

THE LGS HISTORY MAGAZINE



1495

“History will absolve me.” - Fidel Castro 1953

IN THIS EDITION...

How will we be taught about Covid-19 in the future?

Was Churchill really a Great British hero?

The remarkable story of the ‘Cactus air force’.

The history of the toilet.

Fidel Castro’s extraordinary life, and much more...

MANY THANKS TO THE CONTRIBUTORS:

MATT HULL	BERTIE POVALL
ARCHIE BLAIR	JONTY READING
JAKE TOMMASI	JAYSOL DOY
CHARLES MANKELOW	OLIVER WARDLE
FREDDIE WATERLAND	MUSTAFA DASSU
DILLON SHUKLA	DANIEL BOWE
MR BLACKMAN	MR DOWSETT
MR REED	MR MORRIS

When me and my comrade were asked to edit the school's second edition of 1495, we agreed but forgot about the proposal as soon as we had stepped foot outside of the classroom. However, in these recent times anything can change, and shortly after being put into our third lockdown in early January, the thought crept into our minds and we were pestering sir to send us articles to edit. Reading and I putting together these brilliant articles on truly interesting subjects was a breath of fresh air and a welcome break from hours of watching TV and building Highbury out of Lego (for me anyway). Hopefully, the goal of making it look as sophisticated as possible succeeded. Whether it is a virtual copy, or you are one of the lucky few to receive a paper copy, we hope you enjoy this issue as much as we did editing it, you'd be surprised.

Albert Povall and Jonty Reading

'The Death of Marat' (1793)

JONTY READING 12RJL



'Le Mort de Marat' was a foundational piece of work painted by one of the most deeply influential artists in modern history; Frenchman Jacques-Louis David. Emerging from a tumultuous period subsequent to the French Revolution, the piece depicts the late Jean-Paul Marat, a contemporary revolutionary and member of the infamous radical group 'Les Montagnards' of which David later became a member. The faction, comprised primarily of the middle class, was intensely opposed to the aristocracy leading to significant political violence, including the assassination of Marat by minor aristocrat Charlotte Corday in his bath on the evening of the 13th of July 1793.

The painting was a focal piece within post-revolution propaganda, David had been commissioned by Robespierre and the French government to paint three insurgent figures to glorify and inspire the populace for their political gain.

In turn, it is heavily idealised in the portrayal of Marat. Infamous for his ill health and particularly his persistent skin condition, he would spend much of his later life confined to his bathtub, yet David, here, paints him as a muscular and healthy figure, lacking any sort of blemish. According to historian Gombrich, David had learned from classical sculpting how to convey his character to possess noble beauty and omit details which were not essential to the main idea of the piece. This distortion serves to romanticise Marat and commemorate the dignity of the revolutionary movement. 'David sought to transfer the sacred qualities long associated with the monarchy and the Catholic Church to the new French Republic. He painted Marat, martyr of the Revolution, in a style reminiscent of a Christian martyr.' In fact, his emphatic use of lighting in addition to the limp arm cascading down the portrait draws significantly from Caravaggio's depictions of Christ's entombment.

From its conception to modern day, the painting has been admired for the majestic tragedy David created. Referenced throughout popular culture by artists ranging from Kubrick to Gaga to *Have a Nice Life*. 'The death of Marat' finds its own iconography as having propelled its fame past that of Marat himself, and so will continue to be appreciated for centuries to come.

Art critic Baudelaire concluded:

"The drama is here, vivid in its pitiful horror. This painting is David's masterpiece."

How should the current COVID-19 crisis be taught in History at A-Level in the future?

When assessing how COVID-19 should be taught in the future, it is important to consider how the subject of history as a whole is taught. Two key concepts of historical learning are understanding causation and consequence, and future learning about the pandemic will certainly be centred around these ideas as students study the reasons behind the spread of the virus and the impacts it had both locally and globally. Causation and consequence can be assessed economically, politically and socially or culturally, with all three of these areas affecting one another. For example, the driving factors behind the Industrial Revolution and its long-term effects, mainly the industrialisation of European economies that stimulated economic and social development, are the source of most historical analysis today, rather than a face value assessment of the events of the time. COVID-19 is likely to have a similarly ground-breaking impact economically, politically, and culturally on both a worldwide and national scale, and so it is important to consider the topic holistically rather than narrowly.



Examining events such as COVID-19 as economic crises that have long term social and political consequences is a key element of historical study. For example, the GDP of the UK dropped by 20.4% in April 2020, illustrating a clear economic decline in a short time, with 2.7 million people claiming unemployment benefits between March and July and because of this a number of governmental responses were taken, including the 'furlough scheme' to protect jobs. These short-term events taking place during the pandemic will be important to historians of the future in explaining its context. However, it will undoubtedly be the long-term

impact of these decisions which will be of most interest to future historians. For example, although slightly different in its nature, the 1923 German hyperinflation crisis is studied in schools in the context of being a catalyst for the rise of extremist views in German politics that culminated in the chancellorship of Adolf Hitler. The economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic will be studied in a similar way, as students will study how the economic downturn in mid-2020 spawned long term political and social change, even if not quite as extreme as in inter-war Germany. Therefore, since understanding events in the context of their consequences is a fundamental pillar of historical study, the coronavirus pandemic will be taught in the context of its economic impacts in the future.

Another element of the COVID-19 pandemic which is likely to be studied in the future is the political impact it has had on the governments of different countries around the world. The pandemic has had to be managed on a governmental scale and



different approaches from countries will certainly be a strong area for analysis in the future. For example, in the United States, the polling of Donald Trump and his competitor Joe Biden has changed significantly during the pandemic, with a 48%-46% vote share in February 2020 shifting to a much larger 50%-42% balance in July. It is clear there is a shift in the minds of the American electorate, especially in a country that usually sees very tight margins in the race for presidency, and Trump's poor handling of the crisis as a cause of his predicted loss of power in 2020 is certainly a strong area of interest to future historians.

It is not just in America where the pandemic is having serious political repercussions. The government of Kosovo was overthrown in March, with their poor handling of COVID to blame, however on the other hand, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has been branded one of the world's best leaders because of her effective handling of the crisis. The pandemic and its management will have political repercussions that will still exist fifty years or more into the future, and therefore analysing its political impacts and the future policies and social changes that are moulded around these impacts will certainly be important in the teaching of COVID-19 at History A-Level in the future, not only so students can understand how an array of political fallouts across the globe took place, but also why they were significant and how they have caused the inevitable changes across the political spectrum.

Furthermore, understanding the causes behind historical events such as global pandemics is fundamental in the study of history, and in the coronavirus pandemic, causation can be explored in the context of cultural standards and norms in the UK. Having personally worked with the charity Facing History, it immediately became clear that areas of high density populations, poverty and multigenerational living such as those found in BAME communities are significantly more affected. This is relevant because in history, analysing causation is key to understanding the course and wider outcome of any crisis. The current situation in Leicester will be used as a textbook example in the future to explore how the disease spread with it being the first city in the UK to return to lockdown. A key trigger for this return to lockdown is the high density of living in Leicester with 12,000 people per square mile, combined with the poverty levels in Leicester being amongst the top 20% most deprived areas in the UK with over 27% of children in Leicester living in poverty. This link between poverty and the spread of the disease will definitely feature in the education of Covid-19 in the future as it will enable students to have a greater understanding of the causes of the spread and ultimately by doing so COVID-19 as a whole.

To conclude, the three areas of study that will be most closely studied in the future, economic, political, and cultural, are all areas in which the concepts of causation and consequence can be assessed in the future. Whilst the temporary measures which took place during COVID-19 such as the wearing of a face mask will be taught to students as events to provide context, this will simply be done to help them understand the extent of the virus. The driving force behind the topic of COVID-19 will be the disastrous economic consequences, the ways in which different governments have dealt with the disease both competently or poorly, and how different cultural and social atmospheres around the UK have caused spikes in certain areas, and how these three areas both contributed to the spread of the virus and led to its consequences, most of which we are yet to experience ourselves.

Matt Hull 13DM

Bibliography.

- BBC News "unemployment rate: how many people are out of work" 11 August 2020
 - BBC News "Coronavirus row helps topple Kosovo government" 26 March 2020
 - BBC News "Coronavirus: Why has Leicester had a spike of coronavirus?" 1 July 2020
 - B Walsh GCSE Modern World History, Hodder 2001
 - Financial Times "Biden vs Trump: who is leading the 2020 US election polls?" 2020 – updated daily
 - Resolution Foundation - www.resolutionfoundation.org "The economic effects of coronavirus in the UK" 14 May 2020
 - The Guardian "UK GDP falls by record 20.4% in April as lockdown paralyses economy" 12 June 2020
- The Conversation

FIDEL CASTRO - A REVOLUTIONARY LIFE



As we all know the trick to being a great communist leader is simple, love the common people, hate America, and have a great moustache; and it turns out Castro had all the qualities needed for the job. In fact, so much so that he was the longest serving non-royal head of state in the 20th century. Like his communist predecessors across the world Castro led a revolution against an oppressive right-wing dictatorship - think the likes of Lenin, Stalin, and Mao - and so naturally - Castro wanted to involve himself with global revolutionaries. He joined an abandoned invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1947 before returning to Cuba the next year where he initiated violent protests against the killing of a high school pupil in which he too was beaten.

Yet he came back bigger and stronger, having been to Colombia for a while and then a brief stint as a lawyer, back in his homeland. On his return he began gaining support for his new movement launching recruitment drives and socialist newspapers. His grand plan was to take over a barracks using a surprise attack with under 200 of his close followers, this daring assault took place on the 26th July - the name of his party from then on. The attack was a complete failure and Castro was arrested before fleeing to the US.

Here he searched for support - the wealthy kind, but came to realise contemporary America had little to no appreciation for the far left; so he bought an old yacht, found a few friends, and sailed 1,200km back to Cuba.

Subsequent to this the communist revolution began (despite Castro not officially being a Marxist) When they landed his small band of followers began Guerrilla warfare in the mountains against the military dictatorship of Batista, the revolution began in July 1953 and continued until the president was finally ousted on 31st December 1958.

But apart from all the glorious socialist uprisings what was Castro like as a person, it has been said that Castro began his career as a revolutionary with no ideology at all: he was a student politician turned street fighter turned guerrilla, a voracious reader, a great speaker, and a rather good baseball player.

The only ideas that appear to have driven him were a lust for power, social change, and the removal of the deep-rooted social injustice he had grown up around. The aggressive nature of the Cuban revolution has often been characterised as malevolent in the west, yet throughout Fidel's reign he was fiercely anti-imperialist (unlike his European and American adversaries) and ensured the best quality of life for his people above all else.

“Our country does not launch bombs against other people, or send thousands of planes to bomb cities, our country does not have nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. The tens of thousands of doctors and scientists our country has produced were educated to save lives. It would be in absolute contradiction of its conception to have a scientist or a doctor produced substances or viruses with the intention of killing other humans.” – Castro speaking in Buenos Aires in 2003.



(Cuban doctors sent to aid the initial outbreak of Covid-19 in Italy, 2020)

Despite this, his communist credentials cannot be ignored. Perhaps he was more a combination, being a figurehead for modern socialism, especially after the decline of the USSR and also a savvy political and military leader. After a period

of consolidation, he announced his Marxist-Leninist ideology to the world and began implementing his ideas in Cuba and allying with the soviets. Castro defended against US involvement - most famously at the Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and the missile crisis the next year. His influence in the developing world, especially in Africa after decolonisation is often overlooked. He offered military support in Angola and Mozambique, as well as touring round many African countries spreading his socialist ideals.

Castro has a complex legacy, his long rule saw economic stagnation in Cuba as well as considerable human rights violations in sporadic arrest, false trials and forced exportations of many Cubans.

Yet he acted as a figurehead of modern socialism and of strong leadership in the developing world - taking public stands against imperialism and US hegemony across the world. Alleviating his country from absolute poverty and extreme class divisions. His reign was fixated on the improvement of the quality of life within Cuba, leaving the Central American nation with one of the highest literacy rates on earth, severely higher quality of life and as the largest exporter of doctors worldwide, despite their small population. I believe Castro to be one of the most admirable leaders in modern history.

JONTY READING 12RJL & JAKE TOMMASI 12AKT

The Spanish Conquistadors' invasion of Peru, 1533.

On July 26th, 1533, Atahualpa, ruler of the largest empire and most advanced state the South American continent had ever seen, was executed by Spanish Conquistadors led by Francisco Pizarro, in the main square of an Inca city in Northern Peru. Pizarro was the representative of the Spanish King and Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, who was ruler of the largest European empire of the 16th century. Thus, two worlds collided, and, in that year, Peruvian history altered forever. In this essay I will be presenting the argument that the Spanish Conquistadors invasion of Peru in 1533, is the single most important event that has occurred in that country.



In order to appreciate how great a breach in the history of Peru this event was, we need to have some idea of what the Inca empire represented in the history of the Americas. The Inca Empire was the last chapter of thousands of years of Andean civilisation, one of just five civilisations in the world deemed by scholars to be "pristine", meaning independently developed without outside influence. In 1533, it enclosed roughly three times the landmass of modern Spain, was five times its length and had twice its population. The Inca Empire functioned largely by exchange of goods and services and was based on reciprocity between individuals and among individuals, groups, and Inca rulers. The Inca Empire was a rare phenomenon, but in that year of 1533, it was doomed to extinction.

But this impressive empire was soon to be consumed by the voracious appetite of the Spanish for silver and gold. During the 16th and 17th century Spain had to import most of her goods, and this factor combined with the military expenditure needed to maintain the empire, created mountains of debt that had to be serviced. This led to a need for currency to service the debt. "New World" silver and gold mines, a major source of coin, supported the Spanish empire, acting as a linchpin of the Spanish economy. Thus, the situation was ripe for enterprising individuals to act as "Conquistadors"; entrepreneurial brigands seeking their fortunes by seizing land and wealth from indigenous civilisations. In 1493, Pope Alexander VI issued a papal decree, "Inter Caetera" in which he authorized Spain and Portugal to colonise, convert and enslave the Americas and its natives, thereby legitimizing conquest through theology. The Spaniards saw their religion as superior and so wanted to spread it across the globe and used it as a pretext to conquer foreign lands and amass wealth - the Incans were one of the people that were affected by such a scheme.

So how did so few Spaniards, ranged against the much larger armies of the Inca, manage to conquer the Inca empire? Firstly, they had an invisible weapon: disease. The indigenous peoples of the Americas had no immunity to the infectious diseases brought with them by the Europeans. Even before the arrival of Pizarro, smallpox had already devastated the Inca Empire, killing the former Emperor Huayna Capac and unleashing a bitter civil war that distracted and weakened his successor, Atahualpa. This civil war was the second reason the Spaniards were able to conquer the Inca as the Spaniards were able to set one faction off against the other. Thirdly, the Spaniards were the heirs to a Eurasian technological and military superiority that made the outcome virtually inevitable. They were able to use iron and steel weapons and armour, together with horses. This made Incan resistance incredibly challenging.

The Inca Empire's gradual destruction that began in 1533 and ended with the death of the final Inca emperor in 1572, has had the most substantial impact on Peruvian history. Today 80% of Peruvians speak Spanish and only 20% the indigenous language of the Inca, Quechua, this being a direct consequence of the Spanish conquest and their suppression of native languages. The distribution of political power was also tilted in favour of the White European elite in Peru from this time, with natives and even mixed ethnicity people suffering prolonged political oppression, even being treated as sub-human at times. Although there are signs of the Inca religion surviving into the 17th and 18th century and Inca ceremonies still survive today, Christianity is the dominant religion, with 85-90% of the population identifying as Catholic.



But, most crucially, the lives of the indigenous population changed forever. Their villages were burnt to the ground; their traditions discarded; and their religion, which was so intrinsic to their being, was stripped from them. As the statistics I have included in the previous paragraph demonstrate - great change was felt by the native Peruvians at the hands of the avaricious Spanish Conquistadors. Prior to Spanish occupation the natives, at large, were free to follow their own religion and ways of living, but this was not so under the Spanish, with

dissenters suppressed. The dramatic disruption the Spanish brought in 1533 with their garroting of Atahualpa and take-over of the Incan empire profoundly affected and is still affecting the progression of Peru. The lives of those native Peruvians changed in 1533, and the change that they experienced echoes through the ages.

Jaysol Doy 11TJP

A Brief History of the Toilet

Dillon Shukla 9SFE

One thing that years of reading have taught me is that everyday things are rarely noticed or picked up on. The characters are always busy being off on an adventure, or something like that. But what happens when nature calls? What do you do then? This got me thinking about how toilets have evolved over time, which got me writing this...

The earliest toilet I could find was from Egypt's lesser-known counterpart, Mesopotamia. This was essentially a glorified pit with a proper sewage system intended to be used sitting down, and used with water taking the waste far, far away. My personal outtake from this is that I would not want to have dropped ... anything down it.



Egyptian toilet



Mesopotamian toilet

This leads us on to the Indus Valley civilization, which is located, for complicated reasons, not in the country that was named after the civilization, but Pakistan. These toilets sat on the outside of houses connected to vertical drains which dropped onto the street, and were raised from the ground, like a modern toilet. This eliminated the stench (to some extent) of the Mesopotamian toilets. In addition to this, the Indus elites would have differentiated themselves from the less fortunate by having a real water toilet, instead of a pit, which meant that clogs were less likely than using pipes. Personally, I'd be worried about who clears the sewage.

Some decades after this, during the Roman era, the next expansion was Roman toilets.

From first sight, they seem similar, a platform to sit on that drops down into a pit. What did catch my eye, was the fact that these toilets were communal! Yes, that's right, communal defecation. A change from the more traditionalist societies discussed above. Not only that, but the cleaning mechanism was a brush dipped in vinegar. Also communally used. From this, we can assume that cleaning up would not have been fun. Although they look similar to the toilets above, they were a lot more communal, and sewage was one of the Roman's biggest successes, with complicated sewage tunnels that took waste from the pits to nearby rivers. For the Romans, this was an experience, meant to be enjoyed with some conversation.



Roman toilet



British toilet

Pretty grim so far. But don't worry, because it takes a turn for the worst as we plunge into the grime and rancid smells of British castles, which, thanks to a great power point Miss Durden leant me, I know are called Garderobes. It seems that history went a bit backwards. Although these toilets are connected to a building, in many ways, using better methods than some of the previous toilets, the engineering was all over the place. On the surface, the very sticky surface, these toilets don't seem too bad. Look again, and you will see the reality. They were essentially a chair that dropped all the way down to the moat! It kept invading armies out, but it stank quite a bit. Then there is the danger of standing underneath whilst someone was doing their business. My outtake is that I am thankful for the invention of pipes. Which had already been invented in the Indus system of sanitation, which makes these even more awful. It comes down to one simple question: What do you prioritize more: smell, or defence?

What else is left, you may think? Well, soon people realized that their former ways were slightly barbaric, which brought with it the invention of the chamber pot. Imagine a port-a-loo without the box around it. Then imagine it inside and consisting of a pot. Then stick the word chamber in front because these could be used on a bedroom, and we have ourselves the wonderful chamber pot. It was usually used in bedrooms so that there were... minimal accidents. People would do their business inside the pot, and then clear it out, or get their slaves to clear it out. I doubt the cleaners would have fun. At least we've seen real progress, since chamber pots evolved and became common around the time following the garderobe, first being invented by the Greeks, and fading out of popularity around the 20th century.



Chamber pot

So, we have covered many toilets, from communal vinegar brushes to water pits. but none quite resembling what we have today. Then, a certain Mr. Harrington came along and created the first ever flush toilet! It consisted of a cistern that was raised which water would run along, flushing the waste away. Someone should put up a statue of him. Without this fellow, we may still be using terrible methods to relieve ourselves. Although some civilizations may have come close, they never managed such greatness as Mr. Harrington.



Modern Western toilet

This leaves us with some of the... worse toilet inventions. At number two, if you excuse the pun, the Vespasiennes. It's one thing being chic and Parisian, but it's another of having a urinal that already doesn't have any walls have even less walls! That's right, a toilet on the street. Similar to some of the Indus toilets, utilizing pipes. My outtake is I'd rather hold it. But what is the worst toilet that humans have ever invented? In my opinion, there

is no other contender for the spot of number one than the ghastly squat toilet! I just don't understand why we need to squat on the floor! It's so uncomfortable! I think that a toilet which requires technique to use is far too complicated.



Parisian Toilet

Still, at least we have evolved from holes in the ground and vinegar brushes to porcelain and flush toilets, which we should perhaps appreciate more.

The Unlikely Survival of the 'Cactus Air Force' (August 1942 - April 1943)

Archie Blair 12RJL

The Cactus Air Force (CAF) was the code name for the American Marine Air Corp which were stationed in the South-Pacific island of Guadalcanal. Based at the airfield code named Henderson Field which was originally a Japanese airfield. Ernest King, the commander-in-chief was looking towards recapturing the Philippines and so by having a new air base he would be able to enforce American presence in the Solomon Islands and linking up with the New Guinea campaign by the allies ultimately giving them a springboard towards the Philippines.



So, on the 7th August 1942; the First Marine Division landed at Lunga point on Guadalcanal capturing the only partially constructed airstrip. Construction of the base started almost immediately, using mostly stolen Japanese equipment that was already there. On 12th August they renamed the airfield Henderson field after the first United States Marine Corps Aviation (USMCA) pilot killed at the battle of Midway.

The airstrip was primitive, mainly comprised of gravel and about 300m of steel matting to extend it. The dust was horrendous as the large propeller warplanes would kick up clouds engulfing the airfield. Being quite short at the start (just 730m) it was limited by what planes could land and take off and over the campaign it was lengthened and widened and so by 4th September it was 1200m long as to accommodate the larger bombers. On 9th September, the US Naval construction battalion (Seabees) started building a second runway about a mile away called 'Fighter 1' much longer at 1400m, and as the name refers, the core fighters started operation on this runway. The airfields were hard to keep safe with only a small defence line around them and the rest of the island being occupied by the Japanese so, mortar shelling and gun fights were common.

Living conditions were appalling with pilots and mechanics dwelling on a flood plantation nicknamed 'mosquito grove', where many contracted tropical diseases like malaria or dysentery. They were bombed almost every noon by around 20-40 'Betty' bombers. They were also infrequently shelled by naval vessels, one of the worst incidents occurring on the night of the 13th October 1942 where two battleships covering Japanese reinforcement landings on the Japanese occupied beaches lobbed over 700 shells onto Henderson field.



Despite these conditions and the constant Japanese presence, the CAF were relatively successful and crucial to the American victory in the Solomon Islands. The first planes touched down on 20th August, they included 18 F4F Wildcat fighter planes and 12 SBD dive bombers. More fighters and bombers joined throughout August. The first action the CAF saw come on the 21st August when Japanese 'Zero' bombers flew over the airfield in search of American carriers south of the island they were met by 6 Wildcat fighters and, despite losing two aircrafts, they scared off the bombers and so claimed

the first CAF victory. The first main battle occurred on 24th August during the naval battle of the Eastern Solomons when vice admiral Chuichi Nagumo sent the light aircraft carrier Ryujo ahead of the main fleet to provoke an attack force from Henderson field at 12:20 the carrier launched 6 'Kate' bombers and 15 'Zero' fighters and there were also meant to be 24 'Bettys' and 14 'Zero' fighters from the Japanese base of Rabaul but they encountered heavy weather and had turned back, yet this remained unknown to the carrier. They were met by 14 Wildcats and 4 Army P-400s in the engagement 3 'Kates', 3 'Zeros' and 3 Wildcats were shot down, but all the Japanese aircraft were ultimately lost as during the air battle the Ryujo was sunk by aircraft from the USS Saratoga.

There were numerous aerial fights over the next month or so with one day in particular worth mentioning; on 13th September after receiving 18 wildcats for the USS Hornet and USS Wasp a reconnaissance sortie flew over the airfield consisting of two type-2 aircrafts and nine 'Zeros' to find out if the Japanese army had captured Henderson's field in the night. They had not, and so met by CAF fighter. The CAF lost four fighters, two in combat and two in an accident, the Japanese also lost 4 'Zeros.' Then in the same day, an afternoon bombing raid consisting of 24 'Bettys' and 12 'Zeros' attacked at 14:00. Two 'Bettys' were lost and another two heavily damaged and two wildcats were also lost. The final events of the day were two float planes 'Zeros' were shot down by a scout plane SBD.

Henderson field would go on to have to endure a month-and-a-half of naval bombardment with, on the night of 13th October the battleships Kongo and Haruna let rip with their 14'' guns killing 46 including 9 pilots. After these bombardments, the CAF finally got a shot at a IJN battleship on the first night of 'The battle for Guadalcanal' dive bombers from the airstrip and the USS Enterprise scored numerous hits on the battleship Hiei setting it ablaze and disabling its steering in light of this the Japanese later scuttled the ship. Over the 7-month period of the CAF's existence it sank or destroyed up to 17 Japanese ships, one battleship, one heavy cruiser, one light cruiser, three destroyers and twelve transports. They lost 94 pilots either killed or MIA and a further 177 were evacuated due to sickness.

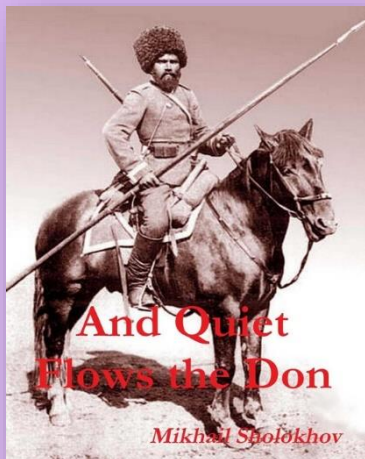
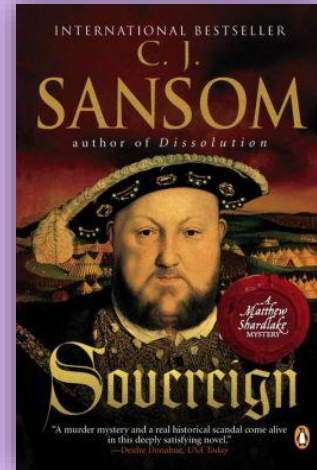
The CAF would become the defining achievement for the USMCA for the next 50 years.

SUGGESTED READING

The Shardlake Series - C J Sansom

"It's a page turning murder mystery set in the time of Henry VIII (who makes a few perfectly judged appearances). Evocative of the age and its issues. Quite bloodthirsty at times – good fun!"

- Mr Morris



And Quietly Flows the Don – Mikhail Sholokhov

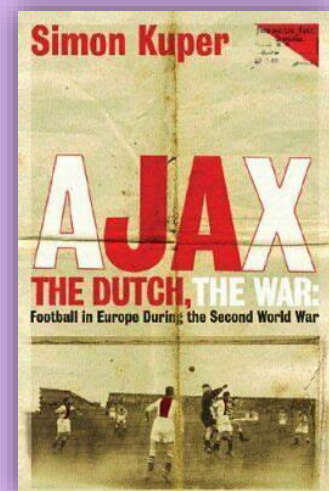
"A slightly lesser-known classic novel detailing the peace and war-time lives of the Russian Cossack people living on the River Don in the last 19th and early 20th centuries. Controversial winner of the notorious Stalin Prize for literature in the USSR, it tells a gripping, emotional story of the Melekhov family."

- Mr Reed

AJAX, THE DUTCH, THE WAR: FOOTBALL IN EUROPE DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR

"Sport was unsurprisingly disrupted during WW2, but in places there were efforts to carry on. In the Netherlands, Ajax FC in Amsterdam, was associated with the city's Jewish community. The operation of the club under the Nazi occupation was obviously a difficult period, yet it has come under scrutiny in recent years as part of the challenge to the traditional idea that every Dutchman was part of the resistance. Kuper's book examines this view and suggests that the evidence points elsewhere, either towards tacit acceptance or outright collaboration."

- Mr Dowsett



Winston Churchill is *not* the saint we make him out to be.



I am by no means saying Winston Churchill was not an inspirational leader during the nation's biggest crisis, however what I am saying, is that society's opinion on Churchill is grossly inaccurate. Churchill is admired, idolised, and considered a saint by both the people of Britain and America, and it is this Anglo-American view that is quite frankly ignorant of the atrocities Winston Churchill was to blame for during his lifetime. We know that the things he did were despicable. We know that millions suffered as a result of his tyrannical hegemonic deeds. We

know, to quote Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu; 'Winston Churchill used his privilege, power and influence to cause untold misery and atrocities on non-white people and their nations.' So why, why is he admired, why is he idolised and why is he considered a saint?

'Mr. Churchill was a great war-time leader. But no man was more insular in his outlook. He had yet to realise that the people of Asia, Africa and the Middle East are entitled to a life of their own. He still thinks in terms of the hegemony of the world by Anglo-Saxon peoples.' to quote an Indian newspaper, after Churchill accused Mahatma Gandhi, of using 'Glucose supplements in his water' when fasting.

Would you say that a saint should be responsible for around 3-4 million innocent people in India to die of starvation, when food was stockpiled in Europe, ready for newly liberated countries, because 'the starvation of any underfed Bengali's mattered much less than that of sturdy Greeks' and blame the famine on 'the Indians' for 'breeding like rabbits'? (to put that into context 227 thousand people have died in India of Covid-19 -at time of writing, a 13th of the lowest estimate of the number of deaths Churchill was responsible for by these actions). Would you say a saint should openly state that 'White people are superior', that 'I dislike Chinese people', that Indians are 'beastly people with a beastly religion' and 'I hate' them, that called 'the Africans, childlike'? Would you say that 'the greatest Briton of all time' (according to a BBC poll with nearly half a million votes), should call Gandhi, perhaps the greatest leader of them all, who is quoted as to have 'inspired' both Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, a 'malignant subversive fanatic', ask: 'Why hasn't Gandhi died yet?' and call him a 'rascal' and even, have the audacity to accuse him of acting 'on behalf of the axis powers'? No. I am sure you can agree. A saint should not have over 3 million deaths on their hands. It is an affront to all our consciences, and our ancestors that a man who committed such wicked things as Churchill, is glorified and treated with almost godlike status.

A popular argument from the supporters of Churchill is that "Everyone was racist back then" and Churchill was "no different". However, this is fundamentally untrue. Tory Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin had been warned by many not to appoint Churchill to his cabinet due to widespread knowledge that Churchill was a staunch imperialist and ardent racist. Churchill's very own Doctor famously was quoted saying 'Winston only sees people based on the colour of their skin'.



Why then do a staggeringly high proportion of society, in today's world of technological advancements - where information is available at the click (or more accurately a tap) of a button, still worship him? The answer is the constant barrage of biased reporting that the mainstream media have forced upon both our ancestors and ourselves, since 1945. And the reason, the real reason behind this fabricated omnishambles, is the failure to recognise the real heroes of the war. The real heroes are the millions of civilians that were conscripted to witness and participate in the infernal, Hadean, unscrupulous mess that was the second world war. Winston Churchill inspired many with his wonderful oratorical skills and is regarded by many as the greatest Briton of all time. However, he was a fervent racist and a bigot - whose chauvinistic, callous, and careless ways caused millions of innocent civilians to perish, purely because the colour of their skin was different.

With all the change that society has made for good in recent years, be it in support and celebration of the LGBTQ+ community, the increasing number of working-class people in positions of power or celebrating the diversity that our country is proud to have - worshipping, idolising and revering Winston Churchill undermines the changes that we have made as a community, as a society and as a nation. His figure is a looming presence, reminding us of the atrocities the British Empire committed, the hundreds of millions of people it affected and how so many wish to whitewash the darker parts of our history.

He was not a hero. He was not an idol. He was not a saint.

Freddie Waterland 10HJC

MIDGET SUBMARINES

Oliver Wardle 10HJC

Throughout history man has tried and failed to create a weapon which could travel beneath the waves. During WW2, a new threat was posed by these strange under watercraft. This came in the form of tiny versions of full-sized submarines which could

sneak into harbours and other supposedly safe anchorages. The British were the first nation to start building mini submarines, the Italians had already begun to build small human torpedoes which the two crewmen had to sit astride. Not only was this dangerous but it also meant that to see above the surface the crewmen had to have their heads poking out above the water. The British X-Craft were a completely different story, these machines were completely the same the same as a normal submarine apart from their size and the lack of torpedo tubes.



Obviously due to the lack of torpedo tubes the submarines were highly vulnerable and due to their extremely small petrol tanks they had to be towed. This meant endangering the survival of two full size submarines. Although they were impractical to move around when they reached their destination the X-Craft could cause major devastation to any vessel it came across. Once the submarines had submerged and navigated past the torpedo nets into a harbour or port, they became the ultimate weapon. Each crew would have been assigned a target ship which they would float up to then drop the huge amount of explosive underneath. The crews would then get out of there as fast as possible; each explosive had a timer and when the time was up the unlucky target ship would be blown out the water.



There are no remaining original X-CRAFT unless you count this unlucky ship.

Rise of the Ottomans

The Ottoman Empire ruled Anatolia, the Middle East and the Balkans. This Anatolian power controlled these territories for centuries. Their rise to power is mysterious, but you can learn all about it in this article.

The story of the Ottoman Empire started hundreds of years ago in the 13th century, starting in Western Anatolia (Present-Day Turkey).

To understand the rise of the Ottomans, you first need to understand the state of Anatolia. The main part of Anatolia was ruled by a withering Empire known as the Seljuk Empire,



who were plagued by war from the Ayyubid Dynasties from the south and the fierce Mongol invasion in the east. The West of Anatolia was ruled by Byzantium, another crippled empire that was withering in size due to raids and attacks. Squashed in the middle of these two powers were the Turkmen tribes. These tribes, or Beyliks (Principalities), were ultimately loyal to the Seljuk state, but some tribes frequently warred against each other. The Turkmen people that live in these tribes migrated west from Central Asia to escape the Mongol invasion under Genghis Khan.

The Turkmen people lived in nomad tents, but many began to conquer Byzantine towns, and living in them. However, there was no way for these Beyliks to expand into states, so how did this happen?

As mentioned above, the Turkmen people were fleeing the Mongols. Their fierce warring attitude that left no-one alive was something everyone would fear, but now they were living in Western Anatolia, so the Mongols were held back by the failing Seljuks. However, at the end of the 13th century, the Seljuks fell, leading to a whole chunk of Anatolia up for grabs, essentially creating a power vacuum.

So, who would fill it? Well, the Mongols were receding, after being defeated in battles like Ain Jalut. However, we are talking about the Mongol Horde, who came in thousands upon thousands and never gave up. Well, to this day it is a mystery why the Mongol Empire fell so fast, but many historians speculate that it was because of Genghis Khan's many descendants fighting each other for succession.

As both the Seljuks and the Mongols were no longer able to conquer land in Anatolia, that leaves the Byzantines and the Beyliks. The Byzantines were not powerful enough to fight the Beyliks, with most of their land apart from Constantinople being taken by the Beyliks, who, as you might have guessed, formed their own states. Here is a map of the Beyliks:

As seen below the Ottomans (a term coined by Europe after a mispronunciation of Osman) owned a large portion of the old Byzantine, right up to Constantinople. This expansion was only possible due to the Ottoman's first leader, Osman Bey. Contrary to popular belief, Osman's title was Bey, like his ancestors. The title Sultan was used by his descendants.

The growing Ottoman power quickly began to seize other Beyliks, and some even joined them.



In 1453, the story reaches its end.

Sultan Mehmed II and his 80,000 strong army decided to conquer Constantinople, the last land belonging to Byzantium. According to some historians, Mehmed was faced with many setbacks. For example, the Byzantine army placed a massive chain along the

Bosphorus, preventing the Ottoman navy from getting close enough to lay a naval siege. To combat this Mehmed ordered his men to roll the ships over a hill on logs. Eventually, Constantinople fell, and the Roman Empire collapsed. Here I am calling it the Roman Empire as Byzantium split from the Western Roman Empire in the 4th century.

The Ottoman Empire continued to grow, expanding into the Balkans, Arabia and even briefly conquering Iceland. But that is a story for another time...

MUSTAFA DASSU 9SFE

COBI-Compatible Military History

Daniel Bowe 8PSR

With my first Cobi tank from their WW2 Historical Collection – 510 bricks and 2 minifigures, I was able to discover that my “new tank” had first seen action in the Russo-Finish War aka *The Winter War*...



30 November 1939 – 13 March 1940.

A war between the Soviet Union (USSR) and Finland started 3 months after the outbreak of WWII. Despite superior military strength, especially in tanks and aircraft, the Soviet Union suffered severe losses and initially made little headway. The League of Nations – established at the end of WWI and replaced by the United Nations after WWII - deemed the attack illegal and expelled the Soviet Union from the organisation.

The Soviets made several demands, including that Finland give up substantial border territories in exchange for land elsewhere, claiming security reasons—primarily the protection of Leningrad, 32 km from the Finnish border.

When Finland refused, the USSR invaded.

Finland repelled Soviet attacks for more than two months and inflicted substantial losses on the invaders in temperatures as low as -43°C . After the Soviet military reorganised and adopted different tactics – involving the use of “bunker-busting” heavy tanks, they renewed their offensive in February and overcame Finnish defences.

Hostilities ended in March 1940 with the signing of the Moscow Peace Treaty.

- o Finland gave up 11 percent of its territory, representing 30 percent of its economy, to the Soviet Union. Finland retained its sovereignty and enhanced its international reputation.

- o Soviet losses were heavy, and the country's international reputation suffered. Soviet gains exceeded their pre-war demands and the USSR received substantial territory along Lake Ladoga and in northern Finland.

However, the poor performance of the Red Army encouraged German leader Adolf Hitler to believe that an attack on the Soviet Union would be successful. In June 1941, Nazi Germany broke their Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact with the USSR and launched Operation Barbarossa – their invasion of Russia.

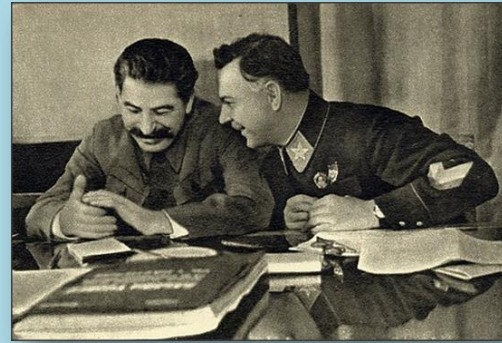
Finland co-operated with Nazi Germany in Operation Barbarossa but never formally signed the Tripartite Pact that had established the Axis powers. Finland justified its alliance with Germany as self-defence.



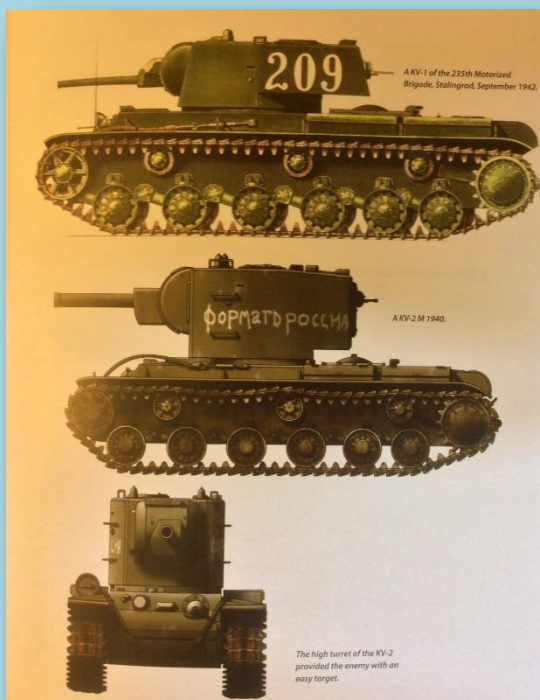
But what about its name, KV-2?

Well, that comes from **Kliment Voroshilov** a prominent Soviet military officer and politician during the Stalin era. He was one of the original five Marshals of the Soviet Union (the highest military rank of the Soviet Union) and somehow managed to be one of the just two marshals who survived Stalin's Great Purge in November 1935.

Voroshilov commanded Soviet troops during the Winter War from November 1939 to January 1940 but, due to poor Soviet planning and Voroshilov's apparent incompetence as a general, the Red Army suffered about 320,000 casualties compared to 70,000 Finnish casualties. A born survivor, he even gets his name from two legendary Russian "heavy tanks" while almost losing a war!



Which brings me neatly back to the tanks...



The concept of "deep battle", which first introduces the role of the Soviet "heavy tank", was developed during the late 1920's, then refined and eventually adopted by the Red Army Field Regulations in 1936.

The tactical "deep battle" doctrine employed fast battle tanks, working with light reconnaissance tanks and tankettes and medium/heavy penetration tanks also called "siege tanks" capable of resisting and destroying most anti-tank guns either deployed by enemy infantry or other tanks. Four prototype "heavy tanks" were tested in operations in Finland in the first part of the Winter War – the clear winner being the KV-1, named after People's Defence Commissar and political statesman Kliment Voroshilov. A further fifty KV-1's immediately went into production.

However, when faced with difficulties on the heavily fortified Mannerheim line bunker system during the second part of the Winter War in Finland, the General Staff demanded a specially

equipped version fitted with a heavy howitzer, intended to deal with concrete bunkers.

Instead of choosing the more conventional solution of a traditional Self-Propelled Gun, they decided to use the same chassis and turret ring to accommodate a fully traversed, redesigned turret that housed a gargantuan 152 mm howitzer. This gave the KV-2 – as it was now called, one of the most distinctive profiles of WWII making it a clearly recognisable target on the battlefield. The hull was no different to that of a KV-1, but - in order to fit the huge 152 mm howitzer, a box-shaped, towering 12.9 tonne turret was mounted on the KV-1 chassis. The huge turret was only accessible by a ladder. This now gave the vehicle an overall height of 4.9 m, compared to the 3.9 m height of the KV-1. However, the high profile of the KV-2's turret was compensated by its immense armour – 110 mm frontal armour and 75 mm side armour.

How 'Roman' was the Roman Empire?

To even begin to answer this question we need to understand what it means to be Roman, does this mean the citizenship of Rome or simply having a Roman way of life in the territories controlled by Rome. To answer this question there are two important things to note, firstly that the Roman's had an incredibly complex system of controlling their empire and that no area was even remotely the same as another and secondly the evidence we have to answer this question is not only extremely limited but biased in a way that can be detrimental in the understanding of the lives of the common people under Roman rule. That is that almost all writers, write from a Roman perspective and a rich aristocratic one at that - which makes it incredibly hard to get a grasp on what society was like at the time.

To understand what it means to be 'Roman', the earlier regal and republic periods when the formation of the Roman ideology began providing the most insight. In fact, Mary Beard explains that right from Rome's beginning there is a spirit of "openness and willingness to incorporate outsiders"¹ which is what set it apart from everywhere else so early on; no ancient Greek city was ever "remotely as incorporating" including Athens which had "particularly rigid restrictions on citizenship... The overall message of historians at the time was even at the pinnacle of the Roman political order



'Romans' could be from elsewhere."² In its early period to gain population the Romans allowed anyone who wanted to come live and be citizens of Rome. Inevitably this created a society of people united by very little but location and only a very weak idea of Romanness - and even this was a limited concept at the time.

In the initial Roman conquest of the Italian peninsula Rome had usually one condition for surrender- that this newly conquered territory supplied men for the Roman legions and nothing more. This is because Rome and any ancient civilisation had no framework or precedent

for occupying and controlling vast empires in any modern imperial sense. Instead, most early, and a significant portion of later conquest was simply 'alliances' or dependencies under Roman control and had no active presence of Roman command there. Later, governors were assigned to control areas of the empire but "The traditional assumption that military victory should turn into booty for the conqueror or that defeated should pay for their defeat"³ lived on. As a result, these elected officials often just used these postings as an opportunity to exploit vast sums of money from these provinces under their control, way from the eyes of their peers in Rome - certainly, little cultural assimilation occurred. Perhaps this was the problem - transferring these areas from enemy states into Roman provinces. In fact, linguistically, the Latin word 'hostis' mean both foreigner and enemy so while these populations in the provinces may no longer be enemies of Rome, they were definitely foreign and so Roman officials perhaps saw no difference and continued to treat them as such.

While the empire was acquired through extreme brutality and often a xenophobic outlook of these outsiders or 'barbarians', once these territories were conquered, "in a process unique in any preindustrial empire"⁴ a small minority of inhabitants were gradually given the citizenship; with the legal rights and protections that came with it. Yet this took significant time and doesn't necessarily represent an idea of Roman culture just a legal status. It wasn't till after the Social war 'in the 2nd century BCE that even Italians (outside of Rome) had widespread citizenship. The only reason peace was reached was because "Romans offered full citizenship to those Italians who had not taken up arms...or were prepared to lay them down."⁶ The reason peace had lasted so long before this was the fear of other powers like Carthage in the Mediterranean which kept Rome and Italy together in collective fear of the 'other' but after these powers were defeated this caused the collapse of the republic - no threats, the contemporary historian Sallust⁵ argues, created an 'every man for himself' dynamic.

An example of the cultural disparity in Italy itself, was that Latin was not widely spoken, with languages such as Oscan and Etruscan commonly used just miles from Rome. The fact Italians were not Roman is one of the most common misconceptions of the empire but once this process of widespread citizenship occurred, Beard argues that "Italy was now the closest thing to a nation state that the classical world ever knew"⁷ which considering cultural/social identity rarely extended outside a city and its surrounding areas, this was remarkable. This was probably the first time in the ancient world that people considered themselves dual citizens, citizens of where they lived and of Rome - yet this was more so in Italy than anywhere else in the empire.

Yet how Roman was the world outside the Italian peninsula, to the east many historians see the peripheries of the empire far more Greek than Roman. Yet this problem was also seen to reflect back on Rome itself. In fact, the two cultures were very intermixed but later prominent Romans trying to forge their own identity like Cato, rejected this idea. Was Cato simply one of those traditionalists reacting in a time when "newfangled ideas"⁸ are brought in from afar or was there a genuine fear of Greek culture assimilation. Whatever the case he spoke out extensively about wanting to return to 'Roman tradition' - of which, one never really existed. In fact, the idea of Roman culture was a combination of the culture of other civilisations (Greeks/Latins) compounded together and given legitimacy by legends and traditions of later Roman historians trying to understand their current identity and society. "Cultural identity is always a slippery notion, and we have no idea how early Romans thought about their particular character and what distinguished them from their neighbours...Some of the claims about 'Roman tradition' were little short of imaginative fantasy"⁹. In fact, the historian Polybius¹⁰ mentions that Cato in fact regularly wrote in Greek and taught his son it. "To put it another way Greekness and Romanness were an inseparably bound up as they were polar opposites."¹¹



It was this reason that the strong sense of Greek culture, spread by the Macedonians was more widespread than Rome's in the east, with their own laws, culture, traditions and political and social systems. For example, in 66 BCE the defeat of Mithridates VI by Pompey the Great presented him with the enormous challenge of organizing huge swathes of land now under Roman rule. It has often been argued that in their eastern provinces the Romans based new cities on the model of the Greek city-state and that Roman culture had less influence there than in the West. Jesper Majbom Madsen¹², however, describes civic development here as a process by which Roman and Greek elements were introduced simultaneously. He argues that these new cities he founded there were neither traditional Greek nor entirely Roman settlements with Roman laws and legislation, nor were they Greek cities gradually influenced by Roman rule. Instead, they represented a third category, in which a citizen could be an Anatolian, Greek, and Roman at the same time. In the west while the culture definitely wasn't Greek it certainly wasn't that Roman either. Despite the fact the images of Rome in the roads, villas and archeological remains are vivid in our modern imaginations, most of these were made and used by the Roman military. In fact, the vast majority of these Roman remains come from military bases not the towns where the native populations lived. Perhaps tribal chiefs were given a Roman education and lifestyle but there is little evidence this ever extended to anyone lower down in say the societies of Hispania, Gaul or Britain.

What allowed the Roman empire to flourish was not an imperialistic approach of converting the conquered to the 'civilized culture' in fact the loose style of rule across the empire - either a product of making it as they went or dealing with every situation with its own approach allowed the empire to develop so successfully. The flexibility of religious, political and cultural ideas built into the Roman ideology meant they could rule over their new territories not as Romans in the Roman empire but Greeks, Persians, Spanish or any other society within the Roman empire.

Hitler's Supercars Documentary Review

(on All 4)

Whether you are a complete petrol-head like me or just interested in historic Germany, this channel 4 documentary contains a lot of interesting history on the racing automobile during Germany's darkest age. It covers how motor-racing was quite a key part in the sense of German pride Hitler personally was targeting at the people of Germany and in propaganda for the German dominance in world technology. While now Audi and Mercedes make more and more boring and unnecessary SUVs, 82 years ago after conquering the track racing scene they were competing in a battle for world land speed dominance on public roads ordered by Hitler himself. The documentary covers the story of Mercedes and Audi's previous father



company Auto Union develop revolutionary new technology, some of which still used today in modern racecars. The interesting historic links with events in the rise of the Nazi party and the development in road systems with the militaristic direct Autobahn and racetracks like the Nürburgring. Interestingly Hitler himself always had a noticeable car (generally Merces) and here he is spotted famously saying "take the Third Reich!".

Right at the heat of the speed record rivalry, the death of the SS officer/turned racing driver Bernd Rosemeyer in his Auto-Union streamliner at 269mph and the outbreak World War II resulted in the end of state supported speed runs. This left an eternal mystery as the other German superpower had never had a proper go, but the predictions were for their car were unbelievable.

This is the Mercedes-Benz T80, a 6 wheeled monster with a 44.5 litre V12 developing 3,000bhp designed by Dr Ferdinand Porsche, name sound familiar? Anyway, using modern technology this pure breed was simulated to reach over 360 mph this trumps Koenigsegg's 277mph record and the Bugatti Chiron Super Sport 300+ (both modern supercars) on the public highway.



Overall, this is a good documentary about the development of the racing automobile, and it doesn't just focus on all the awful points of that era, but you would need to be interested to watch it and to some it may appear dull, therefore I would give it a 7/10, highly informative but for a select audience. If you are interested, the documentary can be located on All 4.

Charles Mankelow 10RH

Thanks for reading 1495!



**We hope you thoroughly enjoyed
this edition and that you are
excited to pick up the imminent
Summer copy as well!**