1919 [1st-2nd January] The Russian Civil War [LXXXII - Food, High Finance, and Espionage Fronts (The Men Behind Hoover)]: [Continued from 31st December 1918] On 1st January 1919 the American occupation's food tsar, Herbert Hoover [see 7th November 1918], now based in Paris [he is close to, but not part of the Versailles negotiating team - Ed.], is beginning to get his team together. And most impressive it is, too, as biographer Walter W. Liggett will later explain ...
"... Hoover had powerful aides. Lord Reading (Sir Rufus Isaacs) [check him out], English food controller and member of the [Supreme Economic Council], had been Hoover's lawyer for many years. Emile Francqui [check him out] was perhaps the most influential man in Belgium. A large Paris bank also was interested in Hoover's Russian holdings.” ...

ASIDE: We shall be returning to this den of thieves when profiling said Supreme Economic Council [see 24th February below]. Burner (1979) identifies the Russian holdings as "Kyshtym [map] and Orsk [map] in Siberia” (p54), and suggests that he acted through the "Inter-Russian Company” [nothing known]. He was also involved in some unsuccessful oil prospecting projects in the Maykop region [map] of the western Kuban. Another biographer, Kellogg (1920/2009) [Amazon], reviews Hoover's banking network, as also do Wentling and Medoff (2002) [Amazon].

... "The Romanoff family had been his partners." ...

ASIDE: Burner covers Hoover's Russian investments in some detail, if interested. Hoover visited Russia "several times", adding up to a total 72 weeks. The Tsar did indeed commission his services in 1912.

... 'Clemenceau and Lord Curzon of England [check him out] were perfectly fanatical in their anti-Bolshevism. It is probable that Woodrow Wilson - willing to sacrifice any principle to put over the League of Nations - didn't know what it was all about [...] and it is quite possible that he had never heard of Hoover's interests in Russia. In any event, Wilson left our Russia policy almost entirely in Hoover's hands. [...] The Russians are to starve because four men in Paris do not like their politics; on the day when they surrender to the ideas and armies of the Big Four, then they may have bread" (Liggett, 1932, p261).

Hoover sets the tone for his intervention by letting it be known from the outset that he intends being particularly strict on the Germans given the "wanton destructiveness" he had seen from them in Belgium, and that the Allied naval blockade of Germany is going to remain in force until they sign up to the Versailles Treaty [see 12th July below]. The Germans, too, are to starve, etc. On the intelligence front, Allen Dulles arrives in Paris 2nd January to work with one of the American delegation's co-opted academics, Yale historian Charles Seymour [Wikipedia biography] [sub-thread continues at next entry ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD][THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING][THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING][THREAD = FOOD AS "HERE, DOGGY" PROPAGANDA]

1919 [2nd January] The Russian Civil War [LXXXIII - South Russian Front (The Svechnikov Offensive)]: [Continued from preceding entry] On 2nd January 1919 General Mikhail Svechnikov's [Wikipedia biography] 11th and 12th Armies advance westward out of their base at Astrakhan [map] toward Armavir [map] and Tikhoretsk [map], threatening [Y]Ekaterinodar [see 15th August 1918] and Denikin's hold over the western Kuban, and southward down the Caspian coast toward Baku [see 30th October 1918], threatening the oilfields there. Denikin gives as good as he gets, however, and Svechnikov soon has to fall back on his North Caspian heartland [sub-thread continues at next entry ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD][THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS][THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING][THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [3rd January-2nd February] The Russian Civil War [LXXXIV - South Russian Front (The Ukraine Goes Red)]: [Continued from preceding entry] On 3rd January 1919 the Allied masterplan for the south [see preceding entry] is thrown into confusion by a snap Bolshevik push into the Ukraine from the north which captures Kharkov [map] and pushes the Whites back a hundred miles to Poltava [map]. On 6th January the Ukrainian Socialist Soviet Republic (UkSSR) [Wikipedia briefing] is established to administer the territory acquired ...

ASIDE: Foreign Commissar Georgy Chicherin [see 4th April 1918] carefully points out to foreign journalists that this advance was not Moscow's work, but rather regional Reds fighting regional Whites. The UkSSR will endure, in some form or other, until the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Further attacks on 20th January take Poltava and push the Whites back another 100 miles to Kremenchuk [map]. Then, on 2nd February, the jewel in the regional crown - Kiev [map] - also falls to the Reds. To add insult to injury, for much of the summer the White Armies in the south and west suffer severe non-combat losses due to the ravages of typhus [sub-thread continues at next entry ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD][THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS][THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING][THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

***QUICKIE - ESTONIA AND LATVIA BETWEEN THE ARMISTICE AND VERSAILLES***: Stewart (1932/2009) devotes an entire chapter to the history of these two East Baltic states. The White Estonians were centred on Pskov [map] under the command of Stanislav Bulak-Balakhovich [Wikipedia biography] (in fact, a Lithuanian). The White Latvians were centred at Riga. The Armistice had included a clause requiring Germany to maintain order in the territories they had overrun, but in many places she lacked the physical resources so to do. Stewart continues ...

"The chief actor in the drama of German occupation at this time was the famous General von der Goltz [see 10th December 1918], who attempted to combine anti-Bolsheviks [into] a force of some twenty thousand men in Latvia and Lithuania not only with the intention of fighting the Soviets but also of providing a refuge for such Germans as wished to flee the consequences of their own revolution. [...] As the Germans retired the Reds followed them" (op. cit., k3238-3255).

The stage is now set for a summer of strife in which a "Freikorps" [Wikipedia briefing] of like-minded Germans and Latvians get together - with Allied blessing - to operate in the Baltic States with a view to clearing them of different-minded Latvian and Russian Bolsheviks, thus turning Latvia into what we know nowadays [= March 2021] as a "Proxy War". In London, meanwhile, the Foreign Office diplomat [Sir]1953 Harold Nicolson [Wikipedia biography] entrains at Charing Cross for Paris, where he will be working to the Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour [check him out]. His particular - and in many regions impossible - task will be to tweak the maps of Europe (indeed much of the planet) to suit the war victors, and many of the lines he is persuaded to draw may never see peace again [sub-thread continues at 4th January 1919 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]


Readers unfamiliar with the Balfour Declaration should brief themselves from the ten entries in the <Zionism During WW1> sub-thread between 2nd February and 2nd November 1917, inclusive

Crucially, Faisal agrees that an independent Jewish state in Palestine could co-exist alongside an independent Arabian kingdom in other, and much larger, liberated Ottoman provinces such as Modern Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia [sub-thread continues at 18th January 1919 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [4th January] **The German Revolution [III - From Kaiser To Weimar Constitution (The January Uprising)]:** [Continued from 29th December 1918] On 4th January 1919 a new and hard line Chief of Police is appointed in Berlin. A Spartacist protest the following day attracts hundreds of thousands of supporters, but also its fair share of counter-revolutionaries, and there are many violent confrontations. A general strike is then called for 7th January but Chancellor Ebert [see 7th November 1918] increasingly deploys the Freikorps [see 3rd January above] to disperse the demonstrations, and several hundred Spartacists are killed by mid-month [sub-thread continues at 15th January 1919 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE WW1 WORKING CLASS SOLDIER]

"Without food in these countries there would be anarchy and revolution" Burner

1919 [4th January] **The Russian Civil War [LXXXVI - Food, High Finance, and Espionage Fronts (The Relief Offensive)]:** [Continued from 3rd January 1919] On 4th January 1919 America's Relief Tsar (and hog
market fixer) Herbert Hoover gets the first of his American Relief Administration (ARA) [Wikipedia briefing] field missions in place in Warsaw, Poland ...

LEST IT BE OVERLOOKED: Hoover brings twenty years of ruthless insider dealing to relief duties in Europe [check him out now; note especially items (a) through (g) ESSENTIAL BACKGROUND]. Having been personally selected for post-Armistice relief by President Wilson [see 7th November 1918], the ARA field network now gives him "virtual control of the world’s food supply" (Burner, op. cit. inf., p115). The relief agency was also a cover for American intelligence operatives [see inset 11th January below].

The Warsaw ARA station is quickly followed by others "extending from Helsingfors and Copenhagen in the north to Trieste and Salonika in the south and to Tiflis in the east" (ibid., p117). One Anson C. Goodyear [Wikipedia biography] played an important part in overcoming local difficulties. Not all observers were impressed, however ...

"The Europeans resented his reminders that the United States was supplying the bulk of Europe's relief and the way in which he promoted American economic interests, including, for example, stockpiled American pork products and severely undercutting their own producers" (MacMillan, 2001, p97).

FURTHER READING: For more of the detail see David Burner's (1979) "Herbert Hoover: A Public Life" [Amazon] [sub-thread continues at 11th January 1919 ]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = FOOD AS "HERE, DOGGY" PROPAGANDA]

1919 [10th January] On 10th January 1919 Winston Churchill [see 14th December 1918] replaces Lord Milner [see 11th April 1918] as Britain's Secretary of State for War.

1919 [11th January or hereabouts] The Russian Civil War [LXXXVII - Food, High Finance, and Espionage Fronts (The ASCR Starts Work)]: [Continued from 4th January 1919] On or about 11th January 1919 Herbert Hoover's field relief missions manage to get the first consignments of food and fuel moving into Eastern Europe ...

LEST IT BE OVERLOOKED - EMBEDDED AGENTS: The historian Peter Grose explains in his (1994) "Gentleman Spy: The Life of Allen Dulles" [Amazon] that Colonel House [see 25th October 1918] had suggested to President Wilson months previously that intelligence operatives should be embedded into the relief teams on the ground. The histories record that Secretary Lansing [see 6th July 1918] and Hoover insisted that if this really had to be done it should be done discretely, so as not to endanger innocent aid workers. It therefore fell to Allen Dulles [see 1st January above], who had been seconded to the Versailles delegation as resident expert in political intelligence gathering and analysis, working alongside General Ralph Van Deman [see 7th November 1918], head of Washington's Military Intelligence Division and presently head of security for the delegation, to provide and administer the necessary embedded agents. Van Deman duly provided Dulles with a list of 250 officers who knew the languages of Eastern Europe, and Army propagandist Walter Lippmann [see 25th October 1918] helped select and brief the best candidates.

LEST THIS, TOO, BE OVERLOOKED: The main category of experts in Eastern European languages would have been first or second generation immigrants into the United States from those very same countries! And a sub-set of these would have been political or religious refugees rather than just economic immigrants, complete with a political or religious score to settle in their ancestral homelands.

Andelman (2008) notes that "sixty years later, U.S. intelligence agents in communist nations like Yugoslavia were still using such transparent cover as 'labor attachés' to conceal their identities" (p33). So the agents went where the aid trains went and back came the intel - see list of types.

Dulles quietly takes it all in, and will live and breathe political intelligence for the rest of his life - not stopping even when a later President sacks him as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency in 1961, following that agency's gross mismanagement of the Bay of Pigs Incident [see 17th April 1961 below] [sub-thread continues at 13th January 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = FOOD AS "HERE, DOGGY" PROPAGANDA]
The Russian Civil War [LXXXVIII - West Russian Front (Latvia Goes Red)]:
(Continued from 11th January 1919) On 13th January 1919 the Red Latvian offensive now extends its control over Latvia (albeit it will only be briefly) by capturing the towns of Jelgava/Mitau [map], Liepaja/Libau [map], and Ventspils/Windau [map] to the west of Riga [sub-thread continues at 16th January 1919...].
[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

The German Revolution [IV - From Kaiser To Weimar Constitution (Luxemburg and Liebknecht Terminated)]:
(Continued from 4th January 1919) On 15th January 1919 a Spartacist demonstration in Berlin is ambushed by a Freikorps snatch squad, and both Rosa Luxemburg and fellow revolutionary Karl Liebknecht are taken away, interrogated, and promptly state-executed. After this clampdown, the revolution moves temporarily out of Berlin to other cities, not least Bremen and Munich [sub-thread continues at 19th January 1919...].
[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE WW1 WORKING CLASS SOLDIER]

"Paris cannot be understood without Moscow" 1

The British proposal was to invite all of the different governments now at war within what used to be the Russian Empire [...] to send men here [but] not to be delegates. [...] Conditions in Russia are very bad; there is general mis-government and starvation. It is not known who is obtaining the upper hand, but the hope that the Bolshevik Government would collapse had not been realised. In fact, there is one report that the Bolsheviki are stronger than ever, that their internal position is strong, and that their hold on the people is stronger. [...] It is also reported that the peasants are becoming Bolsheviki” (Bullitt, 1919/2019, p9).

LEST THE WORD BE MISUNDERSTOOD - "BOLSHEVISM": We are going to be hearing a lot about Bolshevism over the next few months, and so here - from the Wikipedia briefing - is a quick pen picture of what Bolsheviks are and believe in (one core definition, followed by three supporting definitions) ...

"Bolshevism" (from Bolshevik) is a revolutionary Marxist current of political thought and political regime associated with the formation of a rigidly centralized, cohesive and disciplined party of social revolution, focused on overthrowing the existing capitalist state system, seizing power and establishing the 'dictatorship of the proletariat'

"Marxism" is the political and economic theory of the German economic philosopher Karl Marx [Wikipedia biography and briefing]. There is an excellent four-minute introduction to this theory in this YouTube Tutorial RECOMMENDED VIEWING, to which we have little to add at this juncture.
"Capitalism" is harder to define than Marxism, being (1) just the wholly undeniable observation that some cultures vest their economic surplus in fewer hands than do other cultures, with perhaps beneficial effects, perhaps detrimental; as well as (2) a pejorative accusation by those who have little or no capital that (1) is the root of all the evils in the world (which has yet to be proven). The "Dictatorship Of The Proletariat" [Wikipedia briefing] is even harder to define. This term came originally from one Joseph Wedemeyer [no convenient biography but see Wedemeyer (1852)] in 1852, and went on to become one of the major conceptual elements of Marxist theory. It is generally seen as an inevitable transitional stage when moving from a Capitalist to a Communist economic system, appearing once a revolution has begun to attract Capitalist-funded counter-revolutionary forces to Capitalism's defence.

The present author is not, and never has been, a Marxist, a Bolshevik, or a Communist. He does not favour rigidly centralised, cohesive, and disciplined political parties, for these are core markers of Fascist thinking. He does not accept the inevitability of the Marxist transitional stages, nor does he accept (provided there are suitable checks and balances) that capital is per se a bad thing.

Lloyd George then goes on to explain three possible policies, namely (1) greater military intervention, (2) a "cordon", or (3) negotiations as above. He dismissed the first possibility out of hand on the grounds that between 1914 and 1918 a million Germans had tried to do just that, and
failed. Moreover, things were not looking particularly promising with either of the existing North Russian or Siberian expeditions. As to a blockade, he pointed to the 150 million Bolsheviks already (or soon to be) starving. A cordon, he said, would be "a death cordon". And who would replace the Bolsheviks if they were ousted, when his advice was that the likes of Denikin and Kolchak were "quick-sand". He therefore took the third view, namely that the Bolsheviks should be invited to Paris to appear before the Supreme Council (but not to sit as delegates on that Council), and there to "render an account of their actions". **OUR VERDICT:** In true diplomatic fashion, Lloyd George was probably just playing for time here. The existing interventions were all planning Spring offensives, and there were hopes of a decisive link-up north of Moscow between the Archangelsk force pushing southward and Kolchak's Siberians heading westward. What Lloyd George failed to foresee was that if Trotsky's Red Army could see off the three interventions simultaneously (which they did), and survive the propaganda offensive, the banking embargo, and the incessant assassinations and intelligence operations, then there would no longer be a whole lot of point coming to any negotiating table. Hardly surprising, therefore, that historians have queued up ever since to pass harsh judgements on the statesmen of 1919. Here is one of the most recent: "...there can be little doubt [...] that Versailles was one of the supreme failures of modern diplomacy" (Hulsman, 2009, p116) [sub-thread continues at 21st January 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING] 1 Ray Stannard Baker, roving presidential adviser, quoted in Grose (1994, p49). 

***** VERSAILLES PEACE CONFERENCE CONVENES ***** 
***** VERSAILLES PEACE CONFERENCE CONVENES ***** 
***** VERSAILLES PEACE CONFERENCE CONVENES ***** 

1919 [18th January] **The Versailles Peace Conference [II - Formal Proceedings (Opening Ceremony)]:** 
[Continued from 3rd January 1919] On 18th January 1919 ["Tiger" Clemenceau has carefully made sure it is the 18th, wishing to rub the Kaiser's nose in the fact that this is the anniversary of his Coronation back in 1871 - see Timeline 18th January 1871] the peace conference which in the end comes nowhere near ending the war to end all wars gets under way in Paris. There are plenty of top hats and cravats, but many of the assembled bigwigs have more than peace and reconciliation on their mind. Secretary Lansing [see 11th January above], for example, has grown "downright rabid" about Bolshevism of late, describing it as "the most hideous and monstrous thing that the human mind has ever conceived" (Grose, 1994, p48), and Hoover's relief network is destined to play a large part in the proceedings by making food aid contingent upon political orientation. Indeed Bolshevism and starvation are never far from centre stage, thus ... 

"[The advance of Bolshevism] was the first significant, tangible challenge to international capitalism. When the peace conference opened, Bolsheviks were extending their power into eastern Europe and Germany. And the Allies, including the United States, were confronting Bolshevism in Siberia and Archangel in 1918 and early 1919. Thorstein Veblen [Wikipedia biography] called containment of Bolshevism 'the parchment on which [the Treaty of Versailles] was written'. [...] Hoover did use food to establish order and allow peacemaking on a Western style to proceed; he was under great pressure to use food as a political weapon, given the Big Four's lack of any other anti-Bolshevik strategy" (Burner, pp118-119). 

There are also delicate problems of relative diplomatic status ... 

"Observers noticed some absences: the Greek prime minister, Venizelos, annoyed that Serbia had more delegates than his own country; Borden, the Canadian prime minister, offended that the prime minister of little Newfoundland had been given precedence; and the Japanese, who had not yet arrived" (MacMillan, 2001, p99).

The conference will now break up into sub-committees and working parties - almost 60 of them altogether (MacMillan, 2001) - with occasional plenary sessions, but little progress will be forthcoming because there are as many hidden or implicit agendas as there are official ones, for example ... 

"The French, seeking security in Germany's weakness, wanted to detach the left bank of the Rhine and set up puppet states. The Poles, citing boundaries of long-forgotten kingdoms, demanded territories inhabited mostly
by Germans, including East Prussia. The Italians [...] made claim to the German-speaking South Tyrol, the coast of Dalmatia, and the Slavic city of Fiume [map]. Wilson, it was rumoured, was caving in to Clemenceau and Lloyd George. No one knew what he was giving away from pressure, or weariness, or failure to understand" (Steel, 1980, p155).

As we shall shortly be seeing, many of these diplomatic impasses will be resolved by direct military action and then re-presented to conference by the victor as a fait accompli. The main commissions will be (in the order we cover them) ...

Commission on Reparations and Damages (CRD) - see 23rd January
Commission on the League of Nations - see 25th January
Commission on the Far East - see 27th January
Commission (incl. one neutral) on Humanitarian Relief - see 3rd April

**FURTHER READING:** For more concerning the conference proceedings see David A. Andelman's (2008) "A Shattered Peace: Versailles 1919 and the Price We Pay Today" [Amazon]. For the intelligence side of things see Peter Grose's (1994) "Gentleman Spy: The Life of Allen Dulles" [Amazon]. For more on the American economist Thorstein Veblen see Charles Camie's (2021) "Economist in Time" [Amazon] [sub-thread continues at 19th January 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDEN RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]


1919 [19th January] The Versailles Peace Conference [III - Formal Proceedings (The Faisal Party Arrives)]: [Continued from 18th January 1919] On 19th January 1919 Prince Faisal bin Hussein [see 3rd January above], T. E. Lawrence ['"of Arabia"'] [see 30th September 1918], and Gertrude Bell [check her out IMPORTANT CONTEXT] arrive in Paris. The sad news is that Sir Mark Sykes [check him out IMPORTANT CONTEXT] succumbed to Spanish Flu three days previously, and that they have thereby lost their star witness in any argument with the French involving the Sykes-Picot Formula [see the Sykes entry above ESSENTIAL CONTEXT]. FURTHER READING: In addition to the readings recommended in the above links, see John C. Hulsman's (2009) "To Begin the World Over Again: Lawrence of Arabia from Damascus to Baghdad" [Amazon] [sub-thread continues at 25th January 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDEN RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [21st January] The Versailles Peace Conference [IV - Supreme Council Proceedings (Secret Session, Agenda Item #1)]: (Continued from 19th January 1919) On 21st January 1919 there is an in camera meeting of an extended Supreme Council, to permit further discussions concerning Lloyd George's "Option Three' proposal on the Russian question [see 16th January above (note that the narrative threading has now switched from <Russian Civil War> to <Versailles>)]. Here is Bullitt again, testifying [see 12th September below] under Congressional oath from the official Minutes of the meeting ...

"Lloyd George had introduced the proposition that representatives of the Soviet Government should be brought to Paris along with the representatives of the other Russian governments (reading): [...] Secretaries' notes of a conversation held in [Foreign Minister Stephen] Pichon's [Wikipedia biography] room at the Quai d'Orsay on Tuesday, January 21, 1919, at 15 hours. "...

**ASIDE:** Bullitt then reads out the attendance list (we include links only for those appearing in the Versailles sub-thread for the first time; the persons shown in red are specifically mentioned in the extract below) ...

USA: Wilson, Lansing, "A. H. Frazier" (probably one Arthur Frazier, interpreter), "Col. U. S. Grant" (Ulysses Simpson Grant III [Wikipedia biography]), and "L. Harrison" (nothing known; described as "Secretary")
Britain: Lloyd George, Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour [check him out], Secretary to the Imperial War Cabinet Sir Maurice Hankey [check him out], "A. M. Caccia" (probably Major Antony Caccia, little known, interpreter), and "E. Phipps" ([Sir]1927 Eric Phipps [Wikipedia biography], British delegation Chief of Staff).

France: Clemenceau, Pichon, "M. Dutasta" (Paul Dutasta [no convenient biography], Conference Secretary-General), "M. Berthelot" (Philippe Berthelot [Wikipedia biography], Junior Foreign Minister), "Captain A. Potier" (nothing known).

Italy: Premier Vittorio Orlando [Wikipedia biography], Foreign Minister Sidney Sonnino [Wikipedia biography], "Count Aldrovandi" (L. Aldrovandi Marescotti [no convenient biography], diplomat), and "Major A. Jones" (nothing known, interpreter).

Japan: Imperial proxies Count Makino Nobuaki [Wikipedia biography] and Matsui Keihiro [Wikipedia biography], with senior diplomat Sadao Saburi [no convenient biography], and "Professor P. J. Mantoux" (nothing known, interpreter).

"[Clemenceau called the meeting to order, and Wilson then explained the need for a follow-on meeting.] President Wilson said that in order to have something definite to discuss, he wished to take advantage of a suggestion made by Mr. Lloyd George and to propose a modification of the British proposal. He wished to suggest that the various organised groups in Russia should be asked to send representatives, not to Paris, but to some other place, such as Salonika. [...] M. Clemenceau said that, in principle, he did not favour conversation with the Bolsheviks; not because they were criminals, but because we would be raising them to our level by saying that they were worthy of entering into conversation with us. [...] Bolshevism was spreading. It had invaded the Baltic Provinces and Poland, and that very morning they received very bad news regarding its spread in Budapest [sic] and Vienna. Italy, also, was in danger. [...] Therefore, something must be done against Bolshevism. [...] He would beg President Wilson to draft a paper, fully explaining the position of the Allies to the whole world, including the Russians and the Germans. Mr. Lloyd George agreed and [withdrew] his own motion in favour of President Wilson's. [...] For the Italians, M. Sonnino warned that the Bolsheviks would be the first to come, because they would be eager to put themselves on an equality with the others [...], their one idea being to spread revolution in all other countries. His idea was to collect together all the anti-Bolshevik parties and help them to make a strong government [...] For instance, Poland asked for weapons and munitions; the Ukraine asked for weapons. [...] The reason that no strong Government at present existed was that no party could risk taking the offensive against Bolshevism without the assistance of the Allies. [...] Mr. Lloyd George said he wished to put one or two practical questions to M. Sonnino. The British Empire now had some 15,000 to 20,000 men in Russia [but it had been] estimated that some 150,000 additional men would be required, in order to keep the anti-Bolshevik Governments from dissolution. [...] But he felt certain that, if the British tried to send any more troops there, there would be mutiny. [...] He said that the Bolsheviks [sic] had an army of 300,000 men who would, before long, be good soldiers, and to fight them at least 400,000 Russian soldiers would be required. Who would feed, equip, and pay them? Would Italy, or America, or France do so? If they were unable to do that, what would be the good of fighting Bolshevism? It could not be crushed by speeches. [...] M. Orlando [...] agreed that Bolshevism constituted a grave danger to all Europe. [...] Italy was now passing through a period of depression, due to war weariness [and recommended] the use of moral force. [...] Mr. Lloyd George's proposal, with the modifications introduced after careful consideration by President Wilson and M. Clemenceau, gave a possible solution. It did not involve entering into negotiations with the Bolsheviks; the proposal was merely an attempt to bring together all the parties in Russia with a view to finding a way out of the present difficulty. He was prepared, therefore, to support it. [...] Baron Makino said that after carefully considering the various points put forward, he had no objections to make regarding the conclusions reached. He thought that was the best solution under the circumstances [...] and he wished to support the proposal before the meeting" (official transcript cited in Bullitt, 1919, pp18-25).

In the end, therefore, it is agreed to send out emissaries to the various warring factions in Russia (some of whom have rather inconveniently already received diplomatic recognition by Supreme Council members), while at the same time making a start on other issues on the agenda, such as (top of the list) the League of Nations [see next entry], followed closely by German Reparations [see 23rd January below] and "international labour legislation" (to which end, trade union luminary Samuel Gompers [check him out] is in the American delegation waiting the call) [sub-thread continues at next TWO entries ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

***** THE BIRTH OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER CONSPIRACY *****

***** THE BIRTH OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER CONSPIRACY *****

***** THE BIRTH OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER CONSPIRACY *****
1919 [21st January] The Versailles Peace Conference [V - Supreme Council Proceedings (Secret Session, Agenda Item #2)]: [Continued from preceding entry ESSENTIAL CONTEXT] Having decided how to approach the Bolshevik question, the 21st January in camera meeting of the extended Supreme Council now turns its attention to the XIVth of President Wilson's Fourteen Points [see 7th January 1918], that concerning - in that historic speech's own words - the "New Order of Things" via a "general association of nations". The proposed association already usually goes by the name "League of Nations" [Wikipedia briefing], a name resurrected from political musings from earlier in and before the war. Here is Bullitt again, still testifying [see 12th September below] under Congressional oath from the official Minutes of the meeting ...

"President Wilson observed that he had himself drawn up a constitution of a League of Nations. He could not claim that it was wholly his own creation. Its generation was as follows: He had received the Phillimore Report [Wikipedia briefing], which had been amended by Colonel House and re-written by himself. He had again revised it after having received General Smuts' and Lord Robert [Gascoyne]-Cecil's reports [check them both out]. It was therefore a compound of these various suggestions. [...] Mr. Balfour suggested that President Wilson's draft should be submitted to the Committee as a basis for discussion. President Wilson further suggested that the question should be referred as far as possible to the men who had been studying it" (p27).

League of Nations developments will accordingly now be in the hands of a dedicated sub-committee, and we shall be returning regularly to their deliberations in the coming months [next visit 3rd February below] [sub-thread continues at next entry ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [21st January] The Versailles Peace Conference [VI - Supreme Council Proceedings (Secret Session, Agenda Items #3 and #4)]: [Continued from preceding TWO entries ESSENTIAL CONTEXT] The final two items on the agenda of the 21st January in camera meeting of the extended Supreme Council concern (Item #3) Poland and (Item #4) Disarmament. Time is running short, however, and both items are duly rolled over to the next meeting. We pick the two topics up at 14th February and 28th June, respectively [sub-thread continues at 22nd January 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

***** MIEUX VAUT JAMAIS QUE TARD *****

1919 [22nd January] The Versailles Peace Conference [VII - Supreme Council Proceedings (The Prinkipos Memorandum)]: [Continued from 21st January 1919] On 22nd January 1919 President Wilson, as authorised by the Supreme Council discussion the previous day, invites the warring factions in Russia to talks adjunct to, but not formally part of, the Paris talks. The suggested venue is Büyükada/Prinkipos [map], an island in the Sea of Marmara close by Istanbul. Here is Bullitt again, still testifying [see 12th September below] under Congressional oath ...

"It was agreed that President Wilson should draft a proclamation for consideration at the next meeting, inviting all organised parties in Russia to attend a meeting to be held at some selected place such as Salonika or Lemnos, in order to discuss [...] means of restoring order and peace in Russia. Participation in the meeting to be conditional on a cessation of hostilities" (op. cit., p28).

***** FRANCE BLOCKS ITS OWN PROPOSAL *****

Bullitt also explains how well the offer will be received over the coming few days ...

"After the Prinkipos proposal was made, the replies began to come in from various factions, that they would refuse to accept it for various reasons. The Soviet Government replied in a slightly evasive way [...] saying] 'we are ready to talk about stopping fighting'. [...] The French - and particularly the French foreign office, even more than Mr. Clemenceau - [...] from that minute were opposed to the idea, and [...] had communicated to the Ukrainian Government and various other antisovent governments that if they were to refuse the proposal, they would support them [...] and not allow the Allies, if they could prevent it, or the allied Governments, to make peace with the Russian Soviet Government. [The Prinkipos proposal] therefore fell to the ground" (pp28-30).
We shall pick up the Paris-Moscow diplomatic narrative on 20th February below [sub-thread continues at next entry ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [21st-22nd January] American Purity of Essence [II - The Overman Committee Hearings (Stevenson Invents "Dogpilling")]: [Continued from 19th September 1918] On 21st-22nd January 1919 the Senate takes evidence from NYC lawyer (and U. S. Justice Department snitch) Archibald Stevenson [check him out], which offers a lurid picture of Bolshevik activity in both Europe and at home. Russian Bolshevism, Stevenson insists, has recently become Germany’s main weapon in their propaganda war against the United States. This is troublesome for Senator Overman because his present terms of reference require him to investigate only German contacts, not Russian as well, and so he duly asks Congressional permission to broaden his remit [sub-thread continues at 4th February 1919 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE PSYCHOLOGY OF BANKER-CONTROLLED PATRIOTISM]

1 “Dogpiling” in modern social media is coordinated and precisely focused public criticism and/or abuse of a party, directed from a politically “owned” and necessarily well-resourced propaganda office somewhere in the e-shadows. It is accordingly expensive and very far from accidental. It is targeted online bullying, and - unsurprisingly - one of the major weapons of 21st Century Cyberwarfare [Wikipedia briefing]. (And when it fails, of course, there will always be the wet team.)


RESEARCH ISSUE: This precipitous fall from grace bears all the hallmarks of a nod-and-a-wink request secretly granted, for less than a fortnight previously [see 11th January above] Lippmann and the intelligence men Van Deman and Dulles seemed to have been getting along famously while organising the deployment of undercover intelligence officers in Herbert Hoover's humanitarian aid field force. Civilian reporting was controlled solely by George Creel's [see 7th May 1918] Committee on Public Information (CPI) [see 21st June 1918]. Creel himself is presently directing matters from Paris, and the CPI will not be dismantled until Congress withdraws its funding 30th June 1919. Van Deman's military intelligence people shared the complex demands of effective intelligence gathering with Dulles' political intelligence network.

During his three months in U.S. Army uniform Lippmann had taken America's charm offensive right into the German trenches, directly eroding the individual enemy's will to fight and thereby saving lives on both sides of nomansland. However, the civilian propagandists who have replaced him are now addressing a different audience, speaking to the folks back home, selling them war bonds and drumming up party political support. So for Lippmann, "what had begun as a crusade had ended in confusion and disillusion" (Steel, 1980, p154) [sub-thread continues at 18th March 1919 ...], [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

***** A MAJOR CAUSE OF WW2 *****
***** A MAJOR CAUSE OF WW2 *****
***** A MAJOR CAUSE OF WW2 *****

"A carefully falsified history was created to conceal the fact that Britain, not Germany, was responsible for the war" (Docherty and Macgregor, op. cit. inf., k56)


SPOILER ALERT: There is a lot to say about reparations, for it is often held up as having been the single greatest cause of WW2. So to keep readers on track, here is a quick flavour of the issues which will shortly be emerging, seen from ten years further down the line by the British diplomat Edgar Vincent, Lord d‘Abernon in his (1929/Borodino e-edition 2018) "Diary of an Ambassador (Vol. I)" [Amazon] ...

"The main defects of the Treaty of Versailles, considered as a permanent basis for the relationship between European nations, were of a threefold character: In the first place, the Treaty was imposed upon Germany; the engagements taken under duress by Germany were not considered binding by German public opinion. In the second place, Germany’s responsibility for reparations was founded on
the assertion that she was responsible for the war. This was denied, rightly or wrongly, by all German authorities and was not susceptible of impartial determination or of convincing proof. It was therefore a dangerous foundation for a contractual obligation.” ...

Readers unfamiliar with the descent into war during July 1914 should browse the 26 entries in the <July Crisis> sub-thread, beginning at 28th June 1914.

Note that it was the Tsarist Russians - presently fighting on as the White Russians - who mobilised first.

Note also that Britain's Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey may, indeed, have deliberately sabotaged last-minute diplomatic attempts to defuse the situation. The most accessible source on this alleged "unspeakable evil" is Gerry Docherty and Jim Magregor's (2013) "Hidden History: The Secret Origins of the First World War" [Amazon].

..."The third defect was that the Treaty of Versailles broke up the larger units of Central Europe into a considerable number of small States. This subdivision, based on racial differentiation, had two main political effects: a vast increase of the customs frontiers, constituting a grave impediment to international trade, and a multiplication of the centres of diplomatic activity" (k476-485).

And here is Richard M. Watt's (1969) "The Kings Depart" [Amazon], giving a welcome American perspective ...

"The British people had been allowed to imagine that Germany would be made to compensate Britain for the immense expenditures which had impoverished the world's wealthiest nation. The French had been encouraged to believe that so much would be extracted from Germany that she would be enfeebled for the immense expenditures which had impoverished the world's wealthiest nation. The French had been encouraged to believe that so much would be extracted from Germany that she would be enfeebled and impotent for several generations. Neither government had seen fit to advise its constituents that there was a limit to the amount which could be got from Germany. Nobody wanted to hear that" (pp486-487).

The committee will include the following delegates ...

USA: Wall Street bankers Thomas W. Lamont [we have already introduced Lamont as J. P. Morgan and Company's man on President Wilson's advisory "Inquiry" - see 1st September 1917] and (master of the short-trading raid) Bernard Baruch [check him out], publisher (and Wilson's 1916 election campaign manager) Vance McCormick [Wikipedia biography], financier Norman Davis [Wikipedia biography], and lawyer John Foster Dulles [check him out]

Britain: Economist John Maynard Keynes [already introduced 5th November 1918], King's Counsel and High Court Judge John Hamilton, Lord Sumner [Wikipedia biography], lately Governor of the Bank of England Lord Cunliffe [Wikipedia biography], and Cabinet Minister and Secretary of State for India Edwin Montagu [Wikipedia biography].

QUICKIE - LORDS SUMNER AND CUNLIFFE: According to MacMillan (2001), Sumner and Cunliffe seem to have been the compensation hawks in the British delegation, and were referred to disparagingly by Lloyd George as the "Heavenly Twins". Keynes reportedly loathed them, and Lloyd George "later claimed that he was appalled by their lack of judgement (p255). Cunliffe has been disparagingly by Lloyd George as the "Heavenly Twins". Keynes reportedly loathed them, and Lloyd George "later claimed that he was appalled by their lack of judgement (p255). Cunliffe has been described as "arrogant and abrasive", although not entirely without a sense of humour, once quipping that "it is a fortunate thing for England that, at the time of the Great War crisis, two people were in charge of English finances who knew nothing about finance - i.e., Lloyd George and myself" (d'Abernon, op. cit., k1917).

QUICKIE - MONTAGU: In his (1988) "A Peace to End All Peace" [Amazon], David Fromkin picks up Edwin's Montagu's part in the story in mid-1917, when he was one of the leaders of the Conjoint Committee [Wikipedia briefing], a pressure group of British Jews who argued against the Zionist homeland being planned in Palestine [see 2nd February 1917, then as threaded]. It bothered him, Fromkin explains, that ...

"despite his lack of religious faith, he could not avoid being categorised as a Jew. He was the millionaire son of an English lord, but was driven to lament that 'I have been striving all my life to escape from the Ghetto'. The evidence suggested that in his non-Zionism, Montagu was speaking for a majority of Jews. As of 1913, the last date for which there were figures, only about one percent of the world's Jews had signified their adherence to Zionism. British intelligence reports indicated a surge of Zionist feeling during the war in [White] Russia [... But i]n Britain, the Conjoint Committee, which represented British Jewry in all matters affecting Jews abroad, had been against Zionism from the start and remained so” (p294).
France: Lawyer-politician / Finance Minister Louis-Lucien Klotz [Wikipedia biography] (described by Clemenceau as "the only Jew I knew who knew nothing about finance" (MacMillan, 2001, p257) and industrialist / special adviser Louis Loucheur [Wikipedia biography].

QUICKIE - KLOTZ AND LOUCHEUR: Klotz was an extreme Revanchiste [Wikipedia briefing] and had strongly supported the Franco-Russian rapprochement during the 1890s/1900s [see 17th August 1892]. On the question of reparations he followed Britain's Tories [see 5th November 1918] in insisting that le Boche payera tout. Lloyd George complained that "his mind and heart were so stuffed with bonds that he had no room left for the humanities", and President Wilson reportedly joked about Klotz on the brain (MacMillan, 2001, p258). Klotz was less of a joke to starving Germans when he repeatedly refused to approve the lifting of the naval blockade of German ports until she handed over her remaining treasury gold as a down-payment on the reparations (Macgregor and Docherty, 2017). Loucheur, on the other hand, was less eager to weaponise civilian suffering and generally more of a dove on reparations, doing much of the adviser-adviser consultation behind the scenes, not least with the Americans. Harold Nicolson rated him as "reasonable and intelligent" and "not a politician".

Italy: Absent in a huff much of the time - see 19th April below.

Japan: TBA.

Germany: As go-between, when invited, the Max Warburg and Company (Hamburg) banker Carl Melchior [Wikipedia biography], who cannily put his finger on the central flaw in the Allied plan ...

"Melchior rather surprised me by saying: 'We can get through the first two or three years, with the aid of foreign loans, or possibly of further bank note issues. By the end of that time, foreign nations will have realised that these large international payments can only be made by huge German exports, and these German exports will ruin trade in England and America, so that the creditors will come to us to request a modification'" (d'Abernon, op. cit., k2867)

Within hours, the sub-committee will have bogged itself down on clashes of prior commitment, vagueness of precedent and principle in international law, and diametrically conflicting imperial agendas. Keynes will later ruefully recall as follows ...

"This wise and magnanimous program for the world had passed on November 5, 1918, beyond the region of idealism and aspiration, and had become part of a solemn contract to which all the Great Powers of the world had put their signature. But it was lost, nevertheless, in the morass of Paris - the spirit of it altogether, the letter in parts ignored and in other parts distorted. The German observations on the draft Treaty of Peace were largely a comparison between the terms of this understanding, on the basis of which the German nation had agreed to lay down its arms, and the actual provisions of the document offered them for signature thereafter. The German commentators had little difficulty in showing that the draft Treaty constituted a breach of engagements and of international morality comparable with their own offense in the invasion of Belgium" (Keynes, 1919, p27).

As the French hawks keep reminding the doves, France had compensated Prussia in both 1815 and 1871 and so, this time, "Let the Germans pay what was owed, no matter how long it took and no matter how Germany was impoverished" (Watt, op. cit., p488). We shall be picking up on the reparations story again on 17th February below. In the meantime, the last word in this entry goes to Margaret MacMillan, who, in her (2001) "Paris, 1919" [Amazon], notes the many forces dragging Lloyd George this way and that ...

"His vacillation damaged his reputation and caused much trouble with his colleagues in Paris. 'I wish,' said Lamont, 'Mr. Lloyd George could tell us just what he really wants, so that we could determine whether his ideas, and the President's as we understand them to be, are in reality far apart or close together'. By exasperating the Americans, from Wilson down, Lloyd George was also putting at risk a relationship he considered of supreme importance. The problem was that he was not sure himself what he, or the British public, wanted" (pp255-256).

FURTHER READING: For a consistently authoritative account stick with the aforementioned Watt book [this entry, above], especially Part Four thereof [sub-thread continues at 27th January 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

***** THE ROAD TO HIROSHIMA *****

***** THE ROAD TO HIROSHIMA *****
***** THE ROAD TO HIROSHIMA *****


ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM - THE LIMITS OF "SELF-DETERMINATION": We have already drawn attention elsewhere to fundamental difficulties with the high-sounding notion of "self-determination" in previously vassal states suddenly cast loose in the world. Cliques - a.k.a. oligarchies - control states, and cliques can be bought and sold; the people - the demos part of democracy - are never honestly consulted. A vassal state's self-determination therefore becomes the self-determination of those who can afford to buy the strongest of the available cliques ...

Readers who are unfamiliar with this problem in the states of formerly Tsarist Russia should see what Leon Trotsky had to say on the matter during the Brest-Litovsk negotiations [see 9th January 1918, thence as directed] ESSENTIAL CONTEXT.

At Versailles, Wilson's lip-service principle was that local populations would decide their own future, UNLESS they were a native people in a far-flung corner of empire. These benighted souls would be saved from their own ignorance by being governed by a “mandated” power until such times as they grew able to govern themselves. We shall be returning to the issue of mandates in detail as the weeks progress [see 7th May below].

As for the Shantung Concession on the mainland, the Chinese are predictably infuriated to learn that the West sees them as incapable of self-determination, and fully incandescent at the suggestion that Japan be given a mandate over the 30 million not-particularly-backward Chinese who live there. If anything, indeed, they would actually prefer a continuing German presence to a Western mandate!

QUICKIE: As we saw at the time of the Boxer Rebellion two decades earlier [see 14th June 1900, thence as directed], the ailing Confucian Empire has been on the back foot to Western economic rapine since the Opium Wars [Wikipedia briefing].

***** A MAJOR HISTORIC TIPPING POINT *****
***** A MAJOR HISTORIC TIPPING POINT *****
***** A MAJOR HISTORIC TIPPING POINT *****

That evening, China's Wellington Koo [see 15th November 1918 IMPORTANT CONTEXT] dines with President Wilson, and takes the opportunity to make an impassioned plea for a self-determining - Chinese - China, like it had been of old. After all, Koo's ancestors had been running a Civil Service Government for a thousand years at the time Wilson's ancestors were still painting their faces blue! Wilson is duly persuaded, and on 28th January Koo confronts the Japanese delegation with a spirited rebuttal of their petition in Shantung. Andelman (2008) records the incident as follows ...

"The Inquiry's view was that the North Pacific islands demanded by Japan be awarded it under a mandate with strict limits on their fortification. [...] The U.S. Navy, by contrast, wanted the islands returned to Germany [and thence to] the United States as possible payment for reparations. [...] As for Shantung and Kiaochu, the Inquiry wanted all pre-existing treaties [...] nullified, and the territories in Shantung returned to China. But [...] no time frame was suggested for this return. An interim mandate might just fit the bill. [...] A formal debate loomed over all of these fraught issues. China put up its ace debater - Wellington Koo. [...] The next morning [28th], Clemenceau called the meeting to order in Foreign Minister Stéph Pichon's chambers in the Quai d'Orsay. Koo rose to begin the Chinese argument [describing Shantung and Kiaochau as] 'an integral part of China ... Chinese in race, language, and religion ... the cradle of Chinese civilisation, the birthplace of Confucius and Mencius and a Holy Land for the Chinese [...] quite unsuitable for colonisation'. Turning to Makino and the Japanese delegation, Koo expressed his gratitude to 'the heroic army and navy of Japan in rooting out German power from Shantung,' then concluded: 'But, grateful as they are, the Chinese delegation feels that they would be false to their duty to China and the world if they did not object to
paving their debts of gratitude by selling the birthright of their countrymen, and thereby sowing the seeds of discord for the future” (pp271-273).

The Chinese will have to wait a full three months [see 21st April below] before they find out that their words have been in vain.

**CLOSING CAMEO - WHILE WE ARE IN THE FAR EAST ...:** It so happens that behind the scenes in Paris a young radical named **Nguyen Tat Thanh** [a.k.a. "Nguyen Ai Quoc"; roughly 'He Who Will Succeed' and (activist's persona) "Nguyen, the Patriot", respectively] is trying to balance the demands of being a student-dissident fighter for Annamite independence from the French Empire with the practicalities of earning a living as chef's assistant (Escoffier trained in some accounts, and with the customary Bohemian boxroom in Montmartre) at Paris' Ritz Hotel ...

**QUICKIE:** Thanh, who had learned French doing galley work on the Far Eastern passenger liners, and who had lived briefly at 8 Stephen Street in London's Soho, was presently living cheaply in the garrets of Montmartre, and when not washing dishes moved in French radical intellectual circles, rubbing shoulders with the likes of Communist and anti-war novelist **Henri Barbusse** [Wikipedia biography].

More concerning the mysterious Mr. Thanh in due course [sub-thread continues at 29th January 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [28th January] **The Russian Civil War [XC - South Russian Front (U.S. Navy To Constantinople)]:**

[Continued from 21st January 1919] On 28th January 1919 Admiral **Mark Bristol** [Wikipedia biography] takes post as U.S. High Commissioner to Turkey, where - for a few exceptionally bloody and troubled years - he will become known for his "ruthless pragmatism" ...

**QUICKIE - ADMIRAL BRISTOL'S "BIG IDEA":** With the benefits of hindsight, we offer the following extract from specialist historian **Giles Milton's** (2008) "Paradise Lost: Smyrna, 1922" [Amazon] as setting the tone of Bristol's actions on Washington's behalf. It is late Summer 1922, the Turkish port of **Izmir/ Smyrna** [map] has been gifted the Greeks as war booty but a Turkish column has arrived threatening to take the city back by force ...

"There was a general assumption that the American and other Allied powers would intervene if and when the Turkish cavalry decided to enter the city. People might have thought differently had they known more about the personality of the man who was directing American policy towards Smyrna. Admiral Mark Bristol [...] was a patriotic American who had always believed in placing his country's interests above any other consideration. 'I am,' he said, for the U.S., first, last, and always'. [...] He had been implacably opposed to his country taking a mandate over Armenia [...] or did he wish American investors to join forces with European and Levantine businessmen already working in Turkey. 'It is a task worthy of America to stand up for the big idea of clearing up the whole of the Ottoman Empire by once and forever destroying all European influences and concessions.' Admiral Bristol believed that the Greek occupation of Smyrna had been nothing more than a British plot to extend her sphere of influence into the richest area of Turkey. In one of his more controversial statements, he declared: 'We fought to destroy the Prussian power; we may still have to fight to destroy the British power'. [...] Admiral Bristol felt that American business interests would be best served by pursuing a resolutely pro-Turkish policy in this troubled land, caring little for the fact that the Greeks were being massacred in their thousands in and around the Black Sea port of **Trebizond** [see 2nd March 1916]. Indeed, he scandalised many in Constantinople by dismissing the reports of European eyewitnesses as 'propaganda from unreliable sources' [...] and by refusing press passes was able to censor reports before they were even written" (pp234-236).

We shall be hearing more about Admiral Bristol and a British intelligence operative named **Sir Alfred ["Toby"] Rawlinson** [Wikipedia biography] (quite possibly the "British plotter" hinted at above) when we get to the **Smyrna Massacre** [see 6th September 1922 below]. **FURTHER READING:** Stick with Milton for now [sub-thread continues at 30th January 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

**** WILSON'S FRENCH HONEYMOON COMES TO AN END ****

**** WILSON'S FRENCH HONEYMOON COMES TO AN END ****
***** WILSON'S FRENCH HONEYMOON COMES TO AN END *****

1919 [29th January] The Versailles Peace Conference [X - Reparations (Nicolson and Maps)]: [Continued from 27th January 1919] At the end of his diary entry for 29th January 1919 Foreign Office delegate Harold Nicolson [see 3rd January above] notes that the French press is beginning "to sneer" at Wilson and the Americans ...

***** DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE PRESS SNEERING *****

***** IT IS ALWAYS "BOUGHT AND PAID FOR" *****

***** IT IS ALWAYS ENEMY ACTION!! *****

Wilson, in short, has been speaking out too strongly against France's mercilessly hard position on German reparations [see insets 23rd January above], and is now being systematically re-cast as villain rather than war-winning hero. In fact, both the Americans and the French have been underestimating the effects of the boundaries and borders issue on the reparations issue, as Andelman (2008) now reminds us ...

"The biggest problem faced by these specialists redrawing the maps of Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, was the presence of vast numbers of minorities within the frontiers of each of these nations - but especially the numbers of Germans who inhabited the border areas [whose rights] were scarcely a top priority for the peace delegates. But many of the Peace Conference's experts - especially Britain's Nicolson and America's Charles Seymour [see 1st January above] and Gordon Auchincloss [check him out IMPORTANT CONTEXT] believed that German minorities were a present reality that needed to be dealt with if they were not to become major forces of instability in the future" (p159).

Nicolson was indeed seriously concerned that some highly productive Germans and Austrians were being transferred - along with their lands and industries - out of Germany and Austria, and, by being turned instead into unwilling Poles, or Czechoslovaks, etc., would no longer be contributing to the German economy. The Allies would accordingly be trying to get blood out of a stone, after they had thrown the stone away [sub-thread continues at 30th January 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING]

1919 [30th January] The Russian Civil War [XCI - North Russian Front (Bullitt Recommends Withdrawal)]: [Continued from 28th January 1919] On 30th January 1919 the increasingly well-informed American delegate William C. Bullitt [see 21st January above] writes Colonel House, to recommend that the Archangelsk Front be abandoned. Here is an indicative clip from the memorandum in question ...

"Withdrawal of American troops from Archangel. DEAR COL. HOUSE: The 12,000 American, British, and French troops at Archangel are no longer serving any useful purpose. Only 3000 Russians have rallied around this force. It is the attacked, not the attacker, and serves merely [...] to stimulate recruiting for the Red Army. Furthermore, the 4000 Americans, 6000 British, 2000 French, and 3000 Russian troops in this region are in considerable danger of destruction by the Bolsheviks. [...] Instead of transferring troops from Murmansk to Archangel, it seems to me that we should at once transfer to Murmansk and bring home the troops which are now at Archangel. Aside from the needless suffering which those men are enduring, aside from the demands of the public in the United States and England for the return of these men, it seems to me that the withdrawal of these troops would be of great value as a proof that we have made the Prinkipos Proposal [see 22nd January above] in full good faith. [...] It is at present possible with the aid of six ice breakers which are now at Archangel to move these troops by water to Kem [much easier across the White Sea than by land - see map] on the Murmansk Railroad, whence they may be carried by train to Murmansk" (Bullitt, op. cit., pp15-16).

Part of Bullitt's rationale here is the local White Russian government's refusal (a few hours earlier) to comply with the Prinkipos Proposal, thereby rendering them as great an obstacle to peace in his eyes as were the Bolsheviks [sub-thread continues at 1st February 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WW1 MAJOR BATTLES AND CAMPAIGNS] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]
1919 [30th January] The Versailles Peace Conference [XI - Boundaries and Borders (Armenia)]: [Continued from 29th January 1919] Then there are the Armenians, who have been well and truly under the cosh of late ...

**CATCH-UP READING:** Start at [20th April 1915] and follow the 1915-1916 entries in the [Armenian Genocide] sub-thread. THEN re-start at [27th January 1918] and follow the [Middle Eastern Campaigns] sub-thread, noting especially the "Dunsterforce" entries.

The initial feeling in Paris is that the Ottomans "had behaved appallingly" toward the Armenians, and that clearly an Armenian nation should be created, "probably as a mandate of an outside power" (MacMillan, *op. cit. inf.*, p485). Just such a mandate is suggested 30th January 1919 by Lloyd George, but he did not see Britain as the natural candidate because a cost-conscious Westminster would baulk at the expenses involved (*ibid.*). America, on the other hand, might care to consider taking on the responsibility, given that she had led the earlier outcry against the above-mentioned genocide.

Unfortunately, President Wilson's wish-list Fourteen Points [see 8th January 1919] lack sufficiently specific proposals for any of the Ottoman minorities wishing to secede. The matter is now deferred for a month to allow initial reports to be compiled [see 26th February below], FURTHER READING: For more of the detail see Margaret MacMillan's (2001) "Paris, 1919" [Amazon] [sub-thread continues at 3rd February 1919]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [1st February or hereabouts] The Russian Civil War [XCII - Political and International Front (Bullitt To Bern): [Continued from 30th January 1919] In the first week of February 1919, following six weeks settling into his duties in Paris, the State Department's Chief of the Division of the Current Intelligence Summaries, the aforementioned William C. Bullitt, Jr. [see 13th December 1918], takes a trip to Bern, Switzerland ...

**ASIDE:** Remember that the U.S. Embassy in Bern acted as the political intelligence hub for the whole of Europe, and was Allen Dulles's home base [see 8th April 1917 ESSENTIAL PRIOR KNOWLEDGE]. When giving his 12th September 1919 testimony to the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee [see below], Bullitt was not asked to explain the purpose of this visit, nor to state the identity of those he was visiting. We therefore presume (1) that it was either with Dulles personally or at least at his instruction, and also (2) that it was to get him teamed up with intelligence officer and aide-minde...
1919 [3rd February] The Versailles Peace Conference [XII - Boundaries and Borders (Greece)]: [Continued from 30th January 1919] On 3rd February 1919 the Greek claims on the collapsed Bulgarian Kingdom and Ottoman Empire are heard. On their northern border with Bulgaria - the wartime Salonika Front [see 5th August 1915, then as threaded] - the Greeks regarded the Bulgars as little more than cattle rustlers with a charismatic peasant - Aleksandar Stamboliyski [Wikipedia biography] - for a prime minister, and demanded the provinces of Macedonia [Wikipedia briefing and map], Thrace [ditto], and Dobruja [ditto].

CAMEO - THE MEGALI IDEA [Greek = "great idea"] The Greeks were here resurrecting the Megali Idea [Wikipedia briefing] from their over-romanticised War of Independence in the early 19th Century [see 17th March 1821, thence as directed], when - like many other uppity minorities across the planet - they were persuaded by poets (Lord Byron in this case) and opportunistic politicians (1) that they had former glories (most were exaggerated bardic folk-recollections), (2) that some "other" was preventing you getting them back again, and (3) that war, death, and destruction was a fair price to pay in order to right these imagined wrongs.

KEY VOCABULARY - IRREDENTISM: Le mot juste in such matters is "irredentist", "a political and popular movement in which its members claim, reclaim (usually on behalf of their nation), and seek to occupy territory which they consider "lost" (or "unredeemed"), based on history or legend" (Wikipedia). The standard reading on nationalistically romanticised human aggression is Vamik Volkan's (2006) monograph "Killing in the Name of Identity" [Amazon ESSENTIAL READING].

For their part, the Bulgarians regarded themselves as "the spoiled child of the Balkans", who, although they had been one of the Central Powers for a while, had not been all that villainous during the war; plus, as Slavs, they hated the Turks quite as much as did the Greeks (MacMillan, 2001). On Greece's eastern frontier with Turkey - including the wartime Gallipoli Front [see 1st January 1915, then as threaded] - the disputed territories were the Dodecanese Islands [Wikipedia briefing and map], the Smyrna Strip [ditto], and perhaps - wink, wink - even Constantinople itself. Certainly, the Greeks had friends in high places at the Quai d'Orsay, thus ...

"Meanwhile, the possibility that Turkey would be thrown into the arms of the Soviets reinforced the views of Allied military officials, who believed that Lloyd George would be making a mistake in forcing the Sultan's government to sign a harsh treaty. [...] A close friend asked Lloyd George whether he still thought it wise to give Smyrna to the Greeks. 'I have no doubt about it,' replied the Prime Minister. 'You must decide whom you are going to back. The Turks nearly brought about our defeat in the war. It was a near thing. You cannot trust them and they are a decadent race. The Greeks, on the other hand, are our friends'" (Fromkin, 1989, p430).

MacMillan (2001) puts her finger on Lloyd George's thinking here ...

"The British, who for so long had propped up Ottoman Turkey now needed an alternative partner to keep the eastern end of the Mediterranean safe for their shipping. Clearly they did not want an extensive French empire there and they did not want to spend their own money if they could help it. That made Greece, a strengthened Greece, so appealing" (p458).

And so the hard-pressed cartographers duly head back to their side offices to try to agree a formula fractionally more likely to end the past war than start another (SPOILER ALERT: They fail) [sub-thread continues at next entry ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING]

1919 [3rd-14th February] The Versailles Peace Conference [XIII - The League of Nations Commission (First Draft)]: [Continued from preceding entry] The Commission appointed by the Supreme Council to move forward with a post-war League of Nations holds its first meeting 3rd February and just manages to cobble together a first draft document by 14th February, when President Wilson is due to return to Washington for a month. Here, from MacMillan (2001), is a summary of what was being discussed ...

"The commission's nineteen members met almost daily, in House's rooms at the Crillon, seated around a large table covered with a red cloth. Behind them sat their interpreters murmuring quietly in their ears. The British and the Americans were beside each other, consulting each other continually. The French were separated from them by the Italians. The Portuguese and the Belgians were inexhaustible; the Japanese rarely uttered. Wilson,
in the chair, was brisk, discouraging speeches and discussions of details and pushing the League in the direction he wanted. [...] House, the other American representative, was always there at the president's elbow, although he rarely spoke. [...] Neither Lloyd George nor Clemenceau put himself on the commission. [...] Lloyd George, as he had done throughout his political career, chose men he trusted - in this case Smuts [see 21st January above] and Cecil [ditto] - gave them full authority and generally left them to it” (p135).

And so was set the scene for world-diplomatic toothlessness by design, thus ...

"The main outlines of the league were in place: a general assembly for all members, a secretariat and an executive council where the Big Five would have a bare majority [...]. There would be no League army and no compulsory arbitration or disarmament. On the other hand, all League members pledged themselves to respect each other's independence and territorial boundaries. Because the Great Powers worried that the smaller powers might get together and outvote them, there was also a provision that most League decisions had to be unanimous. This was later blamed for the League's ineffectiveness. Germany was not allowed to join right away. The French were adamant on this and their allies were prepared to give way. Indeed Wilson was all for treating Germany like a convict in need of rehabilitation: "The world had a moral right to disarm Germany and to subject her to a generation of thoughtfulness"” (p139).

Little will now be achieved until Wilson returns from Washington, whereupon a further month's horse-trading is destined to take place to deliver an improved draft [see 11th April 1919 below]. And, even then, nothing can actually be dictated by the peace conference anyway, merely suggested, for everything will eventually need to be taken away for ratification by individual parliaments. No surprise, therefore, that the Swiss media had decided by as early as the second day of the proceedings that the "so-called World War" was not going to be the great peacemaker Wilson wanted it to be (Mock and Larsen, 1939) [sub-thread continues at 7th February 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [Tuesday 4th February-Monday 10th March] American Purity of Essence [III - The Overman Committee Hearings (Terms of Reference Extended)]: [Continued from 21st January 1919] On 4th February 1919, sensitive to the fact that the proposed strikes in Seattle are on all the front pages, the U. S. Senate extends the remit of the Overman Committee to look into "any efforts being made to propagate in this country the principles of any party exercising or claiming to exercise any authority in Russia [or] any effort to incite the overthrow of the Government of this country".

***** GOVERNMENT BY PROPAGANDA TEAM BEGINS HERE *****

CAMEO - HOW OUR PAPERS REPORTED IT: The problem with politicians being influenced by headlines is that in effect they have already likely dictated those headlines. They will be marking their own homework, so to speak, for newspaper editors can be prevailed upon to spin - both by commission and omission - stories favourable to the prevailing Establishment. In short, when they are not openly lying they will have been deliberately looking the wrong way. The crucial commission in Seattle's case was to frame legitimate American grievances as Bolshevik conspiracy, and the convenient omission was the fact that the guilty mill owners (and a complicit city mayor) had enlisted "thousands" of armed thugs to act as strike-breakers. Check out Beda (2019 [full text online]) for confirmation in a centennial piece in both words and images.

COMPULSORY VIEWING

SEE CONTEMPORARY NEWSREEL AND MODERN COMMENTARY

We mention all this because at time of writing [= April 2021] the British press is lying its teeth out every day as part of controlling public opinion by targeted amending/emending of everyday fact. Click here for a glaring example from 19th April 2021.

The Overman Committee will now hear evidence against suspected Bolsheviks between 11th February and 10th March [sub-thread continues 15th June 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE PSYCHOLOGY OF BANKER-CONTROLLED PATRIOTISM]

***** KILLING IN THE NAME OF IDENTITY! *****

1919 [4th February for a month or so] The German Revolution [VI - From Kaiser To Weimar Constitution (The German Soviets Crushed)]: [Continued from 19th January 1919] On 4th February 1919 Minister of
Defence Gustav Noske's [Wikipedia biography] counter-revolutionary Freikorps begins a concerted assault on centres of left-wing dissidence across Germany, reducing them one by one, and culminating in bloody repression in Berlin 9th-13th March. Only the Munich Soviet will remain intact, and that only for a few extra weeks [see 21st February below]. FURTHER READING: For the gory details see the aforementioned Watt book [see 23rd January above], especially Part Four thereof [sub-thread continues at 21st February 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE WWI WORKING CLASS SOLDIER] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING]

WHEN WILL WE EVER LEARN ...

1 This is the title of Vamik Volkan's (2006) monograph [Amazon ESSENTIAL READING] on the nature of nationally and regionally romanticised human aggression. The point being, of course, that after four years of hell on earth in the trenches we now have Germans happily killing other Germans for not being good enough Germans!!

1919 [5th-12th February] Hugo Koehler, Secret Agent [III - The German Navy (Tour Of Inspection)]: [Continued from 18th December 1918] On 5th February 1919, having been assigned to the U.S. Navy team on the Allied Naval Armistice Commission [Wikipedia briefing], Hugo W. Koehler attends a briefing at Britain's northern anchorage at Scapa Flow and then sets sail on a fact-finding tour of German ports. Here is an extract from his 12th February report on the conditions he found at Wilhelmshaven ...

"Went ashore [at Wilhelmshaven] with the armistice commission inspection party [and] found the German ships all in a frightful state, both as regards cleanliness and preservation. They had evidently been hastily put out of commission, for there was no one whatever on board [...] and guns were already beginning to rust inside and out. [...] We also inspected the destroyers, submarines, and the aircraft station. Conditions were everywhere alike: everything unspeakably filthy, no work being done, everything going to rack and ruin" (Capelotti, op. cit. inf., p41).

And again in Hamburg 24th February ...

"Extreme bitterness toward the English seems to be lost in their greater hatred of France. They say France has only one idea of peace - to ruin Germany utterly - and the only thing that can keep France from doing this is the British sense of fair play and this latent friendship of America ... A restaurant manager asked the same question that greeted us on all sides: how soon American tourists might be expected" (p49).

We shall be returning to Koehler's tour of inspection in June (when the Imperial German Navy decides to go out with a bang) [sub-thread continues at 16th June 1919 ...]. [THREAD = HISTORICAL CAMEOS]

***** YUGOSLAVIA SET UP FOR A CENTURY OF DISASTER *****

1919 [Friday 7th-Tuesday 18th February] The Versailles Peace Conference [XIV - Boundaries and Borders (The Serbs, Croats, and Slovenians)]: [Continued from 3rd February 1919] On 7th February 1919 Washington formally recognises the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes [see 1st December 1918] colloquially "Yugoslavia", subject to conference resolving a number of border issues, not least those between the constantly bickering component ethnicities (who cannot even agree what alphabet to use) ...

QUICKIE: As shown on this Wikipedia map, the major states of Yugoslavia were (from the northwest to the southeast): Slovenia, Croatia-Slavonia, and Banat (all lately Austro-Hungarian Roman Catholic), Bosnia and Herzegovina (both lately Ottoman Muslim), and Serbia and Montenegro (both Slavic, Orthodox Christian, with Cyrillic alphabet). The royal house, however, is Serbia's Karadjordjevic Dynasty [Wikipedia briefing], the ruling elite remains Serbia's ruling elite (the same people who almost certainly paid for the hit on a certain Austrian Archduke not that long previously [see 28th June 1914, and the ensuing million words]), and the capital is Serbia's Belgrade. The kingdom's head delegate in Paris is the Serbian premier Nikola Pašić [Wikipedia biography] (fondly recalled by some as "a devious, dangerous old man who loved two things: power and Serbia" (MacMillan, op. cit. inf., p159), founder of the ultra-nationalistic National Radical Party [Wikipedia briefing]. Their second delegate is their token Croatian Foreign Minister Ante Trumbić [Wikipedia biography].
Italy, however, is decidedly unimpressed at the prospect of replacing Austria-Hungary on the other side of the Adriatic with a large new kingdom, and it will not be long before they pre-empt the Peace Conference by landing troops (and a protofascist Duce to go with them) in the Croatian coastal province of Fiume/Rijeka [map]. We shall be returning to this particular flashpoint shortly [see 12th September below]. On 18th February the new kingdom's delegation is called to the conference; and even this causes friction, in that only the two delegates noted above are to speak, neither of whom are particularly fond of their Bosnian compatriots. Britain and France will await the final Versailles Treaty before recognising Yugoslavia; indeed, Washington's haste in doing so has never been explained. FURTHER READING: For more of the detail see Chapter 9 of Margaret MacMillan's (2001) *Paris, 1919* [Amazon] [sub-thread continues at 9th February 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD][THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING][THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING][THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [9th February] The Versailles Peace Conference [XV - Formal Proceedings (The Arab Session)]: [Continued from 7th February 1919] Having been in Paris since 19th January, Prince Faisal bin Hussein finally gets the chance to put the case for an Arab Kingdom to conference on 9th February 1919. Here is Andelman (2008), updating us on the latest news from the Middle East ...

"[While waiting], the Zionists and the Arabs were far from idle. There was much lobbying to be done on multiple agendas. The Zionists were concerned with widespread reports of pogroms against Jewish communities in Poland and hostility by British forces in the Middle East to the thousands of Jews arriving in Palestine in fulfilment of the promises of the Balfour Declaration. [...] The Zionist agenda now evolving was far more ambitious than any envisioned by Balfour - including the transformation of all Palestine into a self-governing Jewish commonwealth under a British mandate, with Hebrew as the official language" (p99).

For the present, Prince Faisal simply re-confirms his earlier undertaking that Palestine would not be included in his proposed Arab Kingdom [see 3rd January above ], and discussions go back behind closed doors, awaiting Chaim Weizmann's turn in the limelight on 27th February [sub-thread continues at 14th February 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD][THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING][THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING][THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [14th-16th February] The Versailles Peace Conference [XVI - Boundaries and Borders (The Trèves Armistice Extension)]: [Continued from 9th February 1919] Between 14th and 16th February 1919 a side-meeting on continuing the armistice takes place at Trèves/Trier [map]. In addition to extending the previous ceasefire periods (this time sine die), this one also insists that the Germans cease "all hostilities against the Poles" - see full wording. The new agreement comes into effect 17th February and will run until the formal signing of the Versailles Treaty on 28th June [sub-thread continues at next entry ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD][THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING]

***** WINSTON CHURCHILL, CAT AMONGST PIGEONS!! *****
***** WINSTON CHURCHILL, CAT AMONGST PIGEONS!! *****
***** WINSTON CHURCHILL, CAT AMONGST PIGEONS!! *****

1919 [14th-16th February] The Versailles Peace Conference [XVII - Formal Proceedings ("Churchill's Russian Suggestion")]: [Continued from preceding entry] On 14th February 1919 Britain's Secretary of State for War Winston Churchill [see 10th January above], newly arrived in Paris from London, addresses the Supreme Council. Here is Watt (1968) on what happens next ...

"The moment was surely unpropitious. Lloyd George had returned to London six days before, Orlando had gone back to Italy temporarily, and Woodrow Wilson was to leave that evening for his hurried trip to the United States. The meeting began just before seven in the evening. No one had dined, and Wilson's train was scheduled to leave at eight-thirty. [...] Arthur Balfour, the senior British delegate in the absence of Lloyd George, at once introduced [Churchill, who duly] announced that he wished to inform the Council of the thinking of the British Cabinet regarding Russia. The Cabinet, he said, had met only the day before and was at a loss to understand what its Russian policy should be. There were British forces in Russia, and by one means or another they had contracted obligations towards the White Russian armies [...] The Allies had all been put into an absurd position by the Prinkipo fiasco [see 22nd January above], and he trusted that there would be no more
invitations of that type. He went on to suggest that the time had come for the Council to reconsider its policy toward Russia. [...] his presence in Paris was suspicious. Perhaps he had come with the permission of the British Cabinet, but had he come with Lloyd George's full knowledge and blessings? What did he really want? There was no time for speculation. President Wilson glanced at his watch and announced that he must be off. Clemenceau observed that 'a matter of such importance could not be settled at a short and unexpected meeting'. Wilson rose to his feet and leaned against the back of his chair. If a new Russian policy must be created, he said, he was in favour of resolving this 'cruel dilemma' by withdrawing all Allied forces from Russia and letting events take their course. [...] But, Churchill asked, what about the White armies? This would be condemning them to destruction [...] The President said that he could not help this. Everyone agreed that the only way Bolshevism in Russia could be beaten was to launch a huge invasion stiffened by Allied armies - and even this offered no guarantee of success. Anyway, not a single one of the Allies was prepared to contribute men to such an invasion. On this inconclusive note, Wilson rushed off and the Council of Ten adjourned" (pp90-92).

The meeting duly reconvenes 15th February, and this time only one of the five premiers - Clemenceau - is present, and he is happy to do some sabre-rattling ...

"The French Army's Chief of Staff, General Henri Alby [Wikipedia biography], presented a very optimistic picture of possibilities in Russia. Allied regular forces, he claimed, could easily defeat the Reds, and it would not take too many divisions to do so. Churchill then took over and began to castigate the whole conception of the Prinkipo Conference. [...] Clemenceau said that he had always 'been completely opposed'. Balfour allowed that he had 'never been in favour' [and] Sonnino announced that he had been 'opposed to it from the commencement'. Having gone this far, the Council now found itself presented with a Churchill proposal calling for the immediate establishment of an 'Allied Council for Russian Affairs', whose principal task would be to draw up a plan for 'concerted action against the Bolsheviks'. This plan, as Churchill sketched it out, was to be 'a definite war scheme'. Everyone seemed to think this a good idea, and the Council adjourned" (p92).

But when the absent Wilson and Lloyd George are telegraphically briefed concerning these latest events, they both put their foot down very firmly ...

"Lloyd George and Wilson learned of the scheme and sent categorical instructions to their delegations that no plan for Allied military intervention was even to be considered. Wilson cabled House to make it plain that the United States was 'not at war with Russia' and would in no foreseeable circumstances 'take part in military operations there against the Russians'. Lloyd George fired off a blistering telegram to Churchill charging with grossly exceeding his authority in the whole affair. Simultaneously, Balfour was instructed to withdraw all support for an armed invasion. [...] The whole interventionary scheme thus collapsed. Churchill returned to London, the French Army retired to lick its wounds, and the Russian Civil War continued" (pp92-93).

And so it came to pass that - working to the time-honoured principle that if you cannot beat someone you have to consider joining them instead - the Versailles scenery is now rapidly re-set for some hurried bridge-building with the Soviets, and an urgent call duly goes out to the already partly briefed (and personally raring to go) William C. Bullitt [last heard of on 1st February above, and back on 20th] [sub-thread continues at 17th February 1919 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [14th February or whereabouts] The Russian Civil War [XCIII - Political and International Front (Henry Cabot Lodge Speaks Out)]: [Continued from 1st February 1919] On or about 14th February 1919 the Republican Party's hawkish Chairman of the influential Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Henry Cabot Lodge [Wikipedia biography] (a man much hated by the incumbent Democrat President) makes the point in a newspaper piece that things are going seriously wrong with the administration's strategy in North Russia. Here is how the story will be being re-told just over a decade later ...

"With the end of the war on November 11, 1918, Allied statesmen found difficulty in persuading voters at home that fighting in Russia was still necessary. Both in England and in the United States there was an outcry for the withdrawal of troops from Russia. As early as February, 1919, Senator Lodge, speaking before the United States Senate on the subject of the American forces in Northern Russia, declared that 'it is the duty of the United States to take those troops out. 'They are too many to be sacrificed wantonly and uselessly, and they are too few to be effective!'" (Stewart, 1932, k2963-2971).
This rather pointed politicking duly gets Lodge a dinner invitation to the White House once Wilson arrives back from Paris (see 26th February below) (Watt, 1968) [sub-thread continues at 18th February 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

"The commission on [Poland's] borders had more meetings than any other" (MacMillan, 2001, p277)

1919 [14th February or hereabouts] **The Versailles Peace Conference [XVIII - Political and International Front (Poland)]:** [Continued from entry before last] On 14th February 1919 conference turns its attention to Point XIII of President Wilson's Fourteen Points (see 7th January 1918) (the one promising an independent Poland in order to bring together "indisputably Polish populations") ...

QUICKIE: Poland, lest it be overlooked, is one of General Tasker H. Bliss's [Wikipedia biography] "submerged nations" [see 28th June below], and, like his metaphoric mosquitoes [ditto], has been "vicious from the moment of [its] birth". For a long time, she had existed as one half of the geographically very extensive Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth [Wikipedia briefing and map; note that the old Lithuania included much of the modern Ukraine], only to fall to Tsarist Russian intrigue during the second half of the 18th Century. Here is MacMillan (2001) explaining why, in 1914, there were therefore so many Poles and such a small Poland to fit them in ...

"The Poles of Germany, perhaps 3 million out of a total population of 56 million, shared in the prosperity of one of the most developed nations of Europe. [...] The Poles of Austria-Hungary, concentrated in Austrian Galicia, lagged far behind. Corrupt, poor, the most backward part of a decaying empire, Galicia was a byword for misery. [...] The rest of Europe's Poles, about half the total number, lived under Russian rule, the most brutal, oppressive, and incompetent of all" (p278).

And by the end of the war, things have, if anything, grown even more confused ...

"In 1919 all [Poland's] borders were in question and there were enemies everywhere: the surviving units of the German army, many of them to the east, and beyond them Russians (Bolshevik or anti-Bolshevik, none wanted an independent Poland) and other nationalists competing for the same territory: Lithuanians in the north, Ukrainians to the east, and Czechs and Slovaks to the south. And Poland had few natural defences. Between 1918 and 1920 [she] was to fight six different wars. [...] As much as 10% of Poland's wealth had been destroyed in the war. The Germans had ransacked the Polish territories during their occupation. Raw materials, manufactured goods, factories, machinery, even church bells had been fed into the German war effort" (p280).

Moreover, the Allies differed one to another for selfish reasons. France wanted a big Poland, in order to spite Germany, the United States had large Polish immigrant communities to keep happy, and Britain - well, Poland was just a long way away (although not quite far enough, come 1939).

One early Polish territorial claim is to reinstate the frontiers of 1772, but in the end even the French come down against this because it would create reversed ethnic minorities (of Germans, Byelorussians, Ukrainians, etc.). But the Polish claim for an access corridor to the Baltic at Gdansk [Wikipedia briefing] will, however, prove harder to refuse. **FURTHER READING:** For more of the detail see Chapter 17 Margaret MacMillan's (2001) "Paris, 1919" [Amazon] [sub-thread continues at 17th February 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [17th February] **The Versailles Peace Conference [XIX - Reparations (Initial Claims)]:** [Continued from 14th February 1919] On 17th February 1919 the French Minister of Industrial Reconstruction, Louis Loucheur [see 23rd January above], estimates to the French Senate that physical repairs to France's war-devastated regions are going to cost some 75 billion Francs (~$15B, ~£4B). Now it so happens that one of the best economists of that age - the aforementioned John Maynard Keynes (again see 23rd January above) - is attending the conference on behalf of the British Treasury, and will conclude that this is a purposely exaggerated figure. Keynes is also deeply (and increasingly loudly) concerned at Germany's ability to pay the sums being demanded. Here is historian Richard M. Watt with some useful context ...

"But there was a practical limit. The limit was Germany's capacity to pay, though nobody could agree upon what this capacity was. A series of British financial experts had tackled the problem and had come up with
estimates ranging from 8000 million dollars all the way up to a fantastic 120,000 million dollars - a figure which certainly exceeded the value of the entire German national wealth, which the Americans estimated at about 75,000 million dollars. [...] The United States delegation kept pointing out that the maximum amount which could be got out of the German economy, even over a period as long as thirty years, was only a small fraction of what the French and the British (not to mention the Italians and the Belgians) were claiming. For even while the Reparations Committee was sitting, other committees were busy stripping Germany of her colonies, her overseas investments, her chemicals, her transatlantic cables, and every one of her merchant vessels of more than sixteen hundred tons; still others were taking away the Saar, Alsace-Lorraine, and the Polish provinces, and another committee was requiring Germany to pay for all the costs of the Allied occupation of the Rhineland. With all this capital investment gone, how could Germany possibly pay the fantastic reparations bills?” (Watt, 1968, pp488-489)

And MacMillan (2001) adds ...

"During the Peace Conference the French also realised that, since Britain had spent even more on the war than France, including war costs would boost the British share of whatever the Germans finally paid. The French quietly changed tack, arguing to include only direct damages - for their destroyed towns and villages, their flooded coalmines, and their torn-up railway lines. That would give France about 70% of all German payments, Britain perhaps 20%, and other claimants - Belgium, Italy, or Serbia - whatever was left. After intense bargaining, the British insisted on 30%, with the French getting 50% and the remaining 20% shared out among the smaller powers. It took until 1920 to get a final agreement on 28% for Britain and 52% for France. [...] Thanks to this] British resistance, it proved impossible to agree on a figure for the treaty. At the end of March the Allied leaders, now meeting as the Council of Four [as of 24th March 1919 the top team will be reduced to premiers only, and the Japanese will have gone home - Ed.], decided on the alternative of the special commission. The postponement, one of the American experts wrote in his diary, 'will relieve Great Britain and France from their troubles of making public the small amount they are to get from reparations because both Prime Ministers believe their government will be overthrown if the facts are known'. He was right” (p260).

Needless to say, if the Allies are going to have half a chance of collecting on such a bill, they are going to need a well-fed German workforce, both literally and politically. They also need to survive a counter-offensive by the German banks, most of whom have powerful friends (or even, in many cases, relatives) on Wall Street. The reparations issue, in short, is far from over [sub-thread continues at 18th February 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

1919 [19th February] The Versailles Peace Conference [XX - Political and International Front (Clemenceau Shot)]: [Continued from 18th February 1919] On 19th February 1919 an anarchist named Louis-Émile Cottin [Wikipedia biography] ambushed French premier Georges Clemenceau as he emerges from his hotel and lets off half a dozen rounds, one of which hits him square in the chest but misses all the vital organs. Clemenceau will survive the attack, but his absence will unbalance the Supreme Council at a critical time. He will later light-heartedly "sentence" his attacker to eight years intensive training in shooting straighter! The slug is deemed too dangerous to attempt to remove, and remains in the victim's chest for another ten years [see, for example, the very next entry] [sub-thread continues at 26th February 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

***** BULLITT IS HIRED *****

1919 [20th February-14th March] The Russian Civil War [XCIV - Political and International Front (Bullitt To Moscow)]: [Continued from 18th February 1919] On 20th February 1919, following Winston Churchill's disastrous intervention at the Quai d'Orsay six days previously (which see), and already prepped by his briefing at the beginning of the month at the U.S. Intelligence Hub in Bern [see 1st February above], William C. Bullitt, Jr. is instructed by Secretary of State Robert Lansing [see 6th July 1918] to prepare for a sensitive special mission to Moscow. He is immediately further briefed as to his terms of reference by both Colonel House [see 25th October 1918] and Philip Kerr [Later Lord Lothian] [check him out ESSENTIAL BACKGROUND] (Lloyd George's confidential secretary). Here is his account of those discussions (note how the advisers have concealed Churchill's part in collapsing any Prinkipos deal) ...
"I was dining at Mr. Lloyd George's apartment to discuss Russian affairs with his secretaries, so that I had a fair idea of the point of view of everyone in Paris. [...] The idea was this: Lloyd George had gone over to London on February 9 [...] He, however, still insisted that the Prinkipos proposal must be renewed or some other peace proposal made, and I arranged a meeting between him and Col. House, which was to take place, I believe, on February 24 [...]. However, on the 19th day of the month, Mr. Clemenceau was shot, and the next day Mr. Lloyd George telephoned over from London to say that [...] this prevented renewing] the Prinkipos proposal. Therefore, it was decided that I should go at once to Russia to attempt to obtain from the Soviet Government an exact statement of the terms on which they were ready to stop fighting." (pp30-31).

Before departing [this may already have happened in Bern - Ed.], he will be teamed up with one Captain Walter William Pettit [no convenient biography], a U.S. Army intelligence officer who is occasionally mentioned in the histories as having prior experience in Russia with humanitarian aid agencies interviewing German prisoners-of-war ...

**CAMEO - CAPTAIN PETTIT'S REPORTS:** Pettit was not a State Department diplomat, and reported separately within the War Department's G-2 chain of command (presumably directly to General van Deman [see both 11th and 23rd January above above]). Bullitt presented copies of Pettit's reports to the subsequent Senate Inquiry as appendices, in order to confirm his own core testimony [see 12th September below]. The reports are interesting because they indicate the sort of detail which intelligence officers have to concern themselves with. Pettit subsequently went second author to one Caroline King Cumming [nothing known] on the (1920) book "Russian-American Relations, March 1917-March 1920" [Amazon].

While in Moscow Pettit will go about his business (whatever that might have been) and Bullitt will attend talks with Foreign Commissar Georgy Chicherin [see 4th April 1918] and, on one occasion, also with Lenin. The outcome of the discussions, which he brings back to Paris in the form of a Draft Allied-Soviet Peace Treaty dated 14th March, will be the subject of detailed front- and back-room discussion in late March and throughout April [sub-thread continues at 26th February 1919 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING]

**EDITORIAL ASIDE - THE BREAK BETWEEN FEB AND DEC 1919 IS BEING WORKED ON AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY - ED.**

1919 [19th December] **Zionism After Versailles [I - The Third Aliyah Begins]:** [New sub-thread to follow on from Zionism in WW] The SS Ruslan arrives at Jaffa from Odessa (presently the scene of a bitter struggle between Ukrainian White Russians with support from the Western Allies, and Bolshevik Red Russians). She is bringing home a 644-strong group of "Jewish refugees from Palestine" now that the fighting against the Turks in Palestine has ceased. The voyage was authorised by the British Foreign Secretary Lord Curzon [check him out] ...

**ASIDE:** Curzon had only taken over as Foreign Secretary 19th October 1919 from Arthur Balfour [check him out], so it is quite possible that the decision had been made in principle before that date. However, the Laissez Passer itself was not signed until 27th November. Two earlier periods of Jewish immigration into Ottoman Palestine had taken place between 1882 and 1903 (the "First Aliyah"), and between 1904 and 1914 (the Second Aliyah”), but we have not given these their own entries.

The arrival marks the beginning of a three-year wave of migration totalling some 40,000 Russian and Eastern European Jews, many of whom were highly motivated young settlers [sub-thread continues at 9th January 1920 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING]

1920 [1st January] **The News as State Deception [Treatises Thereon (Lippmann, 1920a)]:** [Continued from TBA] American political adviser turned propaganda theorist Walter Lippmann [check him out] publishes "Liberty and the News" [Amazon], the first of two major essays this year analysing British and American press commentary concerning the world-historic events in Russia 1917-1920. We have
already included a number of specific examples of his findings [see 16th April 1917, then as directed], but here are some of his more general observations ...

"From the point of view of professional journalism the reporting of the Russian Revolution is nothing short of a disaster" (p105).

"If I lie in a lawsuit [...] I can go to jail. But if I lie to a million readers in a matter involving war and peace, I can lie my head off, and, if I choose the right series of lies, be entirely irresponsible. [...] If I asserted that the Japanese secretly drank the blood of children [etc.] I guarantee that most of the newspapers would print it eagerly, and that I could get a hearing in churches all over the country" (pp38-39).

"If [a reporter] is openly hostile to those in authority, he will cease to be a reporter" (p42).

"... the more cocksure [someone] is, the more certainly is he the victim of some propaganda" (p52).

"The biggest liar was the United States government itself" (p112).

[Sub-thread continues at 4th August 1920 ...]

[THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

1920 [9th January] Zionism After Versailles [II - The Herbert Samuel Mission]: [Continued from 19th December 1919] The London dailies announce that lately Home Secretary Herbert Samuel [check him out] is to lead a government mission to British-occupied Palestine to look into "questions of administration and finance" alongside General Edmund Allenby's military administration (Lloyd George, Hansard, 19th February 1922). The local Chief Administrator of the lands in question is presently Sir Louis Bols [check him out]. [sub-thread continues at 19th April 1920 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING]

1920 [1st March] One of the Zionist settlers in British-occupied Pre-Mandate Palestine, Joseph Trumpeldor [check him out], is killed in a fire-fight defending his settlement, thus earning himself a place in the Zionist hall of fame.

1920 [8th May-8th May 1940] Costa Rica, 1871-2018 [III - The Quiet Time, 1920-1940]: [Continued from 27th January 1917] We presently have nothing at all to say about the five Costa Rican presidents who served between 1920 and 1940 [sub-thread continues at 8th May 1940 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1920 [10th August] The Treaty of Sèvres: On 10th August 1920, after 18 months of negotiations subsidiary to those at Versailles [see 18th January 1919 above], Turkish and Allied representatives sign the Treaty of Sèvres [Wikipedia briefing], under the terms of which large swathes of the ancestral Ottoman Empire are parcelled out to selected (and long-covetous) conquerors. France receives Syria and Lebanon, Britain Iraq and Palestine, Greece Smyrna, and Italy the Dodecanese Islands. Armenia is confirmed as an independent nation (although the ethnic Kurds do not get an independent Kurdistan) and recovers regions taken away from it by the Treaty of Batum [see 11th May 1918], and the Arabs are established as the Kingdom of Hejaz [Wikipedia briefing; roughly modern Saudi Arabia] under King Hussein bin Ali [Wikipedia biography].

1921 The British architect Sir Reginald Blomfield [Wikipedia biography] designs the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing, to sit astride the Menin Road out of Ypres. [See next 1927 (24th July)] [THREAD = FORMALISED REMEMBRANCE]

1921 [4th January] The War in Bololand [Polish Front (Senator Reed's Protest)]: Senator [D-Missouri] James Reed [Wikipedia biography] complains on the floor of the U.S. Senate that the United States had been channeling subsidies of $40 million out of the Congressional Relief Fund "to keep the Polish Army in the field", regardless of the fact that "the Polish Army was engaged in a war we never authorised, and with a nation with which we were at profound peace" (cited in Liggett, 1932, p266 [Liggett points out that a further $23 million of public donations went the same way - Ed.]). [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING]
1922 [15th April] The Teapot Dome Scandal: A Senate Committee is set up to investigate alleged irregularities in the leasing of the Teapot Dome Oil Field, Wyoming, by Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall [Wikipedia biography] to businessman Harry Sinclair [check him out]. The investigation concludes that the lease terms were overly favourable to Sinclair, by virtue of bribes paid to Fall.

1922 [31st October] Right Wing Exceptionalism After Versailles [Fascism in Italy (Mussolini Makes Premier)]: On 31st October 1922, following 72-hours of tense confrontation in Rome, the leader of Italy's National Fascist Party [Wikipedia briefing], Benito Mussolini [Wikipedia biography] is sworn in as prime minister of an overtly fascist administration. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = WW3 IN THE MAKING]

1923 As part of the post-war sanitisation of the Verdun battlefields, work begins on the Douaumont Ossuary. [See next 1932 (7th August)] [THREAD = FORMALISED REMEMBRANCE]

1923 [6th May] Right Wing Exceptionalism After Versailles [Fascism in Britain (The British Fascisti)]: On 6th May 1923, as a tribute act for the explicitly fascist take-over in Italy [see 31st October 1922], right-wing activist Rotha Lintorn-Orman [check her out] and Leopold Canning, Lord Garvagh [Wikipedia biography] (inaugural president) found the British Fascisti [check them out] as a populist recruiting focus for hard-right sentiment in Britain [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = WW3 IN THE MAKING]

1924 The British author C. E. Montague [Wikipedia biography] publishes "Disenchantment", in which he presents his WW1 memories as 16 individually themed essays. For example, on the "duty of lying" he notes [heavily abridged] ..[.]

"To fool the other side has always been fair in a game. Every fencer or boxer may feint. A Rugby football player 'gives the dummy' without any shame. In cricket a bowler is justly valued the more for masking his action. In war your licence to lead the other fellow astray is yet more ample. [...] In war you have to 'play to win' [...] Hence your immortal right to fall on your enemy where he is weak, to start before he is ready, to push him out of the course, to jockey him onto the rails [...] The only new thing about deception in war is modern man's more perfect means for its practice. [...] To match the Lewis gun [...] he has to his hand the newspaper Press, a weapon which fires as fast as the Lewis itself, and is almost as easy to load ..." (pp104-106).

1924 The British author Ford Madox Ford [Wikipedia biography] publishes "Some Do Not", the first of four linked novels later (1928) to be republished as "Parade's End", a fictionalised account of his WW1 experiences on the Western Front.

1925 [12th March] The Chinese Civil War [I - The Death of Sun Yat-Sen]: [New sub-thread] The Premier of the Beiyang Republic's Kuomintang (KMT) administration Sun Yat-Sen [check him out] dies in Beijing aged 58 years. His death ushers in a period of multipolar provincial civil wars which continue to the present day [2018] in the stand-off between mainland China (the People's Republic of China) and Taiwan (the Republic of China). One of Sun's lieutenants, the aforementioned Chiang Kai-Shek, has good contacts in Moscow and has used his position as Director of the Whampoa Military Academy to build what is in effect the KMT's military wing. The Russians take advantage of these good relations by establishing the Sun Yat-Sen Chinese University [Wikipedia briefing], where, between late 1925 and the mid-1930s, Chinese students such as Wang Ming [check him out] and his 28 Bolsheviks learned Marxism-Leninism [sub-thread continues at 1st June 1925 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED CHINESE CIVIL WAR, 1900-ONGOING]

1925 [1st-4th June] The Chinese Civil War [II - Shore Parties at Shanghai]: [Continued from 12th March 1925] Following local anti-Western rioting in Shanghai, American, British, and Italian shore parties are landed to stabilise the situation. There will be many similar demonstrations and interventions during this particular summer [sub-thread continues at 9th July 1926 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]
1925 [25th September] Right Wing Exceptionalism After Versailles [The 1926 General Strike (Establishment Strikebreaking)]: On 25th September 1925 the Home Secretary, Sir William Joynson-Hicks [Wikipedia biography], announces government plans to mitigate the effects of any major civil strike action in Britain by deploying volunteer labour. The effort will be organised by a temporary civil defence force to be known as the Organisation for the Maintenance of Supplies (OMS) [check them out], under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Hardinge [check him out]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = WW3 IN THE MAKING]

1926 [9th July-29th December 1926] The Chinese Civil War [III - The Northern Expedition]: [Continued from 1st June 1925] Chiang Kai-Shek leads the 100,000-strong Kuomintang (KMT/GMD) Army northward from its bases in Canton Province in south-eastern China, heading ultimately toward Beijing via Shanghai (coastal route) and Changsha (inland route), scattering provincial warlords along the way. Chiang's army does not know it yet, but it has over twenty years of fighting still to come [sub-thread continues at 21st March 1927 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

***** NATIONALIST CHINESE FALSE FLAG ATTACK? *****

1927 [21st-27th March] The Chinese Civil War [IV - The Nanking Incident]: [Continued from 9th July 1926] Chiang Kai-Shek's Kuomintang (KMT/GMD) Army conducts a surprise attack on the American, British, and Japanese consulates in Nanking/Nanjing [Google maps], and reportedly tries to blame the attacks on its Communist Party of China (CPC) members. Western and Japanese warships respond with artillery fire from their gunboats on the Yangtze [sub-thread continues at 22nd March 1927 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 20TH CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]


***** CIVIL WAR LEFT VERSUS RIGHT *****

***** CIVIL WAR LEFT VERSUS RIGHT *****

***** CIVIL WAR LEFT VERSUS RIGHT *****

1927 [12th April] The Chinese Civil War [VII - The Shanghai Massacre]: [Continued from 11th April 1927] Now strongly established in Shanghai, Chiang Kai-Shek's Kuomintang (KMT/GMD) Army conducts a surprise purge of its Communist Party of China (CPC) members, long remembered by those on the receiving end as the "April 12th Incident" [Wikipedia briefing]. Estimates of Communist casualties range from several hundred to several thousand [sub-thread continues at 1st August 1927 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1927 [24th July] The Menin Gate Memorial is formally unveiled. It contains the names of 55,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers missing in action on the Ypres sector, and therefore without known grave [an overflow of 35,000 further names had to be commemorated at the Tyne Cot Memorial a few miles out of town - Ed.]. A ceremony of remembrance has taken place every evening since (save during the German occupation of WW2) [YouTube video]. Still unwilling to mince his words, Siegfried Sassoon dismisses it in his 1928 poem "On Passing the New Menin Gate" [full text online] as a "sepulchre of crime", which the Dead - were they able - would "deride". [THREAD = FORMALISED REMEMBRANCE]
***** THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY (PLA) IS BORN *****

Having regrouped following the split from Chiang Kai-Shek's Kuomintang (KMT/GMD) Army earlier in the year [see 12th April 1927], CPC forces under Zhou En-Lai [check him out] temporarily occupy Nanchang. It is the first full-scale mobilisation of a CPC army, and henceforth they will fight under the People's Liberation Army (PLA) [Wikipedia briefing] banner [sub-thread continues at 1st October 1927 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]


1927 [15th November-1938] The Chinese Civil War [X - The 1927-1938 German Military Mission]: [Continued from 1st October 1927] Having severed his links with Moscow Chiang Kai-Shek accepts a military advisory mission from Berlin, headed initially by Max Bauer [check him out]. The Germans duly settle in at the Whampoa Military Academy and start to mould the Nationalist Army along Prussian lines, complete with German uniform [Wikipedia briefing and several interesting images]. Following the death of Max Bauer in 1929, Hermann Kriebel will take over until 1930, and he will be followed by Generals Wetzell (1930-1934), von Seeckt (1934-1935), and von Falkenhausen (1935-1938). German influence is such that between 1927 and 1931 Germany will supply 37% of the KMT's arms imports, and by the mid-1930s they have entire divisions (88th Division and others) in German uniforms, doing German drill, equipped with German equipment, and singing fusion marching songs [YouTube one now]. The mission is continued until around 1938. For further details we recommend Robyn Rodriguez' (2011 [full text on line]) dissertation entitled "Journey to the East: The German Military Mission in China, 1927-1938" [sub-thread continues at 10th February 1929 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1928 Siegfried Sassoon publishes "Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man", the first instalment of an anonymised WW1 autobiography.

1928 Work begins on the Thiepval Memorial to a design by Sir Edward Lutyens [see 1918]. [THREAD = FORMALISED REMEMBRANCE]

1928 The British author Edmund C. Blunden [Wikipedia biography] publishes "Undertones of War".

1928 Writing under the pseudonym Mark Seven, Max Plowman publishes "A Subaltern on the Somme", an account of his WW1 experiences on the Western Front. The work is matter-of-factly anti-war, containing rueful observations rather than complaints, as follows. On censoring his troops' mail .....

"Censoring letters is an unpleasant, impertinent duty, to be hurried over and treated as formally as possible. By constant repetition it becomes a deadly bore. [...] The writer is in the pink, in spite of everything: a condition he hopes is mutual. He believes there's a war on, so we must keep smiling. Hopes and fears for leave are always expressed, and promises of battle souvenirs are usually remembered. There is the inevitable P.S.: 'The cakes were all right, but a bit smashed, and I'd like some Woodbines" (p30).

On press euphemism ...

"This place is beginning to show what the newspapers describe as 'a certain amount of liveliness'. (Why 'liveliness'? Deathliness would be truer)" (p98).

On tanks ...

"The lecture on Tanks was a little disappointing. We were all agog to hear about these new land-caterpillars that, according to the papers, have done such marvellous things in the recent push on the Somme. [...] But the Tanks officer put rather a damper on our hopes [explaining] that tanks have to go very carefully, or they get stuck in T-places where communication trenches join the line. He also said they were quite vulnerable
underneath and on top [...] also that] with the winter coming on their general deployment would probably be delayed till the spring” (pp121-122).

On the proper "fighting spirit" ...

"Yesterday the whole battalion marched out to a quarry not far from here and, in the natural amphitheatre, heard a lecture by a Scottish officer on 'The Spirit of the Bayonet'. From a purely military standpoint it was excellent. Why, indeed, should we spare a fat German just because he throws up his hands and shouts 'Kamerad', when, as the lecturer says, if we let him live he may become the father of ten more Huns? Killing is the job for infantrymen, and if we don't like killing, why did we join the infantry? The bayonet is the logical conclusion of all fighting” (p120).

On the impossible possibility of just getting up and walking away ...

"We seem to be here under the constraint of some malevolent idiot. In this sunshine it seems impossible to believe that at any minute we in this trench, and they in that, may be blown to bits by shells fired from guns at invisible distances by hearty fellows who would be quite ready to stand you a drink if you met them face to face. What base, pathetic slaves we are to endure such idiocy!” (p172).

And finally on why, deep down, men like war, and are therefore the authors of their own misfortune ...

"The great seductive enjoyment of war, outside the infantry ranks, is the sense of power it confers. By means of finely adjusted guns and the use of high explosives, the maximum of effect can be produced by the minimum of effort. [...] Every sport, if you come to analyse it, depends largely upon its power of producing a big effect with apparently small cause, whether the power resides in the ace of hearts, the thickness of a cricket bat, or the responsiveness of a golf ball to fine timing. In war this apparent disproportionate relation between cause and effect, which confers its flattering and enjoyable sense of power upon the player, is seen at its highest. Hence, from this standpoint, war is king of sports” (p190).


1929 The German author Erich Maria Remarque [Wikipedia biography] publishes the novel "Im Westen nichts Neues" [In English as "All Quiet on the Western Front"], a fictionalised account of his WW1 experiences in the German Army on the Western Front. David Jones, survivor of Mametz Wood, enjoys the book but declares he can do better. Robert Graves [Wikipedia biography] publishes "Goodbye to All That", a memoir of his WW1 experiences on the Western Front. The British author Henry W. Williamson [Wikipedia biography] publishes "The Wet Flanders Plain", a memoir of a 1927 battlefield tour of the Ypres Salient. His account includes the following observations ...

"Those at home, sitting in arm-chairs and talking proudly of Patriotism and Heroism, will never realise the bitter contempt and scorn the soldiers have for these and other abstractions; the soldiers feel they have been betrayed by the high-sounding phrases that heralded the War, for they know that the enemy soldiers are the same men as themselves, suffering and disillusioned in exactly the same way” (p17).

On surviving ...

"I must return to my old comrades of the Great War - to the brown, the treeless, the flat and grave-set plain of Flanders - to the rolling, heat-miraged downlands of the Somme - for I am dead with them, and they live in me again" (p19).

And on why wars happen at all ...

"Wars are economic in origin, the mass of each people being cohered and controlled by emotional slogans which are hostile to the truly peaceful lover of his country; the matured stupidity called patriotism is but a glossy light of selfishness, most evident among those with commercial power, hating their rivals in commercial power, and giving their young men to the War” (p32).
1929 Writing anonymously as "Private 19022", the Australian author Frederic Manning [Wikipedia biography] publishes "The Middle Parts of Fortune", a fictionalised account of life and death on the Western Front. The following year this work will be republished as "Her Privates We" with its field expletives deleted, death being somehow less offensive to public taste than a bit of effing and blinding. Manning will not be identified as author until 1943, and the full strength original will not be re-available until 1977.


1929 [8th August] JFK and New Orleans [II - Marguerite Marries ]: [Continued from 19th July 1907] Marguerite [Oswald]1933 marries Edward John Pic, Jr. Their union will be blessed by the birth of son John Edward Pic [YouTube him now] on 17th January 1932. The couple have in fact separated by then, and will complete their divorce in 1933 [sub-thread continues at 2nd December 1929 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1929 [2nd December] JFK and New Orleans [III - Guy Becomes Patrolman]: [Continued from 8th August 1929] Guy Banister [see own entry] gets a job as patrolman with the Monroe LA Police Department, and will eventually make chief of detectives [sub-thread continues at 20th July 1933 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1930 Siegfried Sassoon [see 1915 (29th May)] now publishes "Memoirs of an Infantry Officer", the second instalment of his anonymised WW1 autobiography.


1930 [24th August] Erich Remarque's novel "All Quiet on the Western Front" [see 1929] is turned into a movie by Lewis Milestone for Universal Pictures. It wins the Best Picture Oscar for that year, and will go on to be described as "one of the most powerful anti-war statements ever put on film" [source]. [See next 1933 (10th May)]


"The US embassy in China receives reports from consuls all over China who in turn are kept informed by various Americans and friendly Chinese. In addition, arrangements have been made so that 'Standard Oil' agents from all over China report on political and military affairs to this office. [signed] Nelson E. Margetts, Military Attaché“ (Roehner, 2014, p191).

[Sub-thread continues at 24th March 1931 ...] [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1931 [1st March] Right Wing Exceptionalism After Versailles [Fascism in Britain (The New Party)]: Having resigned the Labour Party the previous day, [Sir]1928 (as baronet) Oswald Mosley [check him out], together with a handful of not-totally-enthusiastic colleagues, forms the New Party [check it out]. The industrialist Lord Nuffield [Wikipedia biography] provides financial backing. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = WW3 IN THE MAKING]

1931 [24th March] The Chinese Civil War [XIV - War Without Mercy]: [Continued from 15th December 1930] Chiang Kai-Shek orders that Communists are henceforth to be referred to as Chi-Fei [=red bandits], and
all prisoners executed without trial (Roehner, 2014) [sub-thread continues at 18th September 1931 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

***** JAPANESE FALSE FLAG ATTACK *****


1931 [19th September-27th February 1932] The Chinese Civil War [XVI - Japanese Invasion of Manchuria]: [Continued from 18th September 1931] Using the Mukden Incident as pretext Japan sends troops in a lightning advance along the 730-mile long South Manchuria Railway [Wikipedia briefing and map], until she occupies most of that province. Chinese resistance is patchy and disjointed thanks to the patchwork of regional warlords [sub-thread continues at 7th November 1931 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

***** MAO CHAIRMAN FOR THE FIRST TIME *****

1931 [7th November] The Chinese Civil War [XVII - Chinese Soviet Republic Formed]: [Continued from 19th September 1931] Now tolerably well-established south of the Yangtse in Jiangxi and neighbouring provinces, the CPC declares the region a Soviet Republic. Mao Zedong is elected Chairman of the new republic's Central Executive Committee, and Zhou En-Lai is made Commander-in-Chief of the PLA [sub-thread continues at 28th January 1932 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1932 R.H. Mottram [see 1928] publishes "Through the Menin Gate", an anthology of autobiographical essays and battlefield vignettes. His views on the inevitability of casualties is necessarily bleak [heavily abridged] ...

"The ordinary ranks of platoons went on fatigues every day, especially at night, amid a hail of bullets and unceasing, persistent, carefully registered bombardments against which no protection, and at that time little effective retaliation, was possible. There were always casualties. [...] By the end of 1915 it was possible to lose a whole platoon in raiding the German trenches, or even in doing nothing whatever, without affecting the War in the slightest, except slow up, very temporarily, local initiative“ (pp109/123).

1932 [28th January-3rd March] The Chinese Civil War [XVIII - The Japanese Capture Shanghai]: [Continued from 7th November 1931] Being careful to avoid the Western settlement, the Japanese Army, supported by carrier-based air attacks, mounts a major five week offensive against the Nationalist Army in Greater Shanghai [sub-thread continues at 16th October 1934 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1932 [22nd February] U.S. and Soviet Aid to China, 1930-1945 [I - The First American Casualty]: [New sub-thread] On 22nd February 1932 American mercenary Robert Short is en route from Hangzhou to Nanjing when he is intercepted by fighters from HIJMS Kaga [Wikipedia shipography] ...

**ASIDE:** The Kaga was in action against the Chinese almost a full decade before she took part in the attack on Pearl Harbour (van Patten, 1999 RECOMMENDED). Short was an ex-WW1 flyer who found it easier to make a living as a “flying instructor” in China than as a “stunt and endurance pilot” in the Depression back home. He had gone on contract to Chiang Kai-Shek’s air ministry in 1930 to help China attack rival Chinese warlords, and had then chosen to remain in theatre after the Japanese invasion of Manchuria [see 19th September 1931]. He is thus part mercenary, part U.S. adviser, caught up in somebody else's war.

In the resulting aerial dog-fight, he is shot down and killed. It is not the first time he has crossed swords with Japanese naval aviators around Hangzhou, however, so we deem it likely, on the day of his death, that the Japanese had contrived to ambush him [sub-thread continues at 7th July 1932], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WASHINGTON-MOSCOW PROXY WARFARE, 1917 TO DATE]

1932 [4th March] The Pecora Hearings [I - Senator Norbeck Chairing, 1932]: [New sub-thread] Authorised on 4th March 1932 by the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, chaired by Senator Peter Norbeck [Wikipedia biography], and taking testimony from 11th April under NYC lawyer Ferdinand...
Pecora [Wikipedia biography], the task of the Pecora Commission Hearings [Wikipedia briefing] is to investigate the causes of the 1929 Great Crash. A number of sharp practices, at or beyond the limits of legality, are uncovered, resulting in the framing of the Glass-Steagall Act [see 16th June 1933] and the creation of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) [see 6th June 1934] [sub-thread continues at 5th June 1933 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = STOCK MARKET AND FINANCIAL SHARP PRACTICE]

1932 [??th July] U.S. and Soviet Aid to China, 1930-1945 [II - The 1932-1935 Jouett Mission]: [Sub-thread continued from 22nd February 1932] [Read firstly the sidenotes in the entry for John M. Birch ESSENTIAL.] Taking advice from his Number One White Man, the Australian William H. Donald [check him out], Nationalist Chinese warlord Chiang Kai-Shek [Wikipedia biography] contracts with Colonel John H. Jouett [see van Patten (1999) [full text online]] to set up a pilot training facility at Hangzhou. Jouett's contract with the Chinese government is for three years, and by 1935 he (and the attendant aircraft salesmen) have put together a creditable Chinese Air Force [sub-thread continues at ??th May 1933]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WASHINGTON-MOSCOW PROXY WARFARE, 1917 TO DATE]

1932 [1st August] The Thiepval Memorial is formally dedicated by Edward, Prince of Wales. It contains the names of 72,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers missing in action on the Somme battlefields. [THREAD = FORMALISED REMEMBRANCE]

1932 [7th August] The Douaumont Ossuary [see 1923] is formally dedicated by President Albert Lebrun. By now its cellars contain the bones of 130,000 French and German war dead collected from across the Verdun battlefield [see the bones], whilst it upper hall contains dedication plaques lit through stained glass. The tower contains a single large "death bell", which is sounded every evening [video] to call the ghosts to prayer. [THREAD = FORMALISED REMEMBRANCE]

1932 [1st October] Right Wing Exceptionalism After Versailles [Fascism in Britain (The Blackshirts)]: On 1st October 1932, having spent the summer working on a printed manifesto entitled "The Greater Britain" [Amazon], [Sir]1928 (as baronet) Oswald Mosley [check him out] formally establishes the British Union of Fascists (BUF) [check them out]. It will initially be well-received, helped by positive press in Harold Harmsworth/Lord Rothermere's [Wikipedia biography] The Daily Mail. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = WW3 IN THE MAKING]

1933 Drawing on his WW1 experiences in the RWF, Frank Richards [Wikipedia biography] publishes "Old Soldiers Never Die".

1933 [10th May] For daring to speak openly of the horrors of war, Erich Remarque's Im Westen nichts Neues [see 1929] is declared "degenerate" literature by the new Nazi regime, and publicly burned.

1933 [??th May] U.S. and Soviet Aid to China, 1930-1945 [III - The Curtiss vs. Fiat Trials]: [Sub-thread continued from ??th July 1932] Thanks to some seat-of-the-pants barnstorming by one James Doolittle [Wikipedia biography], their ace demonstration pilot, the Curtiss Aeroplane Company obtains enough orders for their Hawk II [Wikipedia briefing; see also photographs and artwork in van Patten (1999)] to make it the backbone of the Chinese Air Force's pursuit arm [sub-thread continues at 31st October 1936]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WASHINGTON-MOSCOW PROXY WARFARE, 1917 TO DATE]

1933 [5th June] The Pecora Hearings [II - Senator Fletcher Chairing, 1933-1934]: [Continued from 4th March 1932] Following FDR's inauguration 4th March 1933, the Senate Banking and Currency Committee continues its enquiries under a new Chair, Senator Duncan Fletcher [Wikipedia biography]. Here are two of the main misdeeds under investigation ...

CAMERO - LIBBY-OWENS-FORD GLASS COMPANY: Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass [Wikipedia briefing] was formed by merger in 1930 and provided industrial glass to such projects as the windscreens of the Ford Model A motor car and the windows of the Empire State Building. In the present context we note them merely as the unwitting vehicle of an illegal Stockmarket "Pool" involving Henry Sinclair, Walter P. Chrysler, and Joseph
P. Kennedy. The pool bought "buy options" on the stock and then subtly spread rumours that the company would make a fortune making beer bottles once Prohibition ended. The stock duly peaked at $37 per share, the pool sold out, and the stock then dropped to $21 when the rumours proved inconsequential. The syndicate cleared an estimated $395k, of which Joseph Kennedy's share was $66k.

**CAMEO - THE NATIONAL CITY BANK:** The Committee subpoena'd Charles E. Mitchell [Wikipedia biography], Chairman of National City Bank [Wikipedia briefing], because of "its recognised leadership in the orgy of speculation which led to the business collapse". Mitchell revealed a number of just-not-illegal transactions during the Crash, but the real damage had been done by an accumulation of questionable lending schemes all through the 1920s. Mitchell duly resigned in disgrace (but comfortable disgrace). More recent scholarship suggests that Federal Reserve Bank policies did far more damage.

The hearings will continue until 4th May 1934 - see final report [sub-thread continues at 16th June 1933 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = STOCK MARKET AND FINANCIAL SHARP PRACTICE]

1933 [16th June] **The Pecora Hearings [III - The Glass-Steagall Act, 1933]:** [Continued from 5th June 1933] The Pecora Hearings have now been making the front pages for over a year, and remedial law-making is already moving apace, including the creation of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) [this sub-thread, IV], and the Banking Act of 1933, the central thrust of which is to separate commercial banking and investment banking into separately accountable corporations, bound by rules of governance appropriate to each. The act will eventually be repealed 1999, and that repeal is widely believed to have contributed to the Great Crash of 2008 [sub-thread continues at 6th June 1934 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = STOCK MARKET AND FINANCIAL SHARP PRACTICE]

1933 [20th July] **JFK and New Orleans [IV - Marguerite Re-Marries]:** [Continued from 2nd December 1929] Marguerite [Oswald]1933 marries Robert Edward Lee Oswald. Their union will be blessed by the birth of two sons, namely Robert Oswald, Jr. [check him out] on 7th April 1934 and Lee Harvey Oswald on 18th October 1934 (his father having died two months previously) [sub-thread continues at 5th November 1934 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1934 [6th June] **The Pecora Hearings [IV - The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)]:** [Continued from 16th June 1933] In an attempt to fight financial fraud President [F. D.] Roosevelt sets up the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) [Wikipedia briefing]. He then cleverly ensures that it is fit for purpose by including both a cop and a robber - Ferdinand Pecora and Joseph Kennedy - amongst its first board of five commissioners [end of The Pecora Hearings sub-thread]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = STOCK MARKET AND FINANCIAL SHARP PRACTICE]

1934 [7th June] **Right Wing Exceptionalism After Versailles [Fascism in Britain (Mosley's Olympia Rally)]:** On 7th June 1934 the British Union of Fascists (BUF) [check them out] stages a rally at London's Olympia exhibition centre. The event is marred by violent clashes between Blackshirt bouncers [U.K. English slang = event stewards (here mainly party heavies and piece-rate muscle)] and leftist activists on a mission to disrupt, and this disorder will prove historically significant because it persuades Britain's hitherto protofascist media barons - not least Harold Harmsworth/Lord Rothermere [Wikipedia biography] - that the BUF's in-your-face bully-boy politics is not the sort of middle-class Nazism which Britain does so well. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = WW3 IN THE MAKING]

1934 [16th October-22nd October 1935] **The Chinese Civil War [XIX - The Long March]:** [Continued from 28th January 1932] Facing a concerted offensive by the Nationalist Army, the PLA abandons the Jiangxi Soviet and falls back into the more remote western and north-western Chinese provinces [Wikipedia route map and briefing]. It will be a 4000-6000-mile ordeal [estimates vary], but thanks to the leadership of Mao Zedong and Zhou En-Lai the CPC and the PLA retain their identity and long-term purpose. More importantly, during their year in the wilderness Chinese Nationalists and the Japanese make such a slaughterhouse of the eastern provinces that Communism is suddenly seen as China's salvation and not its downfall [sub-thread continues at 10th October 1936 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]
1934 [5th November] JFK and New Orleans [V - Guy Becomes Patrolman]: (Continued from 20th July 1933) Guy Banister [see own entry] resigns the Monroe Police Department and joins the FBI as Special Agent [sub-thread continues at 4th December 1940 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1935 [8th February 1935] The Philippines in Transition [II - The 1935 Commonwealth] [Continued from 1st June 1903] Having been under discussion in Congress for three years a new Constitution finally comes into force on the Philippines, giving them back their own presidency. Elections take place 17th September and the honour goes to President Manuel Quezon [Wikipedia biography] [sub-thread continues at UNDER CONSTRUCTION ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1936 [4th February] The Avoidance of Peace (WW2) [The Gustloff Assassination]: Angered by what he perceived as "the terrible situation of the Jews in Germany" and firmly convinced "that the disgrace of the Jewish people could only be washed away by blood", a Croatian Jewish student named David Frankfurter [see own entry] seeks out and shoots dead Wilhelm Gustloff [Wikipedia biography], the Nazi Party political agent for Switzerland at his home in Davos.[THREAD = WAR BY CALCULATED PROVOCATION (WW2)]

1936 [29th July] At the inaugural meeting of a lobbying and fund-raising group known as The Focus [see own entry], Sir Robert Waley-Cohen [see own entry] passes the hat around a conclave of wealthy Jews to help Winston Churchill through a financial sticky patch, in return for which Churchill - henceforth a bought man - has to turn his famous oratory against those who would appease Germany.

1936 [10th October] The Chinese Civil War [XX - Parademarsch in Nanking]: (Continued from 16th October 1934) The Nationalist Army stages a major march past in Nanking, giving pride of place to their Krupp artillery and goose-stepping infantry [YouTube it now] (ignore the soundtrack - not original) [sub-thread continues at 7th July 1937 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]


1937 [20th May] The Spanish Civil War [George Orwell Wounded]: [Continued from UNDER CONSTRUCTION] Presently manning the International Brigade trenches around Huesca, Spain, and having unwisely allowed himself to be silhouetted against the first glow of dawn, up-and-coming British novelist George Orwell [check him out] is shot full through the throat by a Nationalist sniper, and survives with not much more than a croaky voice for a couple of weeks [the bullet nicked his oesophagus, but managed to miss windpipe, carotid arteries, jugular veins, and spine - Ed.]. While recuperating he has time to catch up with the newspapers, and is horrified to find that what the newspapers are saying bears no resemblance to what he has seen with his own eyes, thus ...

"It was in Catalonia [...] that for the first time in his life he saw newspaper articles that bore no relation to the known facts, read accounts of battles where no fighting had taken place, saw troops who had fought bravely denounced as cowards and first suspected that, as he later put it, 'the concept of objective truth was falling out of the world'" (Taylor, Introduction to 2013 Kindle edition).

[Sub-thread continues at UNDER CONSTRUCTION] [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

1937 [3rd June-6th July] Chennault's Various Air Forces [I - ROCAF Tour of Inspection]: [New sub-thread] Heading a fact-finding tour approved by the State Department, Claire Chennault meets Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, head of ROCAF, the Nationalist Chinese Air Force. She invites him on a detailed tour of inspection and his first stop is at Nanking Air Station 8th June. He finds a disturbing lack of maintenance and training, such that when the Japanese invade China the following month [see 7th July 1937] only 91 planes out of the official strength of 500 will be combat-ready (Samson, 1987) [sub-thread
1937 [7th June] The British author David Jones [Wikipedia biography] publishes "In Parenthesis", a fictionalised account of his WW1 experiences on the Western Front. His account of the minutes before going over the top is probably the best available ...

"He found him all gone to pieces and not pulling himself together nor making the best of things. When they found him his friends came on him in the secluded fire-bay who miserably wept for the pity of it all and for the things shortly to come to pass and no hills to cover us. [...] After a while he got his stuff reasonably assembled, and '45 Williams was awfully decent, and wipe every tear, and solidified eau-de-cologne was just the thing so that you couldn't really tell, and doubled back along, with the beginnings of dawn pale on the chalky deep protected way, where it lead out to the sunken road, and the rest of the platoon belly-hugged the high embankment. [...] But four o'clock is an impossible hour in any case. They shook out into a single line and each inclined his body to the slope to wait“ (pp153-154).

At this juncture, the Germans - past masters of the spoiling barrage, and with all the natural assembly points well known

"Seven minutes to go ... and seventy times seven times to the minute this drumming of the diaphragm. From deeply inward thumping all through you beating no peace to be still in and no one is there not anyone to stop can't anyone - someone turn off the tap or won't any one before it snaps. [...] He's getting it more accurately now and each salvo brackets more narrowly and a couple right in, just as 'D' and 'C' are forming for the second wave. Wastebottom married a wife on his Draft-leave but the whinnying splinter razored diagonal and mess-tin fragments drove inwards and toxined underwear. He maintained correct alignment with the others, face down, and you never would have guessed. [...] Talacryn doesn't take it like Wastebottom, he leaps up and says he's dead, a-slither down the pale face - his limbs a-girandole at the bottom of the nullah, but the mechanism slackens unfed and he is quite still which leaves five paces between you and the next live one to the left. Slide over a bit toward where '45 Williams, and use all your lungs: Get ready me china-plate - but he's got it before he can hear you, but it's a cushy one and he relaxes to the morning sun and smilingly, to wait for the bearers" (pp156-158).

1937 [7th July and ensuing weeks] The Chinese Civil War [XXI - Japanese Invade China]: [Continued from 10th October 1936] Having again engineered an inflammatory border incident the Japanese Army moves south out of occupied Manchuria against the Nationalist Chinese forces and soon occupies Beijing and Shanghai, forcing the Nationalists back toward their capital in Nanking [see next entry]. The war will go on - lurching from one massacre to the next - as part of WW2 until 2nd September 1945. Western franchises and their protecting units stay neutral within their enclaves to start with, and in many cases now simply trade with the Japanese Army instead of the Nationalists (Roehner, 2014) [sub-thread continues at 23rd September 1937 …]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1937 [7th July and ensuing weeks] Chennault's Various Air Forces [II - ROCAF Tactical Advisor, Nanking]: [Continued from 3rd June 1937] As soon as Claire Chennault learns of the Japanese invasion he cables Madame Chiang Kai-Shek to offer her his services. Recognising a good thing when she sees it, she simply puts him in charge of combat training for her entire fighter and bomber force ...

ASIDE: Much of the Nationalists' assembly and repair effort was already contracted out to William D. Pawley's Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company (CAMCO) [see own entry].

Chennault spends the next few weeks preparing planes and pilots for combat and on 14th August launches his bombers against the Japanese invasion fleet in Shanghai harbour and deploys his fighters to defend Nanking against the resulting reprisal attacks. It will not be long before all the trained aircrew have been lost, and by December the survivors are moved inland to Hankow [sub-thread continues at 28th October 1938 …]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WASHINGTON-MOSCOW PROXY WARFARE, 1917 TO DATE]
1937 [14th September] U.S. and Soviet Aid to China, 1930-1945 [V - Stalin Sends Squadrons]: [Sub-thread continued from 31st October 1936] The Nationalist Chinese government asks Premier Stalin for logistical assistance in its air war against the advancing Japanese. The flights begin a mere three days later [sub-thread continues at 22nd November 1937]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WASHINGTON-MOSCOW PROXY WARFARE, 1917 TO DATE]

1937 [23rd September] The Chinese Civil War [XXII - The Rape of Nanking]: [Continued from 7th July 1937] Pushing inland from Shanghai, the Japanese Army quickly takes Nanking, the next city upstream, and inflicts bloody retribution on the civilian population there. An estimated 42,000 civilians are collateraled one way or another, bringing the total civilian casualties in the offensive so far to around 300,000. The KMT administration has already fled much further upstream to Chungking (Google maps), and the Nationalist Army now fights a rear-guard action to join them. Chungking will remain the Nationalist capital throughout WW2. The issue of the systematic massacre of civilians is presently being openly debated on YouTube, with accusations of Chinese exaggeration and image fakery from the Japanese, and of Japanese apologists and cover-up from the Chinese - check it out with keyword 南京入城 [sub-thread now skips WW2 and continues at 14th February 1945 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]


1938 R.H. Mottram publishes "Journey to the Western Front Twenty Years After" [Amazon].

1938 Drawing on his WW1 experiences as a Medical Officer in the 2nd Battalion, Royal Welch Fusiliers, J.C. Dunn [Wikipedia Biography] publishes "The War the Infantry Knew" [Amazon]. Here are some indicative passages. Firstly concerning snipers (and how much sympathy they could expect if captured alive) ...

"The German snipers observed and fired from under the eaves of houses, so it was most difficult to locate them. When a parapet was blown in by a shell, or when a trench caved in [...] the sniper looked out for the repair or rescue party. [...] Snipers covered their working parties; worse still, they covered attacks, preventing our then lining the parapet until the attackers were close up. Only in the dark could food and ammunition be brought up, and the wounded and dead be taken down. [...] Then the suspicion arose that there was a sniper behind us, so Stanway, who had several snipers to his credit, took out a few men to make a search. While they were halted beside a large strawrick one of the men noticed some empty German cartridge cases at his feet. On thrusting their bayonets into the rick the party was rewarded by a yell and a German coming out headlong. Inside was a comfortable hide, having openings cleverly blocked with straw, and a week's supply of food. The sniper could come out at night for exercise and water. Only his carelessness with his used cartridges cost him his life, for he was finished there and then" (pp83-84).

On the deterrent value of dead bodies ...

"The Hun is trying to get in his dead near his trenches. We try to prevent him, it's good for him to see how many there are" (p89).

On rivalry between units ...

"Two good stories of the shoot came round to us after relief. While our guns were giving the Prussians opposite us hell, the Saxons opposite the Middlesex applauded the hits. Later they shouted across, 'We are being relieved by Bavarians tonight. Give us some time to get out then shoot the bastards'" (p113).

And finally on the inequality of the contest between man and machine ...
“This has been an uncommonly active tour, our casualties greatly exceed the weekly average. Dewhurst, returning off leave, met his Company stretcher-bearers carrying down one of the dead; following them was a man with something in a sand-bag. As money, letters, and other personal possessions were taken off the dead and sent home, Dewhurst asked, 'Are these his effects?' 'No, Sir, it's his pal'; for of a second victim of the same shell only parts of two limbs could be found' (p179).

1938 [29th October] Chennault's Various Air Forces [III - ROCAF Tactical Advisor, Kunming]: [Continued from 7th July 1937] Claire Chennault's ROCAF headquarters establishment arrives at Kunming, where they begin improving landing strips and support facilities in anticipation of receiving new aircraft. They also put in place a network of forward observer sites capable of telephoning or radioing in approaching enemy aircraft almost as quickly as radar [sub-thread continues at 26th June 1940 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WASHINGTON-MOSCOW PROXY WARFARE, 1917 TO DATE]


1939 [16th July] Right Wing Exceptionalism After Versailles [Fascism in Britain (Mosley's Earl's Court Rally)]: On 16th July 1939, the British Union of Fascists (BUF) [check them out] stages a rally at London's Earl's Court exhibition centre. The event is very well attended, but, as we have already detailed in the entries for the Cliveden Set [check them out], the Establishment has recently decided that British Nazism is no longer on the agenda, and media comment is henceforth consistently negative. FURTHER READING: A transcript of the Earl's Court proceedings is available in Oswald Mosley's (1939) "Britain First" [Amazon]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW2 IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = THE COLD WAR IN THE MAKING] [THREAD = WW3 IN THE MAKING]

1940 The British neurologist Emanuel Miller [Wikipedia biography] edits "The Neuroses in War", a collection of papers by neurologists with experience as WW1 Medical Officers on the broad topic of "war neurosis".

1940 [8th May-1st March 1948] Costa Rica, 1871-2018 [IV - The Calderón/Picado Years]: [Continued from 8th May 1920] Rafael Calderón [check him out] is elected president of Costa Rica. To the limit allowed by the nation's coffee growing oligarchy he adopts a more progressive economic policy, thereby becoming one of Latin America's first socially concerned presidents. He will be replaced in 1944 by Teodoro Picado [check him out] [sub-thread continues at 1st March 1948 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]


1940 [4th December] JFK and New Orleans [VI - Alton Plans a Group Practice]: [Continued from 5th November 1934] A group of five Tulane Medical School physicians led by Alton Ochsner plans a "group practice" in New Orleans, "where people from all over the South and from South and Central American countries could come for diagnostic check-ups by groups of the most skilled medical specialists in the city" (news clipping in Caldwell, 1965, p7). Coincidentally, one of said specialists - Guy A. Caldwell [check him out] is presently treating the wife of New Orleans banker Rudolph Hecht [check him out], and before long the group gets an offer of financial backing from Hecht's Hibernia National Bank [sub-thread continues at 3rd May 1941], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]
1941 [3rd May] JFK and New Orleans [VII - Ochsner Clinic Associates Established]; [Continued from 4th December 1940] Alton Ochsner's Ochsner Clinic, Inc. now purchases the "Physicians' and Surgeons' Building" at Prytania and Aline [map] for $80,000. After a little refurbishment and refitting, the new owners lease the installation to the partners as Ochsner Clinic Associates [sub-thread continues at 20th December 1941]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1941 [9th June] Chennault's Various Air Forces [V - American Volunteer Group]; [Continued from 26th June 1940] After much consideration, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson finally signs off on arrangements to deliver 100 P-40 Warhawks, plus support personnel, to Claire Chennault's hitherto "one-man" support for the Chinese Nationalists in their war against the Japanese (now almost into its 5th year) ...

ASIDE - WARHAWK, TOMAHAWK, AND KITTYHAWK: As with most successful warplanes, the Curtiss P-40 [Wikipedia briefing] evolved significantly over time. The early P-40B were often known as Tomahawks, whilst the later P-40E - faster, longer range, better able to act in a fighter-bomber role, and with better radios - were known as Kittyhawks. These latter did not start to arrive in China until Spring 1942.

Henceforth the reinforced air wing will operate as the American Volunteer Group (AVG) [Wikipedia briefing] [sub-thread continues at 14th July 1941 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WASHINGTON-MOSCOW PROXY WARFARE, 1917 TO DATE]

1941 [2nd July] Religion and Killing [The Sergeant York Story (Christian at War)]; [Continued from 8th October 1918] Warner Brothers release the Howard Hawks movie "Sergeant York", starring Gary Cooper. The movie is an eponymous biography of Alvin York [see 1917 (5th June)], the most decorated U.S. serviceman of WW1, and relates how he was converted from conscientious objector to expert sniper. The movie was the highest grossing release of 1941, and is in its own way a masterpiece of militaristic propaganda. The essence of this conversion is conveyed in an exchange between York and his Battalion commander, Major Buxton (played by Stanley Ridges). Here is our transcript ...

YORK: "Private York reporting, Sir."
BUXTON: "Yes, York: at ease. York, Captain Danforth has just handed me a report concerning you, made by your Company Sergeant."
YORK: "Yes, Sir?"
BUXTON: "You have a very excellent camp record."
YORK: "Mighty glad to hear that, Sir."
BUXTON: "You applied for exemption, I believe, as a conscientious objector?"
YORK: "Yes, Sir."
BUXTON: "Well I think we can disregard that. York, Sergeant Parsons recommends your promotion to the rank of corporal with special detail as an instructor in target practice. Captain Danforth and I heartily approve."
DANFORTH: "York - with your permission, Major."
BUXTON: "I congratulate you, York."
YORK: [UNEASY] "Well I'm much obleeged to you, Major Buxton, Captain Danforth. Well I'll learn them fellers to shoot the best I can, like I already done Pusher and Bert - I mean Privates Ross and Thomas, Sir - but, well, I don't wanna be no corporal."
DANFORTH: "What's that?"
YORK: "I said I don't wanna be no corporal."
DANFORTH: "Why not?"
BUXTON: "Wait a minute, Captain, let him talk ..."
YORK: "Well you see, er ..."
BUXTON: "Is it because of your religious convictions, York?"
YORK: "Yes, Sir. That's it. You see I believe in the Bible, and I'm a-believin' that this here life we're living is something the Lord done give us. And we gotta be a-livin' it the best we can. An' I'm figurin' that killing other folks ain't no part of what He was intendin' for us to be a-doin' here."
BUXTON: "Well yes, in a way I agree with you."
DANFORTH: "York - with your permission, Major."
BUXTON: "Certainly, Captain. Sit down, York."
DANFORTH: "You say you believe in the Bible?"
YORK: "Yes, Sir."
DANFORTH: "Well I do too. But do you believe that the Bible means that a man shouldn't fight for what he believes to be right?"
YORK: "Well it done said: 'Blessed are the peacemakers'."
DANFORTH: "Yes, I know, but you remember that verse - I think it's in Luke - where he says: 'He that hath no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one'?"
YORK: "He said that to Peter, but he done stop Peter from using the sword. He said: 'them that lives by the sword will be a-perishin' by the sword'. I read that further on."
DANFORTH: "Yes, I remember, but ...
BUXTON: "Go ahead, Captain."
BUXTON: "But according to Saint John he said 'My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world then would my servant fight'."
YORK: "That's just the point, Captain. He done said that his kingdom were not of this world, and that made it different."

***** FADE IN THE MUSIC ["My Country, 'Tis of Thee"]

DANFORTH: "Yes, but ..."
BUXTON: "Just a moment, Captain. [HE GIVES YORK A BOOK] York, you ever read this?"
YORK: "History of the United States'. [FLICKS THROUGH] Sure is a lot of writing! [NOTES ONE PAGE IN PARTICULAR] Daniel Boone!"
BUXTON: "Yeah - You know about him?"
YORK: "Everybody down our way knows about Daniel Boone! First man into the Valley of the Three Forks."
BUXTON: "He was quite a man! One of the greatest. That book's full of great men. York, what do you suppose that Boone was looking for when he went out alone into the wilderness?"
YORK: "I never thought much on it."
BUXTON: "Was he looking for new lands?"
YORK: "Maybe.
BUXTON: "Maybe. Maybe for something more? Something that a man just can't see with his eyes or hold with his hands? Something that some men don't even know they have until they've lost it?"
YORK: "Yes, Sir."
BUXTON: "To be free. That's quite a word, freedom. I think that's what he wanted. I think that's what sent Boone into your Tennessee country."
YORK: "Is that what this here book's about?"
BUXTON: "Yes - that's the story of a whole people's struggle for freedom. From the very beginning until now. For we're still struggling. It's quite a story, York. How they all got together and set up a government. Whereby all men were pledged to defend the rights of each man, and each man to defend the rights of all men. We call it a government of the people, by the people, and for the people."
YORK: "Well I never knewed it was all written down ..."
BUXTON: "You're a religious man, York ...
YORK: "Yes, Sir."
BUXTON: "You want to worship God in your own way."
YORK: "Yes, Sir."
BUXTON: "You're a farmer."
YORK: "Yes, Sir."
BUXTON: "You want to plough your fields as you see fit, and raise your family according to your own likes. And that's your heritage. And mine. Every American's. But the cost of that heritage is high. Sometimes it takes all that we have. Even our lives. How are you going to answer that, York?"
YORK: "Well you done give me a powerful lot to be a-thinkin' about."
BUXTON: "Take your time
YORK: "If I could only get home
Back in them hills
BUXTON: "What would you do?"
YORK: "I could figure somethin' out,"
BUXTON: "All right, take ten days furlough
YORK: "You mean I can go home?"
BUXTON: "Report to me as soon as you get back"

[THREAD = WW1 RECRUITMENT] [THREAD = WW1 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND SOCIAL REVOLUTION] [THREAD = WW1 PACIFISM AND CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION]
Chennault's Various Air Forces [VI - American Volunteer Group]: [Continued from 9th June 1941] Just arrived after five weeks in transit via Rangoon, Claire Chennault's American Volunteer Group (AVG) now has 68 P-40s and 30 pilots available at Taungou [mag] and by late November will organise itself into three squadrons. A week later, the Pearl Harbour attacks will allow their use in combat to be officially recognised rather than diplomatically disavowed [sub-thread continues at 20th December 1941 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WASHINGTON-MOSCOW PROXY WARFARE, 1917 TO DATE]

Civil Air Patrol Founded: In an attempt to address a congressionally noted shortage of pilots, Texas oilman David Byrd [check him out] helps establish an air cadet club named the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) [check them out], with a chapter in New Orleans ...

RESEARCH ISSUE: We should like to know how many CAP trainees ended up in Claire Chennault's famous Flying Tigers, and, of those who did, how many went on to fly for its successor company Civil Air Transport (CAT) [check them out].

Chennault's Various Air Forces [VII - First Blood]: [Continued from 14th July 1941] Now reasonably well equipped, Claire Chennault's American Volunteer Group (AVG) detects, intercepts, and attacks a formation of ten Japanese bombers, accounting for nine of them, and by late November will organise itself into three squadrons. A week later, the Pearl Harbour attacks will allow their use in combat to be officially recognised rather than diplomatically disavowed [sub-thread continues at 3rd February 1942 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WASHINGTON-MOSCOW PROXY WARFARE, 1917 TO DATE]

JFK and New Orleans [VIII - David's First Flying Lesson]: [Continued from 14th July 1941] 23-year-old Cleveland David Ferrie [check him out] takes his first flying lesson at the local Civil Air Patrol (CAP) [check it out] (Baker, 2014) [sub-thread continues at 2nd January 1942 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]


JFK and New Orleans [IX - Alton Opens His Clinic]: [Continued from 20th December 1941] Alton Ochsner's Ochsner Clinic, Inc. opens its doors for patients [sub-thread continues at 3rd January 1942]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

JFK and New Orleans [X - Marguerite Can't Manage]: [Continued from 2nd January 1942] Marguerite Oswald sends her older two sons - John Pic and Robert Oswald, Jr. - to a local children's home, and arranges for the youngest son - LHO - to be looked after by his aunt Lilian and her friend Mrs Roach. LHO - then aged 3 years - will join his brothers at the children's home 26th December that year [sub-thread continues at 6th November 1942 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

Chennault's Various Air Forces [VIII - AVG Becomes CATF within 10th Air Force]: [Continued from 20th December 1941] On 3rd February 1942 Claire Chennault learns that his American Volunteer Group (AVG) is now to be officially recognised by incorporating it into the U.S.A.A.F. command structure under the provisional appellation 23rd Pursuit Group. However the official orders need to be approved by Chiang Kai-Shek and the reorganisation will not actually take effect until 4th July 1942, by which time the name China Air Task Force (CATF) [Wikipedia briefing] has been selected instead. The new unit reports to 10th Air Force in India. In just over 18 months of
operations the new unit will achieve 297 kills and some 150 probables, for the loss of 23 pilots killed and three captured; 12 of the Warhawks will be lost in combat and a further 61 destroyed on the ground (Samson, 1987) [sub-thread continues at 5th February 1943]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = WASHINGTON-MOSCOW PROXY WARFARE, 1917 TO DATE]

1942 [6th November] JFK and New Orleans [XI - Clay Shaw Joins Up]: [Continued from 3rd January 1942] Clay Shaw [check him out] joins the U.S. Army Medical Corps, being assigned in due course to 127th General Hospital Unit. He will ship out to Britain as Second Lieutenant, arriving Liverpool 17th October 1943 [sub-thread continues at 20th January 1944 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1943 [5th February-19th March, through to mid-1944] Chennault's Various Air Forces [IX - CATF Becomes 14th Air Force]: [Continued from 3rd February 1942] On 5th February 1943, the Commanding Officer of 10th Air Force, Henry H. Arnold [Wikipedia biography] reports upwards that Chennault is an "exceptionally able" tactical commander, BUT dispositionally unsuited to being given strategic independence (Chennault was also regularly at friction with Chief of Staff George Marshall and Burma Commander Joseph Stilwell - Ed.) Despite this damning opinion, on 19th March 1943 CATF is upgraded from being part of 10th Air Force to being 14th Air Force [Wikipedia briefing] in its own right, with Chennault in command. In late 1943 the Japanese 11th Army mounts an offensive in South-Eastern China aiming, amongst other things, to push back Chennault's forward fields and threaten the Burma Road [sub-thread continues at 1st March 1944]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1944 [20th January] JFK and New Orleans [XII - Alton Avoids Tax]: [Continued from 6th November 1942] Following Partners' meetings and having taken advice from accountants and lawyers, the 1942 Ochsner Clinic, Inc. is re-incorporated as the more tax-efficient Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation. ASIDE: At least some of the Partners' motivation here was the research grant system, the system by which institutions bid for state-, federal-, or private foundation monies. This is made clear in a 2007 historical review paper by one of the clinic's cardiologists, Hector O. Ventura, thus ...

"In 1944, the founders wanted to expand the Clinic's activities to include areas of public service. More specifically, they were keen on developing programs in research, medical administration, and charity. On the advice of J. Blanc Monroe, the Clinic's attorney, Dr. Ochsner and his colleagues elected to maintain the Clinic for the practice of medicine and established a non-profit foundation to execute all its other activities" (Ventura, 2007, p74).

The clinic henceforth leases everything from the foundation "in order to receive tax exempt donations from [the public]" (Caldwell, 1965, p19). The well-connected businessman Theodore Brent [check him out] is made a lay trustee. One Thomas Findley [check him out] becomes Research Director, and Otto Schales [check him out] is appointed as the first grant-holding researcher, followed quickly by Albert Segaloff [check him out] [sub-thread continues at 29th January 1944]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1944 [29th January] JFK and New Orleans [XIII - Marguerite Relocates to Dallas]: [Continued from 20th January 1944] Marguerite Oswald moves home to Dallas, where she intends marrying Edwin A. Ekdahl. They marry 7th May the following year [sub-thread continues at 21st February 1944 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1944 [21st February] JFK and New Orleans [XIV - Clay Reassigned]: [Continued from 29th January 1944] Now a First Lieutenant, Clay Shaw transfers to Divisional Support Headquarters, Supply Service, as one of the aides to General Charles Thrasher [check him out], who was at this time heavily involved in the logistical preparations for D-Day. His particular specialism - thanks no doubt to his 20 years as a theatrical dramatist - seems to have been with the Public Relations Section [sub-thread continues at 19th July 1944 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1944 [1st March] Chennault's Various Air Forces [X - "Operation Matterhorn"]: [Continued from 5th February 1943] Chennault's 14th Air Force now finds itself seriously restricted operationally by the need to support "Operation Matterhorn" [Wikipedia briefing], plans to station a strategic long-range bombing
force of (initially) 150 B-29s at Chengdu, in east-central China, from 1st March 1944. Chennault is deeply concerned over the command structures here, because he does not want to see his tactical strike strength constantly syphoned off to provide fighter cover to the strategic bombing offensive. In the event the B-29s are allocated a dedicated protection wing of 200 long-range P-51 Mustangs. Japanese land forces, meanwhile begin a full-blown offensive in the direction of Changsha in May 1944 [sub-thread continues at 6th June 1944]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE DEVICES OF CRYPTO-IMPERIALISM]

1944 [6th June, then through summer] Chennault's Various Air Forces [XI - Stillwell Drops In]: [Continued from 1st March 1944] Chennault is visited at Kunming by Burma Road commander Joseph Stillwell - with whom he famously has a "long-lasting disruptive feud" (Samson, 1987/2012, Kindle2989) - to resolve supply difficulties over the Burma-China land-air route. Chennault is able as a result to support a 20th Air Force B-29 raid on Yawata, on the Japanese mainland, on 15th-16th June [Wikipedia briefing]. Changsha will fall 18th June, causing Chennault's screen of fighter strips to be pulled back. The long-range raids continue through the summer, draining scarce resources from Chennault's 14th Air Force, unwisely in Chennault's opinion because the effort would have been better directed against the already depleted Japanese merchant fleet than against their heavy industry at home. The summer also sees Chennault giving support to Dave Barrett's Dixie Mission [check it out], President Roosevelt's high-level, but ultimately unsuccessful, exploratory talks with the Chinese Communists in Yenan. By November 1944, Chennault will have 36 squadrons at his disposal, but the Japanese land advances nevertheless continue through that winter [sub-thread continues at 29th August 1944]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]


1944 [1st-22nd July] The Bretton Woods Conference: The Bretton Woods Conference [Wikipedia briefing] took place in summer 1944 at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, and was attended by 730 delegates representing all 44 Allied nations. Its purpose was to prepare an international protocol to align the monetary policies of the individual states, thereby bringing the stability needed to permit the flow of war recovery loans foreseen under the Marshall Plan [see own entry]. Amongst the structures put into place over the ensuing months were the International Monetary Fund (IMF) [check them out] and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) [check them out].

1944 [6th July] Churchill Goes Biological (Perhaps): According to some tellings of the story, Winston Churchill, worried at the success of the ongoing German flying bomb offensive, orders an anthrax pellet attack on Germany. A more measured explanation of the available minutes is given by Lewis (1982 [full text online]), who recognises that Britain's CBW research was not for first use - see also the companion entry for Porton Down, which reports the same conclusion.

1944 [19th July] JFK and New Orleans [XV - Now Alton Wants a Hospital]: [Continued from 21st February 1944] Alton Ochsner and Guy Caldwell [check him out] meet with representatives of the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Washington DC to discuss avenues of federal funding for a new hospital ... ASIDE: As a group practice, the Ochsner Clinic merely assesses patients. Any who require admission for treatment are redirected to Tulane Medical Center, or otherwise as appropriate.

On this occasion, however, the state is unable to help out [sub-thread continues at 15th September 1944]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]
1944 [29th August] Chennault's Various Air Forces [XII - Enter Curtis LeMay]: [Continued from 6th June 1944] Curtis LeMay [check him out] is put in charge of 20th Air Force, and prepares for a year of ever more intense strategic bombing of Japanese targets, culminating, of course, with the nuclear strikes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki [sub-thread continues at 16th December 1944]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1944 [15th September or shortly thereafter] JFK and New Orleans [XVI - Clay in France]: [Continued from 19th July 1944] Clay Shaw follows General Charles Thrasher to Reims, France, to help administer Oise Section of SHAEF ...

ASIDE: Once the D-Day landings had taken place, a "Communications Zone" existed between the ports of supply and the often highly fluid fighting line. By late Summer 1944 the Allied advance was actually being severely held up by lack of fuel and ammunition, and by the not inconsiderable problem of "displaced persons" and prisoners-of-war crowding the communications zone. As a result, various logistical and administrative command sections were put in place to ease this situation. Oise Section was one of these, receiving supplies from the south-west and moving them toward the front in Lorraine. And because the French railway system had been crippled by the Allied strategic bombing offensive prior to the invasion, this meant trucking the supplies forward using the famous Red Ball Express ...

ASIDE - THE RED BALL EXPRESS: The Red Ball Express [Wikipedia briefing] was the everyday name of the convoyed truck system used by SHAEF Sections during the 1944 advance on Germany, to get supplies across the Communications Zone in Northern France from the point of origin to the fighting line. The name derives from the six-inch diameter red roundel mounted on the front fender of the vehicles used, which guaranteed priority of transit through checkpoints and refuelling stations. Some 25,000 personnel and 6,000 trucks were involved at the height of the operation, and by Christmas 1944, when the French railways had been repaired and the red ball convoys were no longer needed, a million tons of supplies had been delivered to the fronts. A post-war War Department cine-documentary shows in greater detail what was involved - YouTube it now - FASCINATING. Naturally enough, the U.S. supply chain became a military target in its own right, and indeed during the December 1944 Ardennes Offensive, Oise Section's available engineers were organised into "Task Force Thrasher" and deployed to the Meuse River crossings in case they needed to be destroyed at short notice in the event of a German breakthrough around Bastogne.

For more on the work of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Service in this era, see Ross and Romans (1965 [full text online]).

Another of the responsibilities of each SHAEF Communications Zone sections was public relations, which we shall cover in the entry for 26th May 1945 [sub-thread continues at 27th November 1944 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1944 [27th November] JFK and New Orleans [XVII - David's Career Ambitions Dented]: [Continued from 15th September 1944] St. Charles Seminary discontinues David Ferrie's studies to be a priest on the grounds of "questionable disposition" [sub-thread continues at 26th May 1945]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1944 [16th December] Chennault's Various Air Forces [XIII - Why the Dixie Mission Failed]: [Continued from 29th August 1944] Dave Barrett explains to Chennault that his top secret mission to Yenan had eventually come to the notice of the Chinese Nationalists, who had been duly incandescent with rage - see the Dixie Mission [check it out] for the full story [sub-thread continues at 18th December 1944]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1944 [18th December] Chennault's Various Air Forces [XIV - Joint Op with LeMay]: [Continued from 16th December 1944] Chennault’s 14th and LeMay’s 20th Air Forces carry out a combined tactical-strategic attack on the Japanese occupied port of Hankow, the 14th striking the port per se with high explosive bombs and the 20th flattening the rest of the city with incendiaries [sub-thread continues at 29th March 1945]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1945 The British physician Charles M. Wilson [by now Lord Moran - Wikipedia biography] publishes "The Anatomy of Courage", in which he sets out "to find how courage is born and how it is sustained in a modern army of a free people" (ix). In this quest he draws on his WW1 experiences as Medical Officer with
1st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, from which we have selected the following insights. Firstly, concerning courage in general ...

"My job as a medical officer was to value the assets of the battalion - to take stock - to guard against depreciation. [...] I realised that I must live with the men, watch them, listen to them, get to know them, be their friend. I began to divide them into types. There seemed to be four degrees of courage and four orders of men measured by that standard. Men who did not feel fear; men who felt fear but did not show it; men who felt fear and showed it but did their job; men who felt fear, showed it, and shirked" (pp4-5).

On cowardice he points out (Chapter 2 generally) that it is not the same thing as fear, rather it is the dysfunctionality which results when fear is allowed to get the upper hand. On shell shock in particular he distinguishes between "emotional shock" and "commotional shock". The former is a state of extreme fear reasonably occasioned by the horrors of combat and threatening therefore to reduce the sufferer's combat effectiveness. The latter is acute where the former is chronic and insidious, resulting usually from a near-miss experience with a lot of bang but (luckily) with little physical injury.

1945 [14th February (expired 1979)] **The Chinese Civil War [XXIII - Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship]:** [Continued from 23rd September 1937] Mao Zedong and Stalin sign a treaty promoting economic, cultural, and political ties between their respective nations [sub-thread continues at 1st October 1949...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1945 [15th March-15th March 1951] **Guatemala, 1898-2018 [III - The Arévalo Years]:** [Continued from 1st July 1944] With a thumping mandate from the 1944 elections (he got 86% of the vote), President Arévalo pursues a left of centre programme of national redevelopment, complete with social reforms, minimum wage schemes, and literacy programmes. He also permits the re-establishment of the Communist Party in Guatemala on 28th September 1947, which raises temperatures in Washington. Indeed he crosses swords more than once with U.S. Ambassador Richard Patterson [check him out], who finds even his mild socialism too much to handle. He stood aside in the 1950 presidentials, and was duly replaced by Jacobo Árbenz [sub-thread continues at 15th March 1951...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1945 [29th March] **Chennault's Various Air Forces [XV - Chennault Meets Ho Chi Minh]:** [Continued from 18th December 1944] Presently leader of the anti-Japanese Vietnamese Nationalists - the Vietminh - Ho Chi Minh visits Kunming to discuss joint operations with OSS officers there. When this business is completed he asks for a quick meeting with Chennault also, who takes the opportunity to thank him for past efforts rescuing downed CAT pilots from the jungles of the Laos hinterland [sub-thread continues at 6th July 1945]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1945 [26th May] **JFK and New Orleans [XVIII - Clay Back In The States]:** [Continued from 27th November 1944] Now a Major, Clay Shaw is posted to the Signal Corps Photographic Center, Long Island City, prior to demobilisation. We are happy to accept Carpenter's (2014) suggestion that he had been asked to lend his pre-war theatrical dramatics skills and 1944 personal involvement therewith to editing the War Department cine-documentary "Red Ball Express" - [YouTube it now] [sub-thread continues at 10th August 1945]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]


1945 [6th July, and rest of 1945] **Chennault's Various Air Forces [XVI - Chennault Takes Time Out]:** [Continued from 29th March 1945] "Emotionally drained and physically exhausted", Chennault resigns his command effective 1st August. A few weeks after arriving home he holds talks with Whiting Willauer [check him out] about setting up a civilian airline in China once the war finishes. The two men will return to Shanghai in December [sub-thread continues at 4th January 1946]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1945 [10th August] **JFK and New Orleans [XIX - David Gets His Licence]:** [Continued from 26th May 1945] Having been training for nearly 4 years, David Ferrie is awarded his basic pilot's licence. His father will buy
him his own aircraft the following year (Baker, 2014) [sub-thread continues at 15th January 1946 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1946 [4th January] **Chennault's Various Air Forces [XVII - Chennault and Willauer do Market Research]**: [Continued from 6th July 1945] Chennault and Willauer depart Shanghai on a fact-finding tour of the surviving facilities at Chungking and Kunming. They are concerned to find themselves not totally welcome, thus ... 

"Two airlines already were entrenched in China. The China National Aviation Corporation (CNAC), 80 percent owned by the Chinese government and 20 percent by Pan American Airways, operated approximately thirty aircraft, while the smaller Central Air Transport Corporation (CATC), entirely owned by the government, had a dozen C-47s in service. Both companies, backed by powerful political interests within the factional Nationalist government, had plans to expand service and objected to increased competition. [...] Strong opposition to the two Americans also appeared from elements in the central government who viewed with hostility non-Chinese ownership of transport facilities" (Leary, 2002, p11).

The government is also particularly keen not to drain its war-depleted foreign exchange resources into an American owned enterprise [sub-thread continues at 6th February 1946]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1946 [15th January or hereabouts] **JFK and New Orleans [XX - Clay Demobilised]**: [Continued from 10th August 1945] Clay Shaw is given honourable discharge from the U.S. Army, and walks straight into a job promoting the International Trade Mart (ITM) [check it out] [sub-thread continues at 25th March 1946 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1946 [6th February] **Chennault's Various Air Forces [XVIII - Civil Air Transport Conceived]**: [Continued from 4th January 1946] Having been tipped off that the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) [check them out] is desperately short of airlift capacity, Chennault and Willauer submit a proposal to the Nationalist Chinese to set up a UN-funded joint venture airline. The approval will take many months to come through thanks to near-racketeering by some of the likely signatories (Leary, 2002) [sub-thread continues at 25th October 1946]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1946 [25th March] **JFK and New Orleans [XXI - Alton Gets a Gong]**: [Continued from 15th January 1946] Alton Ochsner is reported in the New Orleans press as having received a War Department citation "for his patriotic service in connection with medical research" (Haslam, 2007/2014, p190) [just what this patriotic service was remains a matter for research - Ed.] [sub-thread continues at 2nd November 1946 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1946 [25th October] **Chennault's Various Air Forces [XIX - CAT Born]**: [Continued from 6th February 1946] After a summer of discussions the UNRRA finally offers a $3.8 million contract for the transportation of relief supplies from port cities to the interior, and the contracts for Chennault and Willauer's new airline are duly signed. The new company will trade under the banner Civil Air Transport (CAT) [check it out], and is owned roughly 70:30 by Americans and Chinese. The biggest American holding is the 29% held by Rio Cathay, SA [check them out] as "undisclosed principal" ...

**ASIDE:** The use of this undisclosed principal allows a number of parties to remain anonymous.

With money in the bank and lives to be saved, the word then goes out for suitably experienced ex-14th Air Force air- and ground-crew [sub-thread continues at 27th January 1947]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1946 [2nd November] **JFK and New Orleans [XXII - Ochsner Hospital Approved]**: [Continued from 25th March 1946] The Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation hears that it has been successful with a $150,000 bid to take over and develop the military surplus Camp Plauche Station Hospital, an 80-acre 1000-bed huddled site out on the western city limits [take a tour; and another] (Caldwell, 1965). Once the site has been
tidied up, it will be formally dedicated 13th April 1947 as the "Foundation Hospital" [sub-thread continues at 27th January 1947 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1947 [27th January] JFK and New Orleans [XXIII - Lee Moves School]: [Continued from 2nd November 1946] Now resident in Fort Worth, Marguerite Oswald enrolls 7-year-old LHO at Lily B. Clayton Elementary School [sub-thread continues at 7th September 1947 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1947 [27th-30th January, and then rest of year] Chennault's Various Air Forces [XX - CAT Hauls Freight]: [Continued from 25th October 1946] CAT's first five planes - military surplus Douglas C-47s - arrive in Shanghai, and the first billable load of UNRRA relief is flown out 3 days later. By 1st July CAT will employ 385 people, will be flying 7 C-47s and 17 Curtis C-46s, and - most importantly - will be making money.

**TECHNICAL ASIDE:** The Douglas C-47 Skytrain [Wikipedia briefing] is the ubiquitous twin-engined "Dakota" transport aircraft, derived in 1943 from the 1935 DC-3 airliner. The Curtis C-46 Commando [Wikipedia briefing] is broadly similar, but in fact better suited to working the Burma-China "Hump".

By the end of 1947 CAT will have flown some two million miles and carried some seven million tons of cargo. On 21st December Chennault will marry his Chinese girlfriend Anna [check her out] [sub-thread continues at 18th January 1948]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1947 [27th January] JFK and New Orleans [XXIV - David Becomes a CAP Instructor]: [Continued from 27th January 1947] David Ferrie becomes a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) flying instructor at Cleveland's Hopkins Airport (Baker, 2014) [sub-thread continues at 18th March 1948 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1948 [18th January and the ensuing 16 months] Chennault's Various Air Forces [XXI - CAT and Mau's]: [Continued from 27th January 1947] In a brave attempt to help Chiang Kai-Shek's Nationalists retain control in northern China, CAT begins an airlift of food and ammunition into (and refugees out of) the Mukden sector of Manchuria [sub-thread continues at 3rd May 1949]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

**BRIEFING - THE CHINESE CIVIL WAR, ENGAME 1948-1949:** The Communist Chinese at this time were receiving massive grass-root support from a Chinese peasantry grown sick and tired of the corrupt official government, and were rolling up the Nationalists on all fronts. This is why Samson (1987/2012) closes his account of 1947 with the observation that Chennault "was now ready to go to war for Chiang Kai-Shek - for the second time" (Kindle6770). This time, however, there would be no fighters or bombers, just transports. By 25th May 1948 the Mukden airlift had flown in 2210 tons of flour and brought out 22,173 passengers, including 4571 wounded soldiers (Leary, 2002). CAT's efforts continued until the city fell 31st October 1948, whereupon the airlift switched to the defence of Taiyuan. Over the winter 1948-1949 it was not unknown for CAT aircraft to fly ground support missions as well as logistical, and at least one U.S.M.C. plane had CAT markings on it (Ibid.). Taiyuan and Nanking fell 24th April 1949, and when Shanghai followed 2nd June 1949 the People's Liberation Army had free rein to cross the Yangtze River and roll up what was left of the Nationalists in southern China.

1948 [1st March - 8th May 1958] Costa Rica, 1871-2018 [V - The Figueres/Ulate Years, 1948-1958]: [Continued from 8th May 1940] Costa Rica's 1948 presidential elections witness a contest between Rafael Calderón [check him out] going for a second term after four years out of office, and Otilio Ulate [check him out]. Ulate scores a clear win with 55% of the vote, but Calderón refuses to accept the result, alleging vote-rigging. The incumbent President Picado [check him out] still has three months to run of his four year term in office, but his attempts to find a successor are interrupted by an armed uprising by a junta led by left-winger José Figueres [check him out], who is duly proclaimed Provisional President on 8th May 1948. There follows a period of out-and-out civil war during which Figueres forces through no less than 834 reforms, completely modernising the country. He then steps down 8th November 1949 in favour of the 1948 President-Elect Ulate, who then serves a full term to 1953. Figueres is then rewarded with a term with democratic mandate between 1953 and 1958 [sub-thread continues at 8th May 1958 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1948 [1st July] **JFK and New Orleans [XXVI - Clay Opens the Trade Mart]**: [Continued from 18th March 1948] After 30 months of hard preparation, Clay Shaw opens the International Trade Mart (ITM) at 598 Camp Street [map], at Camp and Common. In amongst the first list of tenants is William G. Gaudet, a South American commodities analyst and sometime CIA operative [sub-thread continues at 31st July 1948 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1948 [31st July] **JFK and New Orleans [XXVII - David Becomes a CAP Instructor]**: [Continued from 1st July 1948] David Ferrie a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) flying instructor at Cleveland Hopkins Airport (Baker, 2014) [sub-thread continues at 27th December 1948 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1948 [27th December] **JFK and New Orleans [XXVIII - Clay Does a Favour]**: [Continued from 31st July 1948] Clay Shaw reportedly starts feeding observations to the CIA and the FBI concerning a Czechoslovakian trade exhibit at his Trade Mart (Carpenter, 2014) [sub-thread continues at 10th March 1949 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1949 [10th March–20th May] **JFK and New Orleans [XXIX - Clay Heads South]**: [Continued from 27th December 1948] Now an established CIA asset, Clay Shaw makes a business trip around the Caribbean Rim. He has been briefed with a list of observation which the Agency would like him to make during his trip (the CIA memorandum from Lyman Kirkpatrick [check him out] concerning this briefing is dated 18th February 1949) [sub-thread continues at 1st August 1949]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1949 [3rd May–4th October] **Chennault's Various Air Forces [XXII - Chennault Seeks Congressional Support]**: [Continued from 18th January 1948] Desperate to drum up support for the collapsing Nationalists, Chennault puts a case to the Senate Armed Forces Committee to re-activate the AVG [see this thread, entry V, 9th June 1941], only directed this time against Mao Zedong's Communists and preferably with both an air and a ground presence. To his chagrin, Secretary of State Dean Acheson pours cold water on the plan. The Communist advance accordingly continues apace, and on 1st October 1949 Mao formally proclaims the People's Republic of China. But by then, however, Chennault has "found another organisation in Washington more sympathetic toward his ideas, one that shunned the light of publicity: the Central Intelligence Agency“ (Leary, 2002, p70) [sub-thread continues at 4th October 1949]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

***** "IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH" *****

1949 [8th June] Inspired in part by Jack London's (1908) "The Iron Heel" [see 24th August 1908], the British novelist George Orwell [check him out] publishes "Nineteen Eighty-Four" (Orwell, 1949 [Kindle; full text online: Wikipedia synopsis]), regarded by many as the class-defining dystopian novel. The work is noteworthy in the present context (a) for depicting a world of endless war, (b) for showing how black becomes white as soon as a savvy enough government says that it is, (c) for depicting a world of endless surveillance and the instant and merciless repression of dissent, (d) for a world in which history is constantly being selectively edited so as to justify the present (the hero of the work is employed doctoring back numbers of The Times), and (e) for inventing the syntax and vocabulary of an entire new language - "Newspeak" - specifically designed to suppress dissent. Here are some of Orwell's handiest new words ...

**Doublethink:** To so train a population's memories that a new and officially promoted reality emerges. Often involves holding "simultaneously two opinions which cancelled out, knowing them to be contradictory and believing in both of them".

**EXAMPLE:** To be told that the chocolate ration has just been raised to 20 grammes a week, when yesterday it had been thirty grammes a week. For additional examples, just turn on your fucking television.
Duckspeak: To quack like a duck, that is to say, to speak without engaging your brain, as when reciting official government mantras.

Ministry of Love: The Gestapo on steroids (and then some); keepers of the dreaded Room 101, wherein you will learn to Doublethink, for they know - better than you know it yourself - what really scares you.

Ministry of Truth (Minitrue): The Ministry of Propaganda. Works to the dictum IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH. Scriptwriters for the ubiquitous telescreens. [In 2018 we might perhaps rename it the Ministry of Unfake?]

Room 101: See Ministry of Love.

Thoughtcrime: Dissent.

Thought Police: Those within the Ministry of Love charged with fighting Thoughtcrime; who came - invariably at night - and who can erase not just you, but all reference to you.

[Sub-thread continues at UNDER CONSTRUCTION] [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

1949 [1st August] JFK and New Orleans [XXX(a) - Alton Takes Advice]: [Continued from 10th March 1949] The Trustees of the Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation now take advice on how best to obtain donations toward a permanent hospital on the nearby "Riding Academy" site, at 1516 Jefferson Highway [map]. The campaign will begin 31st March 1950 with a $4 million target, and succeeds in raising nearly $1 million in its first year. The balance of the purchase price will then be commercially financed or grant-aided. When refurbished the premises will be known as the Ochsner Foundation Hospital [sub-thread continues at NEXT ENTRY]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

***** THIS MAN DOES WORK FOR MKULTRA *****
***** THIS MAN TAUGHT DAVID FERRIE *****

1949 [1st August or hereabouts] JFK and New Orleans [XXX(b) - Robert Founds a Department]: [Continued from PREVIOUS ENTRY] Around this time, Tulane Medical School's latest professorial signing, Robert Heath [check him out - VERY IMPORTANT], is creating that university's new Department of Psychiatry and Neurology. Aged only 34, he is already a pioneer in microelectrode studies in human subjects, and his PubMed profile [check it out] indicates that his specialisms over the next couple of years will be psychosurgery and the cognitive neuropsychology thereof.

ASIDE - PSYCHOSURGERY AND COGNITIVE NEUROPSYCHOLOGY: Psychosurgery - commonly and not entirely accurately known as "lobotomy" - is the medical practice of more or less grossly resecting or ablating brain tissue. Cognitive neuropsychology is the associated non-medical practice of theorising as to the structure and workings of the human mind based upon observations of what subjects can and cannot do following psychosurgery (or - indeed - the full gamut of naturally occurring brain lesions). There is a quick introduction to psychosurgery in Section 3 of the present author's 2003 podcast on "Frontal Lobe Syndrome" - click here. There is a quick introduction to the science of cognitive neuropsychology in the present author's 2002 précis on "Ellis (1982)" - click here.

Heath's first tranche of research bids will be directed into the Tulane Electrical Brain Stimulation Programme, 1950-1970 (as critiqued in Baumeister, 2000, Casey, 2015, and O'Neal et al., 2017). He will often publish jointly with Johns Hopkins' even more prolific Arthur Earl Walker [Wikipedia biography]. Heath is thus something of a lucky catch for Tulane, and we shall be hearing more of him in due course [sub-thread continues at 22nd February 1950]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

***** INDEPENDENCE DAY IN COMMUNIST CHINA *****

1949 [1st October] The Chinese Civil War [XXIV - People's Republic of China]: [Continued from 14th February 1945] Mao Zedong proclaims the People's Republic of China [YouTube the newsreel], thus bringing to an end the mainland phase of the Chinese Civil War, and turning it into a stand-off between the CPC and the KMT across the Straits of Taiwan, as it still is today [October 2018] [sub-thread continues at 10th December 1949 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]
1949 [4th October] **Chennault's Various Air Forces [XXIII - CAT Goes Dark Again]:** [Continued from 3rd May 1949] Following Secretary of State Dean Acheson's refusal to sanction official U.S. military support for the crumbling Nationalists, the matter of covert rather than overt military operations against the Communists is resolved by CAT being taken over on a hidden budget by the CIA’s **Office of Policy Coordination (OPC)** [check them out].

**ASIDE - A QUICK REMINDER:** The OPC was formed 1st September 1948 under the direction of Frank Wisner [check him out], and has already conducted covert operations in Europe.

Under the terms of the government take-over, CAT is advanced $200,000 toward costs on 4th October 1949, and the first OPC flight will take place 10th October. Wisner assigns an experienced upriver sort named Albert T. Cox [check him out] as tactical commander of the China operation [sub-thread continues at 29th November 1949]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1949 [6th October] **The 1949 Mutual Defense Assistance Act:** President Truman signs the Mutual Defense Assistance Act into law, thus authorising the United States to supplement its diplomacy ”by furnishing military assistance to foreign nations”. Insofar as this Act will henceforth be applied to Latin America, it helps expand the **School of the Americas** [check it out] [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1949 [29th November–5th January 1950] **Chennault's Various Air Forces [XXIV - CAT becomes CATI]:** [Continued from 4th October 1949] With its Nationalist stockholders now in exile in reduced circumstances on Taiwan, talks begin concerning how best to transfer the assets of CAT to American rather than largely Chinese ownership. Over the coming months, therefore, the air fleet is transferred to a new company, **Civil Air Transport, Incorporated (CATI)**, although - confusingly - it continues to fly and market itself as CAT. After the fall of Chungking 30th November and Kunming 10th December CAT, along with CNAC and CTAC, moves its aircraft into Taiwan, the British colony of Hong Kong, and similar offshore safe havens. However, because Hong Kong is now facing large numbers of Communists lined up along its "New Territories" border, this move rapidly brings CNAC and CTAC into conflict with the British authorities there, who have been instructed by **Clement Attlee**'s left wing government in London not to take sides. Nor can the aircraft simply be handed over to the Communists, thus ...

"During the waning months of 1949, as the Nationalists faced final defeat on the mainland, CAT officials [...] fought political and legal battles to keep the bulk of China's air transport fleet out of Communist hands. [...] Based in Hong Kong since the fall of Shanghai in May 1949, CNAC and CATC had been operating sporadic air service to Nationalist-held areas [...] and the defection of the general managers of both airlines to Peking with twelve fully manned aircraft [on 9th] November was a shock. Seventy-one transports, including modern Convairs and DC-4s, remained on the ground in Hong Kong."

**ASIDE - "CONVAIRS":** Probably Convair CV-240s [Wikipedia factsheet].

**ASIDE - DC-4:** Basically a four-engined variant of the older DC-3, the **Douglas DC-4/C-54 Skymaster** [Wikipedia factsheet] was the workhorse of international air travel and airlift throughout the 1950s. Just such a aircraft - perhaps even one of those referred to here - features large in the entry for **Robert Vinson** [COMPULSORY READING] on the afternoon of the JFK Assassination, in Dallas, without markings.

... "Communist authorities promptly claimed the aircraft as the 'sacred property' of the Chinese People's Republic. Chennault and Willauer reacted with surprise and dismay to news of the defection. Communist control of the aircraft, they feared, would place the final resistance of Chiang Kai-Shek on Taiwan in grave danger [from Red paratroops]. [...] In an effort to prevent the aircraft in Hong Kong from falling under Communist control, Willauer offered the services of CAT. [...] On November 13 the Nationalist Civil Aeronautics Administration in Taiwan suspended the registration certificates of the aircraft. Three days later [...] a squad of [...] guards went on duty to prevent removal of the transports. Willauer personally led a group of CAT pilots and crew chiefs in a midnight foray to the airport, where they immobilised the aircraft, at least temporarily, by letting all the air out of the tyres. [...] On November 17 **Sir Alexander Grantham** [Wikipedia biography], governor of the colony, announced that no aircraft would be permitted to depart for the mainland [...] Unwisely, however, he] ordered the removal of CAT's security force [whereupon local Communist sympathisers] took physical possession of the aircraft. [...] Their plan to act as agents for the Nationalists a
failure, Chennault and Willauer realised that the only remaining chance for success lay in transfer of the equipment to American ownership” (Leary, 2002, pp91-93).

On 15th December, former OSS chief William Donovan is able to inform Foreign Office contacts in London that CNAC and CATC are now in American ownership. They were not, however, actually in American possession, and little will now happen until the British Privy Council rules on the case in 1952 [see 28th July 1952] [sub-thread continues at 5th January 1950], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1949 [10th December 1949] The Chinese Civil War [XXV - Nationalists Evacuate Mainland China]: [Continued from 1st October 1949] With the KMT administration and the Nationalist Army evacuating a bridgehead opposite the island of Taiwan, Chiang Kai-Shek flies out to safety. Henceforth - and increasingly during 2018 - the Straits of Taiwan will become a promising no-man’s-land for WW3 [end of The Chinese Civil War sub-thread; narrative continues as The Cold War ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1950 [5th January] Chennault’s Various Air Forces [XXV - CATI Puts Its Feet Up]: [Continued from 29th November 1949] On 5th January 1950 President Truman announces that the U.S. will not occupy Taiwan, preferring to rely instead on a protective screen to be provided by the U.S. Seventh Fleet. CAT, meanwhile, with nobody left on the mainland to support, is effectively grounded on Taiwan for lack of orders, and lives off handouts from the OPC [sub-thread continues at 13th March 1950], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1950 [22nd February] JFK and New Orleans [XXXI - CAP Moves Into Trade Mart]: [Continued from 1st August 1949] One of Clay Shaw’s newest tenants at the Trade Mart is the office of the Louisiana Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) (Carpenter, 2014) [sub-thread continues at 9th January 1951], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1950 [13th March through to that summer] Chennault’s Various Air Forces [XXVI - CAT becomes CIA Air]: [Continued from 5th January 1950] After some months in deliberation, the State Department and the Joint Chiefs finally approve CIA support for CATI, thus ...

"The situation in the Far East - with mainland China gone and Ho Chi Minh's activities in Indochina becoming more serious - apparently spurred the CIA to do something concrete. While the United States still had not reversed its policy on the Nationalists on Taiwan, covert activities were permissible. The CIA was beginning to act as it did in later years - unilaterally. The agency's bankers advanced CAT $350,000 on March 24, to clear up bills such as payroll, gasoline debts, and supply bills. In addition, $400,000 was to be paid to fund operating deficits until mid-June. The bankers - 'undisclosed principles' in CIA parlance - would then have the option to purchase the airline for $1 million. [...] The infusion of CIA personnel into the airline was done so slowly and so subtly that many regular employees never suspected the company was becoming a front for covert activities. To look legitimate, CAT continued its regular commercial operations” (Samson, 1987, Kindle7292).

On 24th April Hainan Island is captured by the Communists and Chennault makes arrangements for his administrative centre to relocate to Tokyo. Then, on 25th June, North Korean troops invade South Korea, whereupon (on 28th) CIA Director Roscoe Hillenkoeter [check him out] approves the CIA purchase of CATI in its entirety. Henceforth the aircraft will fly in mission-appropriate livery - sometimes bright and obvious, sometimes drab and anonymous. Even their allies the Nationalists are kept in the dark, because aid will on occasions be flown to “Third Force” independent warlords, who hate both Chiang and Mao alike [sub-thread continues at 23rd August 1950], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1951 [9th January] JFK and New Orleans [XXXII - Clay Heads South Again]: [Continued from 22nd February 1950] Clay Shaw sets off on a five-week sales tour, this time to Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay [sub-thread continues at 16th April 1951 ...], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1951 [15th March-17th June 1952] Guatemala, 1898-2018 [IV - Árbenz Takes Over]: [Continued from 15th March 1945] Following a clear victory in the 1950 presidential (with 60% of the vote) Jacobo Árbenz is sworn in as president [sub-thread continues at 17th June 1952 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]
1951 [16th April] JFK and New Orleans [XXXI - David Joins Eastern Air Lines]: [Continued from 9th January 1951] David Ferrie is hired by Eastern Air Lines, and is promptly sent to Miami for three weeks' induction training on large aircraft. He will settle in New Orleans later in the year (Baker, 2014) [sub-thread continues at 20th October 1951 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1951 [20th October] JFK and New Orleans [XXXII - Alton Starts to Expand]: [Continued from 16th April 1951] Alton Ochsner buys the "Riding Academy" site at 1516 Jefferson Highway, New Orleans. In December, the Trustees start to draw down on their Hill-Burton federal grant toward the new Ochsner Foundation Hospital (Caldwell, 1965) [sub-thread continues at ??th December 1951 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1951 [??th December] JFK and New Orleans [XXXIII - David Moves to New Orleans]: [Continued from 20th October 1951] Now resident in New Orleans, David Ferrie becomes involved with the Lakefront Airport squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) (Baker, 2014). They hold annual summer camp-outs on base (except in 1952, when there is a polio epidemic in Louisiana) [sub-thread continues at ??th December 1951 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1951 [??th December] JFK and New Orleans [XXXIV - Alton Starts to Expand]: [Continued from 9th January 1951] Unable to make ends meet in New Orleans, Marguerite Oswald relocates to NYC to lodge with son John Pic and his family. LHO enrolls at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran School. This arrangement does not last for long, however, for the family is asked to move on when LHO threatens Mrs Pic with a penknife. They move to the Bronx, where LHO frequently plays truant and welfare officers are alerted. Much will be made of this black mark on his resumé during post-Assassination efforts to profile him as a disaffected young tearaway [sub-thread continues at 2nd July 1952]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1952 [22nd January] Domestic Operations Base (DOB): Government funding is authorised under CIA Project AE-ACRE [check it out] for the Domestic Operations Base (DOB) at Alexandria VA, a "sterile headquarters" with attendant safe houses to support the training and operations of field agents for deployment behind enemy lines.

1952 [17th June-18th June 1954] Guatemala, 1898-2018 [V - The 1952 UFCO Expropriations]: [Continued from 15th March 1951] As the centrepiece of his economic policy, President Árbenz signs off the "Decree 900" Agrarian Reform Law [Wikipedia briefing]. One of the targets of this new law is the United Fruit Company (UFCO) [check them out], in that they are regarded (with no little justification) by Árbenz as little better than a bunch of slave owners who have brought mediaeval feudalism into the 20th Century. He duly begins compulsory purchases of UFCO land (about one twelfth of their three million acres, only some 5% of which was actually planted anyway).

    ASIDE: Árbenz had devised the fiendishly clever plan of setting high rates of compulsory compensation, but assessed against the previous year's tax returns. So if you had been deliberately under-declaring your value, then you had been too clever for your own good. UFCO, who had last valued their land at $627,572, now decided that it had really been worth some $16 million. It would be interesting to know whether UFCO was contributing more to the Guatemalan economy of the mid-20th-Century than Amazon and Starbucks do for the economy of Britain in 2018. If anyone out there can do this sum please contact the author.

In August 1952 the Wrigley Gum Company likewise felt the sting of compulsory purchases of its chicle - edible rubber - plantations, and retaliated by stopping buying Guatemalan chicle altogether [sub-thread continues at 18th June 1954 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1953 [16th April] **JFK and New Orleans [XXXVIII - Lee Psychologically Evaluated]**: [Continued from 2nd July 1952] In trouble for his truanting, LHO is evaluated psychologically and placed on probation. Again, much will be made of this black mark on his résumé during post-Assassination efforts to profile him as a disaffected young tearaway [sub-thread continues at 9th January 1954]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]


***** A WORLD-HISTORIC DATE *****

1954 [13th March-7th May] **Chennault's Various Air Forces [XXVII - Dien Bien Phu (Endgame)]**: [Continued from 20th November 1953] Over the winter of 1953-1954, the Vietminh commander, General Giap Vo Nguyen [Wikipedia biography], has tightened the siege lines around the French forces in Dien Bien Phu. He now outnumbers them 4:1, and has a massive superiority in medium artillery. Giap begins his final offensive 13th March, forcing the defenders back into an ever-contracting perimeter, until they surrender 7th May. The collapse would have come far sooner had not CAT pilots flown 682 airdrop missions in support. The French forthwith withdraw from Indochina, and under the Geneva Agreement 21st July 1954 colonial Laos becomes independent and colonial Vietnam is partitioned at the 17th Parallel into a Communist North Vietnam and a U.S.-client South Vietnam, in readiness for the next war [sub-thread continues at 22nd August 1954]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1954 [??th March/12th May] **JFK and New Orleans [XL - Robert Gives a Talk, and Doesn't]**: [Continued from 9th January 1954] According to Tulane University historians Mohr and Gordon (2001), Tulane Medical School’s Robert Heath gives a talk entitled "Some Aspects of Electrical Stimulation and Recovery in the Brain of Man" at a seminar at the Edgewood Arsenal in Maryland. The authors presume that many in the audience on this occasion are MKULTRA workers. We find no great problem with this suggestion given what else we know about Heath's research at this time [see, for example, this sub-thread 1st November 1955]. However Heath is definitely NOT listed as having attended 12th May 1954 the First Psychochemical Conference at the same venue - see the Conference Report (Marrazzi, 1955). Heath's book "Studies in Schizophrenia" also comes out around this time [sub-thread continues at 12th June 1954]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]


1954 [12th June] **JFK and New Orleans [XLI - Ochsner Foundation Hospital Opens]**: [Continued from ??th March 1954] Alton Ochsner's new Foundation Hospital opens for business, transferring 134 patients across from the henceforth-defunct Camp Plauche site by lunchtime (Caldwell, 1965) [sub-thread continues at ??th January 1955]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]


**ASIDE:** The CIA's professed motivation for engineering this coup is set out in the State Department White Paper entitled "Intervention of International Communism in Guatemala" (Department of State, August 1954 [full text online]). This document directly addresses the United Fruit Revenge meme, characterising the
entire story as Communist propaganda, and rather haughtily dismissing the suggestion as absurd. Instead, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles proudly claimed that the United States had brought Árbenz down in order "to inspire men everywhere". One recent recruit to the CIA's Miami Station was David Morales [check him out], believed by many to have been in Dealey Plaza on 22nd November 1963, and their man in Guatemala City was master of the false trail narrative Birch O'Neal [check him out].

Castillo Armas crosses the border 18th June 1954, preceded by a fifth column of saboteurs, covered by his own private U.S.A.F. wing (reportedly four F-47N Thunderbolts and a P-38L Lightning), with the U.S. Navy standing by, prevented from receiving United Nations help by the stonewalling of U.N. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., and - above all - pre-legitimised by an ongoing programme of CIA disinformation. Árbenz resigned on 27th June 1954 and took protective exile in the Mexican Embassy. The ensuing 1954 elections returned Castillo Armas as a dictator (only one candidate), whereupon he carried out a stringent and not infrequently bloody purge against Árbenz' network of political and trade union supporters. At the same time, the CIA fabricated documentary evidence of black doings on Árbenz' part during his administration in order to minimise world sympathy for his case. Castillo Armas then repealed the Agrarian Reform Law and freed up the exportation of unrefined oil. He will be assassinated 26th July 1957, and - strangely - eulogised as "a great loss ... to the entire free world" [sub-thread continues at 2nd March 1958 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1954 [22nd August] Chennault's Various Air Forces [XXVIII - CAT Meets Mongoose]: [Continued from 13th March 1954] Following the French collapse at Dien Bien Phu and the subsequent division of Vietnam, 12 CAT transports take part in "Operation COGNAC", the evacuation of North Vietnamese residents wishing to relocate south of the 17th Parallel. Between 22nd August and 4th October CAT will fly out 19,808 such political and military refugees. This operation required CAT to liaise with the Saigon Military Mission (SMM) [Wikipedia briefing], the CIA's command structure in South Vietnam.

ASIDE - EDWARD LANSDALE IN SAIGON: The SMM was headed at this time by a latter-day king-maker8 named Edward Lansdale [check him out - RECOMMENDED]. We shall be meeting him again 11th May 1961 [q.v.] when he is selected to mastermind covert operations against the Castro Administration in Cuba, on 2nd November 1963 [q.v.] when he masterminds the coup/assassination of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem, and again in Dealey Plaza 22nd November 1963 [YouTube him now] when - to be frank - historians are still trying to figure out who the mastermind was (but there are few better qualified than he).

8King-makers, by their nature of their work, usually have to conspire to get rid of the incumbent ruler before replacing him/her.

Operations will continue in Indochina up to, during, and out the other side of the Vietnam War, albeit the name and corporate structure of the airfleets involved will change from time to time [sub-thread continues at 13th September 1954]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1954 [13th September] Chennault's Various Air Forces [XXIX - CAT Re-Legalled Yet Again]: [Continued from 22nd August 1954] CATI applies this day to the Minister of Economic Affairs on Taiwan to be reorganised as a wholly American owned Asiatic Aeronautical Company Limited and a largely Chinese owned Civil Air Transport Company Limited. The air-fleet itself will continue to fly in CAT livery. Al Cox cannot get on with the new management principals, and will be fired 31st December 1954 [sub-thread continues at 11th September 1955]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1955 [??th January] JFK and New Orleans [XLII - Guy Joins NOPD]: [Continued from 12th June 1954] Leveraging his good reputation in the FBI (including in the eyes of Director J. Edgar Hoover personally), Guy Banister becomes Superintendent of the New Orleans Police Department [sub-thread continues at 26th April 1955 ...]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1955 [26th April] JFK and New Orleans [XLIII - Alton's P.R. Stunt Fail]: [Continued from ??th January 1955] In what will shortly turn out to be a painfully foolhardy P.R. stunt, Alton Ochsner affirms his faith in the Cutter Labs polio vaccine by publicly inoculating his grandchildren. The very next day, public health authorities in California suspend that vaccine's use because children there have become infected by it with the live disease. Tragically, this is exactly what then happens to his grandson, who
1955 [Friday 13th May] JFK and New Orleans [XLIV - David Gets a Request He Can't Refuse]: [Continued from 26th April 1955] This is the date given in David T. Beddow's (2019) novelised docudrama "A Ferrie Tale" [Amazon - RECOMMENDED] for David Ferrie to have possibly received a telephone call from minor New Orleans villain Charles "Dutz" Murret, who needs, he says, a "personal favour". Murret goes on to explain that he would like Ferrie to take his 15-year-old nephew - a certain Lee Harvey Oswald - into his Civil Air Patrol (CAP) squadron "and teach him some discipline". Ferrie agrees to do what he can.

**ASIDE - FERRIE AND LHO:** Beddow mentions in passing that at this time Ferrie was taking a philosophy course at Tulane, and was spending a lot of time over at the Medical School watching demonstrations by Robert Heath [see this sub-thread 1st August 1949 and 9th March 1954]. These demonstrations involved "prisoners from the state mental hospital" being "hooked up to wires and electrodes". We find no great problem with Beddow's suggestion given what else we know about Heath's research at this time [see, for example, this sub-thread 1st November 1955]. Beddow also first-mentions Ferrie keeping a primitive animal research house of some sort.

Beddow dates LHO's first attendance at Moisant Field as 10th June [sub-thread continues at 15th June 1955 ...].

[THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1955 [15th June-9th September] JFK and New Orleans [XLV - Clay Declines a Jaunt]: [Continued from 13th May 1955] On 15th June 1955, the Czechoslovakian government resolves to stage an exhibition of that nation's engineering prowess at the Brno Exhibition Centre. Clay Shaw is quickly contacted by the CIA, wondering whether he might be going and suggesting some observations he might like to make while over there. He replies to the effect that no trip has been planned, but that he would be happy to comply if the Agency picked up the tab. They did not take up this offer [sub-thread continues at 27th July 1955 ...].

[THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]


**CORROBORATION:** This is not inconsistent with the deposition made 15th December 1978 to the House Select Committee on Assassinations by CAP instructor (subsequently corporate attorney) Jerry C. Paradis - see HSCA full text online (scroll to p114).

In his 2019 novelised docudrama "A Ferrie Tale" [Amazon - RECOMMENDED] David T. Beddow has it that Ferrie took LHO to his home at 209 Vinet Avenue after the bivouac, showed him gun collection and his animal house, and made a (firmly rejected) homosexual pass at him [sub-thread continues at 10th October 1955].

[THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]


[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1955 [10th October] JFK and New Orleans [XLVII - Lee Quits School]: [Continued from 27th July 1955] Approaching his 16th birthday LHO quits school and spends the following year earning a living firstly as an office boy, and later as auxiliary in a dental laboratory [sub-thread continues at 1st November 1955].

[THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

The five authors on this occasion are fellow neuropsychiatrist Henry Lesse, Heath himself, Walter A. Mickle, Russell R. Monroe, and William H. Miller. The title of the paper is "Rhinencephalic Activity in Thought" ...

**Rhinencephalon**: For a quick introduction to the structures and functions of the Rhinencephalon see our 2003 course handout.

... and it describes observations of - and contingent correlations between - the upper and lower brain separately at work. Here are a few lines from the paper's introductory paragraphs ...

"This report concerns findings from four patients selected because they were relatively cooperative reporters during interview. Three were chronic schizophrenics. The fourth was being treated for intractable pain. [...] Recording electrodes were 1 mm. silver ball contacts implanted by use of stereotaxic coordinates [...] Electrical recordings were obtained from at least five sites in each of the three psychotic patients. These included [six sites within the subcortical Limbic System - the aforementioned Rhinencephalon - , plus] frontal and parietal cortex. [...] Corticograms and subcorticograms were recorded by a standard 8-channel Grass electroencephalograph" (Op. cit., p433).

Dr. Monroe would later be identified as principal researcher for army contract DA-18-CML-5596, in the programme "Neurologic and Psychiatric Changes During the Administration of Certain Drugs", specifically LSD and Mescaline. Dr. Mickle likewise - check out his publications for the late 1950s at ResearchGate. This cluster of research projects is nowadays commonly viewed retrospectively as the "Tulane Brain Stimulation Programme" (check it out). The programme drew many of its human subjects from the third floor chronic psychiatric wing of the adjacent Charity Hospital, and resourced lab animals from, amongst others, David Ferrie (see 77th December 1956). The present author taught neuropsychology for 20 years and will be happy to respond to emails from researchers on the still unsolved relationship between brain and mind (sub-thread continues at 30th June 1956). [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]
1956 [24th October-18th January 1957] JFK and New Orleans [LII - Lee Joins The Marines]: [Continued from 3rd October 1956] Shortly after his 17th birthday, LHO joins the U.S.M.C. and goes off to Marine Corps Base Camp, Camp Pendleton, 40 miles north of San Diego CA. On 30th October he scores two points below average on aptitude tests ...

ASIDE - 48TH PERCENTILE: Aptitude tests are frequently "standardised", that is to say, calibrated so that a score of 50% is the population average. This is why we are often reminded that half of us are by definition "below average". Whilst that statement is undeniably true, a more meaningful truth would be to state that slightly over a third of us are consumerably "average". A score of 48% is accordingly not at all concerning, especially given LHO's fragmented schooling to date (school doesn't make you intelligent, but it does help you score well in tests - Ed.). Indeed, other assessments give him an IQ of 118, which is in the 88th percentile for intelligence! For more on the statistics of standardised test scores, see this Wikipedia briefing or email the author.

In all, he will undergo ten weeks of boot camp [sub-thread continues at ?th December 1956]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

***** IMPORTANT - READ THIS CAREFULLY *****

1956 [?th December] JFK and New Orleans [LIII - David Starts a Sideline]: [Continued from 24th October 1956] David Ferrie is reported around this date to be running a backyard animal laboratory at 209 Vinet Avenue [map], where he keeps just about the full research menagerie, from small rodents to monkeys. It is highly likely that this has been arranged by Tulane Medical Center's Robert Heath, as an outstation for his Tulane Brain Stimulation Programme [check it out], although it remains to be established whether Ferrie is servicing particular researchers or just offering an on-demand facility ...

ASIDE: In his 2019 novelised docudrama "A Ferrie Tale" [Amazon - RECOMMENDED] David T. Beddow suggests that this facility had been active at least as early as 13th May 1955 [q.v.]. Either way it was the first of two such operations, this one serving the Tulane Medical Center, and a later one at 3225 Louisiana Avenue Parkway serving Mary Sherman's project at the Ochsner Foundation Hospital in the early 1960s. The exact nature of Ferrie's Tulane involvement is not on record, but PubMed lists no publications to his name so he is best regarded as having been lab assistant, pure and simple. Heath's personal publications in this period are all to do with human subjects, not animals, so he can safely be ruled out (little is known, of course, about his defence-classified work - Ed.). However in his department as a whole there seems to have been a lot more research with animals. In her (long-overdue) 2018 book "The Pleasure Shock" [Amazon - RECOMMENDED], biographer Lone Frank remarks as follows ...

"[In 1951 Heath] ruled supreme over two floors of the new, boxy building on Canal Street where Tulane University had consolidated its medical research facilities. [...] he had access to a seemingly endless supply of cats and monkeys ..." (p18-19).

"The septal"¹ of countless cats - a favourite experimental animal for the nascent field of neuroscience - were surgically removed, to see what would happen" (p30).

"a handful of Rhesus monkeys with electrodes implanted in their craniums were regularly stimulated in the septum"¹" (p31).

"Heath hired a biochemist and started collecting blood from [schizophrenic humans] and injecting monkeys with it. The animals appeared to react with schizophrenic symptoms" (p75).

"[In 1977] Robert Heath stated to the New York Times that in 1957 he had tested a drug for the CIA - so-called bulbocapnine - and that the testing involved three Rhesus monkeys [...] and [...] an inmate of Angola prison" (pp142-144).

'SEPTUM [PL. SEPTA]: See our 2003 course notes on the Limbic System.

Here are two lists identifying Tulane researchers in this era. LIST A shows researchers with whom Heath co-wrote papers (masked 1953-1957), but who - this being common practice - were often affiliates of other universities in other cities. LIST B adds the names of Tulane researchers not lucky enough to co-publish with their Head of Department ...

LIST A: C. Angel [see own entry]; Hal C. Becker [see own entry]; M. Cohen [see own entry]; Charles Fontana [see own entry] (electroencephalography); W. L. Founds [see own entry]; H. E. Himwich [see own entry]; G. Jefferson [see own entry]; B. E. Leach [see own entry]; H. Lesse [see own entry]; R. C. Llewellyn [see own entry]; S. Martens [see own entry]; W. A. Mickle [see own entry]; W. Miller, Jr. [see own entry]; R. R. Monroe [see own entry]; S. M. Peacock, Jr. (1953 - with Heath as second author, using a cat); J. L. Pool [see own entry]; Donald Richardson [see own entry]; G. Von Bonin [see own entry]; A. E. Walker [see own entry]

LIST B: See own entry; S. M. Peacock (1957); H. Lesse (1957); Mary Sherman; A. Ed. (1960); see this Wikipedia briefing.
Whatever the backstory, Tulane would certainly have paid Ferrie for his trouble and charged that outlay in turn to whoever was grant-funding the project(s) in question. Moreover the extent of his involvement was enough to prompt one contemporary witness to remark that he "was constantly at Tulane during those years" (Anthony Atzenhoffer, cited in Baker, 2014). Indeed, there is a strong suspicion that in addition to minding the research animals for Tulane he also mined his students in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) for human volunteer subjects. It is even possible that Ferrie took part personally in dodgy drug evaluation trials, at no little cost to his health in general and his body hair in particular [sub-thread continues at 21st December 1956]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1956 [21st December] JFK and New Orleans [LIV - Lee Becomes a Sharpshooter]: [Continued from 21st December 1956] During his final weeks in boot camp, LHO passes his musketry training with a 212 sharpshooter rating. After Dealey Plaza it will be hotly debated whether LHO was a good enough rifleman to have fired the fatal shots fast enough and straight enough to have been a Lone Assassin. Swike (2008) has him as "an excellent shot" ( Kindle302), for example, whilst Hurt (1986) remarks on his reputation as a "shitbird" [U.S.M.C. slang for poor shot] and Jesse Ventura - himself an expert shot - points blame not at the rifleman but at the Mannlicher Carcano rifle, which, to put it politely (which Ventura doesn't), was just not up to the task - YouTube him now [EXPLETIVE ALERT] OUR VERDICT? A Lone Assassin would have been very lucky to get a single hit from the TSBD Snipers' Nest, and would only have been able to fire twice in the time available. A professional sniper team would neither have shot from the TSBD, nor used a Mannlicher] [sub-thread continues at 18th January 1957]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1957 [18th January] JFK and New Orleans [LV - Lee Does School of Infantry]: [Continued from 21st December 1956] Having graduated boot camp, LHO returns from leave for four weeks in the SOI - the School of Infantry. It is here that the authorities - having satisfied themselves that you are good enough to be a Marine - wonder how best to place you within the Corps, because after SOI comes your specialist training [sub-thread continues at 18th March 1957]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1957 [18th March-3rd May] JFK and New Orleans [LVI - Lee Gets a Specialism]: [Continued from 18th January 1957] On 18th March 1957 LHO reports to the Marine Corps Aviation Electronics School at Jacksonville FL for radar training. He will be promoted Private, First Class (PFC) on 1st May, and given a Confidential security rating when the course concludes 3rd May. He is then sent on an Aircraft Control and Warning Operator (ACWO) course at Keesler AFB, Biloxi MS [Wikipedia briefing], passing out 17th June as 7th in a class of 30. On 25th June he is rated occupation specialist in AEO [=Aviation Electronics Operator] with a Confidential security rating [sub-thread continues at 9th July 1957]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1957 [1st July] Chennault's Various Air Forces [XXXII - CATI Adds a Destination]: [Continued from 29th August 1956] CAT is asked to station a single C-47 at Vientiane in order to service comings and goings to the U.S. Embassy there. Over the coming months, the American presence in Laos will increase as operations against the Communist Pathet Lao [Wikipedia briefing] intensify [sub-thread continues at 22nd January 1959]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]


HISTORICAL ASIDE - EL TORO: Between 1943 and its closure in 1999, El Toro was "the largest Marine air station on the West Coast".

He will be there for the next six weeks, undergoing further training in his radar operator specialism [El Toro is also MACS-1 headquarters base - Ed.] and, perhaps, beginning to learn Russian (which has been a sure
and certain career aid in the American armed forces since 1917) [sub-thread continues at NEXT ENTRY]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1957 [21st August] JFK and New Orleans [LIX - Lee Ships Out]: [Continued from 9th July 1957] LHO boards the troopship USS Bexar, along with 1500 Marines marked for deployment to the Far East [sub-thread continues at 12th September 1957]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]


HISTORICAL ASIDE - ATSUGI: Atsugi was a major Japanese airbase during WW2, and was duly taken over as their own by the U.S. Occupation Forces in 1950 to help secure the Pacific Rim during the Korean War and thereafter. MACS-1 was part of Marine Aircraft Group 11 (MAG-11) [Wikipedia briefing], which in turn was part of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing [Wikipedia briefing] one of the Aviation Combat Elements of the Fleet Marine Forces (FMF). This is why LHO's archive documents - not least his court martial paperwork - are often signed off by a named officer affiliated like this ...

MACS-1 MAG-11 1stMAW FMF

The CIA also had space on the base for their Joint Technical Advisory Group (JTAG), where they organised infiltration operations against China, North Vietnam, North Korea, and Laos. Civil Air Transport (CAT) aircraft were therefore frequently to be seen. Atsugi became a U-2 base in April 1957, so another compound hosted "Detachment C". There was also a top-secret nuclear weapons assembly compound - the METO. MAC-1's job at Atsugi since 1956 had been "the air defence of central Japan" (Swike, 2008, Kindle364), and their radar operators therefore had to cope with CAT and U-2 traffic as well as everything else. The facility features large in Kerry Thornley's [check him out] 1991 fictionalised docudrama "The Idle Warriors".

1957 [25th September] Saving Indonesia From Itself [I - The NSC Finding]: [New sub-thread] Finding that Indonesian President Sukarno [Wikipedia biography] has been developing too close a relationship with Moscow, the National Security Council (NSC) recommends to President Eisenhower that the CIA be instructed to "employ all feasible covert means" to oust him. They do this by making secret overtures to selected Indonesian dissidents, promising arms and financial backing for an anti-Communist military coup if and when one could be arranged [sub-thread continues at 10th February 1958]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1957 [27th October] JFK and New Orleans [LXI - Lee On a Charge]: [Continued from 12th September 1957] Alone in barracks, LHO reportedly opens his locker and is shot in the upper left arm when his loaded .22 pistol falls to the floor and discharges accidentally. It is a perfect flesh wound.

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM (1): Self-inflicted wounds are as old as warfare itself, because at the cost of a controlled amount of pain they can get you out of the firing line. It is an extreme form of malingering; of not pulling your weight. Medical Officers are therefore quick to prescribe Court Martial rather than medicine on suspected miscreants (for a quick introduction to malingering as a disciplinary offence, check out the Timeline entries for 8th March 1847 and 8th October 1863). Now according to Hurt (1985) this is precisely the same conclusion that LHO's messmates reached, thus ...

"The incident seemed so contrived - and the wound, according to Oswald's roommate was 'right where it would be if you were going to shoot yourself' - that there was a general assumption that Oswald had shot himself intentionally" (p200).

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM (2): It follows that if a true patriot wished to go undercover in the persona of a disaffected malingerer, then he might shoot himself on purpose! He would duly be talked about disparagingly by his messmates and this negative chatter would soon come to the ears of those in the off-base dens of iniquity whose confidence he was indirectly trying to gain (that is to say, those whom he wished to infiltrate in the first place). Or to put it very succinctly, LHO was off on a secret mission, and, having chosen <disaffected malingerer> as his cover, coldly put a slug into his own arm ...

ASIDE: None of this cover identity stuff is rocket science - the entertainment industry has been devising plot twists of this sort for centuries. We particularly like Richard A. Smith's (2014 [full text online]) thesis
Spying and Surveillance in Shakespeare's Dramatic Courts, in which he analyses spy personae in the 16th Century. More recently, the writers of TV and cinema thrillers have overtaken real-life counterintelligence experts in devising not-what-they-seem heroes and villains - check out the TVTropes entries for <The Infiltration>, <Fake Defector>, <Reverse Mole>, and <Conveniently Unverifiable Cover Story> - FUN AND INFORMATIVE.

Oswald is duly hospitalised until discharged fit for duty 15th November. Meanwhile, because the weapon was personally owned and therefore in violation of a general order, he is put on a charge. Here is an excerpt from the charge-sheet, as reproduced in Swike (2008): "...on or about 2030 hours on 27th October 1957, violate a lawful general order [precise contravention stated] by having in his possession a privately-owned weapon that was not registered" (p731, Attachment 11-1C) [sub-thread continues at 20th November 1957], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

*****THIS INSET BELONGS WITH THE ABOVE *****
***** SORRY IT'S SO LONG *****
***** BUT IT BECOMES VERY RELEVANT *****

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF PERCEPTUAL NARRATIVE: In 1817 the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge remarked upon Humankind's ability to "suspend disbelief" when watching drama. We know we are in an auditorium of sorts, we know that the characters are only actors, and we know that they are not speaking their own words but rather the words of the playwright. Nonetheless we instantly engage with the deception, and accept the unreal as real. In our minds we are up on the stage alongside the players. In our minds we are thoroughly grounded in their time, person, and place, rather than in our own. We even freely grant them access to our emotions, hating those whom they hate and loving those whom they love. The underlying cognitive processes - and nobody really knows what they are - work together to give us what Murray (1943) called "thematic apperception", that is to say, a conscious appreciation of the intentions (unseen) which gave rise to the deeds (seen). Or in plain language, whenever we observe the world, something deep inside our minds tells us who is doing what, to whom, and why - even if nothing is presently moving (as in a painting or still photograph). There is no detailed theory of how this sort of perceptual narrative is put together, nor will there be until three antecedent theoretical problems have been solved. These are ...

(1) The first of these antecedent problems goes back all the way to Plato's 380BCE "Allegory of the Cave" [check it out (slides #3 through #7)]. This famous thought-experiment addresses the problem of what is reality anyway, given that everything we know is demonstrably just guesswork.

(2) The second problem is that of "identification", in the sense of looking at one of the players and deciding <I AM THAT PLAYER>. The "identification" construct addresses the problem of why we often want to be like someone else. The term has a number of definitions, one of which is at the very heart of Freudian Theory - check out the competing perspectives in this Companion Resource.

(3) The third problem is that of "higher-order representation", as stated most succinctly by philosopher Zenon Pylyshyn [Wikipedia briefing and worked example - IMPORTANT]. This construct addresses the problem of representing the intentions of others in our own mind, as well as the intentions of other others in theirs. Sounds difficult? It sure is. But if you ever manage to crack it, you will very quickly be rich.

SO WHY DO PERCEPTUAL NARRATIVES MATTER IN AN ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF CONSPIRACY THEORY?

BECAUSE THE BETTER YOU UNDERSTAND THE PSYCHOLOGY OF PERCEPTUAL NARRATIVE THE BETTER YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE THROUGH DELIBERATELY FALSIFIED COUNTERINTELLIGENCE NARRATIVES!

STUDENT EXERCISE: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

1957 [20th November] JFK and New Orleans [LXII - Lee Goes On Manoeuvres]: [Continued from 27th October 1957] LHO is part of a MACS-1 detachment which sails for the Philippines aboard the LST USS Terrell County. They arrive Dingalan Bay [map] on the eastern coast of Luzon, from where they take part in Operation PHIBLINK ...

ASIDE - OPERATION PHIBLINK, NOV-DEC 1957: "A three-phase exercise covering shore training, amphibious reconnaissance, and amphibious landings in the Philippine Islands". One presumes that the
detached elements of MACS-1 were working up the structures and procedures necessary to integrate the air
defence of the Philippines with that provided to Japan by their colleagues back at Atsugi. The two stations
could also cooperate in the defence of Taiwan, one sky-watching from the north-east, the other from the south-
east. Certainly tensions were running high in the Straits of Taiwan and the entire South China Sea at this time
[no change there, then - Ed.], so there was no shortage of potential targets to track.

At the end of the exercises, MACS-1 (Detached) puts in to Subic Bay [map] 31st December 1957,
where it will spend the next five or six weeks attached to the Cubi Point Naval Air Station [Wikipedia
briefing]. And Cubi Point, according to Hurt (1985), is presently the other U-2 base in the Western
Pacific. Since these are the decisive weeks in the Indonesian Coup operation [see 10th February 1958] it is
perfectly likely that they are providing live air traffic control for both the black ops against President
Sukarno and the U-2 flights supporting those black ops [sub-thread continues at 7th February 1958]. [THREAD = THE
JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES][THREAD = 20TH CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

1958 [10th February] Saving Indonesia From Itself [II - The Coup Starts]: [Continued from 25th September 1957; also
cross-threaded from 20th November 1957] Taking advantage of President Sukarno's absence on a state visit to
Japan, Indonesia's rebel junta - the PRRI - issues an ultimatum to the government demanding the
return of parliamentary system, the dissolution of its cabinet, elections and Sukarno's resignation. The
ultimatum is rejected, and the country descends into a three-year-long civil war [sub-thread continues at 24th
March 1958]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1958 [??th February] JFK and New Orleans [LXIII - Operation STRONGBACK]: [Continued from 20th November
1957] LHO's MACS-1 detachment now relocates the 40-mile island hop from Cubi Point to
Corregidor, where it is known with some certainty that they prepare to take part in Operation
STRONGBACK, scheduled to start 1st March. There is also the strong possibility that the station
stays on the air through to 24th March [q.v.] and beyond in order to support the follow-on (but far
more effectively concealed) Operation ROBIN HOOD [sub-thread continues at NEXT ENTRY]. [THREAD = THE
JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1958 [1st March-7th March] JFK and New Orleans [LXV - Lee Goes On Manoeuvres Again]: [Continued from
??th February 1958] LHO's MACS-1 detachment provides air control support out of Corregidor to
Operation STRONGBACK ... 

ASIDE - OPERATION STRONGBACK, MAR 1958: This exercise simulated a U.S. counter-attack against
an AGGRESSOR - that is to say Communist China or perhaps a presently very irate Indonesia - should they
attempt landings on the Philippines, thus ...

"1. CONCEPT. a. PHIBLEX 58M (Exercise STRONGBACK) involves the commitment of a Marine
Expeditionary Force comprised of the 3rd Marine Division (-) and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing (-) ,
plus certain Armed Forces of the PHILIPPINES in a major combined amphibious and land supported
exercise on LUZON ISLAND to aid friendly nation destroy an AGGRESSOR invader. [...] 2. MISSION
. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing will move by air and surface lift to the objective area and will provide
aircraft and air control facilities for tactical air support and air movement ..." (Contemporary Operational
Briefing, now unclassified [full text online]).

On 7th March 1958 the detachment departs Corregidor, arriving back at Atsugi 18th March 1958 [sub-
thread continues at 18th March 1958]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

from 18th June 1954] Following the assassination of President Castillo Armas on 26th July 1957 elections
are held and on 2nd March 1958 Miguel Ydígoras [check him out] takes over. His administration is
troubled internally by problems of corruption and the MR-13 [check them out] left-wing insurgency, and
externally by both the Bay of Pigs Invasion [see 17th April 1961] ...

ASIDE: Readers are reminded that it was to Guatemala that CIA operative George de Mohrenschildt [check
him out] came on his mysterious 1961 walking tour - just as the Bay of Pigs affair was degenerating into a
military and political fiasco.
... and the Cuban Missile Crisis [see 16th October 1962]. Ydígoras is eventually copped by President[1963-1966] Enrique Peralta Azurdia [Wikipedia biography] on 31st March 1963. This latter coup is U.S.-sponsored, and personally authorised by JFK. In the ensuing 1966 elections Peralta Azurdia is defeated by President[1966-1970] Cesar Mendez [Wikipedia biography] [sub-thread continues at 1st July 1966 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1958 [18th March-11th April] JFK and New Orleans [LXVI - Lee's Movements Unknown]: [Continued from 1st March 1958] There is little in the literature concerning LHO's duties between returning from Operation STRONGBACK on 18th March and attending for his court martial on 11th April. Swike (2008) explores the possibility that LHO spends time at Iwakuni Naval Air Station [Wikipedia briefing], and concludes that on balance of probabilities that is where he went.

"Oswald's timeline becomes a little muddy here" (Swike, 2008)

SPECULATION ALERT

For our own part, we prefer to think that LHO neither returned to Atsugi NOR went to Iwakuni at that time, but rather stayed at his screen on Corregidor during the CIA's Indonesian overflights out of Cubi Point during Operations HAIK and ROBIN HOOD [see 24th March 1958]; moreover, that he must have chatted with, and made a good impression upon, the CIA liaison officers for this operation, who perhaps recognised a good man when they saw one [sub-thread continues at 11th April 1958]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1958 [24th March-18th May] Saving Indonesia From Itself [III - Operations HAIK and ROBIN HOOD]: [Continued from 10th February 1958] With Operation STRONGBACK safely out of the way, MACS operators continue to provide an air control service out of Corregidor, this time in support of linked Operations HAIK and ROBIN HOOD ...

**ASIDE - OPERATION HAIK:** This is the cryptonym for the in-the-end unsuccessful 1957-1958 U.S.-sponsored military coup against Indonesia's President Sukarno. The CIA's Civil Air Transport (CAT) air arm had begun supplying U.S.-approved right-wing rebels 26th February 1958, and it was now time to go directly for the regime itself. The operation was approved by President Eisenhower, and not only was it managed by the CIA's Deputy Director for Plans Frank Wisner personally (who took temporary station in Singapore for the duration), but all four operational U-2s west of the Rockies were flown in to Cubi Point. As usual, the Air Force did what it could to help, in a non-attributable way, retrieving 15 ageing B-26s from reserve at Clark Field, Luzon, giving them a quick service, and "sanitising" them to bare metal. We have seen it suggested that six of these aircraft would reappear three years later in support of the Bay of Pigs Invasion!

**FURTHER READING ON OPERATION HAIK:** Try Douglas B. Kennedy's (1989 [full text online]) paper "Operation Haik".

**ASIDE - OPERATION ROBIN HOOD:** This operation was an adjunct to the broader Operation Haik, and basically controlled Department C's U-2 overflights and the necessary U.S.M.C. support operations (Prados, "The Ghosts of Langley", 2017). The most important Marine Corps elements were the MACs air control units, especially those qualified to support U-2 operations. The photoreconnaissance film stock was developed at a temporary laboratory at Clark Field, Luzon. This is an under-researched [= a very well kept secret - Ed.] operation, and not much more is readily available online.

Corregidor's MACs station is thus Atsugi's out-station, and is responsible for Detachment C's U-2s, the CIA's CAT transports, and the front line unmarked B-26 wing. Sadly one of the B-26 pilots - Allen Lawrence Pope [Wikipedia biography] - will be shot down 18th May 1958 and held captive until a personal appeal by RFK to Sukarno in 1962 results in his release 2nd July 1962. CIA Director Allen Dulles calls disengage that same day, but localised fighting will go on for another three years, partly because both sides have been American-trained. Dulles deflects blame for the highly embarrassing failure downward onto Wisner, who will be retired sick 1st January 1959. Up-and-coming Hugh Tovar [check him out] will finish the Sukarno job (at the cost of half a million dead) five years later [see 12th March 1967]. After his release, Allen Pope will resume his covert operations with a different CIA proprietary, Southern Air Transport, out of Miami. For more of the messy details see Robbins' (1979/2012) book "Air America", Chapter 4 [sub-thread continues at 18th May 1958]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]
1958 [28th March] JFK and New Orleans [LXVII - U-2 Indonesian Overflights Begin]: [Continued from 18th March 1958 (or across threads from 24th March 1958)] The first U-2 overflight of Indonesia takes place this day out of Cubi Point, under the authority of Operation Haik, and with elements of LHO’s MACS-1 detachment providing air control. A further 29 flights will take place over the coming weeks, after which the assets will be returned to their home bases in Japan [sub-thread continues at 11th April 1958]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]


1958 [18th May] Saving Indonesia From Itself [IV - Dulles Calls Disengage]: [Continued from 24th March] CIA "soldier-of-fortune" Allen Lawrence Pope's bare metal B-26 is shot down by the Indonesian air force. Realising that this is going to create one hell of an international stink, CIA Director Allen Dulles immediately calls disengage on Operation Haik, although the situation in Indonesia will continue to fester through into the Kennedy Administration [sub-thread continues at 16th August 1962]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1958 [20th June-13th August] JFK and New Orleans [LXX - Sheepdip at the Blue Bird Cafe]: [Continued from ??th June 1958] Clay Shaw gets a visit at the Trade Mart from Enrico Mantello [check him out], Vice-President of the aforementioned Permindex (Carpenter, 2014, p191). Mantello informs him that his Basel headquarters is presently planning to expand operations into Italy, with a new Centro Mondiale Commerciale (CMC) in Rome, and offers him a directorship, which he is delighted to accept. The exiled anti-Communist premier of Hungary (and CIA asset), Ferenc Nagy [check him out], is a major force behind the scenes.

ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: In her 2005 book "A Farewell to Justice", Joan Mellen bluntly describes Permindex as "a CIA front, channeling money not only into legal political parties, but also into right-wing movements" (p136) [it was not as frowned upon to interfere in other countries' elections in those days as it is now - Ed.]. Indeed, she says, James Jesus Angleton "filtered ten million dollars of CIA money to the [Italian] Christian Democrats" (p137).

For more on the personalities behind CMC we recommend Chapter 9 of the Mellen book [sub-thread continues at 20th June 1958], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1958 [20th June-13th August] JFK and New Orleans [LXX - Sheepdip at the Blue Bird Cafe]: [Continued from ??th June 1958] LHO walks into an off-base bar and, after a few harsh words, "accidentally" spills a drink over Technical Sergeant Miguel Rodriguez. A short fracas ensues, the M.P.s are called, and LHO finds himself on another charge. As with the earlier self-wounding incident [see 27th October 1957], things do not look quite right, thus ...

"The entire incident was so completely out of character for Oswald that some researchers have long speculated that this may have been a ploy on Oswald's part to remove himself from the mainstream - away from his fellow unit members. This could provide him with a suitable amount of time for some sort of espionage training" (Hurt, 1985, p201).

The Court Martial is held 27th June, and LHO is found guilty and sentenced to 28 days hard labour. Since he already has 20 days suspended from his earlier transgression, this tots up to 48 days in all, so he will not be released until 13th August.
**** SPECULATION ALERT ****

Even after his 48 days, LHO might not actually yet be back in circulation, because in one report he arrives for a work detail possibly as late as 13th September *accompanied by a brig escort* [see 29th August 1958]. Taking Hurt's suspicions at face value, LHO might for example have been spirited away by air to attend a crash course in Russian at the Army Language School [Wikipedia briefing], Monterey CA. Or he might have dangled himself in the bars and brothels around any of a dozen U.S. bases in theatre, in order to gather intelligence about the Communist spy-rings who helped run the places.

**** END SPECULATION ****

Few Marine Corps records have been allowed to survive, and the official inquiry transcripts are deliberately bland, uninformative, and full of unfilled time-slips. But whatever he was doing, it had all probably been carefully set up in advance, in order to develop a cover persona as <disaffected Marine>. He had, in short, started to be "sheep-dipped", that is to say, given a false identity prior to going under cover. Jim Garrison is crystal clear on this, thus ...

"I thought about the Russian examination Oswald had taken at El Toro [see 22nd November 1958] and began to look into his earlier Marine service for hints of possible intelligence work. [...] Oswald's assignment at Japan's Atsugi Air Base in 1957 before he came to El Toro was consistent with the possibility that he had been working in military intelligence. [...] I thought [this] might be confirmed by two Central Intelligence Agency documents mentioned in the Warren Commission report [references given]. Unfortunately, these documents, along with many other C.I.A. files, were classified as secret following the Warren Commission inquiry, and I could not gain access to them" (Garrison, 1988, p47).

Garrison proceeds to list "which subjects the government wanted the public to know the least about" *(Ibid.)*. Somewhat predictably these will include the all-important timelines relating to his time in Russia and Mexico City [sub-thread continues at 27th June 1958], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

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**1958** [27th June-29th August (perhaps 7th September) ] **JFK and New Orleans [LXXI - Lee Goes Dark]:** [Continued from 20th June 1958] We have already noted the possibility that LHO's 48 days (or more) "in the brig" might have been spent on, or preparing for, intelligence activities of some sort.

**WATCH THIS SPACE**

If we come across any suggestions as to what these activities might have been, we shall put them in the space above [sub-thread continues at 11th July 1958], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

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**1958** [11th-21st July] **JFK and New Orleans [LXXII - The Battle of La Plata]:** [Continued from 27th June 1958]

President Batista mounts an offensive against Fidel Castro's bases in Cuba's Sierre Maestra hills [map], David Ferrie reportedly flies supply and reconnaissance missions *in support of Castro*. This might be seen as contradicting the following assertion in Joan Mellen's 2005 book "A Farewell to Justice" ...

"Ferrie had flown for the CIA as a contract pilot, taking off from Tampa, the Keys, and Venice, Florida, in sabotage missions: he burned sugarcane fields, dropped propaganda leaflets, and infiltrated and exfiltrated anti-Castro activists. His handler was Eladio del Valle [check him out], a mob-connected Cuban exile [...] Ferrie also flew for South Central Air Lines1, a CIA proprietary" (p33).

1Probably South Central Airlines [online briefing].

However Jim Garrison offers the following explanation ...

"When Castro was a guerrilla in the Sierra Maestra, Ferrie is reliably reported to have piloted guns for him. But in 1959, when Castro started to show his Marxist colours, Ferrie appears to have felt betrayed and reacted against Castro with all the bitterness of a suitor jilted by his girl. From that moment on, he dedicated himself to Castro's overthrow and began working with exile groups such as the Cuban Democratic Revolutionary Front "...” (Garrison, Interview in October 1967 *Playboy* Magazine [full CIA-"sanitized" text online]; also quoted in Baker, 2014, p90; we recommend the CIA copy because other online copies appear to have been edited down).
There had indeed been a period when Batista’s autocratic excesses had alienated even the United States. No clear date emerges from the fog of history, but it seems that the CIA started actively to infiltrate and support the anti-Batista student group *Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil* (DRE) during the winter of 1956-1957, spreading discontent in general. Matters came to a head 13th March 1957 when activists attempted to storm the presidential palace, and dozens died.

**ASIDE:** Similar U.S.-advised provocateur groups are at work in Hong Kong at the time of writing in July 2019 - see Wikipedia briefing. They also cursed Venezuela in early 2019 - see Wikipedia briefing, Turkey in 2016, the Ukraine in 2014, Nicaragua in 2013, etc., etc. The term “fifth column” has been in common usage for this sort of activity since 1936; the term “agents provocateurs” since 1845. But the concept of sapping an enemy’s morale is actually as old as warfare itself.

The situation continued to deteriorate during 1957, and on 14th March 1958 the U.S. imposed an arms embargo against Batista. So it makes sense for the CIA to be smuggling light arms, propaganda material, and advisor-agitators to the DRE during 1957, and then heavier arms more directly to Castro during 1958. Baker (2014) wonders whether the Mob might also have had a say in things because Batista was becoming bad for tourism, and that reduced takings at their Cuban casinos.

1958 [29th August-13th September] JFK and New Orleans [LXXIII - MACS-1 On The Move]: [Continued from 11th July 1958] On 29th August LHO's Marine Aircraft Group, MAG-11, is ordered to relocate to Taiwan in response to the deepening 2nd Taiwan Straits Crisis [see 23rd August 1958]. MACS-1 will continue to operate from Atsugi until the last minute, but sends a small advance party to Taiwan on 4th September.

**ASIDE:** MACS-1 is to be located "in the Kaohsiung area" (Swike, 2008, p866) [map], more specifically, eight miles east of that port at Pingtung (North) Airfield [map].

LHO is apparently *not* in this advance party. Indeed it is possible that he is still in the brig at this date, if the duty officer on the night before departure, William K. Trail, is not mis-remembering. This from 1981 ...

"I do recall that the night before MACS-1 was to embark for Taiwan (during September, 1958), I was the duty officer. I recall that a couple of men were brought from the brig (Oswald was one of them) and spent the night in the duty shack with a brig guard in attendance" (Trail, letter to Swike, 17th July 1981, reproduced as Attachment 14-B in Swike, 2008, pp906-907).

*In his main text Swike cites Ken Trail (p874), but the attachment is clearly signed “Bill”.*

On 8th September a MACS-1 detachment of 30 men is sent down to the docks at Yokosuka to start loading USS *Skagit* [Wikipedia shipography] their allocated transport. In addition to the unit's regular *impendimenta* the ship needs also to be loaded with several hundred tons of steel hard-standing sections and an emergency consignment of 5" ammunition for onward transit to the offshore Chinese Nationalist strongholds on Quemoy and Matsu.

↓↓↓↓↓ **DATE CONFUSION ALERT** ↓↓↓↓↓

The histories now start to bicker as to what happens next. We have followed the USS *Skagit* Veterans Website where we can, then Swike, then Summers (1980/2013), and then Greg Parker’s online forum. We shall start with the comparatively reliable unit diary dates (and even these are far from consistent) ...

*Thursday 4th September:* MACS-1 advance party departs for Taiwan, as noted above.
*Monday 8th September:* 30-man work detail sent down to the docks at Yokosuka, as noted above.
*Saturday 13th September (interpolated):* MACS-1 gets trucked out of Atsugi en route for Yokosuka.

**ASIDE:** Click here to see a photograph of MACS-1 going aboard.
Sunday 14th September: Skagit sails [some tellings] despite impending Typhoon Helen and encounters very heavy weather.

Tuesday 16th September: Skagit sails [HSCA archive date, probably incorrect]. LHO's Medical Card indicates he reported sick this day, but this could have been at Atsugi or on board.

Friday 19th September: Skagit docks at Kaohsiung and starts offloading.

Sunday 21st September: Skagit finishes offloading.

Monday 29th September: MAG-11 up and running at Pingtung.

The problem with fitting LHO's comings and goings into this time-frame is that you have to decide which of the above dates is the day "MACS-1 was to embark" mentioned by Trail above, for it could be either 8th or 13th, thereby dating LHO's return from the brig as either 7th or 12th (respectively 25 or 30 days longer than the original 48 days of his sentence). We prefer the first option (a) because "it's believed that Lee Harvey Oswald was in this [work detail]" (Swike, 2008, p866), and (b) because he is about to report sick 14th September and what he is complaining of takes three days to come out and is difficult to catch in the brig [sub-thread continues at 14th September 1958]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1958 [14th September-5th October] JFK and New Orleans [LXXIV - Lee Reports Sick]: [Continued from 29th August 1958] LHO reports sick 14th September, and is in treatment, query sexually transmitted infection, for a full six weeks, on and off. His medical records for this period will rightly attract much attention over the coming years, and official photographs of these documents will in due course be presented to the Warren Committee Investigation in the form of a 39-sheet folio of evidence collated by Staff Medical Officer Captain George Donabedian [no convenient biography], from Marine Corps HQ, WashingtonDC Although personally he has neither met nor examined LHO, nor produced any of the documents in question, it will be Donabedian's job to explain the medical terminology to the laymen of the Investigation. His 39-page folio will then be compressed into 36 pages in the Warren Report as a formal exhibit.

CAUTION: Do not confuse Donabedian with Senior Medical Officer Paul Deranian, one of LHO's attending physicians. Nor is it guaranteed, as far as we can see, that all the original record sheets were included in said folio, nor (noting the variable filing punches used) that they were taken from a single filing location.

Donabedian's testimony and exhibits are readily available in the online Warren Commission Report as follows ...

Volume VIII [full text online] pp311-315 for Donabedian's testimony.

Donabedian's exhibits have since been edited and re-typed we-know-not how many times by various agencies and authors, and we are about to do it yet one more time, with explanatory hyperlinks and remarks of our own. Where the original was handwritten we have used this cursive font, where the original was typed we have used this font. But firstly we need a crash course in clinical venereology if we are to cope with the concepts and abbreviations we are about to encounter ...

CLINICAL VENERIOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS: Male patients typically attend a V.D. clinic with a "discharge" - a foul-smelling runny pus oozing from the urethra [=the pee hole]. The physician removes a sample of this discharge on a sterile swab, and "smears" a small amount of it onto a glass microscope slide. S/he then dries it momentarily over a bunsen burner flame to "fix" it, and then stains it with Gram stain - a dark purple dye. S/he then washes the stain from the slide with alcohol, lets it dry, and then views it under a microscope. "Gram positive" organisms show purple (because something in their cell walls prevents the alcohol washing the stain away), and "Gram negative" organisms show clear/pink (because their cell walls do not prevent the stain being washed away) ...

click here to see examples of both
This investigation takes about 20 minutes from start to finish, and would typically be carried out by an assistant if one was available while the physician continued to engage with the patient.

*The smear test is important because it so happens that the main Gonorrhoea bug is gram positive.*

The microscopic examination will also reveal the shape of the bacterium involved, and how - if at all - they might be clustered. The two main sorts are the bacillus [pl. bacilli], which is rod-shaped, and the coccus [pl. cocci], which is spherical. Cocci which routinely come in pairs are called diplococci.

*This observation is also important because it so happens that the main Gonorrhoea bug is a diplococcus.*

A second swab of the discharge is then sent for "culturing". This involves wiping the swab gently across the surface of nutrient agar in a Petri Dish, and then incubating it overnight in a body-temperature cabinet. In the morning every single organism on the agar will have multiplied millions of times into "colonies" visible to the naked eye ...

Read it. See it.

These colonies are now closely inspected using a hand lens, sorting the possibly pathogenic ones from the everyday ones (the "normal flora"). A suitable colony is then carefully picked off with a sterile probe and spread on a fresh culture plate. This time, however, an antibiotic "assay ring" is added before the culture is incubated. Each assay ring is like a thin paper spider, with a different test antibiotic at the end of each of its legs.

*It follows that the organism will NOT grow around any antibiotic to which it is "sensitive".*

See the assay ring and sensitivity zones here (Figure F).

See LHO's 24th September sensitivity results at Exhibit p602 below

The "Cult. and Sens." instruction is thus the backbone of evidence-based clinical management, but - as we have just seen - it typically takes 48 hours (two overnight cultures) to get the results back. In practice, therefore, if the discharge and discomfort are severe enough the clinician will usually dispense Penicillin as a matter of course on the basis of the smear alone, even though there is no way of knowing if Penicillin was going to work until the culture results come back in two days time.

Here, in date order, are a selection of Donabedian's exhibits. We begin with an entry 12th July 1958, containing the first mention of LHO's haemorrhoids ("Rx" stands for "Recommendations", and "h.s." for *hora somni*, i.e., "at bedtime") ...

++++++++++++ Donabedian Exhibits, Warren Report Volume XIX, p596 +++++++++++++

++++++++++++ Hospital Clinic Attendance 12th July 1958 +++++++++++++

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7.12.58</th>
<th>BLEEDING FROM RECTUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[For?] past 1 mo. has noted blood on paper p[ost] BM [bowel movement]. This AM 1-2 drops bright red blood dripped into stool. BMs light brown &amp; very hard. Exam: SL[ight] excoriation[?] and mod[erate] [unclear] hemorrhoids. Rx: Mineral oil h.s. x2 detergent[?] rectal suppositories.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASIDE:** We cannot make head nor tail of the [unclear], but then neither could Warren Investigation staffer John Ely (Volume XIII, p312). The detergent rectal suppository helps break down any contributing faecal impaction. Sadly, LHO will need further investigation for this problem on 10th October 1958.

We move next to an entry 10th August 1958, containing the first mention of a sexually transmitted infection. This examination appears to have been conducted not at "main side", the base hospital, but at a lesser coughs and colds parade serving the MAG-11 compound, and possibly fronted only by a
Corpsman. Ominously, either LHO appears not to have followed this visit up, or Captain Donabedian omitted the follow-up from his evidential folio for whatever reason.

8-10-58  Slight burn on urination. Has urethral discharge. to main side for UD check.
          Smear.

            ASIDE: Assuming Donabedian has given us a full set of records, LHO did not do as instructed, and there is now a five week gap before he re-presents. And this infection does not go away on its own!

We move on now to a five-visit cluster of attendances starting with one at the minor clinic and moving on to four at the main side clinic. There are a lot of mixed typewritten and handwritten entries on this record sheet, and not all are neatly left-justified. The entry for 16th September confirms that the infection presents as gonorrhoea microscopically, and recommends Procaine Penicillin four times a day \[qid=\text{quater in die}\] for three days. Note the Cult. and Sens on 20th September, as discussed above. By that day it is clear that Penicillin has not been helping, and so a different antibiotic is tried instead. On 22nd/23rd the infecting organism is re-identified - see the TECHNICAL ASIDE below.

14 Sept 58 to main side for Smear.

SEP. 16. 1958 URETHRAL DISCHARGE TO LAB FOR SMEAR
          GRAM NEGATIVE DIPLOCOCI INTRA
          AND EXTRACELLULAR MORPHOLOGICALLY RESEMBLING NEISSERIA GONOCOCCI
          Rx 1) PROC PEN 900,000 u[nits] g[id 3
          return Monday [unclear]
          for repeat smear.

Sept 20 Still has profuse disch - somewhat clearer.

1958 Received course of penicillin ending 2 days ago:

          Rx - Chloromycetin Caps.
          T. QID
          Ret Mon for smear
          & Cult. & Sens. <<<<<<<<<< as mentioned above <<<<<

SEP. 22. 1958 and URETHRAL DISCHARGE

SEP. 23. 1958 still present & occ SMEAR: MANY PUS CELLS, NO ORGANISMS

          Burning on urination NOTED
          CULTURE: MICROCOCCUS PYOGENES VAR. AURENS <<<<< see TECHNICAL ASIDE below

          Rx1) continue Chlora x 7 days
          2) Diet instructions given
          3) Return Monday
repeat smear  [signature]

**ASIDE:** We believe there are two typographical errors on the master copies here. Firstly the culture result should be VAR - meaning variant or type - instead of VAS, which is meaningless in this context, and secondly it should read AUREUS - meaning golden - not AURENS, which is not a word in English or Latin. The guilty bug is now a *Staphylococcus Aureus*, as now detailed ...  

**TECHNICAL ASIDE - STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS:** (Greek *stafylia* = grapes; *kokkos* = berry) This is an error in the Marine Corps’ master copy. The *S. aureus* family is one of bacteriology’s best known villains, being the “SA” in the killer MRSA [Wikipedia briefing]. It is all around us, and all over us, and generally our immune systems can keep it under control. But if it gets a foothold it can produce anything from a pimple to fatal septicaemia. It kills some 50,000 people a year in the United States, many from hospital-acquired infections. Microscopically, the organism presents as a cluster-forming (hence *stafylia*) Gram positive coccus (although strictly speaking it is a round bacillus). It seems to have evolved Penicillin resistance during the late 1940s.

Donabedian's p602 actually belongs after p603 rather than before it, so as to maintain the time sequence. It is a 23rd September Cult. and Sens. Request, overwritten with a next-day Culture Result and Sensitivity List.

+++++++++++++++ Donabedian Exhibits, Warren Report Volume XIX, p602 ++++++++++++++++  
+++++++++++++++ Bacteriology Papers (x2) 23rd-24th September 1958 ++++++++++++++++  

9-23-58  Urethral discharge  Sensitivity test  
Culture: Staphylococcus hemolytic <<<< = *S. aureus*, as above

**SENSITIVITY TEST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antibiotic</th>
<th>Dosage</th>
<th>Sensitivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dihydrostreptomycin</td>
<td>100 mcgm</td>
<td>+ +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streptomycin</td>
<td>100 mcgm</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penicillin</td>
<td>20 units</td>
<td>&lt;&lt;&lt;&lt; not sensitive to Penicillin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aureomycin</td>
<td>30 mcgm</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terramycin</td>
<td>30 mcgm</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetracycline</td>
<td>30 mcgm</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythromycin</td>
<td>30 mcgm</td>
<td>+ + + &lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;this is the most effective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloromycetin</td>
<td>30 mcgm</td>
<td>+ +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfadiazine</td>
<td>30 mcgm</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfasoxazole</td>
<td>30 mcgm</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrofuradantoin</td>
<td>30 mcgm</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASIDE:** The plus and minus signs in the right-hand column indicate the degree of sensitivity of the organism to the antibiotic named in the left-hand column, at the dosage stated in the middle column. This particular organism is resistant to Penicillin, so may have out-thrived the *H. gonorrhoeae* earlier in the course of treatment.

We move on to a four-event cluster of attendances, starting with one at the main side clinic, followed by two at the base hospital as an in-patient, and ending with one aboard his troopship. In terms of the treatment sequence it is a clear continuation of p603. However, it is not the verso of p603, but rather a continuation sheet pro-forma (same column headings but no identification boxes). Again there are a lot of mixed typewritten and handwritten entries as the visits run their course, and not all attendances are neatly left-justified.

+++++++++++++++ Donabedian Exhibits, Warren Report Volume XIX, p604 ++++++++++++++++  
+++++++++++++++ Various (x4) 29th September - 3rd November 1958 ++++++++++++++++
SEP. 29, 1958  URETHRAL DISCHARGE  SMEAR  MANY PUS CELLS, NO ORGANISMS NOTE[d]

good response to therapy - has been doing much heavy lifting
Rx 1) light duty 3 days
2) Repeat smear 1 week <<<<< no antibiotics given

OCT. 6 1958  URETHRAL DISCHARGE  SMEAR  MODERATE AMOUNT OF PUS CELLS. FEW GRAM POSITIVE COCCI
Severe heavy discharge & occasional dysuria[difficult urination] - has been doing [word scratched] heavy lifting recently <<<<< no treatment stated???

OCT 24 1958  Urethral discharge  Pyridium D[uty]  Smear  return 5 days <<<<< did he???
few pus cells
some mucous threads noted
occasional gram pos. cocci noted !

11/3/58  Should have course of Erythromycin <<<<<<<< aboard troopship home!
250 qid X5d

REMARKS: On 29th September, seeing no organisms under the microscope, the physician seems to judge - wrongly, it will transpire - that the antibiotics have worked, and so on this occasion no repeat prescription is given. By 6th October, however, the infection has come back with a vengeance, yet strangely there is no mention of further antibiotics being given. Following 24th October there is no record of any 5-day follow-up visit having taken place. Only on 3rd November is the correct antibiotic given - five weeks after the 24th September sensitivity test.

Donabedian's p605 is a back-office type-up of the earlier clinical entries, on a pro-forma headed "CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF MEDICAL CARE". It is not intrinsically dated but contains entries for 16th September only. Upon close inspection it is clear that most of the typing has been stock-copied, with a few fields typed in. This indicates that LHO is not the only Marine to have contracted V.D. in the line of duty, perhaps by going out into town to hear the latest pillow talk. We have set the typed-in fields in blue. The column 1 abbreviations were officially explained to the Warren Commission as CC = Chief Complaint, PI = Present Illness, PH = Past History, PE = Physical Examination, and LAB = Laboratory.

+++++++++++++ Donabedian Exhibits, Warren Report Volume XIX, p605 ++++++++++++++
+++++++++++++++++++
Summary Report for 16th September 1958 ++++++++++++++++++++

9/16/58  Diagnosis: Urethritis, Acute, due to gonococcus #0303 <<<<< see inset below
Origin:  In line of duty, not due to own misconduct <<<<< see inset below
CC:  Urethral discharge
PI:  Patient complains of a slight discharge and a stinging sensation on urination.
PH:  Previous V.D.: <<<<< see inset below
PE:  Essentially negative except for a thick mucopurulent
discharge from the urethra

LAB: Smear reveals gram negative [error on master] intra- and extracellular diplococci having the morphology of N. Gonorrhea

RX: Procain Penicillin 900,000 Units I.M. X 3 days

9/16/58 To duty under treatment and observation:
PES-1421(VD) submitted No B 754

SUBMITTED P. DERANIAN
CAPT. MC USN

ASIDE: #0303 is a "C.C.", a Chief Complaint code, a clerical device to allow epidemiologists to track the health of large bodies of people open to a wide variety of complaints. It signifies that the condition in question was sustained "In line of duty. Not due to own misconduct", and is important to the extent that it affects the patient's pension and compensation rights (Zaid, undated, Oswald and V.D. [full text online]).

We finish with another out-of-sequence record sheet, namely p589, which appears before the other medical photostats but includes items as late as 6th and 10th October. Lines #2 and #3 are scratched through and replaced by #4.

++++++++++++++ Donabedian Exhibits, Warren Report Volume XIX, p589 ++++++++++++++

10-7-57 W/M, UPPER LT. ARM #8255 D. NOV. 15 1957
10-6-58 URETHRITIS, ACUTE, Due to C.C. (0303) DNEPTE
10-6-58 ERROR
10-6-58 URETHRITIS, ACUTE, Non-Venereal (6072) DNEPTE
10-10-58 SIGMOIDOSCOPY (466) D[UTY] 10-13-58 (7)<<<<<<<<<<<<< see below

**REMARKS:** The switch from non-culpable venereal to non-venereal matches the transition from *H. gonorrhoeae* infection to *S. aureus* between 16th September and 23rd September. The tag #0303 decodes as "In line of duty. not due to own misconduct", and the tag DNEPTE, signifies "Did Not Exist Prior to Entry".

**TECHNICAL ASIDE - SIGMOIDOSCOPY:** Sigmoidoscopy is the inspection of the rectum and sigmoid colon for inflammation, bleeding, suspicious growths, tearing, and even on occasions foreign objects unwisely inserted. This inspection is carried out using an endoscope introduced rectally. Nowadays this is done with a highly micro-engineered flexible imaging system for screen display. In the 1960s, it probably involved one of these. We do not know why this examination should have been necessary, because Donabedian's folio of photostats does not include the corresponding attendance notes. Perhaps it was a recurrence of the 12th July rectal bleeding - see p596 above.

One of the issues of recent debate is whether LHO actually sailed with his unit, remained at Atsugi as MACS-1 (Rear), or sailed but was then separately flown back. The Ferrell Foundation, for example, holds documents indicating that LHO remained at Atsugi as part of MACS-1 (Rear). Swike (2008) concludes similarly based on his study of LHO's pay records, which show that "none of Oswald's pay came from Taiwan or even MACS-1 after August 20, 1958" (p896). But Greg Parker has him going with the unit and then coming back on his own, as indeed does Summers. We, too, prefer this version of events because it fits nicely with an otherwise "odd" incident on the night of 4th/5th October 1958 when LHO loosed off a number of shots into the darkness beyond the perimeter fence while alone on sentry duty. He was found either-in-or-feigning a distressed state, and was returned to Atsugi the following day. Given the number of continuity errors highlighted above, we are far from convinced that Captain Donabedian did a particularly thorough job informing the Warren Commission [sub-thread continues at 6th October 1958]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]


1958 [16th November-22nd December] JFK and New Orleans [LXXVII - Lee at San Francisco]: [Continued from 14th October 1958] Following his return from Japan, LHO is assigned temporarily to "Casual Company" at San Francisco's "Treasure Island" Naval Station [Wikipedia briefing] [sub-thread continues at 22nd December 1958]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1958 [22nd December-15th October 1959] JFK and New Orleans [LXXVIII - Lee at El Toro]: [Continued from 16th November 1958] LHO reports for duty this day to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing at the Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, where he is assigned to MACS-9. Here he "immediately began his Russian studies" (Swike, 2008, p966). "Little is known", Swike continues, "about Oswald's remaining military service in the States" (p966). Most histories follow the approved narrative by recording that on 25th February 1959 he famously sits a Russian test, scoring poorly.

**ASIDE:** The pejorative "poor" comes straight out of the Warren Commission Report and is not entirely accurate, thus ...

"The Warren Report skated quickly over the details of Oswald's progress in learning Russian, saying only that [...] he rated 'poor'. In fact, Oswald scored +4 in Russian reading [...] +3 in written Russian, and -5 - indeed a low result - in understanding spoken Russian" (Summers, 1980/2013,p140).

This is consistent, Summers argues, with him having been working on the language during his time in Japan.

On 19th March 1959, already planning life after the Marine Corps, he applies to the Albert Schweitzer College, Churwalden, Switzerland ...

**ASIDE:** A photostat/transcript of the application form can be inspected as Warren Committee Exhibit #228 - check it out. Readers are advised not to take this place at face value, for it smells mightily like an intelligence operation concealed by genuine students, just like those detailed in Chapter 6 of Hugh Wilford's (2008) book "The Mighty Wurlitzer: How the CIA Played America". Click here for a more detailed critique.

On 17th August he applies for early release date on the grounds that his mother, Marguerite Oswald, needs his care. On 4th September he applies for a passport, presenting as proof of identity a not-yet-valid DD1173 Marine Reserve Identity and Privilege Card [he will not be entitled to privileges until discharged a week later, and so the card is stamped 11th September - Ed.].

**ASIDE - THE BUFF IDENTITY CARD:** La Fontaine and La Fontaine (1996) devote the whole of their Chapter 3 to the story of the DD1173 Identity Card. For our present purposes we need merely to note that the colour is wrong for a reservist Marine UNLESS they are a civilian employee entitled to military discounts on overseas bases. Not all authorities accept the validity of the La Fontaines' research, however.

On 11th September 1959, he is discharged from the Marine Corps, released early "by reason of hardship", and returns to New Orleans. His mother's hardship will not detain him there long [sub-thread continues at 20th September 1959]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]
1959 [22nd January] Chennault's Various Air Forces [XXXIII - CATI Supports HOTFOOT]: [Continued from 1st July 1957] In early 1959, a U.S. Special Forces Group codenamed HOTFOOT begins operations in Laos. CAT, now increasingly using Sikorsky UH-34 helicopters, supports these operations.

ASIDE - SIKORSKY UH-34: The Sikorsky UH-34 [Wikipedia briefing] was a bit of a workhorse, and is historically noteworthy for being the last piston-engined helicopter prior to the move across to gas turbine models such as the Bell UH-1 Huey. The UH designation indicates "utility" helicopter, that is to say, general purpose rather than specialised in weapons, avionics, and crew skillset for, say, anti-submarine operations.

CAT senior pilot Robert Edward Rousselot [no convenient biography, but many helpful 2007 obituaries are available to the determined browser] manages the transition to rotary wing, and four experienced U.S.M.C. helicopter pilots are re-uniformed to help out [sub-thread continues at 25th March 1959]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1959 [25th March] Chennault's Various Air Forces [XXXIV - CATI Becomes Air America]: [Continued from 22nd January 1959] Now in its 12th year of operations, the CAT air-fleet is finally rebranded and re-livered as Air America [Wikipedia briefing]. In fact, there is a complex corporate web at work here, hiding behind a number of fronting names. Leary (2002) does his best to explain how all these Accountants' tricks affected operations in the field ...

"By the early 1960s, there were a plethora of company identities under the Pacific Corporation [Wikipedia briefing], which was the interface between the secret and open worlds. These included Air America, which operated in Southeast Asia and Japan; Air Asia, which designated the giant maintenance complex on Taiwan; Southern Air Transport [Wikipedia briefing], based in Japan; and Civil Air Transport, which flew commercial routes between Seoul and Bangkok. No matter what the name, however, there was a single aircrew seniority list. A pilot, for example, might wear his Civil Air Transport hat and fly a load of tourists into Bangkok, where he would put on his Air America baseball cap and make an airdrop to forces engaged in fighting in Laos" (viii).

The principal maintenance base for all these air-fleets (and many more since) has long been at Pinal Field, Marana [AZ] [map: take a tour], 20 miles north-west of Tucson. This from Wikipedia at time of writing [the hyperlinks are ours] ...

"From 1948–51, Pinal County leased the property to multiple tenants, and from 1951–56, Marana was reused as a contractor-operated USAF basic flying school, operated by Darr Aeronautical Technical Company. Marana became the headquarters of all Central Intelligence Agency air operations during the Vietnam War years, when it was the primary facility of Intermountain Airlines [Wikipedia briefing], a wholly owned CIA "front" company which was used to supply covert operations in Southeast Asia and elsewhere. Intermountain was infamous for its thinly veiled CIA special ops [...] but its cover was its non-scheduled freight and maintenance operations. Marana was the principal continental United States maintenance base for Southeast Asia CIA operations including Air America and Continental Air Services [Wikipedia briefing]" (snipped 15th July 2019).

Air America will stop flying passenger traffic after a spate of crashes in early 1968 [sub-thread continues at 10th August 1960]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1959 [20th September-15th October] JFK and New Orleans [LXXIX - Lee Whistle-Stops Europe]: [Continued from 22nd December 1958] Having said his goodbyes to his family LHO takes passage on the SS Marion Lykes, bound for Le Havre, France. He is one of only four passengers, sharing a cabin with one Billy Joe Lord and reputedly suffering badly from seasickness. He arrives at Le Havre 8th October, and takes the night ferry for England. On 9th October he docks at Southampton, and the following day flies out of Heathrow for Helsinki, perhaps via Copenhagen or Stockholm, checking in to that city's Torni Hotel for the night. On 13th October he relocates to the Klaus Kurki Hotel and applies at the Soviet Consulate for a six-day tourist visa. The visa is granted the following day, and he catches the Moscow train on the 15th [sub-thread continues at 13th October 1959]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

host "a group of men from New York City", seeking advice on building "a World Trade Center in lower Manhattan" (Carpenter, 2014, p204) ...

**ASIDE:** Headed by billionaire banker David Rockefeller [check him out] the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association had begun planning a "World Trade and Finance Center" since 25th May 1959. However, contrary advice during the period of due diligence cast doubt on the viability of the project. Rockefeller therefore sacked the advisors and recruited new ones with bigger ideas.

Whatever it is that Nutter and Shaw tell their visitors, it clearly does not put them off, and work on the WTC begins 6th August 1968 [sub-thread continues at 15th October 1959], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1959 [15th October] **JFK and New Orleans [LXXXI - JFK Speech]:** [Continued from 13th October 1959] JFK gives a speech to New Orleans' Radio and Television News Directors' Association on the responsibilities of honest journalism. He asks them particularly to learn how "to educate without indoctrinating". What a lovely idea … [sub-thread continues at 16th October 1959], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1959 [16th October] **JFK and New Orleans [LXXXII - Lee Crosses into Soviet Union]:** [Continued from 15th October 1959] On 16th October LHO arrives in Moscow, where an Intourist courier conducts him to the Hotel Berlin. On 17th October, his guide-for-the-duration, Rima Shirokova, shows him the sights of Moscow, during which tour he tells her he wishes to defect. Since Intourist liaised closely with the Passport Office, and they with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, he is able to submit an application for Russian citizenship "that same day" (Warren Commission Report, Appendix XIII, p691. When MACS-9 messmates eventually get to hear of his defection in the news, many nod their heads sagely and judge him as a patriot on a mission (La Fontaine and La Fontaine, 1996) [the New Orleans sub-thread continues without LHO at 21st October 1959; for LHO in the Soviet Union see the dedicated sub-thread <LHO the Defector>], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1959 [21st October] **JFK and New Orleans [LXXXIII - Alton Gets a "Sensitive Position"]:** [Continued from 16th October 1959] Thanks to an FBI statement of approval, Alton Ochsner is cleared for sensitive work on behalf of the CIA. Modern conspiracy theorists make much of the defence-funded research which will subsequently take place at the New Research Building [see next two entries] during the early 1960s [sub-thread continues at 21st November 1959], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1959 [??th December] **JFK and New Orleans [LXXXIV - Toys For Children]:** [Continued from 21st October 1959] Around mid-December 1959 David Ferrie helps out with Parish efforts to collect toys for Christmas gifts for the children at the Crippled Children's Hospital. Most of the children here are past polio victims, and many have at some time been in the care of the Ochsner Foundation Hospital's Mary Sherman (Baker, 2014). Baker further asserts that Ferrie personally told her that he was introduced to Sherman at one of these gatherings. She then suggests (a) that he took this opportunity to explain to Sherman that he had looked after Robert Heath's research menagerie back in 1956-1957 [see ??th December 1956], and (b) that, with the Ochsner Foundation Hospital's New Research Building nearly ready [see next entry], Sherman might well have mentioned that she would need him for her own research one day soon, and would get back to him [see 15th November 1962] [sub-thread continues at 19th December 1959], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1959 [19th December] **JFK and New Orleans [LXXXV - Alton Gets His New Lab]:** [Continued from ??th December 1959] The Ochsner Medical Foundation's New Research Building is formally dedicated this day, and Drs. Schales and Segaloff begin to transfer across from the Old Research Building (Caldwell, 1965, p93) [sub-thread continues at ??th August 1960], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

advisors spend the next three months helping Phoumi's forces regroup, until on 21st November 1960 they are able to mount a counter-attack in a Civil War to recover Vientiane [sub-thread continues at 13th December 1960]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1960 [77th August] JFK and New Orleans [LXXXVI - CIA Invited to Speak]: [Continued from 19th December 1959]
International Trade Mart publicist Jesse Core (check him out) writes CIA Deputy Director Charles Cabell, inviting him to speak at the Foreign Policy Association of New Orleans (Carpenter, 2014). Clay Shaw, one of the Directors of said association, will introduce Cabell on the night. Carpenter, albeit with the benefit of hindsight, will later remark ...

"The fact that Earle Cabell was mayor of Dallas at the time of President Kennedy's assassination, and his brother was a prominent CIA employee who would essentially be fired by Kennedy in January 1962, months after the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961, have provided fertile ground for conspiracy theorists over the years. Shaw's brief association with Charles Cabell through [this speech] has compounded the issue" (p217).

Cabell's visit will take place 9th May - see below [sub-thread continues at 18th February 1961]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

***** GERRY GETS TOOLED UP *****

1961 [1st April (Guesstimate)] Assassination Hardware [The Johnson 30.06 Semi-Automatic Rifle (I - Acquired)]: [New sub-thread] In readiness for the Bay of Pigs Invasion [see below, 17th April], where he was slated to be giving tactical covering fire, INTERPEN commander Gerry Hemming (check him out) acquires a Johnson M1941 and Bushnell Hunting Scope (check them out), the sniper's combo which some researchers suspect was used in the JFK shooting, and recovered at the scene [sub-thread continues at 18th September 1961]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

***** BOBBY UNWISELY DISRESPECTS CARLOS *****

1961 [4th April] JFK and New Orleans [LXXXVIII - Carlos Gets Run Out of Town]: [Continued from 18th February 1961] In the mistaken belief that he, as Attorney General, is the law around these parts, RFK has New Orleans Mafia boss Carlos Marcello (a dangerous man to have as an enemy) deported to Guatemala for not having the appropriate right of residency papers. After six weeks or so Marcello ends up stranded in the capital of Honduras [sub-thread continues at 20th April 1961]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1961 [20th April] JFK and New Orleans [LXXXIX - Nutter Leaves the House]: [Continued from 4th April 1961] Charles Nutter (check him out) announces that he will be resigning as Managing Director of International House, effective 1st June [sub-thread continues at 9th May 1961]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1961 [9th May] JFK and New Orleans [XC - The CIA Pays a Call]: [Continued from 20th April 1961] On 9th May 1958 (but arranged by Jesse Core [check him out] nine months previously) General Charles Cabell [check him out], Deputy Director of the CIA, speaks to the Foreign Policy Association of New Orleans. Clay Shaw acts as M.C. for the event. More than 400 persons attend the talk. Assassination esearcher Edward T. Haslam, Jr., will later refer to this event in his (2007/2014) book "Dr. Mary's Monkey" [Amazon]. His interest is with New Orleans' right-wing underground and its attendant propaganda machine. Here are some of the organisations and people which just keep on cropping up ...

"The reactionary sentiment in New Orleans centred around civic organisations which promoted trade with Latin America, like International House and the International Trade Mart. [Alton] Ochsner himself was President of International House, and he joined International Trade Mart's Clay Shaw on the Board of Directors of the Foreign Policy Association of New Orleans, which brought CIA Deputy Director Charles Cabell to New Orleans to discuss the Communist threat [...]. Ochsner saw the situation clearly. With revolutionaries in the capitals of Latin America, the displaced elite would no longer be able to jump on jets and fly to New Orleans for medical treatment. The medical empire he built was threatened. Ochsner did something about it. He became a fanatical anti-Communist [...] and founded an organisation called INCA, the Information Council of the Americas. INCA's objective was to prevent Communist revolutions in Latin America by teaching the
sordid truth about Communism to the Latin American masses. In brief, it was a right-wing propaganda mill [...]. Financing for INCA is said to have come from Ochsner personally and from other doctors and business people in the New Orleans area. [...] Sears heirs Edgar and Edith Stern, owners of WDSU radio and television, were members of INCA. Eustis Reily of the Reily Coffee Company personally donated thousands of dollars to INCA. Of all the names on the INCA letterhead, the most interesting one is INCA's 'Chief of business', who was described as the 'Past President of the National Society of Former professional disgrace [...].

One flight down to Honduras one night to pick up RFK [...].

vices Committee, or of his desire to preach doctrinal anti [...].

The Foreign Policy Association of New Orleans takes advantage of the quorum to pass a resolution at the same gathering approving its name be changed to the Foreign Relations Association of New Orleans, to better reflect the fact that the Constitution of the United States already has a perfectly adequate system for handling foreign policy qua policy [sub-thread continues at 26th May 1961]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

***** JFK TRIES TO GET A GRIP ON VIETNAM *****


1961 [26th May or hereabouts] JFK and New Orleans [XCI - David Fetches Carlos]: [Continued from 9th May 1961] David Ferrie is contract pilot for a clandestine flight down to Honduras one night to pick up RFK-deported Carlos Marcello, and drop him back to the United States, probably to an airfield in Texas. Marcello will duly hand himself in to the U.S. immigration authorities in New Orleans on 3rd June (Baker, 2014) [sub-thread continues at 30th June 1961]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]


***** THE MAN WHO STARTED MODERN REMEMBRANCE *****


1962 [4th April] The U.S. Hard Right [The RFK Offensive (Walker's Stennis Testimony)]: [Continued from 21st September 1961] General Edwin Walker gives testimony to the ongoing Stennis Hearings. He makes no secret of his connections to the John Birch Society, or of his desire to preach doctrinal anti-Communism to the troops he had had under him in Germany, until relieved of his command 17th April 1961. His defence, indeed, was that the mere fact that he was in professional disgrace [he would fall into personal disgrace in the mid-1970s when twice arrested for "lewdness" offences -Ed.] was evidence in itself of precisely the
sort of Communist plotting he had been fighting against. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES] [THREAD = THE PSYCHOLOGY OF HATE]

1962 [20th August] The Venezuelan Dispute [VII - A Belated Appeal is Lodged] [Continued from 3rd October 1899] Long disgruntled at the judgement of the 1899 arbitration Tribunal, and knowing now that the Orinoco Basin is one of the planet's largest oilfields, and advised therefore by some very pushy oil exploration companies, the Venezuelans lodge a late appeal at the United Nations against the 1899 decision [sub-thread continued at 17th February 1966 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1962 [1st October] General Edwin Walker [Pre-Assassination Activities (University of Mississippi Arrest)]: Following a night of violent clashes - now remembered as the "Ole Miss Riot" [Wikipedia briefing] - between Southern segregationists and civil rights activists over the admission of a black student to the Oxford campus of the University of Mississippi, one of those arrested is the leader of the segregationists, General Edwin Walker. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1962 ['late' January] Assassination Hardware [The Johnson 30.06 Semi-Automatic Rifle (II - Pawned)]: [Continued from 1st April 1961] In Los Angeles in company with Loran Hall and Dick Watley, and fearing arrest for possession of a weapon while under caution (so his later story goes), Gerry Hemming visits local private investigator Richard Hathcock and pawns his Johnson M1941 and Bushnell Hunting Scope [check them out], the sniper's combo which some researchers suspect was used in the JFK shooting, and recovered at the scene [sub-thread continues at 18th September 1963], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1963 [19th March] Charles Chilton's "The Long Long Trail" [see 27th December 1961] is restaged for the theatre by the Joan Littlewood Theatre Workshop under the title "Oh, What a Lovely War".

1963 [18th September] Assassination Hardware [The Johnson 30.06 Semi-Automatic Rifle (III - Unpawned)]: [Continued from late January 1963] Unbeknown to its rightful owner, Loran Hall unhocks Gerry Hemming's Johnson M1941 and Bushnell Hunting Scope [check them out], the sniper's combo which some researchers suspect was used in the JFK shooting, and recovered at the scene, and takes it to Dallas with him on his next trip [sub-thread continues at 1st November 1963], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

***** JFK WANTS THE 16,000 U.S. ADVISORS OUT OF VIETNAM *****

1963 [11th October] U.S. Defense Protocols [NSAMs (#263 - JFK's Last Statement on Vietnam)]: To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - click to be transferred. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = MAKING AMERICA GREAT]

1963 [30th October] The Jewfish Creek Incident: Shortly after midnight U.S. Customs Service officials bust two carloads of gun-runners at Jewfish CreekFL [map] preparing to load a consignment of arms onto a boat for transhipment to Cuba. One of the cars is driven by life-long scoundrel Loran Eugene Hall [check him out], The weapons are confiscated but no charges are brought (Kaiser, 2008).

1963 [1st November] Assassination Hardware [The Johnson 30.06 Semi-Automatic Rifle (IV - Reported Stolen)]: [Continued from 18th September 1963] Discovering that Loran Hall now has possession of his Johnson M1941 and Bushnell Hunting Scope [check them out], the sniper's combo which some researchers suspect was used in the JFK shooting, and recovered at the scene, and generally irritated at what he regards as Hall muscling in on his piece of the action, Gerry Hemming reports the weapon stolen and names Hall as the culprit [sub-thread continues at 23rd November 1963], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

1963 [Wednesday 20th November] The Honolulu Conference: Most of JFK's Cabinet gather in Honolulu for a one day conference with Ambassador to South Vietnam Henry Cabot Lodge on the subject of proposed policy in Indochina [Mary Ferrell Foundation briefing], [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]
1963 [Saturday 23rd November] Assassination Hardware [The Johnson 30.06 Semi-Automatic Rifle (V - The FBI Already on the Trail)]: [Continued from 1st November 1963] Acting upon MOST URGENT instructions from FBI Washington, FBI Los Angeles send SA Jerome K. Crowe to the offices of slightly murky private investigator Richard Hathcock. Crowe arrives mid-morning and asks to speak to Hathcock’s associate Roy B. Payne ...

... the usual - but never officially confirmed - presumption at this point is that a weapon somehow traceable back to Payne had been recovered the previous day from the JFK murder scene ...

Hathcock telephones Payne to get his butt into the office pronto, and when he arrives Crowe quizzes him about Gerry Hemming’s Johnson M1941 and Bushnell Hunting Scope, the focal topic of this sub-thread. Payne explains that he had merely stripped and test fired the weapon while it had been in Hathcock’s possession as security against a loan to Hemming, and Crowe is satisfied with that explanation. Hathcock is subsequently one of those who will explicitly presume the link to Dealey Plaza, thus ...

"It's my opinion that the reason [Crowe] wanted to see Mr. Payne was because Payne's fingerprints undoubtedly were all over that rifle from his having handled it many times. It's also my opinion that unless that particular rifle had been found or in some way involved in the whole thing, that the FBI would have no interest in it" (Richard Hathcock, HSCA affidavit, 9th March 1977).

To see SA Crowe’s later-that-day report, click here [sub-thread continues at TBA]. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY]

***** LBJ REVERSES JFK'S POLICY ON VIETNAM *****

1963 [Tuesday 26th November] U.S. Defense Protocols [NSAMs (#273 - LBJ’s First Statement on Vietnam)]: To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - click to be transferred. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = MAKING AMERICA GREAT]

1964 [13th February] The Winnipeg Incident: Delayed for a while in the passenger lounge of Winnipeg International Airport, Canadian salesman Richard Giesbrecht [YouTube him now] accidentally overheard an incriminating two-man conversation concerning those responsible for the JFK assassination. A third man - who had held back unseen for a long time - then signalled the first two that they were being eavesdropped upon and tried to prevent Giesbrecht from leaving the scene. Giesbrecht duly reported the incident to both the FBI and the RCMP, but nothing came directly of it. Half a century later, however, researchers such as John Bevilacqua are hazardng guesses at the identities of the three men. When his story first broke in 1967, Giesbrecht himself tentatively identified one of the men as David Ferrie, then presently in the news following his "suicide". The second man was a Latino with a pock-marked face, a hearing aid, and homosexual mannerisms. The third man - the minder - was in his early 30s, fair with a ruddy complexion, and a "piggy nose" (John Ruddy, MacLean's Reports, November 1997 [full text online]).

***** VIETNAM IN THE CROSSHAIRS *****

1964 [17th March] U.S. Defense Protocols [NSAMs (#288 - Vietnam War to be Escalated)]: To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - click to be transferred. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = MAKING AMERICA GREAT]

1964 [17th May] The National Enquirer Piece: Reporter John Henshaw [no convenient biography] publishes a piece in the National Enquirer front-paged as "Link Ruby & Oswald" [full text online]. Here is how pioneering Conspiracy Theorist Joachim Joesten explains the piece's impact ...

[Outro]
The story inside, by reporter John Henshaw, stated that Ruby and Oswald had been working together for the Central Intelligence Agency. The fact that Oswald and Ruby knew each other is, of course, extremely important, and there had been rumours that a man named Bill De Mar [no convenient biography] had said that he had seen the two together at Ruby's nightclub. An Enquirer reporter traced Bill De Mar to an Evansville nightclub on April 11 and he confirmed the story. He added, 'I gave the FBI a statement about seeing Oswald in the club and that was it [...']. Bill De Mar is a man who was in a position to know what he's talking about: under the stage name of Bill Crowe he was master of ceremonies at Ruby's club, the Carousel. The Enquirer story goes on to say that the Dallas police suspected Oswald and Ruby of being involved in an attack on General [Edwin] Walker, and was going to arrest the two when the FBI intervened and asked the police not to do so for 'reasons of state'. [... The] recipient of that FBI letter was, of course, Chief of Police Curry, who leaked it to reporter Henshaw [...]. The story also asserts that it was the CIS which got the FBI to intervene” (Joesten, 1964, p198).

1964 [30th May] The BBC air the first of an award-winning 26-part TV documentary "The Great War". The lead narrator is Michael Redgrave, and the lead author is the historian John Terraine.

***** CLASS-DEFINING FALSE FLAG WAR STARTER *****

1964 [30th July] False Flags in the Vietnam War [The Gulf of Tonkin Incident (I - Preliminaries)]: To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - click to be transferred [sub-thread continues at 2nd August 1964]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 20TH CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

***** CLASS-DEFINING FALSE FLAG WAR STARTER *****


***** CLASS-DEFINING FALSE FLAG WAR STARTER *****


***** CLASS-DEFINING FALSE FLAG WAR STARTER *****

1964 [5th August] False Flags in the Vietnam War [The Gulf of Tonkin Incident (IV - LBJ Addresses Congress)]: [Continued from 4th August 1964] To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - click to be transferred [sub-thread continues at 7th August 1964]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 20TH CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

***** CLASS-DEFINING FALSE FLAG WAR STARTER *****

1964 [7th August] False Flags in the Vietnam War [The Gulf of Tonkin Incident (V - The Senate Resolution)]: [Continued from 5th August 1964] To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - click to be transferred [sub-thread continues at 17th August 1964]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 20TH CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

***** CLASS-DEFINING FALSE FLAG WAR STARTER *****

1964 [17th August] False Flags in the Vietnam War [The Gulf of Tonkin Incident (VI - The CINCPAC Report)]: [Continued from 7th August 1964] To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - click to be transferred [sub-thread continues at 1st September 1964]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 20TH CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

***** CLASS-DEFINING FALSE FLAG WAR STARTER *****

1964 [1st-30th September] False Flags in the Vietnam War [The Gulf of Tonkin Incident (VII - The Joint Chief's Report)]: [Continued from 17th August 1964] To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - click to be transferred [sub-thread...
1965 [22nd February] False Flags in the Vietnam War [The Gulf of Tonkin Incident (IX - Operation Flaming Dart)]: [Continued from 22nd February 1965] To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - [click to be transferred] [sub-thread continues at 22nd February 1965], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 20TH CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

1965 [8th March] False Flags in the Vietnam War [The Gulf of Tonkin Incident (X - The Marines Go In)]: [Continued from 22nd February 1965] To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - [click to be transferred] [sub-thread continues at 8th March 1965], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 20TH CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

1966 [17th February] The Venezuelan Dispute [VIII - The Geneva Agreement]: [Continued from 20th August 1962] At U.N.-brokered talks in Geneva between Britain, British Guiana [due to become Guyana in three months], and Venezuela the centuries-old issues of the Schomburgk Line [<=this sub-thread, I thru VII] are resurrected. As in 1899, an arbitration panel - known in this instance as the "Mixed Commission" - is set up and given four years to look into the matter. The full text of the agreement is available on the United Nations website [check it out]. Talks are accompanied by regular bloodshed incidents in the border area [sub-thread continued at 18th June 1970 ...], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

"By early 1982 there were at least 300 Israeli advisers in Guatemala"


A STRANGE THOUGHT: The Guatemalan population at the time was some four million people, so there is actually a valuable psychological datum here - if you kill one fortieth of a hostile population it shuts the rest up. The population of the American colonies in 1776 was some two and a half million people. So to put things in proportion the British would have had to hunt down and execute 62,500 Continental "insurgents" to have reliably kept control of the Americas (it would not be politically correct to call them "farmers" any more, although this, factually, just like the Guatemalans, is what they would have been).
For further details we recommend Rubenberg's (1986 [full text online]) article entitled "Israel and Guatemala: Arms, Advice, and Counterinsurgency" [sub-thread continues at 14th January 1986...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1967 [15th May] The Garrison Inquiry [Attempts to Discredit (Aynesworth's Newsweek Piece): (All highlighted entries have their own entries) In his (2010) book "Legacy of Doubt" [Amazon] Peter Noyes reminds us that [after his near-telepathic performance keeping up with events on the day of the assassination - Ed.], cub reporter Hugh Aynesworth had by 1967 progressed to Newsweek magazine, from where he forcefully promoted the Establishment line. Here he is - interfering in due legal process, surely - with an Op. Ed. belittling the ongoing Garrison Investigation...

"Perhaps the most perceptive observer of the circus in New Orleans was Hugh Aynesworth, of Newsweek magazine. Writing in the May 15, 1967, edition of Newsweek, Aynesworth had this to say about the Garrison investigation: 'Jim Garrison is right. There has been a conspiracy in New Orleans - but it is a plot of Garrison's own making. It is a scheme to concoct a fantastic "solution" to the death of John F. Kennedy, and to make it stick; in this cause the district attorney and his staff have been parties to the death of one man [the recently murdered David Ferrie - Ed.] and have humiliated, harassed, and financially gutted several others”’ (Noyes, 2010, K1220).

FURTHER READING: For more evidence suggesting a coordinated Deep State program hoping (in the event successfully) to frustrate the New Orleans investigation, start with the entry for Edgar Eugene Bradley and follow the (many!) onward pointers. [THREAD = THE JFK ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACIES]

***** CLASS-DEFINING FALSE FLAG WAR STARTER *****


***** CLASS-DEFINING FALSE FLAG WAR STARTER *****

1967 [6th December] False Flags in the Vietnam War [The Gulf of Tonkin Incident (XII - The Whistle Blown)]: [Continued from 17th June 1967] To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - click to be transferred [sub-thread continues at 13th June 1971], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 20TH CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

1968 [16th February] The Garrison Inquiry [The Case Against Bradley (The Turner Memorandum): (All highlighted entries have their own entries) One of Garrison's investigators, William W. Turner, sends in a three-page memorandum - the Turner Memorandum [full text online] - in which he introduces the following cluster of inter-related suspects/witnesses (in order of mention; all have their own entry)...

Thomas Thornhill; Carol Aydelotte; Wesley Brice; Carl McIntire; Dennis Mower; Loran Hall; Roger Burr; David Bransby; George Willard; Edward McCarthy; Bob Wells; John Lorenz; Clifford Barker; George Fink; William Potter Gale; Clinton Wheat; and Wesley Swift.

All those named are involved during the early 1960s in ultra-right direct action operations across the Deep South, including bombings and shootings.


chapters Fred Hampton [check him out], is victim of a 4 a.m. 14-man FBI raid authorised under the COINTELPRO Programme by J. Edgar Hoover ...

There is background on the FBI's 1956 COINTELPRO initiative for proactively detecting left-wing sympathisers by creating seemingly left-wing entrapment organisations in the entry for the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (FPCC) in the Companion Resource.

Hampton (still asleep) and one Mark Clark are executed at point blank range, and half dozen other residents are wounded. The case will attract much discussion as it goes through courts and councils for the next twenty-plus years, inspiring both retribution and reconciliation in about equal measure. FURTHER READING: The Fred Hampton story is widely retold online, but if you need a quotable source see Jeffrey Haas' (2019) "The Assassination of Fred Hampton" [Amazon REVELATORY].

1970 [18th June] The Venezuelan Dispute [IX - The Port of Spain Protocol] [Continued from 17th February 1966] After a year of talks, the Final Report of the 1966 Mixed Commission is published. In short there has been no substantive progress, and so the parties merely agree to a 12 year moratorium, to expire in 1983. The political parties within Guyana start blaming each other for their intransigence [sub-thread continued at 18th June 1983 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

***** CLASS-DEFINING FALSE FLAG WAR STARTER *****


1978 [8th May-8th May 1990] Costa Rica, 1871-2018 [VII - Rowdy Neighbour Years, 1978-1990]: [Continued from 8th May 1958] We turn now to the three Costa Rican presidencies between 1978 and 1990, who are noteworthy in the present context because they each have some degree of contact with events in Nicaragua to the north. The first is President[1978-1982] Carazo [Wikipedia biography], who is in power at the time (Nicaraguan) President Somoza [Jnr.] [check him out] is overthrown by the Sandinistas [check them out] and the Contras [check them out] are created by the United States to redress the balance. The second is President[1982-1986] Monge [Wikipedia biography], who is in office at the time (Nicaraguan) President Daniel Ortega [check him out] comes to power. He also witnesses the first two years of the Iran-Contra Affair [check it out]. And the third is President[1986-1990] Óscar Arias [check him out], who is in power at the end of the Iran-Contra Affair, and who so effectivley reduces regional tensions that he is awarded the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize [sub-thread continues at 8th May 1990 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1979 [16th January-1st April] The Islamic Revolutions, 1979-ongoing [The Ayatollah Takes Iran]: [Continued from UNDER CONSTRUCTION] Having faced political and civil unrest since late 1977, and with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini [check him out] (presently in exile in Paris) acting as a focal symbol for that unrest, the Shah of Iran Mohammad Reza [check him out] finally decides that his health (cancer) and affairs of state have got out of control and flees into exile himself (an unwelcome guest in most places he will die in Egypt 27th July 1980). The rump government immediately invites Khomeini back to Tehran, and on 30th-31st March 1979 a national referendum is held on whether to remain a kingdom or become an Islamic Republic. The voting is 98% in favour of the latter and Khomeini becomes de facto Supreme Leader the following day [sub-thread continues at 4th November 1979 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]
1979 [4th November-20th January 1981] The Islamic Revolutions, 1979-Ongoing [U.S. Embassy Hostages]: [Continued from 16th January 1979] Having been in office six months, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini [check him out] accepts post facto a student activist occupation of the American Embassy in Tehran, in which 52 American diplomats and staff are held hostage for 444 days. On 24th April 1980 President Carter authorises a special airborne snatch operation codenamed Eagle Claw [Wikipedia briefing], but it is abortcd with casualties following aircraft breaking down and colliding in a sandstorm [sub-thread continues at UNDER CONSTRUCTION ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1980 [22nd September-20th August 1988] The Iraq-Iran War: Fearing that the newly formed Islamic Republic of Iran [see 16th January 1979] is intending to turn its Shi'ite regions against it, the Ba'athist government of Iraq launches an attack across the Shatt Al Arab waterway 22nd September 1980. Despite Iraq's predominance in armour the front soon bogs down, and both sides end up accepting a United Nations brokered peace 20th August 1988. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1981 [5th June] The History of Infectious Diseases [Classics of Epidemiology (A Strange New Syndrome)]: Today's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report carries a report of 5 men, aged 29-36 years, who in the preceding 9 months had been treated for Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), a rare parasitic lung infection. Because such minor disease clusters as these can sometimes augur worse to come, they are regularly scanned by a monitoring committee of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Wikipedia briefing] in AtlantaGA. When this particular Weekly Report is discussed it raises eyebrows because PCP is a disease "almost exclusively limited to severely immuno-suppressed patients". But it has happened five times, and so it therefore jangles some epidemiological bells to see the phrase "all active homosexuals" in the first sentence of the report. A similar alert relates to a cluster of cases of Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS), a disfiguring viral growth rarely seen in healthy subjects; again all active homosexuals. The PCP cases were clustered in Los Angeles, and the KS cases in NYC. The compelling but as-yet-unconfirmed suspicion is therefore that something has been creating an immunodeficiency in these men, which has, in turn, been allowing the secondary diseases named above [known in the jargon as "opportunistic infections - Ed.] to take hold. One of those on the CDC panel at the time is a young epidemiologist named Mike Osterholm [check him out], and the CDC's Jim Curran [Wikipedia biography] is appointed to head the resulting task force. They begin by calling on front-line clinics to be on the alert for similar cases, and by the end of the year, they will have identified 270 cases, mostly gay men or intravenous drug users, of whom 212 had already died. By September the following year, the pattern of infection was clear enough to justify the official nomen "acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)"', and, because there was a clear sub-stream of cases from outside the gay or injecting communities resulting from receiving blood from infected donors, Task Force Curran concludes that a hitherto unknown blood-borne virus must be involved. Finally, on 23rd April 1984, Dr. Robert Gallo [Wikipedia biography] of the National Cancer Institute identified the pathogen as retrovirus HTLV-III [Wikipedia briefing]. As to where the disease came from originally ...

"HIV most likely began in the jungles of Africa as an infection in primates such as monkeys or chimps, and it lingered there for many decades before crossing over into the human population. [...] The virus probably jumped species as people killed, butchered, and had extensive blood contact with infected primates. From there, human-to-human sexual transmission was probably the main means of spread" (Osterholm and Olshaker, 2017, p15)

Other explanations are less charitable, however, as explained recently in the scientific literature in a paper by Ross, Essien, and Torres (2006 [full text online at PubMed]), which see. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = MAN AGAINST MICROBES]

1982 The British historian Colin Hughes [no convenient biography] publishes "Mametz", a long-overdue history of the 38th (Welsh) Division's part in the taking of Mametz Wood, 5th-14th July 1916. We have already included a number of excerpts from this work in the entries for July 1916 and shall consider that story told. However his inclusion of testimony of a certain Corporal Hetschold of the
Lehr Regiment gives a detailed first-hand account of what it was like to be buried alive in a collapsing dugout [sufferers from claustrophobia, feel free to skip this bit] ...

"In the dug-out in which I was, 100 comrades soon gathered. It was a strong dug-out but after a short barrage it also gave way. First an entrance collapsed and many suffocated. Then a shell landed in the middle and we were thrown hither and thither. As we came to our senses again, there was a dust shell sticking out from under the framework of the dug-out. We all took fright but it did not explode. We breathed again. But then the next followed immediately. A fearful rending, all the candles were out, shouts and groans. I can still breathe, I hear my comrades calling 'The long gallery is smashed in right up to us; we must get out!' I see two boots, pull hard and manage to free a comrade, who was already dead. But we can do nothing for the others; four metres of earth lie on them. I shudder. There is no escape here. As we make for the second entrance, the next shell smashes in. We are buried alive" (p149-150).


1983 [18th June 1983] The Venezuelan Dispute [X - Impasse] [Continued from 12 years before] At the end of the 12 year moratorium the Venezuelans decide not to extend it, and simply resurrect their original 1899 claim. Interactions between the two parties are closely monitored by a U.N. Secretary General's representative [sub-thread continues at 6th September 2011 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

***** CLASS-DEFINING FALSE FLAG WAR STARTER *****

1984 [1st August] False Flags in the Vietnam War [The Gulf of Tonkin Incident (XIV - The Kwitney Reveal)]: [Continued from 15th June 1971] To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - click to be transferred [sub-thread continues at 1st February 2008], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 20TH CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

1985 [7th July] Concerned that there was no 38th (Welsh) Division monument, the South Wales branch of the Western Front Association start a fund-raising campaign. The result, formally dedicated 7th July 1987, will be Y Ddraig Goch [= "The Red Dragon"] [Wikipedia briefing]. Appropriately enough, this memorial is placed facing Mametz Wood, the sight of the Division's first bleeding [see 5th July 1916], on the "cliff" opposite the south eastern corner of the wood known as the "Hammerhead". [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1986 [14th January to date] Guatemala, 1898-2018 [XI - A New Beginning, 1986-2018]: [Continued from 1st July 1966] We presently have nothing to say about the ten presidencies between 1986 and 2018. In 2018 Guatemala repaid 70 years of thinly documented cooperation with Israel by being one of the first to recognise the relocation of the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem [end of Guatemala, 1898-2018 sub-thread]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1986 [1st December] The Tower Commission: President Reagan commissions Senator John Tower [Wikipedia biography] to investigate the part played by National Security Council (NSC) staff in the Iran-Contra Affair [check it out]. The commission will produce its report 27th February 1987, and to the extent that he is criticised therein Reagan addresses the nation 4th March 1987 and takes it on the chin - YouTube it now.

1987 [5th May] The Walsh Commissions: Following the publication of the findings of the Tower Commission [see 1st December 1986], Congress convenes two further investigations of the Iran-Contra Affair [check it out], one in the Senate under Senator Daniel Inouye [Wikipedia biography] and the other in the House under Representative Lee H. Hamilton [Wikipedia biography]. The Lead Counsel for both investigations is Lawrence Walsh [Wikipedia biography], and there are minor differences in the respective terms of reference. Both commissions will take evidence until 6th August 1987 and present a single composite report in November [full text online - FASCINATING STUFF]. Seven members unwilling to
countersign to the majority conclusions are allowed to append a minority conclusion to reflect their areas of protest.


1994 [21st July] The Death of British Democracy [I - Political Patronage (New Labour)]: Tony Blair takes over as Leader of the Labour Party following the death in service of John Smith [Wikipedia biography] two months previously. With him begins a successful three-year campaign to make Britain's traditional Labour Party - "Old" Labour - 'electable after a century of trying to alleviate working class hardship. Campaign funding comes directly from Lord David Sainsbury [check him out], amongst others, or as arranged via fundraiser-extraordinaire Lord Michael Levy [ditto]. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

1998 [8th August] The Hawaiian Annexation [XV - The Hawaiian Patriotic League]: [Continued from 4th July 1898] The Hawaiian Annexation was originally formed in 1893 to protest the annexation process. It was then largely lost in the mists of time until resurrected in the 1990s in the run-up to the Centenary remembrances of the annexation. Described now as "a small but vocal native sovereignty movement" (New York Times), ethnically aware Hawaiians begin demonstrations and symbolic actions [check one out] aimed at raising ethnic pride and awareness. To avoid accusations of lack of patriotism and insufficient respect for the Stars and Stripes, the line is usually taken - especially by Native Hawaiian veterans - that they are American and patriotic, but looking forward to the restoration of the kingdom. The Hawaiian Royal flag was trooped around Oahu during Centenary week [read the Honolulu Star-Bulletin report] [sub-thread continues at 8th November 1999 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

1999 [8th November] The Hawaiian Annexation [XVI - Larsen vs. The Hawaiian Kingdom]: [Continued from 8th August 1998] A test case is brought forward by a Native Hawaiian named Lance Paul Larsen [no convenient biography] against the Kingdom of Hawaii in the Permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague. Unfortunately it was in due course ruled an empty plaint in that it did not also cite the United States as co-defendant [click here for the full legal reasoning] [sub-thread continues at 1st October 2018]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

2000 [1st May] Rioting protestors deface the Whitehall Cenotaph with the text "Why glorify war!"


2001 [29th March] "127 Illuminated Windows": See the Glossary entry for The E-Team.

2001 [31st March] "Quick Click": See the Glossary entry for The E-Team.

"That's not a conspiracy ..." (apols Crocodile Dundee)

2001 [11th September] Right Wing Exceptionalism After Versailles [Fascism in the U.S. (The 9/11 Attacks)]: [Read firstly the Companion Resource entries for False Flag Attacks and Neocons ESSENTIAL CONTEXT.] On 11th September 2001, for reasons yet to be finally established, and by persons yet to be identified (and not necessarily even on board - Ed.), aircraft were flown into the north and south towers of Manhattan's World Trade Center [Wikipedia briefing]. Shortly afterward, the two show towers and the neighbouring WTC7 collapsed as though pre-rigged with demolition charges ...
Now known to history as "nine-eleven", these events have gone on to polarise opinion between those who accept the official story above, and many others who believe instead (a) that the buildings were indeed destroyed by deliberate controlled demolition, and (b) that the instigators were Neocon conspirators of some description from within the American Deep State. **FURTHER READING:** For more on the "inside job" theories, see next the *Companion Resource* entries for *Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth*, *Controlled Demolition Explanations of the WTC Attacks*, and *9/11 False Flag Attacks*. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW3 IN THE MAKING]

2002 [26th May] **The 9/11 Attacks [Investigations and Inquiries (91st Floor, WTC1, Survivors' Stories)]**: On 26th May 2002 the *New York Times* runs a piece on the lucky escape of some art students from the 91st floor of the North Tower. See *TASK 2* in the entry for *Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth* for the fuller context and clickables. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 9/11, FALSE FLAG OR NOT?]

**** FOX NEWS RITUAL DISEMBOWELLING ****

2003 [4th February] **Jeremy M. Glick [no convenient biography], son of WTC1 (64th Floor) victim Barry H. Glick, bravely agreed to air his grief 4th February 2003 in front of Fox News' Bill O'Reilly, and was ruthlessly belittled for daring to take an anti-Establishment stand - YouTube his humiliation now. Glick later explained that his shredding had not been much of a surprise, because he had studied Reilly's interrogation methods on videotape beforehand. Even so, the interview is far from being a reasoned First Amendment exchange of opinions, but rather precisely targeted televisial Orwellian propaganda. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 9/11, FALSE FLAG OR NOT?]

2005 [22nd September] **The American Deep State [The PNAC Masterplan (General Clark’s Anecdote)]**: On 3rd October 2007, General Wesley K. Clark [check him out] delivers a speech on FORA.tv as part of promoting "A Time to Lead" [Amazon], the story of his years as senior NATO commander. The speech includes the anecdote from Chapter 13 of the printed work, where he recalls first hearing that the United States had decided to "take out seven countries in five years", starting with Iraq, as punishment for them HAVING PLAYED NO PART WHATSOEVER IN THE 9/11 WORLD TRADE CENTER ATTACKS.

Clark explicitly tracks the proposal all the way back to what he calls "Paul Wolfowitz's 1991 playbook", by which he means the *Defense Planning Guidance Report, 1992* [check it out], which proposed a totally world-pre-eminent America "eager to keep its allies weak" (Mann, 2004, §4393), even if it meant disregarding due international process. The anecdote/video clip will henceforth feature regularly in truther books and documentaries. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 9/11, FALSE FLAG OR NOT?]
2008 [1st February] **False Flags in the Vietnam War [The Gulf of Tonkin Incident (XV - The Paterson Piece)]:** To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - [click to be transferred] [sub-thread continues at 13th June 2011], [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 20TH CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

2008 [1st October] **The 9/11 Attacks [Investigations and Inquiries (The Bazant, et al. Paper)]:** On 1st October 2008 (and claiming academic precedence [= first mention] as early as 13th September 2001) the *Journal of Engineering Mechanics* publishes a paper by Zdenek P. Bazant [check him out], et al., entitled "*What Did and Did Not Cause Collapse of World Trade Center Twin Towers in New York*" [full text online], defending the theory of fire-induced "viscoplastic buckling" of structural steelwork. This explanation - being also the official view of the NIST Report [Wikipedia briefing] - will subsequently be referred to as the "*NIST-Bazant Collapse Hypothesis*", but will later be challenged by the 9/11 Truther Movement [see 14th January 2009 below].

2009 [14th January] **The 9/11 Attacks [Investigations and Inquiries (The MacQueen and Szamboti Paper)]:** On 14th January 2009 the *Journal of 9/11 Studies* publishes a paper by Graeme MacQueen [check him out] and Tony Szamboti [ditto] entitled "*The missing jolts: A simple refutation of the NIST-Bazant collapse hypothesis*" [full text online], in which attention is drawn to the absence in the frame-by-frame video analyses of the collapses of all three of the World Trade Center towers of the joltings and hesitations characteristic of all accidentally falling structures ... Readers unfamiliar with the behaviour of buildings in free-fall explosive demolitions, in Vérinage double-crush demolitions, or in spontaneous "pile-driver" collapses, should check out the video links in the entry at 3rd/4th December 2010 before proceeding

Specifically, the authors argue that the work of Northwestern University’s Zdenek P. Bazant [Wikipedia biography] - typically Bezant, *et al.* (2008) [see 1st October 2008 above] - commits the fundamental scientific error of selecting data to support a pre-determined conclusion, and that as such it is unwittingly part of a broader U.S. government conspiracy to mis-state its part in the 9/11 Attacks. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 9/11, FALSE FLAG OR NOT?] [THREAD = CONSPIRATORS WHO CRY "CONSPIRACY GEEK!"]

2010 [3rd/4th December] **The 9/11 Attacks [Investigations and Inquiries (Jon Cole's 2010 Webinars)]:** [Go firstly to the entry for Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth and work your way through the STUDENT EXERCISE - HOW TO DEMOLISH A SHOW TOWER ESSENTIAL PRIOR SKILL.] On 3rd December 2010 civil engineer Jon Cole [check him out] releases a videotaped webinar entitled "*The 9/11 Experiments: Collapse vs. Demolition*", looking in detail at what the various physical laws of gravity and dynamics can tell us about the three 9/11 skyscraper collapses ... [YouTube it here] **ESSENTIAL VIEWING**

The webinar's perlocutionary value derives from the fact that Cole relies upon demonstration and re-staging - often with twenty-foot-high towers of bricks, etc., set up in his back yard - rather than upon the use of carefully choreographed software animations designed to promote a pre-asserted point. This makes great YouTube circus, and even better science. Real science. Real structures behaving for all to see. Science that wants to inform rather than conceal. And the conclusion drawn is that the tops of all three building cores began their descent in free fall under gravity, without any of the hesitations, lurchings, joltings, or lateral tiltings which typify unplanned collapses or botched demolitions. **The official story thus does not follow the fundamental laws of nature, and therefore simply cannot be the truth.** Cole goes further ...

**CAMEO- THE FIVE IF-THENS OF 9/11 TRUTH:** Toward the end of the 3rd December webinar, Cole sets out a very worrying five-stage example of inductive scientific reasoning. The argument rests on the absence of "jolts" as noted above, and runs as follows ...

"IF there are no jolts, THEN it's not a natural gravity collapse"
IF it's not a natural gravity collapse, THEN it's a man-made demolition
IF it's a man-made demolition, THEN it was planned before 9/11
IF it was planned before 9/11, THEN something is very very wrong"

[No Jolts, of course, means that 3000 people were "intentionally murdered" that day and many millions more killed in the wars wrongly initiated in the name of 9/11 justice ever since.]

"IF I am wrong, THEN prove it - by experiment"

A follow-up webinar is released the following day, this one entitled "The 9/11 Experiments: The Great Thermate Debate". This second webinar complements the first by looking at the techniques out there in the demolition world capable of disappearing structural steelwork to order, quickly and silently, and specifically (as suggested five years previously [see 22nd September 2005 above]), at the capabilities of thermitic shaped-charges ...

QUICKIE - ON THERMITIC PYROTECHNICS: In the days before readily-available oxy-acetylene kit, railway engineers in the backwoods used to weld railway lines together using a patented mix of common rust and powdered aluminium. It makes a quick sunflash and a shower of sparks, and puts out enough heat to melt steel at the welding face ...

YouTube crude welding thermite here
The practice was then extended to bring down awkward high steel buildings, as here, in 1945 ...

YouTube thermite in building demolition
The practice was then turned into state-of-the-art nano-chemistry by the world's major arms laboratories, with many patents being taken out on additives (e.g. Thermate), shaped charges (for more precise cutting), micromilling (for more bang per buck), and - finally - nano-compounding as Nano-Thermite.

2016 YouTube tutorial here

Here is the webinar itself ...

YouTube it here ESSENTIAL VIEWING

[Note the progressively increasing cutting power as Thermite is enhanced to become Thermate, and Thermate is enhanced to become Nano-Thermite. Note also the gradual improvements in Cole's technique, culminating in his successfully melting through a decently sized girder with a 1 kilogram charge of Thermate and a carefully focused burn!]

The science, in other words, is as plain as a pikestaff - thermitic pyrotechnics are demonstrably easily capable of "de-coring" a skyscraper, and of doing so, moreover, in near silence. More than ten years later [= May 2021], Cole's two series of demonstrations will remain unchallenged by further experiment.

[THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]


2011 [6th September] The Venezuelan Dispute [XI - Offshore Oil] [Continued from 18th June 1983] Guyana makes an application [full text online] to the U.N. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to extend its offshore drilling area. Strictly speaking this cannot be considered, being rendered ultra vires by the ongoing Esequiba border dispute. Venezuela accordingly counter-claims. Nevertheless over the coming months Guyana go their own way and award offshore drilling licences in the very waters the U.N. cannot guarantee are theirs [sub-thread continues at 10th October 2013]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]
2012 [22nd August] The Death of British Democracy [II - Political Patronage (The New Tory Right)]: The Guardian puts out a piece by Andy Beckett entitled "Britannia Unchained: The rise of the New Tory Right" [full text online], centrally featuring one of the Conservative Party's fast-tracking young firebrands, Dominic Raab, a Member of Parliament for barely two years. Beckett warns you what is coming your way with the following attributed quotation setting out Raab's views on the British in the workplace ...

"The British are among the worst idlers in the world. We work among the lowest hours, we retire early and our productivity is poor. Whereas Indian children aspire to be doctors or businessmen, the British are more interested in football and pop music."

Having noted Raab's "faintest hint of menace", the piece goes on to mention three further "potential party leaders" of the future, namely Kwasi Kwarteng, Elizabeth Truss, and Priti Patel. The coordinating force in their careers seems to be the highly doctrinaire Free Enterprise Group [no convenient briefing but much to reward the determined browser]. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2013 [10th October] The Venezuelan Dispute [XII - Offshore Oil Again] [Continued from 6th September 2011] The Venezuelan Navy detain a Guyanan licenced oil exploration vessel in waters they claim are theirs. Still going their own way, Guyana awards an oil exploration licence to Exxon Corporation in early 2015 [sub-thread continues at 27th May 2015]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

***** CLASS-DEFINING FALSE FLAG WAR STARTER *****

2014 [12th March] False Flags in the Vietnam War [The Gulf of Tonkin Incident (XVII - Retrospective)]: [Continued from 13th June 2011] To avoid duplication, this story is told as a single long entry in the Companion Resource under <Gulf of Tonkin Incident> - click to be transferred [end of sub-thread]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 20TH CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

2015 [27th May] The Venezuelan Dispute [XIII - Exxon Drillson] [Continued from 10th October 2013] Exxon find oil in the Stabroek Block, offshore the Esequiba Delta and the Venezuelan Navy intensify patrols into the disputed area [sub-thread continues at 30th January 2018]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]


2015 [12th September] Corbynism [The 2015 Leadership Election (Results)]: In the first round of voting in the 2015 Labour Party Leadership Election [Wikipedia briefing] Jeremy Corbyn wins 59.5% of the votes cast, pushing contender Andy Burnham into second place with 19%. Under the constitution of the party no second round of voting is necessary with this large a majority, and so Corbyn duly becomes Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition. The victory celebrations are marred by the sound of knives grinding out there in the side rooms. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2016 [26th May] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [Issues and Definitions (IHRA-2016)]: At an international conference in Bucharest, Romania, delegates sign off on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)'s [check them out] 11-point "Examples of Antisemitism" [full text online], referred to herein as IHRA-2016. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

***** THE TORIES UNWISELY MAKE IT PERSONAL *****
2016 [29th-30th June] Corbynnism [Corbyn on the Ropes (Cameron Punches Low)]: In an act of faux-Cromwellian offensiveness Prime Minister David Cameron rebukes Leader of the Opposition Jeremy Corbyn in the House of Commons with the admonition, "For heaven's sake man, go" - YouTube it now. [scroll to closing ten seconds].

ASIDE: The present author recalls swearing out loud at his television when this appeared on that evening's news. The following morning, still white with anger, he mailed his application to join the Labour Party. He thought he would be the only one to have been thus provoked, and yet within weeks well over 100,000 like-minded old farts had done likewise.

2016 [5th August] The Death of British Democracy [III - Social Media (A Personal Note)]: Following David Cameron's faux-Cromwellian get thee gone [see 29th June 2016], the present author joins the Facebook group <We Support Jeremy Corbyn> [Facebook Homepage] to keep track of developments. He is confronted by new names by the minute, and so starts to keep scribble-notes of contributors to, and subjects of discussion in, said forum. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2016 [6th August] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [Social Media (A Personal Note)]: Having started his battle diary only 24 hours previously [see preceding entry], the present author's scribble-notes record that this morning's BBC Breakfast Show gives journalistically unchallenged secondary publicity to a Mail Online piece by Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis [check him out], criticising the Chakrabarti Inquiry into anti-Semitism in the Labour Party for not going far enough. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2016 [11th August] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [Get Corbyn! (Marcus Dysch)]: A piece in The Jewish Chronicle by Marcus Dysch entitled "No more holding back" [full text online] notes ...

"British Jewry's leading institutions provided an uncharacteristic display of their disgust with Mr Corbyn, and blasting to smithereens any lingering chances of a future working relationship with him. There should be no illusions now: this is the end - of both the Jewish community's cordial, almost century-long relationship with the Labour Party, and quite probably of the Labour Party in its current form."

The Dysch piece is the 12th item in the scribble notes we opened six days earlier [<= 5th August], and - though we have no recollection of it whatsoever - we can safely say that it did not write itself. We therefore presume (a) that Dysch's entirely partisan views made it through without inspection or balance to one of the BBC's news programmes, and (b) that, as an anti-Corbyn propagandist, Dysch had been writing for the BBC's audience all along. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2016 [14th August] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [The Chakrabarti Inquiry and Report (Michael Foster)]: Labour Party donor until 2015 Michael Foster [Wikipedia biography] publishes a piece in Mail Online banded "'Why I despise Jeremy Corbyn and his Nazi stormtroopers' by Jewish Labour Donor Michael Foster" [full text online]. The nub of Foster's argument (apart from the fact - in case you hadn't noticed - that he is no fan of Jeremy Corbyn) is that the Chakrabarti Report "was anything but independent" [we are to take this as read, apparently, for not a word of actual evidence is offered - Ed.]. It would have been much better, Foster goes on, had Corbyn started his own "party of the Left" instead of stealing "the respectable cloak of the Labour Party brand".

ASIDE: Kier Hardie was not available for comment on the respectability issue.

[THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2016 [1st September] The Death of British Democracy [IV - Political Patronage (New Labour)]: Current affairs commentator Solomon Hughes publishes a piece in the [CAUTION - left-wing] Morning Star entitled "How Billionaire Lord Sainsbury Bankrolled the Birth of New Labour" [full text online], in which he
explains how [Lord] David Sainsbury helped to create Tony Blair's particular brand of neoliberalism. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2016 [3rd September] The Corruption of the BBC [Impartiality (A Personal Note)]: Angered by the incessant parroting of Labour-hostile briefing material on BBC radio and television news, never journalistically challenged unless done as part of a Labour-hostile sniggerfest, the present author cancels his Television Licence and turns to alternative methods of staying abreast of developments. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2016 [24th September] Corbynism [The 2016 Leadership Election (Results)]: In the 2016 Labour Party Leadership Election [Wikipedia briefing] Jeremy Corbyn wins 61.8% of the votes cast, leaving contender Owen Smith with 38.2%, and so Corbyn duly remains Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition. The victory is a trouncing of the party's centrists - the heavily externally funded Neoliberal [Wikipedia briefing] "Blairites" [Wikipedia briefing] - who had spent the previous 12 months plotting his ousting. The centrists, however, simply return to their side rooms, as metastases eating away at the body of traditional-values British Socialism. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2017 [18th January] The Corruption of the BBC [Impartiality (Kuenssberg Breaches Rules)]: Following a long investigation, the BBC Trust finally judges that a 2015 piece criticising Jeremy Corbyn by flagship political commentator Laura Kuenssberg had indeed breached its rules on accuracy and impartiality. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2017 [23rd November] The Death of British Democracy [V - Impartiality (Webb's La Chât Interview)]: BBC R4 Today presenter Justin Webb gives a rather saccharine filmed interview to a La Chât [Wikipedia briefing] senior, on the theme of "Impartiality" - YouTube it now. Somewhat ironically, the BBC had by then already been officially criticised for anti-Labour Party bias [<=18th January 2017], and by the time of the 2019 British General Election was ready to mount a supremely successful WW1-style baby-bayoneting propaganda campaign on behalf of rich supporters of the Conservative Party [browse by sub-thread «The Corruption of the BBC»]. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2018 [24th January] The present author uploads the first version of his "Encyclopaedia of Conspiracy Theory". [see current version - REQUIRES SCROLLING SO BEST ON LAPTOP].

2018 [30th January] The Venezuelan Dispute [XII - The U.N. Gives Up] [Continued from 27th May 2015] The U.N. Secretary General publishes his assessment of recent events [full text online] and more or less washes his hands of the whole affair, recommending that the matter is taken to the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Or settled the old-fashioned way [end of The Venezuelan Dispute sub-thread? OF COURSE NOT]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

2018 [19th March] The COVID-19 Pandemic [Pandemic Planning (Lords Amendment 227)]: This topic is dealt with as a CAMEO within the entry for 7th April 2020, which see. [THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]

2018 [10th May] The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (Bolton Sacks the Pandemic Team)]: On this the 556th day >>before<< the COVID-19 Pandemic, The Washington Post reports that National Security Advisor (NSA) John Bolton - having stood too long in the sun - has fired Rear-Admiral R. Timothy Ziemer [Wikipedia biography] from his post as President Trump's biodefense preparedness advisor, and is disbanding his team. For the full story we have to wait until Deirdre Shesgreen's 18th March 2020 piece in The Battleground Enquirer entitled "'Gross Misjudgement': Experts Say Trump's Decision to Disband Pandemic Team Hindered Coronavirus Response" [full text online]. [THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]

The piece presents three interlocking theses, namely (1) that the checks and balances which had been carefully built into the U.S. Constitution over the centuries have been systematically dismantled by those whom President Eisenhower (with no little foresight) dubbed the "Military-Industrial Complex" [National Archives Quickie COMPULSORY VIEWING], (2) that what General Wesley K. Clark [check him out] has called "Paul Wolfowitz's 1991 playbook" - by which he means the Defense Planning Guidance Report, 1992 [check it out], which proposed a totally world-pre-eminent America "eager to keep its allies weak" (Mann, 2004, §4393), even if it meant disregarding due international process - has resulted in a succession of similar tightly pre-planned atrocities, and (3) that the United States now lives in what Tom Engelhart (2011) here and David Ray Griffin [check him out] in this documentary term a "post-legal society". It is the notion that there has been a wholesale betrayal of everything the Constitution once stood for which causes a sizeable proportion of the population to go into denial. Here are some of the documentary's main quotation-worthy propositions (in order of appearance) ...

"This violates the laws of physics" (Lt. Col. Robert Bowman)
"The official story was not true" (Maj. General Albert Stubblebine)
"[The demolition had been planned] weeks if not months before" (Lynn Margulis)
"[The demolition] was a false flag by the facts" (Frances Shure)
"Nowadays the fear is constant" (Gore Vidal)
"The truth re-traumatises, but ultimately empowers" (Marti Hopper)

2018 [4th September] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [Issues and Definitions (The Lerman Paper)]: Highly experienced "lapsed Zionist" Antony Lerman [Wikipedia biography] publishes a paper entitled "Labour Should Ditch the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism Altogether" [full text online - CONTROVERSIAL BUT ESSENTIAL], full of deeply argued observations concerning the "politicising" of antisemitism in contemporary Britain. He complains that in the places which matter the old "liberal Zionism" has been replaced by a new "xenophobic and exclusionary" Zionism, which is why British Zionists [not per se British **Jews**, note - Ed.] now deploy antisemitism as a vote-catcher, thus (concerning Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party) ...

"The fact is that the damage has already been done. The default mode of almost all the mainstream media is to take as given that the party is institutionally antisemitic. And that its leader is either incapable or unwilling to do anything about it, except make pious statements that are ignored."

14 months later, MSM headlines are still mercilessly exploiting this line of attack in the 2019 British General Election, not for any benefit to Israel, but for the British political right wing, who - for obvious reasons - cannot get enough of it. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2018 [1st October] The Hawaiian Annexation [XV - The Hawaiian Social Media Rebellion]: [Continued from 8th November 1999] At the time of writing there exist a few FaceBook accounts pressing for Hawaiian de-annexation. Every posting will, of course, be carefully screened by USCYBERCOM [Wikipedia briefing], and counter-postings made by a dedicated and coordinated team of trained shills if and when
necessary. Mahalo! [(provisional) end of The Hawaiian Annexation sub-thread]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD]

2018 [19th November] The Death of British Democracy [VI - Political Patronage (Promoting Brexit)]: Investigative journalists Chloe Farand and Matt Hope publish a piece on the Desmog UK website entitled "Matthew and Sarah Elliott: How a U.K. Power Couple Links U.S. Libertarians and Fossil Fuel Lobbyists to Brexit" [full text online], in which they explain how the political lobbying system in the U.K. is heavily influenced by "major U.S. libertarian influences". Specifically, these include "fossil fuel magnates the Koch Brothers — known for funding climate science denial around the world — and the man who bankrolled Donald Trump’s campaign, Robert Mercer". [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [7th March] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [Get Corbyn! (Winstanley vs. JLM)]: Pro-Palestinian investigative journalist Asa Winstanley [check him out] publishes a piece in his The Electronic Intifada entitled "Jewish Labour Movement [check them out] was Reformed to Fight Corbyn" [full text online], in which the history of the JLM is chronicled. The JLM respond by whistling up a complaint strike, and within days Winstanley will have been suspended from the Labour Party and his press pass revoked. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

***** NOTE WELL THIS ENTRY AND BOTH RESEARCH ISSUES *****

2019 [12th March] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [Get Corbyn! (JLM vs. JVL)]: Pro-Palestinian investigative journalist Asa Winstanley [check him out] is suspended from the Labour Party for having criticised the anti-Corbyn Jewish Labour Movement (JLM) [see 7th March 2019]. The [CAUTION - pro-Palestinian/Pro-Corbyn] Jewish Voice for Labour [check them out] issues a statement "regretting" the suspension, which, they claim, was nothing but the deliberate picking off of a hostile activist "for daring to publicly reject the assertion that Labour is rife with antisemitism".

Note very carefully what is happening here!

In other words, the Labour Party contains both pro-Israel Jews and other Jews, squabbling amongst themselves over agendas with little to do with Labour Party objectives. Two major clusters of unknowns therefore scream out for answers ...

**RESEARCH ISSUE (1): Students of conspiracy theory are routinely interested in such unknowns as group sponsorship, the identity of its contacts, the identity of its funders, and the legality of the funds themselves vis-à-vis money laundering and electoral laws. It is also not known what sociographic mechanisms facilitate communication between group members, be they family, school, boardroom, educational or military fraternity, lodge co-membership, golf club, etc., etc.

RESEARCH ISSUE (2): Students of political ethics and constitutional studies also need to know, frankly, how fucking dare they, for regardless of the rights and wrongs this is not one-man-one-vote democracy at work!

[THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [Wednesday 10th July] The Corruption of the BBC [Impartiality (The Starmer Sniggerfest)]: In an R4 Today interview with Labour Party spokesman Sir Keir Starmer [see own entry], BBC presenter Justin Webb [see own entry] was heard "chuckling" in the background (The Daily Express, this date), thus disrupting the latter's presentation of his party's strategy on Brexit. STOP PRESS, 13th DECEMBER 2019: It was Labour's Brexit strategy which brought about the 2019 General Election, and, in some opinion, the Labour Party's subsequent defeat therein. Sir Keir may well stand for leadership of the Party following the defeat/resignation of Jeremy Corbyn in said election. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]
2019 [3rd September] The 9/11 Attacks [Investigations and Inquiries (Draft Hulsey Report Published)]: On or about 3rd September 2019 the University of Alaska at Fairbanks publishes a discussion draft entitled "A Structural Reevaluation of the Collapse of World Trade Center 7". Commonly referred to as the "Hulsey Report", this is the outcome of a 2015-2019 research programme led by the university's J. Leroy Hulsey [check him out ESSENTIAL READING]. The review-corrected version of the report will follow 7th March 2020 - see separate entry. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 9/11, FALSE FLAG OR NOT?]


RESEARCH ISSUE - "I AM THEIR LEADER, I MUST FOLLOW THEM" (various, incl Gandhi): This pearl of no little wisdom reflects the political truth that politicians must know where their herd is headed if they wish to veer them slowly round into a different direction. We are that herd, and whenever we are individually uncertain what to do or think, we like to look around to see what everybody else is doing or thinking. Opinion polls work mercilessly on this weakness of ours, telling us what they want us to believe instead of asking us what we do believe; and they will continue to do so until cognitive science develops a better understanding of the relationship between our rational will (such as it is) and our wholly primeval and irrational instincts.


2019 [3rd November] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [GE2019]: On the 4th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), having noted that their pre-existing social media attacks have been largely ineffective, Conservative Party politician Michael Gove spearheads the Israel lobby's latest line of attack. The assault is led by a Sunday Telegraph headline reading "Jews will leave if Corbyn wins", and is supported by a flurry of Tweets as though from Gove personally, but actually from paid staff. The Tweet flurry puts forward the proposition that "I know you’re a decent and moral person - but you and others must do far more to root out the antisemitism in your party - our Jewish friends and neighbours fear a Corbyn Government - time for you to stand with them and Israel". It is most clearly rebutted by the counter-proposition that "Conflating Israeli and Jewish people is antisemitic". [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [5th November] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [GE2019]: On the 6th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), Twitter correspondent [redacted], apparently a British Socialist of Jewish affiliation and/or extraction, complained to the airwaves that "an Israeli" had called them anti-Semitic. "Why am I not surprised?" they ask. Their answer is then that Israel is not the democracy it proclaims itself to be, but rather that "any opinion that doesn't subscribe to the dominant views of the [Israelis] state is 'anti-Semitic'". [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

***** BLATANT AIRBRUSHING OF THE TRUTH *****

2019 [Sunday 10th November] The Corruption of the BBC [Impartiality (The Cenotaph Edit)]: On this, the 11th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), Prime Minister Boris Johnson represents the government at London's Whitehall Remembrance Parade. He lays his wreath the wrong way up. On subsequent news reports, however, the BBC "accidentally" splice in corrective footage from 2016, despite thereby introducing a ramp of visual continuity errors. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF
2019 [11th November] **Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [GE2019]**: On this, the 12th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), Twitter correspondent [redacted], apparently a British Socialist of Jewish affiliation and/or extraction, proudly struck back against weaponised antisemitism with the words: "I'm Jewish and I stand with Jeremy Corbyn". More here as it happens...

2019 [11th November] **The Corruption of the BBC (GE2019)**: On this, the 12th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), a Twitter correspondent reminds leftists of a 2018 article by one Marcus Moore entitled "BBC's 'Churnalism'": read it now. In this 2018 article, the author explains how between 2010 and 2017 the senior management of the BBC was deliberately replaced, one by one (like the ill-fated citizens of Santa Mira in "Invasion of the Body Snatchers"), by assets of the right-wing Conservative Party, thus turning what had hitherto been a generally objective state news source into a shameless reactionary town crier [our metaphor - Ed.].

2019 [15th November] **Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [GE2019]**: On this, the 16th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), retiring anti-Corbynite M.P. Joan Ryan permits herself a parting shot at her one-time leader in a piece in the Mail Online bannered "Fear, hatred, and racism in Labour makes idea of Jeremy Corbyn as PM truly frightening" [full text online].


2019 [21st November] **The Corruption of the BBC [Pedleygate Two]**: On this, the 22nd day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), the evening's BBC Question Time programme includes the question on income tax from audience member Rob ['"The Bullet" Barber': check it out] which within hours will evolve into the Pedleygate Two Twitterstorm. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [21st - 22nd November] **Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [Get Corbyn! (The Lipman Piece)]**: [Read firstly the examples of antisemitic tropes set out as IHRA-2016 in the entry for the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) - switch to encyclopaedia.] On Thursday 21st November a spoof TV advert hits MSM online sites and social media. Starring actress and minor sleb Maureen Lipman [Wikipedia biography], the piece is carefully morphed from British Telecom's (genuine) "ology" adverts of the late 1980s, save that the USP now is that Jeremy Corbyn must not be elected. A response by Emily Apple appears the following day in The Canary entitled "Maureen Lipman Using The Sun to Promote an anti-Corbyn smear is utterly vile" [full text online], accusing Lipman's scriptwriters of using her slebrity to deliver the very antisemitic tropes they were focally complaining about. OUR VERDICT: Sheer, unadulterated, and very expensive political propaganda intended to dupe the gullible. Other verdicts are available (but not from here).
2019 [Friday 22nd November] **The Corruption of the BBC [Pedleygate Three]:** On this, the 23rd day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), the evening's **BBC Question Time** programme includes the question on antisemitism from audience member **Ryan Jacobsz** (check him out) which within hours will evolve into the **Pedleygate Three** (check it out) Twitterstorm. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [Sunday 24th November] **The Corruption of the BBC [Impartiality (The Sweeney Whistleblow)]:** On this, the 25th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), award-winning investigative journalist **John Sweeney** (check him out) makes public a letter he had sent 4th November 2019 to the broadcasting regulator **Ofcom** [Wikipedia briefing], in which he listed no less than nine suspiciously cancelled or weakened exposés - three Panoramas, five Newsnights, and one main news feature - into suspicious Russian oligarchs and their dodgy dealings with senior figures on the British hard right. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [Sunday 24th November] **The Corruption of the BBC [Impartiality (Tom Mills' Piece)]:** On this, the 25th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), research academic **Tom Mills** [academic homepage] publishes a piece in *The Guardian* entitled "**The BBC's fabled impartiality was only ever an elite consensus**" [full text online] in which he accuses the BBC's news reporting of being "shaped by corporate interests, state officials, and the political elite - the government of the day in particular". He continues ...

"At the top, there is a board made up of a mix of senior BBC managers, government appointees and other establishment figures. Beneath them is a highly paid group of executives, disproportionately drawn from private schools and Oxbridge, who know that the BBC depends on governments for its funding and its long-term survival. Then there are the BBC’s senior political journalists, whose work defines the tone of its output. Fiona Bruce, Evan Davis, Mishal Husain, Laura Kuenssberg, Emily Maitlis and Nick Robinson are all paid upwards of £250,000 a year and, with the exception of Kuenssberg, all attended Oxbridge colleges. All this shapes the BBC’s collective sense of how political stories should be reported, how 'due impartiality' should be construed, and how competing claims of bias should be negotiated."

This may go some way toward explaining the BBC's merciless lack of journalistic balance during the 2019 General Election. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [Sunday 24th November] **The Death of British Democracy [VIII - Dearlovegate]:** On this, the 25th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), >>>ex<<<<head of MI6 Sir Richard Dearlove [check him out] publishes a piece in *The Mail on Sunday* under the self-explanatory title "**Jeremy Corbyn is a danger to national security who is unfit to become Prime Minister**" [full text online]. His qualifications for making that judgement do not, upon critical inspection, warrant the media coverage received. **OUR VERDICT:** The article was unadulterated right-wing propaganda, in that the newspaper in question took - perhaps even commissioned - a personal rant by a **Colonel Blimp** [Wikipedia briefing] and turned it into a free party political broadcast for the Conservative Party. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [Wednesday 27th November] **Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [GE2019 (Three Fundamental Truths)]:** Social media commentator **Simon Maginn** [check him out - ESSENTIAL] concludes from analysing media reporting and Twitter traffic during the first month of the 2019 British General Election campaign that a broad spectrum media onslaught had been targeting Britain's Labour Party, using a tripartite meme structure of three "foundational truths", and reports his conclusions to the Twittersphere, thus ...

"The antisemitism campaign has three foundational truths: 1. 'The left' = inherently antisemitic. 2. Accusation = evidence, and 3. Denial = demonstration of guilt. We'll look back on this time and we'll be horrified, and we'll say 'How did it happen?' This is how it happens."
And in the 1930s, of course, when the antisemitism was real, and not conveniently fanciful, that was, of course, precisely what happened! [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [Friday 29th November] **The Corruption of the BBC [Bias and Favouritism (The Latest Sniggerfest)]:** This evening’s "Have I Got News For You" comedy show engaged in a prolonged "sniggerfest" at the expense of the nation's Corbynistas. How they laughed, who had full bellies and warm beds to go home to! [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [Friday 29th November] **Corbynism:** On this, the 30th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), one Shaun Lawson Tweets: "If you ever wanted to know when Corbynism was born, it was on 20 July 2015 when the vast bulk of Labour MPs, to their everlasting shame, abstained on the Welfare Reform Bill" [a bill to cap many social security benefits for those most in need - Ed.]. Lawson's Tweet even points his readers toward the decisive moment within the debate, namely John McDonnell's (ultimately unsuccessful) speech opposing the Bill - [YouTube it here]. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

***** A NEW CONSPIRACY THEORY IS BORN *****

2019 [Saturday 30th November] **London Bridge, The Conspiracy Theory:** On this, the 31st day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), with the blood from yesterday's 1400hr London Bridge Terrorist Attack [no core briefing but headline news anyway] Still on the sidewalk, the Twittersphere starts to hint at dirty deeds, to wit a black op by agencies unknown to interfere with the election. Thus ...

"Isn't coincidence a funny thing? On London Bridge today we had a convicted child murderer (out for the day), an undercover cop, and a known terrorist WITH A TAG [apparently one Usman Khan, now deceased - Ed.] all involved in the same incident. No-one would believe it in a film script. Strange" (Twitter, 30th November 2019, as from Scarlet Wilde).

And sure enough the right-wingers are indeed already milking the attack for all it is worth, thus ...

"A man was murdered by British Police in broad daylight" (Twitter, 1445hr 29th November 2019, as from Jeremy Corbyn [falsely attributed]).

For the moment we note only that this very convincing and politically highly inflammatory FAKE was on the airwaves within an hour of the killing. The topic is trending even as we write; even the traditional the-press-releases-had-been-written-beforeshand trope is under discussion ... [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = TERRORIST GROOMING, PATSIES, AND MANCHURIAN CANDIDATES] [THREAD = 21ST CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

2019 [Saturday 30th November] **Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [GE2019]:** On this, the 31st day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), investigative journalist Jonathan Cook publishes a piece on the AntiWar.Com website entitled "Britain's Chief Rabbi Is Helping to Stoke Antisemitism" [full text online]. In it he concludes that the factional preacher in question, Ephraim Mirvis, "has no lessons to teach [Jeremy Corbyn] or the Labour Party about racism". On a lighter note, but within the same general narrative, the Conservative Party's constant pre-scripted harking on about antisemitism succeeds in making Health Secretary Matt Hancock quite literally a laughing stock - check out the video [A JOY TO BEHOLD; for the science behind the inversion of propaganda offensives, email the author]. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [Tuesday 3rd December] **The Corruption of the BBC [Biased Scrutiny (Oborne's J'accuse)]:** On this, the 34th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), the highly respected commentator Peter Oborne publishes a piece in The Guardian entitled "In Its Election Coverage, the BBC Has Let Down the People Who Believe In It" [full text online]. In this article he revisits many of the atrocities of BBC one-sidedness already noted under this sub-thread, not least that at the
Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday [see 10th November]. He also reserves especial criticism for one presenter in particular, for routinely flouting the checks and balances required for journalistic integrity, thus ...

"In October Jill Rutter, a senior research fellow at The UK in a Changing Europe, highlighted the way in which many senior journalists, including the BBC's political editor, Laura Kuenssberg, had become overly dependent on private briefings from Johnson's strategy chief, Dominic Cummings. 'This way of operating does the public a big disservice,' Rutter said. 'It allows Downing Street to get its message out without having to take responsibility for it.'"

What we are left with, in short, is a lack of proper scrutiny of what is in fact a "stunningly dishonest campaign" on the part of the Conservatives. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [Wednesday 4th December] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [GE2019]: On this, the 35th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), wags on Twitter suggest the following two spoof headlines might help fight back against the MSM's incessant allegations that Leader of the Labour Party Jeremy Corbyn is in any way soft on antisemites in his party ...

**Corbyn apologises for the first time since the last time he apologised!!**

**Why hasn't Corbyn apologised since the last time he apologised??**

[THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [Thursday 5th December] The Death of British Democracy [IX - GE2019 (The Keeling Piece)]: On this, the 36th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), investigative journalist Tracy Keeling [no convenient biography] publishes a piece in The Canary entitled "**Jeremy Corbyn makes a stunning proposal that could fix British politics for good**" [full text online - COMPULSORY READING], in which she analyses Labour Party plans to sweep dark money lobbying from Westminster once and for all. The present system is designed and maintained at no little expense to deny Britons a one-man-one-vote democracy. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [Thursday 5th December] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [GE2019]: On this, the 36th day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), following one particularly nauseating television insult to Jeremy Corbyn the day before, Corbynites on Twitter try to set the record straight by circulating the following list of the good things the man has done over the years to FIGHT antisemitism both in Britain and worldwide [the EDM numbers mark Parliamentary Early Day Motions - Ed.] ...

EDM3933 7 Nov. 1990: Corbyn signs motion condemning the rise of antisemitism  
EDM634, 11 Apr. 2000: Jeremy Corbyn signs motion condemning David Irving for being a Holocaust Denier  
EDM1124, 6 Nov. 2000: Jeremy Corbyn praised the 'British Schindler', Bill Barazetti, for his WW2 kindertransport  
EDM742, 28 Jan. 2002: Jeremy Corbyn signs motion praising football clubs for commemorating Holocaust Day  
EDM1233 30 Apr. 2002: Corbyn was a primary sponsor on a motion condemning antisemitism  
11 May 2002: Jeremy led a clean up of Finsbury Park Synagogue after an anti-Semitic attack  
EDM1691, 23 July 2002: Corbyn condemned attacks on a synagogue in Swansea  
EDM123 26 Nov. 2003: Corbyn officially condemns attacks on a synagogue in Swansea  
EDM298, 16 Dec. 2003: Jeremy Corbyn signs motion commemorating International Holocaust Day  
2004: Jeremy condemned news that anti-Semitic hate crimes had risen for yet another year  
EDM461, 21 Jan. 2004: Jeremy Corbyn condemned the French government’s moves to ban the Jewish Kippa in French Schools  
EDM717, 26 Feb. 2004: Jeremy signed a motion praising Simon Wiesenthal for bringing Nazi perpetrators of the Holocaust to justice
EDM1613, 8 Sept. 2004: Corbyn co-sponsored a bill expressing fears for the future of the United Synagogue Pension Scheme

EDM1699, 11 Oct. 2004: Jeremy Corbyn condemned arbitrary attacks on civilians in Israel and Palestine

EDM482, 12 Jan. 2005: Jeremy Corbyn signs a motion commemorating International Holocaust Day

EDM343, 16 June 2005: Jeremy Corbyn condemned the desecration of a Jewish cemetery in east London

EDM1343, 11 Jan. 2006: Jeremy Corbyn signs a motion commemorating International Holocaust Day

EDM1774, 8 Mar. 2006: Jeremy Corbyn led condemnations of an Iranian Magazine soliciting cartoons about the Holocaust

EDM1267, 16 Apr. 2006: Jeremy Corbyn condemned Bryan Ferry for anti-Semitic remarks

EDM2414, 26 June 2006: Jeremy Corbyn praised British war veterans for their efforts to combat the Holocaust

EDM2705, 10 Oct. 2006: Jeremy signed a motion marking the 70th anniversary of Cable Street

EDM271, 14 Nov. 2007: Jeremy co-sponsored a motion lamenting the poverty and social exclusion East London Jews suffered

EDM153, 12 May 2008: Corbyn praised the efforts of the Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto during the uprising of 1944

EDM2350, 27 Oct 2008: Jeremy Corbyn signs a motion marking the 70th anniversary of the horrors of the Holocaust

EDM173, 8 Dec. 2008: Jeremy Corbyn condemned the Press Complaints Commission for refusing to sanction The Times for antisemitism

EDM461, 14 Jan. 2009: Jeremy Corbyn condemned a wave of recent anti-Semitic incidents targeted

EDM605, 27 Jan. 2009: Corbyn signed John Mann’s motion condemning antisemitism on university campuses

EDM146, 27 Jan. 2010: Corbynikal John Mann’s motion condemning antisemitism on university campuses

EDM917 26 Feb. 2009: Jeremy signs a motion condemning antisemitism on the internet

EDM11175 24 Mar. 2009: Corbyn signs a motion praising the heroism of British Jews during Holocaust

EDM337, 2 Dec. 2009: Jeremy Condemned Iran’s treatment of Jewish minorities in Iran

EDM850 9 Feb. 2010: Jeremy Corbyn condemned a motion calling for Yemen’s Jews to be given refugee status to the UK

EDM908 27 Oct. 2012, Jeremy Corbyns a motion condemning anti-Semitic attacks during EURO 2012 in Poland

EDM195 13 June 2012: Jeremy attacks BBC for cutting Jewish programmes from its schedule

EDM1133 1 Mar 2013: Corbyn joins a chorus of calls condemning anti-semitism in sport

1 Oct. 2013: Corbyn was one of the few MPs who defended Ralph Miliband from Daily Mail antisemitism

EDM 932 9 Jan 2014: Jeremy praises Holocaust Memorial’s work on antisemitism education

EDM 165 22 June 2015: Jeremy condemns a Neo-Nazi rally planned for a Jewish area of London

4 July 2015: Jeremy co-sponsored a counter-fascist demo in defence of Jewish residents at Golders Green. The march was re-routed

18 Nov. 2015, Corbyn used one of his first PMQs to challenge Cameron to do more on antisemitism

9 Oct 2016: Corbyn, close to tears, leads commemoration of the Battle of Cable Street

3 Dec. 2016: Corbyn visits Terezin Concentration Camp to commemorate Holocaust victims

In 2017-19 Jeremy introduced 20 new measures to combat antisemitism in the Labour Party.

The present author has not personally verified most of these items, but has no doubt whatsoever that the anti-Corbyn truth police will let him know soon enough if there are any inaccuracies. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

The Death of British Democracy [X - Media Impartiality (Selectively Applied)]: At today's needle match between Manchester United and Manchester City a fan is arrested for making racially abusive gestures and sounds. There are 115 clubs in Britain's five main (professional) leagues, and many thousands more at amateur level. If any of each week's several million players or spectators breaks the laws on racial hatred they are acted upon just as happened in Manchester. And of course many get away with it. But at least the clubs do not have the anti-Racist attack dogs on their case 24/7, whingeing incessantly on the negative and not recognising any positive. That sort of politically directed ire-on-demand is reserved for Corbynites and
antisemitism. We point this out, because for as long as commoditised political outrage can be bought and selectively applied, Britain does not have a one-man-one-vote electoral system. Or, as one commentator puts it, "Even now, our most prized rights, such as free speech, are being eroded and subverted to protect Israel from criticism" (Cook, op. cit). [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

1 Selectively applied impartiality may also be termed "bias".

2019 [Tuesday 10th December] The Death of British Democracy [XI - GE2019 (The Mitchinson Piece)]: On this, the 41st day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), the Editor of The Yorkshire Post James Mitchinson [no convenient biography] publishes an open letter entitled "Do not believe a stranger on social media who disappears into the night" [full text online - COMPULSORY READING], in which he presents meticulously supported proof that a major anti-Conservative NHS scandal had been deliberately falsified and republished as anti-Labour Party material, but supported now by pre-alerted repeater stations across social media and the MSM. (This sort of thing cannot happen, of course, other than in a right-wing PR control centre somewhere.) A Tweeter using the name Sheree Jenner-Hepburn led the disinformation postings, but said person could not be traced by Mitchinson's team. We highlight this article as yet another instance of a media regulation system which at no little expense to someone serves primarily to deny Britons a one-man-one-vote democracy. Only The Yorkshire Post comes out of the incident with any moral or journalistic integrity. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2019 [Tuesday 10th December] The Death of British Democracy [XII - GE2019 (The Monbiot Piece)]: On this, the 41st day of the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), respected campaigning journalist (usually on the environment) and author George Monbiot [Wikipedia biography] publishes a piece in The Guardian entitled "Why do I have to break an embargo in order to expose press lies about Labour" [full text online - COMPULSORY READING], in which he bemoans the deliberate foot-dragging in publishing an IPSO [= the U.K. Press Regulator] judgement that a (months-old) piece in The Mail on Sunday had contained falsehoods subsequently recycled as campaign material by the Conservative Party. With 48 hours of good propaganda time still to go, the delayed judgement allows the lies to continue. We therefore highlight this article as yet another instance of a press regulation system which at no little expense to someone serves primarily to deny Britons a one-man-one-vote democracy. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

****** A CONSPIRACY THEORY IS BORN ******

2019 [19th December] The Death of British Democracy [XIII - GE2019 (The Postal Voting Conspiracy)]: One week after the Conservative landslide in GE2019, word circulates on Twitter noting firstly that 37% of the British electorate voted by post, and secondly that these votes were processed under contract by the private company IDOX Software Limited [see own entry]. It was clearly implied that "We were robbed" by some hypothesised malpractice. We have not yet checked the accuracy of the two core assertions. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

****** "THE BEAST IS SLAIN"****** Joe Glasman, herein ******

2019 [Friday 27th December] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [GE2019 (Glasman's Video)]: Today's Twittersphere circulates a Momentum Barnet copy of a video by Head of Political and Government Investigations for the Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA) [check them out]. Joe Glasman [check him out]. In the video Glasman - speaking for himself personally - congratulates the Zionist lobby for its successful efforts during the 2019 British General Election to bring down Jeremy Corbyn. View the video here. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2020 [Tuesday 7th January] "Poverty is the Draft": A Tweet does the rounds today from U.S. Congressional hopeful Anthony Clark [no convenient biography but much to browse on social media], pointing out that in 2020 the U.S.
government no longer needs "the draft" - its former system of conscription for national service - "because generational poverty has taken its place - the military offers housing, healthcare, and education". Poverty, he so rightly claims, ***IS*** the draft. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2020 [Thursday 30th January] The Corruption of the BBC [Post-GE2019 (Sands' Resignation)]: On this, the 49th day since the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), Sarah Sands [check her out] is mentioned in the Twittersphere as have announced she will shortly be moving on from the BBC. One commentator remarks that her achievement has to been to turn "a respected brand into a laughing stock in three short years". [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2020 [Tuesday 4th February] U.S. Presidentsials 2020 [Social Media Chatter]: [New sub-thread] A Tweet today asks whether or not it is right to describe candidate Mike Bloomberg [check him out] as an American "oligarch". The author then observes that the man is worth $16 billion [actually $58 billion, 14th richest person on earth - Ed.], and that a $2 billion election fighting fund is about one year's income therefrom. So yes, an oligarch for sure.

2020 [Tuesday 4th February] The Weaponisation of Diseases [Coronavirus (A Strange Death)]: Canadian virologist Frank Plummer [check him out], world-renowned expert on such diseases as SARS, H1N1, Ebola, and - until today - Coronavirus, drops dead at a scientific conference at the University of Nairobi, Kenya. Within hours it will be suggested that he has been assassinated as part of a conspiracy on someone's part to develop a weaponised variant of said Coronavirus. For an early statement of this emerging conspiracy theory, click here. [THREAD = 21ST CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS]

"Is the accuser always holy now?"

***** SALEM LIVES!! *****

2020 [Sunday 23rd February] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [GE2019 (The Wilmer Report)]: [Read firstly the entry for Evangelism and Evangelistic Preaching: ESSENTIAL FOR TUTORIAL SUPPORT] On this, the 73rd day since the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), Jewish Voice for Labour (JVL) [Homepage], the anti-Zionist faction within the fatally-split-over-Zionism Labour Party, publishes its diarised account of the Party's formal investigation of ordinary member George Wilmer [no online presence]. The diary is entitled "The Labour Party Inquisition - A Case Study" [full text online], and it is noteworthy in the present context not just for documenting the mechanisms of the remotely choreographed political slur, but also for reminding us, en passant, of the iniquities of the literal witch-hunts of the 17th century …

1CAMEO - "THE CRUCIBLE": The header text is from Arthur Miller's (1953) play "The Crucible" [Wikipedia briefing; full text online]. Set in late 17th Century Massachusetts, the play was written at the height of the McCarthy witch-hunts, and is a powerful allegory against the evils of weaponised rightist orthodoxy.

[THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2020 [Sunday 23rd February] The Weaponisation of Diseases [COVID-19 (The Asahi Piece)]: [To understand why the Chinese are so jumpy about CBW, read firstly the entry for Unit 731] On this the 99th day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Japanese Asahi Media puts out a piece suggesting in detail how the Wuhan outbreak was secondary to an earlier outbreak in the United States …

CAMEO - U.S. SEASONAL FLU, 2019: The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) dates their seasonal flu epidemic from 29th September 2019 - see the data curves. The Asahi piece quite reasonably points out that said infection could well have been lurking amongst the 172-strong U.S. contingent at the Military World Games in Wuhan the following month [Wikipedia briefing; see also 18th October 2019].

The Asahi coverage draws no conclusions as to (1) whether the virus was laboratory-developed or a spontaneously emerging natural mutation, or (2) whether the U.S. troops in question [if, indeed, it was they ...
2020 [Wednesday 26th February] Weaponised Antisemitism in British Politics [GE2019 (The "Zippy" Rebutke)]: On this, the 76th day since the 2019 British General Election Campaign (GE2019), Twitter correspondent "Zippy" reminds his/her readers that two days previously correspondent "Margaret Hodge" [check him/her/it out] - perhaps the real Margaret Hodge [check her out], daughter of the Zionist munitions billionaire Hans Oppenheimer - had argued online that "accusing a Jew who calls out antisemitism of working on behalf of Israel is both conspiratorial and antisemitic". Zippy duly offers the following counterargument: "Anyone who conflates Zionism/Israel with the Jewish people in order to shout Antisemite! at those criticising Zionism/Israel is an antisemite themselves".

RESEARCH ISSUE: This is not mere social media tit-for-tatting, but rather an historically pivotal clash over the very principles of freedom in the modern world. It is not yet finally established whether Britons have lost the privilege of level-headed free speech if it involves criticism of the State of Israel, but this could very well be the case. Updates will be posted as (and if) the debate makes progress.

This same day, a different Twitter correspondent points out that Britain's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) report into antisemitism within the Labour Party had found that only one of the membership had transgressed Britain's laws on hate crime, and calls upon a dozen named complainants, including the said Ms. Hodge, Ephraim Mirvis (one of Britain's senior rabbis), The Jewish Chronicle, Joan Ryan, and Ruth Smeeth to apologise. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2020 [Monday 27th February] The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (The Taiwan TV Piece)]: On this the 103rd day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, a Taiwanese TV piece [online here], unable personally to verify narrative because don't speak Chinese - Ed.] presents epidemiological evidence suggesting that the Wuhan virus had originated in the United States, thus ...

"The man in the video is a top virologist and pharmacologist who performed a long and detailed search for the source of the virus. [...] One of his main points is that the type infecting Taiwan exists only in Australia and the US and, since Taiwan was not infected by Australians, the infection in Taiwan could have come only from the US. The basic logic is that the geographical location with the greatest diversity of virus strains must be the original source because a single strain cannot emerge from nothing. He demonstrated that only the US has all the five known strains of the virus (while Wuhan and most of China have only one, as do Taiwan and South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam, Singapore, and England, Belgium and Germany), constituting a thesis that the haplotypes in other nations may have originated in the US. [...] Neither Iran nor Italy were included in the above tests, but both countries have now deciphered the locally prevalent genome and have declared them of different varieties from those in China, which means they did not originate in China but were of necessity introduced from another source. It is worth noting that the variety in Italy has approximately the same fatality rate as that of China, three times as great as other nations, while the haplotype in Iran appears to be the deadleast with a fatality rate of between 10% and 25%. [...] Due to the enormous amount of Western media coverage focused on China, much of the world believes the coronavirus spread to all other nations from China, but this now appears to have been proven wrong" (Romanoff, 4th March 2020 [full text online]).

Unfortunately, modern scientists are government funded, and so the truth may be a long time emerging, if, indeed, it ever will. [THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]

2020 [Sunday 1st March] The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (Newspaper Warnings)]: On this the 106th day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, journalist Peter Foster has a piece in The Telegraph entitled "No. 10 and Department of Health Clash Over Access to EU Pandemic Warning System" [full text online], in which he asserts that Health Secretary Matt Hancock was prevented from benefitting under the EU Pandemic Warning System by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, because politically speaking it would have been against the spirit of Brexit. For its part, Newsweek carries a piece by Jenni Fink and Naveed Jamali entitled "Defense Department Expects Coronavirus Will 'Likely' Become Global Pandemic in 30 Days" [full text online INCLUDES SOME INTERESTING ANECDOTES], in which the authors review the present extent and likely trajectory of the separate geographical outbreaks, and
pass on the views of a 27th February 2020 Joint Chiefs of Staff presser to the effect that "sustained community spread" within the United States "was inevitable". They name the National Council for Medical Intelligence (NMCI) [see own entry] as being the ones who will declare pandemic once the criteria are eventually met [on the day in question the alert stood at WATCHCON-1, imminent crisis - Ed.]. [THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]

2020 [Wednesday 4th March] The Weaponisation of Diseases [COVID-19 (Early Accusations)]: On this the 109th day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, The Times of Israel publishes a report entitled "Virus is biological attack on China and Iran" [full text online], in which Brigadier-General Gholam Reza Jalali [no convenient biography but much to reward the determined browser], head of Iran's Civil Defence Organisation, is quoted as claiming that "a biological attack has been launched against China and Iran". Also this day, prolific investigative journalist Larry Romanoff puts out a piece on the Global Research website entitled "China's Coronavirus: A shocking update" [full text online], in which he makes an at-first-glance tightly argued technical case that the Wuhan COVID-19 "originated in the United States"

CAUTION: The problem with "at-first-glance tightly argued technical cases" in any area of human endeavour is that they are a concatenation of carefully selected small truths which does not - upon forensic analysis - necessarily prove the actual or implied headline assertion. Religious and political pamphleteers are past masters at such deliberate deceptions, and people fall for them because they lack the specialist knowledge necessary to spot the omissions and non-sequiturs at the heart of the deception. Now read on, but with your BS Shields on full power ...

Romanoff cites reports in the Chinese, Japanese, and Taiwanese media, which, taken together indicate that the virus originated "from multiple locations, but began to spread introduced to [a] wet market in Wuhan". Thus it was that Wuhan's "Patient Zero" was subsequently traced to said market on or about 17th November 2019 [see entry that date]. A subsequent Japanese TV Asahi report [see entry 22nd February 2020] then proposed not only that the disease had originated in the United States, but also that it had been prevalent there for some time, only misdiagnosed as seasonal flu. [THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS] [THREAD = 21ST CENTURY BLACK OPS/FALSE FLAGS] [THREAD = BIOLOGICAL WARFARE]

2020 [Saturday 7th March] The 9/11 Attacks [Investigations and Inquiries (Final Hulsey Report Published)]: On or about 7th March 2020, a draft having been available online for review since 3rd September 2019, the University of Alaska at Fairbanks publishes "A Structural Reevaluation of the Collapse of World Trade Center 7". Commonly referred to as the "Hulsey Report", this is the result of a 2015-2019 research programme led by the university's J. Leroy Hulsey [check him out ESSENTIAL READING]. The entire project will then be featured in Dylan Avery's (18th June 2020) documentary entitled "Seven" [Amazon ESSENTIAL VIEWING]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 9/11, FALSE FLAG OR NOT?]

2020 [Tuesday 10th March] The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (How Scared Should We Be?): On this the 115th Day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, world-ranking epidemiologist Michael Osterholm [Wikipedia biography] does a piece on the Joe Rogan Experience entitled "How Serious is the Coronavirus, in which the first 15 minutes - YouTube it now - addresses the question of how scared we should all be. The answer, in short, was very scared, because as pandemics go this shows all the signs of being a biggie, some 10-15 times worse than a seasonal flu and promising half a megadeath worldwide. This entry now continues below, but under different threading ...

[THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]

2020 [Tuesday 10th March] The Weaponisation of Diseases [COVID-19 (An Expert Opinion)]: Continues previous entry under new threading. Osterholm's interview - same link, after first 15 minutes - then goes on to discuss recent suggestions that the outbreak was of a military strain of the virus, released either deliberately or accidentally, and concludes that there was no epidemiological justification for such a theory. For more on the naturally occurring Coviridae and similar just-round-the-corner threats to civilisation, see his (2017) book "Deadliest Enemy" [Amazon]. [THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS] [THREAD = BIOLOGICAL WARFARE]
**2020** [Thursday 12th March] **The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (Cue The Religious Right)]:** [Read firstly the entry for Evangelism and Evangelistic Preaching - ESSENTIAL FOR TUTORIAL SUPPORT.] On this the 117th day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, American tele-evangelist Kenneth Copeland [check him out] goes viral on his "Victory News" online platform with a quick demonstration of how to faith heal yourself of Coronavirus 19 - YouTube it now. For our own part, we shall be putting our trust in bleach. **[THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]**

**2020** [Friday 13th March] **The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (U.K. Government Spin)]:** On this the 118th day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, behavioural psychologist Ian Donald [University of Liverpool homepage] posts a long Tweet exploring the devilishly complex three-way interaction between (1) day-to-day human behaviour, (2) the technical management of an inbound pandemic threat, and (3) the political management of same. *"Data on infection rates," he warns, "needs to be accurate [...] or the system is overwhelmed"*. [Check the post out here.]

**UPDATE (27th March 2020):** Sadly, COVID-19 turned out to be so infectious that most of Donald's academically precise arguments were simply swept aside by the tsunami of subsequent events.

Later in the day, Nick Phin [no convenient biography but much to reward the determined browser], Deputy Director of the National Infection Service (NIS) [no convenient briefing but much to reward the determined browser] is interviewed on BBC Newsnight. During the interview he explains very slowly and carefully that if one is experiencing no symptoms one may safely carry on social contacting ...

**POINT OF INFORMATION:** The assertion is demonstrably unsafe because any person can carry infectious material on their clothing or possessions, many days before developing symptoms. It is also highly probably that people can be infectious up to 48 hours before developing symptoms. Somewhere between highly probably and downright certainly, therefore, people will have been infected by government advice of this sort, and a proportion thereof will have died. This is, of course, a consequence of requiring academic scientists to condense millions of words of carefully nuanced knowledge into ministry-approved soundbites going out on the hoof to 66 million people at risk.

In the same Newsnight, epidemiologist Graham Medley gives his views on Herd Immunity [check it out IMPORTANT] - YouTube his contribution here. **[THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]**

**2020** [Saturday 21st March] **The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (Johns Hopkins Data)]:** On this the 126th day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, The FT's vertically logarithmic-scaled graph of the Johns Hopkins University global COVID data shows the outbreaks in South Korea, Japan, and China already well under control, Italy just beginning to respond to its lockdown, and Iran more markedly so. However, Spain, France, the U.K., and the U.S. are more or less in freefall, with the number of cases doubling every three days. **[THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]**

**2020** [Tuesday 24th March] **The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (More from the WHO)]:** On this the 129th day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [Wikipedia biography] recommends using "aggressive and targeted tactics" against the virus, because social distancing and lockdown are not sufficient protection. He also bemoaned widespread shortages of protective equipment for health service personnel - YouTube the full statement here. This same day, Twitter user @ewangai engaged the present author with what presented as a coordinated counterintelligence post curtly (and factually unfairly) belittling the Chinese response to the pandemic. **[THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]**

**2020** [Wednesday 25th March] **The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (Pennies Start to Drop)]:** On this the 130th day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we learn early on that President Trump has ceased for diplomatic reasons to refer to the germ as the "Chinese" virus, that 18,700 final year student doctors
and nurses are to be deployed into front-line care in the U.K., that infection rates in Liverpool are causing many there to regret that the Liverpool-Atlético Madrid football match on 11th March 2020, attended by 3000 Spanish fans, had been allowed to go ahead, and to cap it all that Britain's Prince Charles had tested positive for the virus. The Johns Hopkins data later in the day shows the Italy and Iran curves beginning to respond to their respective preventative measures, whilst France, Spain, and Germany might just be indicating a slowdown. The U.K., however, is still in free fall, with cases doubling every three days, and the United States likewise but faster, doubling every two days. Australia is following the U.K. pattern, but about five days behind. In London, meanwhile, the giant Excel Exhibition Centre in Docklands has been requisitioned and is being turned into a 21st Century equivalent of a WW1 triage pit. [THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]

2020 [Thursday 26th March] The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (A Busy Day)]: On this the 131st day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, there is an early surge of social media posts from U.K. doctors and nurses complaining that government statistics on mortality are being systematically understated. Later in the morning, Sky News' Kate Bursley takes Health Minister Edward Argar to task for allowing flights into Britain from Madrid, an infection focus, without any form of screening. Argar trots out the earlier advice that there is nothing to worry about unless persons are showing symptoms - YouTube it here (6 minutes in). Factually, this is life-threatening claptrap from the politician, unchallenged by the reporter ...

**POINT OF INFORMATION:** The assertion is demonstrably unsafe because any person can carry infectious material on their clothing or luggage, many days before developing symptoms. It is also highly probably that people can be infectious up to 48 hours before developing symptoms. Somewhere between highly probably and downright certainly, therefore, people will have been infected by these flights, and a proportion thereof will have died. This is, of course, a consequence of permitting two non-medics to waffle on about matters of pandemic advice to 66 million people at risk.

This mention of Spain is followed less than a hour later by reports that the Spanish health service is coming apart at the seams due to attrition of front-line staff resulting from inadequate protective equipment. The topic then comes up again in a different way during the afternoon, when the Twittersphere notices Katherine Hignett's 24th March 2020 piece in the HSJ entitled "'System Failure' on Personal Protective Equipment" [full text online] ...

**CAMEO - INTO BATTLE UNARMED:** Older readers will remember the press fury at the time of the Iraq War about the standard of equipment issued to British front-line troops - YouTube a reminder here ESSENTIAL VIEWING. Comment is less forthcoming in the present emergency, given that the media have actually been complicit in systematic NHS underfunding throughout the age of austerity.

Further afield, the Chinese are asking the U.S. to release details of the military personnel who had attended the Military World Games in Wuhan last Autumn [Wikipedia briefing; see also 18th October 2019] because they believe they have traced back beyond their own Patient Zero [see 14th March 2020 and 17th November 2019] ...

**CAMEO - CHINA'S PATIENT ZERO:** The Chinese were working to an earlier report by one George Webb [check him out], an American researcher who believes he has found an earlier - American - Patient Zero, as follows ...

"George Webb, an investigative journalist in Washington, DC claimed in recent videos and tweets that he believes Maatje Benassi [no convenient biography but much to reward the determined browser], an armed diplomatic driver and cyclist who was in Wuhan in October for the cycling competition in the Military World Games, could be patient zero of COVID-19 in Wuhan. In a report by the US Department of Defense official website on October 25, Maatje Benassi has participated 50-mile cycling road race in Wuhan. Webb also quoted a military lab, the Fort Detrick laboratory that handles high-level disease-causing organisms such as Ebola, in Fredrick, Maryland, which was shut down and moved in July due to unqualified facilities and management system. His conclusions, although without strong evidence, triggered questions on Chinese social media as it came only days after a petition was submitted to the
White House website on March 10 listing some coincidences in time between the Fort Detrick lab's closure and the COVID-19 outbreak" (Global Times, 25th March 1920 [full text online]).

By early evening, the main topic of discussion had become the fitness for purpose of the so-called "Oxford Model" of Herd Immunity ...

**CAMEO - THE OXFORD MODEL**: The lead article here is Nafeez Ahmed's 26th March piece for Byline Times entitled "Oxford Model Touting 'Herd Immunity'" [full text online]. UNDER CONSTRUCTION

And finally, the FT/JHU data later in the day looks like this ...

![Coronavirus deaths in Italy, Spain and the US are increasing more rapidly than they did in China](image)

Note how the Italy and Iran curves are continuing to respond to their respective preventative measures. The U.K. looks as if it is improving, but in view of the debate earlier in the day concerning incomplete reporting we shall regard this as unproven for a day or two. The U.S., however, is clearly still in free fall, with cases doubling every three days. [THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]

2020 [Friday 27th March] The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (Another Busy Day)]: On this the 132nd day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Twittersphere awoke to a discussion of Herd Immunity (check this out IMPORTANT), plans from Prime Ministerial advisor Andrew Sabisky to "palliate" - that is to say, to sedate to death - COVID-19 cases aged over 65 years, and mounting casualties amongst poorly equipped front-line medical staff across the world generally, and in the U.K. in particular. Leftists are instantly keen to remind readers that the Conservative Party had recently cheered in Parliament when voting not to award NHS staff a pay increase - [YouTube that moment here]. Later in the morning, the news comes out that Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Health Secretary Matt Hancock, and Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty have all tested positive for the virus, followed, a few minutes later, by Thomasine mumblings that this was merely a convenient publicity gimmick. The Guardian, meanwhile, is turning its sights on the government overriding technical advice with a piece by Harry Davies entitled "Advice on protective gear for NHS staff was rejected owing to cost" [full text online], in which blame for the shortage of visors is placed squarely at the door of former Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt. The FT/JHU graphic later in the day shows that the U.K. is climbing more steeply than it was yesterday, now that the hiccup in the data collection protocol has worked through. It also shows the U.S. has had 11 successive days in almost perfect straight line freefall, doubling at slightly worse than every three days. [THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]

2020 [Saturday 28th March] The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (Clues Start to Emerge)]: On this the 133rd day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we hear early on that there may well be two main strains of the virus doing the rounds in the U.K. (New Scientist), that the fitness for purpose of the British epidemiological statistics remains highly doubtful, and that appeals are already going round to quiz...
NHS boss Sir Simon Stevens [check him out IMPORTANT] on the cause of recent NHS underfunding. Later in the day, billionaire Richard Branson’s request for a taxpayers' subsidy is met with a chorus of remarks such as "Sell your island, you parasite". There are also grumblings about something called Exercise Cygnus, more on which in a day or two. [THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]

2020 [Sunday 29th March] The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (Ominously, the MSM Divides)]: On this the 134th day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Twittersphere begins by wryly noting the coordinated, well-targeted, and well-resourced shilling of any posts critical of the government, in the style (mutatis mutandis) of the Ministry of Information in WW1 and WW2. The centrist MSM [roughly the Democrats in the U.S. - Ed.], for once, is less easy to shut up. The Guardian, for example, leads the attack by resurrecting from 10th December 2019 a blistering article by Andrew Meyerson entitled "As a doctor I have to speak out" [full text online]. In much the same vein, people are beginning to accuse those who have so generously been funding Propagandameisterin Kate Andrews [check her out IMPORTANT] of deciding that silence is presently the order of the day: "The BBC has stopped giving [her] a weekly slot to trash the NHS", one sharp-eyed observer remarks. As for the hard-right MSM [roughly the Zombie Nazis seen in recent cinema - Ed.], The Mail leads a preposterous chorusing that it was all China’s fault. With statistics for March now nearly complete (courtesy of John Hopkins University), here is a graphic for the month to date, showing the U.S. and U.K. in exponential free-fall, but South Korea under tight but not yet perfect control [the U.K. and South Korean lines are scaled up as though their populations were the same as that of the U.S. - Ed.]. We hope to see the U.K. line easing off imminently as we work through the second week of moderate lockdown.

CLICK HERE IF GRAPHIC FAILS TO LOAD AUTOMATICALLY

As Bloomberg put it at 0644BST, the U.K. has until now been "a slow-motion train crash". No surprise, therefore, that late in the day people were again questioning the wisdom of allowing the Cheltenham Race Festival to have gone ahead 10th-13th March 2020 in the face of the whirlwind. [THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]

2020 [Monday 30th March] The COVID-19 Pandemic [Day by Day (Politicians Accused)]: On this the 135th day of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Twittersphere kicks off with an impassioned appeal from NHS frontline staff that they would be able to save a lot more lives if Britain's politicians were appointed based upon their ability, rather than "just their vacuous and unconditional loyalty to a party". The nation was then cheered by the news late morning that unconditionally loyal political advisor Dominic Cummings has gone down with the virus, as has at least one attendee at the should-have-been-cancelled Cheltenham Race Festival 10th-13th March 2020. The final flurry of discussion concerns warnings from The Telegraph that there is considerable understatement in the mortality figures, which are perhaps only a third of what they should be! The Johns Hopkins data continue the trend-lines described in yesterday's entry. [THREAD = THE ANATOMY OF A CRISIS]

2020 [18th June or hereabouts] The 9/11 Attacks [Investigations and Inquiries ("Seven" Is Premiered)]: On or about 18th June 2020 film producer Dylan Avery premieres "Seven" [Amazon ESSENTIAL VIEWING], a
documentary featuring the research of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks's J. Leroy Hulsey [check him out ESSENTIAL READING]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 9/11, FALSE FLAG OR NOT?]

2021 [6th February] The 9/11 Attacks [Investigations and Inquiries (AE911 2021 Webinars)]: On 6th February 2021 architect-engineer Richard Gage [*] goes on camera to introduce the latest YouTubed offering from Architects & Engineers for 9/11 Truth [*]. See the contextualising entries [*] in the Companion Resource for the video links - ESSENTIAL VIEWING. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = 9/11, FALSE FLAG OR NOT?]

2021 [2nd March] The Fiat Currency Megatheft I - The Crash of 2021 (Celente Speaks): [New sub-thread] On 2nd March 2021 financial telejournalist Gerald Celente [Wikipedia biography] posts a YouTube piece on Jake Ducey's I Love Prosperity channel entitled "Economic Doomsday in 2021" [view it now]. In it he expresses deep pessimism concerning the state of the U.S. economy, and sees strange things going on in the equities and bonds markets. This leads him to conclude that the U.S. financial system is on the verge of a major crash to rival that of 1929, if not surpass it for depth and savagery. The problem, in his view, is mainly that the system has been played as "a rigged game", with continual stimulus printings and blatant market manipulation in the form of "artificial support". This has been largely unhindered because the reserve banking system is no longer bound by the checks and balances which politicians forced upon it back in 1913 when it was introduced [see 23rd December 1913]. Moreover, the problem is not simply one of economic theft on a solar scale, but also the attendant risk of setting the social agenda for the foreseeable future. Specifically, Celente predicts a "youth rebellion" by the planet's under-30s, who see little prospect of a happy and fulfilling life, and who therefore have nothing to lose and much to gain by casting off the model of "Slavelandia" offered to them by the bankers [sub-thread continues at 4th March 2021 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = STOCK MARKET AND FINANCIAL SHARP PRACTICE]

2021 [4th March] The Fiat Currency Megatheft II - The Crash of 2021 ( (The Fed Speaks)]: [Continued from 2nd March 2021] On 4th March 2021 the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank Jerome Powell [Wikipedia biography] makes a statement to a Wall Street Journal meeting on the risk of inflation - YouTube CNBC summary. Reasonable or not the points he is making, the markets fall some 2% the following day, whereupon pessimistic secondary commentators then chime in with a number of technical criticisms, perhaps the most cogent of which is that many indices - soaring commodities, tanking gold, flagging NASDAQ, small business bankruptcies, etc. - are predicting a "tumultuous and volatile" next few weeks [sub-thread continues at 6th March 2021 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = STOCK MARKET AND FINANCIAL SHARP PRACTICE]

2021 [6th March] The Fiat Currency Megatheft III - The Crash of 2021 (Another Two Trillion, Kerching!): [Continued from 4th March 2021] On 6th March 2021 Congress approves and President Biden signs off on a $1.9 Trillion Covid Relief Bill [Bloomberg coverage] [sub-thread continues at 17th March 2021 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = STOCK MARKET AND FINANCIAL SHARP PRACTICE]

***** "POWER WITHOUT HONESTY" *****

2021 [Saturday 13th March] The Death of British Democracy [XIV - Right to Protest (The Sarah Everard Vigil)]: After a day of peaceful remembrance around the bandstand on Clapham Common, London, mourning the recent abduction and murder of a lone female walking home, the Metropolitan Police, having overdosed their bodybuilders' whey, are sent in like Tsarist dragoons ... [YouTube Typical Newsreel Coverage]

The Twittersphere positively buzzes during these events, and then on through the night, with much middle-of-the-road comment lamenting the loss of democracy in the United Kingdom. Here, from around 2230hr, is one of the more penetrating accusations ...
“This is what perpetual culture war looks like. This is how it feels. Degrading everything. Phantom enemies in every shadow. Even our grieving women. **Power without honesty. Power for its own sake. Truncheons before brains. No plan. No compassion. A snarl without portfolio**” (anonymised).

Coincidentally (and there is every chance it was a government-motivated confrontation), Parliament will be voting to remove the right to peaceful demonstration altogether during the coming week - watch this space [sub-thread continues at 3rd April 2021 ...]. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA] [THREAD = BRITISH NAZISM]

2021 [Wednesday 17th March] **The Fiat Currency Megatheft [IV - The Crash of 2021 (Another Statement From Powell)]:** [Continued from 6th March 2021] On 17th March 2021 **Jerome Powell** makes a further statement on the Fed's economic strategy, promising to keep interest rates down in the interests of the employment market, even if that brought with it low single-digit inflation. Gold and equities both responded well (which is itself a curiosity), but bond rates were up 0.09% at the close. His message, according to financial broadcaster Gary Wagner, was: "America, I've got your back" [sub-thread continues at 26th March 2021 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = STOCK MARKET AND FINANCIAL SHARP PRACTICE]

***** NOW YOU SEE THEM, NOW YOU DON'T *****

(YOUR SAVINGS, THAT IS)

"A 20 billion dollar story"

2021 [Friday 26th-Wednesday 31st March] **The Fiat Currency Megatheft [V - The Crash of 2021 (The Archegos Meltdown)]:** [Continued from 17th March 2021] On 26th March 2021 **Archegos Capital Management** [Wikipedia briefing] announces that it cannot meet Margin Calls from a number of creditor institutions for what looks to be over-leveraged securities trading in the sum of probably several billion dollars. By mid-session 30th March, two of the creditor banks are being particularly adversely affected by doubts as to precisely how much the Archegos default is likely to cost them. These are **Credit Suisse** [Wikipedia briefing] and **Nomura Holdings** [Wikipedia briefing], both down about 15% on the day. The particular problem appears to be that a dealing arrangement known as "swaps" falls outside the existing regulatory framework (such as it is) - and is well-loved for that precise reason ...

**ASIDE - "SWAPS" AS SYSTEMATISED DECEPTION:** A Swap [Wikipedia briefing] is an exchange of collateralised debt instruments between large institutions. It carries with it permission for one at least of the parties to take a liability "off the books". This makes it impossible for the market to assess grossed-up liability in any one security (or type, or market sector), and at the same time places future dealings outwith the (already toothless) remit of market conduct auditors.

**ASIDE - MARGIN CALLS AS "CHANCE CARDS"® IN THE GAME OF LIFE:** A Margin Call [Wikipedia briefing] is a dealer's ad hoc request for additional funds from an investor following a reappraisal of the risk. This can cause acute financial embarrassment to the investor, especially if s/he/it is highly leveraged. In the Archegos case, the margin call followed the dealer's chance discovery of the previously undeclared swaps. Markets keep their ears to the ground for news of emerging margin calls, in case they are themselves exposed to the same risk. Indeed it is not uncommon for margin calls to trigger a domino rally within a particular security or class of securities.

**ASIDE - LEVERAGING: Leveraging** [Wikipedia briefing] is a form of betting with someone else's money, keeping the winnings, and facing instant financial disaster if you lose. The essence of the deal is that you do not invest in a given security for its long-term merit. Instead you trade in expectation of a short term movement in the share price (which will have been arranged in advance if you know the right people). If you do the initial deal on your credit card, say, then you can max it out in the hope that you will have sold the security on at a profit before you get the credit card bill. You will often hear the term "highly geared" as a synonym for "highly leveraged". Here are some specimen numbers (we have ignored dealing costs, which will always be a few percent in the wrong direction) ...

**SCENARIO:** Research or hearsay convinces you that a given investment will shortly be rising by 20%. You have £1000 available to invest, promising an "unleveraged" profit of £200, therefore. But you choose to invest £10,000 against your credit card. **LUCKY OUTCOME:** The price does, indeed, go up, and you sell for £12,000, giving a leveraged profit of £2000. Drinks all round. **NULL OUTCOME:** The price stays where it is, and you sell at £10,000, leaving you back where you started. Bin the holiday
brochures. **UNLUCKY OUTCOME:** The price drops and you sell at £8000, thus leaving you with a bill for £2000 against your £1000 stake money. **LUCKY/UNLUCKY COMPARED:** The gambler's dream is receiving £2000 leveraged profit rather than £200 unleveraged profit. The gambler's leveraging nightmare is losing your stake £1000, and owing a further £1000 into the bargain.

So leveraging puts you in a casino, where you will in all likelihood be fleeced. Check out this Wall Street Journal piece for a sadly typical horror story. Banks do leveraging all the time, however, and simply charge their losses to their depositors when it all goes wrong. Indeed, it is as close to highway robbery as you can get without needing a mask.

As usual it turns out to be too late for financial commentators to discuss the matter constructively, and it will now be many months before investigations are complete. Indeed, by 31st March, the markets are already proclaiming "a scandal of enormous proportion" and demanding greater "transparency in reporting economic interest". Here is typical coverage from the online community as it stands at open business in London 31st March (note the developing Japanese exposure) ...

*YouTube Bloomberg News Piece*

By evening[BST] on 31st, the word on the e-streets is that there are more overleveraged hedge funds out there on the brink! Updates to follow as they become available [sub-thread continues at 6th April 2021 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = STOCK MARKET AND FINANCIAL SHARP PRACTICE]

***** ONE FOR TOMORROW'S HISTORY BOOKS, PERHAPS *****

2021 [Saturday 3rd April] The Death of British Democracy [XV - The Right to Protest (Fifth Column Caught Red-Handed?)]: [Continued from 13th March 2021] After a day of almost totally peaceful protest in London against the proposed new Policing Bill [Wikipedia briefing] (which itself could potentially remove the right to protest in this fashion), it turns out that the "Kill the Bill" protest has been given a far more sinister "Kill Cops" flavour by the person and banner shown below [screenshot from Twitter, 0802hr 4th April - Ed.] ...

Problem is, the "protester" in question is - it seems - a police special operative of some description. If suspicions are confirmed [this is only a STOP PRESS entry - Ed.], then this incident could well end up alongside the Reichstag Fire and the Gulf of Tonkin Incident in the black museum of False Flag Attacks [check out our list]! The U.K., in short, has openly and unashamedly "gone full Nazi" in its "Tufton Street" Rebranding [Wikipedia briefing ESSENTIAL CONTEXT] of itself [sub-thread continues at 7th April 2021 ...]. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA] [THREAD = BRITISH NAZISM] [THREAD = FALSE FLAG SPECIAL OPS]

2021 [Tuesday 6th April] The Fiat Currency Megatheft [VI - The Crash of 2021 (New Money Supply Rules)]: [Continued from 26th March 2021] Johns Hopkins University's economics professor Steve Hanke [Wikipedia biography] is interviewed today on the topic of M2 Money Supply [Wikipedia briefing] by the Kitco News Channel's David Lin. The interview comes after the U.S. Treasury has decided to publish money supply figures only monthly from now on, and it is Hanke's judgement that this move is to stop investors - institutional and private - from constantly second-guessing "M2 spikes". As he quite
The eloquence clearly resonates with the overnight audience for these words will have been retweeted more than a thousand times by dawn [sub-thread continues at TBA ...]. [THREAD = THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY] [THREAD = THE BATTLE FOR HEARTS AND MINDS] [THREAD = THE COGNITIVE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA]

2021 [Tuesday/Wednesday 4th/5th May]  Blinken Insults The World’s Intelligence: On 4th May 2021, in an exclusive CBS television interview, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken [Wikipedia biography] trots out the day’s tightly pre-themed anti-Chinese harangue ...

**YouTube the original Blinken piece here (edited)**
(note well the "rules-based order" meme)

Blinken is then taken to task a few hours later in a surgically precise response by the highly respected (but admittedly not entirely unaligned) political commentator Alexander Mercouris [Homepage], whose points are best understood in their full 35-minute form ...

**YouTube the Mercouris response here**

**ESSENTIAL VIEWING**

So the questions at hand, as we shall leave them for the time being, are (1) whether China actually understands what these American-dictated "rules" actually are, (2) whether they are consistent with the more established rules of International Law and Diplomacy, and (3), to the extent that they are instead merely an attempt at bullhorn intimidation, where they should be telling the United States to stick them. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = THE NEVER-ENDED RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR, 1917-ONGOING] [THREAD = WW3 IN THE MAKING]

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cleverly puts it, the authorities are "taking the M2 chart off the wall", the better to control inflation expectations. **YouTube the full interview here** [sub-thread continues at 13th May 2021 ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = STOCK MARKET AND FINANCIAL SHARP PRACTICE]
falling from grace of Australian entrepreneur Lex Greensill [Wikipedia biography], and of the part played therein by businessman Sanjeev Gupta [Wikipedia biography] and British old-Etonian and ex-premier David Cameron ...

YouTube it now

WORTH A LOOK BECAUSE SOME OF THE LOOT WILL HAVE BEEN YOUR PENSION

Administrators are still reckoning Greensill's investors' total losses so it would be wrong for us to say more than The Financial Times has already told us [sub-thread continues at TBA ...]. [THREAD = THE SHAPING OF THE MODERN WORLD] [THREAD = STOCK MARKET AND FINANCIAL SHARP PRACTICE]

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