ALL ABOUT HISTORY

JOAN OF ARC

How did a teenager turn the tide of war and make herself an icon?

GIVING PEACE A CHANCE

How nonviolent protests have changed the world

THE REAL MR HYDE

Who was the man who inspired a monster?

PLUS... WHAT THE ROMANS DID FOR US, TREASURES OF TUTANKHAMUN REVEALED, CULTURE CLASH IN JAPAN
BY THE REIGN of the EMPEROR HADRIAN (117-138AD) the Roman Empire encircled the whole of the Mediterranean Sea and large areas of Europe, the Near East and parts of Africa.

For its many peoples and races it provided a stable and peaceful society, plenty of opportunities for trade and commerce, and, most of all, security from attack from outside its borders... and law and order within.

A strong and disciplined Roman Army was the key guarantee of that!

In towns, forts and camps throughout the Empire Rome's many legions manned the ramparts, fought the battles and led the way in extending the borders of the Empire to the farthest reaches of the then-known world.

ON THE MARCH

KING & COUNTRY is proud to announce the launch of a major new series based on the military exploits of one of Rome's most famous military legions... The Legio XX Valeria Victrix (the Twentieth Victoria Valeria Legion).

For more details about our new figures and the Roman Fort contact your favorite Authorized King & Country Dealer or email...
Welcome

The tale of Joan of Arc is one that has resonated through the ages, told and retold with each generation. But it is often a tale not just a history. Her story is so compelling, so rich with religious belief, heroism and betrayal. It is easy to see why

Even so, we wanted to cut through the legend and look at how it was that a young French peasant woman was able to convince a nation she was the one to lead them to victory and find some success. To that end we have come to

Continuing a theme of national heroes we also mark 30 years since the collapse of the Berlin Wall

Editor’s picks

Helen Castor interview: Wonders with the esteemed author about her research into the life of Joan of Arc

Roman Legacy

The Real FM Kylie

Be part of history

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KING OF THE MONSTERS

Japanese monster movie Gojū-Sōhatsu (Godzilla) made its premiere in Nagoya, Japan, on 27 October 1954. The movie was inspired by an American monster movie called Them! released from 20,000 feet over the American summer, along with the Bagu (Fukuryū) Maru incident that saw a barge hurtle uncontrolled by nuclear fallout from the Bikini atoll weapon tests of March 1954. This film proved to be a massive success.

1954
The Great Crash

Starting on 24 October with Black Thursday and running on to 29 October with Black Tuesday, the Wall Street Crash of 1929 was a catastrophic financial event that precipitated the Great Depression that would last for around 10 years, affecting all of the industrialized powers of the day. The crash marked the final straw in a year of warning signs that the market's gains were based on speculation and overconfidence of investors.
DEFINING MOMENTS

RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE
In probably the most famous boxing match in history, defending champion George Foreman took on former champion Muhammad Ali in Kinshasa, Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 30 October 1974. Watched by an estimated 1 billion worldwide, Foreman, a professional with a record of 37-0, knocked out the challenger before knocking Ali out in the eighth round.
1974
“Freedom has many difficulties and democracy is not perfect, but we have never had to put a wall up to keep our people in, to prevent them from leaving us”

John F Kennedy, Berlin Wall speech, 26 June 1963
ALL ABOUT
THE BERLIN WALL

To mark 30 years since its collapse, we look at the circumstances that saw the Wall built, how it was brought down, and life inside West Berlin.
The Wall’s lifespan

A barrier arises (13 August 1961)

The Berlin Wall became a symbol of division between East and West Berlin. It was built to prevent East Germans from fleeing to the West. The wall was 1.5 meters high and 3.6 meters wide, and was made of concrete blocks and barbed wire. It was a physical and psychological barrier that separated the two halves of the city.

*Did you know?*

A second parallel fence was built in June 1962, creating the “death strip” between East and West Berlin. GDR border guards caught hundreds of people trying to escape.

INTERZONE PASS 23 October 1948

A new gate, called the Interzone Pass, was opened in 1948. It allowed movement between East and West Berlin, making it easier for people to travel between the two sides. However, it was later closed due to political tensions.

CURRENCY WAR 23 June 1948

The German Democratic Republic introduced a new currency, the Deutsche Mark, which created a divide between East and West Berlin. The new currency was only accepted in East Berlin, making travel between the two sides more challenging.

BRANDENBURG GATE CLOSED 14 August 1961

The Brandenburg Gate is a symbol of Berlin’s history and culture, and it was a focal point during the Cold War. In 1961, it was closed to prevent East Germans from fleeing to the West.

A NATION DIVIDED 1945

In accordance with the London Protocol, East Berlin was incorporated into the GDR, while West Berlin remained part of West Germany. This division caused tension and led to the construction of the Berlin Wall.

TWO NATIONS 1949

The Berlin Blockade was a political crisis that occurred in 1949, when the Soviet Union blocked West Berlin’s access to supplies from West Germany. The Berlin Airlift was launched to provide food and other supplies to the city.

A LEAP FOR FREEDOM 1953

The团结 (Unity) Movement was a series of protests that took place in 1953. The government responded with force, leading to the deaths of over 100 people. The movement was a significant event in the history of the GDR.

The Berlin Airlift 25 May 1948

In response to growing tensions between the USA and the Eastern Bloc, the Allies started an airlift program, dropping supplies into West Berlin from the air, bypassing Soviet restrictions.

Workers revolt 17 June 1953

Beginning with the demand for better working conditions by building workers in East Berlin, a larger protest emerged that soon turned into a full-fledged uprising. The government responded with violence, leading to the deaths of over 100 people.

The Wall fell 9 November 1989

After years of tension and political pressure, the Berlin Wall was finally opened on 9 November 1989. This marked the end of the Cold War and the beginning of a new era of freedom and unity in Berlin.

The Berlin Wall was a symbol of division and resistance. Its fall marked a significant turning point in the history of Germany and the world.
Ich bin ein Berliner
26 JUNE 1963
US President John F. Kennedy gives a speech on the steps of the Rathaus Schöneberg, the home of the West Berlin state senate, proclaiming his support for the causes of a reunited Berlin and reunified Germany. He places Berlin at the front line of a fight for freedom from tyranny around the world saying “Ich bin ein Berliner” meaning I am a citizen of Berlin.

The Wall falls
9 NOVEMBER 1989
Plans to open street between East and West Berlin (set off permanently by a press conference) by German Airlines, East German begins feeling the Wall collapse as demonstrators demand the gates be opened. Amidst administrative disarray and pressure on crowds, the gates are opened and East Germans flock through to West Berlin, greeted by a state of celebrating Berliners with flowers and champagne.

Timeline

LIVES LOST
24 AUGUST 1961
East German guards were given orders by the Stasi (the state security service) to shoot anyone attempting to escape into West Berlin. Gietel Willy was the first victim of this order as he is shot after running across the bride.

THE START OF DETENTE
3 SEPTEMBER 1971
The fører, Elvis Presley, is arrested and is fined for marijuana possession. He is also arrested for assault and battery in Hawaii. However, his Miami appearance is recorded by the Miami police and is later released after paying a $2,500 fine.

1971
1977

THE CURTAIN FALLS
REFORMED MOVEMENT

Honecker toppled
4 OCTOBER 1989

REFORMED MOVEMENT

BRONC TO BEAM

EEUROPE REUNITED
3 OCTOBER 1990

Germany is formally united with the newly united Berlin chosen as its capital. 3 October continues to be celebrated as German Unity Day.

THE POWER OF AMEX
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
Martin Luther King Jr visits West and East Berlin giving speeches in both parts of the city. The US embassy reissues his passport to prevent him from traveling to states on the East Berlin side, but he uses his American Express card as ID to pass through.

Bowie In Berlin
1 JULY 1987
After his time in New York City for three years, appearing on stage, David Bowie returns to perform a two-day concert in front of the Reichstag. During his performance, he wears a crown and is joined by the band to East Berlin. Further western artists would follow, promoting more pressure on East Berlin authorities.

Teardown this wall
17 JUNE 1987
In another famous speech by a US President, Ronald Reagan at the Brandenburg Gate and calls the General Secretary of the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev, then in the midst of his policy of glasnost (openness), to “Teardown this wall”. The speech is given to mark the 750th anniversary of Berlin.
For 15 years, officials in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) had worked with growing alarm as more than two million people fled for a better life in West Germany. Worried about the ongoing brain drain of the mainly young and educated defectors who were fleeing over the border between East and West Berlin, the Soviet Union— which had administered and occupied the GDR since its formation in 1949— was asked to build a wall and it finally erected in 1961.

Residents in Berlin woke to find their city physically divided. Barbed wire topped the border of West Berlin, effectively creating a city-based island within the GDR. Days later, the wire was ripped down and replaced with concrete. Families and friends were being torn apart and kept separated by the Wall but the governing Marxist-Leninist Socialist Unity Party of Germany set about justifying it further.

Buildings bordering the Wall on the East side were torn down to create a strip that allowed guards uninterrupted views of anyone looking to escape. A second Wall was later built providing even more of a barrier. The 95-kilometre (60-mile) strip of land east of the Wall became an area where fewer and fewer people would dare tread for fear of death. Dozens were killed upon trying to escape and attempts to maintain a friendly image to tourists. Some obstructions were gone by the time the Wall fell in 1989. Yet the forbidding steps that had been taken to curtail freedom highlighted the communist government's moral bankruptcy.

**Shot on sight**
Defectors attempted to get from East to West just two days after construction began, starting with East German border guard Hans Schumann, but as many as 150 were killed by border guards. The Wall was found to have toll guards they must "step and liquidate anyone trying to cross. Do not hesitate to use your firearm even when the border is breached in the company of women and children," as an order in 1973 said.

**Czech hedgehogs**
Thousands of anti-tank obstacles called Czech hedgehogs, which were commonly used during World War I, were used to line sections of the Berlin Wall. They helped to protect entrances points of East Berlin from Western infiltrators while also providing yet another perilous challenge for anyone heading the other way.

**Lots of graffiti**
As it is highlighted the vastly different living conditions on both sides of the Wall, the concrete that faced West Berlin was covered from top to bottom with graffiti. It became a magnet for artists and a huge canvas, and yet the Wall on the side of East Berlin was bare. A lack of freedom made GDR inhabitants simply couldn't get close enough to whip their spray cans out.

**Wall to the West**
The Berlin Wall was made up of two concrete walls. The Western barrier, or Red Wall, ran along the agreed border between West and East Berlin, beginning life as a barbed wire fence before being replaced by a concrete wall 3.6 metres (11.8 feet) high. It ringed the entirety of West Berlin in order to cut off from the German Democratic Republic.
Inside History

Understanding that many potential defectives would try and head West under the cover of darkness, the area was floodlit using a string of lamps. In further aid, visibility for the guards, there were searchlights on top of the watch towers that could be revolved remotely. The inside of the walls were also painted white to better show anyone fleeing.

Well-lit area

Tall watch towers
A staggering 302 watch towers were used to help secure the border. The most common was the octagonal, mushroom-shaped type BT 6, one of which remains. German watch towers would also have substantial wire and barbwire fences andobservation posts.

A vehicle trap
Behind the eastern wall, anti-vehicle trenches were dug, just in case someone managed to get too far from the Last East. These trench would be filled with quicksand, this would allow the anti-vehicle trench, which a well-known control strip that would allow guards to spot anyone with a vehicle.

The patrol strip
As well as having guards watching from above and a concrete path for them to move along, there were patrol dogs on the ground, each of which were tied to a line running along a length of the Wall. The conditions for these dogs were tough, they were kept hungry and cold, to keep them functional. When the West fell, many were abandoned or put down.

The Death Strip
Up to 10 metres (33 yards) of land lay between the two walls, deliberately open so that guards could get a clear view of GDR detector. Closest to the Eastern side was the so-called Death Strip that was policed with death. The grass or ground was smooth so that fingerprints could be spotted and followed. There were also tippers, machine guns and nets of nails referred to as Stalin's Carpet.

The Backland Wall
Another simple concrete wall was created parallel to the Last Wall during the 1960s. This inner section faced the Interior, of East Berlin and the German Democratic Republic, providing a further barrier to the border itself to better halt westward migration. A smooth zebra's concrete gave the top of the walls to make scaling difficult. An electrified wire fence was situated behind the eastern side which would alert the guards to any potential invasion.
THE BERLIN WALL

The breaks guard for the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) went through months of secret training. From the creation in 1954, the East German police began using trained personnel to form a military unit under the Defense Department, wearing the standard GDR National People’s Army uniforms.

THE ANATOMY OF
GRENZTRUPPEN
EAST BERLIN, 1961-1989

SOVIET ISSUE

Given the direct influence of the Soviet Union on East Germany, it is not unusual to see so much similarity between the Grenztruppen’s uniforms and those of the Soviet Red Army. Although used to prevent escapes, the uniforms were, at least to some extent, modeled after those of the Red Army.

STANDING ORDER

The Wall was kept up as a standing order to prevent escape attempts. After the Wall was built, control and security were as important as ever. Grenztruppen were instructed to keep a steady watch on their duties.

EAGLE EYES

Ranks of the border patrol relied on the strictness of the Wall. A fence about 12 to 15 feet high was on patrol. At the top of the fence, a red light indicated that a border patrol had been alerted. A border patrol would fire its weapon to prevent escape.

CAREFULLY CHOSEN

Given the sensitivity of the Wall patrol, recruits to the Grenztruppen were very carefully chosen. They were tested thoroughly from various backgrounds to minimize the chance they would desert. Those who desert faced a death sentence.

DATA GATHERING

While there were 12,000 Grenztruppen at the peak of the barrier, they established a strict routine to ensure that the barrier was not broken. One thing that the border patrol had to do was report any detection of any breaches or changes in the fence to their superiors immediately.

CONSTANT CONTACT

All guards were issued with a portable radio so they could send reports to their superiors. If an attempt to cross the barrier went undetected, the border patrol would have to report it immediately.
THE EARLY WWII FIGHTERS

Airfix Starter Sets include everything you need to build the model: paints, decals and a brush!

A55100 SUPERMARINE SPITFIRE Mk.Ia

The Spitfire gained immortality during the Battle of Britain in the summer of 1940. Its main role was to intercept and destroy the Luftwaffe’s fighters whilst the Hurricanes of the RAF attacked the incoming bombers.

A55101 CURTISS TOMAHAWK IIB

The P40, in its various incarnations, served as the United States Army Air Force throughout the Second World War fighting in Europe, across Asia and in the deserts of North Africa. The first model to see active service, the P40B proved to be an effective and tough front-line fighter able to withstand heavy enemy fire and bring its pilot home safely.

A55111 HAWKER HURRICANE Mk.I

The Hurricane was developed as a replacement for the RAF’s present biplane fighters such as the Hawker Fury and Gladiator. Considered revolutionary when it was unveiled in 1935, by the start of WW2 the earliest versions were already outclassed by the performance of the best German fighters. Nevertheless, once fitted with 250 litre propellers these early Hurricanes were very successful during the Battle of Britain in 1940.

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Hall of Fame
BUILDERS AND BREAKERS
Ten key figures who play a significant role in the division and reunification of Germany

WALTER ULBRICHT
GERMAN 1903-1973
As the Secretary of the SED (the Socialist Unity Party), Ulbricht was the head of the German Democratic Republic. Frustrated with the hundreds of citizens who were fleeing daily to the West, he decided to close the only Western border with Soviet leader Nikita Khrouchtchev. Despite this, Ulbricht famously declared that a wall was going to be built in Berlin at a press conference on 15 June 1961, just two months before construction began. After 21 years in power, the failure of his economic policies prompted Ulbricht’s downfall and he was forced to retire as leader of the SED in 1971.

WILLY BRANDT
GERMAN 1913-1992
Three days after construction began overnight on the Berlin Wall, Brandt – the Mayor of West Berlin from 1957 to 1963 – delivered a speech to the 300,000 West Berliners who had gathered to protest. Not only did he ask the West to send reinforcements to West Berlin, but Brandt also addressed the East Germans and said “above all, don’t shoot your fellow countrymen”. In 1969, he was elected as the chancellor of West Germany and he tried to improve relations with East Germany while also concluding agreements with both Poland and the Soviet Union, as part of his Ostpolitik foreign policy.

HELmut Kohl
GERMAN 1930-2017
Kohl was the chancellor of West Germany from 1982 to 1990 and subsequently of reunified Germany from 1990 to 1998. After the collapse of the Berlin Wall, Kohl seized the opportunity to reunite Germany, eventually persuading the leaders of United States, France and Britain to give their support, as well as Nikita Khrouchtchev leader of the Soviet Union. For his role in unifying Germany and the peaceful resolution that followed, Kohl is remembered as the ‘Chancellor of Unity’.

HARALD JÄGER
GERMAN 1893-1953
Jäger was the lieutenant colonel who was in charge of the checkpoint at Checkpoint Charlie in East Berlin. Concerned about the safety of his guards, as well as the thousands of citizens who had gathered at the Wall, Jäger chose to destroy the wall. He was given by his superior to turn people away. Instead, he opened the border crossing and became the first border guard to let East Berliners into the West on 9 November 1989.

NIKITA KHROUCHCHEV

Khrouchtchev was the leader of the Soviet Union from 1955 to 1964 and in 1961, he gave the GDR approval to build the Berlin Wall. The issue of mass emigration from the GDR to the West caused a lot of political tension between the Soviet Union and the Western Allies. In November 1956, Khrouchtchev issued an ultimatum demanding that the Allies either sign a peace treaty with East Germany and the Soviet Union or remove their troops from West Berlin. This marked the beginning of a three-year crisis over the city and eventually led to the construction of the Wall.
HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER

Widely celebrated as the architect of German reunification, Genscher was Germany's long-serving foreign minister, holding the position for 18 years. Genscher believed in Gorbachev's reforms and was a strong supporter, pursuing a policy of dialogue with the East. Although this caused concern amongst the Western Allies, Genscher's faith in Gorbachev was substantiated following the fall of the Berlin Wall and ultimately the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Genscher also worked hard to gain support for Germany's reunification in the face of opposition, notably from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, believing that peace could be achieved through European unity.

MICHAEL GORBACHEV

The last leader of the Soviet Union, Gorbachev's domestic reforms of glasnost and perestroika helped pave the way for the events that eventually led to the fall of the Berlin Wall. While he supported the East German government's decision to open its borders to the West, he had hoped in vain that the reunification of Germany would be a slow process, fearing that it would become the dominant power in Europe.

ERICH HONECKER

Replacing his mentor, Walter Ulbricht, as the head of the GDR, Honecker was a hard-liner who assisted the initiative that Mikhail Gorbachev wanted to implement in the Soviet Union and its satellite states. He was the main organizer behind the building of the Wall in 1961 and he was also responsible for giving border guards permission to shoot citizens if they attempted to escape. Just ten months before the fall of the Berlin Wall, Honecker stated that it "will be standing in 50 or a hundred years". It fell just three weeks after he was removed from power.

RONALD REAGAN

As president of the US, Reagan travelled to Berlin in 1987 to commemorate the 750th anniversary. Stood in front of the Brandenburg Gate in west Berlin, he delivered his famous speech in which he challenged Gorbachev: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" Reagan's powerful words to his Soviet counterpart, declaring that the Berlin Wall, tear down this wall! remains a key moment in 20th-century history.

GÜNTER SCHABOWSKI

As the spokesman for the East German Politburo, Schabowski announced the government's decision to allow the citizens of the GDR the freedom to travel to the West, at a press conference on 9 November 1989. However, he had only received the information shortly beforehand and did not realize that the new regulations were not approved (the law was still under discussion). Consequently, thousands of Berliners took both sides of the Wall and congregated on the Wall demanding to be let through, hastening the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Reagan's second and final term as president ended in January 1989. Just ten months before the Berlin Wall fell.
Q&A With...

IAIN MacGREGOR

Reflecting on the lives the wall touched and destroyed, the city it helped forge and the legacy it created.

Checkpoint Charlie: The Cold War. The Berlin Wall and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth

Checkpoint Charlie: The Cold War. The Berlin Wall and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth

Iain MacGregor has 25 years of experience as an author and journalist of interest in the world of espionage, including his work for the BBC and Daily Telegraph. He has conducted interviews with former spies, soldiers, journalists, and agents of the KGB and MI6. MacGregor has compiled an impressive new oral history of the Berlin Wall.

22
Q & A WITH...

In your extensive interviews with residents of West and East Berlin—soldiers, officials and others—were there any recurring themes of their recollections of this period?

There was, naturally, a heavy dose of nostalgia. From those serving or living in West Berlin through the Cold War years they loved the city, the unique atmosphere it had as an "international oasis" where young Germans could flee to in order to escape constraints. I suppose the fact that it was surrounded by the imminent threat of invasion by the forces of the Warsaw Pact held an element of thrill-seeking to many, too. Every military personnel servant and woman (from Britain, France and the USA I interviewed told me it was the best posting they ever had. Similarly, the Soviet personnel spoke with pride; loved their time in East Germany, providing them a chance to break away. Back home.

Allied to this, one must remember how brutal the regime of the GDR was its rule enforced by the state's secret police the Stasi. Under the GDR Wall, few desired to escape to West Germany. The majority of the interviews touched upon this with some Germans who had escaped to West Germany feeling empty, craving their experiences. Many of the Allied soldiers still harboured a deep-seated hatred of what the Wall represented, and set it out to the inhabitants themselves.

 Were there any insights into life in Berlin from 1950 to 1989 that particularly surprised you?

The camaraderie of the military was something that surprised me, and just how much they loved their work and the city itself. Meeting various units at exercises reminded me of the hit television series Band Of Brothers. Also, how highly moral a highly strung situation became for the people who resided there. In August 1962, over two hundred wreaths were displayed by the Berlin Wall, railway stations closed down, tanks blocked off windows of houses, as the border blocked up and larger public buildings cleared. Yet as both sides family life continued and the city settled down within a few years into a pattern of coexistence. A harmony periodically disrupted by tragic border guard shootings to kill would be escapees, as well as the daily sound of Soviet artillery exercises taking place just outside the city. The everyday routine and the anonymity of life seemed to change by least.

What would you say were the primary unintended consequences of the Wall being built?

That it would cement the Allied desire to defend their right to be in West Berlin, even if that meant armed conflict, and that the Wall itself would become a symbol of failure for the Commumist cause worldwide. Walter Ulbricht had wanted to construct a barrier to stop his country from becoming a divided workforce, whereas Willy Brandt had desired to show the US out of Berlin altogether. The former drove a line in the sand for President Kennedy's administration that one could argue paved the way for their handicap stance during the Cuban Missile Crisis a year later. The latter may have succeeded but would ultimately prove to be a failure in the end as by 1963 the regime collapsed via "peaceful power.

Do you spend a chapter looking at the story of Holocaust survivor Estronde Nachama. What drew you to his story?

As a student of modern European history, as well as a publisher of books in this genre, I was intrigued as to how he had not only survived the Holocaust, but then chose to set up a new home in a demilitarized Berlin in order to establish his family in a city where he had once lived. Almost 45,000 Berlin Jews had been murdered by the Nazis. To then witness such seismic changes over the following years and wish to help his fellow Jews in the Soviet sector who numbered only in the hundreds was an act of unique courage and compassion. His life followed the arc of Berlin and Germany itself as it rose from the ashes of World War II and the reunification of the Cold War:

The Fall of the Wall is remembered as a moment of relief and joy in the Western world, is that true also in the former East Germany and East Berlin?

Schräg ist ein Stern that I heard repeatedly whilst interviewing Berliners in the city. Yes, it was a glorious moment when the Wall was opened and subsequently destroyed, piece by piece. Over the past three decades, however, arguments say as to whether the old East Germany has benefited economically from reunification. Equally, the older generation who remember life in their communist state see the loss of their health care, university education and a uniform life. I would argue nothing is more precious than freedom of political thought, art and expression and ultimately to enjoy freedom of travel. None of this was possible in the German Democratic Republic. Yet with today's Germany seeing the rise of far-right political groups in the western half of the country, there must be concern that young people will be allowed to travel and benefit from the West has enjoyed since the end of the 1950s.

It has changed for the better since 1999. Money poured into the reunification, the eastern part has been reconstructed and renovated, the population has increased and it is now more Berliners must see others visit.
Placements to Explore
REMEMBERING THE WALL
Discover the complex history of Berlin’s division and reunification

1. THE ALLIED MUSEUM
Clavellee 135
Located in the heart of the former American sector of West Berlin, the Allied Museum tells the story of the Western powers in Berlin during the Cold War from the defeat of Germany in 1945 to the final withdrawal of Allied troops in 1994. The museum, which includes the historic American Outpost Theatre, and the Nicholas Memorial Library, dives into the conflict between the Allies and the Soviet Union with its permanent exhibition "Hostilities Became Friends," which is split into two parts. The first section explores the occupation of Berlin following the Allied victory in WWII as well as the Berlin Airlift of 1948-1949 while the second section examines the Cold War from 1952 onwards, which includes the military confrontations between the East and the West, their respective intelligence services and the process of German reunification. The museum occasionally holds temporary exhibitions and it also has the original white booth used at Checkpoint Charlie on display for the public.

Open Tue-Sun. 10am-6pm. Free admission. www.alliedmemuseum.de/en

2. CHECKPOINT CHARLIE
Friedrichstrasse 43-45
Considered one of the most important historical landmarks in Berlin, Checkpoint Charlie was one of the crossing points between West and East Berlin and the main entry point for foreigners allowed to enter the East. Also known as Checkpoint C, it was notably the site of the standoff between the troops of the Western Allies and the Soviet Union during the Berlin Crisis of 1961, with tanks lined up on both sides ready for a confrontation. Numerous escape attempts were made at the checkpoint from citizens trying to flee the East, including the one made by 16-year-old Peter Fechter in 1962, who was shot by East German border guards and slowly died to death in front of witnesses on both sides, symbolizing the Inhumanity of the Wall. Next door to Checkpoint Charlie is the Mauermuseum, which is perfect for visitors who want to learn more about the invention methods used by those who tried to escape, ranging from fake travel documents to a mini-submarine and even a hot air balloon.

The Mauermuseum is open Mon-Sun. 9am-10pm. Adult tickets €34.50, concessions available. www.mauermuseum.de/en
Without a doubt, the Brandenburg Gate is Berlin’s most iconic landmark. For decades, the gate symbolised the division between West and East Germany during the Cold War, and attracted both West Berliners and tourists who climbed the viewing platform near it in order to catch a glimpse into the East. It was at the gate, which was constructed between 1788 and 1791, that President Ronald Reagan famously demanded “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!” in his speech to West Berliners on 11 June 1987, a speech which could also be heard by those in the East. Around 100,000 people gathered at the gate when it was officially opened on 22 December 1999 and just over a week later, citizens from both sides of the city flocked to the monument to celebrate the new year together. Today, the gate stands as a symbol of peace and unity and although it is one of the most popular – and therefore busy – tourist attractions in the city, it is a preserve for visitors interested in the history of the Wall. It is also worth noting that just a five-minute walk away from the Brandenburg Gate is the Checkpoint Charlie, another one of Berlin’s historic buildings, and the site of the German reunification ceremony in 1990. 

www.visitspree.de/en/brandenburg-gate

Places To Explore

THE WALL MUSEUM
MOHLENSTRASSE 78-80
Recently opened in 2016 and located in former East Berlin, the Wall Museum offers a different history of the Wall told by those who were living in Berlin at the time. Used as the only museum to tell the full history of the Wall and Germany’s reunification, it often visitors over 300 interactive displays spread across 5 rooms that explore the historical presence of the Wall and over a range of topics, including the various escape attempts, the families who were torn apart by the Wall and the resistance to it being ripped down. On display, there is preserved footage chronicling the political situation at the time, alongside interviews with the border guards and even images from the Leipzig demonstrations, the peaceful protests that precipitated the fall of the Wall just weeks later. It also has audio-visual exhibits featuring interviews with some of the key political figures associated with the wall, including former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the former vice-chancellor of West Germany who is widely remembered as a ‘Master of Diplomacy’ for his role in the reunification of Germany. The museum is right next to a long section of the Wall known as the East Side Gallery, the longest open-air gallery in the world, which features some of the most famous Berlin Wall murals.

Open daily, 10am-7pm. Adult tickets €7.50, concessions available. thewallmuseum.com

4 THE STASI MUSEUM
RUSCHENSTRAßE 13/19
The Stasi Museum is a research and memorial centre that explores the role and operations of the former East Germany’s Ministry for State Security. Located inside the former headquarters of the Ministry, the museum has a permanent exhibition on state surveillance and visitors will get to see the original technology and methods used by Stasi operatives to spy on citizens, including bugs and weapons, as well as stories shared by the ordinary people about their lives under surveillance. Of particular interest is the office of Erich Mielke, the head of the Stasi from 1957 to 1989, which is open to the public and has items on display including Mielke’s red briefcase, in which he kept sensitive (and often secret) documents on his own boss, Erich Honecker. Large parts of the building remain untouched from the days of the Stasi, including the entire second floor, so visitors will really be stepping back in time.

Open Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat-Sun, 10am-6pm. Adult tickets €8, concessions available. www.stasmuseum.de/en/en/index.html

3 THE BRANDENBURG GATE
PARISER PLATZ
Without a doubt, the Brandenburg Gate is Berlin’s most iconic landmark. For decades, the gate symbolised the division between West and East Germany during the Cold War, and attracted both West Berliners and tourists who climbed the viewing platform near it in order to catch a glimpse into the East. It was at the gate, which was constructed between 1788 and 1791, that President Ronald Reagan famously demanded “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!” in his speech to West Berliners on 11 June 1987, a speech which could also be heard by those in the East. Around 100,000 people gathered at the gate when it was officially opened on 22 December 1999 and just over a week later, citizens from both sides of the city flocked to the monument to celebrate the new year together. Today, the gate stands as a symbol of peace and unity and although it is one of the most popular – and therefore busy – tourist attractions in the city, it is a preserve for visitors interested in the history of the Wall. It is also worth noting that just a five-minute walk away from the Brandenburg Gate is the Checkpoint Charlie, another one of Berlin’s historic buildings, and the site of the German reunification ceremony in 1990.
**Historical Treasures**

**THE FRATERNAL KISS**

**THE STORY BEHIND THE BERLIN WALL’S MOST ICONIC MURAL**

**GERMANY, 1990**

**THE BERLIN WALL**

**PAVING THE WAY**

Known for its political reasons, the Berlin Wall has since been praised as an enormous, somber monument, symbolically standing for almost 30 years, wildly walled by a totalitarian state. People of the GDR, then East Berlin, paid their lives and blood for tanks and barbed wire. But it's more than just a historical event. It's a reflection of the people's struggle and determination.

**THE TITLE**

Although the mural is commonly known as the "Fraternal Kiss," its real name is "My God, Help Me to Survive This Deadly Love." Written in Russian along the top and the bottom of the image:

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МИНУС МИНАС СМЕРТНОЙ ЛЮБИЩЕ ПО ОБЕ РУБЕШН
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How did a teenager turn the tide of war and make herself an icon?

Written by Pamela D Toler

Joan of Arc had three counts against her when she was young, she was a peasant, and she was a woman. How did she convince anyone that God had sent her to save France? In 1429, France was ready for a champion, or perhaps a miracle. Since France's unexpected defeat by England at the battle of Agincourt 14 years before, the Valois dynasty's claim to the French throne, and indeed the dynasty's control of France itself, had been badly compromised. The English army and its Burgundian allies occupied much of northern France. The Dauphin Charles, who remained uncoronated although his father, King Charles VI, had died seven years previously, had taken refuge in the city of Chinon. The English army had besieged the town of Orleans, which was the gateway to northern France. If it fell, England's armies would have easy access to Chinon and to Charles - who from the English perspective was a usurper, not the heir to the throne of France.

Then Joan of Arc appeared on the scene. A 17-year-old peasant girl who claimed three saints - Catherine, Margaret and Michael - had given her the mission of driving the English out of France and placing the Dauphin on the throne. If her claim was true, Joan might be the miracle France needed.

In order to understand why Joan was able to convince people of the truth of her mission, we need to look at her claim from the perspective of her contemporaries. Valkeniers who claimed to bring messages from God were familiar figures in 15th-century France. The question for her contemporaries was not whether Joan heard supernatural voices, but whether those voices came from heaven or hell.

In May 1428, Joan travelled with her uncle to Vaucouleurs, a fortified town ten miles north of her home village of Domremy, located in northeastern France near the border between the Duchy of Lorraine and Burgundy. Her voices had told her Robert de Baudricourt, the
‘The question for her contemporaries was not whether Joan heard voices, but whether those voices came from heaven or hell’
Even within the context of other medieval prophets and visionaries, Joan's case was an extreme one.

Burgundian territory. It was also a statement that Joan was in Christ's service. The Dauphin Charles kept her waiting for several days before he agreed to see her. When he sent word for her to present herself at court, he disguised himself in plain clothes and hid among the courtiers, reasoning that if she were truly sent by God she would be able to identify him. Once again, Joan proved this true, picking Charles out of the crowd with no difficulty. It was a positive sign, but Charles was not prepared to accept she was a true prophet without seeking expert advice.

Joan was not the first person to hear voices or receive a special revelation of God's will in 15th century France. In fact, the situation was common enough that there was an established process for determining whether such visitations were heavenly or demonic. Known as the dispensation of spirits, this process had been laid out in detail by the great theologian Jean Gerson in a work titled De Theologia Dei Spiritus, written in 1433.

Even within the context of other medieval prophets and visionaries, Joan's case was an extreme one. Previous prophets claimed revelations, but called on others to act on their messages from God. Joan demanded the right to take action herself — to lead French troops.
against the British and to see the Dauphin crowned... an essential part of the message. Joan was interrogated by two panels of clerics in examinations that were remarkably similar in form to the trial hearing that she would face at the end of her brief career. Both followed Gesner's principles, which he summed up in a Latin phrase: "Ask who, where, why to whom, what kind, from where." In other words, clerics should consider both the nature of the revelation and the manner of its receipt in order to determine its ultimate source.

The first examinations took place at Chinon, where the theologians at the Dauphin's court subjected her to a good deal of both physical and spiritual testing. The examination began with a test of Joan's physical virility. Joan claimed to be a poor woman, but the fact that she arrived wearing men's clothing—a practical solution to travelling with a troop of soldiers—raised questions about her virtue and modesty. Two high-ranking ladies of the court confirmed her status as an unprorogued maid.

**What did Joan of Arc call herself?**

Peasant families didn't use family names to identify themselves.

We know her as Joan of Arc. At least one of her contemporaries, the great theologian and scholar Jean Gerson, named her the Maid of Orleans. She called herself Jeanne la Pucelle, Joan the Maid.

Proving that Joan was a virgin was an important part of the tests she submitted to at Chinon and Poitiers. An unseasoned virgin was less apt to have been corrupted by the devil. The noblewomen of Chinon and later no less a personage than Yolande of Aragon, the queen of Sicily and the Dauphin's mother-in-law, proclaimed her a maid. The theologians at Poitiers took that statement of purity one step further and called her the Maid.

Joan, a peasant girl with no family name operating in a world where men were known by titles like Robert de Baudricourt or Jean, the Count of Joinois, acquired a pseudonym when she heard it and claimed it for her own.
FOR THREE WEEKS, THE LEARNED CLERICS PRAYED FOR A SIGN THAT THIS YOUNG GIRL WAS AN 'EMISSARY OF GOD'S WILL'
Once her physical purity was established, Archbishop Ville and the other theologians at Chinon questioned her on her faith and her habits. They found her to be devout and virtuous. But even after several days of exameinatory and prayer, there wasn’t prepared to make a decision about the validity of the Maid’s claims. Too much was at stake. Charles could not afford to follow the revelations of a false prophet or reject those of a true prophet. Giving choice would be a disaster for France, which already centered on the locus of destruction at the hands of the English.

On 10 March, Charles sent Joan 40 miles south to Poitiers, the administrative center of Aquitaine, for more extensive questioning by a panel of 8 theologians, presided over by Raymond de Chaource, archbishop of Poitiers and chancellor of France. For three weeks, the learned gathering questioned Joan about her life, her beliefs and her revelations. They perused for a sign that would tell them that this young girl was in fact an emissary of God’s will. Her questions proposed that they found as well in her, only “girdness, humility, virginity, purity, integrity, and singularity.” Her belief that she was called to fight the English and to be crowned and drive the British from France held firm through all their examinations, and just like their counterparts at Chinon, they were unwilling to reach a definite verdict.

The churchmen wanted a sign that would prove Joan’s claims were truly a message from God, but herself would give them a clue as to what form that sign might take. When informed that it would be sufficient to send the Dauphin to Rome because the besieged city of Orleans lay in the path between Chinon and Poitiers, Joan saw no difficulty: she would raise the siege.

From the point of view of the theologians in Poitiers, an attempt to raise the siege of Orleans was the perfect test of the validity of Joan’s mission. Success would vindicate her claims; failure would be an indication of the same.

SURRENDER, OFFER
After six months the city was ready to surrender itself, but only on the condition that Burgundy was called upon to deliver Orleans. Thus the English made Joan and the Dauphin call on Charles. It was agreed that the English would hold the Dauphin’s castle, so they would be holding the key to the Orleans. The Dauphin’s Burgundy agreed and Joan was at the heart of the negotiations. English representatives were sent to Joan to negotiate, and they were eventually able to persuade the Dauphin to release his castle.

THE MAID ARRIVES
After the surrender, Joan was able to set out for Orleans. She was met with jubilation as she arrived, and the people welcomed her with open arms. The town was filled with excitement and joy as Joan arrived, and the Maid’s presence was felt throughout the city. She was welcomed with open arms and her presence was a source of hope and encouragement to the people of Orleans.

Bridge Focus
As the Maid of Orleans arrived, the southern front of the town was lined with thousands of people, eager to see the Virgin Mary. They were awaiting her arrival with open hearts and minds, ready to receive her as a sign of God’s presence in their midst. The Maid of Orleans was a symbol of hope and courage to the people of Orleans, and her arrival was a source of inspiration and guidance for them in their time of need.
...The French forces aided the English in their siege of Orleans. They built a wooden bridge over the Loire River to connect their two armies, and it was used to transport supplies and reinforce the English lines.

**By the end of 6 May, the former besiegers were themselves under siege by Joan and her army.**

The English had laid waste to the land around Orleans, and the starving French were forced to surrender. The English occupied the city and began to rebuild it, which took several months. The French, however, were unable to resist the English forces, and the city was eventually taken. The English then moved on to the next target, which was Tours.
Joan of Arc left her mark in many historical sources, including chronicles, fiscal accounts, official records, and letters. She even had letters that she dictated to some of the movens and chateleurs of her world. She shines upon the records of the town deputys at La Rochelle and the letters of an English merchant stationed in Briques. Christine de Pisan, the first woman we know of to earn a living as a writer, wrote a hymn of praise to her.

Theology had a deep impact on her career. But the main source for her story is the record of her trial, conducted between 9 January and 10 May 1431. Each day the court’s chief notary and his two assistants recorded the trial in French. Every evening, they compared and corrected their work.

Notarized copies of both the original and final transcripts exist. As a result, we have the actual words of both Joan and the witnesses who spoke for and against her. Even filtered through the male clerics who recorded them and translated from Joan’s native French into the Latin that was the language of law and government at the time, her words leap from the page.

Joan of Arc’s story is well documented.
of Alençon, successfully besieged the English garrison at Jargeau. From Jargeau, the army moved against the remaining French positions. Meung fell on 13 June and Bourges on 17 June. On 20 June, with the roof cleared of immediate threats, Joan and a force now numbering 1,200 soldiers ascended the ramparts and his scout reported a hundred miles across the dangerous countryside from Clisson to Reims, where French kings had been crowned since 1067. On 17 July, after seven years of sieving, Charles VII was crowned in the cathedral at Reims, with the army at his heels and Joan the Maid in a place of honour at his side. Prior to the coronation, Joan timorous and the newly crowned king’s goals had been similar, if not identical. But once Charles was invested with royal authority he began to appreciate the value of Joan’s influence and steered the winning the English out of France through military action while Charles began to explore the possibilities of peace negotiations with the Duke of Burgundy.

The April of Joan. Charles aimed the two goals in tandem. After the coronation, the French army pushed toward Paris, which had been under English and Burgundian control since 1419, taking several surrounding towns as they went. At the same time, relations to Joan, on 21 August, French envoys offered peace talks with the Burgundians. Within two weeks, the two powers signed the Edict of Compiegne. The treaty provided for a truce through Christmas between France and Burgundy. Paris remained in English control and stood outside the terms of the treaty. The French went free across the city and the Duke of Burgundy restored the right to defend it. At the time Charles signed the edict, Joan and her army were seven miles away from Paris, which she intended to take from the English as the next step in her mission of reclaiming France. For two weeks, she waited for the English to make a move, but they did not.

Finally, Charles allowed her to go on the offensive. On 8 September, Joan led her troops to the Porte Saint-Martin, the gate on the western edge of Paris. As she had before, she plunged into the crowd with her men,69 breaching the banners and urging them forward. English troops were no closer to taking the castle than they had been at Compiegne. As darkness fell, a croak soon joined her Joan in the town. The men lighting fires, she continued to shout to her soldiers to press on. At Orleans and Jargeau, Joan had fought on when wounded, her relentless spirit inspired her men to keep fighting as well. This time, the official commander of her army, the Duke of Alençon, called a truce as soldiers strapped

**An Unlikely Portrait**

A bored clerk doodles his way into the historical record

Even though we have a great deal of material written about Joan of Arc by her contemporaries, we don’t know much about what she looked like. She dressed her hair like a boy, it may have been daft. (The evidence for this is a single strand of hair caught in the sealing wax of one of her letters.) She wore men’s clothing. But we can be pretty sure she didn’t look like the early contemporary ‘portrait’ of her that survives. It was drawn by a man who never saw her, a clerk named Clément de Fauquembergues, who worked for the Parlement of Paris. Clément doodled an image of the Maid of Orleans in the margins of his report on the relief of the sable of Orleans, written two days after the event. His version of Joan has hair, shoulder-length hair and wears a dress, which makes her wrong to at least two of those counts.
“JOAN HAD Fought on When Wounded. Her Resilience Encouraged Her Men to Keep Fighting As Well”

Joan from the ditch against her will and carried her to safety.

When she woke up in camp the next day, she learned Charles had given the order to retreat. The retreat on Earth was over.

She had been given one day to take the most heavily fortified city east of Constantinople. As far as Charles and his advisors were concerned, the assaul on Paris was no different than the attempt to raise the siege of Orleans; a battle that Joan could prove incapable of holding. Nothing was lost. The military position remained unchanged. From Charles’s perspective it was time to peace with Burgundy, with the hope of uniting France against the English.

Forth in Joan, not her mission deteriorated after her failure to take Paris. Charles honoured her for her service by conferring nobility on Joan and her family, but he clearly considered that her active role in France was at an end. For the last seven months of her freedom Joan was reduced to leading a small band of soldiers on small campaigns.

On the evening of 24 May 1430, 13 months after her victory at Orleans, Joan led her last campaign. A Burgundian army had besieged the town of Compiegne. Joan rode out with a small force to mount a surprise attack against the besiegers, but was herself caught in an unexpected infantry movement between English soldiers from the south and Burgundians from the north. She was taken by the men guarding, allowing most of her men to escape, then surrendered to Joan of Luxembourg-Leu, a vassal of the Duke of Burgundy.

As a new member of the nobility and a soldier in the French army, Joan had every reason to expect to be pardoned. Instead, Charles left her fate to Joan. The Burgundians turned her over to the English, who in turn surrendered her to the Inquisition.

Her capture raised questions once again about the nature of her visions. The success of Joan’s mission had contained within it the seeds of her fall from the beginning. Each battle was a test of the truth of her mission. Her final failure and capture could be seen as a failure of belief on the part of Charles, resulting in the loss of heaven’s aid. The English were sure it was proof that her inspiration came not from heaven but from hell. She was tried at Rouen on charges of witchcraft, heresy and dressing like a man by a panel of 42 clerics, led by the Bishop Pierre Cauchon, who was not an impartial jurist. He had lost his episcopal see (diece) at Reims when the town surrendered to Joan and Stig Charles after his coronation at Reims.

The very bundle of letters that allowed Joan to convince French authorities that she was in fact a true seer shaped the conclusions of the Anglo-Burgundian clerics who conducted her final trial. Like their counterparts at Poitiers, they asked “false, what, why, to whom, what kind, from where?” They considered both the nature of the revelation and that of the recipient. And, perhaps inevitably, they reached very different conclusions.

Joan was burned at the stake as a heretic in Rouen on 30 May 1431.
Dr Helen Castor on THE TRUE JOAN OF ARC

The historian and author delves into the misconceptions behind the Maid of Orléans and the challenges she faced

Interview by Monica Leggarty
What was it about Joan of Arc’s story that drew you into writing about her? I started thinking about Joan as a direct result of talking about my previous book, *She-Wolves*. One of the biggest problems for female rulers faced by the early women leaders was how to gain the respect of their army. I considered Joan’s story as a direct result of this.

Eventually I realized I didn’t know what happened to her. Or at least, I knew the outline of her story, but I didn’t know exactly how and why she came to do the extraordinary things she did. Once I started investigating, I was fascinated.

What would you say are the biggest misconceptions about her life? She was “saintly” in the sense of winning a battle and her enemies’ submission. The case for which she fought was straightforwardly nationalistic resistance to foreign invasion. It wasn’t; the conflict was a civil war within France, in which Joan fought for the Armagnacs against not only the English but the Burgundians — the “false French.”

How did you approach the idea of her hearing voices? I read everything she did. I was trying to stand in the shoes and see through the eyes of the people who were there — all of which meant starting from their assumption that God and the devil were at war in the world, so that the idea of someone hearing the voices of angels, saints, or demons was entirely plausible. For contemporaries listening to her story it seemed feasible that Joan was lying, or it mad, but it was equally likely that she had truly encountered otherwise unexplained phenomena, in which case the key question was not whether or not the voices existed, but whether they came from heaven or hell. And that framework of faith also helps to explain why Joan — who believed in the reality of her mission, and wasn’t otherwise physically sick — interpreted her experiences, whatever they were, in the way that she did.

Are there any particular elements from your research of Joan that really helped you with the novel? Joan was the perfect protagonist. She was a young girl in the 15th century, and she had a mission to protect her country. She was fearless, and her mission was to save her country from the English. She was also a very strong-willed person, and she was determined to make a difference. Her story is a powerful reminder of the power of faith and the importance of standing up for what you believe in.

What message do you want readers to take away from your novel? That the power of faith and the importance of standing up for what you believe in can make a difference. Joan of Arc was a young girl who had a mission to save her country from the English. She was fearless, and her mission was to protect her country from the English. She was also a very strong-willed person, and she was determined to make a difference. Her story is a powerful reminder of the power of faith and the importance of standing up for what you believe in.

Do you have a sense of when the myth-building around Joan’s story began? Immediately. You could argue that Joan started it when she called herself La Paucel, the Maid — a name that put the unlikely facts of her youth and her sex at the centre of her claim to a unique relationship with God. It was well under way 25 years after her death, when witnesses from both sides of the previous divide in France gave evidence at the hearings held to examine her conviction for heresy. Of the men who had been with her at Orleans, two remembered a “miracle” that had allowed her to enter the besieged town; one said the wind had suddenly changed to allow her boat to cross the Loire; the other, that the river had been too low until Joan arrived, and then the waters rose. Of those who had taken part in her trial and been present at her death, many now claimed to have seen two said they’d watched it all unfold before their eyes as she died.
that a white dove had flitted from the flames as she took her last breath, and that her heart wouldn’t beat, no matter what the executioner did. These days, the myth is no secret, and she’s almost become part of the world.

To what degree did the circumstances of the time create a perfect storm for Joan to make her entrance and be heard by the Dauphin?

A perfect storm is a good way of putting it. Contemporary believed that God’s hand lay behind everything that happened in the world - but, at the same time, that direct intervention from heaven was only likely when all human help had been completely exhausted. By late February 1429, after many years of war and with little hope of removing the Anglo-Burgundian tide, the Dauphin - who’d always been looking for someone else to lead his armies, because he clearly couldn’t do it himself - must have felt that reach that point. And, if God were going to work a miracle, a teenage peasant girl might be a particularly miraculous way to do it.

Was there anything particularly unique about her message in an era when messengers from God would have been generally more accepted? Joan wasn’t the first or last person in medieval Europe - nor even in 14th-century France - to claim they brought a message from God. But most messengers did just that: brought messages about what God wanted kings and popes to do. Joan was different because she said God had sent her on a personal mission - to drive the English from France and to lead the Dauphin to his coronation. She brought the message, and wanted to carry it out too.

Would Joan have faced prejudice based on her social standing and age on top of being a woman?

Yes. In all three ways she was unqualified, in contemporary eyes, for the role she claimed. To her enemies, that made her a witch. To her own side, it made her a miracle, at least while she was winning apparently miraculous victories. When she stopped winning, it meant she could be cast aside because she’d become too proud and reached too far beyond her station - and God had abandoned her.

*HER CERTAINTY AND CLARITY OF PURPOSE WERE JUST WHAT WAS NEEDED IN THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY STATEMENTS OF 1429*

How politically savvy was Joan?

I wouldn’t say she was savvy. She didn’t have the rudimentary experience to be an effective politician - but then she wasn’t trying to be a politician. She wanted the politicians to stop bickering and listen to God. Through her, the clarity and certainty of purpose were just what was needed in the political and military statements of 1429. That meant that she was left baffled and sidetracked when the politicians took over again after her failure to capture Paris that September - an attack for which they’d allowed her only a single day of fighting. She couldn’t understand why they no longer listened to her - nor, when she was captured in 1430, why they didn’t seek to believe her. The truth was that by then, politically, she’d become a problem rather than a solution.

Were there any women of this time who Joan would have sought support from?

One in particular, though I wish we could say more about their relationship. Yolande of Anjou, Duchess of Burgundy, was - like Joan - an extraordinary politician, diplomat and warrior, and circumstantial evidence strongly suggests that she was instrumental in recognising the potential usefulness of Joan’s claims and bringing her all the way from Domremy to Chinon. But the fact that Yolande’s influence - like that of so many powerful women - was exercised behind the scenes means that we can’t know for sure exactly what she did or said, or how much she saw of Joan.
in person. Otherwise, Joan's response to other women wasn't always positive. When a woman named Catherine de la Rochelle came forward to claim she'd been sent by God to make peace between the Dauphin and the Duke of Burgundy, Joan said her visions were false and she should go back to her housework.

**Did Joan have any sympathisers on the Burgundian/English side of the war?**

Not many, at least while it was going on. The soldiers she fought against called her a witch and a liar, and the theologians who tried her believed her a heretic. But it's clear from the trial transcript that some of the clerics involved were impressed by the burning certainty of her faith and her courage, even if they weren't won over to her position. So, sympathy if not support. And then, once the war was over and Joan's Dauphin had won, most of the newly reconciled Burgundians fell over themselves to make clear that they had always known she was right about the identity of the true King of France, and that the conflict - and Joan's death - had been entirely the fault of the English. Highlighting a remarkable thing.

**Did you find any common traits between Joan of Arc and the medieval she-wolves you've written about previously?**

Charisma, Intelligence, Resourcefulness, Purpose, Hardiness. Maybe above all a belief in their own agency, in a world where that wasn't easy for women to claim for themselves.
WHAT HAVE THE ROMANS DONE FOR US?

They came, they saw and they conquered - and they shaped modern Europe at the same time

Written by Kate Marsh

At its height, the Roman Empire was spread out over more than five million square kilometres. It was the main state on the Mediterranean Sea, and reached as far north as Scotland. It stretched down into North Africa and came to dominate the Middle East and beyond. A nation that big never really disappears - its culture and traditions seep into the people and the landscape, leaving a legacy that can never truly be scrubbed out.

A lot of Roman ways did disappear over time: paganism died out, with temples being converted into churches or falling into disrepair; gladiators stopped battling it out in the arena, and phallic images stopped being used as lucky charms. But the Romans had been around so long, and their customs proved to be impossible to leave behind. It's nigh on impossible to count the ways in which the Romans shaped modern Europe both physically and culturally, as here are just ten of the multitude of things they left behind after the fall of the Western Roman Empire.
ROADS
How to travel around Europe

Not all roads lead to Rome, but some made by the Romans are still in use today. While building materials differed across the empire, the formation was always the same: the road itself was raised, built up in layers of rocks, stones, gravel, and sand, with ditches on either side for drainage. Roads were incredibly important in such a vast territory - they sped up movement, allowing troops to get around quicker, and they boosted trade and communication.

Perhaps the most famous example of this in Britain is Watling Street, a name derived from what the Romans called it. Stretching from modern Dover, though London and up Winchester, it connected the port closest to mainland Europe with the rest of Britannia. It also saw its fair share of history - it was the site of Boudicca's final defeat to the Romans, and it’s thought that the pilgrims in Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales used it, too. Today it exists as the A2 between Dover and London, and the A3 from London to Winchester.

LANGUAGE

You’re probably already talking like a Roman

Spoken by the majority of Romans, Latin was the foremost language of the empire and is often referred to as dead. Really, it’s anything but. Europe’s Romance languages - French, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, and Spanish, among others - have all stemmed from Latin. Thanks to their common root, there are a lot of similarities between them. meaning that if you know one, it’s easier to learn and understand another. Of course, Germanic languages like German, Dutch, and English have also been influenced by Latin.

But Latin itself was widely used across Europe until the Middle Ages as the administrative language for states like the Holy Roman Empire and the kingdom of France. It was also used, and still is, the language of the Roman Catholic Church, with services conducted in Medieval Latin. The Renaissance (did you know that a theological and scientific term was written in Latin? Latin is still used today as many of the Latin classifications, and bodies in the body often have Latin names like saccula and osseum. But one country still uses Latin as its official language: the Vatican City. In fact, it’s the only country in the world where you can use an ATM in Latin.
What Have The Romans Done for Us?

Fast Food

Ancient Rome's answer to Burger King

If you enjoy your food and you like it quick, you should think of the Romans. In Pompeii alone, more than 80 thermopiles (literally cool shops) have been found, each one a stone counter with a warm jar of oil, which was later used to help food and drink stay warm. Often located in marketplaces, they provided a place to grab a quick bite to eat on the go, much like McDonald's or KFC do today.

A Roman Thermopolium often sold spiced wine, meats, cheese, fish, lentils and nuts. Claudius and ancient historian Macilaelus has commented that these fast food bars lined the streets in Pompeii, they were the alternative to a meager diet of bread, cheese and fruit for the poor. As they didn't really have the facilities to cook anything else. While some thermopiles just provided food, others had outdoor seating areas for those who wanted to take their time.

Large-Scale Construction

The Romans were more innovative than people realize

If there's one thing the Romans are remembered for today, it's their buildings. Palaces and theatres already existed before them, but what the Romans added to architecture was astounding. Amphitheaters were built for the infamous gladiatorial battles which the Romans actually adopted from their Etruscan predecessors. Triumphant arches and columns sprang up all over the empire, commemorating the victories of emperors like Trajan and Titus. Aqueducts carried water to towns and cities that didn't have their own water sources. Hadrian built a wall across northern England as a barrier against the barbarian Picts in modern-day Scotland.

One underappreciated achievement, though, was the Pantheon, which still stands in Rome today. Completed in 125 CE, it is possible that it was the first building ever created where the inside is deliberately designed to outsight the outside. The rotunda stretches 43.2 meters in diameter, and is a perfect hemisphere. At the very top is an all-marble wide oculus, or opening, and the whole dome is crafted from marble and concrete. It stands as a testament to Roman architecture and building prowess.
**Laws**

Time to update the legal system?

It seems crazy that we still use laws created over 2,000 years ago, but it’s the truth. The Twelve Tables, which is usually cited as the foundation of ancient Roman law, was a heavy influence on the Bill of Rights at the founding of the United States, and both South Africa and San Marino still base their legal systems on the idea of jus commune, or civil law. Fragments of the Twelve Tables still survive today, and we can see that it covered family law and torts, both of which are still extant.

Rome boasted the world’s first advanced legal system, and thanks to its far-reaching influence, it’s no wonder that it has affected so many others. Law students today can still study it, and it often helps them to understand our own complex legal system.

**The Julian Calendar**

We’ve got one man to thank for leap years

Calendars already existed by the time Julius Caesar came to power—the Greeks had created their version, while other civilizations had theirs. Rome had its own calendar, but it was out of sync with nature, so Caesar decided to change that. He added one extra day every four years because of a calculation that showed it took 365 and one-quarter days for Earth to go around the Sun, not 365. So it was that the so-called Julian calendar had created leap years.

However, the calculations were slightly off—it actually takes a further 1.5 minutes to go around the Sun each year, so Caesar’s calendar was over-correcting to the tune of eight days each millennium. This was finally fixed in the 16th century with the introduction of the Gregorian calendar, named after Pope Gregory XIII, but the idea of leap years stayed. Unfortunately for historians, different countries adopted it at different times, making it very confusing to date some events.
Central Heating

Keeping your house warm isn’t a new idea

How to keep warm in the Roman Empire with central heating, of course. The Romans were pioneers, and they invented an ingenious way to keep their buildings warm with underfloor heating. A fire or furnace heated the air below the floor in a room, and the air then escaped up the walls. Under the ground floor was a basement hypocaust, which saw stacks of terracotta tiles piled up in a bed of concrete.

Baths across the Roman Empire used this method to heat their hot rooms, or caldaria, and houses in the northern provinces employed it to keep them warm in the colder winter months. The rooms that needed the most heat would be placed closest to the furnace, but it was by no means a cheap option. Only the wealthy could really afford it, and it required skilled engineers to build it, and slave labour to employ enough fuel to keep the furnaces burning. When the Western Roman Empire fell, central heating in the western provinces fell out of use, so that it’s only been in the last 800 years or so that it has come back.

Concrete

The reason 2,000-year-old structures are still standing

It may not be the most interesting item on this list, but its importance can’t be overstated. Roman concrete was nothing short of fantastic. While our concrete has a lifespan of about 50 years before it begins crumbling, the Roman version has lasted for over 1,500 years and is still going strong. Made up of a mixture wrapped up by the architect and engineer Marcus Vitruvius around 30 BCE, it’s comprised of volcanic ash, lime and seawater, all mixed together with volcanic rocks and spread into wooden moulds, before being allowed to set over seasons.

While concrete was used for buildings, it was also used to create piers and harbour walls for one very important reason: to increase strength over time. As seawater reacted with the volcanic ash, it created new minerals that reinforced it. It’s for this reason that people have recently started suggesting that we should go back to this ancient concrete - after all, why fix something that hasn’t broken for a millennium?
SANITATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Keeping clean was an important task.

While the Romans weren’t the first to build sewers in Rome - that credit goes to the Etruscans - the Romans were happy to take them over and keep them in use, even building their own in the city and beyond. But contrary to popular belief, Roman sewers weren’t to do with sanitation; they removed water from the streets to prevent flooding. The Romans also had public toilets. Dark and dirty, they weren’t pleasant to use, but they served a useful function. Unlike toilets at home, these were connected to the sewers. But the most impressive example of public health comes from the Roman baths. Situated in most towns and cities, it was the weekly or sometimes daily trip to the thermal baths that kept Roman citizens clean. A visit included visiting around rooms of different temperatures and a good scrub, and an exercise ground was provided. This could perhaps be the precursor of the modern gym, with its exercise rooms, steam rooms and saunas.

BOOKS

The Romans probably created the first page-turners.

We wouldn’t necessarily have recognised Roman books as books. Until around the 1st century BCE they were papyrus scrolls that measured anything from 4 to 14 metres in length, but they were difficult to read properly and in colder climates they tended to deteriorate. So a new book was created: the codex. A codex had pages, with text running from the front to the back, and these pages were made from parchment. Invented by the Greeks a few centuries prior, parchment was ideal to write on. These pages were then bound between wooden covers, and they could hold more information than the scrolls. It was now easier to disseminate a hefty amount of information in one go, and these new books would last much longer than their predecessors. But that wasn’t the only Roman innovation to do with writing - they’ve also been credited with creating the first newspapers. Ache Dharma, or Daily Events, was also made from papyrus and distributed around Rome so that citizens could keep up to date with weddings, births, deaths, crimes, trials and even the adventures of the rich and famous. Newspapers today haven’t really changed that much.

The creation of the codex was largely influenced by the early Greek tradition.

The ancient Roman baths were a hot topic in their time.

The Roman baths were a hot topic in their time.
HMS Victory

A08252V 1:180

Model first made in 1965
Pack Illustration by Brian Knight, 1965.

Launched on 7th May, 1916, HMS Victory gained its fame by becoming Admiral Nelson's flagship during the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The victory at the battle ended Napoleon's dream of mastery of the sea, but cost Admiral Nelson his life. She is now the oldest serving Royal Naval ship still in service.

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JAPAN’S CULTURE SHOCK
What happened when the Black Ships arrived at Edo in 1853?

How Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry of the United States Navy opened Japan, secluded for centuries, to the world

Written by Marc Delanty

The United States of America grew by leaps and bounds across the North American continent during the 19th century. The discovery of gold in California in the 1840s helped drive American settlers to the Pacific Coast to make their fortunes. By mid-century, though much of the land in between the coasts remained to be settled, the U.S. had become a Pacific nation. This opened new horizons for the U.S. and its people. Among the most prominent was the desire to possess a share of the lucrative China trade. 

Unfortunately, the Chinese market had been dominated by European powers, such as Britain and Holland, that had been trading in Asia for centuries. Japan came to figure in American plans. The US sought to strengthen its presence in the Pacific through the creation of government-subsidized mail steamer lines that would compete with British firms for dominance of the international mail trade. American mail steamers would need to pass by Japan, a mysterious and closed island nation of which relatively little was known, and it was clear that the island nation would be an excellent place to obtain coal, if only the Japanese would allow foreign ships into their harbours.

Another important American reason for seeking to open Japan was the treatment of shipwrecked
American seamen by the Japanese. American whaling ships had in recent years begun hunting pery in the northern Pacific, and unfortunate seamen who had washed ashore in Japan had run afoul of severe laws that forbade foreigners, especially Christians, from its shores. Those that had been stranded in Japan were often roughly handled by Japanese authorities, who sought to isolate their country from all foreign contact. Japan in the middle of the 19th century was ruled by a military government of samurai, called the bakufu, under the leadership of the Tokugawa dynasty of shoguns in Edo (modern Tokyo). The shogun had closed off Japan for over two centuries, refusing to have anything to do with the "barbarians" beyond. Japan had developed culturally in the intervening period, but would soon learn that it had fallen drastically behind the West, technologically speaking.

The Japan Expedition
Top-ranking figures in the US government, including President Millard Fillmore, wanted to open Japan to trade. Several earlier attempts to open Japan had failed, for various reasons, primarily because of the unwillingness of the Japanese to have anything but the most limited, carefully controlled intercourse with the outside world. This did not deter the Americans, who thought that a more determined, though powerful, approach could achieve the results they wanted. The US Navy chose Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry, one of its leading officers, to command the Japan expedition. Perry was one of the best officers that the Navy could have picked to conduct the delicate diplomacy required for its success. During his long career Perry had conducted negotiations with numerous foreign potentates on behalf of the US government, including in Europe, Africa and Mexico.

Perry had been instrumental in getting the ball rolling for the Japan expedition, having written to Secretary of the Navy William Alexander Graham over the winter of 1852-53 about the desirability of sending an expedition to conclude a treaty with Japan. Once he had been given this assignment, he set about organizing his expedition. Perry was to carry a letter from President Fillmore addressed to his "Great and Good Friend the 'Emperor'. The Americans were at this point only dimly aware of the position of the figure they would be dealing with in Edo, who was actually the shogun, Tokugawa Ieyasu, enshrined in Kii Castle. The true emperor of Japan lived in Kyoto at this date. The letter expressed the friendliest feelings and requested an opening to trade and that shipwrecked US sailors be treated humbly.

Perry's First Visit, July 1853
Perry departed Norfolk, Virginia, in the steam frigate USS Mississippi on 24 November 1852, heading eastward across the Atlantic Ocean. Along the way, Mississippi cruised South Africa, taking on coal at Cape Town, then called at Mauritius, followed by a stop at Ceylon (Sri Lanka). Mississippi then sailed through the Straits of Malacca and called at Singapore on 26 March 1853 where she took on coal again. The Mississippi continued coal at a prodigious rate during the voyage, underscoring the need to have numerous coaling stations distributed around the globe, of which Japan, the US hoped, would be one.

Perry sailed west through the South China Sea, stopped at Macao on 6 April, and later that day moved on to Hong Kong where Perry rendezvoused with the other ships of the US Navy's East India Squadron that he would lead to Japan. Perry's expedition would be the biggest that the US Navy had ever deployed overseas.

The squadron moved on to Shanghai and then left for Japan on 10 May 1853. Perry's command
was composed of four ships - the steam frigate Saikōshimaru, which he had made his new flagship; the Minnesota; and the sloops Sleepy Plymouth and Scouting. Reaching Edo, at the entrance of Edo Bay, on 8 July, Perry’s squadron was greeted by two Japanese cannon; then announced his appearance. Perry’s vessels anchored a mile offshore and fired a salute with their guns.

The Japanese came out to the US squadron in small boats to take a closer look at the foreigners. Some carried arms who began questioning what they saw before them. Soon, their conditions of the barbarians from overseas were being changed and for eager public consumption by print-makers across Edo. Other Japanese were more municipal in their reactions to the American ships, which would be forever known in Japan as 'Black Ships' on account of their colour. The samurai of Edo reached for their weapons, in case the foreigners were hostile.

Japanese soldiers and officials also went out to see the US ships, and tried to board, but the American sailors refused them access. One guard boat came up beside the Saikōshimaru, displaying a sign, written in French, telling the Americans to depart immediately.

A Japanese speaking Dutch, next visited the Americans that a high-ranking official was in his heat and wanted to come aboard. The Americans replied that he would not be allowed to confer with Perry directly because, as the representative of the US president, the commodore would only meet with the lowest of Japanese government officials. The Japanese official present, Nakajima Seihachirō, was only a lesser one, a mere able to Utaga’s vice-governor. Commodore Perry told Nakajima that Commodore Perry had come to Japan bearing a letter from President Millard Fillmore to the emperor. Nakajima said that the expedition should instead go to the Dutch trade factory at Nagasaki and send the letter through that. Commodore Perry told Commodore Perry that the Japanese government would receive President Fillmore’s letter at Uraga and that a response would be made in the spring of 1854. In the meantime, he started to draw a strategy to deal with the foreigners.

Another official, Kayama Eitarō, arrived the next day, 9 July. Though Kayama was of a somewhat higher rank than Nakajima, Perry correctly deduced that he was still only a minor official, being just another able to the vice-governor of Uraga, as was Nakajima. Perry refused to meet with Kayama directly, and conferred with him via.

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**The Closing of Japan**

### Japan’s Culture Shock

Japan’s shogun closed off Japan from the world in the early 19th century.

Early modern Japan had followed a very different trajectory from that of the United States. Where the US had grown rapidly, incorporating new lands and people on its global march, Japan had shut itself off from the outside world in the early 17th century. The cause of the enforced isolation ultimately came down to the Tokugawa military government’s desire to prevent the conquest of Japan by foreign powers. Christianity, and in particular, Roman Catholicism, had made great strides among the Japanese people after Portuguese traders had arrived there in the 16th century. At the height of its appeal, there were some 750,000 converts in Japan, representing about one-tenth of its population.

Japan’s shogun, the supreme warlord who rivalled Japan to their innermost way, with the feudal lords, or daimyo, were not initially troubled by the Christian religion. Over time, however, their attitude towards it hardened. The shogun warned that the conversion of the people by Catholic priests would further up the country for European conquest later on. To forestall potential foreign invasion, Christianity was—forbiddingly persecuted and largely extinguished as a result. In 1615, the shogun closed Japan’s ports, forever. And so, the Americans and Dutch, the last of whom were permitted to have a trading enclave in Nagasaki. Further, Japanese translators were refused permission to travel abroad and learned from building ships that could make overseas journeys. The ambitions of Japan were to be cut off from the world for good.

Control over the country and its population lay at the core of the Tokugawa shogun’s concerns. To prevent rebellion by feudal daimyo, each lord had to spend from a tenth of his time in Edo, at the shogun’s pleasure. When the daimyo returned to his domains in the countryside, he fled to his lands, he was compelled to leave behind his family members as hostages to his good behaviour.

All other foreigners were denied entry except for Chinese, Koreans, and Dutch. The last of whom were permitted to have a trading enclave in Nagasaki. Further, Japanese translators were refused permission to travel abroad and learned from building ships that could make overseas journeys. The ambitions of Japan were to be cut off from the world for good.

### The Closing of Japan

Japan’s shogun closed off Japan from the world in the early 19th century.
his own subordinate officers. Perry's unwillingness to deal with anyone but a suitably ranking official was not mere stiffness; it was imperative that he be seen as important by the Japanese.

The message from the man who delivered to Perry who was too proud to a high-ranking official would receive the letter from the American president and that an answer would be made via Dutch or Chinese intermediaries at Nagasaki in the spring.

Perry objected to this, and said that he would take it as an insult if the emperor's representative would not issue a reply directly to the US president's own representatives. Perry insisted that the letter must be delivered to an appropriate dignitary in Edo Bay. It was not, he threatened, to land an armed party and take it to Edo Castle directly. Kayama said that it would be eight days before a reply would be sent. Perry answered that he would wait only three or four days before he decided to deliver the letter on his own.

Thus motivated, the Japanese agreed to a formal ceremony for the reception of the letter. On July 4, Perry and a party of around 150 American sailors and marines went ashore at Kashiwara, a village near to Nagasaki, where Perry handed over President Fillmore's letter in a wooden box to sufficiently equipped Japanese officials, a pair of astronomers Tadao Isi and Shido Uchino.

Once the letter had been formally received, Perry was told that he could now depart. Perry replied that he would return the next day for an answer from the Japanese government, informing the Japanese that he would probably be bringing more ships with him.

The Commodore Returns, February-March 1854

Perry spent the intervening months in Asian waters before commencing his return voyage to Japan, which he reached on 13 February 1854. As he had suggested the previous summer, Perry brought with him more ships to better oversee the Japanese with a show of American naval might. A new signal flag was adopted: red, white, and blue, with the words 'Peace and Friendship' inscribed on it. A land-based residence was built in Edo Castle. In turn, the Japanese had spent the past seven months since Perry's first visit attempting to devise a viable strategy to deal with the Americans. Abe Masahiro had sounded out leading Japanese opinion on the matter. Some wanted to maintain Japan's isolationist stance no matter what. Others wanted to open up a bit to Perry while they used the breathing space to build up a modern military, and the Japanese had by the spring already contracted with builders in the Netherlands for two modern warships. Still others thought that international trade would be a good thing for Japan.

With Perry back in Japanese waters, two weeks were spent negotiating over a place to hold talks. They at last agreed on Yobukawa, a fishing village not too distant from Edo.

Perry and his landing party of 500 men rowed ashore on 27 March 1854. A reception hall was specially built by the Japanese for the negotiations. Some 500 sailors, marines and musicians accompanied Perry ashore, where he was met by a delegation of the Japanese commissioners. Steady speaking in each other's tongue, Perry's English first had to be translated into Dutch, and then into Japanese. The Japanese had to have their words translated into Dutch, and then into English. An official reply was delivered to Perry by the delegation's chief commissioner, Hayashi Sakuro. The Japanese were willing to provide food, drink and water to American ships and give aid to distressed seamen. An opening of trade was not possible, however, but in five years time a port would be opened to American ships. Until then, American ships could singly call at Nagasaki. The Japanese then informed Perry that they were ready to sign the treaty the next day. That Perry wanted to have ports open to American ships designated forthwith. Meeting with the Japanese again on 17 March, the Japanese commissioners agreed to allow the use of Hakodate and Shimoda. Perry also pressed for a commercial treaty akin to the one that the United States now had with China, but the Japanese resisted. By 31 March 1854, the Treaty of Kanagawa, after the prefecture where Yokohama was located, was officially signed by representatives of both nations, establishing friendly relations between the two nations, the use of Japanese ports by American ships, and guarantees of aid to shipwrecked American sailors.

Japan Opened

Perry was acclaimed for his success in opening Japan upon his return to America in January 1855, and he published three volumes of his memoirs. Perry's health failed him not many years after his return from Japan, and he died, aged 64, on 4 March 1858. The legacy of his voyage would long outlive him, both for good and ill. Spurred by the visit of the Black Ships and their inability to deter Perry, the Japanese acknowledged the technological superiority of the West. Subsequently, Japan underwent a rapid modernisation program. During the Meiji Restoration of 1868, the Shoguns were overthrown, to be replaced by a government with the emperor at its head. Japan industrialised, and by the 20th century had emerged as a major power. Memories of Western superhumanism nonetheless still rankled. There would also be a dark side to this modernisation, having involved being colonised by Western powers. Japan embarked upon a career of imperial conquest of its own, with China and Korea becoming its earliest victims, with vast amounts of blood shed by its armies. By 1941, Japan would find itself at war with the United States in a brutal struggle for dominance in the Pacific, culminating in its catastrophic defeat in 1945. Since then, Japan has become an enormously prosperous nation, and has been at peace ever since.
Japan’s Culture Shock

The Commodore

Perry was one of the US Navy’s finest officers and a good choice to lead the Japan expedition.

 Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry was a member of a famous American naval family. His father, Christopher Perry, of Rhode Island, had served aboard privateers during the American War of Independence, and Perry himself had joined the Navy as a 15-year-old midshipman in 1806. His elder brother, Oliver Hazard Perry, won glory for his 1813 victory over a British squadron at the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

After the war’s end in 1815, Perry found himself engaged in hostilities with Algiers and suppressing pirates in the Caribbean during the Mexican War (1846–1848). Perry had commanded the American frigate that had bombarded Vera Cruz, assisting in its capture by American troops. Perry earned the reputation of being stern and disciplinarian, but also that of an officer who was much concerned with the health of his crew, taking pains to protect them from the ravages of scurvy, malaria and yellow fever.

Perry possessed a keen intellect, and his skills went beyond the merely military. He was an expert student of natural science and botany, and conducted diplomatic missions on behalf of the US in Africa, Turkey and the Caribbean during his many years at sea. He would be lured by his superiors to join the Brooklyn Navy Yard in the 1840s. Perry’s diplomatic skills would be tested by the results of the Perry Expedition. He had to be conversant in the Japanese language, since his mission was peaceful, but still firm and resolute in pressing the American position with the recalcitrant Japanese negotiators. It was a difficult balance, but one that Perry struck, a crucial reason for his ultimate success.
The Real Mr Hyde

Pillar of the Edinburgh establishment Major Thomas Weir turned out to be rather more devil than angel

Written by Catherine Curzon

As the 18th century tiptoed over into the 19th, the world was a place of superstition and fear. The Age of Enlightenment had yet to dawn and just like the rest of the British Isles, Scotland was a place where the good feared God and cowered at the unseen sickness that dwelt in the shadows, hoping to tempt the weak or greedy. It was a place where magic might just be real and witch trials convicted some people that witchcraft, hidden in the most unexpected places, its practitioners scheming to maim, even decent souls and drag them into the grip of evil and all the way down to hell itself. In the first half of the 19th century one man came to embody immutably evil and the blackest magic imaginable to the residents of Edinburgh. He was Major Thomas Weir, the notorious Wizard of West Bow, practitioner of devilish arts, summoner of demons and notorious fornicator with his own son and beasts alike. Major Thomas Weir died for his supposed crimes, but was he truly an ordinary of the devil, or might he have been a mentally ill man who lost his life to a tragic miscarriage of justice? Perhaps there was a third possibility and Major Weir was actually the heartless brother who subjected his own sister to unimaginable torments for decades, driving her mad.

Thomas Weir was born in 1799 in Galashiels, a town in the Scottish central Lowlands county of Lanarkshire. He was born to privilege as a descendent of the Weir de Vos family, an influential and ancient family who had made their home at Releford, an imposing Lanarkshire estate. Here they grew rich and powerful, possessing over the lands they ruled for generations. Thomas Weir's father, also named Thomas Weir, was the Laird of Kinross. The laird was married to Lady Jean Somerville.
Thomas Weir: the younger son of her mother, and Lady Jean had a few months of her own. Regardless of how well she had married and how much power her family wielded, gossip about her was still. Some whispered that she had disavowed powers, rumours that her own daughter would later swear to in the middle of her own matrimony. There is no confirmation.

The son, Thomas, however, made no such claim to other worldly powers, nor did he wish to abandon what he was raised at a strict Covenanting and Presbyterian, famed for the strength and passion not only of his unshakable faith, but the long and fiery speeches he gave to his religious followers. In prison and gallows he met Weir that when he took up residence with his wife, leased, alongside other devout Presbyterian at the top of the West Bow, off Edinburgh Castle, the group was given the misnomer, the Bowfield Saints. They were morally unimpeachable, the gallants of the gallous, and they were fiercely anti-Royalist in their beliefs.

Weir enjoyed a celebrated and well-rewarded career as a soldier, serving in Ireland during the Irish Rebellion of 1641 before he returned to Scotland. As a committed and passionate anti-Royalist, Weir publicly joined the Covenanters in Opposition to the Solemn League and Covenant in 1643. This document was an agreement between the English Parliamentarians and the Scottish Covenanters in which each swore their allegiance to the other, creating a force that would eventually overthrow the Royalist forces. Weir served in the Army of the Covenant under James Graham, Marquis of Montrose, whose loyalty to his land and people was unquestioning. As he rose through the ranks of the army, we do not know if he was prominent amongst Edinburgh covenanters, who revered in the passion and strength of his spoken prayers. In fact, we learned Weir was for his religious fervency that Presbyterian made pilgrimages to his home in the West Bow from across Edinburgh and beyond, hoping to hear him speak.

When Weir's military career reached its natural end with the Parliamentarian victory in the English Civil War, he returned home to Edinburgh permanently. By now a major, he was given command of the city guard of Edinburgh, a position to which a loyal, sober and serious man such as Thomas Weir seemed particularly well-suited. In fact, Weir's loyalty to his anti-Royalist beliefs was proven still further when his former commander, Montrose, was imprisoned in Edinburgh after he changed sides to fight for the monarchist cause. As Montrose languished in his cell awaiting his death with the executioner, a sneerless Weir made his captor's life miserable. To him, a tattoo was the lowest of the low, but Major Thomas Weir was to fall further than that.

Maj. Weir eventually retired from his post and devoted himself full time to his religious preachings, by now regarded by his followers as somewhat of a saint. Where his wife passed away he was joined in West Bow home by his unmurdered sister, Jane, or Joan, who was known to her friends at St Clair, who became her teacher's housekeeper and, as was later revealed, much more besides. Major Thomas Weir was a smiling figure when glimpsed about the city, always dressed in black and carrying an imposing black staff that was topped by the carving of a leonine human head. The staff was one of the most important props of his preaching and he brandished it during his blood and thunder sermons, striking fear into the hearts of sinners. The life of the best sermons should have been of respectable and genteel entertainment, unearthful days illuminated with the prayers that had become so renowned, but it was not to be.
The Real Mr Hyde

In 1679, a lady was walking past Weir’s home with her maid when she saw a crowd gathering outside. This wasn’t exactly what one expected to see when one passed the house of a Presbyterian so-called Bowhead Saint and as the women picked up their pace, things got even stranger. An inhumanly tall woman burst from within, berating with laughter and twisting her body into bizarre shapes. The terrified figure pushed roughly past the women and disappeared down Sabbathman Close, where she apparently disappeared into thin air.

Days later, Major Weir took the stand at a packed Presbytarian meeting and quite suddenly, with no prompting, made an unexpected confession. He and his son were known, he claimed, and they practiced bestiality too. He went on to confess that he had sexual relations with immovable objects and himself. He said that he killed his daughter and as well as all sorts of other unspeakable acts.

Those at the prayer meeting who had been expecting peppers and breast-burning were shocked by Weir’s confessional and blamed the confession on II health. They put it down to mental illness and tried to heal it up, fearing the tempestive damage it might do to the church. For some time they were successful, but Weir would neither admit nor deny what had happened to his followers tried. He took his bed with ill health and there continued to confuse to torment and bestiality until the story inevitably got out.

At first the authorities quite understandably dismissed Weir’s confessions as those of a madman. Sir Andrew Ramsey, Lord Ashbelly, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh was born in the old majesty, by now 70 years old, gave out the rest of his life as a host, reading and watching as much as he could. This was a victim of mental illness, declared the Lord Provost, and revealed no punishment. It was decided to take no further action but it was Weir himself who forced their hand. When Lord Ashbelly went to examine the patient, Weir declared himself sane and the doctors agreed with him. The only thing wrong with the old man, said the physitan, was a guilty conscience. He needed to expound himself and be punished in order to find peace.
THE VILLAINOUS HEROES

History is full of heroes who turned evil for anything but...

The Thief-Taker General

In Georgian London few men were more respected than Jonathan Wild. "Thief-Taker General," Wild seemed to have a particular gift for finding stolen goods and returning them to their wealthy owners in return for rich rewards. In fact, Wild was the mastermind behind the repressions and when he handed over the so-called burglar to face punishment, they were usually his enemies. Wild was the most powerful goodfather in the city but when his double life was discovered, he went to the gallows. His hanging was so popular that tickets were issued to witness the spectacle.

Robert Knox

Scottish physician Robert Knox was noted for his anatomical expertise. He was also the man for whom Butts and Hare obtained bodies by murderous means when the supply of fresh cadavers proved too slow to satisfy demand.

When the murders were uncovered and the body snatchers were put on trial, the gentleman Knox faced no charges. The people of Edinburgh were outraged and his career was ended by the very men he had tried to help and Knox devoted himself to writing for several years until he made a return to practice as an anatomist at London's Free Cancer Hospital.

Gilles de Rais

Gilles de Rais was one of 15th century France's most celebrated heroes. He fought alongside Joan of Arc and rose to the pinnacle of military achievement, whilst amassing a vast fortune. Baron de Rais' extravagant lifestyle came clawing down when he was accused of sorcery and the murder of innumerable children. In a trial that shocked France, the respectable soldier was found guilty and hanged in 1440. Despite still raging about whether Gilles de Rais was guilty of the crimes for which he was convicted or was a victim of religious persecution. His story inspired Charles Pernin's bloody fairy tale, Bluebeard.

Weir refused to accept that he would lose so much money as a punishment for his sins and told them that he didn't want a payment. He wanted to be punished. Eventually both Weir and Gribel were taken into custody at the Edinburgh Tolbooth and there, to everyone's surprise, it was found that Thomas wasn't alone in his confessions of sin. Gribel admitted that, years before, a stranger in a coach made of fine had raised Weir to a farthing and there he had been given supernatural knowledge of the Scottish defeat by the English that had happened that day and had yet to be made known. She told them that she had been having sexual relations with her brother from her teens and had, in the decades that followed, practiced all manner of sexual deviance in his command. When they asked for evidence she showed them the bloodied-shaped match on her breast, a watch mark, she had inherited from their mother, as she claimed. The source of Weir's power was the stuff he always carried, claimed the terrified woman. Unless the authorities wanted him to cast evil spells on them, they had better take the stuff from him. Not wanting to take any chances, they did just that. Gribel and their confessed to meetings with the devil himself and refused to see any priest or other member of the clergy. When their house was searched huge sums of money were found wrapped in cloth and accompanied by an unknown note. When the cloth was thrown on the fire it exploded and the margarine gave responsibility for the money claimed, rather unbelievably, that the potion themselves were bewitched and flew about his house in a manner so enormous that he feared they might damage the fabric of the building.

Though Major Weir's hoe confession had been dismissed as the rambling of a madman.

“Some claimed to have seen the ghost of Weir himself, leaving a trail of flame in his wake”
The Real Mr Hyde

Though the Wells were dead, their spirits lived on in Edinburgh, according to witnesses who had passed the house where they had resided. The building remained uninhabited and reports were made of mysterious lights and the sound of screams and laughter. Some even claimed to have seen the black staff of the black staff held by him as he galloped through the city on a black horse, leaving a trail of fire in his wake. On other occasions a coach was heard thundering up and down the road outside Weir's home after dark but when his neighbors dared to peer around their shutters, the street was empty and no such coach was in sight.

The house stood empty for nearly a century until a former soldier rented it at a bargain price. He stayed there for just one night before he packed up and left, claiming to have been terrorized by strange voices or a staff that rose upon its blind legs. The house was demolished during improvement works during the 1870s but to this day, ghostly happenings are occasionally reported on the site where it once stood.

But what was the truth behind the strange case of Major Thomas Weir and his sister, Grant? As first glance it appears to be a story of mental illness and delusion that, aside from the 19th-century language for witches and madmen, was little different in its elements.

Yet what is it we see in the letter of Grant’s claim that she had been her brother’s lover for years? Was Thomas Weir’s guilty conscience caused not by the fear of the witch-hunt, but by his guilt at the abuse of his own sister? Might this, after all, be why he was so keen to claim his mental illness rather than admit to her charges or delusion might well have played its part. The truth of the strange case of the Wells appears to have perished with them.

When Robert Louis Stevenson was growing up in Edinburgh, the local tale of Major Weir was one of the most popular of all the city’s many legends. In fact Stevenson’s own father had been urged by his parents to avoid the neighbourhood in which the empty Weir house still stood, lest he encounter the spirit of the major on his devilish street. In the tale of Doctor Jekyll and Major Weir he saw the ghost of Thomas Weir again, the pious man of God who lives a secret life of dishonesty and deviance.

In a people who knew him, Major Thomas Weir was a wotkshop and his sister a witch, but to modern eyes, both were suffering from mental illness and in need of the nurse, but treatment. To Robert Louis Stevenson, Weir was the other sort of creation and he remains fascintiating to this day, his story one that builds as much as it intrigues. What Major Thomas Weir would have made of that is anybody's guess.

In his cell, Grant wouldn't believe that her brother was truly dead until she was assured that the staff had been burned with him. It was this staff, she said, that gave Weir his hellish power. Only when she knew that it was no more did she believe that their mother had been a witch who had taught her children black magic. She claimed that she had seen her brother Nursing the mask of the devil with their mother and that it was this mask, shaped like a horseshoe, that allowed them to see the future. When Grant was taken to the place of execution on the Grassmarket she became hysterical, screaming of her shame and starting at her clothes. She slapped the face of her executioner and fought fiercely, splitting and cursing all the way. The remains of Major Weir and Grant were buried at the base of the Shrub Hill Gallows, but they went far from forgotten.
The Civil Rights Movement in America sought to break down the social barriers of segregation by championing non-violent and passive resistance inspiring many movements to come.
Love begins hate: violence begins violence, toughness begins a greater toughness. We must meet the forces of hate with the power of love. Our aim must never be to defile or humiliate the white man, but to win his friendship and understanding. These words from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. eloquently summed up the intentions of the majority of civil rights campaigners in America; namely, that their goal of equality was to be met through non-violent and peaceful protest, a stark contrast to the violence and hate prevalent against black communities over the previous few centuries. One of the crowning achievements of the movement was its effectiveness in promoting these ideals and affecting real change in the country while hardly ever raising a hand in anger.

"Love thy neighbour" was a biblical verse that King took to heart. He and other activists believed that love was the force that would win equality and end the racist and segregated laws that infused the USA. Love in their mind didn’t have to be a feeling, emotional bond, but a powerful force that could be used for good.

The 20th century had revealed just how effective passive resistance could be in evoking change, with King’s non-violent tactics playing out through a multitude of wars, genocides and civil inequality, backed up by brutal repression. In contrast, there was also a rise in peaceful, non-violent protest that sought to enforce positive
change without the need for bloodshed. The genius of non-violent protest in the American Civil Rights Movement lay in King's teachings and actions.

One of the biggest influences on King's philosophy came not from what was happening in America, but rather from actions that occurred on the other side of the world. Mahatma Gandhi, the driving force behind India's independence from the British Empire, had championed non-violent protest as a way to fight oppression and win his people's freedom. In King's own words, Gandhi was the person who had the most influence on the actions he took during the struggle to gain civil rights for black people in America. Having heard of Gandhi's work from his training as a minister, King became deeply influenced by the Indian activist's teachings after hearing an old university professor talk about his experiences shortly after visiting the country. King did not expect that his interest in Gandhi's work would ever have practical application in his life, never mind forming the core of his ideals and actions during the Civil Rights Movement.

The major practitioners of non-violent resistance were beginning to communicate directly and share their philosophy. Gandhi and Lao Tzu were in correspondence and since the American movement got off the ground, King began to ask his own thoughts to the mix. In 1959, King traveled to India in order to learn more of how the independence movement had operated. After the visit, he was "more convinced than ever before that the method of non-violent resistance is the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for justice and human dignity." The Civil Rights Movement had already made successful use of non-violent protest in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which had proved the effectiveness of this pacifer form of protest. King and the other leaders of the movement met here with hope in their efforts to dismantle the institutionalized racism, inequality and discrimination that came with segregation. Many years of Jim Crow laws had shown that those who supported segregation would go to any lengths to maintain the status quo and keep control over the black population.

The goal of the resistance was not to segregate, and one of the ways to achieve that was to ensure that the long history of violence used against the black community in the South was shown to the world. Two organizations that were created following the success of the bus boycott were the Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (NCC) and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Both of these groups were made up primarily of students who had been inspired by a conference in April 1959 sponsored by King. They helped to use the momentum gained by the actions in Montgomery to drive the cause nationwide. The students were looking for a way to have their actions directly impact people's lives without being detrimental to their cause. The initially in movement, first making national headlines on 2 February 1960, in Greensboro, North Carolina, was started by four college students. During the lunchtime melee, the four students sat in the white-only designated seating at the lunch counter and were refused service. Instead of leaving, they quietly waited to be served. The store was chosen specifically as the Woolworth chains was known throughout the country and the demonstrators wanted a location that clearly separated people based on colour alone. The two wanted to highlight the hypocrisy of a store that would accept their money while buying school supplies but wouldn't have them
Non-Violent Protest

With their main voter base in the South, the Democrats were initially unwilling to speak out against segregation.
The Nation of Islam, an organisation that Malcolm X was once part of, called for a separate black US nation.

PREPARE FOR THE WORST

When meeting agitators with films, it may seem that the taking would be straightforward, but the Civil Rights Movement offered its activists a host of non-violent tactics. Non-violent training aimed to teach a person’s attitude and mental response to violence, enabling peaceful means of overcoming demonstrations. The training also covered the tactics of how to respond to physical attacks and protect oneself from serious injury or death. As activists, and especially the Freedom Riders, knew, they had to be creative in their response to physical attacks, be it by getting out of an attacked vehicle or stabilizing an attack from a controlled environment.

The training was held in a context of escalating violence, and the training of activists was seen as a way to prepare for a wider demonstration.
Birmingham when the bus drivers refused to drive them any further. After a tense standoff at the airport, the government had to intervene to fly the bailed and beaten Riders down to New Orleans. The next chapter of the Freedom Ride is one of the best examples of what the non-violent protest stood for. A second wave of Freedom Riders was on its way from Nashville to Birmingham, and the feeling was that if the ride stopped now, it would prove that segregation could be upheld by brutal violence. This second wave of riders knew the danger they were putting themselves in, and were so far as to write up their wills the night before they departed. By 17 May, pressure from the Kennedy administration, who had been scrambling to defuse the situation since the worldwide backlash, granted the Freedom Riders full police protection. This came too late for some as tensions in Birmingham between the Riders and the KKK had reached breaking point. This police presence disappeared as soon as the bus hit the Montgomery city limits, and the Riders and accompanying journalists were again subjected to horrific beatings. King again intervened for the Riders, this time asking an armed mob of black taxi drivers, who had formed up to protect them, to stand down for fear that they would escalate the situation even further. The group’s total dedication to non-violent protest, even in the face of death, showed the commitment and bravery of all involved. The Riders’ actions were starting to see results on a national level. The government of Mississippi and Alabama referred to give the Riders the protection of the state police and National Guard under the guarantee that the Riders could be arrested for breaking the segregation laws once they arrived at a bus depot. The level of arrests soon led to some of the local prisons and President Kennedy called for a “cooling off” period. Upsetting his request, the Freedom Riders continued and were met with the same level of hate and violence wherever they went. By November 1961, six months after the first group departed from Washington, DC, the segregation laws, including separate toilet facilities and waiting rooms, were removed from all bus terminals in the US, while passengers were permitted to sit wherever they pleased on interstate buses and trains. The ride, which had...
originally been planned as a 14-day excursion, had been drawn out over many months and gained worldwide news coverage. The violence was condemned at every turn and the actions of the Freedom Riders helped greatly to expose the rampant inequality in the USA and show the power of peaceful, non-violent protest.

The policy of “love thy neighbour” and pacifism shown in all circumstances was not accepted by all of the Civil Rights Movement or the black community. Some leaders thought that non-violent protest was only adopted because of the overwhelming force of the opposition. There was no black communities could go toe-to-toe with local police departments or hate groups like the KKK and come out on top. Community leaders like Malcolm X saw King’s passive resistance as leaving black people defenceless against white aggression. He even went so far as to call King a modern-day Uncle Tom, a derogatory and antiquated term used to describe a black person who sided with their white oppressors against other black people. Malcolm X and others who agreed with his more violent approach to combating segregation, could not comprehend a non-violent approach, when black communities had so frequently been the target of state-sanctioned violence and discrimination. Despite his powerful rhetoric, there is a school of thought that believes leaders like Malcolm X rejected or condoned violence in order to make the peaceful protests stand out more. Segregationists would be more willing to work with a moderate like Dr King whom faced with the alternative of Malcolm X and organizations like the Black Panthers.

Being targeted by the authorities and organizations like the KKK, black communities took their protection into their own hands. This need led to groups like the Deacons for Defense and Justice being formed in 1964. Mostly made up of veterans from World War II and the Korean War, the Deacons provided armed guards to protect the homes and residences of activists. It was one of the first self-defense forces to make itself known in the Civil Rights Movement, and its creation was met with scepticism by the non-violent majority, who either stayed silent over its actions or spoke out against them. Despite the resistance against them from both camps, the Deacons were effective in cutting KKK activities and violence against black communities, and providing security for the March Against Fear that occurred in Tennessee and Mississippi in 1966. Other communities also found that displays of force or the threat of violence were enough to stop attacks by the KKK and protect their families.

The Civil Rights Movement contained a fluid spectrum of thoughts and opinions, but mostly focused on non-violent practices. These were the actions that saw the most positive change in both society and law. While it did not end the struggle for equality, it proved that love, harmony and determination could still cut our hate and violence.
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Even the team's protagonist only gave this desperate military gamble a one in 5,000 chance for success, but it turned the tide of a war that still shapes today's world.

The legacy of the Korean War (1950-53) still stands as a stark lesson in the global landscape, with the fluctuating relations between the Communist north and the democratic south (the Republic of Korea - ROK) and the democratic south (the Republic of Korea - ROK) having far-reaching repercussions across the world. The partition of Korea dates back to 1945 when the country was liberated from over 40 years of Japanese rule and was divided along the 38th Parallel. The Soviets had occupied the north, establishing a Communist government, while the US had occupied the south and established a highly corrupt but at least nominally democratic rule. The state of affairs was recognized by the United Nations in August 1948, and at the end of the
Operation Chromite: Inchon

The United Nations forces, under General MacArthur, landed at Inchon on 15 September 1950, with the objective of capturing the capital city of Seoul. This surprise attack on North Korea's rear was successful in pushing the North Korean forces back towards the north and allowing UN forces to gain control of the capital. The operation is often considered one of the most successful surprise attacks in modern military history.
Greatest Battles

The question for the UN knew was, what to do next? It was only a matter of time until their numerical and technological strength grew to the point where they could counter-attack, but how should they, and when? Breaking out of Pusan could be hard work, and would lead to a 600-kilometer (290-mile) slog over mountainous terrain to Korsan. Two elements immediately in their favor were a superiority and absolute control of the air. The North's tiny navy had been neutralized, leaving the UN masters of the long, vulnerable Korean coastline. Already aircraft carriers and commando forces were striking against the North line of communications.

Commander of the UN forces was General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, whose actions throughout an essentially career had made him a commercial figure. Strong-willed and courageous, he held his military and especially political masters in contempt. He warned to be bold and land deep behind enemy lines. He believed that only this would lead to swift recompense of the south.

Invasion was envisaged on the enemy's rear and force them to pull forces back, allowing the forces in Pusan to break out. They would then become a hammer to crush the enemy on the arm of the beachhead, whatever it was decided that would be.

Optimists noted as to where the south should be landed, MacArthur dismissed most of them as being too close to Pusan, but became transfixed on Incheon (now Seoul). It was in many ways a ridiculous choice. To reach it, a naval force would need to approach along a rugged 13-kilometer (eight-mile) ring and only 16 kilometers (one mile) wide, and then land their forces on beaches where the tidal fluctuation around 23 meters (76 feet). Explosive munitions close to land meant that LSTs and other craft could only reach the shore at the very peak of highest monthly tides. Any landing would have to be made by men wading at the dance high tide, and the next wave at the dusk one. The beaches were lined with high sea walls, and high ground overlooked the whole area. An artillery on 800 meter (half a mile) out into the sea, leading to a large island called Wolmido (Do, rather wider island). In total, the invasion force had to cover 1.2 kilometers (0.7 miles) from the beach to the island.

A fast seizure of Kimpo airfield would help MacArthur’s forces, while the swift liberation of Seoul would be an incredible boost to morale.

MacArthur’s forces, who had to argue for the idea against not only his superiors but also most of his own subordinates, only gave it a one in 2,000 chance of success. However, MacArthur had already been self-published, ever aware of his image and how it could be balanced by his defining such skills. In truth, he knew that the operation had several factors in its favor. The sheer unlikelihood of Incheon as a target. For all the above reasons, it was clearly defended. It was also only 16 kilometers (ten miles) from Kimpo, now known as Gimpo Airfield, the largest and best airfield in the country, and as far again beyond that was Seoul. A fast seizure of the airfield would help his forces immeasurably, while the

The liberation of Seoul would be an incredible boost to morale.

With Inchon decided, MacArthur set about organizing the landing. The first major seaborne operation since 1944, much of the vast amphibious infrastructure that had won the Pacific campaign had been dismantled, but the experienced staff were still there. Landing craft were gathered (including ones sold to Japan as coasting shipping to replace hulls sunk during the war) and a supporting fleet assembled. Troops were harder to find. The US Marine Corps (USMC) was being downsized, almost out of existence, reduced to shipboard contingents

Over 250 ships and boats of all sizes (nearly all of them American) were gathered, and set course for Inchon. The US 1st Marine Division would make
### Operation Chromite: Inchon

**UNITED NATIONS**

- **Number of Infantry**: 40,000
- **Number of Tanks**: 80

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

- **Number of Infantry**: 35-38,000
- **Number of Tanks**: 40

**GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR**

The combined force of the UN forces was nearly twice the size of the Chinese forces, with every division twice as large. The UN forces were able to outmaneuver and defeat the Chinese forces, with the Chinese retreat being orderly and controlled.

**BRIGADIER GENERAL WONG YONG**

Under General WONG YONG’s leadership, the Chinese forces were able to hold their ground and withstand the initial UN advance. However, the Chinese forces were eventually forced to retreat, leading to a significant victory for the UN forces.

### 1ST US MARINE DIVISION

**M20 3.5-INCH SUPER BAZOOKA**

- **Description**: The M20 3.5-inch howitzer was a heavy, long-range artillery weapon with a range of 10,000 meters. It was used to engage enemy positions with precision fire.

- **T-34/05 TANK**

The T-34/05 was a Soviet medium tank introduced in the early 1950s. It was known for its robust design and high mobility, making it a formidable opponent on the battlefield.

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*Image and text excerpts from a historical account of the Inchon landing and subsequent military engagements.*
Greatest Battles

15 Sep 1950

How taking a coin in 5,000 chance paid off for General MacArthur and the UN troops

01 Dire straits

The approach to Inchon landing and its aftermath set up a battle of wits for the two leaders, MacArthur and N. Korean command. TheINC. On Sep 15th, MacArthur landed at Inchon, the southernmost point of South Korea, with 33,000 troops. The landing was successful, and the N. Korean forces were taken by surprise. The N. Korean forces were defeated, and the Inchon landing was a success.

02 Bombardment begins

The N. Korean forces continued their advance, and the UN troops were forced to retreat. The N. Korean forces took control of Seoul, and the UN troops were forced to retreat to the DMZ. The N. Korean forces continued their advance, and the UN troops were forced to retreat to the DMZ. The N. Korean forces continued their advance, and the UN troops were forced to retreat to the DMZ.

03 Landing on Beach Green

At 9:30 PM, the 2nd Marine Division landed on Beach Green, and the UN forces took control of the beach. The N. Korean forces were defeated, and the Inchon landing was a success.

04 Wolmi Do secure

The Wolmi Do was a small island in the Yellow Sea, and the UN forces took control of it. The N. Korean forces were defeated, and the Inchon landing was a success.

05 Landing on Beach Red

At 5:30 AM, the 1st Marine Division landed on Beach Red, and the UN forces took control of the beach. The N. Korean forces were defeated, and the Inchon landing was a success.

06 Securing Inchon

The Inchon landing was a success, and the UN forces took control of the city. The N. Korean forces were defeated, and the Inchon landing was a success.

07 On to Kimpo Airfield

With the Inchon landing a success, the UN forces began to advance to the north, and the N. Korean forces were defeated, and the Inchon landing was a success.

On Sep 15th, MacArthur landed at Inchon, the southernmost point of South Korea, with 33,000 troops. The landing was successful, and the N. Korean forces were defeated, and the Inchon landing was a success.
KING JAMES II HANGS ON TO POWER

Closer ties with France and the Catholic church as well as an end to parliamentary reform as William of Orange is defeated

EXCLUSIVE Interview With

PROFESSOR TONY CLAYDON

Professor Claydon is a professor in history and archaelogy at Bangor University. His research interests include the inter-Stuart world of England and Wales from 1660 to 1714.

What was happening in the build-up to the Glorious Revolution in 1688? The Glorious Revolution was mostly the result of James II coming to power in 1685. The problems with James were that he was a Roman Catholic King in a country that had deep Protestant prejudices and a considerable amount of suspicion to any sort of Popish prince. All of this came to a head in the summer of 1688 when his wife gave birth to a male heir. Up until the summer of 1688 when his son was born, the heir to the throne had been his daughter Mary, who was married to William, Prince of Orange, the stadtholder in the Netherlands who was a Protestant champion in Europe and an opponent of Louis XIV. The birth of a son in 1688 meant that the heir was now a male who James would be able to raise as a Catholic and perhaps as somebody with strong views of monarchical power. At that point people began to think what they could do to avoid that situation.

POPE TO MAKE HISTORIC VISIT TO ENGLAND

After James's victory over the treacherous rebels of parliament and the overthrow of the Protestant hegemony that had clouded England for decades, it has been announced that his holiness Pope Innocent XI will be visiting our humble kingdom. This will be the first time that a sitting pope has ever set foot on our shores and marks the beginning of a new age of cooperation and unity between the English crown and our mother church.
William III led the
Union of England

Faces its short exile
Second from 1689 to 1694
New was James actually deposed? Leading nobles, aristocrats, bishops, and so on, continued William asking if he would intervene and he agreed to swear the right of his wife to inherit the English throne and to also become the heir to bring England into the war against Louis XIV that was just beginning in the summer of 1685. William agreed to intervene and assembled an invasion fleet in the Dutch ports, landed in Devon on 5 November (1688) and advanced towards the capital. James did not come out to meet him at Salisbury Plain but seems to have suffered some sort of psychological breakdown and in fact ran off to France rather than facing William’s forces, which allowed the Prince of Orange to occupy London and ultimately, after a constitutional convention, became king in a joint monarchy with his wife.

This is known as the ‘Bloody Revolution’ owing to the lack of conflict. Was that annual? Well it’s only petty bloodless in England. It has consequences which are quite violent both in Scotland and beyond because it takes those countries rather longer months or years to accept William. I think everybody was admitted that it was bloody in England because there were two very large armies facing each other at Salisbury Plain when William is invading.

What were the major outcomes of the Glorious Revolution? First of all, the establishment of parliament at the absolute base of the English constitution. Up to this point parliament had been ruled over occasionally for short periods when monarchs felt that they needed advice or money or changes in the law, and when they didn’t need any of those things they could rule for long periods quite legitimately without consulting parliament. After the Glorious Revolution, though, William had decreed in his manifest that he would work closely with parliament. He was used to consulting legislative bodies in the Netherlands. So he’s somebody who was very happy to work with representatives of the people. But most importantly parliament is enshrined in the core of power because William’s greatest cause is his European war against Louis XIV, and the only way he can get that sort of money in 17th century England for a long war is if parliament votes for that money. As a result of that you get a quite dramatic change in the role of parliament within the English Constitution.

Was the birth of his son the key turning point that led to the deposition of James? Yes it had a clear effect by the summer of 1688, even without the birth of his son, how deeply unpopular James’s policies were. He had also presented seven bishops at the Church of England, who had performed him against his policy of granting religious toleration to his Catholic subjects. The jury refused to convict them and there were vast celebrations across England when that happened. So I think, although the birth of his son was a key turning point, I think it is clear that a great deal of public opposition had been building to James before that.

What if James had managed to stay in power? What was absolutely clear is that England would not have fought a war with Louis XIV or that point. And that would have had substantial effects. What happened in the 1930s under William because of the effects of this war was a transition to a parliamentary and modern state England. And I can’t see that happening if James had been able to hold on in 1688. He would have probably been on the more pro-French side of the great battles of the late 17th century in Europe. He wasn’t necessarily a very close ally of Louis XIV. I think he would’ve probably pursued a policy of benevolent neutrality in Louis XIV’s war on the continent. He would have kept England out of it. That would have probably tipped England in at rather undeveloped state with a rather smaller set of armed forces, rather smaller influence in Europe than it was to have in the 18th century. The changes under William as a result of this war are what laid the foundation for England’s rise to global pre-eminence in the 18th century.

What would have become of parliament? Parliament would not have had this opportunity to become that central institution that it did. That’s all sorts of political consequences for the sort of state that England would have been, but also possibly economic consequences as well. There are many of people who have argued that the Glorious Revolution...
is quite important in the economic development of England and Britain in the 17th century, such as the industrial revolution, these sorts of advances that England made. Those are founded on the Glorious Revolution.

Would there still have been a Bill of Rights in 1698? That is a little bitcommercial amongst historians. People have argued about whether this is a significant military document or not. What it did was to confirm the limitations on royal power that many people in 17th century England before the Glorious Revolution had thought were there. Although it was iconic in many ways and it settled constitutional debate which had been happening in the 17th Century, it did not do anything very radical. If you want to understand how the shift in the balance of power between the monarchy and parliament happened, it's not because of the Bill of Rights. It is because of the central role that parliament comes to play under William III with the war and with its role in granting the empire and visas and the funds for that war.

Would James staying in power have begun a Catholic dynasty for the Stuarts? If he had won, he would certainly have asked his kid as a Catholic and maybe as an absolution. So, yes, the dynasty would have ended. My problem is I'm not entirely sure how it could have been successful. Before the changes of the 1690s the English state was very, very subversive and it obviously depended on the collaboration and the cooperation of elites in localities. It's granted by peer individuals, members of the gentry and of the city and town elites who give their time voluntarily to serve office. That actually leaves the English state very, very vulnerable because if these people get arrested and effectively go on strike the whole thing collapses. That happened to James II in 1688 in the summer. So James might have won the Battle of Salisbury Plains, but if he was now in opposition amongst the vital people he had to work with that they're not working with him, I'm not sure that the military victory would have been worth too much to him. In terms of them being a different Catholic dynasty going on, he would've had to have found some other way to build an overall government authority and I'm not sure what resources he had.

Would a possible Anglo-French alliance have threatened William back home in the Dutch Republic? Very much so. The Dutch were vulnerable. One of the consequences of William not becoming king in 1688 is that you would have got a completely different balance of power in Europe. It is possible that you would have had the successful implementation of a French hegemony over all of Western and central Europe. And that, I think, would have made for both 16th and 17th Centuries that looked extremely different from what we had. I think the whole course of European history over centuries would have been different.

The Bill of Rights

While the United Kingdom does not have a unified constitution, what it does have is a series of precedents and bills that in concert form a set of norms for the function of parliament and government under its constitutional monarchy. One of the major additions to this set of norms is the 1698 Bill of Rights that emerged from the victory of parliament with the aid of William III over James II. The Bill sets out to identify certain ancient rights and liberties, which include limiting the power of the monarchy, making parliament central to the governing of new laws and taxes, protecting free speech by members of parliament while in debates and forbidding cruel and unusual punishments of prisoners. The core text of the Bill remains either fully or partially in use in many former British colonies and it acted as a model for the United States Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Rights of Man.

New French Alliance Being Floated

With William, Prince of Orange, defeated in England and the rising power of Holland, the 17th century clarified, word from the king's court is that a new treaty of friendship between England and France is in discussion that would see the two nations partner against the threat of naval invasions on the continent.
The world was captivated when British explorer Howard Carter and financier Lord Carnarvon unearthed Tutankhamun’s tomb in 1922. Ever since, the young pharaoh’s life and death have been a source of fascination, with two previous exhibitions held in London featuring his tomb and treasures, in 1977 and 2007, drawing over a million visitors each time and displaying some stunning ancient artefacts.

To celebrate the coming 100th year anniversary of this sensational discovery, the Saatchi Gallery in London will have over 250 items on display – the largest collection to ever leave Egypt.

Through nine galleries, the exhibition explores the meaning behind the items in the pharaoh’s tomb and how they prepared the pharaoh for his journey to the afterlife, as well as the tale behind its remarkable discovery.

Visitors will be able to interact with digital content, contextual material, audio and custom soundscapes to really immerse themselves in the life of Tutankhamun.

These striking artefacts are travelling around the world before they are permanently returned to Cairo to join Tutankhamun’s full collection at the new Grand Egyptian Museum. This is the last time they will ever be in London so seize this opportunity whilst you can!
AFTERLIFE AMUSEMENTS

The compound bow was crafted in sheet gold and adorned with gold and glass inlays. Inlays were an important element to the ancient Egyptians and helped identify the deceased individual. A gold inlay in the form of a bow and arrow served as an afterlife plaything.

FUNCTIONAL FASHION

There is evidence that gloves were used in ancient Egyptian royalty. A piece of Tutankhamun’s daily life, a glove, was discovered in the tomb. It is likely that the young king would have worn this accessory to protect his hands during the winter and also to give him better grip while driving a chariot or riding a chariot.

TREASURED KEEPSAKE

The statuette, commonly referred to as a “Tutankhamun’s pectoral,” is now on a display in the British Museum. It was one of the many treasures found in the tomb and provides insight into daily life and customs of the time. The piece depicts a god or goddess, which was a common practice in ancient Egyptian culture. The centerpiece is a small phallic symbol, the Horus Eye, which symbolizes divine power and protection.
**THE EGYPTIAN SOUL**

This pendant is made of gold and carnelian and represents the goddess Isis. Isis is depicted as a woman with a falcon head, symbolizing her association with Osiris. The pendant is adorned with gold and carnelian, and the falcon head represents the kba, the part of the soul that traveled beyond the body at death. The deceased's ability to reach the afterlife depended on the balance between the kia, the physical body, and the kba in the tomb.

**PROTECTING THE PHARAOH**

Part of these nine seated statues stood outside the temple of Pharaohs before it became. With his back turned, a priest standing, major and minor priests could be seen through from the tops of the heads of statues at the temple of Osiris.
ETERNAL SLUMBER

Tutankhamun’s tomb contained furnishings associated with only the sleeping, his personal places, which were probably made for his funeral. The ancient Egyptians believed that the dead were slowly surrounded by the rings of gold on the gold headdress provided the pharaoh with protection from dark forces.

HEAVENLY SYMBOLISM

This grand royal sled was discovered in the northwest corner of the sarcophagus behind the gold headdress of the coffin, which includes depictions of the sun god Khnum. Illustrated in Tutankhamun’s throne name, it represents the sun god in a gothic style, emphasizing the king.

DIVINE DUTY

This ceremonial shield, encircling the pharaoh of Egypt, for the dead, shows depictions of the various gods surrounding and protecting the deceased. It symbolizes the pharaoh’s importance as the guardian of world order, maintaining stability at the cosmic and present world order.
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On the Menu

Did you know?

Interestingly, the citizens of Berlin choose to
call the doughnuts Pfannkuchen, not Berliners

TRADITIONAL PASTRY AT THE CENTRE OF AN URBAN MYTH GERMANY, 15TH C - PRESENT

METHOD

1. In a small bowl, combine the lukewarm milk and melted butter and then stir in the sugar and yeast. Leave to sit for 5-10 minutes until it bubbles, which means that the yeast has activated.

2. In a large, lightly greased bowl, cover with cling film and leave to rise in a warm place for around 1 hour until it has doubled in size.

3. With your hands, knead the dough for roughly 3 minutes until it is smooth. Place it in a lightly greased bowl, cover with cling film and leave it to rise in a warm place for around 1 hour until it has doubled in size.

4. On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough until it is 0.5cm thick. Cut out the doughnuts using a 2.5cm round cutter and place them on a tray. Cover and allow to rise for another 30 minutes.

5. Fill a large saucepan with the vegetable or canola oil, making sure that it is around 5-7cm deep, heat the oil over medium heat until it is 190°C and place some paper towels nearby for your fried doughnuts. Prepare a bowl with the leftover sugar for coating.

6. Carefully fry 2 or 3 doughnuts at a time until they are golden brown on both sides, around 3-4 minutes on each side. Remove them with a slotted spoon onto the paper and after a few minutes, roll the doughnuts in the bowl of sugar.

7. Using a piping bag, with a small or medium tip, fill with your jam or marmalade. Once the doughnuts have cooled, use the tip for a touch-up if you have over and poke a small hole in one side of the doughnut. Hoze in the filling and once you’ve finished, tuck in!
F

 foresight of the success of his bestselling 2017

 Book. The biographer and broadcaster

 Dan Jones returns with an ambitious

 account of the medieval Crusades, which

 saw Christian kings, lords and papists

 all take the cross — often at the behesting

 of an eager papacy — to wage war against

 the Islamic rulers of the Holy Land. These

 conflicts, the after-effects of which still ripple

 across the globe today, caused the deaths, sacking

 and displacement of an incalculable number

 of people as rulers,

 warriors and members of

 households were killed and

 cities and towns were

 looted and pillaged across the

 space of hundreds of years, in an

 ever-changing context of

 alliances and enemies.

 Once the dust settled, the

 books begins with the

 First Crusade of the 1090s,

 led by Pope Urban II and

 the armies of the Western

 Church, and follows

 through the years until

 Jerusalem fell in 1099.

 From here, Jones charts

 the turbulent

 events of the Crusades over

 the following centuries, the

 outcome of which was

 violence.

 Crusaders not only

 in narrating this

 epic history in such

 a readable and

 exhaustive manner, but also in

 setting events in their

 wider context. As Jones

 describes, crusading was

 not unique to the Holy Land — Popes sanctioned

 crusades against Muslims and Jews in

 Spain, and against pagans in the Baltic; and

 eventually wars between Christendom and

 Islam were condemned under the guise of crusading.

 The book's pages chronicle both crusades that

 are well known through general readers and those

 that are more obscure, from the Third Crusade

 of the early 1200s, which Richard I of England

 fought in, and which was also launched in response

 to Jerusalem's fall to the forces of Saladin, ruler

 of Egypt and Syria, in 1187. To the best part of a

 decade, Holy Roman Emperor Frederick

 II launched an expedition at war with the

 Holy Land until his death in 1190, with his enemies

 encouraged to wear crusader crosses or

 in any endeavour to exterminate.

 "An impressively varied cast

 features in the Crusaders

 as it moves through the

 centuries, including

 fascinating women.

 NARRATIVES of medieval

 knights in combat and

 conquest can run

 the risk of romanticizing their actions through

 efforts to spark further interest from the reader's

 but Jones's treatment of the source material is

 measured under the engaging prose.

 In Crusaders, Jones has drawn together a

 compelling work that is weighty in pages but

 always highly readable, which will no doubt be

 enjoyed by readers of

 medieval history.
A meticulous bio of an unshakable intelligence officer

Author: Alan Ogden
Publisher: Bloomsbury Academic
Price: £21.60 Released Out now

James Bond is famous, and so is his creator Ian Fleming. However, it is the latter’s elder brother who takes centre stage in this latest book by Alan Ogden.

Peter Fleming was a noted writer and journalist, married to the actress Celia Johnson. Though while the wider details of Fleming’s life are explored, the primary focus of this account is his military career. From planning ‘V-2’ behind enemy lines in Tunisia and Kent in the event of an invasion, to running deception operations against Japan, Master of Deception offers a comprehensive insight into the wartime exploits, ideas and frustrations of this dedicated intelligence officer.

Ogden situates Fleming’s personal career in its wider context, providing an interesting perspective on intelligence work during World War II. It is particularly the case in relation to working relationships between individuals, departments and the Allied nations.

Fleming’s own words, and the words of his colleagues and contemporaries, fill the pages. And Fleming’s analysis of the process by which intelligence was gathered and utilized – presented in chapter ten – makes for compelling reading. However, these words are also emotive. An extract of a letter from Fleming to his wife, written at the close of the war, is especially poignant.

The text is additionally supported with appendices and a detailed index and bibliography. In consequence, Master of Deception will certainly appeal to those interested in the history of intelligence, deception and strategy during this period.

THE EXILES

The moving story of emigres who fled from the Nazis

Author: Daria Santini
Publisher: Bloomsbury Academic
Price: £21.60 Released Out now

A intriguing cast of Jewish actors, academics and artists who enriched London’s cultural landscape during the 1930s are brought together in this exploration of life in the capital for creatives who fled their homes in Germany, Austria and Hungary in fear and of the Nazis’ growing persecution of Jewish people and political opponents.

Focusing on the year 1936, the book examines how, sometimesinteracting groups of people attempted to make London their new home and navigated its cultural spaces in the hopes of sustaining careers that had been left behind along with family and friends. The individuals included in the Exiles – most of whom were Jewish – are fairly well-known, among the British public today yet as the author and scholar Daria Santini demonstrates, they all left their imprint on London.

The book concludes with Elizabeth Bergman – a screenwriter, TV producer and the biographer of an Austrian actress, Lotte Lenya. Bergman brought to life the story of the first woman to co-star in a major Hollywood film, her story complemented by the admiring essays of a range of international authors.

A book that explores the London experience of the great European Jewish emigration wave of the 1930s.
GENTLEMEN OF UNCERTAIN FORTUNE
An eye-opening examination of the life of young Georgian men.
Author: RORY MUIR Publisher: Yale Price: £19.99 Released Out now

Gentlemen of Uncertain Fortune: How Younger Sons Made Their Way in Jane Austen’s England is an in-depth examination of an era that has been somewhat neglected. Though modern readers are well aware of life for the sort of young ladies who populated Jane Austen’s books, similar attention has rarely been paid to the men of the household. Rory Muir’s book corrects that omission and examines exactly what choices were available to the younger brothers: the quotas which came behind the bar.

In his analysis of the professions that were available to these younger brothers, Muir draws on some fascinating sources such as letters, diaries, who entered the clergy because his father refused to fund his ambition to become a barrister. Smith married a wealthy woman, established a school for poor girls and eventually became a noted and influential woman of the century. Jane Austen’s younger brothers made impressive appearances too, alongside William Wordsworth and a host of other names.

Muir’s work serves as a social history too, examining changing roles and opportunities in a world that seemed to be constantly in flux. After all, if a gentleman had to work for his living, could he really be called a gentleman at all?

Gentlemen of Uncertain Fortune is an utterly fascinating book that will be of interest to scholars as well as casual readers. For those with any interest in the complexities of life in Jane Austen’s England, it is indispensable as it is entertaining.
A forensic and epically detailed examination of Richard Nixon’s downfall.

Director: Charles Ferguson
Cast: Carl Bernstein, Bob Woodward, Pat Buchanan, John Dean
Released: Out now

The wealth of candid first-hand accounts proves invaluable.

Charles Ferguson’s engrossing history lesson clocks in at a whopping four hours and 25 minutes. Offering a comprehensive exploration of the Watergate scandal, how the most powerful individual in the free world abused his seat of authority and colluded with others to hoodwink the nation, as with Oliver Stone’s 1995 biopic of 37th President of the United States Richard Nixon, the mixture of political downfall and psychological portrait appears, by sheer weight and force of the drama, to be America’s tale on the Shakespearean tragedy. This documentary certainly demands a lot of your time and attention, but with access to surviving members of Nixon’s inner circle willing to talk on camera and the cruise-reading journalists who refused to back down, the wealth of candid first-hand accounts proves invaluable.

Ferguson’s Phoenix, Jason Carr, carries thematic parallels with more contemporary administrations. Nixon went after real and imagined enemies – the press, the Democrats, the CIA, the FBI, remnants of the counterintelligence with guns and verser, Tricky Dick and his administration partook in exercises we’d recognize today as ‘fake news’. All done in order to keep attention away from what was really going on, thrusting doubt in the eyes of onlookers while those that shifted their focus elsewhere.

Watergate - Or - How We Learned To Stop Dealing With ’Em (Central Intelligence), as in titles, undeniably serves as a cautionary call to remember. George Santayana’s line, ‘Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it’, has never felt so relevant. Ferguson ends his film with this very quote.

Nixon looks like a great statesman, when placed next to others less politically savvy and trained leaders, but all talks to deal with concepts like moral courage and recognising power as an illusion as it is in real. Incorporating on-camera interviews, Watergate also peppers in scenes with actors playing Nixon and his goons. It’s a eleven way of honoring up the material with a thriller-style ambiance. Dialogue from Oval Office gatherings is delivered verbatim from Nixon’s infamous tapes, though edited for consciousness. Yet it’s strange the director does not place Nixon’s recordings in historical context. It was Franklin Roosevelt who installed audio equipment in the office for rather benign purposes (so he could take notes from press conferences and meetings). Other presidents continued to secretly record official appointments and phone-calls, but it reached an hallucinating apophasia thanks to Nixon, who taped over 16,000 hours worth of conversations and kept the fact hidden from even his closest associates.

The tapes provide Watergate with eye-popping shock factor and revelations for those who do not know the whole story, as well as new ages of reality. The recordings blow away any notion Nixon’s motives were honourable or misguided in the belief he was doing the right thing. Nixon was a bitter and paranoid bully, a racist and a crook.
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HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD
Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

THE MESSENGER: THE STORY OF JOAN OF ARC

Director: Luc Besson
Starring: Milla Jovovich, John Malkovich, Faye Dunaway
Country: France
Released: 1999

When it comes to accuracy, this lengthy epic is the stuff of nightmares.

01. Joan is the beginning of the film, Joan granted by Milla Jovovich when the model was a twenty-year-old woman. The film takes place in the early years of Joan's life, where she learns to be a leader.

02. Joan's first meeting with the Dauphin is portrayed by John Malkovich. He demands to know whether she is truly a messenger from God or just a charlatan. This is accurate, as Joan was initially met with skepticism.

03. In the movie, Joan appears to be mentally unbalanced as she dizziens into screaming and crying, perhaps to hint at her inability to understand the voices she's hearing. In reality, Joan was diagnosed with paranoia.

04. Joan's incarceration (in St. Denis) is shown in the film but not as accurately. In reality, Joan was interrogated and tortured before her trial.

05. In the end, Joan is burnt at the stake after being declared a heretic by the Church. In reality, Joan was burned for witchcraft, not heresy.
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