

# 1495

## THE LGS HISTORY MAGAZINE

# The Great Emu War

The most interesting war you've never heard of

IN THIS EDITION...



Was the British Empire a force for good? | What if Apartheid had never ended? | How has geography shaped history? | What if the Nazis had invaded England? | How did the Black Death shape the Italian Renaissance? | And much more!



# 1495

## Edition 1

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# 1495: The LGS History Magazine

Welcome to the first edition of the new LGS History Magazine: 1495. Named for the year that Loughborough Grammar School was founded, the magazine aims to bring together the interests and work of the best and most dedicated historians at LGS, from Year 7 right the way up to Year 13, with articles varying from quizzes to more academic historical investigations into some of the quirkiest aspects of history.

The first edition of magazine, as you will see, contains articles on subjects such as the Italian Renaissance, the British Empire, World War One and, obviously, the evident gender imbalance in historical piracy. There is also a healthy dose of counter-factual history, ranging from 'What if the Nazis had invaded England?' to 'What if Apartheid had never ended?'

A massive congratulations must go to all the contributors to the magazine, whose names are listed on the left. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, and the necessity for remote learning, they did not let up in their extra-curricular learning and have come together to create an excellent piece of work. If you would like to contribute to the next magazine, which will be published at the start of next academic year, then do not hesitate to get in contact with Mr Blackman.

We hope you enjoy!

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# Topical history

## The Siege of Malta

Shayan Pattani, Year 12

For pretty much all of us, this is the first time we've ever experienced a lockdown with it completely changing the way we live and work. However, we're not the first society to experience a lockdown and even though our circumstances may be different, historical lockdowns have happened. Let's take a look at a lockdown that took place in the year 1565 on the small island of Malta, just off the coast of Sicily.

Now, this lockdown was not due to a virus but instead an attack by the Ottomans who laid siege to the island with 40,000 men, with the siege being the climax of an escalating contest between the Christian alliances and the Islamic Ottoman Empire for control of the Mediterranean. It must be made clear here that the Maltese were heavily outnumbered. While the Ottomans attacked with a large fleet and the earlier mentioned 40,000 men Malta, to defend itself, only had the 700 Knights who were based on the Island and 8,000 regular troops. The Maltese also had a large number of forts and fortified towns of which many of the civilians took refuge during the siege.

This siege lasted for 4 months with the Maltese managing to successfully hold out the Ottomans due to the forts and intelligence about the attack before it took place, with the Maltese responding to the intelligence by destroying all their crops and poisoning all their water supplies. Furthermore, the Maltese managed to inflict heavy casualties on the Ottomans who also lost a large proportion of their troops to disease. Overall, this was a great victory for the Maltese who had endured 4 months of lockdown and lost around 9000 civilians and troops. This was a lockdown that seriously diminished the power of one of the strongest empires in the world, at that period of time.



Siege of Malta, 1565.

## The Spanish Flu

Alex Hayward, Year 12

With the recent coronavirus outbreak, it made me think back to other historical viruses that have occurred in the last century; prominent ones such as the Ebola virus from 2013 - 2016 and the Zika virus of 2016 spring to mind as viruses of recent times.

However, within the past year, the rapid emergence of the coronavirus has prompted me to look back on the pinnacle of disastrous 20<sup>th</sup> century viruses, the Spanish Flu outbreak that followed the First World War in 1918. There seem to be some similarities between the two viruses: both spread rapidly worldwide, particularly affecting areas of Europe. Both viruses also caused lockdown scenarios around the world, however the somewhat cushy conditions that we have in our specific lockdown with PlayStations and Netflix.

The lockdown in 1918 would most likely have consisted of activities such as; listening the music of Al Jonson, including smash hit such as "Rock-a-bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody" and "Hello Central Give Me No-Man's land" or reading the literary excellence of the time, with texts such as "The Elements of Style" by William Strunk Jr and "The Decline of the West" by Oswald Spengler coming out in 1918.



Spanish Flu, 1918.

# The most interesting war you've never heard of: The 1932 Emu War

Henry Straw, Year 13

If I had a pound for every time a country lost a war to animals in the 20th century, I would have two pounds. Which isn't a lot, but very strange that it happened twice. But this isn't about how Mao Zedong killed 45 million people because of Sparrows. This is about the events of 1932 Australia.

But first our story must begin in 1918. With the return of many soldiers from the war, the Australian government gave many returning soldiers land to farm on. Then in 1929 just like the rise of the Nazis in Weimar, there was a rise of wheat production by these farmers to deal with the impact of the Wall Street crash.

With the increase of farming through the outback, food and water became readily available to emus in the desolate wasteland of the outback. This then meant they wouldn't have to travel to the coast for breeding season. With their farms and crops being destroyed by the tyrant of emus, the farmers sought the help of the government. However instead of being sent to the ministry of agriculture like a sane government would do to deal with an agriculture issue. They were sent instead to the Ministry of Defence, headed by Sir George Pearce. And this is where the Great Emu War begins. 3 men, 2 Lewis Guns and 10,000 rounds of ammunition against 30,000 emus. Ill do the maths for you, If each bullet could kill an emu without missing every single, they could kill a third at maximum. However, it turned out that emus are incredibly fast, smart and take about 10 rounds to incapacitate. But to make it better the Australian Government hired a cinematographer to document the brave soldiers.

The first assault took place in Campion district of Western Australia, a hoard of around 50 emus were found and assaulted with a barrage of machine gun fire. With the official government record recording that "Perhaps a dozen birds were killed." They then headed south where the soldiers set up an ambush with a machine gun mounted on a truck. However, as emus are incredibly fast they could outrun the truck ending the first attempt. By

Now before I continue, I must warn any emus that are reading as the next part might be disturbing. As the second assault came with much greater effect. A much simpler tactic of roaming the outback and gunning down any emus seen meant that they could kill around 1,000 emus with around 10,000 rounds. And according to Major Meredith, who led the battle, another 2,500 emus died of their injuries. It was a resounding success. However due to the surplus of food and water to the emus they had had a very good mating season. And overall around 10% of emus in the region had been killed, meaning that it had no effect on anything and the Australian government had wasted money and resources on this. And to make it better they had officially declared war on the emus, therefore had to officially surrender to emus.

For more information try watching:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXpu6tbFCsl>



An Australian grapples with an emu



# My name is, my name is, my name is

Will Grant, Year 12

History is full of party demons and ladies' men: Dan Bilzerian, Mick Jagger... but of course none have a reputation for doting females and festivals quite as much as Charles II of England who reigned from 1660-1685. I'm sure if in 30 years you'd witnessed your dad spend loads of money on a lavish palace, lose a Civil War, have his head chopped off, having to regrettably be King of Scotland (possibly worse than losing your head), live through the rule of Oliver Cromwell, who banned everything of enjoyment, including pubs, before finally becoming King again in 1660 with the restoration of the monarchy, you'd probably like a drink or two.

Following the death of Cromwell in September 1658, his son Richard Cromwell took over the role as Lord Protector. However, as with Henry V and his son Henry VI, it was not like father like son; Richard lacked leadership qualities and after 4 days in power he resigned his position. There were no other clear rulers, thus it was decided that the exiled King Charles should return and take up his position as the rightful king of England. So, on his thirtieth birthday, the "Merry Monarch" returned to England following years of presumably boring exile in Scotland. His arrival back in England was marked by months of parties, plays, sports and even the odd fire to keep things interesting, as well as a pandemic – is it just 2020? Despite being a Christian, Charles was extraordinarily frivolous with women. His first child came at the age of just 15, with a woman called Lucy Walter, his first female "companion", however he was pressured into leaving her and she died in poverty in Paris in 1658, despite being the mother of the future king. The young King's heart was soon taken by the married beauty Barbara Villiers who Charles would shockingly still show off publicly, and Villiers came to symbolise the excess and promiscuity of the Restoration court. Despite having fathered children with beautiful Barbara, who personally, I would liken to Kylie Jenner, Charles demonstrated a key feature of the GREAT men initiative, a Growth Mindset; just because he already had children, it doesn't mean he couldn't marry and have more. He favoured the view that "I haven't got a wife yet", rather than "I can't

Not allowing him to be held back and henceforth breaking his own personal barriers to be the best he could be, Charles married Catherine of Braganza, daughter of King John IV of Portugal, who contemporaries claimed bore resemblance to a "horse". Charles was prepared to pay a hefty dowry for her, two million crowns and the cities of Bombay and Tangiers thrown in for good measure; clearly Charles saw it, wanted it, got it. Their marriage was a courteous affair; they spoke no common language and she paled in beauty in comparison to Barbara, Charles' mistress, with whom he went on to father another child during his marriage. These years of promiscuity and adultery by Charles, even by the standards of European courts at the time, were a shocking situation; his servant, William Chiffinch, was known as 'The Royal Pimpmaster' and brought his king 'actresses'. No comment. It is likely that Charles had up to 15 mistresses along with the litany of casual dalliances he engaged in. It is impossible to know how many illegitimate children he had, but one would imagine it would be at least 2 dozen given his numerous conquests. Hence, the inheritance of the crown was confusing at best; with 11 sons, the crown eventually fell to James II, the son of Charles and Lucy Walter.

Charles II was possibly one of the most promiscuous kings in English history, with a terrible track record in war and finance, which makes one think: perhaps Oliver Cromwell had a point?



Charles II

# Junior History

## What if the Nazis had invaded England?

Charles Mankelow, Year 9

If you have ever wondered what life would be like if operation Sea Lion had happened and England was under Nazi reign, then this is the article for you. During the war Adolf Hitler had a very clear idea of how the UK would be run in the event of his success, and life depended very much on who you were and what you did. If you were involved in invading England, life probably wouldn't be too bad; as you would be able to go on holidays within the U.K. Probably to Blackpool, where you would be able to look up proudly at the Swastika flying from the Blackpool Tower as Hitler for some reason had a soft spot for this seaside resort.

If you were the child of an invader you would be able to get a private education at Eton and could smile smugly through the window of your Beetle on your way to school, wondering why everyone else looked a bit poor. In fact, all able-bodied men between the ages of 17 and 45 would essentially be working as slaves across Europe. As for Hitler, he had his eye on Blenheim Palace, where Churchill was born, to be his residence.

This though is the light side of the situation; also in Hitler's plans was sending out SS death squads to massacre all the Jews and capture/kill all intellectuals, Political figures, authors and anyone else who could be deemed to be able to speak against the Nazis. The Einsatzgruppen, the SS thugs, had already been responsible for mass killings in Nazi occupied France during the war and they were prepared to keep it up.

You may be surprised to know that there was a high chance there would still be a monarchy as Edward VIII who'd abdicated in 1936 had paid very friendly visits to Hitler at the Berghof, Hitler's hangout, where there was lots of banter (pre-ban) and he was suspected to have strong German sympathies.

So, in a modern-day Nazi Britain unless an older relative worked in the attempt to capture Britain you were probably working slave labour after being taken away from your family, in other very poor circumstances, pretending to be a Nazi from the start or dead.



## Junior History Quiz

(Answers at the bottom of page 7!)

Oscar Goodwin, Year 8

**Q1: What does Stalin mean?**

- a) The Iron Man
- b) The Red Terror
- c) The Man of Steel

**Q2: How many British deaths were there on the first day of the Somme?**

- a) about 6,000
- b) about 19,000
- c) about 57,000

**Q3: On which day does New Zealand celebrate VE Day?**

- a) May 8th
- b) May 9th
- c) April 25th

**Q4: What is Trafalgar Square named after?**

- a) the location of a famous British naval victory
- b) a British Navy General
- c) the name of a famous train built there

**Q5: Which country was the first to use toilet-paper?**

- a) China
- b) France
- c) United States of America

**Q6: Who was Henry VIII married to when he died?**

- a) Catherine Howard
- b) Catherine Parr
- c) Elizabeth of York

**Q7: Which weapon is commonly known as 'Hitler's Buzz Saw'?**

- a) MP-40
- b) PPSH-41
- c) MG-42

**Q8: Where did the Battle of Hastings take place?**

- a) Stanford Ridge
- b) Senlac Hill
- c) It actually did take place in Hastings

**Q9: What was the name of the first nuclear bomb that the USA dropped on Hiroshima?**

- a) Little Boy
- b) Enola Gay
- c) Big Bertha

# Junior History

## What if America used nukes versus Cuba?

Shayan Patel, Year 8

The Cuban Missile crisis was a series of events that occurred in the early 1960s. The Cuban president in the late 50s was General Batista, an ally of the Americans. This was a desperate attempt to overthrow Castro and to save the threat of communism from expanding.

However, in 1960, a communist ally of Khrushchev and the Soviets came in to power after overthrowing Batista-Fidel Castro. Castro was anti-American and a dictator who the Cubans loved. As Cuba became more and more communist, America grew more fearful that Castro was abolishing capitalism and they were now being heavily influenced by the Soviets. The Soviets had hidden nuclear missiles in Cuba, primarily to protect Cuba, but also to show off their power. In 1961, the Americans invaded Cuba with the help of anti-Castro Cubans.

Why did the invasion fail?

- Poor secrecy, Castro found out about the attack and was prepared.
- Failure to control the air, the American Air Force did not support the ground troops.
- Failure to gain support from the local Cubans.
- The Cuban response - Castro sent 20,000 troops to respond

These series of events humiliated JFK. Over the next few months, the American Intelligence discovered the hidden Soviet missiles so, JFK hid missiles in Turkey.

The Americans realised that it would have been better to blockade the Cuban regime rather than press the nuclear button. So what would've happened if they used nukes?

It would, most definitely, have been the trigger of another World War. This nuclear war was diverted through a diplomacy, If Khrushchev removed his missiles from Cuba, John F Kennedy would remove his. If this diplomacy was not reached, well that would've been WW3, and the annihilation of civilisations across the world.



## A comparison of two German tanks

Daniel Bowe, Year 7

### Leichter Panzerkampfwagen MkIV734e

In 1940, German forces captured several light British Mk. VI tanks. The vehicles were redesignated as Leichter Panzerkampfwagen Mk. IV 734(e) and used for training purposes by the Wehrmacht until the fall of 1942. In November, the decision was made to develop a self-propelled gun on the basis of the captured vehicles. In 1942, modifications with a 105 and 150 mm field howitzer were developed. All these SPGs were lost during the defense of France in the summer and fall of 1944.

### Panzer II

The Panzer II is the common name used for a family of German tanks used in World War II. The official German designation was Panzerkampfwagen II (abbreviated PzKpfw II). Although the vehicle had originally been designed as a stopgap while larger, more advanced tanks were developed, it nonetheless went on to play an important role in the early years of World War II, during the Polish and French campaigns. The Panzer II was the most numerous tanks in the German Panzer divisions at the beginning of the war. It was used both North Africa against the Western Allies and on the Eastern Front against the Soviet Union.

Pictures, Left: Leichter Panzerkampfwagen Mk IV 734e, Right: Panzer II.



Answers to the Junior History Quiz: 1. C—Man of Steel, 2. B—about 19,000, 3. B—May 9th, 4. A—the location of a famous British naval victory, 5. A—China, 6. B—Catherine Parr, 7. C—MG-42, 8. B—Senlac Hill, 9. A—Little Boy



# What if Apartheid had never ended?

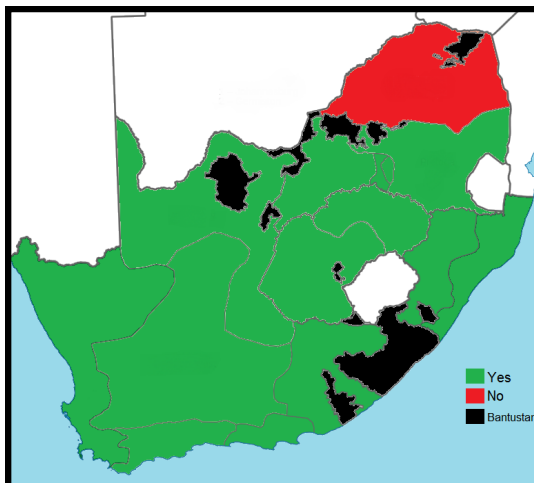
Dillon Shukla, Year 8

Apartheid was a policy in South Africa of white minority rule and official segregation that always benefited the Afrikaner minority. (Afrikaners are people descended from Dutch settlers in the area. Over time, their culture and language shifted to form a distinct identity). A series of uprisings lead to the end of this policy, and the start of majority rule in South Africa. This article will talk through the above theoretical scenario. (Side note, this text will refer to people under what could be considered derogatory terms- coloured, black, etc. This is simple because these were the terms used in Apartheid South Africa.

South Africa relies quite greatly on international trade, and as they refused under pressure of the international community to dismantle apartheid, it is likely that, in order to retain some of their trade, they somewhat watered down their rules on apartheid- possibly by following the trend of making coloured and Indian legislative assemblies, and finally making a legislature for the black race group (South Africa's political system was made of 4 groups- white, Indian, coloured (mixed race) and black). This would finally give blacks voting rights, but the majority of power would still be in minority rule. Everywhere, shops and businesses would still be run by the minority for the minority. Imagine going out for some groceries and having to queue in a separate line just because of your race. This would mean that outbreaks of violence would become much more common, and south Africa would become much less stable, as its military tries its hardest to keep rule in white hands. The Apartheid government would come under scrutiny by the international community for mass murder of people opposed to Apartheid, and its attempt to continue trade would not be successful, as although it made a Black legislature, the government still had blood on their hands. This would eventually plunge the country into full out civil war by the 2000s.



The flag of Apartheid South Africa. It features a Union Jack and takes its colours from the Dutch Prince's flag, the British flag and the original



A map of the apartheid referendum, where red wished to abolish apartheid and green wished to keep it. We can imagine the red areas being controlled by the pro-apartheid front. The referendum only applied to white

As racism becomes less and less acceptable, the UN would be more and more concerned, and likely intervene. This would, however, make the government more intolerant, and further the military intervention into effective martial law. South Africa would fall from a first world to a third world country rapidly, and the UN would be forced to intervene. Much like Libya, it could be likely that after the eradication of the Apartheid government, there are three factions vying to control all of South Africa. These would be the Pro-Apartheid Regime, The less radical pro majority rule, and the far-left majority regime. A once stable democracy is now plunged into full out war. Things would not be lost forever, though, as the two anti-apartheid factions would likely join together to take South Africa back from the white minority fraction. So, South Africa would not be lost in the depths of white minority rule, it would just be a new country to democracy, and not as developed as it currently is, but arguably, in the long run, this would be better, as it would allow South Africa to build from the ground up, so there would be no townships, or slums, but proper houses. In a slightly more cynical way, the huge population decrease could, with time, allow South Africa to grow into a global powerhouse, bigger than it is today.

This, however, begs the question of Has apartheid really ended? Well, yes, but no. See, the majority of farms and wealth in South Africa still remain in white hands. This doesn't mean they are racist, just that they are wealthy, for a variety of reasons, including Apartheid's legacy.

Apartheid has also done a 180° flip. This is because the current government is taking land from primarily innocent white farmers and re-distributing it to poor black farmers, who have no experience in the industry. Clearly, for a nation that claims to have put racial segregation behind them, race still effects life.



# The benevolent Black Death?

Tom Williams, Y13

## How did the most fatal pandemic in recorded human history play a significant role in causing one of the greatest periods of human development since the fall of Rome?

The Renaissance was a cultural revolution in early modern Europe. Historic achievements such as the construction of Brunelleschi's Dome and Michelangelo's painting of the Sistine Chapel characterise this rebirth of European culture. As our History students will discover in their A Level coursework, there is a far greater depth to the causation of the Renaissance than just the actions of these individuals. At risk of diving into another 4,500-word essay, this article will focus on the extreme wealth of the patrons of the Renaissance and how that may be owed to the Black Death.

The Black Death ripped through Europe in the mid-14th century, killing as many as 50 million people in Europe. It arrived in Sicily in early October 1347 and ravaged Italy until the winter of 1348. By that time more than a third of the Italian population had perished. In more densely populated regions, as much as 60% of the inhabitants were deceased.

The Italian peninsula was a collection of highly urbanised communities. There was not yet any concept of a unified Italy and instead the countryside of northern Italy was dominated by a number of wealthy city states. In these cities much of the wealth was held in real estate and residential structures. With the decimation of the Italian society, these assets were transferred into the hands of the few survivors. With fewer and fewer people alive to inherit, wealth became highly concentrated in the hands of a minority. In Florence, the population fell from 110,000 – 120,000 in 1338 down to 50,000 in 1351. As a direct result of the Black Death in Italy, the resources per head of population soared.

This was not all. Laws of Inheritance ensured that the surviving rich accumulated disproportionate amounts of the newly available wealth and rich individuals or families rose to supremacy across many of the Italian city states. Their fortunes were further improved when the systems of communal government, which were common across the peninsula, often gave way to the dominance of rich dynasties. Now, those who survived the plague were rewarded with an accumulation of wealth from the deceased and access to power over entire cities.

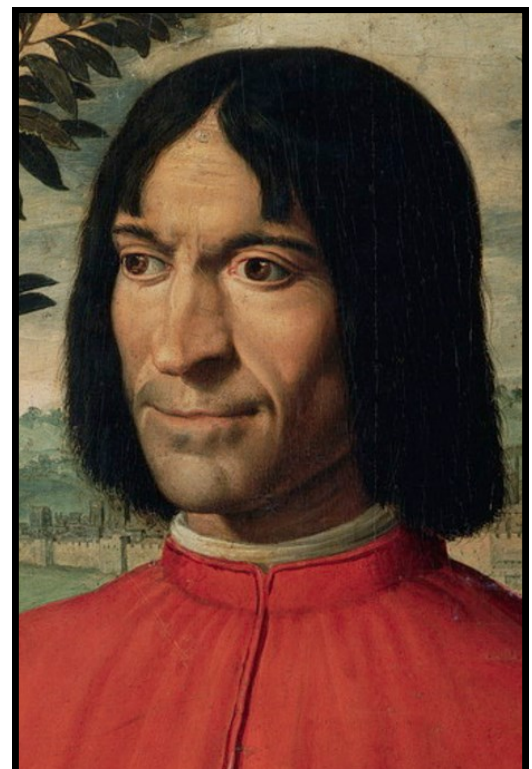
Thus, the Black Death created a unique economic environment in Italy. Families such as the Medici in Florence and the Sforza in Milan dominated the Italian stage in their pursuit of political supremacy. The patrons were the key driving force behind the Renaissance and spent enormous sums of money on art, architecture and sculpture. For example, Lorenzo 'Il Magnifico' de Medici (right) spent 663 775 gold florins on cultural advancements during his rule from 1469 to 1492.

This factor of extreme wealth is demonstrably a significant cause of the Renaissance. With the Black Death playing a large role in developing this concentration of wealth, it is apparent that one of the worst disasters of European civilisation had a profound effect on the transition of Europe from the Medieval age to the beginnings of Modernity.

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Lorenzo de' Medici, one of the wealthiest Renaissance patrons

# Was the British Empire a force for good?

Dom Sturmey, Year 13

Was the British Empire a force for good or evil? At its peak during the 1920s the British Empire controlled 23% of the world's surface and a total of 458 million people. It was one of the world's greatest institutions that globalised the planet, abolished the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, and delivered infrastructure to some of the least developed areas on earth; however it also exacerbated famines, massacred protesters and committed acts of genocide to indigenous populations. The British Empire was no doubt an enormous force, though there can be little clarity on whether it was a force of good or evil.

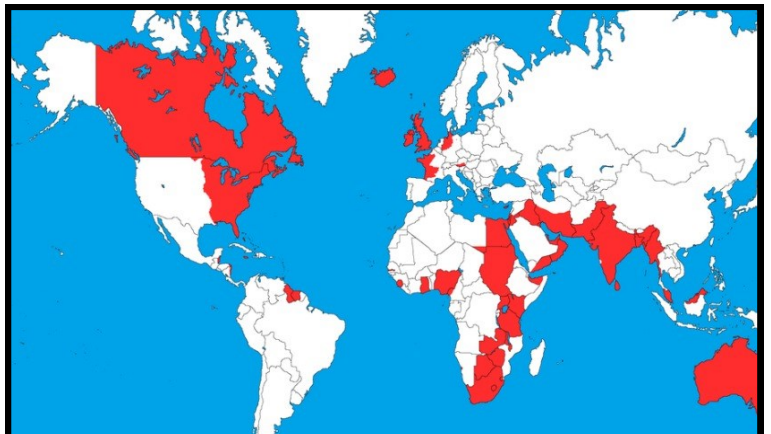
One of the Empire's most infamous acts was its large participation in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Beginning in 1562 with Britain's first African slavery voyage and continuing for around 300 years, an estimated 3.4 million Bantu people from West Africa were transported across the Atlantic as slaves on British ships to work sugar plantations. Transportation was so brutal that an estimated 20% of slaves died en route to the Americas. The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade could quite easily be viewed as the British Empire's moral nadir, nothing quite portrays the Empire as evil as the dehumanisation of Africans into commodities that could be shipped, bought and sold. Furthermore the lingering racial tension that the shadow slavery brings to the western world only further serves to degrade the Empire.

However, despite the British Empire's contributions to the Atlantic slave trade, there are many mitigating factors. For one, slavery was nothing new; it certainly wasn't an evil creation of the British or another European power. But instead slavery is just as old as civilisation itself, with Muslims in the Arabian Peninsula enslaving Black Africans long before any Europeans. Possibly most crucial to not presenting the British Empire as evil in the Slave Trade however, is Britain becoming the first major European power to abolish slavery beginning in 1833. The British government made a huge effort in abolishing slavery long before any other power did with the British government paying 20 million pounds of compensation to Caribbean planters. Furthermore, the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society put huge pressure on places like Brazil, whom only ended slavery in 1880 almost 50 years after the British. Hence whilst the British Empire, along with all other major European empires of the time, did contribute to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, it later work as a pioneering humanitarian force somewhat complicates the debate on whether the Empire was a force for good or evil.

Another major argument for the British Empire being a force of evil is their exacerbation of a number of deadly famines most notable of which being the Irish potato famine and the Bengal famine of 1943. The Bengal famine of 1943 has become particularly notable in a harsh criticism of the British imperial government's policies and poor relief effort; with many historians attacking then Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, for his leadership actions against the colony. Whilst this famine has been called 'man-made' the truth denies such simplicity; and in reality a number of interconnecting factors played a part in the death of an estimated 3-5 million Indians. The initial causations for the drop of food stocks were a cyclone in 1942 and a consequential fungus outbreak, which drastically decreased crop cultivation in an area very heavily dependent on rice and wheat. In 1942, out of fear of a Japanese invasion of Bengal, Churchill ordered British troops to seize and destroy rice fields. Furthermore, in order to feed troops fighting the Nazis in Europe, 63.5 million kilograms of grain was exported away from India. Such British actions severely exacerbated the natural causes of the famine and caused a greater lack of food. However, despite accusations that such brutal tactics were motivated by Churchill's racial hatred of Indians vilifying the leadership of the British Empire, this disregards the fact that such tactics were used to defeat a far greater evil - the Axis powers of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan. Hence whilst here the British Empire may not be regarded as a force for good, they can certainly be regarded as the lesser of two evils.

Many people often attempt to justify the British Empire as a force for good over evil, with arguments involving trade, globalisation; the idea of democracy and the building of infrastructure, with railways being brought to India and Africa. However these attempts fails to include the historical context and unique relationships that comes with Empire. Empire is almost as old civilisation itself. Whilst it is easy to view Empire as a uniquely 19th century European concept, in reality, aside from our modern world of nation states, empire is how humans have traditionally divided up the globe.

There is no doubt that the British Empire committed some terrible atrocities to colonised people; though crucially this is what comes with the relationship between the coloniser and the colonised. Colonised and invaded people have constantly been oppressed and exploited from the Mongol Empire to the Aztec Empire. Indeed much of the British Empire's acts are viewed as evil now with our 21st century ideas of equality and human rights. Nonetheless, they cannot be viewed as any more sinister or evil than another Empire that has passed before or even that will come after it. The British Empire could be a force of evil, but evil is part of Empire and Empire is part of civilisation - Britain is no exception.



The sun never used to set on the British Empire...

# Piracy: the assumed importance of gender

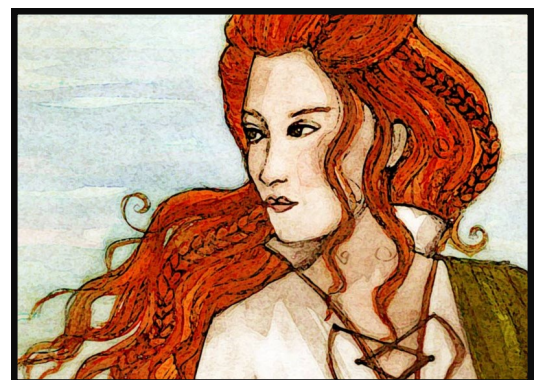
Alex Ward-Campbell, Year 13

What are Pirates? The stereotypical image that probably springs to mind is a burly man with a peg leg, sporting a Blackman-esque beard, accompanied by missing teeth and an eyepatch. Mighty men such as Edward 'Blackbeard' Teach spring to mind as the primary marauders of the seas, dominating trade routes and plundering as much loot as they could get their grubby mitts on. The definition of a Pirate is 'a person who attacks and robs ships at sea', as to be expected due to the reputation given to them through representation in media and historical documents. Some of you more eagle eyed readers may have noticed the use of the word 'person' in the short definition of this swashbuckling occupation, and embracing the feministic culture of current affairs, I am here to demonstrate that women can do it too! For example, the goofy yet cunning Captain Jack Sparrow probably springs to the mind's eye for many, and he often undercuts the deeds of Elizabeth Turner, the female lead of the Pirates of the Caribbean series. Indeed, there have been many prolific female pirates, yet their exploits often go unnoticed when overshadowed by their male counterparts. The daring escapades of female buccaneers can rival even the greatest of Blackbeard's and Calico Jack's of the period, so should certainly not go unspoken.

While it may be argued that all the greatest pirates were in fact, male, a number of women have written themselves into history books with notable achievements of their own. The earliest record of a female pirate is that of Grace O'Malley, or 'the Pirate Queen' circa 1500s. Part of the ruthless O'Malley clan, she rose to prominence at the age of 23, when her husband Donal O'Flaherty was killed fighting. From here she began her seafaring legacy, and there are many tales surrounding her, some more unclear in their truth than others, but most demonstrating the gravitas she held as a feared and respected pirate. While she birthed multiple children to a few fathers, the most interesting of these births is one of her greatest acts as a pirate, giving birth to a son, and within the hour leading her troops in battle after being boarded by Algerian pirates. This is a feat no man could ever claim to have accomplished, so creates an epic tale in its own right for the fearless lass. But that's not all! Pirates shopped till they dropped so to speak, and O'Malley was no different in this regard. Another notable act occurred after the death of her second husband, Iron Dick Burke in 1580. After his death, she and her crew were persecuted by the English, so in response, O'Malley sailed up the Thames demanding an audience with Elizabeth I, even refusing to bow to her as she was a queen herself.

Among the few women to actually be convicted of piracy during its prime are Mary Read and Anne Bonny. Arguably the most recognisable female pirates of all time, they accompanied Calico Jack on many of his escapades, more than ably keeping up with his precarious lifestyle. The two women on Jack Rackham's ship, both used disguises to present themselves as men for their time on the high seas, with only the other woman and Jack himself knowing their identities. Read had been criminally active from a young age, dressing as a boy as a child in order for her mother in order to receive inheritance money, eventually joining Jack in 1720. It has been speculated that before this she had been working as a disguised male mercenary, so this would have been a similar lifestyle for her to take up. Bonny however joined Jack's crew through her relationship with Jack himself. After her husband refused a payment by Jack to divorce her, Bonny ran away and joined the crew in 1720, similarly to Read. Commandeering the sloop William from the Nassau harbour, the two women were part of Calico Jack's crew, attacking merchant vessels all along the coast of Jamaica. To highlight their importance and ferocity within the crew, it is well documented that the only two members to resist their eventual capture at the hands of the privateer Jonathan Barnet were in fact Bonny and Read, who have even been documented as shooting at their own crew in order to try and spur them to fight. "A man could do all of that!", I hear you cry, however fear not, as these dangerous criminals proceeded to claim pregnancy, delaying their executions summarily, displaying a poignant reminder of the wiles asserted in order to rival the male pirates of the time.

After these two notable women, the trend of female pirates actually switches to an oriental base, as opposed to the traditional Caribbean areas predated upon, with many notable 20<sup>th</sup> century female pirates being of an Asian heritage. The most notable of these is definitely Huang P'ei-mei who led over 50,000 pirates from 1937-1950. However as piracy dies down, so do the feats of these nefarious women, as navies across the world have advanced to such a level that it is difficult for pirates to truly make a name for themselves in this day and age. With this information in mind, I would argue that Piracy is one of many supposedly male dominated that drastically understates the prevalent women who rivalled any man in their fairly crooked 'job'. Hopefully this has opened the minds of a few of you to the assumed importance of gender, and that Jack Sparrow isn't the only cool pirate within the Pirates of the Caribbean, Elisabeth Turner does alright too...



Grace O'Malley



# East and west: The deep historical divide in Germany

Matthew Drury, Year 13

Since the end of World War Two, 'Germany' and 'East and West' have been firmly associated. Less well known however is the much deeper historical significance of an east-west divide in Germany, as far back as the Romans and Charlemagne. In this article, I'll take you through the European powerhouse's rich history and point out these geographical divides, which still play a major role in Germany's politics and

With the stroke of Julius Caesar's 58 BC pen, the warring people who "dwell beyond the Rhine" were labelled the *Germani* and the idea of Germany was born. Their land was swamped by Augustus's stepson, Drusus, in 12 BC (only stopping at the River Elbe after a vision), triggering a slow Romanisation of *Germania*. The Rhine and the Danube bounded it to the west and south (through a fortified border - *limes Germanicus*) but the Elbe was probably too far east. While the Romans explored further, their control was certainly strongest in the south-west and the eastern heartlands beyond the Elbe were essentially untouched. Thus, the extent of Romanisation marked initial east-west divisions in Germany.

The Franks were a major European power from around the sixth to eighth centuries and with their origins near the Rhine, western Germany was central to this kingdom – indeed, their most famous ruler, Charlemagne, spoke a West Germanic language. The divide was clear: western Germany was Frankish, eastern Germany was not. By the mid-eighth century the divide was religious too: the West was Christian and the East pagan. Charlemagne extended the border to the Elbe, thus controlling what the Romans called *Magna Germania*, but the now Slavic easterly land beyond, geographically very similar to later East Germany, remained elusive. The Treaty of Verdun (843) split up the Frankish Kingdom and "everything beyond the Rhein" became one land. Geographically-speaking, the embryo of modern western Germany had arrived.



From 962, Germany was the seat of the Holy Roman Emperor, an attempt to resurrect the old Roman Empire and promote Christianity. Inevitably, crusades followed and in 1147 the Wendish Crusade took place against the pagan Slavic lands east of the Elbe. Germany did take swathes of land, including the rest of modern Germany, which remained until the 1600s. But it was superficial authority - old Slavic languages and culture survived in pockets, a constant reminder that these were only colonial lands. Bohemians (most of modern Czech Republic) rebelling in the Hussite Wars (1419-1436) is clear evidence.

On 31 October 1517, Martin Luther triggered the Protestant Reformation in Wittenberg and Protestant-Catholic conflicts ensued. They culminated with the Peace of Augsburg's compromise where, in its simplest form, the north-east was Protestant and the south-west Catholic. East and West were once more separated and in an historical déjà vu harking back to *Germania*, the West was loyal to Rome (the Catholic Papacy) but the East opposed.

The 30 Years War (1618-1648) annihilated Germany, and France became Europe's powerhouse. This catalysed further division as western regions (Bavaria, the Rhineland Palatinate, Trier, Mainz and Cologne) formed the 'First Rhine League' and allied with France, in contrast to the independent eastern powers of Brandenburg-Prussia, Saxony and Austria, again all based beyond the Elbe.

The western union was weak and instead, characterising most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was Prussia, Austria and France's turbulent cycle of friendship, conflict, retreat and victory and the looming prospect of German unification under a Prussian or Austrian leader. Under Otto von Bismarck's clever leadership, Prussia defeated Austria in 1866 and France in 1870 prompting a wave of nationalism and the unification of the German states in 1871. So East and West were one nation, yet this was no equal partnership; the eastern Prussians were dominant: their king (Wilhelm) became German Emperor (*Kaiser*), the *Reichstag* was in Prussia and former Prussian territory constituted two-thirds of the nation. The East was on top.

About sixty years later, democracy had replaced the Kaiser and the Nazis were growing. But it was less Germany than eastern Germany that voted Hitler into power. In the July 1932 election, when the Nazis became the largest Reichstag party in the last genuinely free election, in many of the areas east of the Elbe, over 50% voted for Hitler, whereas in around half of the south-western areas the Nazi vote was under 30%.

The east-west division after the Nazi-induced Second World War hardly needs explaining. Germany was literally divided by the hardest of borders. The East and West's radically different political systems (democracy and totalitarianism) translated into starkly contrasting economic systems (capitalism and communism) and in turn, major social disparities. Germany's east-west divide, particularly Berlin's, was the epicentre of the Cold War and a microcosm of the wider geopolitical situation.

Despite the joyous fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 and the celebrations of 1990's *Wiedervereinigung*, the post-war east-west divisions left a major legacy for Germany today. Politically, the left to far-left party, *Die Linke* (2017, East v West: 17.8% v 7.4%), and the far-right, *AfD* (21.9% v 10.7%), have their strongholds in the East and economically, around two trillion euros have been sent from West to East since reunification, trying to support the stagnant eastern economy. Even in football, RB Leipzig is the only Bundesliga team in East German territory outside Berlin.

The 1949 east-west division of Germany was not particularly novel, instead reinstating and formalising very old fault lines. The influence of the River Elbe cannot be overstated and its resemblance to East Germany's border is uncanny. Germany is now formally united, but its east-west disparities remain and with them the ancient identity question faced by the Romans, Charlemagne's grandchildren and the Prussians: where exactly is the real 'Germany'?

# The contemporary relevance of George Orwell's '1984'

Archie Blair, Year 11

Released on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1949 Orwell's ninth and final book before he died of tuberculosis in January 1950. The book was a look into a dystopian society that he envisaged. What has captured many readers minds is how the book is still so relevant 71 years later. There are many things which the book that has been seen to have become true in our modern lives it has become a reference to our present-day society.

There has been a surge in the use of the word fake news after the election of Trump in November of 2016. Almost immediately the word could be seen in almost all major news outlets as controversy over the electoral campaign grew. Orwell over 65 years prior had shown us the Ministry of Truth where thousands of employees would rewrite history to fit with the ideals of Big Brother. This change of the truth has not only been observed in modern day USA. But also, in the east as Stalin in a bid to change his public appearance had history book written him into the history of his country. He also had films produced showing he a crucial part of the October revolution. The changing of history has been carried out for many years under many different leaders on both side of the political spectrum.

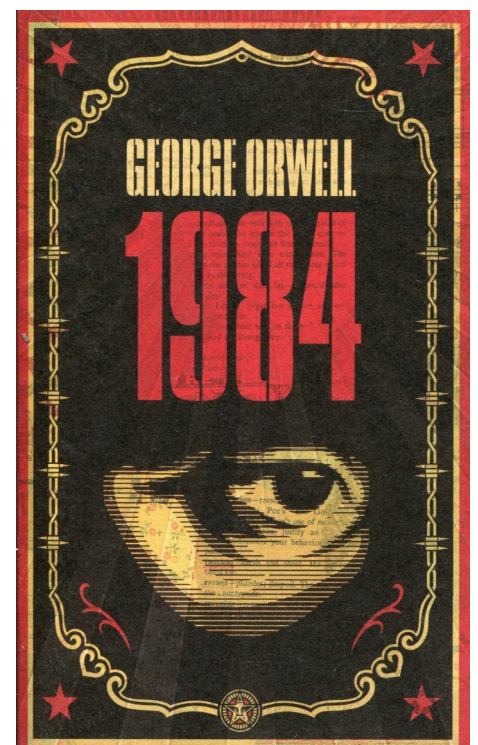
He also foresaw a war that would never end in which the world today knows as cold war. A war fought in an external theatre driven by nationalistic propaganda and ruthless dictatorships. The City of London reflecting what became of cities like East Berlin and Moscow. The Ministry of Truth became the gulag to serve Stalin's place of disposing of political enemies.

'Big brother is watching you' is probably the best quote from the book. Surveillance states are now commonplace in our capital, the London is the most watched city in the world with over half a million CCTV cameras in the city. There are not only cameras on the streets but just like the telescreens we are now putting monitoring devices in our homes from phones to smart speakers. We may look at these flies on the wall reality shows as a farce yet more rapidly than ever our homes are being monitored. Just look at the Snowden incident in 2013 where millions of files were leaked about how the NSA where compiling data from personal devices, this was not a unique event either, with many scandals coming to light in recent years and for many years to come.

It is fair to say that 70+ years on, the book has stood the test of time and it is a marvel that in this modern day the book has relevant links to the world around us.



A poster with one of 1984's most famous quotes



The book's cover



# British justification for entering the Great War

Ted Grainger, Year 13

Despite causing far more casualties and far more damage than its predecessor, the Second World War is believed by few to have been an avoidable conflict, one which Britain entered into needlessly. This consensus exists for a reason and its proof lies in the well documented attempts of Neville Chamberlain and the historically doomed practise of appeasement to prevent war for as long as possible. The same certainty over declaration of war is not something however that is always granted to the Great War. Many revisionist historians have taken the stance that Britain went to war in 1914 where there was no real need and cost the lives of close to a million young men from across the empire. It is important now more than ever, as the tide begins to turn, to make the case once again for British involvement in the Great War.

The centuries prior to WWI suggest that it would have been very plausible to resist early intervention and allow the war to pan out with either a Franco-Russian victory or, more likely, a victory for the Triple Alliance. Afterall, this is how the British had conducted foreign policy with Napoleon up until the Peninsular War, resisting full engagement until the enemy controlled the continent. Application of this theory is flawed as it concedes that war with Germany was in fact inevitable. Kaiser Wilhelm II was a despot who despite holding fondness for Britain due to his maternal lineage had his heart set on controlling the most powerful empire which means he was always on a collision course with Britain. Once this fact that war with Germany was inevitable at some stage, it becomes preposterous to suggest that Britain should have not engaged in 1914 with the support of its allies in Russia and France to create a two front war and instead wait to battle off with all the might of a German Empire which by then would have de facto control over the entire continent. The British did not deliberately wait to engage with Napoleon when he was at his strongest but banked on him being weakened by other European powers thus rendering British engagement needless. As established, war between the British and German empires was unavoidable therefore entry in 1914 was the optimal and only time at which to do so.

There is also a subtle yet major reason why Britain had to go to war with Germany. It is assumed that without British intervention, Schlieffen plan may have succeeded or at the very least Germany would have won in a war of attrition against France and Russia. Whilst already established that that scenario was problematic, the reverse was also entirely possible and just as dangerous. It is not entirely unbelievable that France and Russia could have beaten Germany without British support, not least given the fact that without British involvement and in 1914 the Zimmerman Telegram had yet to come to fruition, it was entirely possible that the USA would join the Triple Alliance. While in that scenario Britain's main enemy on a global front would have been neutralised, as they were in 1918, a threat much closer to home would have become stronger. It is important when studying the context of 1914 that the Triple Entente had only existed for less than 10 years and Britain's friendship with France, as well as Russia, was a friendship that only existed in the face of a common enemy. The prospect of a French and Russian victory in 1914 without British support would have reignited an Anglo-French power struggle that had existed for close to a thousand years. The thought of the animosity that would have resulted from Britain abandoning her allies in the face of war was something that could rival the thought of an all-powerful German Empire. Britain had no option but to go in 1914 or eventually end up in war with the victor.

There is no question however that the actual reason given by the British government in justifying war was little more than a smokescreen. Britain used the Treaty of London from 1839 in order to suggest that her hands were tied and the only honourable thing to do was come to the defence of Belgium as the treaty swore her to do. Of course, Britain could not go to war by explaining that she was afraid of war with her allies if she didn't, but the truth remains that the defence of Belgium was a weak reason for going to war with a major power of Europe. Belgium was no important ally of Britain not to mention that the treaty was so ancient it was barely Victorian. Germany also did not invade Belgium for the purposes of occupation, although that may have been an eventual outcome. The Treaty of London was a weak basis for going to war with Germany, but it is clear that the hidden reasons made it perfectly justifiable.

While it has been assumed for many years that the Great War was about Britain defending her place in the world from an over-ambitious and adolescent Germany, it was also about ensuring that the spheres of influence were carefully balanced within Europe so as to not make an enemy out of allies. Ultimately WWII did not come about because of Britain's decision to go to war in 1914 but because of the disastrous Treaty of Versailles as a peace settlement. Had Versailles been handled better then Britain's decision to enter the First World War would have been much more likely to have prevented further war in Europe then choosing to remain neutral.





# How geography has shaped history

Jamie Thompson, Year 13

The rivalry between geography and history as school subjects is pronounced across England, but perhaps nowhere more so than at LGS, where both departments regularly compete for student uptake and exam results (and, as a geographer at heart, I find it slightly disappointing that history tends to come on top in both of these areas). However, as wider disciplines and concepts, it is certain that geography has had a great impact both on the course of history and the subsequent academic subject area that examines it.

Some of the ideas explored in this article have already been written, namely by Tim Marshall in his best-seller *Prisoners of Geography*, where he takes ten regions of the world and breaks down their historical development based on the geography that defines, or in some cases confines, them. However, Marshall is not the only source of information for this type of 'historical geography'. And though eminently human concepts such as space, place and identity can be examined as part of this discipline, it is easier to assess the physical parameters that certain countries and regimes have faced over the years, and conclude to what extent they have affected the course of history. This article assesses three of the regions of the world that are incredibly interesting to view in the context of this study of historical geography.

## Russia

Russia will never become a globally dominant power because of its geography. It is ultimately exposed to land invasions like Operation Barbarossa (WW2) due to its position on the East European Plain, a flat, sweeping landmass that extends for thousands of miles in European Russia and the former Soviet republics to its west, which is very easy for armies to pass through. Being so exposed means that a large invading force has always historically been able to enter Russia with little opposition, accessing Moscow and St Petersburg, and restricting Russian ability to be a major super-power since the threat of invasion is omnipresent.

A second issue facing Russia is the absence of warm water ports in its borders. For international trade, being able to ship goods in and out of the nation is of paramount importance, and Russia's inability to do this as much as other countries, whilst not massively restricting its growth, has certainly affected its military strategies in recent years. The much-publicised 2014 Russian invasion of Crimea, perhaps the most recent major conflict in the western world, was driven primarily by a Russian desire to have access to the warm-water port of Sevastopol, which would massively increase its capacity in the cold northern hemisphere winters when the likes of Murmansk and Vladivostok freeze over and cannot trade. However, shipping here would still involve moving traffic through the Suez Canal (for trade with Asia), and for all trade ships would have to pass through the straits of Bosphorus and Dardanelles in Istanbul, a far-from-ideal situation. The fact that Russia were prepared to go to war (and receive much international condemnation) over this issue demonstrates the extent to which it is confined by its geography, and shows the degree to which geography can affect the military strategy of nations such as Russia.

## Switzerland

Though Switzerland's decision to remain famously neutral since 1815 is not as a direct result of its favourable geography, its favourable geography is the only way that such a level of neutrality can be upheld. To the south it is defended by the mighty Swiss Alps, that protect it from hypothetical invasion from Italy and Austria, and to the west and north it is defended from France by the smaller Jura Mountains. This leaves the Swiss Plateau, a flat basin that houses over 90% of Switzerland's population and represents the only opportunity for a swift foreign invasion. This already paints a secure picture, allowing Switzerland to remain neutral despite being surrounded by the major powers of France, Italy, Austria, Germany, and of course Liechtenstein.

However, its unique geography permits immense defensive strength. The populations of major cities such as Geneva, Zurich and Bern, all of which fall in the plateau, are instructed under the *National Redoubt* policy of Switzerland to retreat to the Alps in the event of an invasion, where a series of over 80,000 bunkers and defensive outposts are strategically placed. Therefore, Switzerland could be invaded but retain its entire army (which still operates national conscription for basic training), ensuring it retains its military strength and subsequently making it acutely difficult to conquer. This is why, despite being at the centre of a powder keg of European history and, at one stage in 1940, being surrounded by Italy, France, and the German Reich, it retained neutrality and it remains neutral today. It only joined the United Nations in 2002 and remains a non-member of NATO and the EU. Aided by its geography, Switzerland is an impenetrable castle at the heart of Europe.

# This month in history

**1st June 2009:** Air France flight 447 crashes into the Atlantic Ocean, killing all 228 passengers and crew.

**4th June 1989:** The Chinese government orders its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.

**5th June 1832:** The 'June Rebellion', the subject of the musical *Les Misérables*, breaks out in Paris.

**6th June 1944:** D-Day: The Allied invasion of Normandy takes place in World War II.

**7th June 1494:** Spain and Portugal decide to split the New World between them.

**9th June 1898:** Britain signs a 99-year lease on Hong Kong. It was ceded to China in 1997.

**11th June 1994:** After 49 years, the Soviet military occupation of East Germany ends.

**14th June 1951:** The world's first commercial computer, the Univac 1, was unveiled in Philadelphia.

**16th June 1963:** Valentina Tereshkova, 26, becomes the first woman in space as her spacecraft, Vostok 6, took off.

**18th June 1815:** At Waterloo, 72,000 French troops, led by Napoleon, suffer a crushing military defeat.

**23rd June 2016:** In an EU referendum, the UK votes to leave by 52% to 48%.

By Cameron Thacker, Year 7.

## Suggested reading from the History Department

**From Mr Blackman: 'Black Tudors' by Miranda Kaufmann (2017).** "Shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize 2018, this book explores the little explored concept of African's living/working/thriving in Tudor England. Did you know that 16<sup>th</sup> century free-divers from Sierra Leone were hired to rescue booty from the Mary Rose? I thought not! Fascinating social history but also gives a strong sense of early Imperial rivalry between England/Spain/Portugal and even better that in the Tudor period England were the good guys regarding respect for Africa."

**From Miss Daya: 'Natives: Race and class in the ruins of Europe' by Akala (2018).** "A probing and at times uncomfortable examination into issues of race, class and the legacy of Empire. It raises interesting questions and is written in a lyrical style which draws on the author's talent as both a rapper and spoken word poet."

**From Mr Dowsett: 'Communist Manifesto' by Marx and Engels (1848)** "Seminal reading for any would-be historian, economist, social-scientist or politician. Are its arguments relevant today? It is not a long book and is digested swiftly. Remember – this work was first published in Britain and was a response to the plight of the working class in the Industrial Revolution. Engels had even spent a few years in Manchester (where his father had sent him to work in a branch of the family textile business to try to rid him of his liberal views - FAIL) in the 1840s – you could not get many worse urban environments for the working class than Manchester in the 1840s. It is no wonder Engels wrote his first important political work in this period, 'The Condition of the Working Class in England' (1845)."

## 'General' Knowledge...

Jono Griffiths, Year 13

1. Which WWII general was known as the Desert Fox?
2. Who led the Confederate Forces at Gettysburg and Antietam?
3. Who led the British Forces at Talavera (1809), Badajoz (1811), and Quatre-Bras (1815)?
4. Which character does Jason Isaacs play in Armando Iannucci's 2017 film the Death of Stalin?
5. Who led coalition forces in the Gulf War?
6. Which British general led the Allied invasion of Italy in 1943?
7. Which Roman general crossed the Rubicon in 49BC, precipitating civil war?
8. Which WWI general gave his support to Hitler in his failed 1923 München Putsch?
9. Who unsuccessfully led Argentina during the Falklands War?
10. Which general of WWII had nicknames including 'Bandito' and 'Old Blood and Guts'?



Answers at the bottom of the page!

Caesar, 8. Luderndorff, 9. Galtier, 10. Patton.

1. Rommel, 2. Lee, 3. Wellington, 4. Zhukov, 5. Schwarzkopf Jr, 6. Montgomery, 7.

Answers:

# The pistols of the Vietnam War

Rory Hibbert, Year 9

During the Vietnam war both sides were issued handguns. The US had the M1911 and the Vietnamese had the Makarov. While there is very little debate about who won the war who had the best standard issue pistol is debatable.

**M1911A1:** This is an improved version of the M1911 used in WW1 and up to 1924 when it was changed to the A1. Overall the 1911 platform of weapons is one of the most successful of all time fighting in many famous wars. During the Vietnam war it was the standard issue sidearm of the US forces for officers, NCOs and special weapon crews or vehicle crew. It was also famously used by tunnel rats (small soldiers who would go into the Chu Chi tunnels. The ACP part stands for automatic Colt pistol. When John Moses Browning was designing this pistol he designed it so it could be taken apart by your average private using only the bottom of the magazine. This would be very useful if you suffered a jam mid firefight. Another attribute of it is it's .45 ACP cartridge. This is rebound worldwide as a manstopper: being able to down a man with one shot.

**Manufacturer Colt**

**Calibre .45ACP**

**Magazine capacity 7 +1**

**Action: Single/recoil. Semi automatic**

**Length: 216mm**

**Weight unloaded: 1.1 kg**

The Pistole Makarov is a Russian made derivative of the German Walter PP made in 1946 by BC Semin (but named after its chief designer Nikolay Makarov) to replace the 7.62 TT-33. During the Vietnam war it was often carried by high ranking Vietnamese officials and officers. Despite being heavy for its size and having a stiff trigger pull it is a perfect gun for "police work and covert operations " according to Paul Huard. It was also good for assassinations and kidnappings. The Makarov is possibly most famous for being the only (known) pistol to go into space as On board every Soyuz spacecraft is a Granat-6 survival kit. Along with the usual survival equipment—first aid kits and fishing gear—there's a Makarov pistol and ammunition. One thing that lets it down is it's ammunition capacity. A modern 9mm pistol will Carry around 15 rounds whereas the Makarov only carries 8+1.

**Manufacturer: Izhevsk Mechanical Plant**

**Calibre: 9x18mm Makarov**

**Magazine capacity: 8+1**

**Action: Blowback semi automatic**

**Weight unloaded: 0.66kg (or 1 tenth of a pregnant American hairless terrier)**

In conclusion, I think that during the Vietnam war the M1911A1 was the better handgun. It had a similar ammunition capacity while sporting a much more powerful round. It is easily cleaned in the field and despite never going into space has outlived a

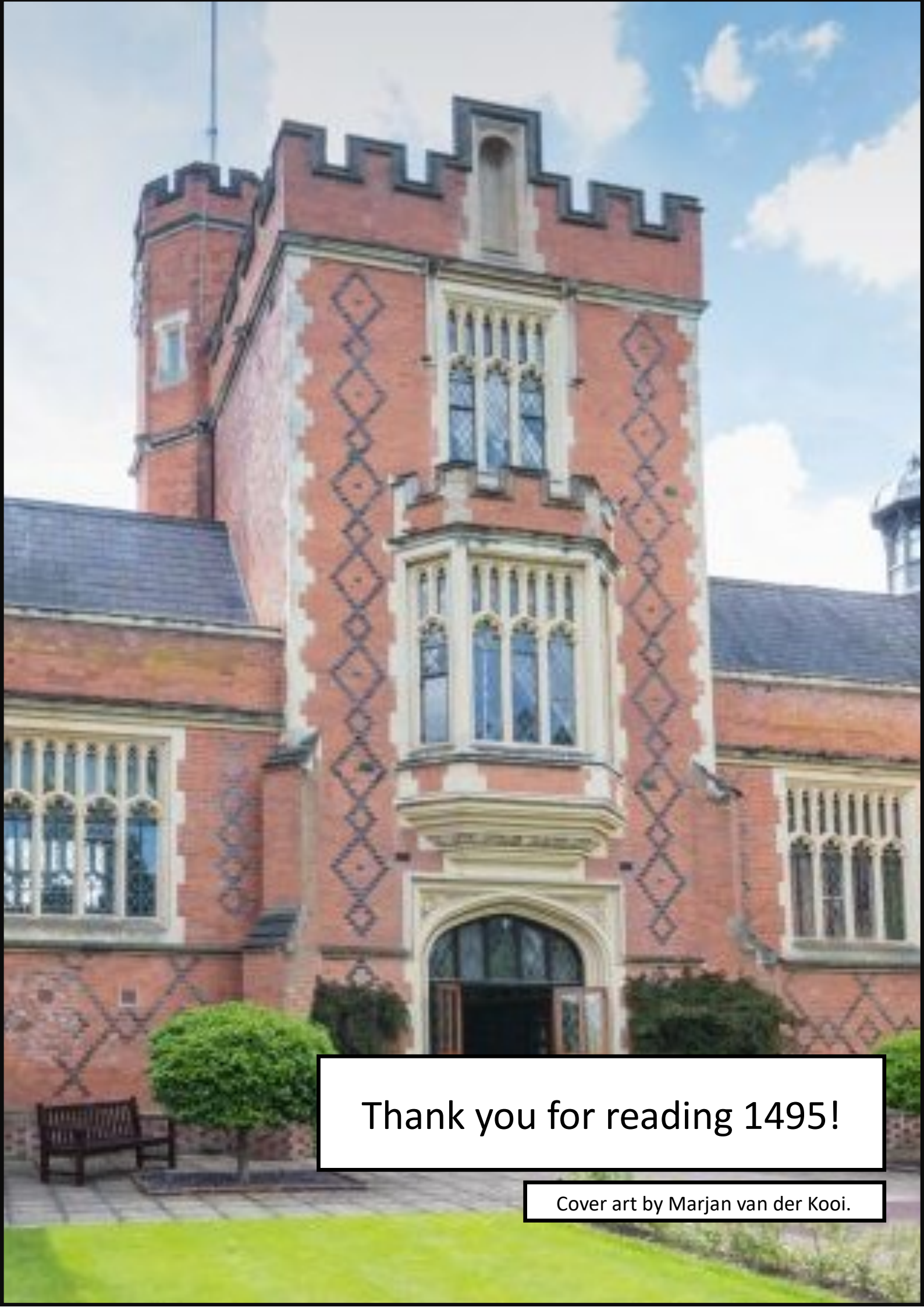


M1911 A1



Makarov





Thank you for reading 1495!

Cover art by Marjan van der Kooi.