepared to whisk Charles, now pretending to be an impertinent gentleman trying to escape his creditors, out of the country to St Malo in France. In the meantime, Charles did his best to stay out of trouble, although on one occasion he was sent to the nearby church to find out why the bells had suddenly started pealing, only to be gleefully informed, to his mingled amusement and horror, that they were tolling because the king had been killed at Worcester.

By 22 September, they had managed to strike a deal with Ellesdon, who arranged for a local sailor by the name of Limby to pick Charles and Lord Wilmot up in Charmouth and convey them to France for the princely sum of £60. As Jane Lane had already returned home, this time Charles' companion was Juliana Coningsby, a cousin of Captain Wyndham, who gamely agreed to pretend that she was eloping with the young king - a subterfuge that continued when they reached the inn in Charmouth where they were to wait while Wilmot went down to the coast to meet their boat and make sure that all was well before Charles emerged. When Limby failed to make an appearance because his wife had become suspicious and locked him in their house to ensure that he couldn't keep his secret nighttime rendezvous, the group were forced to think of a new plan. Desperate to leave England at any cost, Charles suggested that they continue along the coast to Bridport to see if there were any ships leaving from there, only to arrive and find the town full of Commonwealth soldiers waiting to embark for the Channel Islands. It may have been more prudent to abandon the plan altogether but Charles boldly rode into the very heart of the town and disembarked at a busy inn. When it became clear that there were no boats to be had, Charles and Juliana met up with Wilmot, who had travelled to Bridport separately, and decided that it was time to be a hasty retreat before they were recognised. Their behaviour in Charmouth had already raised suspicions and by taking a small country lane rather than the main route out of Bridport, they narrowly escaped colliding with a patrol that was looking for them. Unfortunately, neither Charles nor Wilmot were especially well acquainted with the area and they soon became lost, which forced them to halt in the next village and take a room for the night so that they could recover and plan their next move. They were just settling down for the night when some enemy soldiers arrived and took over the downstairs rooms. Charles and Wilmot had no idea what to do until one of the camp followers who accompanied the troops went into labour and a huge fight

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**THE ROYAL OAK**

For the rest of his life, Charles would never forget the day that he spent hiding in an old oak tree.

The Royal Oak in Boscobel Wood, Shropshire, has become an intrinsic and significant part of the story of Charles II's great escape in 1651 thanks to the damp, boring and uncomfortable day that he spent hiding amongst its boughs with the courageous Captain Careless. Charles had barely slept since escaping Worcester a few days earlier and dozed off several times, which caused Careless some alarm when enemy troops passed closely by and even, on at least one occasion, paused underneath the tree. Later on, Charles would enjoy telling his courtiers about his escapades after Worcester and his story of hiding in the tree was definitely the highlight of an already epic tale - with the result that word spread and the famous oak attained celebrity status. Unfortunately, its fame would result in its downfall for so many visitors took away bark and branches as souvenirs that it ended up completely destroyed and had to be replaced with a substitute grown from one of its seeds, which is known as Son of Royal Oak and can still be visited today. Although Oak Apple Day, which for many years took place on Charles' birthday, 29th May, as a commemoration of his return to the throne, is no longer widely celebrated, The Royal Oak still remains the third most popular pub name in the UK.
“Charles was informed that the bells were tolling because the king was dead”

broke out between the soldiers, inn keeper and locals about who would have responsibility for the baby should the mother decide to abandon it in the parish. Luckily for Charles, the soldiers made themselves so unpopular in the process that they were asked to leave - which left the way clear for Charles to make his escape back to Trent House shortly afterwards.

For the next two weeks, Charles was forced to lie low while the Wyndham family and the always indubitable Wilmot worked hard to put together another plan to smuggle their king out of the country to safety. As all of the nearby West Country ports were full of Commonwealth troops waiting to be sent to the Channel Islands, it was decided that Charles should travel incognito much further along the coast to Sussex, where Wilmot was already building up a network of useful contacts who might be able to help. Accordingly, on 6 October, Charles and Juliana once again set out, this time turning their horses east towards Heale House in Amesbury, which was owned by Katherine Hyde, a cousin of Charles’ friend Edward Hyde. Although he had intended to keep up his presence of being Juliana’s servant, he was immediately recognised by Mrs. Hyde, who told him that although she was loyal, she couldn’t vouch for anyone else in her household and so advised that he pretend to leave at first light and then quietly return later in the day before hiding out in the house’s priest hole. As always, Charles agreed to do whatever was necessary to ensure the safety of his host and used the pretence of leaving as an opportunity to visit nearby Stonehenge, which he had never seen before and found fascinating. Charles stayed at Heale House for five days while he waited for Wilmot to send word about his next move, spending most of his time in the cramped confines of the house’s priest hole - an experience that left him with a dislike of confined spaces. When Wilmot finally gave the all clear on 13 October, Charles continued along the coast to Brighthelmstone (now known as Brighton) where he stayed in the George Inn on West Street while Wilmot made the final arrangements for his departure, which involved getting a local merchant drunk enough to agree to help Charles and Wilmot, this time posing as a pair of fugitive illegal duellists, out of the country, by acting as a go-between with a Captain Tattershall, who had a vessel waiting to depart to France. Everything went smoothly until the evening before their planned departure when Tattershall came to the George Inn to meet his passengers and immediately recognised Charles. Although he assured the young king of his loyalty and desire to serve him, he still could not resist holding him to ransom by refusing to leave at the planned hour until he had been given more money.

In the early hours of the next morning, Charles and Wilmot finally climbed on board Tattershall’s ship, the aptly named Surprise, and five hours later, when the tide had finally turned in their favour, they set sail for France. It was 15 October and Charles had been a fugitive for over six weeks - he had been depressed, uncomfortable, cold, wet, terrified, exhausted and hungry but as the English coastline slipped slowly out of view, his overwhelming feeling was probably elation, not just to have survived despite the odds being stacked so overwhelmingly against him but to have experienced first-hand the enduring loyalty and affection of his people, many of whom risked their own lives in order to help him. It was an extraordinary and humbling experience that he would never forget and would have a profound effect on him for the rest of his life.
The Art Of The Con

The grifters and fraudsters who tricked their way to infamy

Written by Jonathan Gordon
Charles Ponzi
The namesake of schemes

Dates: 3 March 1882 – 18 Jan 1949
Place Of Birth: Lugo, Italy

It speaks volumes about the charismatic Charles Ponzi that even on the day that the Boston Post exposed his money-making scheme as a con he had investors lining up around the block to give him money. So many people had been able to 'get rich quick' as Ponzi had promised that many simply didn't want to believe he was a fraud. But since the name Ponzi has become synonymous with false and empty money-making schemes, you probably already know the truth of it.

Ponzi arrived in America from Italy in 1905 and after several years of failed money-making attempts on the wrong side of the law, including passing off false cheques, he hit upon a International Reply Coupon plan that took advantage of fluctuating exchange rates in 1920. He would buy these coupons, essentially vouchers for postage, at a low price abroad and exchange them for higher value in the US. He promised investors a 50 per cent return on investment within days and even lived up to that promise, but as the money pot grew he was actually paying off old investors with new money. The scheme was hollow, as the Boston Post would reveal, not least because there weren't even enough coupons in circulation to match the demand of investors.

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| Creativity | 6 |
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| Audacity  | 7 |
Wilhelm Voigt
Captain of the con

**Dates:** 13 Feb 1849 - 3 Jan 1922  
**Place Of Birth:** Tilsit, Prussia

The term confidence trickster is largely derived from the idea that fraudsters would get into the confidence of their victim to trick them out of money, but it would be no less true to say that being able to display a level of confidence and assuredness in your performance can go a long way too. Take for example Wilhelm Voigt who in 1906 managed to march into a small town with little more than a second-hand uniform and marched out at the head of a detachment of grenadiers with 4000 marks in cash from the town hall in his pocket.

The ploy relied solely on the local willingness to obey those seen to be in authority, as Voigt took charge of a group of random soldiers, walked into the town hall and even arrested the mayor as he ransacked its treasury. He was arrested nine days later, but the story got so much attention and he became so popular among the masses for exposing so much stupidity that the Kaiser gave him a pardon for his crimes. Voigt would come to be known as the Captain of Köpenick after the suburb of Berlin where this all took place.

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Frank Abagnale
Catch him if you can

**Dates:** 27 April 1948 - Present  
**Place Of Birth:** New York, USA

Cutting through the glitz of Frank Abagnale Jr’s life of crime you’ll find his main earnings actually came from something as unglamorous as cheque forgery. But of course, how he gathered the bulk of his money and how he managed to con his way through varying professions to act as a cover for his crimes is why it was worth basing a Steven Spielberg movie on his life. The money-making involved cashing altered or fake cheques at banks, which went as far as him printing the cheques himself on a press to match the ink and paper quality.

It’s been said that the real events and escapades of Abagnale Jr’s life are even more far-fetched than the movie depicted; he managed to impersonate a pilot, doctor and lawyer, some of which he did while he was still a teenager. He even managed to escape prison in 1971 pretending to be a FBI agent who was acting as an inspector of the prison. Ultimately Abagnale served four years of a 12-year sentence in the US having been caught and imprisoned in France for six months and serving an additional six months in Sweden. He wound up becoming a consultant to the FBI and corporations around the world on bank fraud and identity theft, which he does to this day.

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Bertha Heyman
The confidence queen

**Dates:** c.1851 - c.1901  
**Place Of Birth:** Koblyn, Prussia

Speaking to the *New York Times* in July 1883, Bertha Heyman explained she only went after men who thought that they couldn’t be fooled with her cons. Dropping men the moment she realised they were “fools”. “I delight in getting into the confidence and pockets of men who think that they can’t be ‘scammed’,” she said. “It ministers to my intellectual pride.” What was seemingly her preferred form of con to pull? Today we might call it the Nigerian Prince scam where she posed as a wealthy woman who was unable to access her vast fortune without the help of some up-front cash.

She helped to sell her ploy by dressing extravagantly and putting on a good show of being a helpless aristocrat, although it wasn’t the only way she made money. Even after being caught for swindling hundreds of dollars at a time from victims, she managed to take $900 from a man she befriended from behind bars and even attempted to con her own attorney by claiming she was worth $20 million. She often involved other crooks in her schemes posing as husbands, although she did work through several real marriages, sons, lawyers and business partners, adding veracity to her stories. In later life she turned her stories into a stage act in San Francisco.

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Mary ‘Princess Caraboo’ Baker
Stranger in a foreign land

**Dates:** 11 Nov 1792 – 24 Dec 1864  
**Place Of Birth:** Devonshire, England

It’s not exactly clear what Mary Wilcock was hoping to achieve when she arrived in Bristol calling herself Caraboo, wearing a turban and speaking an odd language that was loosely based on something from east Asia. Despite the fact that she couldn’t communicate much more than her need for food and shelter, she committed to the part for a while, even with the threat of a vagrancy hanging over her. Presumably this cobbler’s daughter figured that being sent to jail was no worse than any other outcome under the circumstances, but when a Portuguese sailor claimed to understand her, a deeper backstory for her Princess Caraboo role was set in motion.

Claiming to be a princess from an island in the Indian Ocean, recently escaped from pirates who kidnapped her, Princess Caraboo became a local sensation, a guest of all the local aristocrats and cultured people in the local area. But the ruse fell apart when a former landlady identified her as Mary and Oxford professors who had been sent her gibberish writing confirmed it was nonsense. Avoiding prison by agreeing to transportation to America, she continued to play Princess Caraboo to crowds before returning to England to marry and set up a leech business.

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**Talking Tricksters**

**Author RJ Clarke discusses his latest book on con-woman Sarah Wilson and why we find fraudsters so fascinating**

**What drew you to the Sarah Wilson story?**
I used to collect early newspapers and I found a report in the *St James’s Chronicle* for 10 January 1765 of a young woman who turned up on a farmer’s doorstep. She was looking for a place to stay. She later let slip that she was shortly due to inherit the massive sum of £90,000. It appears that the farmer’s son and the young lady were growing increasingly fond of each other. Whether his ardour was enhanced by the information about her fortune is unclear. However, they got married on 17 December 1764. She told her father-in-law that the inheritance was due and that, because of her influence at court, she could procure a colonel’s commission for her husband if he could raise money to “equip them in a genteel manner”. The farmer mortgaged his estate for £100. The couple bought some clothes and took the rest of the money to London. Every day she took a coach to the St James’s end of town to arrange for her inheritance and the commission. After about ten days she left one morning and never returned, leaving the poor lad to sell his horse and walk back to Frensham. The report said she had “for near two years past obtained money, by imposing on the compassion and credulity of different persons in town and country”.

It was not until many years later when I had the time that I decided to find out more about her. It took about five years, not helped by the fact that she kept reinventing herself and had at least 15 aliases. Nonetheless, the more I researched the more fascinating her story became.

**Did any part of her backstory stand out to you?**
The research led me into areas I’d never looked at before. She was passed from plantation house to plantation house in Virginia and the Carolinas as an honoured guest in the guise of Queen Charlotte’s sister and later acted the role of a deeply religious princess in puritan New England as a guest of Congregationalists who were active participants in the revolutionary war. She was in Boston when the Tea Party took place.

As soon as she adopted her false identity her life became exciting and challenging. The exhilaration of seeing others accept her as the person she wanted to be, for having the status which she could otherwise never obtain, was its own reward. Any material gain in terms of money, clothes and food and drink was a bonus.

**How did she get away with these cons for so long?**
Sarah was able to convince people that she was who she said she was, and that she had great power of influence and patronage, not only because of her ability to lie convincingly and consistently, but also in her victims’ predisposition to believe her stories, having been reassured by her dress and behaviour.

They were blinded to the suspicion that Sarah might be an imposter. They believed what she was telling them, no matter how preposterous her stories might have seemed. In fact, the more preposterous her claims, the more believable they were. They were unable to envisage that Sarah would be so reckless as to risk the consequences of such a perilous course of action if those wild claims were untrue.

**Were you able to confirm that part of her ruse as Queen Charlotte’s sister was achieved through stolen items from The Queen’s House when she worked there?**
The story of Sarah working for the Queen’s Lady-in-waiting and being transported for stealing the Queen’s jewels is false. No one stole the Queen’s jewels, otherwise it would have been all over the papers. The newspaper reports and the court records are quite clear: Sarah was transported in 1768 for obtaining a set of expensive clothes by false pretences.

**Why do you think we generally find con-artist stories so compelling?**
In Sarah’s case, although she was thoroughly dishonest, there is something quite admirable about her. She was daring and resourceful – totally reckless at times. Her life could form the basis of a terrific movie.

**Impostress: The Dishonest Adventures Of Sarah Wilson** by RJ Clarke is available now from The History Press
Gregor MacGregor  
Fake prince of a fake land

**Dates:** 24 Dec 1786 - 4 Dec 1845  
**Place Of Birth:** Stirlingshire, Scotland

It takes a certain level of self-confidence to sell people on a business proposition that doesn’t exist, but how about an entire country? Gregor MacGregor took advantage of a wave of independent nations emerging in South America after the Napoleonic Wars weakened European control in the region and invented a nation that he was representing as it ‘looked to take that big step into the world. The fact that MacGregor had helped to fight in some of the wars of independence in that region likely added great crecence to his claim to represent the new territory of Poyais, of which he named himself Cazique. Selling bonds and 100-acre plots of land to investors, he claimed that Poyais would offer massive returns on investment once trade began flowing through South America again. Infrastructure like canals had been built. There were ads in papers, articles and even a guidebook, but there was no such country. Colonists were left stranded on the eastern shore of modern Nicaragua. Despite charges brought, he was acquitted and eventually retired to Venezuela.

Cassie Chadwick  
Practice makes perfect

**Dates:** 10 Oct 1857 - 10 Oct 1907  
**Place Of Birth:** Eastward, Canada

Back in the 1890s when communication across the US was still slow and regular folk didn’t bother the rich and powerful with questions, Cassie Chadwick was in her element. So, when she passed herself off as the illegitimate daughter of one of the world’s richest men, Andrew Carnegie, no one bothered to challenge her claim.

A mixture of forging and alias creation had been Chadwick’s forte for many years, playing a fortune teller and later a brothel madam, constantly changing her name, picking up and dropping husbands along the way. She spent four years in prison for forgery before meeting her third husband, Dr Leroy Chadwick, with whom she gained access to a more well-to-do set. Under the guise of Carnegie’s daughter she borrowed huge sums from banks and wealthy benefactors. She was only found out when someone tried to call a loan back in and her promissory notes, promising her an inheritance on Carnegie’s death, were found to be forgeries.

Victor Lustig  
The smooth criminal

**Dates:** 4 Jan 1890 - 11 March 1947  
**Place Of Birth:** Hostinne, Austria-Hungary

The selling of famous landmarks to gullible investors is something of a classic conman’s game, but you wouldn’t think people would fall for it twice. Such was the charisma and convincing patter of Victor Lustig when he managed to convince scrap metal firms to bid on the rights to tear down the Eiffel Tower after World War I when its upkeep was becoming prohibitively expensive for the French. He picked the most desperate and therefore most malleable of the investors and played the role of corrupt politician asking for cash to grease the wheels of the deal. He then ran away with both the bribe and the final fee. The dupe was so embarrassed he didn’t report the crime, so Lustig was able to do it again with a different set of firms before escaping to America.

Lustig had started his criminal life with gambling swindles, but graduated to money scams such as selling a money printing box to people leaving for America that actually just very slowly pushed out dollar bills over time. A later forgery scheme was so accurate even bank tellers couldn’t tell his fakes from real money, but he was sold out by a jilted lover and sentenced to 20 years in Alcatraz for his crimes. In his time he even conned Al Capone.
**Ferdinand Waldo Demara**  
**The great imposter**

**Dates:** 21 Dec 1921 – 7 June 1982  
**Place Of Birth:** Massachusetts, USA

If impersonation is what impresses you, then the life of Ferdinand Demara is the one to look at. His years bouncing around identities saw him work as a psychologist, prison warden, civil engineer, lawyer, teacher, dean of philosophy and a monk on two separate occasions. He even worked as a surgeon during the Korean War without any formal training and saved the lives of several Korean casualties having only just read through medical textbook.

How did he pull this all off? Apparently Demara had a photographic memory and very high IQ, along with his knack for inventing new personas. However it was in part because of the attention he got for saving lives aboard that naval ship that he was found out and arrested on charges of fraud, forgery, theft, embezzlement, vagrancy and more. The attention he now got meant that future impersonations became impossible and even real jobs could become dogged by accusations that he was still a fraud.

He did, however, qualify to be a pastor and had a close friendship with the actor Steve McQueen, to whom he apparently delivered last rites when he died in 1980.

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**Jeanne de Valois-Saint-Remy**  
**The fake aristocrat**

**Dates:** 22 July 1756 – 23 August 1791  
**Place Of Birth:** Fontette, France

Not many con artists can lay claim to playing a role in the downfall of a monarchy, but the Affair of the Diamond Necklace that Jeanne de Valois-Saint-Remy helped to organise was such a feat. Born into a royal, but illegitimate, bloodline Jeanne could not give up on the dream of living in high society whatever the cost. She married Nicholas de la Motte and the pair claimed the titles Comte and Comtesse de La Motte-Valois, in order to gain access to the court of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. Their reputations preceded them and they were ostracised. When Jeanne later heard that Charles Auguste Boehmer was looking to sell a diamond necklace to avoid going into debt that only the queen could afford, she set a plan in motion.

With the help of her husband and her lover Rétaux de Villette, who was a gifted forger, they convinced Cardinal Prince Louis de Rohan that Marie Antoinette wanted him to buy the necklace for her so the king wouldn’t notice. Jeanne acted as Marie’s agent with the promise that she could reconcile Marie and the cardinal if Nicholas sold off the diamonds. They were ultimately found out and all parties were arrested and put on trial. Even though she wasn’t involved, the affair damaged Marie Antoinette’s reputation more than anyone else’s.

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**CON-MAN COMMANDMENTS**

Before his death Victor Lustig is believed to have offered these words of wisdom for wannabe fraudsters

1. **Be a patient listener (it is this, not fast talking, that gets a con-man his coups).**
2. **Never look bored.**
3. **Wait for the other person to reveal any political opinions, then agree with them.**
4. **Let the other person reveal religious views, then have the same ones.**
5. **Hint at sex talk, but don’t follow it up unless the other fellow shows a strong interest.**
6. **Never be untidy.**
7. **Never discuss illness, unless some special concern is shown.**
8. **Never pry into a person’s personal circumstances (they’ll tell you all eventually).**
9. **Never boast. Just let your importance be quietly obvious.**
10. **Never get drunk.**
PITCH BATTLE

The first female footballers lifted the hearts of the nation, but had to battle the male establishment for the right to play

Written by David J Williamson
The 2019 Women’s Football World Cup is about to start in France, a gigantic event and showcase of the beautiful game as it grows more diverse and increasingly gives female players a stage on which to show their skill. But 100 years ago, for the pioneering women who were part of the very first golden age of women’s football, it was a very different story. On the one hand they had their many staunch supporters, but on the other, in a world controlled by men and with narrow social attitudes, there was prejudice, hostility and ridicule, and these fledgling players had to fight tooth and nail to try and earn the right to play the game they loved.

In the closing years of the Victorian Age many women had embraced new sports and new fashion. The popularity of the new ‘rational’ dress of jacket and knickerbocker-style trousers gave women the freedom they desired to pursue sports other than those deemed ‘suitable’ by society. Cycling and rambling now joined the ranks of tennis and croquet as activities in which women could engage comfortably. But, most surprisingly to many, football was also added to the list, pioneered by middle and upper class women such as the famous adventurer and feminist Lady Florence Dixie who in 1894, along with Nettie Honeyball, formed the British Ladies Football Club, playing games for a variety of charities with Nettie as captain. We can be in no doubt that a statement was being made, and with an estimated crowd of some 12,000 for their first match the ladies had certainly got themselves noticed. The report in the Manchester Guardian was, however, mixed in its views on the ladies’ match:

“When the novelty has worn off I do not think that ladies football matches will attract crowds, but there seems no reason why the game should not be annexed by women for their own use as a new and healthful form of recreation.”

Even as the stiffness of Victorian society mellowed slightly into the more liberal views of the Edwardians the women’s game was kept firmly on the sidelines as nothing more than novelty enthusiasm for a minority of like-minded women.

It was the appalling events of World War I that were to bring together a number of factors to give women’s football an unexpected boost and bring it to the attention of a whole nation. The drain of men over to the mud and slaughter of the French Ladies international team pose for a team photo in 1921

TAKING TRAINING TO THE EXTREME!

Some coaches had inventive yet extraordinary measures to get their teams fit for the match.

The coach of Plymouth Ladies, Frank Zanazzi, firmly believed in variety when training his team. As a gymnast and athlete himself he had regular sessions on the beach with his players, using shot put, javelin and sprinting. And he was not alone in creating inventive ways for his ladies’ team to train and exercise. Under the keen eye of their manager Mr A Frankland, Dick Kerr’s of Preston would regularly be seen at their training ground involved in horse riding and even boxing! Other methods were equally extraordinary and even quite brutal. The coach of Coventry Ladies, FK Selman, sent his novice team off on a run. The fastest five to return were the forwards, the next midfield and so on down to the goalkeeper. The girls were also reluctant to head the heavy leather ball. According to one account, “he formed the players into a wide ring, each one of them facing inwards with her head bent slightly forwards. Mr Selman then threw the ball at each player’s head until they had had enough.”
the battlefields left a huge gap that women had to fill, not least of all in the workplace. Factories across the country were geared up to supply the ever-hungry needs of the war machine with arms and munitions and it was women who became the backbone of the British workforce. Long hours and often hard, dirty work made the chance for some light relief and exercise all the more enjoyable, and it was not long before a few minutes’ kick about with a ball in the yard with your workmates did the trick.

It was the most humble of beginnings, but unlike the relatively small numbers of enthusiastic Victorian middle class ladies, here were numbers in the hundreds, potentially even thousands, and it was only a matter of time before the innocent kick about and makeshift goalposts of coats would become more organised. Nor was it that the popular rise of the game was exclusively working class and northern. As awareness spread, many teams that emerged were drawn from existing ladies’ sports clubs; experienced athletes and sportswomen in their own right such as Bath Ladies and Plymouth Ladies. When the French team first toured Britain in 1920 it comprised of nurses, shopkeepers and typists, and so the women’s game had begun to find its way into all corners of society, not least of all because of the strength of one enduring connection for which the nation was to take the lady players to its heart... charity.

With the country gripped in the agony and despair of the fighting in France and Belgium, the women footballers’ links with the war effort grew beyond their daily lives in the factories, fields and local communities. Men wounded and maimed in battle were returning. Families were left without fathers, sons and brothers. All needed care. All needed help. Charities soon came to understand that the popularity of a women’s football match could help them raise the funds they so desperately needed to give that help and support. For the smaller sports clubs dotted around the country the effort was very often local to their own community. But for others, with the assistance of factory owners to support them, the impact could be much greater, with people all across the country giving help and assistance to thousands. And the numbers could be immense by any standards. By far the biggest crowd-puller, Dick Kerr’s Ladies of Preston, Lancashire by 1923 had raised the modern equivalent of three million pounds for a variety of charities, many of which were directly linked with ex-soldiers and their families.

People flocked to the matches and before long most major league grounds in the country could boast almost sellout crowds for the women’s game, eager to enjoy the match and to make a difference to those in need. Whatever the view of the footballing establishment towards the ladies’ game, they appeared to at least put them to one side in the name of charity. But not all were willing to remain silent on the matter and there were many voices of disapproval and even outright
THE NUMBERS GAME

Even the modern game still has some catching up to do when it comes to the size of crowds!

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Spectators</th>
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<tr>
<td>TUESDAY 1 MARCH 1921</td>
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<td>SATURDAY 19 MARCH 1921</td>
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<td>DICK KERR'S</td>
<td>HULL LADIES</td>
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<td>TUESDAY 23 MARCH 1921</td>
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<td>BOXING DAY MATCH AT EVERTON (1920)</td>
<td>53,000 SPECTATORS</td>
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<td>DICK KERR'S</td>
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“WHEN PENALISED THE FORWARD PROTESTED HER INNOCENCE AND SIMPLY SAID ‘WELL THE MEN DO IT, SO WHY CAN’T I?’”

contempt in the press for this female invasion of a man’s sporting world, regardless of how good the intentions may be.

The deeply rooted Establishment traditions of a society in which everyone had a role and knew their place were for many hard to change or ignore. As one observer of a ladies’ game in 1921 commented in the press, “It was the most ridiculous example of the sport I have ever witnessed. Pityfully, it was clear that some of the girls had never kicked a ball in their lives.” Another spectator could not wait to put pen to paper and complain, “It was not even amusing, it was pathetic. If this exhibition is a fair example of ladies’ football then I am of the opinion that it is not a game for women.” There is no record of which games were being commented on, and certainly by 1921 such lack of skill would have been the exception rather than the rule. But to add to the chorus of disapproval the medical profession diverged into the debate with the growing claims that women may actually suffer harm by playing the game. In fact, it was a leading female doctor who gave her support to the opponents of women’s football. A leading Harley Street physician of the day was adamant that the structure of the female anatomy was completely alien to the movements required for kicking, heading and throwing the ball, and she added that women players were in danger of doing themselves permanent physical damage if they persisted in playing.

A woman’s physique was to become a recurring theme for critics of the ladies’ game, and one that was staunchly denied by players and supporters alike. But the picture was far from straightforward; not all men were against the lady players, and not all women were in favour. In what became a fiercely fought battle in the national press of the day, claim and counter claim were made. One of the more vocal players to represent the ladies’ game was Mrs Barraclough, captain of the Huddersfield Atalanta team in Yorkshire, and she spoke for many by stating openly, “If football were dangerous some ill-effect would have been seen by now. I know that our girls are healthier and, speaking personally, I feel worlds better than I did a year ago.”

And support from male spectators was never far away, equally keen to express their views, especially for the players of top teams who showed particular skill, as one spectator observed of the Dick Kerr’s captain - “Miss Harris’s ball control was almost weird. She controlled the ball like a veteran league forward, swerved, beat her opponents with ease and passed with judgment and discretion.”

So just how did the lady players manage to keep themselves fit and on top of their game? As with their male counterparts across the country the levels of skill varied tremendously, and for many ladies the training regime was nothing more than a run around the park or hike in the hills. For others, under the scrutiny of almost exclusively male managers, the routine was much more vigorous and structured in keeping with the highly competitive and cut throat arena that by 1921 women’s football had become. Some teams even got additional help from unexpected quarters, in particular Huddersfield Atalanta Ladies who had the men’s international Billy Smith as a staunch supporter who regularly helped out at the women’s training sessions. And some other aspects of the men’s game were adopted by their female counterparts, both positive and negative in equal measure. Many of the games began with a sporting hug and kiss between opposing centre forwards and such sporting respect was often still there at the end of the game as one newspaper reported on a game between England and France when “A quaint French touch was given when the English captain was kissed by Mlle Braquemond, the French captain, who threw her arm around her adversary’s shoulder as they left the field.”

Often, however, those in charge of matches saw occasions to step in to avoid the game becoming too physical. One referee had cause to speak with a centre forward who had just tried to put the ball
and the goalkeeper in the back of the net with a shoulder charge. When penalised the forward protested her innocence and simply said "Well the men do it, so why can't I!"

And so the ladies forged on, their popularity on the crest of a wave and countless charities around the country benefitting from the thousands of pounds raised. Rival clubs began trying to recruit and attract players from their opponents. With the financial resources at their disposal, clubs were able to offer employment to ladies from outside their region, paying the cost of their travel simply because they were good footballers and would boost the team.

But on the horizon the storm clouds appeared to be gathering and there was unease within the corridors of power of the game’s governing body, the Football Association. Whatever it had heard or whatever it believed, attitudes towards the women’s game took on a very sour note within the governing body. The minutes of FA meetings started to show a distinct suspicion and a lack of trust in how the ladies’ matches were being organised and conducted. What evidence they may or may not have had never reached the public. Instead, in October 1921 the FA issued their proclamation that was to destroy any hope that the women’s game would carry on its meteoric path of popularity. Banning the ladies from using FA grounds was not a killer blow in itself, but it did deny the ladies’ game access to the large crowds they had enjoyed, and as such almost overnight made them less attractive to the charities they had worked so hard to support. Opponents now felt fully justified in their condemnation of this, in their eyes, unnecessary and absurd intrusion into the world of men’s sport that should never have been condoned or supported by the FA in the first place. And in its declaration the FA is unable to hide its chauvinist views of what is and is not suitable for women to do, saying football was "quite unsuitable for females and ought not to be encouraged."

For women’s football supporters, both male and female, the natural and correct response was one of defiance, and players and supporters alike were called upon in the national press to show the courage and determination of spirit that had got them thus far in their fight against prejudice and discrimination. As one team captain put it, "The team will continue to play if the organisers of charity matches will provide grounds, even if we have to play on ploughed fields."

Fighting talk indeed, and a strength of resolve that was echoed by the men who had supported the ladies’ teams as managers and coaches. Any accusations around the handling of charity money...
THE FA SHOWS THE WOMEN’S GAME THE RED CARD

In a single stroke the ruling body of football condemned the women’s game to exile.

Minutes of the Football Association Emergency Committee,
23 August to 3 October 1921

5. Women’s Football Matches. The following Resolution was adopted.

Complaints having been made as to football being played by women, Council feel impelled to express their strong opinion that the game of football is quite unsuitable for females and should not be encouraged.

Complaints have also been made as to the conditions under which some of the matches have been arranged and played, and the appropriation of receipts to other than charitable objects. The Council are further of the opinion that an excessive proportion of the receipts are absorbed in expenses and an inadequate percentage devoted to charitable objects.

For these reasons the Council requests the Clubs belonging to the Association refuse the use of their grounds for such matches.

And the results were equally swift. Plymouth Argyle and clubs up and down the country were forced to comply with the FA ruling and, reluctantly, stop playing host to women’s matches. Plymouth Ladies’ next game at Home Park in aid of the Royal Albert Memorial Hospital was reluctantly reallocated to a Plymouth schoolboys’ cup match. It was to be the beginning of the end for the first golden era of women’s football.

by the teams was passionately denied and it was left to Mr Frankland, the manager of the world’s most successful team of the day, Dick Kerr’s ladies, to sum up just what the lady footballers had always been about.

“Our sole ambition has been to help as many as we possibly can the numerous charities on whose behalf we have been asked to play. We have all given our services gladly and the girls have revelled in the football.”

There was now a stark choice to make: give up and give in, or stake the claim for the women’s game to take its rightful place in the sporting world of the future. Despite the ban games did continue to be played, albeit on a smaller scale. Many saw the only way forward as the formation of an association of their own and the English Ladies Football Association was born. Originally representing just over 50 clubs mainly in the north of England their vision was to form into a national league of a number of divisions. There would be changes to the size of the pitch, the ball would be lighter, and there would be the possibility of the use of the hands to protect the body.

But it was not a vision that was to continue to shine and the women’s game would once again return to being an activity for the staunchest enthusiasts. In 1922, in an attempt to find fresh opposition, the Dick Kerr’s team even travelled to Canada, only to find that the FA ban was also in place there and so no games could be played. They then travelled down into the USA where the only available opponents were men! Needless to say the ladies of Preston did not disgrace themselves.

But the lifeblood of the women’s game was draining away leading to a drawn-out death. As recovery from World War I became the focus and society desperately tried to resume some kind of normality, interest in charitable needs was less to the forefront of people’s minds as their gaze turned to the future. The crowds dwindled and for countless women footballers there was a loss of purpose. And not surprisingly many of the original players were also turning their attention to the future; to careers, to marriage and to starting a family, even though their love of the game would never fade. For them it had never been about competing with the men, either on or off the field. Nor did they use it as a band waggon for women’s rights in a political way. For them it was simple: we can play, we love to play and we will play.

They stood up to the Establishment and were rewarded with ridicule, prejudice and accusations that challenged their motives and their character. It was to be half a century before the FA ban would be lifted and even longer before a formal apology for how those footballing pioneers were treated was officially made. Nothing can compensate for all those lost years in the wilderness, but keeping alive the memories of the phenomenal achievements of those female football pioneers can help bridge the gap and give what is now a truly global sport the rich history and heritage that it needs and deserves.

David J Williamson is the author of three books on women’s football: Belles Of The Ball: A Pass Through Time; and Bess Of The Bees.
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Tudor Tinder

Discover how the Tudor Monarchs courted and negotiated the marriages that shaped their dynasty

Written by Jessica Leggett
The king's excitement to see his new bride had dissipated as soon as he laid his eyes on her. She was nothing like the demure and pretty princess pictured in her portrait. After their meeting was over, the infuriated king ranted on Cromwell and shouted, "I like her not! I like her not!" The story of King Henry VIII's rejection of his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves, has been passed down for centuries, so how did he end up with a bride that repulsed him? How did courtship and marriage work in Tudor England?

For the aristocracy, marriage was a question of political and economic interest, used as a means to further the power and social status of the family. With children dependent on their families for both land and money, they had little choice but to leave their choice of partner to their elders.

In particular, daughters depended on the cash dowries given to their groom or his father and had less say in their future compared to sons, who did not lose their property after their marriage. As for women, their wealth was automatically transferred to their husband upon their wedding - leaving it to the men to negotiate a suitable marriage.

It was believed that without the financial means to support themselves, common couples would be unable to maintain a household and would descend into poverty, especially once they expanded their families. Consequently, extended periods of courting filled with small gifts and long engagements were common in everyday Tudor England, with couples typically marrying in their late twenties.

Although money and power were important, there was even more at stake when it came to royal marriages. In this context, marriage was used to secure treaties, form new international alliances, or even reinforce pre-existing ones.

Foreign brides hailed from the most powerful dynasties of Europe, raised from birth as pawns to secure the most favourable marriages for their families.

No wonder then that King Edward IV's decision to secretly marry Elizabeth Woodville in 1464 was so controversial, because it ruined his chances to secure a foreign alliance. To make matters worse, Elizabeth was the widow of Sir John Grey, a Lancastrian knight who had died fighting the Yorkists at the Second Battle of St Albans, and had been left impoverished by his death - not exactly an ideal choice of bride for a young king securing his throne.

Of course, Edward's choice to marry Elizabeth was not purely down to love, but also to show that he was capable of making decisions without the Earl of Warwick, the man nicknamed the 'Kingmaker'. The secret marriage humiliated Warwick, who had been negotiating an alliance with France, and led to increasing jealousy and tension between the powerful factions at court as the Woodville family rose to prominence. While Edward was a Yorkist and not a Tudor king, his decision to marry at home highlighted the importance, as well as the difficulties, of choosing the right bride.

Then again, marrying domestically was not always a negative thing depending on political circumstances.
“Not a cut and dry story”

We spoke to historian and author Alison Weir about Anne of Cleves, the subject of her new novel

Have you discovered anything new about Anne of Cleves during your research?
Well, I’ve got some new theories about her! It was something that King Henry VIII said after their wedding night that gave me a storyline, because he kept saying that she was no virgin. Now, that was quite startling actually because you would have thought that a royal princess would have been brought up quite strictly in a very sheltered manner. It made me wonder what if Henry was telling what he believed to be the truth? And then I thought, how could Anna have conducted an illicit affair or even be with an illegitimate baby? So that gave me one of the storylines for the novel – and when I was re-researching Anna, I found what could be seen as corroborative evidence, but I don’t want to say too much because it would be a spoiler!

Why did you choose to use the German version of her name? Well she signed herself ‘Anna’ and that was obviously her name, but also the book is meant to be written entirely from her point of view and she would have seen the world from a German perspective. So, I think it was right to call her Anne of Cleves.

Was picking Anne from a painting an unusual way to pick a bride?
No, in the context of European diplomacy, that was the best way for princes to find out what their future brides looked like. It is common with the advancement of portraiture in the 16th century for portraits to be sent to prospective brides and bridegrooms.

Why did Henry mostly choose wives from amongst his court? Well I can only agree with David Starkey that he wanted to be in love and believed. It was very unusual, his view on marriage, for his time because he threw away diplomatic advantages. Yet, he was willing to put the alliance on the line and risk angering Anna’s brother for the sake of his own personal taste.

Lastly, what do you wish more people knew about Anne? After her divorce and Henry’s death, she became under the influence of a very dangerous man called Sir Thomas Carden and thanks to him, she was implicated in Wyatt’s rebellion of Mary Tudor’s reign and she never recovered Mary’s friendship in full after that – and that is so little known! This is one of the things I wish people knew about her because she was not such a cut and dry story as you would think.

King Henry VII, the first Tudor king, married Edward and Elizabeth’s eldest daughter, Princess Elizabeth of York, to unite the claims of the Lancastrian and York houses once and for all.

It was a shrewd decision because Elizabeth had her own claim to the English throne, one that was – in fact – stronger than her husband’s. Their marriage strengthened Henry’s position on the throne, allowing him to focus on pursuing stability throughout his realm and building his new dynasty.

To do this, Henry needed foreign allies and arranged for his 11-year-old son and heir, Prince Arthur of Wales, to marry the Spanish Princess Catherine of Aragon, the daughter of Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon. Popularly known as the Catholic Monarchs, Isabella and Ferdinand were a formidable force in Europe and ideal allies for Henry against France.

This alliance was so important to both King Henry and Spain that after Arthur’s untimely death aged just 15, the king obtained a papal dispensation for Catherine to marry his new heir, Prince Henry, instead. Also, he was well aware that if Catherine returned to Spain then he would be forced to return the dowry money that he had received upon the young couple’s marriage.

However, Catherine’s appeal as a desirable bride significantly diminished after the death of her mother in 1504. The crowns of Castile and Aragon had been united with Isabella and Ferdinand’s marriage, but Isabella’s death meant that the Castilian throne went to Catherine’s elder sister, Juana. Since she was no longer the daughter of two reigning monarchs, King Henry was reluctant to see the marriage between Catherine and Prince Henry through.

Forced to languish in limbo at the English court as a result, Catherine’s cause seemed lost when Prince Henry renounced his engagement to her, most likely at the urging of his father. Yet, in a surprising twist of events, when the prince ascended the throne as King Henry VIII after the death of his father in 1509, the new king announced he would marry Catherine after all.

King Henry VIII had a rather unconventional approach when it came to his marriages and interestingly, he was the first king since Richard II to have more than one wife. A man that loved being in love, Henry was passionately devoted to Catherine in the early years of their marriage, and he even wrote to his father-in-law that “the love I bear to Catherine is such that if I were still free, I would choose her for wife before all other.”

While beauty and piety were important attributes for a royal bride, fertility was the most important of all. Although Catherine and Henry had one living daughter, Mary, the queen’s failure to provide a male heir ultimately led the king into a battle to end their marriage and marry his mistress, Anne Boleyn, in 1533, with whom he was completely enamoured.

Of course, we all know that Anne also failed to provide Henry with a male heir and instead gave him another daughter, Elizabeth. Within three years, their marriage disintegrated, and the king famously had his queen executed on trumped up charges of high treason, adultery, incest and witchcraft. Just 11 days later, Henry married his new mistress, Jane Seymour, who gave birth to their son Edward and finally
succeeded in giving the king the male heir he so desperately wanted, only for her to die two weeks after childbirth.

Jane’s death devastated Henry and it would be another three years before he married again, the longest distance between any of his marriages. Although the king preferred to choose his own wives, he grew increasingly worried that England was becoming too isolated when, in 1538, a truce was made between King Francis I of France and Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Aware that he only had one male heir to continue his dynasty, Henry agreed to look for a new, foreign-born wife, at the urging of Chief Minister, Thomas Cromwell.

Searching for his fourth bride, Henry took a new approach this time and commissioned Hans Holbein the Younger to paint portraits of the noblewomen eligible for marriage, including Christina of Denmark, Amelia of Cleves and her sister, Anne. Observing their portraits, Henry was drawn to Christina and immediately opened negotiations for her hand in marriage.

At 16 years old, she was three decades younger than the king and her guardian and aunt, Mary of Hungary, resisted attempts for the match due to Henry’s reputation – after all, he had executed one of his wives. Even Christina disliked the idea of marrying Henry, and was said to have declared, “If I had two heads, one should be at the King of England’s disposal.”

Henry turned his attentions to Anne, the daughter of the Duke of Cleves. On paper, it was an ideal match since the House of Cleves were ideal Protestant allies for England and would give Henry the power he wanted in Europe. Having studied Anne’s portrait the king believed himself to be completely in love with the fair German princess and was impatient for his new bride to arrive.

Unfortunately, Henry was less than impressed with Anne when they met in person, considering her – among many things - too plain. However, it was too late to turn back and so the king was forced to go ahead with the wedding in January 1540, to avoid upsetting his new allies. Although he tried, Henry was unable to consummate the marriage and complained to Cromwell that Anne had “very evil smells about her” and that her body repulsed him.

Unsurprisingly, Henry quickly engaged himself in an affair with Anne’s young lady-in-waiting, Catherine Howard, and was eager to marry her. Just six months after their wedding, Henry had his marriage to Anne annulled, which benefited her greatly as she received a generous settlement that included Hever Castle. She remained in England for the rest of her life and affectionately became known as the ‘King’s sister’ while Cromwell lost his head for his role in the ill-fated marriage.

While Henry had the power and the freedom to choose his brides, it was a different story for his two daughters, Queens Mary and Elizabeth. As a young princess, Mary was used as a bargaining chip by her father on numerous occasions to secure various alliances – at one stage she was engaged to Francois, Dauphin of France and a few years later to her cousin, the future Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, who broke their engagement to marry Isabella of Portugal.

With the breakdown of her parents’ marriage and her subsequent illegitimacy, Mary’s marital prospects plummeted. By the time she became queen in 1553, Mary was 37 years old and by royal standards was an old maid. Desperate to provide a Catholic heir for the throne, she married Charles V’s 26-year-old son Philip, who had no interest in her despite Mary’s obvious love for him.

Mary was the first woman to rule England in her own right and therefore, negotiating her marriage was uncharted territory. It proved to be a difficult task, especially with opposition from Parliament, who were concerned that England would be subject to Spanish rule. They attempted to persuade her to marry an Englishman, which she refused to do, even though the people of England were also against her plans to marry Philip – sparking Wyatt’s rebellion in 1554.

With no precedent set for a king consort, the marriage treaty was designed to protect Mary’s
Mary Shelton
Just know this up top, my sister comes first and if you’re not down with that you can step off. We’re a pair of bad bitches and we’re not here for any drama. If you think you can handle that then holla at me, playa!

Hampton Court was one of Henry VIII’s preferred residences

Thomas Seymour
“The things that we love tell us what we are” — Thomas Aquinas
Looking for someone special or at least some caring people in my life. Someone who can love my dog Cecil as much as I do. I’m free and here for you.

Throne as a young woman gave the queen years to consider her suitors and enjoy these courtships, although she only offered them ‘fair words but no promises’ in return.

Elizabeth is often presented as a formidable queen, which in many ways she was, but she was also an indecisive ruler who could spend months hesitating over a decision. It was a tactic she employed to keep Parliament at bay whenever the frustrated question of her marriage arose. In the meantime, Elizabeth developed her iconic image as the ‘Virgin Queen’, wedded to her country.

Of course, the one man that Elizabeth was in love with was Robert Dudley. In stark contrast to Mary, where Parliament tried to encourage her to marry an Englishman, they opposed a marriage to Dudley. Not only were they opposed to the rise in status he would receive as consort, they feared that he would attempt to usurp her power.

The last time Elizabeth came seriously close to marriage was during the 1570s, when negotiations were opened with Francis, Duke of Anjou. They proved to be very fond of each other, with Elizabeth affectionately referring to the Duke as her ‘frog’ and wearing a pair of frog-shaped earrings that he had gifted her.

Unfortunately, Elizabeth was forced to let go of the idea of marrying Francis when it became clear that Parliament, as well as her subjects, would not support the queen marrying a French Catholic. Instead, the question of an heir to the English throne would follow the ‘Virgin Queen’ to her deathbed, bringing an end to the Tudor dynasty after over a century.
On the death of King Charles IV of France in 1328, Edward III of England was his closest male heir and therefore the legitimate successor to the throne of the childless Charles. This was due to the ancient Salian (or Salic) law that prevented female succession (it had, however, only been enacted in 1316). Despite Edward’s legitimate claim, the French crowned Philip, Count of Valois, King Philip VI of France and the slighted Edward refused to pay him homage. In revenge, Philip confiscated Edward’s lands in Aquitaine (held as a vassal Duchy to the crown of France). Edward therefore declared war against France and plunged England and France into a war that would last, on and off, for the next one hundred and sixteen years, a war we know as the Hundred Years’ War.

In 1340, Edward declared himself King of France and his forces achieved spectacular success against the French in the early years of the war, winning the naval battle of Sluys in 1340 and then at the Battle of Crecy in 1346. This allowed the English to capture Calais in 1347. More campaigning was interrupted...
by the outbreak and spread of the Black Death, which reached and proliferated in France and then England in 1348 and 1349. Philip VI died in 1350 to be replaced by his son who became King Jean II (or John, known as le bon, the Good). French manoeuvres against English Gascony were renewed in 1352 and a new campaign by English forces in France was planned in 1354, one to be led by Edward’s eldest son, Edward, the Black Prince. His campaign would culminate in one of the greatest and most significant victories of English forces against the French during the Hundred Years’ War, at Poitiers in September 1356.

We have a relatively large number of sources for the campaigns of the Black Prince and the battle of Poitiers, but none of them provides a complete picture, all have the usual issues of bias and reliability that must be resolved, and we are left with multiple, partial pictures, some of which contradict one another. Nonetheless, we can, with care, use them all to create a relatively certain picture.

Edward landed with his relatively small force (no more than 4,000 men) in Gascony in September 1355. He was reinforced with local troops bringing his strength up to approximately 8,000 men. The immediate plan was a large raid from Bordeaux to Narbonne, the Grand Chevauchée, plundering indiscriminately and burning towns along the outward and return journeys (more than 500 were put to the torch). It was a brutal strategy aimed at depriving the French crown of revenue and of provoking them. French forces avoided challenging Edward to open battle; however. The English returned to friendly territory for winter but small raids began again in the new year and spring 1356. More reinforcements arrived and Edward left on a new raid that would take him northeast towards Bourges. Edward learned at Vierzon that the French forces under King Jean were making their way towards him in late August. He therefore turned west towards Tours (he had marched 320 miles (514 kilometres in a month). The English army were unable to cross the Loire river; the French had broken all the bridges. The French drew nearer and Edward withdrew over the river Cher towards La Haye. On the morning of September 18th the French army had caught up with the English and were outside Poitiers. Battle was unavoidable. Being a Sunday, the battle would be fought on the following day. This gave the English time to reinforce their position and the French time to gather more reinforcements. It is still debated today whether the English were attempting to provoke a battle or avoid one (or to retreat at the first opportunity). The rejection of all attempts at negotiation by Edward made provocation more likely although the English were severely outnumbered. The confidence of their successes up to that point and the confidence of (and in) Edward had a part to play. The position the English army had taken up was also defensively very strong. Despite this, the exact location of the Poitiers battlefield remains in doubt.

The French had caught up with the English army south of Poitiers on the banks of the River Mison, but Edward was able to find ground that was defensible and not the open plains of most of the area. One source tells us this was ‘one league’ (five and a half kilometres) from Poitiers, another two leagues - so there is imprecision. The specific fields
of Bevois and Maupertuis are also mentioned. The hedgerows, marshes, vines, and bushes of the English position have since disappeared so locating it remains problematic. The French chronicler Jean Froissart tells us that the position was a length of road strongly protected by hedges and bushes, and they have lined the hedge on both sides with their archers. Other sources such as Geoffrey le Baker mention a dense wood, a marsh and a ditch, others combine all of these features. The French would be able to charge downhill most of the way towards the English although the last stretch to the English lines turned uphill slightly.

Edward laid out his forces in three divisions, or battles, as was standard practice at the time (Froissart tells us that they were only in one division). Each was commanded by an experienced man, Thomas de Beauchamp, earl of Warwick on the left, and William de Montagu, earl of Salisbury on the right. Edward commanded the centre division and was accompanied by his close friend and skilled military strategist, Sir John Chandos. Edward also took advantage of the terrain, drawing up his men behind a hawthorn hedge in which there were two gaps. This meant there were only two routes of attack for the French. According to Froissart, the archers were in a narrow formation, probably an open wedge with the point towards the enemy. The archers may have been deployed up to seven ranks deep. The standard English tactic was for the men-at-arms to dismount and fight on foot although Edward had some horses at the ready.

The French also arranged their men in three divisions, according to Froissart each with 16,000 men (giving 60,000 in total) although some accounts mention only 11,000 men. Some modern accounts accept the lower number or a larger one at 26,000 men in total. Regardless, the English were heavily outnumbered. Some reconstructions have four divisions of French, a vanguard and three others (Froissart talks of 300 mounted men being detached to make an initial charge, other sources number this force at 500). With this vanguard was the constable of France, Gautier de Brienne, the exiled Duke of Athens. His troops included a force of crossbowmen or arbalistes (because they were armed with the arbalist, a later, heavier version of the crossbow). The French also dismounted most of their men-at-arms and advanced on foot – the memory of the devastation wreaked by English longbowmen on the French knights at Crécy only ten years earlier would have been relatively fresh in their minds. This memory may also explain the decisions taken by King Jean during the battle.

The French army arrayed itself for an assault on the inferior English numbers, each division behind the first since the English position did not allow for an attack on a wide frontage. The English also commanded a strong defensive position. It is possible the English feinted a retreat in order to provoke a charge by the French mounted knights and in the end they did charge, but in a disorganised way. This may also have been as a result of a disagreement between the commanders (the marshals Amicul d'Audrehem and Jean de Clermont) about tactics. The French knights therefore charged at the English lines in two groups at two separate points. d'Audrehem charged Edwards' division while Clermont charged towards Warwick's. These charges proved disastrous and were driven back by the English archers. Clermont was killed, as was the constable, Brienne, and d'Audrehem was captured.

The first French division of dismounted men-at-arms then advanced, led by the dauphin of France, the teenaged Duke of Normandy, Charles, along with the Duke of Bourbon. Despite interruptions from the retreating vanguard, these fresh troops engaged the English infantry. They were peppered with archery fire, which must have taken a great toll on their numbers, but they managed to reach the English lines. In hard fighting, more of the French leadership fell and the standard-bearer of the dauphin was captured. King Jean was dismayed at the defeat of his second division and ordered his three sons including the defeated dauphin, away from the battlefield. This was probably demoralising to the French and the Duke of Orleans, the 21-year-old brother of the king, also retreated with his division at that moment or soon after. Some saw this retreat as the Duke fleeing from the battle but he may have been ordered to do so just as the King's sons had been. This action robbed the French of a large number of troops, but they probably still outnumbered the English. Contemporary chronicles recorded that this decision robbed the French of the chance of victory. Some among the English thought...
## Battle of Poitiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Strength</th>
<th>Men-at-Arms (Dismounted)</th>
<th>Longbowmen</th>
<th>Gascon Infantry</th>
<th>Cavalry</th>
<th>Arrows</th>
<th>Arbalisters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>England</strong></td>
<td>6-7,000</td>
<td>2k-4k</td>
<td>2k-3k</td>
<td>1,000-1,500</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>8,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>France</strong></td>
<td>11-60,000</td>
<td>16-50,000</td>
<td>300-500</td>
<td>16-50,000</td>
<td>300-500</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Key Units

#### Longbowman
- Strong English and Welsh longbowmen dominated the battlefields of Europe for over 150 years.
- High rate of fire and effective up to 300m against most armours.
- Longbowmen were vulnerable to enemy attack and ammunition needed to be plentiful.

#### Prince Edward of Woodstock
- Eldest son of King Edward III, born in 1330. One of the most successful English commanders during the Hundred Years' War.
- Intelligent, brave, chivalrous.
- Ruthless and brutal, destroyer of those of lesser rank.

#### King Jean II le Bon
- Jean became king on the death of his father Philip in 1350. He inherited multiple crises in the form of English invasions and the Black Death.
- Honourable and keen on negotiation.
- Overconfident and with an outdated military system.

#### Arbalesters
- The arbalest was a late model crossbow that was larger and stronger than earlier models.
- Fire could penetrate armours, superior effective range.
- Slow rate of fire (about two bolts a minute), highly specialised, expensive.

#### Lance
- The lance was the mounted weapon of choice for knights and men-at-arms during the Hundred Years' War. It needed to be cut down to be used on foot, as at Poitiers.
- Powerful and easily produced.
- Cumbersome when cut down, and required two hands when on foot.

---

King Jean II on his return to France in 1350, from a near contemporary illustration.
that this was a general French retreat and charged in pursuit but they soon learned of their mistake and a very few English knights were captured (the only ones to fall to such a fate that day). The delay in Joan's reorganisation probably also gave the English troops a chance to rest.

The remaining French troops joined with King Jean's division and advanced. This division was therefore larger and consisted of the remaining troops, including some crossbowmen who had been in the constable's division. By this point in the conflict, which had been raging for perhaps three hours (longer than most medieval battles), the English longbowmen were running short of arrows because they had little impact on the king's division as it advanced. Edward drew his men into a single division (this may be where Froissart's error of a single division comes from). The forces with Jean were largely fresh whereas the English had been fighting for most of the battle. Edward now ordered a small force of 60 men-at-arms and 100 archers to mount so that they could encircle the advancing French. This decision implies that this had been a part of Edward's battle plan all along (the men's horses would need to be nearby, harnessed and ready). Coming so late in the battle also implies that Edward did not have the numbers to detach this force at the start of it, and so needed to wait the later phases of the battle before enacting such a plan. This force was commanded by the capitel de Buch, Jean de Grailly, and his force made its way around a small hill, out of sight of the French.

The English archers, their arrows spent, joined the infantry armed with daggers and swords. The capitel de Buch charged the flank of the French as they reached Edward's lines and this combined attack on two fronts finally broke the French. The bearer of the Grail flamme standard, Geoffrey de Charny, fell with the standard and this signaled the last gasp of the French. King Jean himself was captured and the remaining French fled the field, pursued by the English eager for prisoners and ransoms. Many fled to Poitiers itself with the English and Gascons on their heels but the gates to the town were shut and many French massacred outside.

The defeat at Poitiers was even more devastating than Crécy had been. The French lost approximately 2,500 men-at-arms whereas the English only lost 40 casualties, among less notable troops must have been much higher and we are not given the numbers of wounded. The capture of King Jean and many knights of note was also humiliating. Jean would be held captive until 1360 before being ransomed, and his capture led to the peace of Bretigny in 1360 where the English laid aside claims to the French throne but gained larger possessions in Aquitaine and Calais. The battle of Poitiers was not won by the longbow, but this weapon was an important part of the successful defensive tactics of Edward. In addition to the defensible position that could not be attacked by the superior numbers of the French in one body, Edward's cavalry encirclement must have been part of his thinking from the start.

19 SEP 1356

How the English recorded a decisive victory against French forces on French soil

01 The battlefield is reached
Edward moves his forces towards Tours when he learns that the French under King Jean are approaching from the north. Unable to cross the River Loire, Edward retreats southwest towards Poitiers. The French pursue and reach Poitiers on Sunday 18th September. Both sides prepare, and the English advance to a better defensible position.

02 The English deployment
Edward divides his army into three divisions of dismounted men-at-arms. The left division is commanded by the earl of Warwick, the centre by Edward and the right division by the earl of Salisbury. The archers, numbering up to 3,000, are placed on each flank in hollow square formations. Edward also takes advantage of the terrain with hedges, marshes, wooded areas and ditches protecting his flanks, and funneling the French attack.

03 The French deployment
Jean divides his forces into four divisions. Jean dismounts most of his knights to fight with shortened lances. In the front he has 300-500 mounted knights. With them are a force of dismounted knights and abalesters. Next is a division of men-at-arms and infantry up to 15,000 strong led by the dauphin Charles. Then there's the division of the duke of Orléans, and last that of the king.

04 Battle begins
The French cavalry, led by the marshals Arnoul d'Audehem and Jean de Clermont, charge but do not coordinate. One charges Edward's division, the other charges Warwick's. Both are defeated by English archery fire and driven back.
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Battle of Poitiers

05 The Dauphin advances
Charles advances his division towards the English. The retreating forces of the initial cavalry charge get mixed up in his advance and many men are cut down by English archery fire. The approach to the English position only allows a single division of French to advance at them at a time.

06 Jean hesitates
The defeat of the Dauphin’s division causes the French king to hesitate. He sends the Dauphin and his other sons away from the battle. Whether through dismay or because he is ordered to do so, the Duke of Orleans takes his division from the field. Some English pursuit. Jean then gathers all of his remaining troops, including remnants from the first two unsuccessful charges, into a single division and prepares for a final advance.

07 Edward’s ruse
Edward takes the opportunity of the French reorganisation to gather all of his men into a single division. He also sends the dauphin de Buch with a mounted force of 50 men-at-arms and 100 archers behind a hill unseen, to charge the French advance in the flank.

08 The final advance
Jean leads his enlarged division towards the English. The English arrows are all but depleted so not many Frenchmen fall to archery fire. The English archers join the ranks of the men-at-arms.

09 Fighting to the end
When the French division joins combat with the English, the Dauphin de Buch charges with his cavalry into the flank of the French. This, and possibly some English troops returning from pursuit of the retreating French, turns the tide. The king’s standard-bearer is slain and the Oriflamme itself is taken. King Jean is captured (despite his precaution of having 17 men dressed identically to him).

10 Flight and pursuit
The capture of the king and the fall of the Oriflamme signal the final defeat of the French. The remaining troops break and flee and are pursued by English troops eager for plunder and ransom. Some are run down close to the field, others make their way back to the town of Poitiers where they find the gates shut. Several French men-at-arms surrender in front of the town walls rather than be cut down.
US FORCES RETREAT FROM KOREA

Victory for North Korea could see a humiliated America move more strongly against communism around the world.

What were the circumstances leading up to the Korean War?
The division of Korea happened in late 1945 after the Japanese surrender (in World War II). The northern half of Korea was assigned to the Soviets, and the southern half was assigned to the United States. There were nationalists, Korean nationalists, on both sides. In the northern half, these were based around a guerrilla leader named Kim II-sung. In the southern half there were a variety of leaders, but eventually they sort of coalesced around a guy named Syngman Rhee. Things were pretty violent from the beginning. A lot of people talk about the Korean War breaking out in June of 1950 as a real surprise, but there had been sporadic fighting all the way up until 1950. What happened in June was that the North Koreans launched a much more significant offensive into the South, with the approval of the Soviet Union, although not its direct support.

MONUMENT TO PUSAN HEROES BUILT

To mark the victory of the patriots of Korea's forces over the foreign capitalist invasion of American forces at the Battle of Pusan, the newly unified Korean government has erected a massive new statue in honour of its heroes. The monument, that stands at an imposing 30 metres high, was dedicated to the heroes of the Korean conflict and to their commitment to the communist ideals to which the nation is now committed entirely.
An armistice was signed in 1953

The Korean War claimed hundreds of thousands of lives.
That offensive was wildly successful and threatened to just roll up the entire peninsula.

**How did the war play out?**
The United States decided to intervene almost immediately. It deployed troops and aircraft and warships to the area. The troops were known as Task Force Smith, but were not well prepared to fight the North Koreans. They didn’t have the right kind of equipment, they didn’t have modern training, and so they were pushed back along with the Republic of Korea, the South Korean troops. For the first few months of the war, the North Koreans took Seoul and they rolled down the peninsula. But the Americans and the South Koreans were able to establish a perimeter at a place called Pusan. They were able to protect that perimeter with lots of air support and with lots of naval support, despite several massive North Korean offensives. Essentially, they were trying to break things open.

**What happened next?**
So the Americans decided to intervene with a lot more force. And General Douglas MacArthur, with the support of the United Nations, launches an amphibious invasion of the Korean Peninsula at Inchon, which is half way up the peninsula off the west coast of Korea. That sort of undercut the entire North Korean offensive, and the North Koreans retreated rapidly up the peninsula. (Eventually it finishes) at the 38th parallel in 1953.

**Could Pusan have been a turning point where America could have lost the war?**
Yeah, I think so. If [North Korea] had punched through that perimeter, that would have been the end of the war. It’s unlikely that the US would have gone through with the amphibious invasion of the coast at Inchon. Essentially the entire Republic of Korea would have been occupied and in exile if Pusan had fallen.

**What would have been the major implications of America losing?**
I think that just how the United States reacted to other reversals during the Cold War, we would have doubled down on a number of other areas in which we were in conflict with the Soviet Union. I think it probably would have gone badly for [Fidel] Castro in Cuba. I doubt that anyone would have been willing to allow the establishment of a Communist regime in Cuba. I think we’d have had a much more substantial commitment to Vietnam to prevent what happened in Korea. There would probably be some other places where you would have seen a heavier US involvement.

**How would this have affected presidential elections in the US?**
The Korean War happens at the same time as the ‘Red Scare’ in the United States. Essentially the source of the Red Scare is this idea that the US gave away China to the Communists, that we didn’t support the Chinese government heavily enough. Eisenhower is a relative moderate on these questions. He believed that McCarthy was a buffoon and a number of other things. And so the United States, after losing China, then losing Korea, you might get a substantially more radical Republican candidate in 1952. I’m not sure it would be McCarthy, who had all sorts of problems. But there were other anti-Communist candidates who were more aggressively anti-Communist than Eisenhower was. And if one of those were elected in 1952 then that has a series of follow-on effects. Potentially the reaction to the 1956 revolution in Hungary becomes an interesting question. And so yeah, you might see domestic politics in the United States is uglier and more anti-Communist as a result of losing Korea.

**Do you think a unified Korea would have been able to thrive?**
There’s almost no reason to believe that a unified Korea under Pyongyang would be as prosperous or as democratic as [South] Korea is today. In 1950, North Korea was the industrialized part. Even in 1953 after all the bombing, North Korea was more industrialized and more economically productive than South Korea. But the Kim regime has really run the economy of North Korea into the ground. The Japanese left [South] Korea in a fairly advanced state. although the Koreans will absolutely reject that if you tell them that is the case, but it’s true.

**Who would a unified Korea have allied with?**
They might have been a little less dependent on [China and the Soviet Union], but they would have faced a very difficult set of choices about how to navigate between Beijing and Moscow in the 1960s. I think it’s really hard to
imagine them doing anything really innovative like trying to break away from both communist superpowers and some sort of move towards the United States. And so I think the foreign policy would probably in a lot of ways be similar to what we actually saw from North Korea.

Do you see any scenario where a unified communist Korea becomes a major player in the spread of communism around the world?

North Korea, even as it was, sent weapons and advisors to a lot of places around the developing world, especially Latin America and so forth and so actively undertook steps to try to spread socialist revolution. It never really worked out, but still North Korean weapons were everywhere. It seems likely that Pyongyang would have done that anyway, but I'm not sure it would have been any more successful than it was in the real world. Had the US lost the Korean War, they would have doubled down on anti-Communism almost everywhere and would have pushed back even harder.

If America had lost, would North Korea have picked another enemy like Japan to focus on?

A lot of the rhetoric and propaganda that comes out of the Kim regime today is directed against the Japanese rather than the South Koreans. I think the problem is that if North Korea is not communist and weird and paranoid, then it has no reason to exist, because South Korea is such a successful example of a capitalist democratic country. And you take that example away and the behaviour might be different.

Would the North Koreans still have developed nuclear weapons?

I think it's very possible that the North Koreans might have decided to go ahead and develop nuclear weapons anyway. I mean, it would have been a large industrial economy with lots of human capital, with lots of know-how. They would have been one of the most thriving economies in the Soviet bloc, certainly larger even than East Germany, and so probably would have been the third largest economy in the entire Soviet bloc after the Soviet Union and China.

Is the world a better place that North Korea didn't win?

I think it's impossible to say. However, there are 33 million people in South Korea, and their lives are incontrovertibly better today than they would be if North Korea had won the war. That wasn't even really the reason we fought it. But South Korea is a thriving democratic market-oriented economy, and there's almost no way to imagine that those outcomes would have happened if North Korea had won the war. Now the war caused a lot more misery for the people of North Korea, but South Korea is a frontline democracy and a part of the family of nations. And I don't see the Kim regime having ever been able to do that.
Through History

War in the Air: The Second World War in Colour
is published by IWM and is available now

War in the Air

Discover the Allied warplanes and training aircraft that helped to win World War II and finally bring peace to Europe

Military aircraft took to the skies like never before during World War II. Although they had been used in the first global conflict – initially for reconnaissance but then as muscle to break the deadlock of trench warfare – advancing technology and an emphasis on strategic bombing made them more important. Both sides had considerable airpower and techniques up their sleeve. The Luftwaffe would fly above Germany’s army as it advanced across western Europe while the RAF used radar to detect and locate the position of approaching enemy aircraft. Radar enabled bombing raids to take place in the dead of night. Planes were also agile enough to be used in aerial combat. Targets were found on land and across the seas and, while bombs would drop in droves, air superiority was vitally important for gathering intelligence as much as anything else. Fighters and bombers in particular began to take on an iconic status and it’s easy for many to reel off names such as the Lancaster and the Wellington bombers.

Some of the images taken during the war have helped to reinforce that and seeing the photos restored and converted to glorious colour helps to bring out the detail. Here we present a selection.
**Training Wings**

The distinctive yellow paintwork of these North American Harvard Mk IIs marked them out as training aircraft. Pupils at a Service Flying Training School would spend six weeks in advanced flying training before gaining their wings. This is one of eight flight training schools located in South Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

**Shark Squadron**

The Kittyhawk Mk III was an improved, shorter-nosed variant of the American Curtis P-40 Warhawk and it was given its name by the RAF. Notably, 112 Squadron painted an image of a shark’s mouth on the front. It is seen here taking off at a desert airstrip in Tunisia in April 1943.

**Flying Tin Openers**

Hawker Hurricanes were British single-seat fighter aircraft designed in the early 1930s by Sydney Camm. Tank-busting 40mm cannon were fitted to Mk IIs by 6 Squadron but the aircraft were vulnerable to ground fire. Taking off from Cagges, Tunisia, the squadron lost six aircraft and three pilots on 7 April 1943.
The United States Martin B-26 Marauders were twin-engined medium bombers that, following raids in North Africa in April 1942 by the 320th Bombardment Group, were used to fight the Nazis in Europe. The Group moved to France in November 1944, bombing key infrastructure from bridges to barracks until V-E Day.

A FLYING SUCCESS

Brightly coloured Stearman PT-17s were used for military training and more than 10,000 were built from 1934 in the United States. Here a group of RAF pilots are learning with the private flying school, Embry-Riddle Company, at Carlstrom Field near Arcadia in Florida.
FROM SEA TO SEA

The long-range medium bomber Wellington G3 Mark XIII was the maritime version of the B Mark X and B44 were built in Weybridge and Blackpool. Used in anti-submarine and anti-shipping attacks by 221 Squadron operating with RAF Coastal Command (here in March 1945 over the Aegean), four Air-to-Surface Vessel Mk II radar can be clearly seen.

THE ICONIC BOMBER

Avro Lancasters were introduced in February 1942, initially taking part in daylight bombing against targets deep in Nazi Germany. The four-engined heavy bombers were first used by 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron, followed by 57 Squadron. Of the 7,377 Lancasters built, 3,431 were lost through enemy action.

DON’T CALL ME SHIRLEY

Captain Edwin Fisher became an ACE US pilot of a Republic P-47D Thunderbolt fitted with eight .50-calibre machine guns, shooting down seven enemy aircraft in aerial combat and destroying three V-1 flying bombs. He sits on top of his fighter aircraft - named ‘Shirley Jane III’ - in France in 1944.
DULCIS COCCORA

A FAVOURITE OF CLEOPATRA EGYPT, 1ST CENTURY BCE

METHOD

01 Put the warm water into a small bowl and add the yeast. Allow to stand until the mixture begins to form a creamy foam (about five minutes).
02 Add the warm milk, sugar and salt to a large mixing bowl and stir to dissolve together. Add the yeast mixture and combine together.
03 Add the butter, eggs, flour and orange zest to the large bowl and beat together until it forms a smooth, soft dough.
04 Cover the bowl and allow to rise and double in size. This should take around 30 minutes. Once done, stir the dough well again, releasing some of the air, cover and allow to rise for another 30 minutes.
05 Add the honey and remaining 125ml of water to a saucepan and bring to the boil on a medium heat. Once boiling, turn off the heat to allow the syrup to form and cool.
06 Heat the vegetable oil in a large saucepan or deep-fat fryer to 180°C. You need at least 5cm of oil to drop your donut balls into.
07 Using a wet tablespoon and one wet hand, scoop up about two tablespoons worth of mixture with the spoon and form into a round shape between the spoon and your hand. Try not to over-handle the mixture.
08 Place the dough balls into the oil in batches, continuing this process until all the mixture is used up. Fry the balls until they are golden brown on the bottom and then roll them over, taking about two to three minutes per batch.
09 Once cooked, remove the balls and allow to drain on some kitchen towels. Once all cooked, place on a baking tray or large plate and crizzle with the honey syrup, then sprinkle with cinnamon and walnuts (if desired). Best served warm.

Did you know?
Cleopatra’s diet included seafood, legumes, fruit, vegetables and meat such as pigeon and mutton.

Ingredients
- 2 x 7g sachet of baking yeast
- 250ml warm water. No hotter than 40°C
- 125ml warm milk, same as water
- 4 tbsp caster sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 75g unsalted butter, softened
- 3 eggs
- 500g plain flour
- Zest of one orange
- 175g honey
- 125ml water
- 1 litre of vegetable oil
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- Chopped walnuts (optional)
THE OXFORD ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE RENAISSANCE

An enthralling history of the Renaissance in culture and society

Author Gordon Campbell (Editor) Publisher Oxford University Press Price £30 Released Out now

The Oxford Illustrated History Of The Renaissance is the latest title in the celebrated Oxford Illustrated History series. Always generously illustrated, these single-volume histories have so far spanned a huge range of topics including the world itself, Greece, opera and the Reformation. Edited by Gordon Campbell, a noted expert in Renaissance Studies, this volume brings together some of the finest scholarship from across the globe to examine an enthralling topic.

The Illustrated Histories pride themselves on being relevant not only to researchers, but to those with a more casual interest in the field under discussion, and this is no exception. Although the Renaissance is traditionally accepted as a focus on classical art and scholarship that had its roots in Italy in the 15th century, this new work seeks to expand the movement far beyond that crucial point. Though names such as Medici, Michelangelo and Raphael loom large, Campbell hasn’t simply assembled the greatest hits of the Renaissance.

The Oxford Illustrated History Of The Renaissance travels far from Italy and far beyond the narrow confines of the 15th century. Instead it tells a much wider story, ranging from the emergence of key 13th-century figures such as Dante and travelling all the way to the streets of England in the 1700s to examine the literary Renaissance that created classics of English theatre that endure to this day. This fascinating work is at pains to prove that the Renaissance isn’t simply a story of Europe, however. The book takes readers to Japan and China and includes a fascinating chapter on the global Renaissance as well as studies on what happened when the Ottoman Empire and Renaissance Europe collided.

To many, the word Renaissance conjures up images of remarkable artwork and enduring beauty, but it was much more than an artistic movement. Instead, it was a fundamental cultural era that changed the face of civilisation. This book addresses every aspect of the Renaissance imaginable and ably takes readers from such matters as art and literature to religion, science and into the heart of life during the Renaissance. It considers how the very states touched by the Renaissance were changed by it, examining how global relationships were challenged and enhanced and how, at the heart of the Renaissance, there is a story of a changing world that continues to be relevant today.

“..."This fascinating work is at pains to prove that the Renaissance isn’t simply a story of Europe"
DICTATOR LITERATURE
An A-Z of terrible books written by more terrible people

Author Daniel Kalder Publisher Oneworld Press Price £10.99 (paperback)
Released Out now

Twentieth-century dictators such as Hitler and Stalin are among the historical figures most familiar to modern day populations, so you'll be forgiven for thinking there isn't really anything new to say about them. But Daniel Kalder convincingly tosses that notion aside with Dictator Literature, a premise so instantly absorbing you wonder why it hasn't been done before (until you realise the extent of the truly awful material he's had to go through). Readers will be aware of Hitler's Mein Kampf and Chairman Mao's Little Red Book, but probably won't have had the displeasure of combing through the pages of Saddam Hussein and Mussolini's romance novels, Kim Jong-il's treatise on the art of cinema, or Stalin's poetry (according to him, "The writer is the engineer of the human soul"). Kalder places the dictators' literature in their wider contexts, for example revealing that Soviet leaders were compelled by tradition to amass personal bodies of work even if just tedious volumes of speeches. Less well-known dictators also feature, such as Turkmenbashi of Turkmenistan, who almost defies explanation. As Kalder writes: "Who else had a gold statue that stood atop a tripod with its arms held aloft, revolving throughout the day so that the sun was always in its grasp?" Mao wrote that "revolution is not a dinner party" and neither it emerges as the act of reading these dictators' works. Kalder has performed quite the public service in reading them so we don't have to, and the book delivers his findings in style.

PALACES OF PLEASURE
A guide to how the Victorians invented mass entertainment

Author Lee Jackson Publisher Yale University Press Price £20 Released Out now

"We are not amused" is a quotation aimed far too often at the supposedly straight-laced, po-faced Victorians but in his new book, Palaces Of Pleasure: How The Victorians Invented Mass Entertainment, Lee Jackson sets out to prove just how wrong that statement is. The subtitle of Palaces Of Pleasure is From Music Halls To Football, How The Victorians Invented Mass Entertainment, and the book is persuasive enough to convince even the most doubting reader.

As industry blossomed and Victorians found themselves with money to spend on entertainment, there emerged a new class of entrepreneurs who created vast palaces dedicated to pleasure. From music halls to gin palaces, pleasure gardens to football clubs and, of course, the ever-popular seaside resorts, the Victorians found themselves with an endless supply of places just waiting to entertain them. There was money to be made in catering to the masses and Jackson is the perfect guide to lead readers on a jaunt through the streets and along the ornate seaside piers of Victorian Britain in search of our ancestors' favourite pastimes.

Lee Jackson is an expert on the Victorian era and he brings the pleasure palaces of the title ably and vividly to life, recreating a world that is all too often ignored in favour of the stereotype of covered table legs and unsmiling monarchs. This frequently amusing and always fascinating book is wonderfully entertaining. It is as authoritative as it is accessible and from the first page to the last, Palaces Of Pleasure is a delight.
The Magical History of Britain

Hundreds of years of magic and myths laid bare

Author: Martin Wall
Publisher: Amberley Publishing
Price: £20
Released: Out now

Britain’s myths, magic and folklore are the focus of this work, charting an alternative history of our island story. Martin Wall explores eras from ancient times to today in presenting a picture of the prevalence of these themes in British cultures. The author discusses the belief systems of peoples including the Celtic tribes who clashed with the Romans, and the Druids who venerated nature, with the second half of his book examining spirituality in later periods such as the Norman Conquest, the Tudor era and the Civil Wars, and discussing key figures including the notorious occultist Aleister Crowley. Wall has a strong personal interest in these themes of folklore and magic, and it’s evident in his detailed discussions of the tales shared. There’s some unevenness in the quantity of pages dedicated to each era - for example, the section about 16th-century astrologer and mathematician John Dee could have been supplemented with material on the wider spiritual activities of the Elizabethan court, and although James VI’s much-chronicled views on witches are noted, a wider discussion of witch trials across the British Isles - and indeed civilians’ beliefs about witches from the medieval era onwards - could have been interesting. The book is also subject to digression in some parts such as comments on consumerism - while discussing modern spiritualism, or lack thereof - which do not always enhance the narrative. General readers may find the book hard-going but enthusiasts of histories of magic, myths and folklore should find much to enjoy.

The Spy in Moscow Station

A real-life, thrilling spy mystery from 1970s Moscow

Author: Eric Haseltine
Publisher: Icon Books
Price: £12.99
Released: Out now

In The Spy in Moscow Station, author Eric Haseltine, recruited by General Michael V Haydn, the former director of the NSA and CIA, recounts the story told by Charles Gandy, the NSA intelligence officer who spearheaded the effort to prove that the KGB had, indeed, pulled off the most devastating penetration of US rational security in history - a fight that took seven years in total.

This story, regarding a leak in the United States Embassy in Moscow, is equally brilliant and frustrating. Gandy and his team spend years battling to get the US government to see that the Russians had far better technology than they were giving them credit for, making them more dangerous than the Americans believed and putting lives in peril. For anyone interested in learning more about the spy agencies of the 1970s, this is the book for you. Likewise, considering current affairs and the ongoing discussion regarding Russian intelligence and the 2016 US election, this is an interesting and rather timely read.

Unsurprisingly, considering the subject matter, the language gets a bit technical at times and can be a bit complicated for the average reader. However, the actual plot remains easy to follow, particularly as the focus of the book narrows in the latter half, and it is interesting to learn about spies during the Cold War. Personally speaking, it would have been preferable if the book placed a bit more emphasis on the people rather than the technology, but this is obviously down to reader preference.
MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS

Forget the inaccuracy, it’s the emotional inconsistency that lets this movie down.

**Certificate** 15 **Director** Josie Rourke **Cast** Saoirse Ronan, Margot Robbie, David Tennant, Jack Lowden, Gemma Chan, Guy Pearce **Released** 20 May

Josie Rourke’s film sits among a new breed of period dramas that have thrown out the stuffiness that such work was famous for and attempted to bring a more emotionally raw, faster-paced and vibrant approach to the style. Results have been mixed and *Mary Queen Of Scots* sits somewhere in the middle of this new school. A lot of attention has been paid to the ways it has played fast and loose with the facts of Mary Stuart and her rivalry with her cousin, Elizabeth I (we even broke it down in issue 79) so we won’t dwell too much on it here. Suffice to say, it plays in and out of the truth as we understand it, but then so did *The Favourite* and we enjoyed that thoroughly.

“The movie finds some success with the sense of isolation felt by the two rival queens.”

The area in which it attempts to vault those concerns is also where the movie begins to break down a little and that’s in finding the motivational truths of the actions taken by Mary, Elizabeth and their respective councils. At times, we get a sense of the deeper-lying concerns and interests that are pushing these women into conflict, but then those motivations will be muddled and sometimes seem contradictory to those previously stated. Excellent performances by both Saoirse Ronan as Mary and Marjot Robbie as Elizabeth allow us to see the conflict, fear, anger and most of all defiance that drives them, but all that hard work falls flat in the face of a story that needs them to switch positions and ideas faster than the film has time to justify. Does Mary want the English throne for herself or just for her son? Does she respect Elizabeth and desire her respect in return or does she hold her in contempt? Even in the entirely fictional meeting between the women, it’s not particularly clear.

The one recurring theme that the movie does find some success with is the sense of isolation felt by the two rival queens. The film expresses again and again that if only these two could get away from the machinations of men who try to divide, undermine and manipulate them they might have both achieved their goals. Even seemingly well-intentioned advisors, such as Guy Pearce’s William Cecil, are driven by concerns and traditions that these two women together might have overcome or bypassed entirely. That they never get that chance leaves them utterly bereft, having to plough onwards in the hopes that the actions of others won’t prove obstructive. It is the tragedy of the film that for Mary that proves not to be the case.

That the film ultimately ends a little flatly is because of these inconsistencies of motivation and character that deprive the inherent drama the weight it truly deserves. As the film skips over a few years to get to its natural end point, we’re left to wonder what more could have been done if the rest of the film had cherry-picked its way through the story with a little more care. The ingredients were good, but the recipe was flawed.
01. In the beginning, Josef Gabčík (played by Cillian Murphy) and Jan Kubiš (played by Jamie Dornan) parachute into their occupied homeland, Czechoslovakia. Just like the film, the Luftwaffe knew that they had parachuted in and sent units to look for them.

02. Just like on screen, members of the Czech resistance really did oppose the plot to assassinate Reinhard Heydrich, fearing German retaliation in Czechoslovakia. In real life, member Ladislav Žabčík turned in his fellow resistance members.

03. Josef’s gun really did fail as he went to shoot Heydrich, forcing Jan to throw a bomb towards Heydrich’s car. Although it exploded, they didn’t realise that Heydrich was critically injured in the blast and he would later die from sepsis triggered by his wounds.

04. In the film, the Germans retaliate for Heydrich’s death by massacring the village of Lidice, falsely believing that it was linked to the assassins. This is true, with the Germans killing the men and sending the women and children to concentration camps.

05. Josef, Jan and their fellow paratroopers really did hide in the crypt of Saints Cyril and Methodius cathedral. The Nazis stormed the building, with Josef committing suicide to avoid capture and Jan succumbing to the wounds he sustained in the stand-off.
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