SGS Historian @ 10!

A magazine produced by Lower Sixth students at Stockport Grammar School

Issue 10 **Summer 2025**

SGS HISTORIAN
A magazine produced by the Lower Sixth Form historians at Stockport Grammar School

OLIVER CROMWELL
SAINT OR SINNER?

INTERVIEW WITH WORLD RENOWNED HISTORIAN
MICHAEL WOOD

IRANIAN REVOLUTION
HOW IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED

A BOOK REVIEW OF
A COUNTRY DOCTOR'S NOTEBOOK

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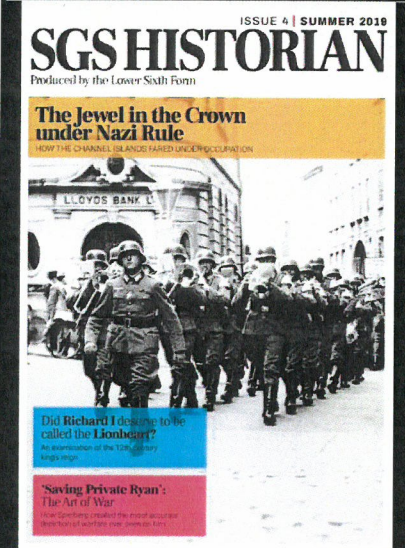A magazine produced by the Lower Sixth at Stockport Grammar School
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SGS HISTORIAN
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VINCIT · QUI · PATITUR

THE NEXT TO GO

WEAR A MASK
AND WASH YOUR HANDS!
Avoid touching your face.
Maintain a safe distance from others.

STAY HOME
PROTECT THE NHS
SAVE LIVES

HANDS FACE SPACE
FRESH AIR

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SGS HISTORIAN
A MAGAZINE CREATED BY SIXTH FORM HISTORIANS & STAFF AT STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL
JULY 2023 ISSUE 8

THE POWERFUL AND POWERLESS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

SGS HISTORIAN
Issue 9 / Summer 2024
Forgotten History

Written by Lower Sixth

Editorial comments, by Louisa White & Mr DJ Stone:

"To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child". In this 10th edition of the Stockport Grammar School SGS Historian magazine, the students of lower sixth reflect on what occurred before us, celebrating a decade of exploring the past with curiosity, rigour and imagination. From the Ancient Romans to the Wall Street Crash, we look at history from an array of different viewpoints and opinions. In this edition, the writers opted not to choose a specific theme and had the opportunity to write about what really interested them. In doing this, we celebrate the ever-changing aspect of history and the recent exploration of reflecting on the victims and oppressed instead of simply the victors, with two pieces looking into the effect of colonialism on the indigenous people of America and on life as we know it. We hope you enjoy reading as much as we did writing!

Louisa White

Two magazines for the price of one, 22,891 words, fifteen student contributions and two from staff (of course, one of them is always going to be from me!). Just when you wonder how much more interest there is going to be from Sixth Form pupils in writing for a school history magazine, when they are doing L6th exams, EPQs, open days, sports fixtures, plays or musical performances, they go and surprise you even further – raising the bar for next year's cohort! Issue 10 of the SGS Historian is a bumper edition, with articles spanning over seven hundred years, countless individuals from throughout history, pivotal moments where lasting decisions taken have gone on to have significant legacies. If only Mr Leng had managed to work Exeter City into his article...
The origins of the SGS Historian come from not too far away from SGS – a visit to The Manchester Grammar School when I was in my former role led to me leaving with a copy of their student magazine, The Shoardian. Back at my school, two issues of a new magazine were born, but on arriving at SGS as Head of Sixth Form, launching a student magazine here seemed like an instant win with staff and pupils. Ten years later, issue ten is here! It might take you a full summer holiday to read it... we hope you enjoy it as much as I know we have done putting it together!

Mr DJ Stone

Contents:

From Ancient Beliefs to Modern Medicine: How Our Understanding of the Heart Has Cultivated Over Time, *by Tabby Bloor*

"The heart of animals is the foundation of their life, the sovereign of everything within them, the sun of their microcosm, that upon which all growth depends, from which all power proceeds." – **William Harvey**

From the times of Ancient Greece to modern day medicine, the heart has always been understood and appreciated as the engine of life, an instrument containing almost the essence of who we are. The heart is a truly remarkable organ, as through its arduous efforts blood is constantly pumped around the body, and this role, the heart's function, is alike no other organ.

The journey to come to today's understanding of the heart has been a fascinating one, beginning with widely believed more philosophical theories, to thinking the septum of the heart contained pores. This was a collaborative effort between people constantly discovering, and propelling what we know, and only through the exhaustive and extensive research and investigation, have we been able to culminate the accurate scientific understanding of the heart we have today.

There have various conceptions and theories as to what the heart or its function is, and how it works, and one of the key ideas prevalent during the

time of Ancient Greece was that the heart was the organ which 'housed the soul'. This belief is known as 'cardio-centrism', yet whilst this was widely believed, there was debate as some believed the soul resided in the brain, they believed 'cerebro-centrism'.
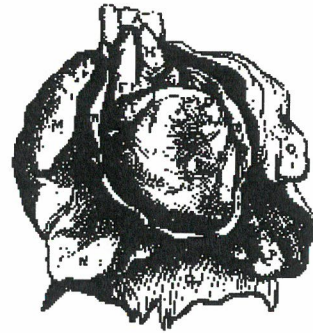

Figure 1: Early illustrations of the heart

The cardio-centric belief can be seen in how the Ancient Greek named the heart, referring to it as 'καρδία', deriving from the idea that the heart was a seat for the soul. Prominent figures such as Aristotle, Plato, and Herophilus partook in this argument and can be credited to shaping and contributing to the central beliefs and understanding about the heart for centuries to come, up until around the sixteenth century. Aristotle, who was a pioneer of the cardio-centric belief, said that "The heart is the perfection of the whole organism. Therefore, the principles of the power of perception and the soul's ability to nourish itself must lie in the heart".

His idea encapsulated how the heart 'contained' the core of who we are, being capable to house the soul, which was valued as something majestic, important, and fundamental

to life. In some ways, Aristotle's spiritual association with the heart and soul perhaps can be seen to emulate in the prominent role the heart plays in particular religions, such as Islam.

However, Aristotle didn't only believe the heart housed the soul, he also recognised its role as a pump. Aristotle's perception and model of the heart and veins, essentially the cardiovascular system, was one of the earliest and accurate, in spite of the lack of knowledge some of his predecessor's had. For example, whilst the pre-Hippocrates had some form of ideas that there were chambers in the heart, divinity, religion, or mysticism often overlapped in their explanations, essentially meaning Aristotle lacked a solid foundation of understanding of the heart before he made his own revolutionary discoveries. What he did describe, was that there were at least 3 cavities in the heart, and he began to differentiate what would come to be known as the right and left ventricles.
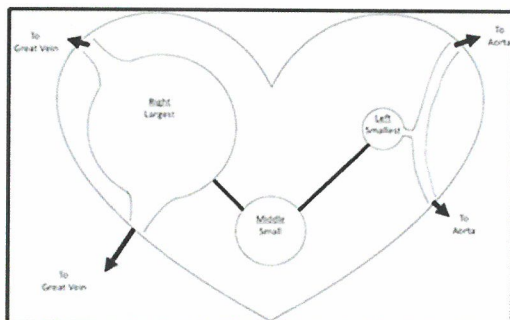

Figure 2: Aristotle's theory

Aristotle, however, was not the only person to further the understanding of the heart, other notable figures including Hippocrates, Plato, and Galen greatly contributed.

Galen amongst them was particularly significant, making some of the most considerable advancements since Hippocrates. The theory which Galen proposed followed on from what Hippocrates described, the heart having two cavities (the ventricles), and Galen thought that the area between the cavities, the septum, has pores in it, proposing that the blood flowing in didn't go into two separate cavities blocked off from one another, but instead into 'one large cavity', capable of moving from one side to another.

Figure 3: Galen

Today, we recognise that the cardiovascular system is a closed system, where oxygenated and deoxygenated blood does not mix, however Galen's theory contradicted this, suggesting otherwise. To explain why Galen thought this, you begin with the liver, where he thought blood was formed. From there on, blood would enter the right ventricle, then whilst

the majority would go onto the lungs, a small proportion would seep through the pores in the septum into the left side, where it would oxygenate and deliver to the rest of the body.

Furthermore, the spiritual hypotheses presented in the times of Aristotle and Hippocrates were not completely abandoned by Galen, as what he described to be the nature and mechanism of how blood flows followed a pathway where blood would be imbued with different spirits, including the natural spirit (in the liver), the animal spirit (formed in the brain) and the vital spirit (in the left ventricle). Each spirit was thought to be responsible for enabling and instigating different processes including movement, breathing, and thought.
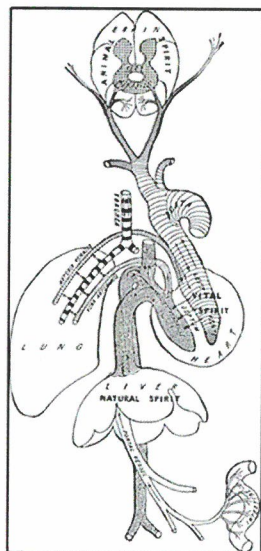

Figure 4: Galen and Spirits

Perhaps it was Galen's reputation which allowed 'Galenism' to prosper, but nevertheless, essentially until the 1600's Galen's erroneous theory was thought to correctly explain both the

heart and cardiovascular system. It was William Harvey who was able to discredit this, and to discover and explain how blood actually circulated around the body, and how the heart carried out its mechanism.

One of William Harvey's primary interests was blood circulation, and whilst some in the 1600's believed that the lungs were responsible, Harvey was able to observe the heart actively pumping blood. Through this, he was led to be confounded that the sheer volume of blood flowing through the heart could not be absorbed by tissues. This questioning, and his curiosity is what would come to develop his understanding of the cardiovascular system as a circle, an idea still prevalent today.
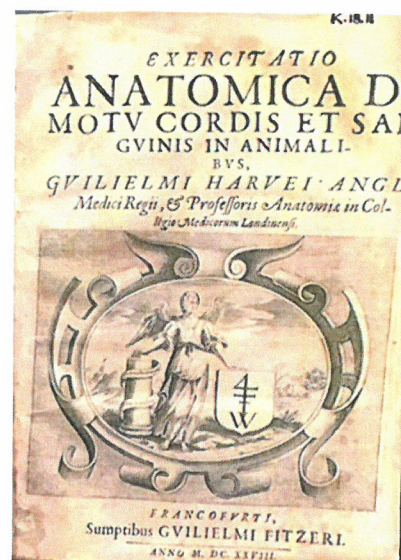

Figure 5: De Motu Cordis

Harvey wrote most of his research in book, and one of his in particular, 'de Motu Cordis', depicts his hypothesis of blood flowing in a circle. The presence of the ventricles, atria and valves had

already been discovered prior to his research and aided him in providing evidence that blood flowed in one direction, and therefore must return to the heart. Furthermore, Harvey utilised techniques such as dissection to assess how vast the volume of blood being circulated was, solidifying his hypothesis that it must flow in a circle, returning to the heart.

Galen's theory completely opposed this, suggesting blood was newly formed in the liver, yet when compared with Harvey's hypothesis, what Galen thought is completely unapplicable, as it would be impossible for tissues to absorb the most of, if not all of the blood pumped around the body.
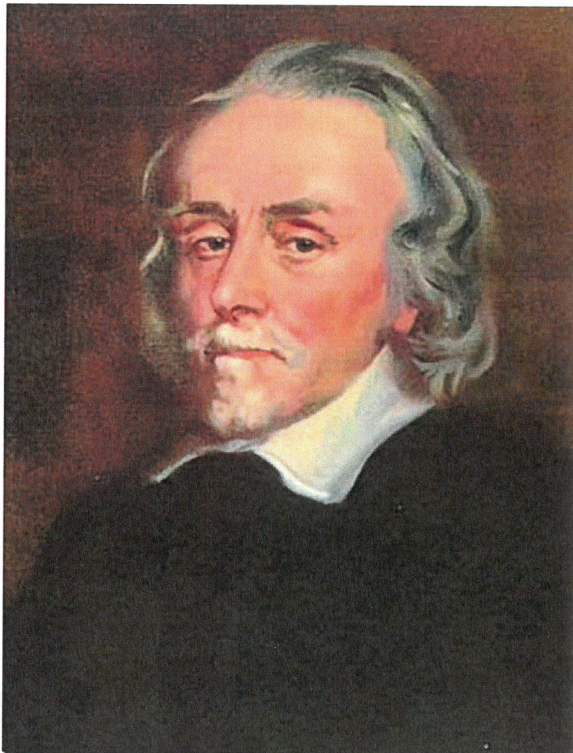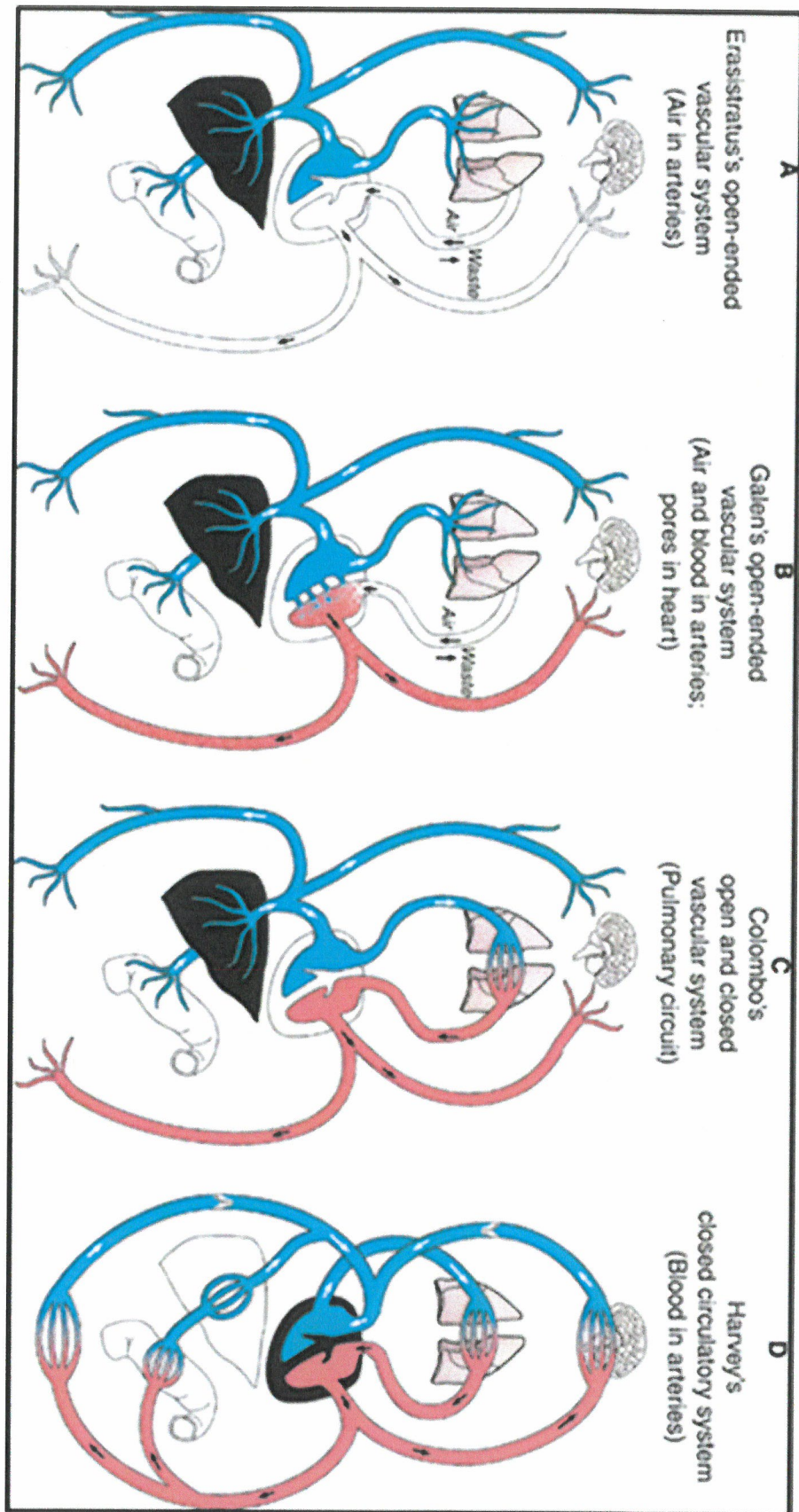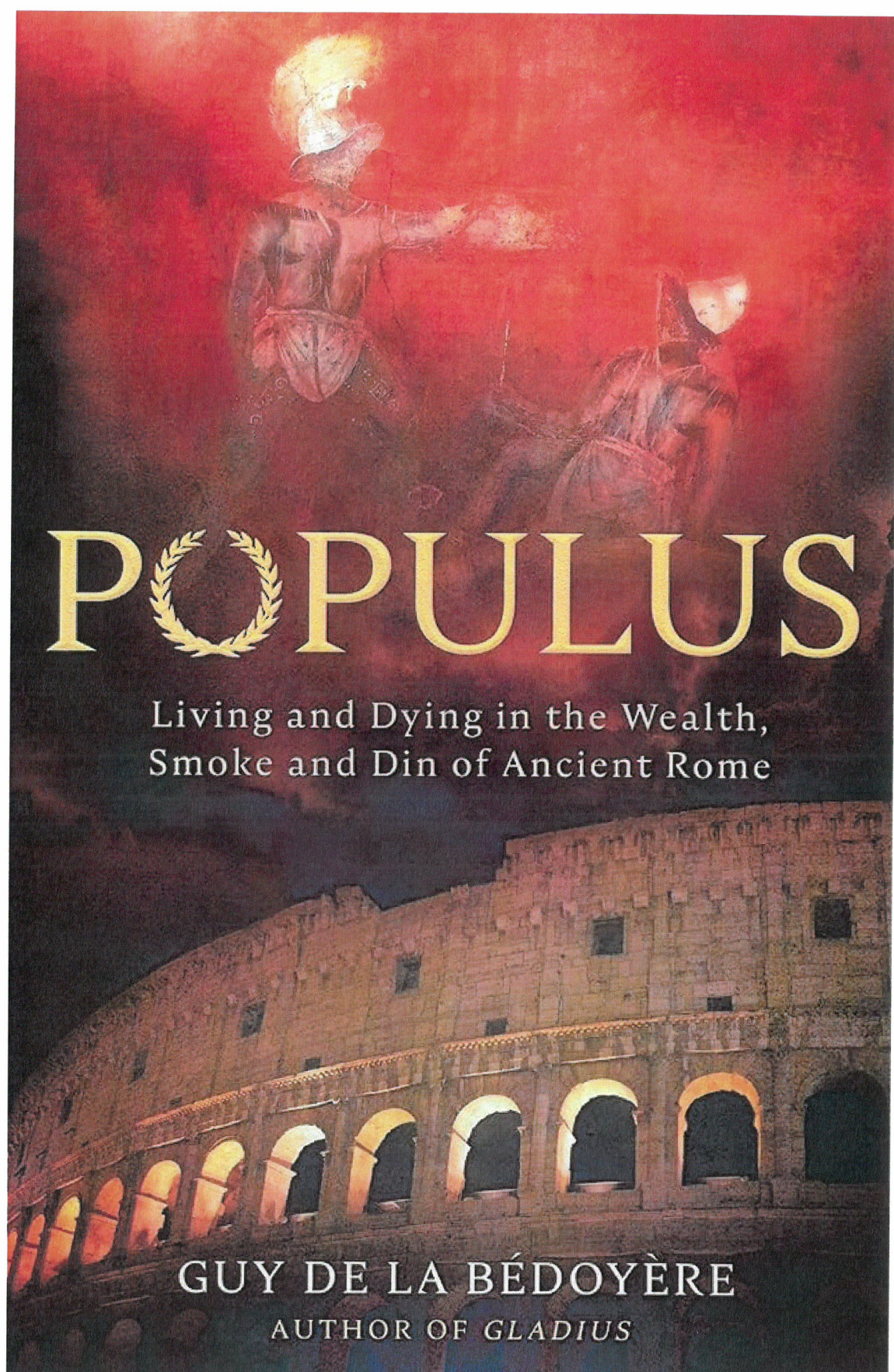

Figure 6: William Harvey

In order for Harvey to assure he was correct, he meticulously dissected

hearts from a multitude of species, isolating blood vessels, experimenting on valves, even inspecting the septum to observe if there were pores, all of which led him to the same conclusion; Galen was wrong. Harvey's discovery completely dissipated the belief in Galenism; many ideas such as blood deriving from the liver, or pores being in the septum were refuted and replaced by accurate propositions.

The history of the heart dates back to centuries ago, yet remarkably the information presented by some of the earliest philosophers is ever-present and emulated in what we know today. With new discoveries or theories constantly being made, the fluctuation between fact and fiction in what was once, or currently, believed about the heart can only be expected. In spite of this, the efforts made by each person and contributor is researching the heart was vital, to allow societies collective knowledge and understanding to cultivate, and become what it is today.

A — Erasistratus's open-ended vascular system (Air in arteries)

B — Galen's open-ended vascular system (Air and blood in arteries; pores in heart)

C — Colombo's open and closed vascular system (Pulmonary circuit)

D — Harvey's closed circulatory system (Blood in arteries)

POPULUS

Living and Dying in the Wealth, Smoke and Din of Ancient Rome

GUY DE LA BÉDOYÈRE

AUTHOR OF *GLADIUS*

Opulence and Degradation: The consequences of wealth in Roman Society, *by Amy Yates*

Wealth was a powerful weapon as the entire politics of the nation weighed on the factor of money. Emperors were overthrown, wars were fought, populations reduced to slavery all for the upper echelons in Rome to continue to fatten their wealth and the workers of Rome to waste away without the proper public initiatives.

The Praetorian Guards were the elite imperial guards of the Empire. Whilst their official role was to serve and protect the empire with military intelligence, they also had a grand effect on which emperor was in power. Augustus, the first emperor of Rome created the guards to reinforce the idea of superiority and strength needed to enforce the idea that he and those who would follow in the empire of Rome were divinely appointed and could therefore claim legitimacy to the Empire after the War between Antony and Octavian.

Figure 7: Roman Praetorian Guards

The guards were often not actually loyal to the emperor, and instead were loyal to whoever had paid them the necessary amount. Many of these came from the view of overthrowing the house leading the empire and putting a more worthy emperor on the throne. Dominius, of the Flavian dynasty, overthrew his older brother, Titus, with help from the Praetorian Guards. After Titus' death, Dominus was quick to declare himself emperor with the support from the Praetore Guards. With his quick coronation, people began to suspect Dominus of poisoning his own brother to succeed him in line for ruler of Rome.

Figure 8: Four coins from the Year of Four Emperors

In the 4th century, the guards began to take a more political role in the Empire, stepping away from their more traditional role of defence of the emperor. This ultimately led to their downfall as their notoriety for enabling coups, such as the Year of Four Emperors, in 69 AD, caused them to fall out of favour with Constantine I and then out of power. The growth of the Praetorian Guards are a clear

insight into the developments of the upper class in Roman society and wealth could be used as a weapon to control the empire.
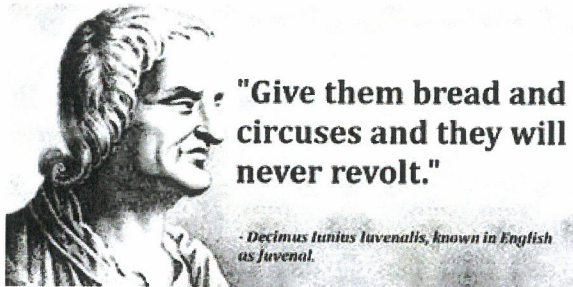

"Give them bread and circuses and they will never revolt."

- Decimus Iunius Iuvenalis, known in English as Juvenal.

Figure 9: Panem et Circenses

A method of crowd control in the empire was bread and circuses, "Panem et Circenses". This helped to keep the lower classes of the empire controlled and docile. The phrase was coined from the poem Satire X by a satirical author named Juvenal who wrote in the late 1st century and early 2nd. He wrote this line as he believed that elites of Rome were already becoming too focused on their own luxury rather than the wellbeing of their nation. The phrase was used to denounce the way that emperors would 'solve' the issues of grain distribution.

Emperors, instead of consolidating the land that they already had to be worked for farming, worked towards fighting in new wars and gaining new land. The poor in Rome often faced famine as food was to be directed towards the wealthy and not towards them. This often led to mass rebellions against the empire so the emperors needed to adopt a method of appeasement until they could find

the necessary grain to put into the areas.

The 'circuses' refers to how the emperors as a way to relax the crowds often put on marvellous displays of sport. This included gladiators, hunting wild animals that had been transported to Rome and chariot races. This helped to appease the masses as by providing them with entertainment they wouldn't be as revolutionary if they are kept in a docile state.

The Annona, which was the system of grain distribution in Rome, gave many the means to eat. The grain dole dated back to when Rome was a republic and was used in times of famine and sparsity. The Annona was named after the divine personification of grain supply to the city, who was often depicted in art along with ships, symbolising how Rome's grain had to come from all over the empire.

For example, this coin shows the head of Nero and on the flipside, it shows Annona in a cornucopia with Ceres, the Goddess of agriculture.

In art, Annona saw an artistic revival during the rule of Trajan as in his propaganda, he sought to use her personification to show the revival that he would bring to the city. Augustus,

and the emperors following, had to adopt the policy as with Rome's constant expansion this correlated to a lack of food. Tiberius, the second emperor of Rome, described that if the system was to fail, for example the land couldn't grow the wheat or the ships sunk whilst sailing to hand over the grain, it would mean the 'ruin of the state'.

The expansion of the empire was especially important to the feeding of Rome's population as many of the arable lands that they had gained became essential to the empire's food supply. This meant that when the Vandals conquered most of North Africa, the western Roman empire suffered heavily as the loss of grain meant domestic problems in Rome as the empire could no longer feed its civilians.

Figure 10: Roman slavery

Slavery in the Roman empire was integral for the development of the nation. The work that the slaves did included gladiators, bath workers and domestic servants, which caused the slaves to be vastly significant to the economics of the empire, with an estimated ⅓ of the population of Rome a slave.

In Rome there were many ways to be put into slavery; many of them were the peoples of a defeated nation, which many Romans just viewed as the political consequence of waging war with the Romans- for example, the first two Punic Wars led to a surge in the population of Rome.

Figure 11: Augustus from Prima Porta

In times of desperation, you could sell yourself into slavery. Debt slavery in the empire, or Nexum, had been banned in the Roman Republic under the law which was called 'Lex Poetelia Papirira'. All slaves were responsible to the 'paterfamilias' or the 'father' of the domestic household, Seneca described the 'paterfamilias' as a euphemism for the relationships that

the slaves would have with the master of the house which more often than not, these 'fathers' were just executing their right of control over the slaves. As Cicero put it in De Republica, a master needs to 'coerce and break his slave'.

Slaves were legally seen as property under Roman law, although they were recognised as a human being, the view held by many at the time were that, as Marcel Mauss put it 'servus non habet personam', or rather a slave as no persona. This view enabled the laws preceding that slaves cannot hold property, as they are property themselves, and weren't allowed to marry any others as they weren't recognised as having the ability to love.
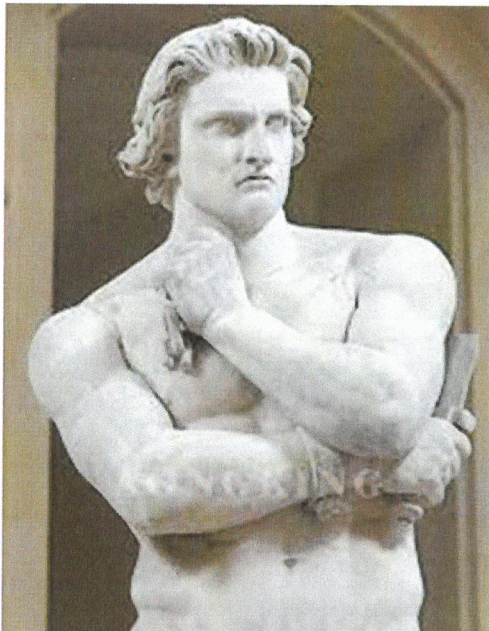

Figure 12: Spartacus

Despite these methods of coercion and control, slave uprisings did in fact happen, most notoriously with Spartacus. In the Roman Republic era, the Servile Wars began through the slaves in 73 BC at a gladiatorial school, overthrowing the Roman forces sent to capture them.

After two years they had risen to 120,000 freed slaves as part of their legion. This army was led by the ex-gladiator Spartacus, as depicted on the left, who when leading the army, ransacked wealthy towns around Italy and left the Roman senate agitated. This caused eight legions to be amassed to combat the threat under the leadership of Marcus Lincius Crassus. Crassus, after defeating the uprising, caused the 6000 captured slaves to be crucified along the Appian way.

Overall, wealth was used as a tool of control, whether that would be control of the empire through the emperor or ways to keep the uprising from beginning or annihilating uprising when they do happen. Wealth kept Rome in power and as long as the upper echelons could keep finding sources of wealth, Rome would keep staying the powerhouse of the empire.

Harry Payne
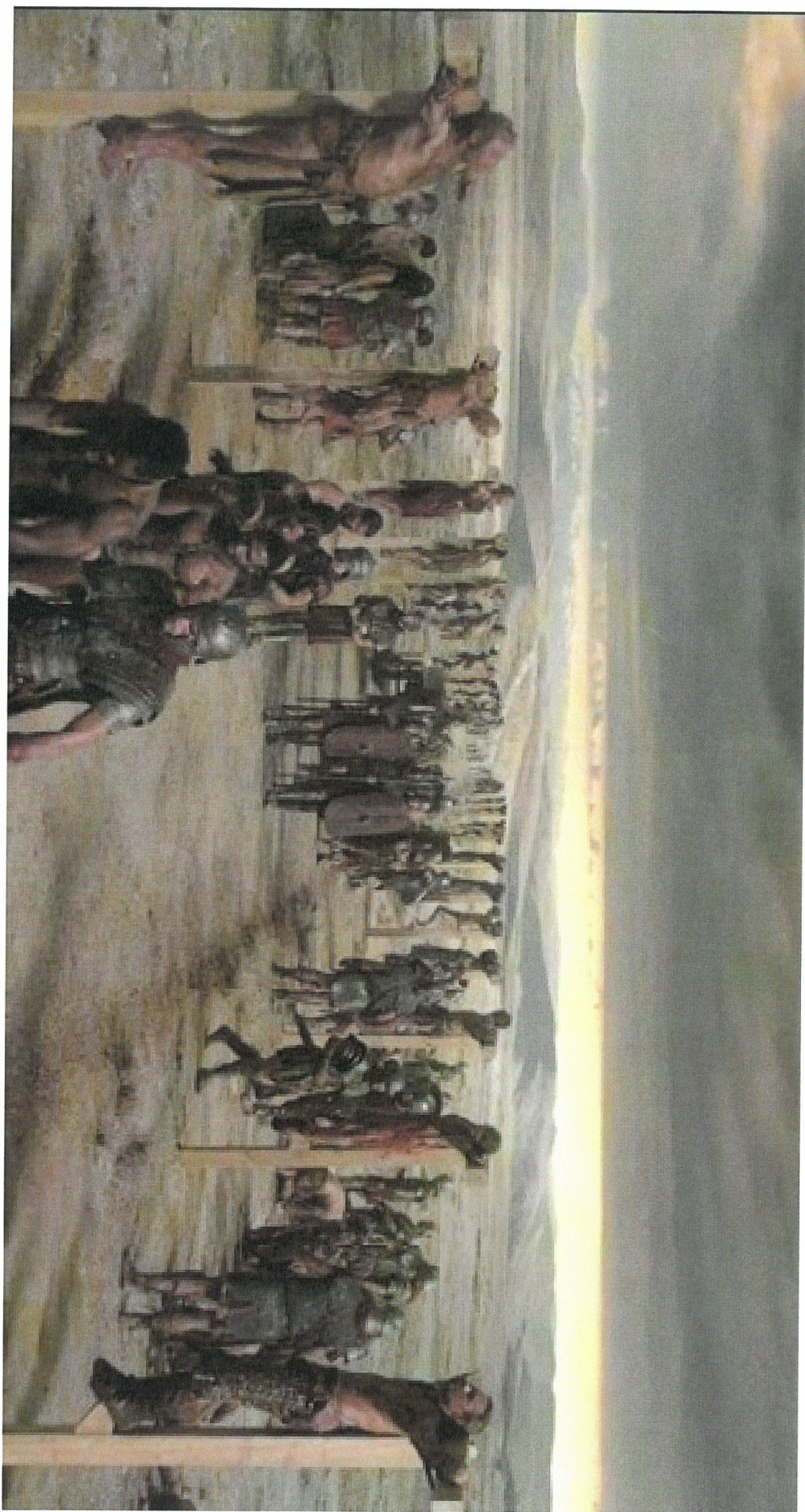
Agincourt: A Triumph of Skill or a Stroke of Luck? *By Louisa White*

King Henry V's victory at the Battle of Agincourt, France, in 1415 defied all odds. It remains one of the most celebrated battles of the Hundred Years' War, and was eventually immortalised by Shakespeare's 'Henry V', the story of the drastically outnumbered English and Welsh soldiers who defeated the superior French force at Agincourt. This battle has echoed through history as a moment of improbable triumph. Although some fortuitous events did influence certain moments throughout the battle, the victory was undoubtedly due to the king's formidable, capable, and battle-hardened skill.

The victory highlighted four main strengths of the English/Welsh force, tactical positioning, strength of the longbow, discipline and organisation and finally, the leadership of King Henry. The King knew that they were fatally outnumbered, with accounts of the French forces ranging from 50,000 to 100,000 men and records of the English being at about 8,000 (however it was significantly more when they set sail from Southampton but lost/had to leave men behind for several reasons, including the 150-mile walk from the port town of Harfleur to Agincourt) with the difference of troops in mind Henry strategically selected the location of the Battle being one that was, on a hill (in which the English had the high ground) and was surrounded by forest on each flank.
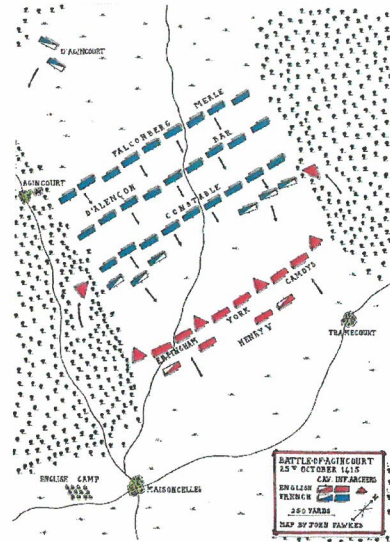

Figure 13: the two sides at Agincourt

The French found themselves at the bottom of the hill which, due to it being mid-October had become extremely muddy meaning that; as well as having to advance upwards, they also had to do it whilst wading through the mud in 50 lbs of armour, as they began to attack they found themselves unable to achieve anything faster than a stumbling walk, making them sitting ducks to the skilled English longbowmen.

Henry also cleverly concealed groups of men in the wooded area next to the battlefield who were used to attack the French from the sides when the battle commenced. However, the most important role of the narrow battlefield was that it limited the number of French attacks at a single point. This was because they were unable to spread their soldiers widely, and therefore significantly reduced the power that such a huge difference in numbers would have otherwise exploited.

The thorough and swift execution of these men on the battlefield was aided by the abundance of longbowmen that King Henry had brought with him, historian Anne Curry estimates that they took up the roles of around 80% of his men. This was a huge gamble from the king, he knew that they would be completely useless when the battle came to close range. It was a gamble that won him the battle.
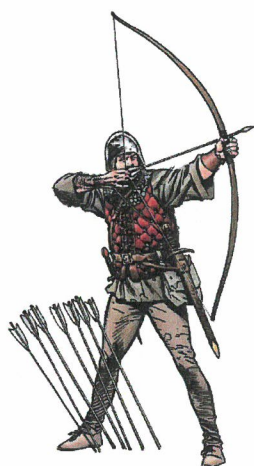

Figure 14: An English longbowman

The skill of the longbowmen is almost unimaginable now, the 0.7m arrows were capable of being shot over 200 metres with great accuracy and the highly skilled men that Henry had collected could fire up to 15 arrows a minute, meaning that with the 7,000 longbowmen they could collectively fire 100,000 arrows in a single minute. The archers were able to take huge advantage of the slow-moving, heavily armoured French knights, this meant that the majority of French casualties occurred towards the beginning of the battle, creating yet another obstacle for the French troops to try and manoeuvre.

The Englishmen separated themselves from the opposition by remaining calm even under high-pressure circumstances, they held their lines tightly, which was key in not letting the French infiltrate the ranks and separate the smaller side. This was helped by the fact that they were battle-hardened by previous expeditions, making them the more professional and effective army, however it must be noted that even as a strong unit, victory would not have been possible without effective leadership.

Henry made himself equal to the men, walking through the ranks and speaking words of encouragement, this valiant effort was dramatized by Shakespeare in the king's St Crispian's Day speech.

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he to-day that sheds his blood with me, Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,"

Shakespeare highlights the relationship between the King and his men as being one not just of that, but of fellow knights at arms.

Leading his troops into battle Henry's biggest decision is often overlooked, his decision to fight. As a devout Christian, the king believed that God was firmly on his side (even knowing how outnumbered they were), which in his mind meant that a victory was definite and if it didn't go his way, then God was with the French. Without his cunning and strong leadership when

deciding where/how to fight and also encouraging the troops, it is almost certain that the post-battle celebrations would be that of the French.

Figure 15: Henry thanking God after the English victory

Some historians argue that the English triumph at Agincourt can be put down to one thing, luck. It is completely unknown whether, without several fortunate circumstances and critical French errors, the English would still leave with the victory. These lucky changes can be noted as, weather and terrain, French overconfidence and disorganisation and the ' fatal press'.

The night before the battle, heavy rain transformed the freshly ploughed ground into thick, clinging mud which severely hampered the already disadvantaged, heavily armoured French Knights, it was so severe that many sank knee-deep into the ground. This was incredibly good luck for the English as Henry had prepared exactly for this with many archers, meaning he wasn't dependent on them having to wade through the mud to attack the French troops who were rendered useless or drowned in the mud.

'The Fatal Press' – this term refers to the densely packed formation of the French soldiers, which resulted in many of them being crushed or suffocated to death. Due to the pincer shape battlefield, all efforts were slowed as the two sides met at the bottleneck that led to a huge build-up of French soldiers being forced together by the huge numbers of troops towards the back, the longbowmen were able to fire into these packed areas of soldiers with devastating effect, historian Anne Curry emphasizes that French soldiers died "not in open combat, but in the mire, trampled or helpless."

Overall, whilst elements of luck played a role in the English triumph at Agincourt, it cannot be doubted that the main reason for the success was due to the skill of the English longbowmen, soldiers and King Henry's strategic leadership. Without confident strategy on the battlefield, the muddy conditions could have easily become the downfall of many English soldiers as well as the French if they weren't well prepared with archers, and also if Henry had allowed the English soldiers to charge first, instead of forcing the French to make the first move. The English army adapted quickly to the conditions, proving that overall they had the best soldiers, strategy and leadership therefore showing that the English victory at Agincourt was not down to luck, but instead the skill of England.

Japan's most legendary duel: Miyamoto Musashi vs. Sasaki Kojiro, by Harry Brace

1612: whispers of a legendary fight were shrouding the island of Japan with a sense of thrill and animation, from Yakushima to Hokkaido, the Japanese people spoke of an ultimate battle, imminent at any moment to rock the country to its core. A fight that would put speculation, opinions and swordsman ship to the test and put an end to a raging debate that has been discussed for a decade.

Figure 16: Japan at the time of the duel

From the Harima province in the southwest, one of the greatest swordsmen of all time was born in 1584. Miyamoto Musashi he was a pivotal and historic figure well known for his innovative and strategic abilities on and of the battlefield. He was an absolute force when fighting standing at an impressive 6ft, which was an uncommon height for the time and allowed him to overwhelm and dominate many aggressors, he was the father of the Niten Ichi-ryū sword technique and was well renowned for his unique double swarded fighting style and was a veteran of 62 duels never once losing, all this culminated for him to earn the honourable title of a Kensei (Sword saint).

Figure 17: Miyamoto Musashi

Musashi's rival Sasaki Kojiro was born around 1575 during the Sengoku period of Japan, marked by social upheaval, political intrigue and constant military conflict. The details of his birth and birthplace are shrouded in mystery, which only supports the legendary status he upheld; however some experts believe he is from the province of Echizen, this is known to be the region of Fukui Prefecture. Ever since he was young, he displayed a remarkable aptitude martial art. He was later trained by Toda Seigen and would eventually go on to invent his own unique style, primarily focusing on powerful and precise cuts with his No Dachi (Large sword).

Figure 18: Sasaki Kojiro

Sasaki would experience a notable rise to fame after he underwent extensive travels to seek out renowned warriors whom he could test his abilities against.

Hearing the spread of rumours and whispers across the country Kojiro was compelled to seek out Musashi and sent him a handwritten letter, its contents showed Kojiro expressing his desire to compare their styles in a duel, and that the fate of the duels location and date were in the hands of Musashi. Upon receiving the letter, it was said an ironic smile crept across Musashi's face.

Later that same day Musashi had planned out the details of the fight. It was to take place on the island of Ganryu Jima off the coast of the Seto inland sea next to the town of Shimonoseki.

During the days leading up to the fight both competitors used the time at their disposal to good effect. Kojiro took the traditional approach to his training. He utilised all techniques at his disposal: he tirelessly practiced his swings and form, corrected his diet to remove all harmful toxins from his body and practiced mediation in order to cleanse his mind and soul for the duel.

Figure 19: Ganyru Jima Island

Meanwhile, Musashi used a polarised approach. He deemed the fight to be unwinnable and knew in his heart he could not beat Kojiro using traditional means. This was down to the fact that Kojiro had a supreme ability with his No Dachi, and his immense reach would absolutely counter his duel swarded style leading to his demise therefore using his creative and innovative mind he sought to find another solution to win. By using unconventional means such as spreading new rumours about his own ability some of which stated that Musashi had developed new secret techniques and he had encounters with supernatural being who provided him with special powers. All gossip was intended to undermine and create doubt within Kojiros mind.

On the day of the duel Kojiro arrived first with his camp of students from his school. There he sat still focused in his meditation. He lay as the hours passed by, but unknown to Kojiro, Musashi's plan was already in motion

by using time as his ally he was able to slowly chip away at Kojiro while being absent. Due to Kojiro being a proud warrior the impunctuality of Musashi only served to anger and imbalance his emotion.

Finally, towards the horizon a small boat was seen sailing towards the island, at the bow Musashi stood imposingly with the sun beaming from behind him creating a golden glow around his silhouette. He wore basic clothes and his hair was unkept, which severely contrasted with Kojiros ceremonial Kimono, in his hands he carried a large wooden ore that had been shaped into a rustic weapon.

Musashi and Kojiro were now locking eyes only a few metres away from one another. It was now evidently clear that his plan had worked Kojiro was angry, de-stabilised and lacked confidence due to the strange circumstances he was up against. Immediately Kojiro drew his sword and threw away his sheath. In response Musashi smiled and remarked 'You have already lost Kojiro, a true swordsman never tosses away his sheath this early' this further demoralised Kojiro as if he felt confident in his victory then he would have kept it at his side. With this the fight was imminent; both fighters lifted their weapons and the island was silent all that was heard was the lapping of the waves of the shore and the sound of whatever animal was close by.

Suddenly, Sasaki sprang into an attack his movements were rapid and precise, without hesitation Kojiro went to execute his ultimate technique the Subam gishi, a fast-sweeping blow with a wrist twist that made the direction of the blade switch at the last moment. However, Musashi was ready and ensured the sun was always at his back to put his opponent was at a disadvantage, as soon as the attack was launched, he dodged it and the blade missed his head by mere millimetres, instantly Musashi used the opening created and the sun temporarily blinding his opponent Musashi leapt at Kojiro with his ore high in the air and sent it crashing down onto Kojiro's forehead.
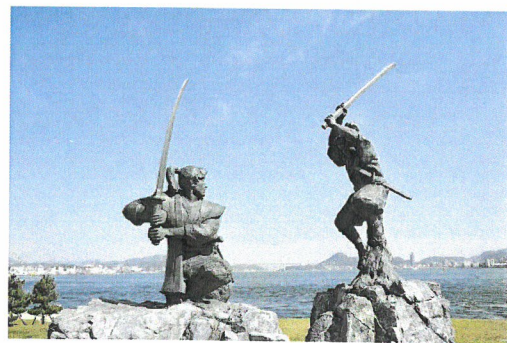

Figure 20: the statues on the island commemorating this historic duel

His No Dachi slipped from his grasp and thudded on the floor. The crowd watched on in astonishment the fight that had been so anticipated was over in less than a minute: Kojiro's death had come swiftly and unexpectedly.

The Death of a Culture: an Exploration of the Forced Assimilation and the Suppression of Native American Identity, *by Sam Sutton*

Since the European discovery of North America by Christopher Columbus in 1492, accompanied by a presupposed desire for colonial expansion, it was inevitable that the question of how a new European culture could form in a land already vastly populated and filled by long standing traditions and culture would need to be answered sooner rather than later, and would cause immense difficulties for the colonial settlers.

In hindsight this may have only been possible to resolve through force and ruthless elimination of indigenous cultural identity. An American identity was only possible to form on the ashes of an indigenous culture, with many doubting the possibility of coexistence. It was therefore clear to American settlers from the 16th to 19th century that for an American republic to occur, these indigenous societies needed to be profoundly disrupted through conflicts and government policies for the purpose of assimilation and removal.

However, this would be an incredibly difficult task due to the distinct languages and traditions as well as divided tribes, showing that there was not an easy front to be attacked, meaning the image of Native American culture must first be homogenised.

These factors combined made this seem an almost impossible task, therefore a multitude of mechanisms were used by the colonial settlers, to dissolve indigenous culture with the goal of converting them to western ideas, often hoping native ideals would be left behind as inferior. This was mainly attempted through conflicts and government policies affecting education, land settlements and sovereignty, which was met by a constant history of resistance, deepening the challenges of settlers even further.

Figure 21: Creek War leader William Weatherford (son of a Scottish trader and a Creek woman, handing himself over to Andrew Jackson; before becoming President

This can be first shown by the drastic measures of assimilation employed by the American government and a harsh policy of removal. This is demonstrated through the early formation of the American republic in the 19th century, government policy increasingly sought to relocate and assimilate Native peoples. In 1830, President Andrew Jackson secured passage of the Indian Removal Act, authorizing the federal government to negotiate land-exchange treaties with

a vast number of tribes. Under this law, Eastern tribes were coerced and misled to cede vast homelands to the United States in exchange for unsettled territory, moving natives from land which often had great cultural significance.

The removal was framed as voluntary, but in practice, weaker tribes felt forced to accept out of fear, with closeted dissatisfaction towards it and more powerful tribes, feeling they could resist US orders, refused to accept the treaties. This made the treaty non-consensual in many cases especially as military force was often used to ensure the treaties were implemented.
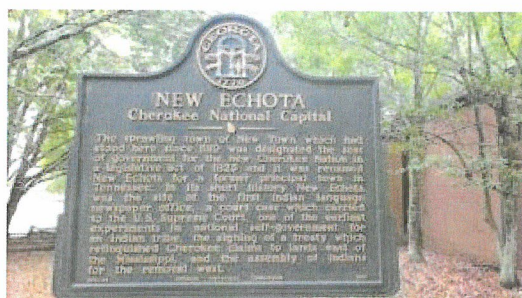

Figure 22: Commemorative sign in New Echota

This was shown by the Treaty of New Echota in 1835 which was signed by a small minority of the Cherokee and ceded all Cherokee lands east of the Mississippi for $5 million and territory. The majority of the tribe did not agree with this treaty or consent to this, with wide distrust towards the republic and resistance from tribe members. However it was nonetheless ratified by the U.S. Senate. showing that the attempts to assimilate and remove Native Americans were not all to be

done in good will and negotiation but with force and coercion.

This is shown drastically as in 1838-1839 the Cherokees were expelled from their land by force, during the "trail of tears" which caused the death of thousands. This forced cession of significant ancestral territory emphasised the means the American republic was willing to go to, to dissolve Native American culture, as this action obliterated the Cherokees land base, exemplifying the US ruthless removal policy.

Figure 23: Native American removal from the Southeast

The Removal Act was also much more widespread than just the Cherokee tribe but instead affected all the "Five Civilized Tribes" and many other weaker fringe groups. Some tribes attempted to assimilate into this new culture, to appease the settlers and avoid expulsion. This somewhat voluntary assimilation can be seen as the Cherokees established a written constitution in 1827 and built schools and mills to demonstrate civility and movement towards colonial social norms moving towards a more western lifestyle, while the Creeks, Chickasaws and Choctaws also

adopted farming, slavery, and elected governments.

Figure 24: The impact of removal, forcing people from their ancestral lands

However, such drastic adaptation only heightened white covetousness and provided a sense that the Native Americans were purposely moving towards this superior western culture, making full assimilation seem possible, and almost generous, seeing no need to preserve indigenous culture. When tribes resisted removal however, the government applied both legal and military pressure.

The U.S. Supreme Court twice considered Cherokee claims of sovereignty. In Cherokee Nation v. Georgia in 1831 and Worcester v. Georgia in 1832, the Court affirmed that tribal nations were "domestic dependent nations" with rights to self-government. President Jackson famously refused to enforce these decisions, and pro-removal state and federal officials proceeded to strip tribes of jurisdiction, actively ignoring supreme court decisions.

In 1838 the U.S. Army under General Winfield Scott forcibly removed the Cherokees, with Scott ominously ordering, "Every Cherokee man, woman or child must be in motion". These events illustrate how federal policy mainly through the Indian Removal Act and court decisions, underwritten by executive power, mandated the breakup of tribal society.

This fragmentation of Native American society through removal policies allowed gradual assimilation of culture to occur, as tribes were often separated and forced into western ways of life, especially as their right to self-governance was removed, western practices were often forced upon them, and as communities were separated, the strength of traditions and culture waned.

Figure 25: Devastating changes of Native Americans were enshrined in law; state and federal

Later nineteenth-century laws further institutionalized assimilation. The Dawes Severalty Act of 1887 divided communal reservation lands into individual family allotments, with the alleged main intention to encourage farming. In practice, allotment shattered tribal landholding and governance the act provided allotments of land to individual Native Americans who, upon accepting,

became U.S. citizens forfeiting many aspects of tribal sovereignty instead forced into American culture as they were ruled by the American republic opposed to individual self-governed tribes.

These fragmented tribes limited their power, and showed a social movement towards making Native Americans embrace the cultural identity of settlers and support the American republic.

Allotment was also generally rationalised as transforming "savage" Indians into farmers and respectable citizens, under fair rules due to western ideas such as democracy opposed to more traditional tribe practices. This was incredibly effective in displacing native communities as it dispossessed tribes of two-thirds of their reservation lands by 1934.
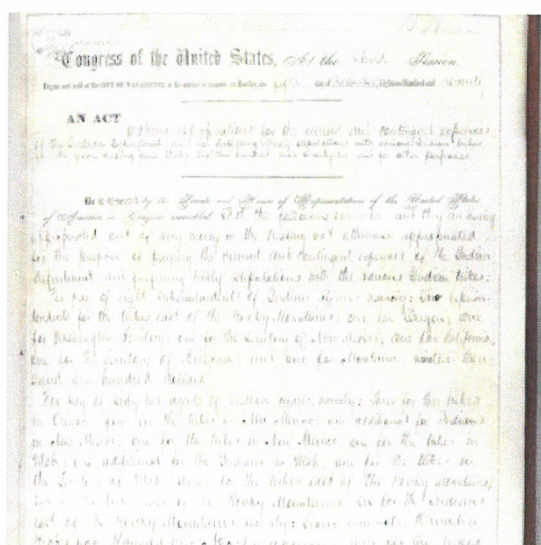

Figure 26: 1871 Indian Appropriations Act

Similarly, the 1871 Indian Appropriations Act ended treaty-making with tribes, declaring that

Indian affairs would henceforth be handled by ordinary legislation, effectively treating tribes as wards of the state rather than sovereign nations, showing a somewhat change from tribes being recognised as sovereign lands and bodies to merely parts of the American republic. Through these laws and policies, the U.S. government systematically undermined the political and economic foundations of tribal life, forcing Native Americans into Euro-American property relations and citizenship status.

Figure 27: "Indian Land for Sale"

Another major instrument of cultural assimilation opposed to physical methods was the federal Indian boarding school system. Beginning with the Carlisle Indian Industrial School created in 1879, the government forcibly removed children from their families to boarding schools designed to "civilize" them, perpetuating stereotypes of natives as "savage people" who must be westernised and redeemed from their inferior culture. At such schools' children were stripped of their cultural

identities. They had their hair cut, wore European-style clothes, and were given Anglo-American names. Speaking any Native language was also strictly forbidden with instructions being made entirely in English.

Christian practices were made compulsory, replacing indigenous traditions, showcasing a policy of Christianisation, as spiritual practices were a large part of native culture, so converting the children to Christianity could deeply weaken native culture. These essentially expose these dehumanising practices as aiming to "kill the Indian in him, and save the man," in Pratt's, the architect of these policies', own chilling words. These policies of removal and forced acculturation had devastating effects on tribal continuity and showed the efforts of colonial settlers to truly strip the natives of all sense of cultural identity.
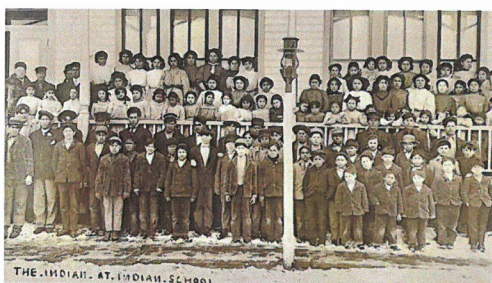

Figure 28: A boarding school for Native American children

It is clear that these processes of settler colonialism between the 16th and 19th centuries systematically dismantled Native American cultural foundations. Through a combination of forced removals, assimilationist

legislation, covert coercion, and outright violence, the United States and colonial powers sought to dissolve tribal autonomy and remake Indigenous people in the image of a new American society.

Policies like the Indian Removal Act and the Dawes Act, the boarding school system and missionary programs, and countless broken treaties each chipped away at Indigenous institutions. Traditional languages were supplanted by English, indigenous religions by Christianity, and tribal lands by private plots. Warfare and diplomacy alike functioned to dispossess and disempower tribal nations.

Ultimately, settlers did not merely conquer territory, they endeavoured to absorb and erase the peoples of those lands. Despite these forces, many Native communities survived and adapted. Cultural retention and revival efforts in the 20th and 21st centuries trace their urgency to this era of dissolution. However, the legacy of the early-American assimilation and removal period is clear, it produced a near collapse of tribal culture, with indigenous communities relegated to reservations.

The Portrayal of War in Art, *by Rosie Moore*

Throughout history, war has been a popular subject in art, dating back to ancient times. However, despite still being a common theme today, the lense in which it is portrayed has shifted. In this article, I plan to investigate the dramatic contrast in portrayal of war, particularly between the early 19th century and the late 19th/20th century, and offer reasons for this.

Figure 29: Napoleon crossing the Alps, Jacques-Louis David

When thinking about the idealisational glory of war paintings, one of the first pieces that comes to mind is Jacques-Louis David's series of five oil paintings titled 'Napoleon Crossing the Alps' from 1801-1805. These portraits of the French general Napoleon Bonaparte could be considered his most successful and well known today, and it is easy to see why, from the dynamic pose to the bright colours. This portrait glorifies Napoleon's battles, placing him in the centre of the action pointing across, as if he is pointing his army towards victory.

In reality, Napoleon refused to pose for this portrait, meaning David had to reference a past painting of the general in order to create his, and he never led his army over the alps, instead following later on a mule. Overall, the painting is extremely idealised and clearly glorifies the violent Napoleon and the battles he fought. I believe the main reason for this portrayal of war is due to the political climate of France in the 1800s and the fact that Napoleon's leadership was rooted in military victories, thus showing war socially to be a form of power and strength.

Figure 30: Liberty leading the People, Eugene Delacroix

A later artist, Eugène Delacroix, was responsible for portraying the French Revolution in his 1830 painting, 'Liberty Leading the People.' This piece, despite being more grim and realistic by placing the corpses of the

opposing side in the foreground, still glorifies the battle through the figure in the middle. It is said that the woman personifies liberty, and her stance is reminiscent of Greek sculptures depicting powerful warriors and gods, depicting her as strong and heroic. Her yellow dress symbolises joy and optimism, whilst her 'liberty cap', which became a popular garment for the working class and a symbol of the revolution, and French flag visually links her to the powerful fight for freedom.

The most telling example of her deification is the light exuding from her, drawing the eye and diverting attention from the corpses she stands on. The feminine figure at the time was seen as pure and innocent, so by using a woman to lead the scene, Delacroix portrays the battle as an honest and good fight. Overall, the painting clearly portrays the battle, as well as the entire French Revolution, through a glorified lense, perhaps being influenced by the contemporary social view that the revolution was a 'justified' battle and a positive event in French history, despite 1.4 million people dying.

Figure 31: Washington crossing the Delaware, Emanuel Leutze

It wasn't just European wars being represented in art, as in 1851, Emanuel Leutze created his oil painting of the previous American Revolution, 'Washington Crossing the Delaware.' This painting depicts an important moment in the revolution, when Washington led a small group of soldiers through stormy weather for a surprise attack on British troops situated in Trenton. This victorious attack was enough to restore interest in the war efforts, so it is clear why Leutze portrayed the event in such a heroic and positive light. In fact, his intention with his painting was to inspire liberal reformers in Germany to revolt for freedom, creating intentional bias in his work.

Partly due to this, and partly due to the painting being completed 75 years after the event, certain iconic features were inaccurate, such as the flag not being created until 1777, the boat being an incorrect model, Washington appearing much older than he would have been, and his dramatic stance being impossible as it would have led to him capsizing the boat. Overall, it is clear that accuracy was second to

themes of liberation and freedom in this painting, and the positive reaction from the American public for this painting proves how glorified war was to them at the time.

However, this glorification of war would not last forever, and new societal views radically changed the public's opinions of conflict. Francisco Goya, in response to the Peninsular War in Spain between 1808-1814, created a series of 82 etchings known as 'The Disasters of War.' Whilst the series was published in 1863, Goya began work on them much earlier, completing many during the course of the war and allowing him to use his first-hand emotional experience in his work. The etchings are black and white, showcasing the bleakness of war, and they are not afraid to include torture and mutilation.

Figure 32: Man being taken away from his family in one of Goya's etchings

This uncensored depiction of the horrors of war dramatically contrasts with the previous lighter artwork and adds more emotion to the subject. It also roots the series better in reality, as it represents the 215,000-375,000 Spaniards that died during the conflict. Overall, whilst Goya's series

was seen as quite radical at the time, it kickstarted a new view on war and a new focus not on the glory and strength of winning but on the horrifically tragic results of war for all parties involved.

Much later, in 1923, Käthe Kollwitz finished her series of woodcuts, 'The War Series.' This series of 7 pieces was heavily inspired by her experience of losing her son to the First World War and her change to a pacifist stance following it. The subjects of the pieces are mainly women, and themes of grief for lost husbands and sons from war are clear throughout. Whilst they were created in response to WW1, no specific reference to time or place is mentioned, adding a universal link to the pieces and other moments of conflict and making the series more poignant and relevant. The lack of colour adds to the bleakness of the subject, and the morphed facial expressions portray the horrors of war through extreme grief and anguish.

Overall, whilst Kollwitz doesn't use as much mutilation and gore as other anti-war artists, she uses sorrow and grief to portray the damage done by war, not just to the fighters but to everyone. This message is especially important during WW1, as the impact of the war could be felt across the globe by both the winners and the losers, contributing to new social ideas that war was in fact not beneficial at all.

In 1937, inspired by Goya, Pablo Picasso created one of his most famous pieces of work, 'Guernica,' directly related to the bombing of Guernica by the Nazis during the Spanish Civil War. The painting shows off Picasso's usual abstract style, but with a noticeable lack of colour and shine, creating a bleak and dark feel to the painting, as well as conveying the starkness of war. The mural itself is unsettling to look at with its disfigured human and animal heads dotted around, and their open mouths seemingly screaming at the terrors they face. The jumbled mess of limbs could be a literal link to the destruction after the bombing, or could be a more figurative portrayal of the destruction of hope and happiness that war brings.


Figure 33: Guernica, Pablo Picasso

Overall, Picasso's portrayal of war is similar to Goya. However, this time, the views were shared by the wider public, and stronger anti-war sentiments made themselves known, mainly due to the extreme loss of lives, wealth and land lost from both sides of WW1 and the wars following, and the questioning of the real need for war in the world.

The contrast in views of war can be seen particularly through the style of pieces. All of the older pieces, despite being heavily exaggerated, are painted in realism and therefore appear realistic and believable at first glance. They also use bright colours to create a lighter, more positive tone. The newer pieces, instead, use little to no colour to create a harsh, bleak view of war, and focus less on realism and more on conveying emotion, making the pieces rawer and more haunting.

The contrast in war artwork between 1800 and 1940 is stark and has evidently been influenced by a change in social views on conflict, from deeming it a necessary and powerful event to questioning its beneficially in modern society. The older paintings can be viewed as propaganda for war, as seen through their glorification of conflict and deification of well-known political figures who used war to gain power, whereas the harsher tones of the newer pieces appear as more realistic and factual to the true horrors that go on. I think it is good that this shift in art has occurred, as by idealising and beautifying war, we tend to forget the real tragedy behind it, almost excusing the events instead of learning and growing from them. It is important to remember the real people that are affected by war, not just the leaders that end up in an oil painting.
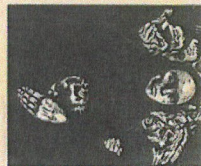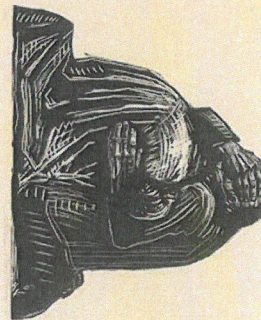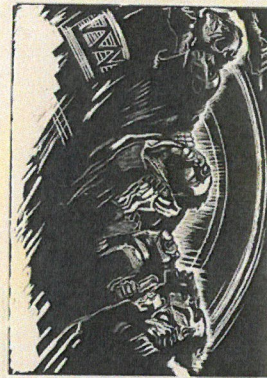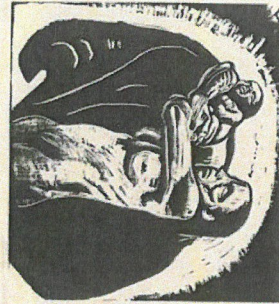
Season 1888–9

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

1st Season

		Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals	Points
1	Preston North End	22	18	4	0	74–15	40
2	Aston Villa	22	12	5	5	61–43	29
3	Wolverhampton Wanderers	22	12	4	6	50–37	28
4	Blackburn Rovers	22	10	6	6	66–45	26
5	Bolton Wanderers	22	10	2	10	63–59	22
6	West Bromwich Albion	22	10	2	10	40–46	22
7	Accrington Stanley	22	6	8	8	48–48	20
8	Everton	22	9	2	11	35–46	20
9	Burnley	22	7	3	12	42–62	17
10	Derby County	22	7	2	13	41–60	16
11	Notts County	22	5	2	15	39–73	12
12	Stoke City	22	4	4	14	26–51	12

Forged in Manchester – the origins of the Football League, *by Mr TA Leng*

There are a number of blue and red plaques on the streets of Manchester. Most people walk by and totally miss them on their pilgrimage to Primark or on their afternoon or evenings out in the self-proclaimed capital of the North.

However, one plaque in particular would be of huge interest to many football fans of the North West if they took the time stop and look up. On the corner of Market Street and Mosley Street, not far from the aforementioned Primark, there is a sign marking the spot where the world's first football league was forged. Yes, the Football League as we know it was forged in the North.

Figure 34: The Football League foundation plaque

On that very spot near Piccadilly Gardens stood the Royal Hotel. On 17th April 1888, delegates from 12 football clubs gathered together to forge the Football League. Today we know this as the EFL (English Football League) which is comprised of 72 member clubs from across England and Wales. However back on that groundbreaking day in 1888, only 6 teams from Lancashire and 6 teams from the Midlands were to enter the first professional football competition on the planet.
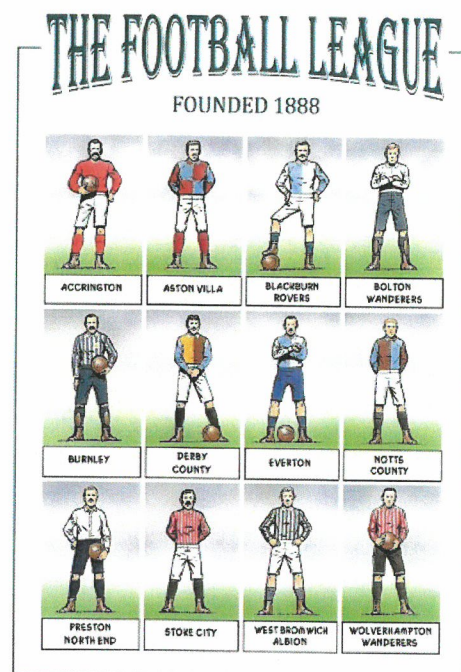

Figure 35: The founding members of the Football League

The origin of this story began in the late 19th century, when football was becoming more popular in the Industrial England. Matches were being played regularly, but there was no standardised rules. Clubs arranged friendlies or competed in local cup tournaments. However, a formal structure league was lacking.

Football was chaotic, sporadic and struggled to generate an income. The

founding members of the Football League believed and organised competition would bring fairness, order and financial stability.

William McGregor, the director of Aston Villa, saw the need to arrange a formal, standardised football competition. He initially raised the idea at a meeting in London, however the first formal meeting was scheduled to take place in Manchester. The first 12 pioneers of the Football League were Accrington, Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Derby County, Everton, Notts County, Preston North End, Stoke, West Bromwich Albion, and Wolverhampton Wanderers. 6 teams from the Midlands and 6 in North West.

Regional rivalries were established in the North West, where football quickly became more than just a game. Working class identity was at the centre of newly formed rivalries. Towns and cities that had grown around mills, mines, and factories now found new battlegrounds on the pitch. Matches between local rivals weren't just about points. Just like today these new Derbies were about bragging rights.

The legacy of these early rivalries lives on. The two Manchester teams that dominate football today, joined the football league in the early 1890s. Instantly a rivalry was born. The Manchester derby and Merseyside derby, these fixtures still stir the same

passions that they did over a century ago. The stadiums may be more modern, but the emotion and passion continues.

Early success went to Preston North End, who were crowned the first champions in the 1888–89 season. They went unbeaten throughout the campaign, earning the nickname "The Invincibles." Their dominance set the tone for the competitive spirit that would define the league for generations.

Figure 36: Preston North End's "Invincibles"

The original season had just 22 matches per team, and goal difference wasn't used. Instead, teams were ranked by "goal average"—goals scored divided by goals conceded.

As time went on, the League gained more teams and expanded into multiple divisions. By the early 20th century, it had become the backbone of English football, with promotion and

relegation adding drama and unpredictability to every season.

It was a revolutionary moment in football. It set the standard for other nations around the world. Inspired by the English model, countries like Italy, Spain, and Germany developed their own league systems. Today, the idea of a national football league is a global norm, but it all started with that meeting in Manchester.

The legacy of that meeting in 1888? A weekly obsession with league tables by millions of diehard fans and the media. Derbies in former industrial heartlands that still ignite fierce loyalty. And a cultural footprint so deep that even those who don't follow football can't escape its influence. Whether it's the language of "promotion", "relegation", "top of the table" or the way football shapes weekends, conversations, and identities—the Football League has helped define the British Isles.

Figure 37: Bury FC at the time of its removal from the EFL

Many at Stockport Grammar School will recognise this weekly obsession, with many staff and students attending games. Stockport County recently promoted from the depths of the non-League to the dizzying heights of League One. While the team I watch on a weekly basis, Bury FC, was ejected from the Football League in 2019 due to long standing financial irregularities. The focus now obviously to climb up the football pyramid to the football league once again. Not to mention all the pupils who follow teams in the Premier League, a league formed by the top teams in 1992 to boost their revenue considerably and negotiate profitable broadcasting rights.

Figure 38: On their way back? Bury FC fans coming on to the Gigg Lane pitch to celebrate promotion this year

It's easy to overlook the significance of such a modest plaque in the hustle of modern Manchester. But for those who pause, it offers a powerful reminder: the global phenomenon that is professional football had its humble beginnings right here, on that very corner. Formed in the mind of William McGregor, Forged in Manchester.

The 1905 Russian Revolution, Russian Marxism & Trotsky's analysis, *by Lucy Johnstone*

Though the Russian Revolution of 1905 culminated in abject failure, its impact upon Marxist revolutionaries, liberals, the working class and its destabilisation of the Romanov autocracy that had ruled over Russia since 1613 is unquestionable: it caused a subsequent, unsteady changing of Russian politics and society, resulting in the success of the Russian Revolution 12 years after. Through a broad analysis of the revolution and Russian Marxism, and a more detailed examination of Trotsky's own account of the era in his book 1905, a greater understanding of the influential nature of the revolution can be grasped, and links between the failed revolution, and its victorious successor become more apparent.

Alongside economic hardship and general dissatisfaction with the government, the embarrassingly blatant incompetence of the Russian military in competing with superior Japanese forces in the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05) increased tensions amongst Russians and began a wave of strikes and protests. Initially demands were for political reform for a constitutional democracy then, amongst the more radical, these progressed to demands for the abolition of Tsarism itself.

It was Bloody Sunday (22nd January 1905), where over 100,000 striking Petrograd workers (now St Petersburg) marched on the Winter Palace to protest the firing of 4 workers at the Putilov Ironworks, that kickstarted months of unrest. Led by the Orthodox priest Father Gapon, peaceful demonstrators were fired upon by the army, causing the death of around 200 workers. Outraged by yet another example of the Tsar's intolerance of criticism, for workers across the empire, Bloody Sunday was a reminder of the autocracy's unflinching refusal to accept even modest political concessions.

Figure 39: Father Gapon on Bloody Sunday

By the 17th of October, the position of the Tsar and his closest supporters had become unsustainable. Aside from chaos resulting from the sheer volume of striking workers (2 million striking), the catastrophic economic impact of the strikes, and the looming threat of an increasingly mutinous military - the Battleship Potemkin

(June 1905) exacerbated this fear-forced the Tsar to concede, signing the October Manifesto and granting civil liberties to his citizens: a moment of undeniable significance.
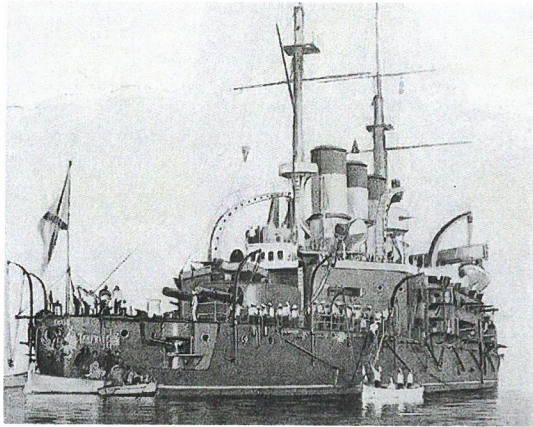

Figure 40: The battleship Potemkin

Monumental as the act was, days before the opening of the First State Duma the Tsar reaffirmed his autocratic rule by announcing his Fundamental Laws (April 1906), giving himself unbridled authority over the new institutions. As such, the 1905 Revolution was widely regarded as a failure: revolutionary activity (excluding that of the peasantry) ceased in exchange for the promise of landmark reform that essentially never came to fruition.

Marx's analysis of the exploitation inherent to a capitalist society of the proletariat (working classes) by the bourgeoise (the minority who controlled the means of production) was a fusion of the materialism (society is propelled forwards through material goods and matter and the means of production of these goods) of the likes of Feuerbach and Adam

Smith with the dialectical approach of philosophers such as Hegel (history progresses in contradictory phases, each new phase overturning the last). This doctrine of dialectical materialism allowed him to infamously predict the demise of capitalism and the overthrow of the bourgeoise, firstly through a socialist and then a communist revolution.

Crucially, Marx's projections stipulated that capitalism had to have advanced considerably, so that goods were in a state of excess and could provide for future generations once the capitalist model had been overturned. However, as was and has been often highlighted, the socio-economic state of Russia at the time of 1905 and, arguably, of 1917, was unlike other European nations or empires: the reluctance of the autocracy to relinquish its sovereignty and absolutist reign over its people had severely inhibited the emergence of a modern economy like those of Britain, the USA or Germany.

Consequently, for many analysts at the time, Russia's primitive state was not yet far enough advanced to follow through Marx's ambitious outline of revolution.

Russia's rapid state-incentivised urbanisation and industrialisation, accelerated by the appointment of Count Witte as Minister of Finance led to an uncontrollable mass growth of a working population whose influence and strength the inept, conservative

tsarist government were unable to resist.

Therefore, although Russia was undoubtedly trailing in every aspect of its development- social, political, economic- the uniqueness of its positioning and the extreme disparity between the vast majority compared to a negligible bourgeoise minority encouraged a flourishing Marxist movement; however, such uniqueness in turn contributed to widespread disagreements within growing radical movements about the future of Russia.

Stalin) saw themselves as "vanguards" of the revolution, willing to emphasise the influence and might of the burgeoning proletariat under their direction. Such division within and underdevelopment of the Marxist movement, coupled with Russia's unreadiness contributed to the failure of the 1905 Revolution, and explains the differing conclusions drawn from it.

Figure 41: Georgi Plekhanov, the "father of Russian Marxism"

Figure 42: Leon Trotsky

Where the Mensheviks (such as Plekhanov, Martov) and liberals (like the Kadets) believed in prolonging any revolution and a growth of industry and capitalism within Russia before any revolutionary activity, as was commonly interpreted from Marxism, the Bolsheviks, (the likes of Lenin and

Trotsky, a central figure in advancing Marxism both amongst the Russian populous and, in his latter years on a larger, global stage was a Jewish Social Democrat heavily involved with the movement from its inception (1898). During the Revolution of 1905, he was unaligned with either faction of the Social Democratic party, criticising both the Bolsheviks and the

Mensheviks; however, in his book, 1905 (published 1908), he primarily focused his attention on the failure of the liberal bourgeoise, whom he saw as responsible for the revolution's collapse.

For Trotsky, advocating for the continuation of Russian revolutionary sentiment and the implementation of a communist state as its replacement, was necessary not only to examine the failures of the revolution in order to increase the likelihood of future success, but also to enthuse his Russian counterparts, to rouse them, to re-ignite the fervour which had died down across the empire after the tumultuous years of 1904-7.

The account of 1905 begins with Trotsky's acknowledgment that "the revolution of 1905 grew directly out of the Russo-Japanese war", a recognition that, despite the SD's continued promotion of revolutionary activity, the revolution was unexpected and unplanned, directly initiated by the proletariat: even the Bolsheviks hadn't anticipated the revolution, despite their greater enthusiasm for it.

Trotsky was acutely aware of the simultaneous growing strength of the proletariat, combined with the fact that Russia had "never had even a trace of that sturdy middle class" like that of Britain. Instead, he emphasised the importance of the strength of situation of the proletariat that had "scarcely emerged from the

cradle" but "from its first steps" had "entered upon the path of irreconcilable class struggle". From this emphasis on the special nature of the Russian proletariat's, Trotsky's trajectory towards Bolshevism is perhaps evident- his excusing of the very lack of the necessary means for revolution as endorsed by Marx through focusing on the proletariat's uniqueness is reminiscent of later Bolshevik ideology.

Figure 43: Protests and strikes in 1905

In regard to the role of Father Gapon, Trotsky dismissed "Gapon's priestly robe" as "only a prop", instead declaring that "the protagonist was the proletariat". Such minimisation of Gapon's role could be argued as unfair, but Trotsky's key motivation to uplift the role and unity of the proletariat forces behind the priest clearly supersede any warmth he held towards Gapon. In fact, as Trotsky continually reinforced, this "was a demonstration of the proletariat's hegemony in the bourgeois revolution" rather than a movement spearheaded by any individual leader- it was the manifestation of a decade (or so) of a developing political consciousness of

workers that spontaneously erupted into chaotic revolt.

But, above all, Trotsky was most scathing towards the liberal bourgeoise, who, easily appeased by the tsar's moderate concessions, were "becoming increasingly surly towards the Soviet" (of which Trotsky had been elected the chair). Despite what Trotsky perceived as the working class's "strong class sense" – ie class consciousness – and "although Tsarism revealed that it was not viable", the bourgeoise's inherent fear of the proletariat, in Trotsky's view delayed any real change.

Figure 44: 1905 St Petersburg Soviet

Trotsky described the liberal intelligentsia as "suspended over an abyss of class contradictions, caught in a web of feudal traditions and academic prejudices", attacking their weak political stance that he believed to be responsible for the revolution's failure.

This ultimate failing of the Russian Revolution left Trotsky to admit he, and the Soviet, were "quite unable to admit that it radically altered the state structure of Russia"; however, he identified that future unrest (leading

up to 1917) could only be explained by this fundamental lack of altering any state structure. The "worker found himself once more in the damnable grip of the machine ... he plunged into the gaping mouth of the industrial hell" and the ordinary scheme of life continued. And, for Trotsky it was this monotony which he saw as a catalyst for revolution: the abominable working and living conditions of the proletariat coupled with the extreme disparity between the upper echelons of society vs the majority.

Overall, despite Trotsky's pessimistic analysis, he maintained a generally optimistic approach to the future of the revolutionary movement, largely due to 1905 asserting, in nis mind, that "the political role of the workers in Russia is infinitely greater than their number". Through its paralysis of the Russian state and obliging of the government to abandon their apathy towards its people and its working classes, the revolution was undoubtedly a turning point in Russian history. Thus, in order to understand 20th century and modern-day Russia, the revolution, and its roots in Russian Marxist doctrine remains essential.

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WALL STREET CRASH!

Black Thursday in America

Stocks Plunge and Eleven Commit Suicide

Panic selling hit the New York Stock Market yesterday as nearly 13 million shares changed hands in just one day.

Massive sales in the early morning created an extraordinary atmosphere of chaos and panic. Brokers flooded the market with orders from their investors to sell at any price.

As the situation reached crisis level, the market broke down entirely as the sea of brokers clamoured madly for non-existent buyers. Stocks were traded for any price and the value of some companies halved during the course of the morning.

The huge early morning sales followed a week of uncertainty on Wall Street and the bottom finally dropped out of the market at 11.30am, when the ticker tape was no longer able to keep up with the sheer volume of activity.

Crisis Meeting

A crisis meeting of New York's leading bankers was held in the offices of JP Morgan & Co and cials that proposals to cut taxes next year would be abandoned unless the Stock

Washington also issued a statement to the effect that general business was still fundamentally sound and that the vast losses affected mainly paper profits only. The reassuring nature of the statement was, however, undermined by intimations from Treasury offi-
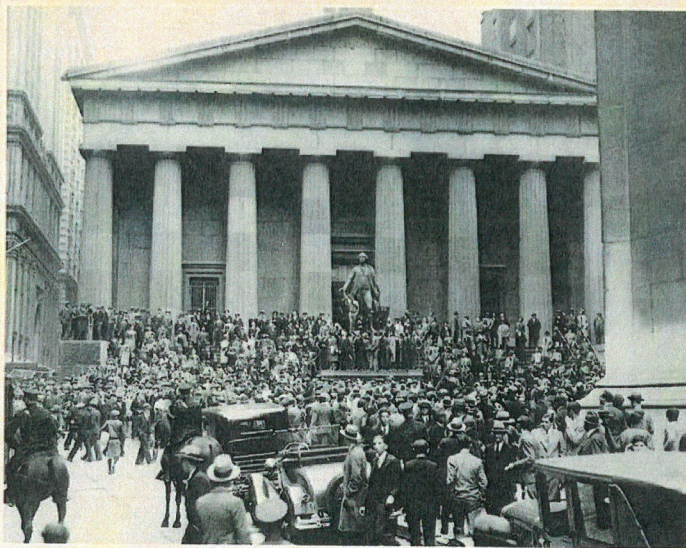
Panicking investors gather around the statue of George Washington on Wall Street.

What Went Wrong?

The initial massive sale of stocks began when it became clear that a downturn in some nervous investors all tried to shed their plummeting stocks at the same time.

mous volumes of trade. By the end of the trading day, the ticker recording Stock Exchange transac-

City of New York. The system almost ground to a halt at times as it seemed as if every

1920s, new speculators have flooded into the bull markets and stocks have quadrupled in

The Wall Street Crash, 1929: A Precursor to the Great Depression in the US and around the Globe, *by Tom Carter*

The Wall Street Crash, also known as the 'Great Crash' was a sudden and steep decline in Stock prices in the United States in late October of 1929.

The Wall Street Crash was seen as a significant factor into the Great Depression of the 1930's, which was marked by steep declines in industrial production and in prices, unemployment and astronomical levels of poverty and homelessness. This was due to a 'rapid erosion' of confidence in the U.S. Banking System. The Wall Street Crash's' notable dates consisted of Black Monday, Black Tuesday and Black Thursday, whereby a huge stock price decrease occurred, a whopping 25%! It was not until around 25 years later whereby stock market prices reached their Pre-Crash levels!

Generally, prior to the crash, some financial experts had warned that the American economy was losing steam, marking a gradual end to the Roaring Twenties – a period of economic boom and cultural shift post WWI. More and more people rushed to sell their shares, with 12.9 million being sold on Black Thursday, and 16 million being sold on Black Tuesday, with some selling also occurring on Black Monday.

During the mid-late 1920's, the stock market in the US underwent massive expansion as well as being dynamic for many countries, adopting the title 'The Roaring Twenties' with the mass production of telephones, radios, films and cars. In hindsight however, in March 1929 the market began to slow, with production and construction declining as well as sales dropping off.

Figure 45: Life of a Flapper in the Roaring Twenties

Additionally, speculation around the stock market during the 1920s was also a catalyst – The Laissez-faire approach from President Hoover meant banks were rarely regulated, with money being loaned recklessly as well as banks closing before the crash, leaving thousands with no money at all. Debt also increased with a lot of Americans buying goods on hire purchases, with many owing moneys to shops and credit companies, leading to financial difficulty amongst shops and credit companies with the addition of house prices increasing.

Hoover's election promises also boosted trading in shares on the stock market, pushing prices up further

through increasing Tariffs. When Senate blocked Hoover's plan on tariffs, people began selling their shares and prices started to drop sharply. In September 1929, investors lack of confidence in the price of shares meant they began selling shares in large numbers, causing prices to drop further.

On Thursday, October 24th 1929, the first day of the stock market crash occurred, marking the end of the longest-running bull markets in U.S. history, ending a decade of rapid expansion. Black Thursday ushered in the worst economic disasters globally: The Great Depression.

Figure 46: Initial crowds gather outside Wall Street

Black Thursday undermined consumer confidence and therefore led to declines in manufacturing and employment as people were reluctant to purchasing items often bought on credit. Investors began to panic sell stocks; the market had lost 11% of its value, in just the first three minutes 3 million shares were traded, leading to a colossal 12.9 million shares being traded on this day! As a result, prices began to plummet – because of this panic began to spread to the public

and crowds were soon to gather outside the New York Stock Exchange.

Black Thursday was given its name to reflect the despair and stupor that occurred. All the great powers were affected: The French saw a gradual decline in exports, Germany could no longer rely on the Dawes Plan and Japan, similar to France, saw a decline in exports. Catastrophe was now inevitable.

Black Monday (October 28th) was the first Monday since the crash whereby the Dow Jones Industrial Average recorded its single worst decline in history, plummeting another 12.8% from Black Thursday. The sell off on this date was not enough to start the Great Depression but it sure set the stage by shattering confidence in business investing...

Figure 47: Clerks begin to compute the gains and losses sustained

During Black Monday, a sell off of 9.25 million shares took place – an extremely high volume for the time. Despite events on black Friday from leading investors such as J.P. Morgan & Co. and National City Bank buying 'blue chip stocks' to prop up the market, as well as Richard Whitney

making high profile purchases of stocks such as steel at $205 – this stabilisation had not lasted.

Panic and stress levels further increased, with investors rushing to sell off their holdings at any price, with stabilisation attempts on Black Friday not lasting. Overcoming this problem seemed extremely oppressive.

Black Tuesday, October 29th 1929, is when the economy's fate was revealed, it had now collapsed and overcoming this challenge was seen as extremely arduous. When Black Tuesday hit, 16 million shares were traded on the Stock Exchange and around 14 billion of stock value was lost and a -11.73% change occurred on the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

Figure 48: Traders rush around the Stock Exchange on Black Tuesday

Black Tuesday's losses destroyed confidence in the economy, with this loss of confidence and stress kickstarting the Great Depression. Many banks didn't have cash in hand, with many withdrawing all their life savings at once, with 659 banks closing in 1929 alone in the US. Moreover, the US began to worry that

they would run out of gold! This was due to the fact people began to turn dollars in for gold as prices were climbing at the time.

Black Tuesday also made many experiences mental turmoil due to the amount of uncertainty there was around how much money people had lost. Many reports of suicide spread, kickstarted by that of Winston Churchill who reportedly had witnessed a German chemist fall from a window during a stay in New York City, however this rumour was proven false as his cause of death was reported as 'accidental'. Nonetheless, Black Tuesday unquestionably signalled a new dark era, as the globe plunged into a Great Depression.

The Stock Market crash undoubtedly was the fundamental cause of the Great Depression. When stocks plummeted on the New York Stock Exchange, the world noticed immediately, impacting Europe as well as America. In the UK, mass protests took place, with unemployed workers going on strike as a result of the relentless deprivation that took place. These strikes were met forcefully, with police breaking many of the protests up. The National Unemployed Workers Movement alone created over 20 major demonstrations in Glasgow, Salford and London.

In the US, the Great Depression hit the hardest. In 1931, 133 businesses were failing a day with 2,294 banks failing with $1.7 billion in deposits across the

annum. The Roaring twenties no longer meant anything.
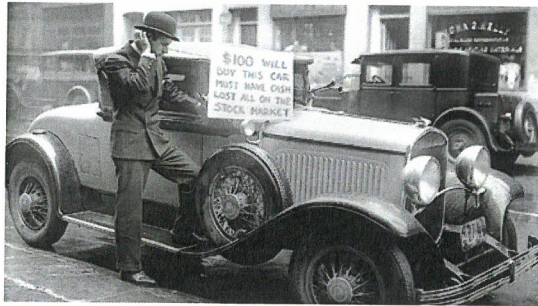

Figure 49: A man is forced to sell his car after losing everything in the Crash

The Wall Street Crash instigated long lasting, treacherous consequences for the United States. However, only 16% of American households were invested in the stock market within the build up to the depression, implying the crash may have had less of an impact as perceived. Nonetheless, the stock market had lost nearly $30 billion in value and lead to 25% of the American workforce becoming unemployed during the early 1930s, as well as Industrial output halving and widespread deprivation taking place, ultimately causing Roosevelt to precede Hoover in 1932, with the increase of shanty 'Hoovervilles' becoming apparent.

Cultural shifts also took place, with a rise in realism and themes of hardship taking place, whereby the trust in the 'American Dream' was thereby shaken. Moreover, Europe saw sharp declines in industrial output and rising unemployment, such as in France and England. As well as this, the German economy also collapsed significantly, due to the reliance of American Loans

under the Dawes Plan. This led to a number of social unrests and nearly 6 million unemployed in 1932.

Figure 50: Former millionaire, Fred Bell, selling apples at a stand

After the economic collapse in 1929, this allowed the Nazi Party to exacerbate their beliefs and blame the Weimar Republic and the Treaty of Versailles for their problems. By 1932, The Nazis became the largest party in the Reichstag.

Propaganda, led by Goebbels, enabled the Nazi's to capitalise on the cris by promising strong leadership in Hitlers emphatic speeches. Hitlers influential speeches gained support from those unemployed as a result of the Great Depression, and portrayed Hitler as a saviour to rescue Germany from their troubles. Thus, as poverty increased in the 1930's, the Germans turned to the Nazi's and led to the collapse of democratic rule in Germany, implying the depression directly fuelled the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party.

The Brutality of Stalinism, *by Sophia Lipniski*

The Soviet Union became infamous with brutal procedures in order to maintain control and enforce Stalin's ideology. Stalin implemented political repression through mass arrests, deportations to labour camps known as gulags, and harsh policies which led to widespread famines. Stalin's brutality was used in order to reshape society according to communist ideologies.

The Great Purge signifies a period of extreme oppression and paranoia. The assassination of Sergei Kirov, a leading member of the communist party, in 1934 triggered the beginning of the great purge as his assassination created an atmosphere of paranoia and fear. Stalin claimed that Kirov's death was part of a conspiracy that threatened the Soviet state. Therefore, the assassination of Kirov provided Stalin with the justification to target the communist party resulting in the notorious Moscow trials.

These trials were widely publicised, and many believed they had predetermined outcomes. These trials served as a tool to eliminate internal threats and also served as a platform for Stalin to showcase his power and the consequences of his opposing rule. The first of the Moscow trials was in 1936 which was the case of the Trotskyite-Zinovievite trial which included 16 defendants who were all part of the Bolshevik party. All defendants confessed to killing Kirov and planning to assassinate Stalin and other Soviet leaders. However, the only evidence for this was their confessions which were extracted via physically and psychologically torturing them. Ultimately, all these men were found guilty and executed.

Figure 51: The verdict being read out at a show trial

The second show trial took place the following year in 1937 when Stalin accused 17 Soviet political and military officers of conspiring with Nazi Germany despite Germany being the enemy of the Soviet Union. These men confessed to their charges due to experiencing sadistic torture, 13 out of 17 of the men were executed and the remaining 4 were sent to gulags where they were murdered.

The final show trial took place in 1938 when Stalin accused 21 prominent figures including Genrikh Yagoda, the previous chief of the NKVD, which was the secret police at the time. The 21 defendants were accused of long-term conspiracies such as plotting to kill Lenin in 1918, 18 of the defendants were sentenced to death and the remaining 3 were sentenced to years of imprisonment.

However, during this period political figures were not the only ones who faced Stalin's brutality. Repression widened as Stalin began mass arrests of kulaks, criminals and anyone deemed as anti-Soviet under the NKVD Order 00447. The NKVD used torture to create confessions resulting in quick verdicts, no trials and immediate executions or gulag sentences.

Figure 52: Anti-Kulak propaganda

It is estimated that 669,000 kulaks were arrested. Stalin also targeted ethnic minorities, between 1937-38 the NKVD began the Polish Operation, it resulted in the arrest of 143,000 poles and 111,000 executions. Stalin was troubled by delusions of conspiracy; instead of seeing dedicated Russian generals he saw traitors and foreign collaborators.

In 1937 Stalin believed that leaders of the Red Army were conspiring with Germany. Many were falsely accused but still found guilty and were executed. It is estimated that approximately 30,000 members of the red army were executed in total. Stalin's brutality is evident as he falsely accused many of treason and murdered many due to their ethnicity.

Gulags were a system of forced labour camps used to imprison individuals labelled as enemies of the state ranging from people who were falsely accused, to political prisoners, to those guilty of committing minor crimes, and to murderers. These camps were often located in remote and inhospitable regions of Russia.

Figure 53: Life in a gulag, working as prisoner/slave labour

Under Stalin gulags expanded, reflecting his view to industrialise the Soviet Union through labour. People were arrested during the night while they lay in their beds or were even picked up in the middle of the streets, the prisoners were transported via carriages that were in subhuman conditions, the trains were often overcrowded, and food was scarce. Many prisoners did not survive the journey to the gulags.

Life in the camps was characterised by disease, lack of basic necessities, and a high risk of violence from both guards and inmates. Prisoners worked gruelling hours often in the cold with insufficient clothing. Death at the hands of exhaustion, starvation and violence was not uncommon.
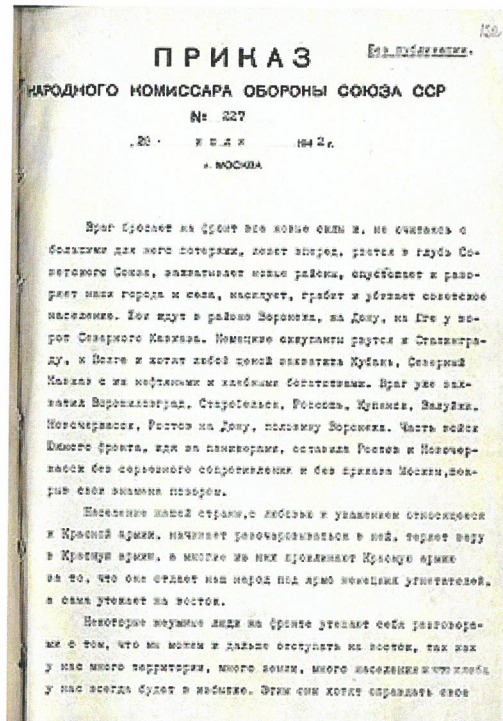

Figure 54: Order No 227

During the Second World War Stalin issued Order 227 which included the slogan "Not a step back!" This order punished soldiers for retreating and threatened to send soldiers or their families to the gulags. Additionally, much of the Soviet Union's infrastructure was built on slave labour such as the Moscow-Volga canal where it is estimated that at least 22,800 prisoners died while building and the White Sea-Baltic canal where it is estimated that between 12,000 and 25,000 labourers

died. Therefore, Stalin's brutality is shown through his treatment of his own people as he subjected his people to extremely harsh conditions.
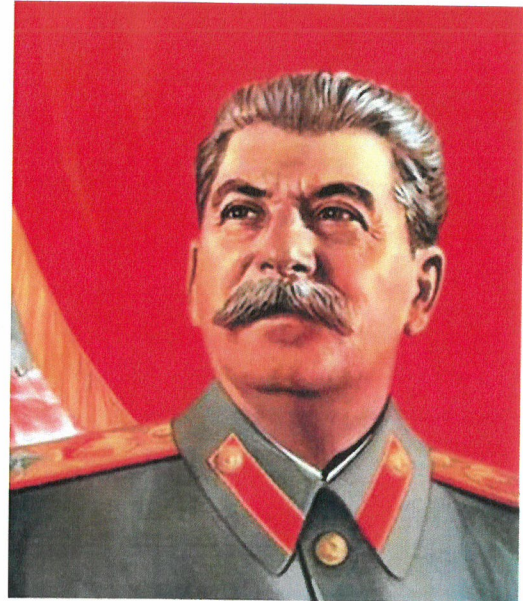

Figure 55: Stalin at the end of WW2 - arguably the peak of his power

After the Second World War it is estimated that 2 million Soviet soldiers were returned from German captivity. However, Stalin, driven by paranoia, believed that being captured by the enemy was a sign of betrayal and treachery so Stalin gave the order for the NKVD to interrogate and question the released prisoners without any mercy. The main objective of these interrogations was to establish the reason they had been captured and to detect any possible traitors.

Additionally, it was also intended to see what mentality they had after their return. Stalin viewed retreats as a sign of weakness and even with severe losses he refused to allow retreats. Previously, in 1941 Stalin issued order

270 stating that any officer taken prisoner was a traitor and would be executed if he returned to Russia.

In addition, the prisoners' relatives were liable for arrest. Stalin wanted his soldiers to fear him more than the Germans so they would continue fighting. However, Stalin's son also faced the consequences of Stalin's actions as he was captured in 1941 by Nazi Germans, upon hearing the news Stalin disowned his son, Yakov, and Yakov's wife was incarcerated. Therefore, this meant Stalin refused to negotiate for prisoner exchanges including for his own son.

Figure 56: Yakov Stalin, captured by the Germans on 16th July 1941

Furthermore, Stalin also implemented Penal Battalions which were units composed of soldiers and political prisoners who were sent to the front in order to have an opportunity to atone

for their crimes; this was issued under Order 227. However, they were often involved in the most dangerous tasks. Stalin believed they should feel gratitude for having this opportunity. Therefore, Stalin's brutality is shown through his treatment of his own soldiers and people, threatening imprisonment for anyone he labelled as a traitor.

Figure 57: a penal battalion on its way to a mission in WW2

Stalin's brutality was widespread, even targeting those closest to him. Stalin's actions created immense suffering and destroyed families as shown through his harsh punishments on anyone he suspected of disloyalty. His use of strict orders like order 270 revealed a leadership style based on fear and control that created an atmosphere of terror.
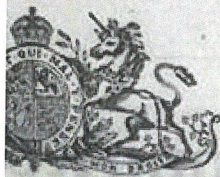
THE OBSERV

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London, Sunday, June 10, 1956

Khrushchev Exposure of Stalin in Full

By EDWARD CRANKSHAW

THE Khrushchev indictment of Stalin, delivered in secret session to the Communist Party Congress last February, proves to be even more radical, comprehensive, and bitter than the first incomplete reports suggested, sensational as these were.

Soviet history from 1934, the year of the murder of Kirov, to 1953, the year of Stalin's death, has been turned completely upside down. The Khrushchev version (given fully below) corresponds with astonishing exactitude in detail and in general trend with the past findings of Stalin's foreign critics, for so long denounced by Moscow, and by Communist parties everywhere, as malicious slanderers.

The worst constructions placed on many of Stalin's actions are now officially confirmed. Ordzhonikidze, Stalin's fellow-Georgian, the friend of his youth, and master of the Caucasus, was driven to suicide by Stalin. The suspicious circumstances surrounding the murder of Kirov, the highly popular chief of the Leningrad Bolsheviks and at one time regarded as Stalin's natural successor, are emphasised, and although Khrushchev does not accuse Stalin directly of the crime he hints very strongly that he had a hand in it.

It was Kirov's death that touched off the great purges of the thirties, in which the Communist Party and the officers corps were decimated. And although the worst excesses of these purges are attributed to Yezhov, the degenerate Chief of Secret Police, Khrushchev explicitly underlines the fact that Yezhov was acting under Stalin's orders.

He quotes, moreover, from an order signed by Stalin himself commanding the use of torture to extract confessions from those accused of being "enemies of the people"; and he revealed that already by February of this year, after the examination of thousands of individual cases, 7,679 individuals had been rehabilitated, "many posthumously," after the charges against them had been proved groundless.

There is nothing mystical about Khrushchev's "darkness at noon": the confessions were extracted by torture. The chief victims of the purges, the "Trotskyites, Zinovievites and Bukharinites" have not been rehabilitated. Khrushchev explicitly condemns their deviations. But, at the same time, he expresses the view that there was no need to shoot them.

Khrushchev joined the Politburo in 1939, and in these last years he personally was involved. It is impossible not to wonder how deeply, as he pours out charges helter-skelter in tones ever more scathing and bitter: Stalin's military crassness; Stalin building himself up into a quasi-deity (the films and the books about him "make us sick"); Stalin riding roughshod over the Politburo and breaking it up as an effective force; Stalin shooting out of hand five of his most gifted younger supporters in the Leningrad Affair (including Voznesensky, the brilliant Chairman of the State Planning Commission, who simply vanished in 1949).

Stalin, too, conniving at the machinations of "traitor" Beria; his disgraceful treatment of Marshal Zhukov; his mass deportation of the whole peoples from the Caucasus and the Black Sea ("the Ukrainians escaped this fate only because there were too many of them and there was no place to deport them"); then the final terror and the fabrication of the Doctors' Plot.

The tirade reaches its climax with the revelation that Stalin was planning "the annihilation" of the old Politburo members: Voroshilov, now President of the U.S.S.R., was already under suspicion of being an English agent; Andreyev had been dismissed and relegated to limbo; "baseless charges" had been brought against Mikoyan and Molotov. "It is not excluded that had Stalin remained at the helm for another few months, Comrades Molotov and Mikoyan would probably not have delivered any speeches at this Congress."

It is clear that for these, and no doubt for Khrushchev himself, Stalin's death was most convenient.

Russia's 20 Years of Terror

COMRADES! (Khrushchev began). In the report of the Central Committee of the Party at the Twentieth Congress in a number of speeches by delegates to the Congress, and also during recent plenary sessions of the Central Committee, quite a lot has been said about the cult of the ...
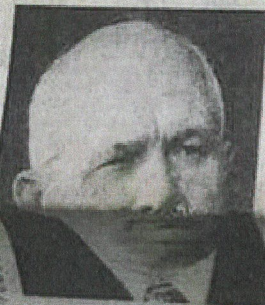
... stantinovna Krupskaya [Lenin's wife] to Kamenev, who was at that time head of the Political Bureau, and a personal letter from Vladimir Ilyich Lenin to Stalin:—

I will now read these documents :—

"Lev Borisovich! Because of a short letter which I had written in words dictated to me by Vladimir Ilyich by permission of ...

... Kamenev heard about it from her, I have no intention of forgetting so easily that which is being done against me, and I need not stress here that I consider as directed against me that which is being done against my wife. I ask you, therefore, that you weigh carefully whether you are agreeable to retracting your words and apologising or whether you prefer the severance of relations between us ...

"No Pasarán" - The Peoples Battle for Madrid, *by Oscar Reeder-Hirst*

On July 17th 1936, the trajectory of European tensions, conflicts and history would change forever with the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. It was a war that shattered Spain and echoed across Europe in following years.

Under the lead of Francisco Franco, Nationalist rebels in Spain launched a coup against the 2nd Spanish Republic, rapidly taking over major cities like Jerez, Cadiz and Seville. Despite these successes the Nationalist victory was anything but swift, with the war lasting until 1st April 1939, with 3 years of brutal fighting, shaping the development of Spain and having a deep impact on Europe as a whole.

Families turned against each other and Spain's economy was devastated as well as entire cities being levelled, with atrocities enacted from both sides. Spain remained under the Fascist regime of General Franco until his death in 1975, with the wounds of the war still fresh and still a divisive topic to Spanish citizens.

Of this horrific conflict, perhaps the most important confrontation was the Battle of Madrid and its resulting 3 year siege, with the fate of Spain resting on the control of the capital. Upon the start of the rebellion on July 17th 1936, Madrid was thrust into conflict. Within the Montaña Barracks, 2000 soldiers had the choice of siding with their leaders and joining the rebellion or staying loyal to the republic.

On July 18th, a left wing, Republican militia gathered around the barracks, looking for support and weapons that lay inside. After a day of no change, riflemen were stationed on rooftops and heavy artillery was brought through the Plaza De Espana and on the night of the 19th, shots were fired.

It was this night when the slogan "No Pasarán"(They Shall not pass) was created, and Madrid would stick by this until the end of the war. This slogan hung upon banners around the city alongside "madrid será la tumba del fascismo" (Madrid will be the tomb of fascism).

Figure 58: a No Pasaran banner in Madrid

On the 20th July, the soldiers inside waved a white flag, indicating the Republicans to advance, though when

they did they were met with machine gun fire. This false surrender happened twice before the militia stormed the barracks after rounds of aerial and artillery attacks. 200 of the 2000 soldiers were killed and the others sent to prison. This marked the first signs of resistance to the rebellion and confirmed the Republic's hold on Madrid for the time.

After the events of July 1936, Madrid faced no conflict until November as Franco's African forces were marching through Southern Spain and General Mola's were in the North. This allowed the people of Madrid time to fortify the city as best they could, though there was very little confidence in the defence of Madrid, with undertrained, disjointed militias made of regular citizens being the protective forces.

Figure 59: Map of Spain during the Civil War, highlighting Madrid as a major flashpoint

In a showing of this lack of confidence, the Republic Government fled Madrid to Valencia on November 6th under the assumption of a rapid defeat.

Franco and Mola opted to attack from the West, through the Casa De Campo with a three-pronged force. Trenches were dug by the republicans across the threatened western streets and south-west suburbs were prepared for street fighting. On November 7th Nationalist forces arrived and began firing and on November 8th, the three-pronged attack between the Ciudad Universitaria and the Montaña barracks.

Figure 60: Fighting on the streets of Madrid

Between the 8th and 15th of November, brutal fighting took place on the West side of the city at Casa de Campo. About 25,000 men, women and children defended the line with help from militias and professional soldiers. The two forces were locked at the Manzanares river, with the Republicans throwing their under trained soldiers at the rebels to hold the line.

Sensing that the Western front was becoming inflexible, on 10th November, the Nationalists launched an attack in the South at Carabanchel, taking fighting to the streets, where the Republicans had a significant tactical advantage over the rebels, along with artillery being fired from the top of the Telefonica building. This allowed the Republicans to hold out the offensive for a time.

Up at the Ciudad Universitaria, a final push from the Rebels came on 15th November with 6000 soldiers accompanied by artillery and German planes beginning an offensive on the Bridge de los Franceses, aiming to acquire a foothold over the Manzanares. Once over the river, the rebels created a bottleneck in the North West of the city, scrambling Republican forces.

Figure 61: Street by street urban combat

On the night of the 16th November, a group of rebels fought their way past the Republicans onto the main road Calle Princesa and began driving towards the Plaza de Espana where they were stopped by republican forces, causing the two sides to be locked on both sides of the road. Fighting took place up and down the Calle Princesa, going from building to building in brutal urban warfare until the 22nd November.

After this week of fighting, there were little changes to the positions of either side and by December, Franco decided to stop losing men and instead settled on a bombing campaign, stating he would "Destroy Madrid rather than leave it to the Marxists". With the assistance of German and Italian planes, Madrid was bombarded for 3 years. It was then when Madrid was no longer a battlefield and instead fell under siege.
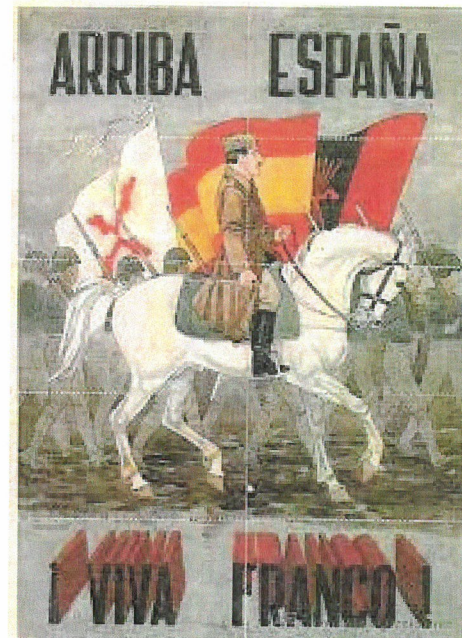

Figure 62: Pro-Franco Civil War propaganda

As Franco found no success in Madrid, he turned to the rest of Spain and by February 1939, Spain was almost entirely under his control, with Madrid and the South East the only Republican zones left. With cities like

Barcelona under Franco's control, any supplies coming over the Pyrenees was stopped, and Madrid was left without medicine and heating as well as only 3 months of food.

On 10th March 1939, Nationalist forces re-entered the Casa de Campo for the first time in 2 years. A battered Madrid gathered the forces it could and tried to hold off the power of the rebels. On the 26th of March, Franco ordered the unconditional surrender of Madrid and refused to listen to any attempts of negotiation. On the 27th, the Republican forces collapsed across Spain, leaving Madrid standing alone.

It was the day after, 28th March 1939, when Nationalist forces marched through to the centre of Madrid unopposed, Madrid had fallen.
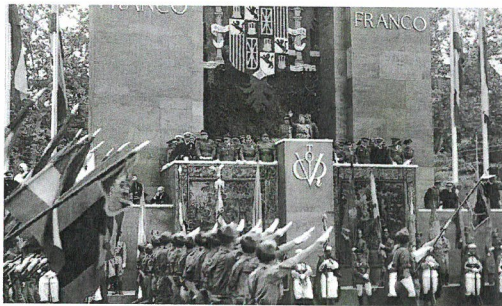

Figure 63: Franco taking the salute during victory parade 1939

The Spanish Civil War saw the deaths of around 500,000 people in the space of 3 years. Thousands of these were innocent civilians who fell victim to starvation, disease or the countless atrocities committed by the soldiers. In Madrid, around 50,000 people 11,000 being civilians died whilst protecting their country from falling to

fascism and unfortunately it was in vain.

General Franco ruled Spain as a fascist dictatorship until his death in 1975, with his reign being marked by brutal repression and abuse as well as economic decline and a population divided. The bravery and strength of the regular people who stepped up to fight against fascism will not be overlooked and those in Madrid who held out until the very end will always be remembered.
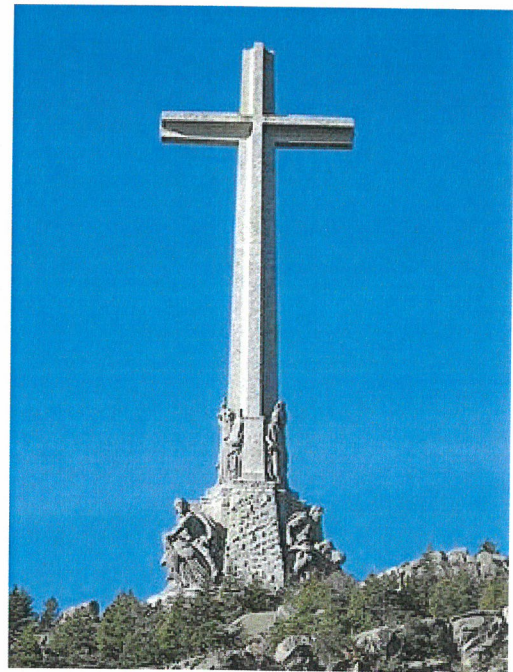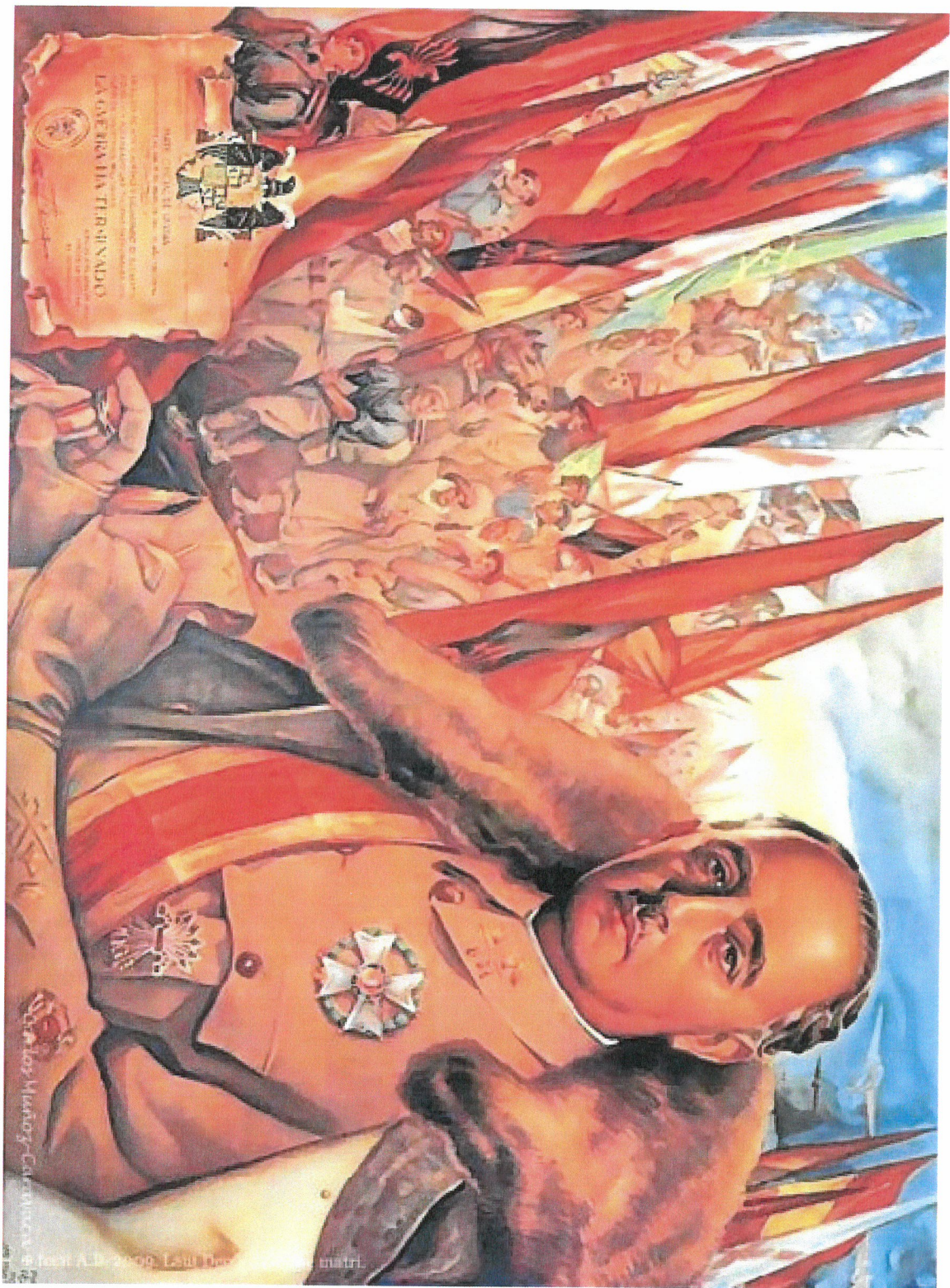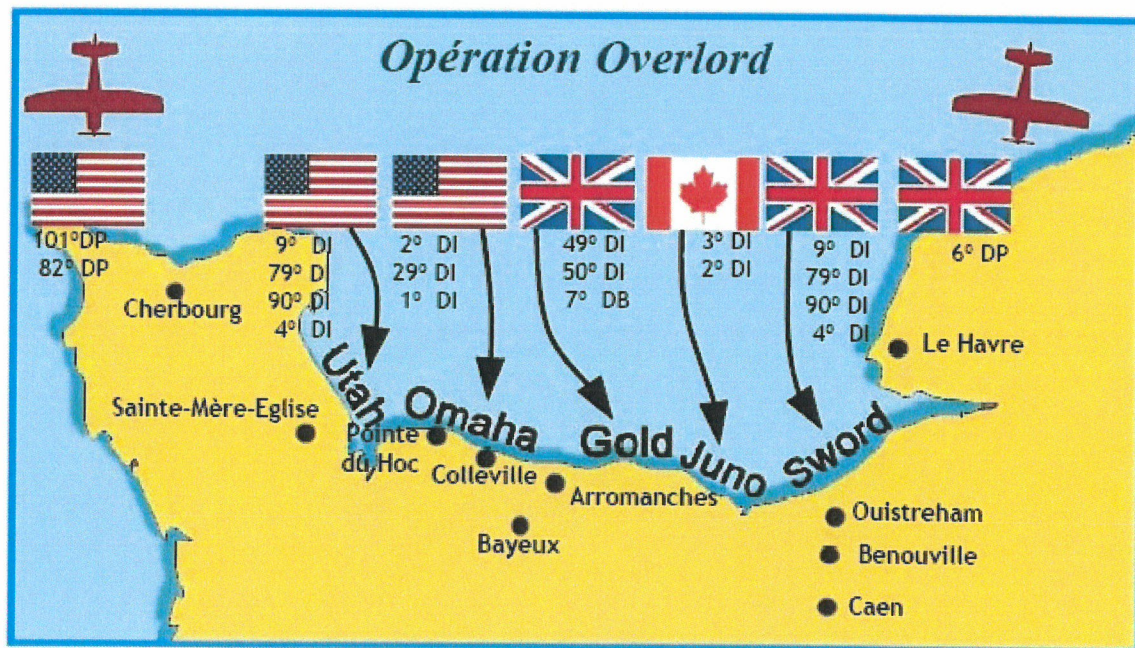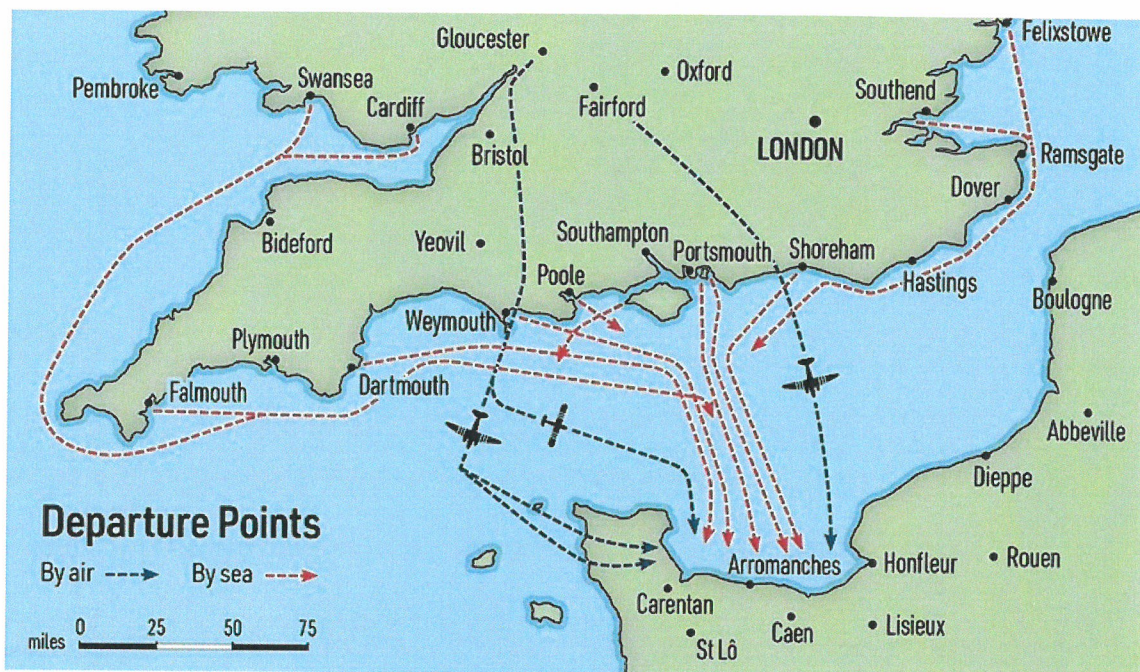

Figure 64: Valley of the Fallen Civil War memorial

Departure Points

By air - - -→   By sea - - -→

miles   0   25   50   75

Opération Overlord

101ºDP
82ºDP

Cherbourg

Sainte-Mère-Eglise

Pointe
du Hoc

Utah

9º DI
79º D
90º D
4º DI

2º DI
29º DI
1º DI

Omaha

Colleville

Bayeux

49º DI
50º DI
7º DB

Gold

Arromanches

3º DI
2º DI

Juno

9º DI
79º DI
90º DI
4º DI

Sword

6º DP

Le Havre

Ouistreham

Benouville

Caen

32 Men Who Were Instrumental in the Success of Operation Overlord, by Ollie Feehan Sheldon

When it was finally decided in early 1944 exactly where to make the long-awaited Allied Assault into Northwest Europe, it was transparent to all that it would be an extremely challenging task. The location chosen was Normandy, split across five main invasion beaches: Sword, Juno, Gold, Utah and Omaha.

Omaha was to be assaulted by American troops of the 1st and 29 infantry divisions. At 3.7 miles long, Omaha is very much different to the other 4 landing vicinities; considered an utter nightmare to assault due to its continual line of bluffs running along its length slightly beyond the beach. Elevating just over 100 feet, although not unassailable, it offered unimpeded views of oncoming invasions, and great opportunities to implement vigorous defences. Forcing offensive attacks to combat uphill to advance inland.

Figure 65: PA45-1 carrying the E Company 16th Infantry Regiment to Omaha Beach

Five natural inlets were identified to effectively occupy the Omaha region of Normandy and reach the main road in Normandy. These inlets did not only offer a route inland that didn't require scaling the bluffs, but they were also crucial to provide access for important artillery and vehicles coming off the beach.

However, the Germans knew this too. In fact, their entire defensive network in this region revolved around blockading the necessary access into France. This particular stretch of Hitler's notorious 'Atlantic Wall' consisted of numerous strong points or resistance nests (WNs), boasting concrete pill boxes, rifle positions and large casemates concealing anti-tank guns. Each single WN was located strategically to provide mutual support and overlook critical drawers of the beach. Omaha withheld 15 different positions, linked by trenches and manned by 1,000 men – certainly a tough defence to conquer.

To overcome this seemingly impossible task, the Allies broke the offence down into several sectors. In the West, where the men of the 29th Infantry and the Rangers were to come ashore, was Charlie, Dog Green, Dog Red, Dog White and Easy Green. As for the Eastern part, were Easy Red and Fox Green. These two areas were to be assaulted by the very highly regarded US 1st Infantry Division.

Progress made in Easy Red specifically, is where one of the most

significant advancements in Europe during the Second World War was accomplished. The men who were crucial to this: Easy Company 16th Infantry Regiment (E-Company), who landed on Landing Craft PA45-1, during the first wave of the operation under the command of Second Lieutenant John Spalding. Alongside him as his Deputy Section Leader was Sargent Philip Streczyk, an extremely experienced soldier of Polish descent who had earned three silver stars for gallantry during his previous tours of Sicily and Tunisia. Solidifying his reputation as an experienced and audacious fighter. Also in the section were Sergeants Colwell, Colson, Bisco.
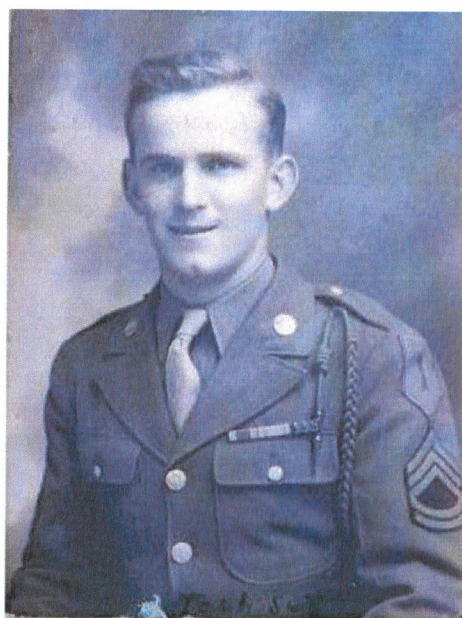

Figure 66: Technical Sergeant Phillip Streczyk

These soldiers, in addition to the remainder of E-Company 16th Infantry Regiment were given the task of neutralising enemy defences around the E1 inlet in Easy Red and subsequently advancing to Saint

Laurent. Most importantly at WN64, this would open the inlet for following waves to advance up the valley and outflank the remaining defences.

Figure 67: Second Lieutenant John Spalding

At 6:30am on 6th June, Spalding and his men arrived in the first wave at Omaha beach. However, the beginning of the landing had not gone to plan. Instead of landing directly onto the beach, the LVCP had in fact hit a sandbar around 200 yards offshore. Therefore, the regiment had to navigate several deep pools before even reaching the beach itself, all of course whilst heavy fire and mortar was raining down on them.

Cold and waterlogged, they had to reach the safety of the bluffs. Spalding and many of his men ended up landing between WN62 and WN64, slightly West of their objective. Fortunately, this turned out to be their saving grace as they'd landed on a far weaker section of the beach. The rest of E-Company had drifted left into the

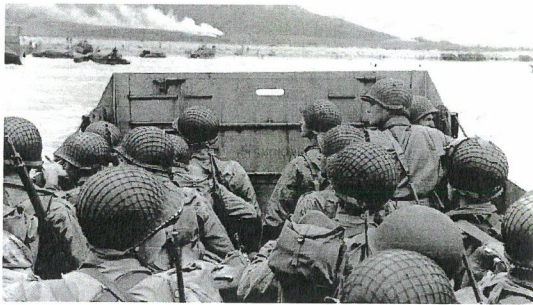mouth of WN62, perhaps the most petrifying defensive stronghold on Omaha.

Figure 68: The first wave on Omaha Beach

Within minutes, the divided group which had strayed left were peppered by fire, causing horrific destruction. For Spalding and his group, their advancements were no easier, having to traverse mines, further mortar and small arms fire – all of course whilst battling against their own damp, burdensome clothes. Eventually, they grappled to the foot of the bluffs and could return fire to the Germans – targeting lone riflemen and machine gunners to their left. They had secured a somewhat dead spot and evidently were in a far greater position then their comrades down the beach. Spalding and Streczyk concluded their only option were to scale the bluffs and destabilise the machine gun positions.

At approximately 7:30, Sergeant Colwell breached the barbed wire at the foot of the bluffs with his Bangalore Torpedo, allowing Streczyk to lead the men up the slopes. Utilising the depressions in the dunes to cover them against small arms fire throughout their upward journey. Progress was excruciatingly dilatory, against gradually heavier fire.

Nevertheless, the advance continued for an hour, occasionally having to engage with small enemy groups. A particular machine gunner near the summit, slightly left of their advance was becoming increasingly problematic for E-Company. Just one attempt to take out the gunner with the section's bazooka, commanded by Sergeant Blades, failed. Fire was returned almost instantaneously, and Blades suffered a blow to the arm. There was no choice but to rush the machine gun.

Figure 69: An aerial shot of Omaha Beach

After edging within 15 yards of the position, the machine gun operator jumped from his position and surrendered. The man was Polish, meaning Strecyzk, who spoke Polish fluently, could interrogate him. Therefore, saving his life – otherwise he wouldn't have been spared.

The ascent resumed. Now, a touch easier as the critical machine gun position had been occupied. Sergeant Colson in the lead, the men reached

the peak of the bluffs a few minutes later. Encountering a well-constructed trench network, trailing to a pill box at its far end. Coulson cleared the pill box, many Germans surrendered.

Figure 70: Omaha Beach today

Without the pill box, the beach was far safer. Although conflict continued to unfold either side of them, E-Company had generated a significant route inland. The assault extended right towards WN64, where inevitably more men would pay the ultimate price. Nonetheless, the seemingly impossible task had been accomplished and Omaha, the most important of the five invasions, had been prised open and access for further troops, artillery and vehicles was now viable. A small yet vital occupation in the very North of France had been achieved.

This story is not totally unique. Thousands of other men, across twelve Allied nations fought courageously on that day to finally begin the end conflict in Europe. However, E-Company were likely to be the very first regiment to pierce through German defences, opening a second front and kickstarting the push towards the Rhineland.


Figure 71: Strecyzk receiving the UK Military Medal a month after the invasion

Furthermore, entrenching themselves in arguably the most immense turning point of the Second World War, in Europe anyway. Two men from E-Company died during Operation Overlord and many others would not survive through those various gruelling battles on the horizon. The two most respected individuals in the regiment, Spalding and Streczyk would both return home but both ended up dying in tragic ways. Spalding was murdered by his wife and Streczyk would take his own life after suffering terribly from PTSD as a consequence of the War. Microcosmic of what thousands of soldiers faced after being demobilized.
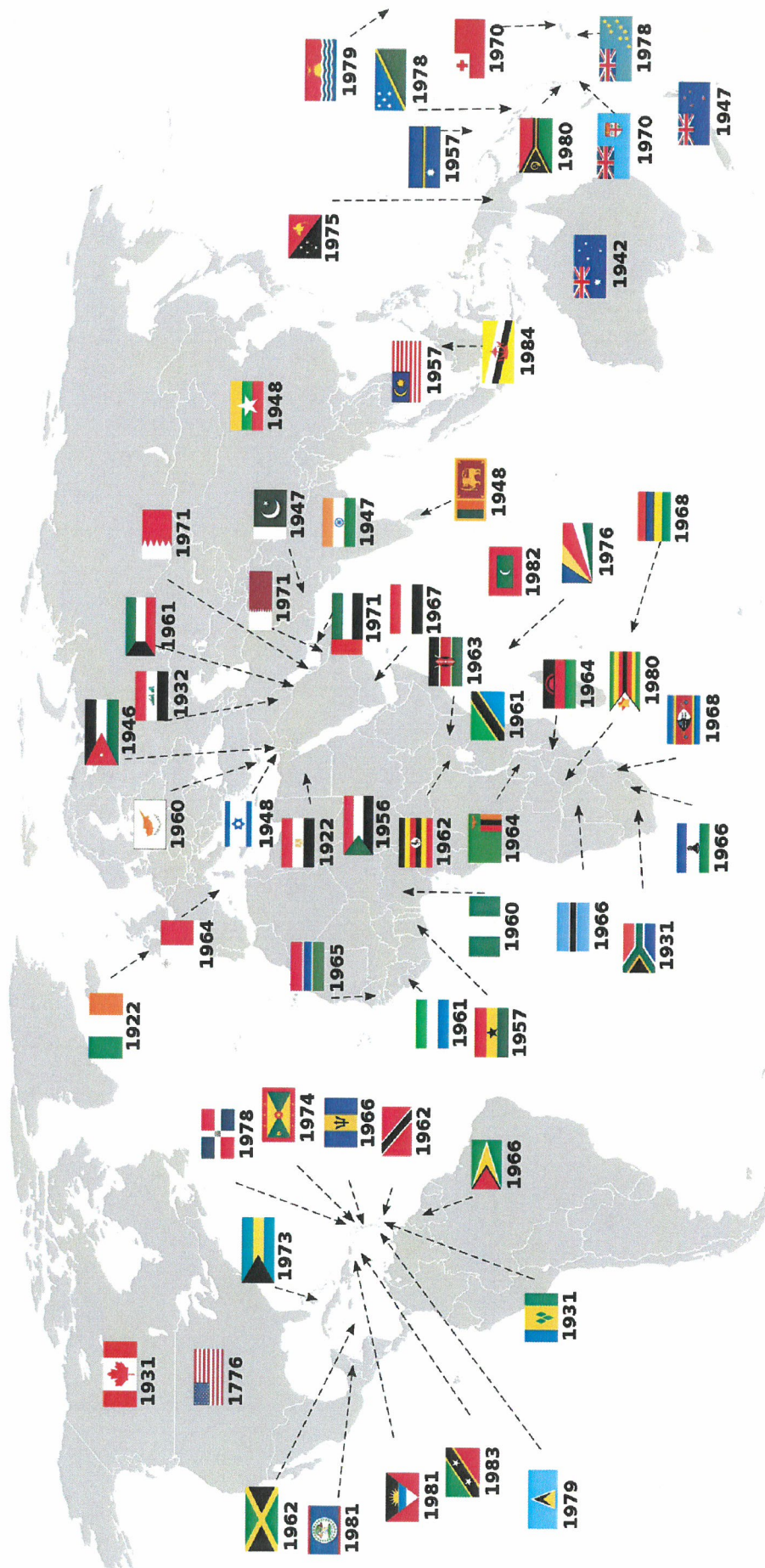
From Subjects to Citizens to Aliens: How Has Britain's Colonial Past Influenced its Modern Citizenship Policies? *By Cara Bell*

The near 350-year supremacy of the British Empire leaves Britain's colonial past intrinsically tied to its own sense of identity in the 21st century. This battle between retaining the authority of imperialism, and a desire for social progress has ensued across a political, societal, and legal stage. The symbolic dawn of the Empire coincided with Queen Elizabeth I's establishment of the East India Trading Company and underscored a fundamental aspect of British national pride all the way through until the 20th century.

Encompassing over 400 million people by 1913, this dominion established Great Britain as a global superpower, giving basis to many anxieties over the nation's future on an international stage in the wake of granting sovereignty to former colonies. Though gradually evolving a system of self-government for some colonies since the U.S. gained independence in 1783, it was not until after World War 2 that this governance truly disintegrated. While nothing now remains of the British empire, the commonwealth remains a remarkably cohesive institution at a glance, displaying how Britain retains cultural influences on former colonies, and they in turn influence modern citizenship policies through legislation, controls on immigration, and treatment of former colonial subjects, maintaining its representation of racial and hierarchical structures inherited from the British Empire.
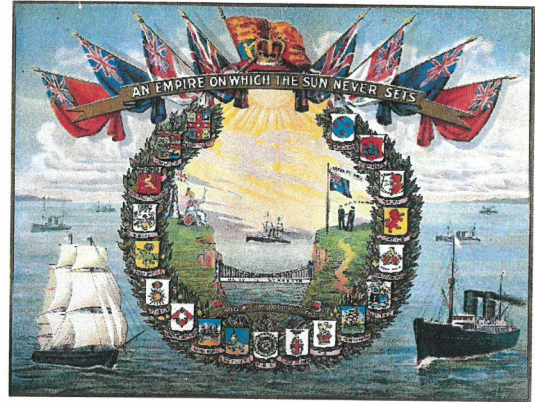

Figure 72: the crests of the colonies and dominions of the British Empire

Colonial subjects had, for centuries, been unequal to British citizens in both rights and treatment, as evidenced by the deaths of over 116,000 Indians and Africans in the service of the British Empire during WW1, which were not commemorated either by name or at all. According to the UK government's 'Special Committee to Review Historical Inequalities in Commemoration' of 2019, "the entrenched prejudices, preconceptions and pervasive racism of contemporary imperial attitudes" marred the foundations of British commonwealth citizenship, embedding racial hierarchies in our strive towards modern society and ultimately creating a post-war sense that, although former colonial subjects may now be legally British, they were not 'equally' British.

After 1954, it was evident that Britain needed to establish its role in the new world in a non-colonial context. The British Nationality Act of 1948 and the subsequent creation of the 'Commonwealth of Nations' in 1949 legally brought the reign of the British Empire to a close; as a consequence, multiculturalism began to arise as a distinct phenomenon in Britain. In the following years, its authority became increasingly symbolic. While the British monarch was only a somewhat ceremonial head of state, the presence and influence of colonial rule remained, and remains, tangible across the former colonies.
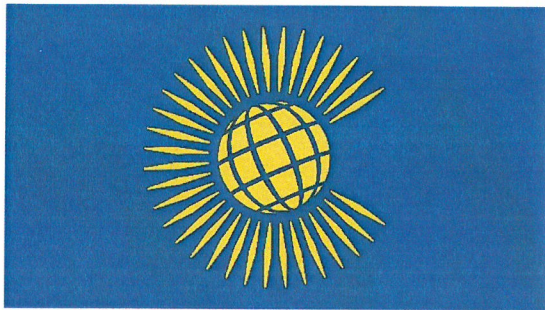

Figure 73: The flag of the Commonwealth

The Nationality Act truly set in motion the movement of people across the former empire, attempting to unite former and current subjects under a single citizenship. It conferred the status of 'British citizen' on all former subjects, recognising their right to work and settle here and legally defining citizenship for the first time. A principal motivation for this legislation was to ensure that as former dependencies obtained sovereignty, they retained ties to the United Kingdom. Decolonisation posed a threat to Britain's international image, and understanding of itself, an idea largely tied to the notion of British exceptionalism, therefore it was hoped that by uniting a global people under citizenship, they would remain under Britain's 'sphere of influence' and therefore support its longevity as a global power.

Figure 74: HMS Empire Windrush

Practically, the rights guaranteed under the Nationality Act legally protected an unprecedented influx of migrants. This began with the renowned and celebrated HMS Empire Windrush, which was the first ship carrying these new migrants. This boat, which was once a German vessel of war and propaganda, came to embody the ideals of empire redefined.

On 22 June 1948, 1000 people arrived in Liverpool, most of them being Caribbean immigrants from Jamaica,

Trinidad, Cuba, and Bermuda. Many were invited to meet post-war labour shortages, particularly in the fields of hospitality, healthcare, and transport. Simultaneously, several Caribbean nations were also suffering from huge levels of unemployment and a lack of social security, a manifestation of colonial rule and historical enslavement. Although the arrival of the HMS Windrush and the ensuing 'Windrush Generation' of 1948-73 has been presented contemporarily and even to the present day through the lens of British benevolence, hospitality, and multiculturalism, this narrative fails to consider the deep racial anxiety awaiting migrants, who would face discrimination for decades to come.

Figure 75: Windrush migrants

Throughout the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, the commonwealth ideal began to fade, as restrictive immigration acts between 1962-81 reinforced colonial hierarchies. This era evidenced that earlier legal equality could not easily translate to social and racial equality, with race riots in 1959 (Nottingham and Notting Hill) and Brixton riots in 1981. Britain had reasserted much of its political hegemony and began to

recover from the destruction of WW2, to an extent where it was no longer a priority to secure commonwealth relations, and instead, legislation marked a shift towards restrictive nationality and hostility that drew on a historical fear of the 'other' and made further legislation inevitable.

Figure 76: 1981 Brixton Riots

This legislation targeted non-white commonwealth citizens and a growing anti-immigrant public opinion, favouring citizens from Australia and Canada. This was fuelled by politicians such as conservative MP Enoch Powell who suggested that racial unrest would inevitably lead to violence, blurring the line between cultural and ethnic differences. The 1962 Commonwealth Immigrants Act restricted admission of commonwealth settlers to those with employment vouchers, and restructured immigration restrictions to operate on birth and ancestry, effectively tying them to race.

The 1968 Commonwealth Immigrants Act, in response to the Kenyan crisis which prompted many members of the Asian community to flee to the UK, imposed strict immigration quotas

and removed the automatic right of entry for Asian British passport holders, with some exemptions. This exacerbated existing racial tensions and was extended by the 1971 Immigration Act, which included a 'grandfather' clause exemption, allowing most white descendants of British colonists into the UK but making entry for other ethnicities much more difficult.

A hostile environment for Commonwealth citizens was reinforced during Margaret Thatcher's time in office, embodying a cultural nationalism with racialised undertones. In 1981, the British Nationality Act repealed the aforementioned 1948 act, preserving a version of the status quo in immigration law.

Race Relations Act
1965
CHAPTER 73

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Discrimination

Section
1. Discrimination in places of public resort.
2. The Race Relations Board and conciliation committees.
3. Proceedings for enforcement of section 1 in England and Wales.
4. Proceedings for enforcement of section 1 in Scotland.
5. Discriminatory restrictions on disposal of tenancies.

Public Order

6. Incitement to racial hatred.
7. Extension of Public Order Act 1936 s. 5 to written matter.

Supplemental

8. Short title, commencement and extent.

SCHEDULE: Provisions as to Race Relations Board and Local Conciliation Committees.

Figure 77: 1965 Race Relations Act

Nevertheless, this was not a period wholly marked by anti-immigrant sentiment, with several counter acts signifying a strive for further inclusion and unity of Commonwealth citizens, and migrants as a whole. In 1965 the Race Relations Act outlawed discrimination in public places; it established the Race Relations Board and the National Committee for Commonwealth Immigrants, yet did not apply to jobs or housing. These efforts were later extended in 1968, 1976, and 2000 to include a much wider range of forms of discrimination, including indirect discrimination. Perhaps this legislation indicated a conscious shift in the UK away from "assimilation" of immigrants to "integration" and a desire to improve their experience of prejudice ingrained into the fabric of British society.

To give a broad overview, events in the early 2000s, involving the 2001 race riots and terrorist attacks such as 9/11, strained a growing sense of multiculturalism in British society. Assimilationist policies responded to a fear of terrorism and of immigrants altering traditional culture, seen through new nationality tests and citizen ceremonies encouraging people to adopt and learn about British traditions.

This intense anti-migrant sentiment can be exemplified through the 2018 Windrush Scandal, wherein over 160 members of the Windrush Generation (1948-73) were detained and deported. These legal British residents from Caribbean backgrounds were also barred from working, lost access to welfare benefits, and were refused access to government services,

despite many having lived and worked in the UK for over 40 years.

Figure 78: Windrush Scandal protests

This was a result of the UK Government's 'hostile environment' policies beginning in the 2010s under Prime Minister Theresa May, aiming to make it as difficult as possible for those without legal leave to remain in the UK to do so. Those deported were often not able to prove their citizenship, having arrived on the passports of parents, and such were wrongfully identified as 'illegal' immigrants. The devastating consequences of this can be viewed through the infamous case of Albert Thompson, who was charged £54,000 for cancer treatment after having worked as a mechanic and paid taxes for more than three decades.

Thanks to large media publicity and public outrage, there is now a government compensation scheme for victims of the Windrush Scandal, with over 1000 claims having been made. Nevertheless, this marked another indication of the hostile policy that focused scrutiny for political

issues on immigrants, often making them vulnerable to further racial bias.

Another key contemporary reflection is that of Brexit, perhaps an aim to 'rekindle Britain's globe-straddling past' as was often perceived in 'leave' campaigns, echoing problematic traditions of the post-war era. It could be argued that the demographics of Brexit voting, with many members of the older generation voting to leave the European Union, is a display of memory of imperial dominance, and the legacy of a proud colonial Britain much more independent of constant regional cooperation. A sense of resistance towards the growing multiculturalism played a significant role in this movement, seen by some to cause social fragmentation and a loss of traditional values.

Overall, it cannot be denied that a renewed focus on control of national identity echoes past colonial rhetoric; in recent years divisive politics have been seen to place disproportionate responsibility for contemporary Britain's social flaws with immigration. As Britain continues to redefine its global identity, it will be essential to confront and understand its colonial past to create an inclusive concept of identity and citizenship.

Frantz Fanon and his impact on anticolonial thought and liberation movements, *by Will Hadfield*

Frantz Fanon (1925-1962) remains one of the most influential intellectuals in radical political and postcolonial thought and anti-colonial resistance. He has been described as a philosopher, a Marxist, and a psychologist, with his unique ability to work across different theoretical disciplines being one of the greatest advantages to his work.

Fanon was born in Martinique and enlisted in the Free French Forces during World War II. After his experiences in the war and his treatment when he returned home, he became disillusioned with the French pretending they cared about the ideals of 'Liberty' and 'Equality'. His work focused on how colonialism dehumanised individuals and on how it exploited colonised countries' economic resources. It also continues to inform on colonialism, race and identity.
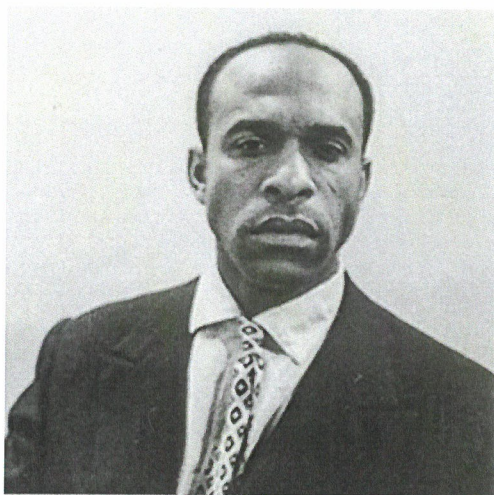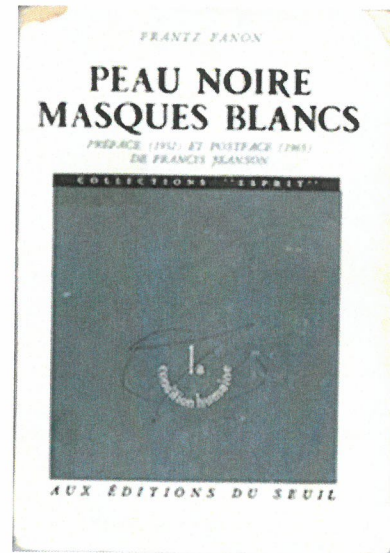

Figure 79: Frantz Fanon

Figure 80: Black Skin, White Masks, Frantz Fanon

Fanon's first major work, 'Black Skin, White Masks' (1952), sought to examine the foundations of anti-black racism and its widespread acceptance in human consciousness and society. It mainly explored the internalisation of colonial oppression using psychoanalysis and existentialist philosophy. He put forward the argument that colonised people develop an "epidermalised inferiority complex" in which they adopt the values of, and seek to assimilate with, their coloniser. This eventually leads to intense alienation. Linguistic, cultural and social structures inherently reinforce the subjugation of colonised peoples, meaning that they cannot construct a personal or free identity; they would either lack authenticity or would rely on the foundation of the illusion of assimilation. Fanon writes to emphasise the damaging effects of assimilation. Black people, in colonial society, seeking to 'whiten'

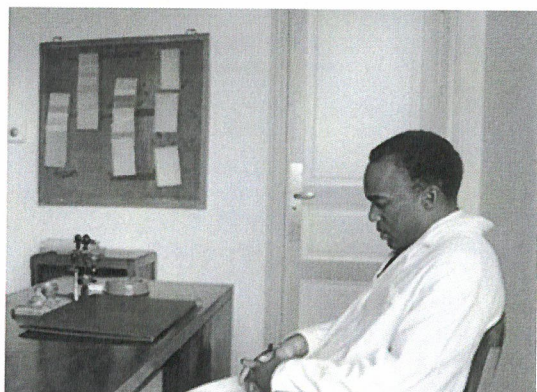themselves, will only be met with deep feelings of inadequacy.

Figure 81: Fanon at work as a psychiatrist

Fanon, a trained psychiatrist, employed a dialectical approach to analysing the trauma and violence found in colonial regions. Having treated both colonial subjects and French settlers during his time in Algeria, Fanon gained a unique perspective on the issues he was writing about. He found that colonised patients suffered from neurosis, anxiety disorders and depression. These, he theorised, were the impact of subrogation, colonial violence and the humiliation they faced. Inversely, the French settlers displayed symptoms of guilt, sadism (the tendency to derive pleasure from inflicting pain) and paranoia. Fanon believed that these were the structural results of colonial rule.

During the 1950s, Fanon worked as a psychiatrist in Algeria. During this time, he witnessed the full extent of colonial repression. The Algerian War for independence was an armed conflict, fought between France and the Algerian National Liberation Front

for 8 years (1954 -1962). It eventually ended in Algeria gaining its independence. It was characterised by guerrilla warfare and war crimes. Massacres and torture had become frequent since the beginning of French colonisation. However, during the war, the French methods became more and more extreme.

Figure 82: Algerian independence protests

The actions of the French army, during the war, included shooting into civilian crowds, bombing villages (who were suspected of helping the National Liberation Front), rape and the disembowelment of pregnant women. Over 2 million Algerians were placed into internment camps and forced into labour.

The National Liberation Front (FLN) was not entirely innocent either, they used terrorist methods to avoid confrontation with the French firepower. Ambushes, night raids and bombs were used to attack army patrols, military encampments and important infrastructure. Many of the atrocities were committed by more militant sections of the FLN and did not represent the ideology of the whole organisation. Fanon was the

head political theorist for the FLN during the time of the war, and his revolutionary thesis was published in 1961, under the name 'The Wretched of the Earth', which is often called his seminal work.

Within 'The Wretched of the Earth', Fanon argues that colonialism is a structurally violent system that can only be dismantled through counter-violence. It cannot be the peaceful transfer of power. Fanon's time in the FLN influenced his writings as he gained an appreciation for the reality of anticolonialism, which requires revolution. He wrote that "the revolution in depth, the true one, precisely because it changes man and renews society, has reached an advanced stage.

This oxygen, which creates and shapes a new humanity — this, too, is the Algerian revolution." He argued that "violence is a man recreating himself", violence can serve as a means of liberation but also as a means of regaining agency and humanity for the colonised subjects.

Fanon contended that revolutionary violence has a cathartic effect; it cleanses the colonised of their sense of inferiority and unites them in gaining a form of class consciousness. This is a controversial position, however, Fanon believed that violence was inevitable in colonial regimes and that it being used for liberation could benefit those oppressed.
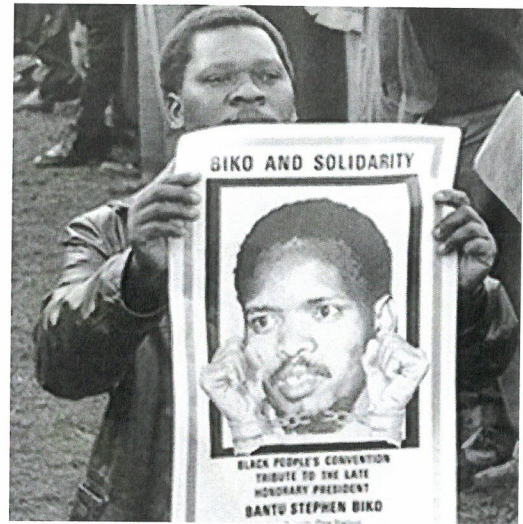

Figure 83: Fanon's legacy inspiring others

Fanon's legacy endures, influencing intellectuals, activists and artists worldwide. While he died at age 36, his theories continue to echo in contemporary thought on identity, race, colonialism and liberation. While his influence on the FLN has already been discussed, Fanon continued to influence revolutionary movements in the mid-20th century.

In the US, the Black Panther Party was founded upon Fanon's theories, with leaders Eldridge Cleaver and Huey Newton citing him as pivotal. The group's emphasis on political education and revolutionary violence (albeit more in self-defence, as opposed to Fanon's revolution and endorsement of guerrilla warfare) reflected Fanon.

Steve Biko and the Black Consciousness Movement, in South Africa, were inspired by Fanon. The Black Consciousness Movement was a grassroots anti-apartheid activist movement. They refused to engage

with the 'condescending' ideas and values of the white liberals and emphasised the rejection of a white monopoly on truth as a central tenet of their movement. Biko and the Movement's slogan of "Black is beautiful" was a reference to Fanon's rejection of assimilation and his call for affirming black identity as a revolutionary act. The movement's rejection of 'white truth' also falls under Fanon's theoretical framework, as it was the bourgeoisie colonisers trying to act in allegiance to pacify and dilute the black revolutionary movement.

*Figure 84: Steve Biko, South African anti-apartheid leader*

Contemporary activists and intellectuals draw on Fanon's critique of systematic oppression and his vision of emancipation. Fanon's want for structural change is echoed in movements such as Black Lives Matter and Rhodes Must Fall. Starting originally as a student protest against a statue of Cecil Rhodes at the University of Cape Town, the Rhodes Must Fall movement inspired other student bodies at universities like Harvard Law School and Oxford to protest for the decolonisation of education.

Fanon laid the groundwork for postcolonial theory with his theories on the psychology of colonialism, influencing critical race theory, black existentialism and more general cultural and critical studies through the lens of the politics of identity. Writers such as Homi Bhabha and others have developed and extended Fanonian ideas to look at migration, exile and the African-American experience.

Frantz Fanon was possibly one of the most influential and important figures in the 20th century in the world of anticolonial thought. His ideas have proved themselves to be robust and universal, still having influence today. This could be due to his particular experience of colonialism, both from his psychiatry and his time in the FLN, gaining a real understanding of the struggles caused by the structural makeup of colonialism.

As the world still grapples with the concept of anti-colonialism in its truest, most radical form, Fanon stands out as the catalyst for a more just society, in which no person loses their agency and in which no person feels the need to assimilate for safety.
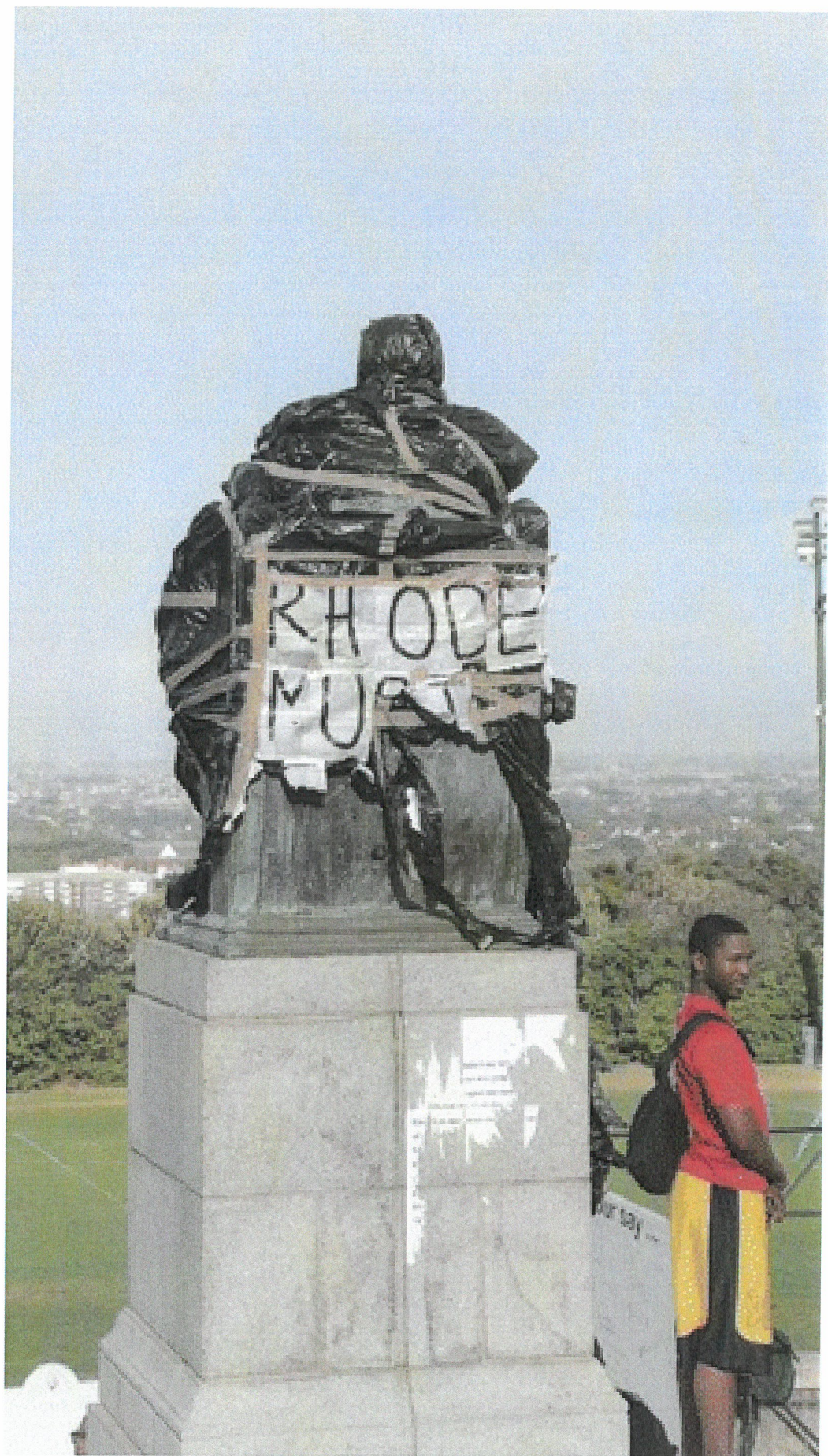
The Windscale Fire and the "Folly" idea that saved Britain, *by Seb Ogley*

In the year 1946, the USA and her allies signed the Atomic Energy Act. This banned the collaboration over advancements in nuclear technology between the signers. As a result, the British government, under Clement Attlee, decided it necessary to establish their own nuclear program. This began with the creation of the Windscale plant.

In 1950, in Seascale, Cumberland in England, the Windscale Plutonium creation plant started construction, with the first "pile" starting in 1950 and the second starting in 1951. During the early years of nuclear production, the largest problems that the plants experienced were the excessive heat that was being produced by the uranium rods in the cores and these issues were also a major pint of discussion in the construction of the Windscale plant.

In the original designs of the dual reactor system, the engineers were considering using a water-cooled system that ran the liquid around the cores to cool them. This came with significant drawbacks that led to a change, namely that id the coolant was to be interrupted then Britain would not have had the space in the country to support the 30-mile evacuation zone and even larger exclusion zone in the event of a fallout.

If the engineers had opted for this system, it would have meant the relocation of the reactor sight further north into Scotland and possibly the Outer Hebrides in order to provide a safe containment zone.
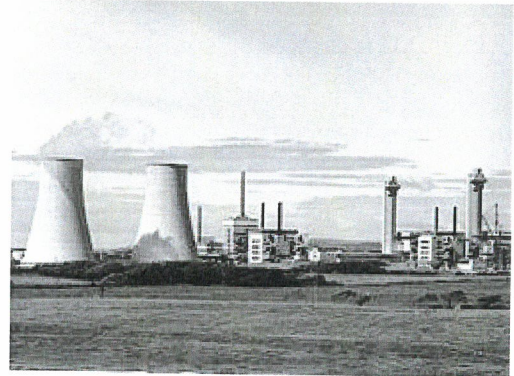

Figure 85: Windscale Plutonium Creation Plant

The cooling system that the Windscale engineers settled on was a natural air-cooling design and it was implemented around the cores which were constructed with fuel channels that were placed horizontally and surrounded by graphite. The chimneys (which were 400ft high and had been specially designed to complement this system) now placed at the back of the pile would take the heat away due to the natural convection design.

Industrial fans or blowers were also added at the front of the core to enhance the natural convection. The fuel cartridges were 1ft long and protected by a casing. Fuel was placed into the core from the front of each pile. As new fuel cartridges were added to the front of the pile, previously irradiated cartridges, which now contained plutonium, would be pushed out the back side and fall into a pit of cooling water.

Many physicists had concerns about the whole process such as: fuel getting stuck in the fuel channels and the fuel cartridges breaking after being pushed into the cooling pit at the rear of the reactor, however no physicist had a greater concern and ultimately a greater solution than Sir John Cockcroft.

Figure 86: Sir John Cockroft

The British physicist, Sir John Cockcroft, had been born in West Yorkshire in 1897. During his life the physicist had won a scholarship to study mathematics at Victoria University of Manchester in 1914. However, the following year he enlisted in the British army and became a signaller, participating in battles such as the Advance of the Hindenburg Line and the Third Battle of Ypres. After graduating, he would go on to perform the first ever artificial nuclear disintegration experiment with Ernest Walton. In 1938 they won the Hughes Medal and in 1951, the Nobel prize for "splitting the atom". However, one of his lesser-known ideas became one of, if not the most, impactful roles in British Nuclear history.

Early on in the construction and design of the Windscale project, Cockcroft had particular concern regarding the irradiated cartridges that were being pushed to the back of the reactor. His concerns were that if a fire were to break out in the rear of the reactor it would ignite the uranium causing the release of extremely radioactive elements.
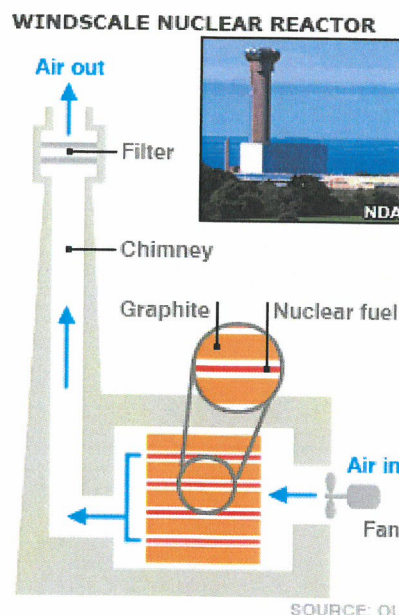

Figure 87: Cockroft's design for the reactors at Windscale

This combined with the natural air-cooling system of air flowing through the system could, to his calculations, cause the radioactive uranium to be carried out of the core, into the pile and out, effectively using the now 400ft chimney as an artificial volcano top, expelling radiation across the country and surrounding area as if it were ash.

To combat this problem, he suggested and designed the addition of filters to the tops of both chimney stacks in order to regulate the waste and

particles that were able to leave the core.

This was mocked heavily, with some of Britain's most regarded physicist and engineers dubbing them as "Cockcroft's Follies" and mocked as "expensive pieces of pointless delay". As a result, his concerns were quickly disregarded until later in construction when they were added at the very end, winched into place on top of the chimneys and this gave rise to the distinctive "bulge" at the top of the Windscale piles. Ultimately, Cockcroft and his concerns became the main reason for the prevention of a complete fallout and radiological disaster.

On 8th of October 1957, the routine heating of reactor 1 came out of control. Initially the operators tried to release the heat through a Wigner release, which was designed to stop the build of neutrons hitting the graphite was successful, even going as far as to let the temperature fall on the 10th. After this, the operators increased the airflow to the core in order to maintain the low temperature, this proved fatal as it only fuel the fire further. By the 11th, all flames had been successfully extinguished by a combination of carbon dioxide flooding and shutting off the fans.

However, by this time it was too late and the fire had led to the uranium cases, adjacent to the overheating graphite to rupture causing a fire. When the now exposed uranium

oxidised and released radioactivity that burned for a total of 16 hours before it was able to be successfully put out.

Figure 88: The Windscale Fire, with smoke (and radiation) coming out of the chimney

As a result of the accident, 10 tons of radioactive fuel had melted and the due to the air cooling system that has been installed, sizable amounts of radioactive iodine was released into the atmosphere, as a result, the government was forced to take precautionary actions, one of which being the ban of sale on any milk that has been produced in a 200-square-mile area from the reactor, this action, in fact was backed and encouraged by none other than Sir John Cockcroft, who later said that the destruction and restriction of this contaminated milk, likely prevented thousands of cases of thyroid cancer.

However, this was not the only positive aspect of the fallout that the physicist had been a part of. His "folly" filters that had been so quickly dismissed had in fact, caught up to 95% of the radioactive dust from the fallout. Today, experts say that the filters are the reason to why that area in the lake

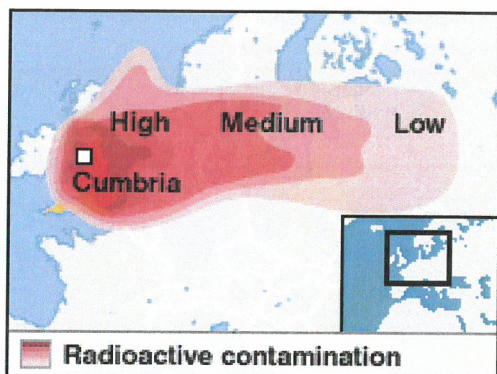district is still accessible and the North of England is not a wasteland.

Figure 89: Map reflecting the fallout from the Windscale fire

Despite the larger success in the mitigation of the fallout, Windscale continued to have a negative impact of Britain years on from the accident, with the reactor having not been sealed until the 1980s, more than 20 years on. On top of this, clean up only started back in 2014 (after a fatality in 2003) and this was only after the government attempted to mitigate the political damage that the event caused by renaming the area to Sellafield in 1981 in order to improve the public image of the area and show the international stage that Britain had moved on from the incident.

Despite these efforts, the press that came from the accident led to a very negative image, with even British papers speaking negatively on the issue. For instance, the Guardian published an article that contained a cartoon depicting soviet scientist discussing how to handle the situation after Chernobyl, with one character stating: "We have sought advice from the United Kingdom, and they suggest we change the name!"

Figure 90: Newspaper report of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986

Overall, the incident and the causes, as well as the mitigating factors have provided great insight to Britain's nuclear research advances. On top of this, now years on, and the government no longer attempting to cover up the failings of their projects, Sir John Cockcroft can be remembered properly with many applauding his efforts years on, and with his son visiting the Sellafield sight and saying: "We should remember the exemplary courage and devotion of the Windscale men who fought to control the fire back in 1957," and "My grandfather would be extremely proud to know that his legacy of safety in the nuclear industry lives on at Sellafield today." Today in 2025, it allows Cockroft to be remembered as the man who saved Britain from potentially one of the deadliest nuclear fallouts. All because of a "folly" design.
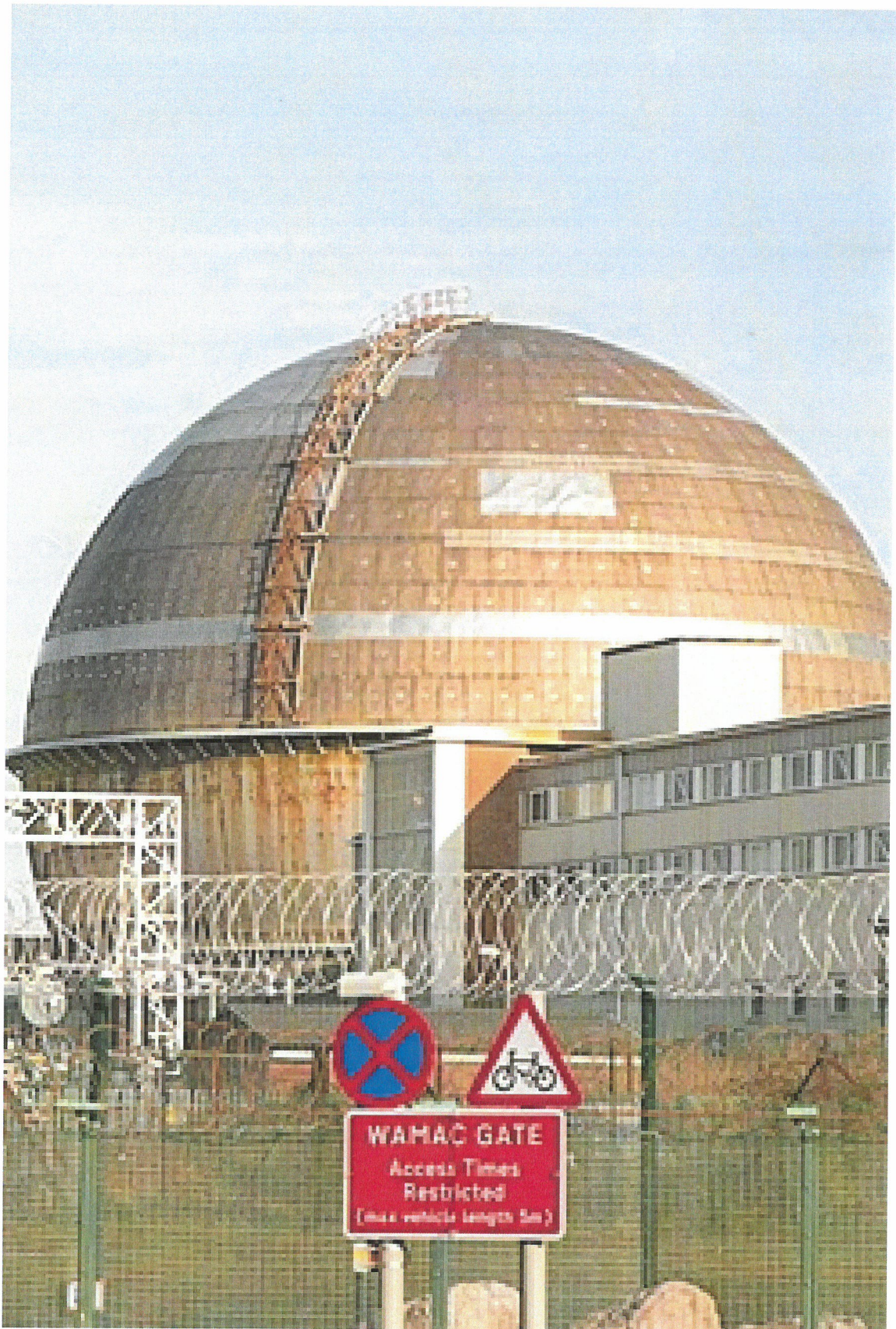
Nicolae Ceaușescu - Romania's Stalin? *By Sean Whitehall*

During World War Two, Romania initially held a policy of neutrality. However, in 1939 the Nazi-Soviet pact allowed the USSR and Germany to invade Poland and split it between them. It also authorised the USSR's claim on Romanian territory which differed from the popular view, which was largely to move closer to the Axis powers.

In 1940 the USSR occupied parts of Romania, and other minor invasions from neighbouring countries led to a coup which resulted in a fascist Romanian government joining the Axis powers in November 1940. In 1944, after a long bombing campaign, the country was fully invaded by the Soviets and along with another coup, led by the Romanian king, the country was fully occupied by the Soviet army. Later, after the king's forced abdication in 1947, a full Romanian communist regime was set up.

Figure 91: Ceausescu after an early arrest

Nicolae Ceaușescu was born in 1918 and became involved in Communist Party activities in 1932. He was arrested several times for communist involvement. He was convicted of distributing communist and antifascist propaganda and later he was arrested again for conspiracy against social order. In 1943, during his time in an internment camp, he met Gheorge Gheorghiu-Dej, who later became the first communist leader of Romania.

Figure 92: Ceausescu on the left, as the Soviets are welcomed into Romania at the end of WW2

As the country was invaded and occupied by Soviet forces, the communist members including Ceaușescu welcomed them. The connection he had to Dej, due to his prison time, led to Ceaușescu becoming a member of the Great National Assembly (the decision-making body of communist Romania). This connection further benefited him through his political career, becoming a high-ranking official in the agricultural and defence ministries.

Eventually, due to internal party disputes after Dej's death in 1965, the Politburo (the highest political organisation in communist countries)

chose Ceaușescu to be his successor as general secretary in 1965.

Ceaușescu's first act was to declare Romania a socialist republic rather than a people's republic and, in his first years, he attempted to consolidate his power through eliminating political opponents by sending them to prison or psychiatric hospitals.

Ceaușescu took a more independent, nationalistic view of being a part of the Soviet population. His ideological position was similar to that of Tito's rule in Yugoslavia which, unlike other satellite states, was politically distant and also relatively independent from Soviet control. This catalysed his increasing support from the population, for actions such as removing the country from the Soviet Warsaw Pact and condemning Soviet actions such as the invasion of Czechoslovakia, which was caused by the Czechs' more liberal leader moving away from the Soviet ideal and showing a relatively relaxed communist approach which had been shut down in other satellite states.

However, whilst he chose to move away from central Soviet control, he chose to maintain his power and began to enforce strict controls over free speech and the media. In 1966, Ceaușescu outlawed contraception and abortion in Decree 770 in order to increase stagnating birth rates. This, however, caused a massive spike in

the maternal mortality rate, as many turned to unsafe outlawed abortions.

In 1982 Ceaușescu ordered most of the country's economic output to be exported, resulting in mass food shortages and crashing living standards, further angering the repressed opposition to his rule. Ceaușescu also began to appoint members of his family to high government positions.

Figure 93: The controversial Palace of Parliament, built at great cost economically and culturally

Ceaușescu also, in 1978, began his 'Project Bucharest', which aimed to build the palace of parliament, a massive government building which would, eventually, amplify opposition to Ceaușescu and ultimately be a large factor in his downfall. The palace had an estimated cost of £3.4 billion, and along with a crippling austerity policy imposed by Ceaușescu in the 1980s, the economy was on its knees. By the time of his removal in 1989, the economy had an annual economic growth figure of -5.8%.

The mega project also resulted in the levelling of entire neighbourhoods in order to satisfy Ceaușescu's need for the palace. The construction had

destroyed monasteries, hospitals, factories and workshops, and 40,000 people were relocated from the area. The project also used the forced labour of Ceaușescu's political enemies to construct the palace.

The construction brought much opposition to Ceaușescu from all over the country due to his neglect of the country and his focus on unnecessary projects whilst the country had mass food shortages. As opposition mounted around Romania and protests broke out in the streets, Ceaușescu, attempting to slow and end the unrest, announced he was going to deliver a speech to the crowd from the central committee building.

Figure 94: Ceausescu's final speech, attempting to reunify the country but failing to do so

The crowd was planted to give the impression of popularity, however Ceaușescu was on his own. During his speech, shots were fired and screams and gunshots began to disperse the crowd. The revolution had spread and was now threatening Ceaușescu directly, resulting in him fleeing Bucharest in a helicopter to attempt to find loyal soldiers to help him reassert his power. No help came.

Ceaușescu was forced to land and was arrested by the armed forces who had mostly mutinied and joined the revolution themselves. Ceaușescu and his wife were swiftly tried and convicted of genocide and other crimes and were immediately executed by firing squad.

Figure 95: The Ceausescu's execution spot, which took place after a hastily arranged military trial

Ceaușescu's rule, and the communist past of Romania, have clearly left significant aftereffects on the country, much like many other countries previously a part of the Soviet Union. His poor economic decisions later in his rule, an inability to take criticism and his desire for pompous mega projects, which sacrificed the rest of the country for his own gain, left the country in disarray. His cult of personality led to his megalomaniacal, self-centred decisions where the people would suffer.

Stănculescu, a communist general who defied Ceaușescu's orders and played a significant role in the revolution, stated the trial was "not just, but necessary". There was much

dispute over the execution of Ceaușescu due to there being no public trial, but Stănculescu believed that they either executed him or he would have been lynched on the streets of Bucharest, showing the widely-held belief that it was for the best for the country to remove the regime and consolidating the necessity of his removal from power.

Figure 96: Romainan revolutionaries holding the flag of the rebellion, with the hole cut in the middle to remove communist symbolism

The revolution seems to have been necessary to Romania's development, but effects are still felt from Ceaușescu's tyrannical rule. This has extended to current-day Romania, which has felt the weight of its communist past as corruption in the country, whilst declining, is still present. In 2014, 57% of Romanians were most likely to say they were personally affected by corruption (EU anti-corruption report).

It is clear that Ceaușescu has left a bitter taste in the mouths of Romanians, and whilst the country recovers, the damage weighs the country down. The now capitalist country will need time to catch up with the trajectory Romania was on before

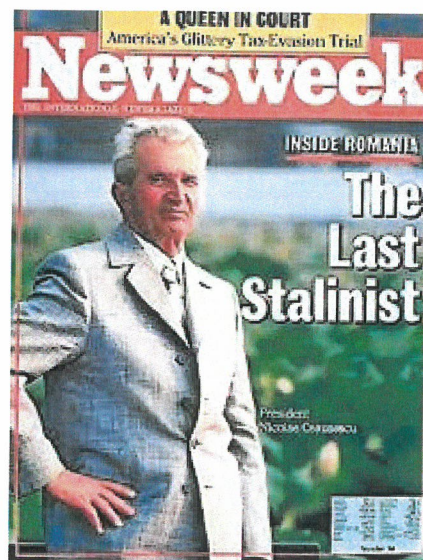Ceaușescu's clearly detrimental economic and social reforms.

Figure 97: How Ceausescu was perceived in the West

In many ways Ceaușescu evokes parallels with Stalin due to their brutal domestic policies and their selfish cult of personality which left a stain on the reputation of their respective countries. Whilst their views on policy and the importance of a Soviet central government controlling the satellite states differed, they both showed the same motivation of a totalitarian dictatorship which was headed by themselves.

In Russia, Stalin's cult of personality resulted in the policy of de-Stalinization being introduced even by successors of the Soviet leadership. In Romania, Ceaușescu's megalomania resulted in the Romanian revolution and his removal from power. Ceaușescu now inspires widespread opprobrium and is a dark stain on the history of Romania as a whole.
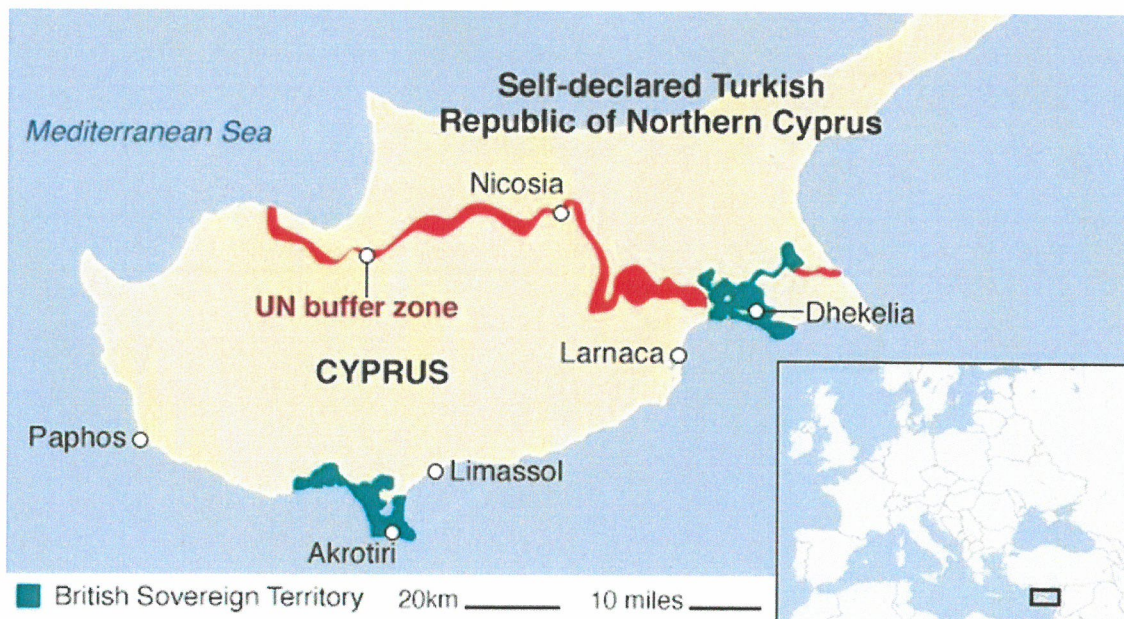
The Misadventures of Mr Stone in... Northern Cyprus, *by Mr DJ Stone*

In 1983, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus declared independence, establishing itself as a de facto nation nine years after the Turkish invasion of the northern part of Cyprus, in response to a Greek officers coup that heightened concerns about the increased likelihood of enosis, or union between Greece and Cyprus, becoming reality. Fifty-one years later, not much has changed in terms of the status quo. Inspired by Romesh Ranganathan's travel series exploring places and peoples off the beaten track, I decided to break away from my February half term family holiday to take in a guided trip across the Green Line.

Ireland, Korea, Germany and Vietnam. There are many common themes that strike you when looking at the impact of partitions in different contexts – rarely are differences peacefully resolved by this.

The associated upheavals, with forced or inevitable relocations leading to loss of land and property, violence and intimidation, inter-communal conflict (which partitions are often designed to prevent) and, at the worst end of the spectrum, ethnic cleaning and genocide. Temporary partitions can very easily and quickly become entrenched and the norm. Even where they are successful, rarely do the underlying tensions, often based on centuries of ethnic or religious difference and division, dissipate.
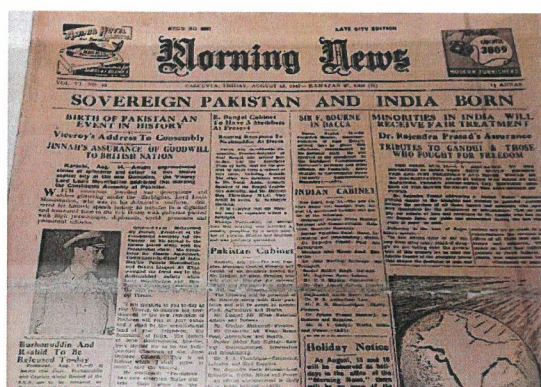

Figure 98: Partition, tried and tested with different outcomes the world over

As a history and politics teacher, partition has been a central feature of many of the courses and periods I have both studied and taught. At university, it was Ireland, South Africa, and, for my dissertation, Palestine ahead of the creation of Israel in 1948. As a teacher, I have taught A Level courses focussed on India and the Raj,

Figure 99: A colonial-era post-box in Paphos

Having never visited Cyprus before, I was keen to learn a little bit more about its history and present. This led me to book a one-day guided excursion from Paphos, where we were staying, to Famagusta, on the

other side of the island across the Green Line. This band, stretching from coast to coast, was created in 1974 to keep the peace between the two sides and has been policed by the United Nations ever since.

Like no-man's land keeping the two sides apart, at its widest it was a few kilometres and at its closest, a few metres. Only in recent years has this opened up to visitors and Cypriots on both sides, with Foreign Office advice still warning against travel to the north. For this reason, tour operators do not routinely offer this as an excursion and our trip, led by our Greek Cypriot guide Vassos, was one of only a handful offered by private providers.

We departed early in the morning and headed across the southern part of the island on the motorway. Running parallel to the sea to Limassol before heading into the hills up towards Nicosia and heading back to the coast at Larnaca, the journey gave an insight into the contrasting topography of Cyprus today. A modern European city with a careful balance between development, tourism, nature and history.

The reminders of British colonial rule, which ended in 1960, were visible at all times, on the roads, with the traffic lights, the post-boxes and even the electricity sockets! We also passed through the two large sovereign UK bases of Episkopi & Akrotiri, and Dhekelia, which have remained as critical UK military possessions in the

Mediterranean as part of the agreement to give Cyprus its independence.

The fifteen kilometres to the border checkpoint at Strovilia sees the road take you through the UK sovereign territory of Dhekelia and the final three villages of the Famagusta region still controlled by the Cypriots. For much of this journey, the road runs parallel to the Green Line at a point where it is at its narrowest. Turkish conscript soldiers on patrol were clearly visible on the other side of the divide, which local farmers had cultivated right up to the line; but no further. Signs warned of the grave consequences of doing so. Lookouts on each side, UN and Turkish army, were a feature every few kilometres.
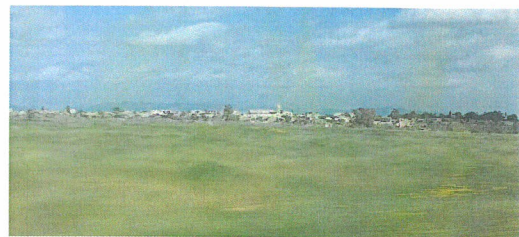

Figure 100: The abandoned village of Achna, now lying in the buffer zone

Vassos, our guide, pointed out the abandoned village of Achna, which lay in a wider part of the Green Zone, and then where the population had built a new village a few hundred metres on their side of the line. The derelict features of homes untouched since 1974 was to become a recurring theme over the next few hours.

Before reaching the border checkpoint, we passed through

Mercury Barracks, a large UK military base equipped with a NAFFI store, an Iceland, a police station and several hundred UK troops. It struck me, and no doubt both sides of the divide, of the significance and purpose of this presence so close to a key crossing point.

Figure 101: The border crossing into the TRIC

Crossing a land border is an unusual experience for us, even from a post-Brexit, out of Schengen British perspective. The border at Strovilia was the first time I have crossed a non-EU land border since Swaziland in 2001. The Cypriot government claims sovereignty over all of the island and its people, and along with the rest of the world except Turkey, does not recognise the TRNC. As such, it does not carry out any checks as you leave and neither to the British who control some of the checkpoints on the southern side. Consequently, your passports are inspected, but not stamped, by the TRNC border officials and you are on your way!

On the return, TRNC border officials check your passports again ahead of British or Cypriot officials mainly checking that you are not bringing back too many cigarettes or too much alcohol – both are significantly cheaper on the northern side. Flags and symbolism were clearly important, for the TRNC officials to legitimise the existence of their state and for the Cypriots, minimalizing this has the opposite effect for the TRNC.

Figure 102: Welcome to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Once over the border, the visit had three parts – to see the three main stages of Famagusta's history and importance to the island and civilization; the ancient, medieval and modern cities of Famagusta. Our first stop was the monastery and tomb of St Barnabas, who is revered as having brought orthodox Christianity to Cyprus.

We then visited the ancient city of Salamis. Until I was teaching a lesson in W16, I hadn't realised how integral Salamis and its history were to the Classics curriculum. Mrs Jones and Eddie Griffiths have since enlightened me to the existence of two Salamis's, one Greek and one Cypriot!

Excavations began in the late nineteenth century led by the Cyprus Exploration Fund. Since then, the site has been excavated and opened up for people to visit. Many of the archaeological finds are now, controversially, in the British Museum in London. As with sites on the island like the Tomb of the Kings in Paphos, it is incredible to stand in the baths, amphitheatres and homes of Phoenicians, Persians, ancient Greeks and Romans.
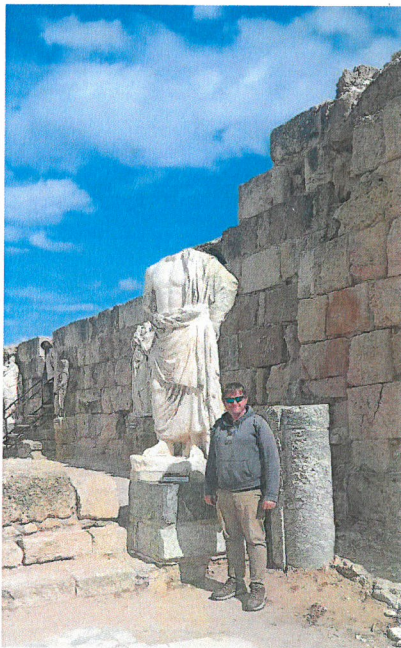

Figure 103: With a headless statue at Salamis

Lunch was taken in the walled medieval city and port of Famagusta, originally built by the Venetians, fortified by Richard the Lionheart and many after him, and also, for the English students amongst you, inherently linked to Shakespeare and the story of Othello. It was here that there was an opportunity to get some food (a mixed meat kebab in a tortilla wrap seemed wise) and do some

shopping in the eerily quiet streets of the old town.

Since crossing the border, the economic disparity between the two parts of Cyprus had been quite stark and it was noticeable how much cheaper things were, in Euros or Turkish Lira, and how much less economically active it appeared to be on the northern side of the line, compared to the bustle of the streets of Paphos. As a member state of the European Union, the economic advancement since accession has been rapid, along with the long-established benefits of interconnectivity on tourism.
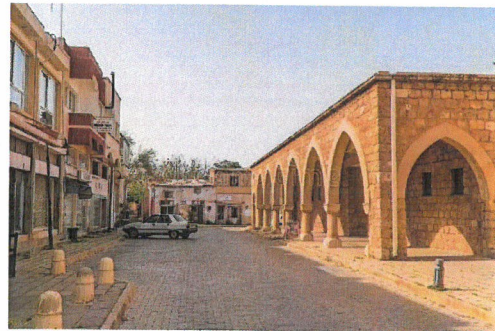

Figure 104: Central Famagusta

Our final stop saw us travel south of the city to Varosha, the ghost town of Famagusta. Varsoha had been created by the Greek Cypriots when they were forced out of the old town by the Ottomans and, by 1974, had become a vibrant and developed tourist and population centre, with many hotels, restaurants and businesses servicing international and Cypriot clientele. With the advance of the Turkish army in 1974 to Famagusta, the inhabitants of Varosha fled south; believing this to

be a temporary necessity until they would be able to return home.

For 51 years, very little has changed until the opening up of the area to visitors only in October 2020. Consequently, the buildings have fallen into a state of decay and disrepair, and the site is heavily surveillanced by the Turkish army, who have a significant military presence in a large base to the north of Varosha. As you walk towards the entrance, again symbolism becomes important. Flags are everywhere, both TRNC and Turkish, and the football stadium, which was formerly the home to Anorthosis Famagusta, stands to your right-hand side.

Figure 105: Warning signs on derelict buildings in Varosha

Big signs and security guards mark the gate in, beyond which and bizarrely, visitors are then able to hire electric scooters to travel around the site and

areas offer shelter from the sun. The contrast between the sombre sentiments felt by many visitors and others, for whom this was a fun day out to the beach bar (newly constructed, along with the paving of the roads for the visit of President Erdogan of Turkey in 2021) was not lost on our party.

Varosha clearly means two different things to Cypriots depending on which side of the Green Line they live on. As a neutral, a certain unease remained given that fundamentally this was a site where something very sad had happened and is the lived reality for many peoples on the island of Cyprus today – just like on the WW1 Battlefields, there is a certain way to behave and that this was not universally apparent in Varosha was upsetting.
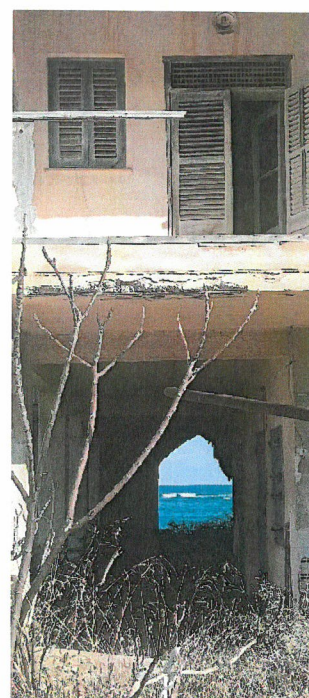

Figure 106: The view to the sea through a ruined home

The warning signs, barbed wire and crumbling, decaying buildings, the surveillance cameras and flags were an enduring reminder of the ongoing legacy of the war and intercommunal violence of 1974 and the years that have followed. Vassos, our guide, explained in a measured fashion but with heartfelt sadness the uncertainty that remains regarding the future of Varosha. The Greeks would like to return, that is unlikely to happen any time soon, but the TRNC with Turkish support have not and do not intend to develop Varosha – to do so would be in contravention of UN Resolutions. Turkey remains a candidate state to join the EU, making Varosha, Famagusta and the TRNC potentially pivotal pawns in negotiations to progress this; as Cyprus is a full member state of the EU.
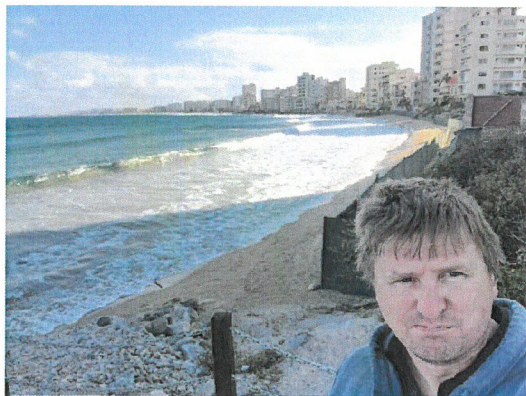

Figure 107: The view back towards the green line along the abandoned beachfront

As ever with any partition, there are two sides to the story. Our guide unsurprisingly put across a clearly Greek Cypriot perspective on this sad story, but life for the Turkish Cypriot minority before 1974, which constituted at most 20% of the total population, was not necessarily a bed of roses and for them, the looming prospect of enosis created fear and anxiety. From 1958, the lived experience of many hundreds of Turkish Cypriots was to leave their homes in mixed villages, never to return.

I saw this first hand as we travelled, just a few days earlier, through an abandoned Turkish Cypriot village on the northwestern side of the island as part of a jeep safari with a former Greek Cypriot commando as our guide! In 1963, a targeted campaign of Greek paramilitary violence saw some 25,000 Turkish Cypriots withdraw into armed enclaves for protection, with atrocities towards the Turkish Cypriot population becoming commonplace in an environment of religious and ethnic tension. By 1974, the Turkish army's invasion led to the capture of 37% of the island to ultimately create the TRIC.

A point of controversy for many Greek Cypriots has been the deliberate policy of Turkish settlement, including in Famagusta on the streets adjacent to Varosha, advanced by successive governments in Ankara since 1975, with financial, employment and property incentives aimed at bolstering the TRIC's population and position.

Irish independence leader and founding President Eamonn de Valera famously said that "partition is after all only an old fortress of crumbled

masonry – held together with the plaster of fiction." Yet partition on the island of Ireland, which he vehemently opposed and detested remains in place today all over the world, with Cyprus a case study in kind. The prospect of any reconciliation and reunification, which remains a constitutional assertion of the Republic of Cyprus, appears to be as distant now as it has ever been. The plaster is far from fictitious; indeed, it is very real.

Figure 108: An abandoned Turkish Cypriot village in northwestern Cyprus