

RETROSPECT

Turning Points

**Sutton Grammar School
History Society presents**



**The Swinging
Sixties**



**The Iranian
Revolution**



**The Wright
Brothers**



**Martin Luther:
The 95 Theses and the
Reformation**



Medicine in WWII

PLUS: Sarajevo - What, Why and What If?

Editorial

Hello, and welcome to this term's edition of *Retrospect*!

The theme of this issue is historical turning points. From ancient battles all the way up to events marking the British Empire's global power being transferred over to the USA, we've got articles spanning the entire history of human civilisation. This issue marks the first magazine assembled entirely by the new breed of SGS History Society from Year 12, so we hope you like the new look. Once again, many thanks to everyone who wrote for this issue; we've had a plethora of articles flying in from all across the school, including staff and the entirety of the new Head Boy Team, to create what we promise is a fascinating publication. So, whether you're holding this in your hands or reading it online, we bid you happy reading.

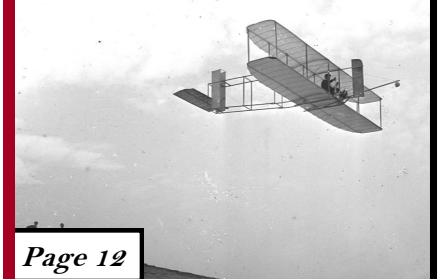
Your Editors

Contents

- 3 What are Turning Points?
- 4 How Tea Changed The World
- 5 The Industrial Revolution
- 7 The Swinging Sixties: A Decade of Change
- 10 Changing Western Superpowers: The Greek Civil War
Luke Tinniswood argues that the Greek Civil War of 1946 marked the transfer of global power from the British Empire to the United States of America.
- 12 The Wright Brothers
- 13 The Battle of Zama
- 15 The Iranian Revolution
Joe Hearn writes about a series of events which irrevocably changed the landscape of Cold War geopolitical relations and stand as a compelling reminder of countless US political misjudgements in the Middle East.
- 17 Cracking the Enigma Code
- 18 Sarajevo: What, Why and What If?
June 28th 1914 marked the day of 'the shot that was heard around the world'. But what does this mean, and what were the consequences? Find out in Karan Power's article.
- 20 The Irish Potato Famine
- 21 The Norman Conquest
- 22 Martin Luther: The 95 Theses and The Reformation
- 24 China's Great Armada
Matthew Harris details some of the fascinating expeditions of 14th century Chinese explorer Zheng He and his fleet, whose ventures in South east Asia brought China international recognition. So why was China so reclusive for the next five hundred years? Turn to page 24 to find out.
- 26 Magna Carta
- 28 Turning Points: More Peace from Violence?
- 30 Medicine in World War One
- 31 Quiz



Page 17



Page 12



Page 7



Page 28



Page 10



Page 15

What are Turning Points?

By Callum Newens, Year 12

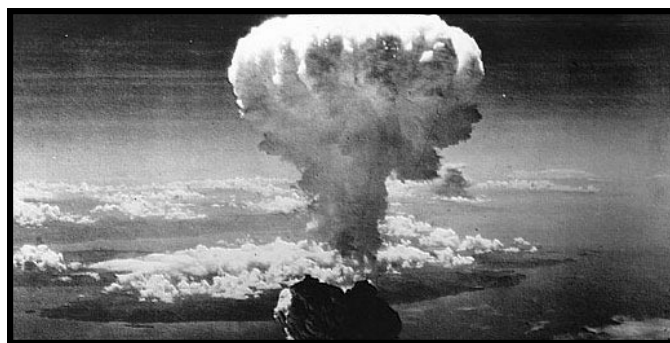
Ostensibly, the answer to the question 'What is a turning point?' is relatively straightforward - a 'turning point' is an event that significantly changed the course of history.

However, history is never straightforward and the above definition does not really do the term justice. There are a number of things one must consider when talking about 'turning points' and their relative significance. Here are a few ideas to bear in mind about 'turning points' when reading the excellent articles featured in this magazine:

One key thing to distinguish is the difference between a well-known event and a historical turning point. 1066 gave history the Battle of Hastings and Battle of Stamford Bridge, which are both well-known events and also turning points. It was these events that led to the Norman rule of England, a reign which eventually changed religion, language, the legal system and society as a whole. From an Anglo-Centric viewpoint this is certainly a major turning point. What about an equally well known date, 11th September 2001? Undoubtedly a tragedy for thousands of people and a date collectively emblazoned in the minds of the Western World, but a turning point? Perhaps not. Cambridge University lecturer Brendan Simms had this to say about the 9/11 attacks: "Without the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, we may say with a reasonable degree of confidence that airline travel would have been easier. But beyond that, it becomes difficult to speculate. Some sort of attempt to topple Hussein was brewing in any case. Oil prices would still have risen given the increase in global, particularly Chinese and Indian, demand. The Iranian nuclear issue would be equally acute. And needless to say, the issue of Palestine would still be with us." The same can be said for many other events - well-known does not necessarily mean it was a significant turning point.

Often the significance of a turning point can be ascertained by the question; "What would be different if this event had never occurred?". But even that is difficult. Let's take another key turning point - the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Adult learning site 'Love to Learn' in 2012 conducted a survey of over 1,000 adults that placed the dropping of the atomic bomb as the single biggest turning point in modern history. What this event showed the world was that weapons that had the capability to wipe out entire nations had been developed, and the US was willing to use them, ultimately plunging the world into a 45 year long Cold War. As 20th Century history goes, the Cold War was significant. But in the scheme of human history, did it really change anything? And has the invention of the nuclear bomb had that profound an effect on humanity? Wars

are still fought despite nuclear weaponry existing. The Cold War theory of 'Mutually Assured Destruction' (If the USA or USSR launched a nuclear attack on the other, a retaliatory attack would be launched immediately) fundamentally still exists today - the invention of nuclear weapons seems to have only made their use redundant, rather



than widely destructive. If the nuclear bombs were never dropped on Japan, World War II would still have ended, though perhaps not in the same fashion. But then perhaps the severity of the Cold War would have decreased. The major issue is that looking at an event as a turning point suggests there was an alternative, but looking back on the events, we can only speculate as to what the alternative could have been. Maybe history would have fundamentally run a similar course even if the bombs were not dropped? Or maybe we would be in a radically different world? So much of the classification of significance of turning points is based on speculation.

A final issue with calling events 'turning points' is to do with scope. It is certainly possible for me to draft a list of ten major turning points in history. But how outdated would the list look in ten years time? How about one hundred years? What if somehow, for some inexplicable reason, someone stumbled on this list in one thousand years' time? Would any of the

events listed hold any significance whatsoever? The same goes for country. Above I mentioned The Battle of Hastings. For China, Russia or New Zealand (to name just three countries) the Battle of Hastings likely had no effect on their history. Is this then still a significant turning point?

In conclusion, it seems relatively easy to suggest a number of key turning points in history but when actually looking at a global turning point's significance under scrutiny, it becomes exponentially more difficult to discern which event is the *most* significant. So, enjoy the following articles but perhaps consider this whilst you are reading: *What would be different if this event had never happened?* ■

As 20th Century history goes, the Cold War was significant. But in the scheme of human history, did it really change anything?

How Tea Changed the World

By Nick Veerapen, Year 10

If you look at what led up to, or caused, major historical changes, tea may not be your first thought. However, throughout the Industrial Revolution, an era which shaped the modern world, tea was the driving force. Tea was the fuel that kept workers alert during long, monotonous shifts, and in some ways helped keep the whole system of industry afloat. However, tea's greatest influence was its role as the spark that set alight the American Revolution, and changed the landscape of history indefinitely.

During the 18th century the colonial Americans were distressed with the way in which the British were treating them, and the other colonies. They believed their harsh economic sanctions permitted them representation in the British government. Colonial legislature and the distance between themselves and Britain, created a sense they were independent. Moreover, the enlightenment fuelled the intellectual revolution and brought the ideas of liberty and freedom to the colonies. Nevertheless, throughout this period of unrest, it was the taxes on tea that finally caused the Americans to stand up for their own new ideals and revolt. In 1773, Americans destroyed vessels transporting tea from India, an event now known as the Boston Tea Party. This act encouraged and radicalised the moderates who were unsure of revolution, starting a civil war. Therefore, it was tea that shaped the Western world and without it our political, economic and social environment would be

vastly different from how it is today. In essence, the trigger of a revolution that would destroy an empire, and create one of the biggest superpowers in history, all began in 2737 BC China.

The first way in which the American Revolution changed the world was that it made rebellion seem possible to the rest of the colonies. The teachings of the enlightenment were no longer just theories; they were successful actions that shaped a nation. The notions of liberty and freedom spread throughout the colonies like a deadly pandemic and started the destruction of the British Empire. It was believed that the new American society was one where hard work and ability were more important than inher-

itance. The ideas of a meritocracy was supposedly born from the revolution, however, were they successful? It was certainly a new ideology in 18th century Britain, and one that was attempted to be adopted further on in British history. Yet, this

The teachings of the enlightenment were no longer just theories; they were successful actions that shaped a nation. The notions of liberty and freedom spread throughout the colonies like a deadly pandemic and started the destruction of the British Empire

change may not have been as immediate as intended and still has not been fully achieved in our modern society. Additionally, the civil war brought another revolution, an economic revolution. Capitalism came to the forefront of social economics, which created systems such as wage labour. It made the struggle for democracy and the vote much more eminent across the globe. In 18th century Britain the electorate made up 3% of the population, and the American revolution can be seen as one of the causes for making that number what it now is ■





The Industrial Revolution

By Nathan Livingstone and Hamish Macrae Year 8

The Industrial Revolution was a crucial part of the development of the human race and has brought us to the point we are at today. It was a revolution that started in Britain but then spread to Western Europe and eventually to America within a few decades. The Industrial Revolution was a major turning point in history because it affected almost every aspect of day to day life for everybody in society, from the aristocracy right down to the common people. It also opened up thousands of jobs and increased opportunity for this country to boost its economy.

But why did the Industrial Revolution happen? The most viable answer to this was presented by Dr Gregory Clark saying that it was linked to the changes in the nature of

human population and that this was the main driving force for the revolution. Clark analysed the wills of men in the 1600s and discovered that wealthier men had more surviving children than poorer men. As the amount of wealthy people out populated the poor people, this

meant that more and more people were surviving which resulted in an increase of

The Industrial Revolution completely revamped the way in which products were commercially produced

the overall population. Positive side effects of this were a decrease in violence and an increase in literacy as people could afford education. Changes such as these and people becoming more willing to work longer hours resulted in the Industrial Revolution, the first time when gains in production efficiency overtook population growth. There were a huge number of developments during the Industrial Revolution, so we are going to focus on the two most iconic – metalwork and transport.

The Production of Metal

The Industrial Revolution completely revamped the way in which products were commercially produced and developed multiple, ingenious new methods in which different things could be manufactured. During the Industrial Revolution, coal replaced wood for fuel for purposes of smelting. This was developed by Abraham Darby, who made great strides using coke to fuel his blast furnaces at Coalbrookdale in 1709. The coke pig iron he made was used mainly for the production of cast iron objects. Abraham's advantage over his rivals was that his goods, such as kettles and pots, were much lighter and more practical to use in a household environment. As cast iron got cheaper and more plentiful, Abraham Darby built 'The Iron Bridge' which was a great innovation at the time.

Hot blast, patented by James Beaumont Neilson in 1828, was the most important development of the 19th century for saving energy in making pig iron. By using waste exhaust heat to preheat combustion air, the amount of fuel needed to make a unit of pig iron was reduced at

first by between one-third using coal or two-thirds using coke; however, the efficiency gains continued as the technology improved. Hot blast also raised the operating temperature of furnaces, increasing their capacity. Using less coal or coke meant introducing fewer impurities into the pig iron. This meant that lower quality coal or anthracite could be used in areas where coking coal was unavailable or too expensive; however, by the end of the 19th century transportation costs fell considerably. This pig iron could be used to make wrought iron which could be used for a variety of applications, including bridge building and construction.

This overall change in the way that metal was worked was vital in the advancement of technology. If cast metal production had not become as cheap as it did, there would have been no way to prototype so many new technologies as it would have been far too expensive. This led into the development of many of the key inventions that are so characteristic of the Industrial Revolution.

The Transportation Revolution

In order for there to be a revolution in industry, it was vital for there to be a revolution in transport. At the beginning of the 18th century the transport method of choice was water, either by river or sea. This was because the quality of roads was so poor. Arthur Young in 1770 described problems of travelling by road, "I met ruts that I actually measured as four feet deep and floating in mud. The only mending it receives is the tumbling in of some loose stones, which jolt a carriage in the most intolerable manner." During the transportation revolution there were significant changes to roads, canals and railways.

Roads

Opportunists seized the chance to make a profit by setting up turnpike trusts from 1750 onwards. Those travelling along a section of road paid a toll and in return, the

downsides in this boom in canal development. Too many canals were constructed, leading to bankruptcy for some and canal travel remained slow so was not suitable for transporting people or perishable goods. Finally, the Navvies who worked on the canals were feared by many as they were often drunk and violent, though with good reason as they were underpaid and had harsh working and living conditions. In one act of violence, they pelted a baker with his own bread!

Railways

The first public goods railway line was built surprisingly close by - from Croydon to the River Thames at Wandsworth by William Jessop in 1803. George Stephenson became known as the "Father of Railways". He developed the work of other engineers to construct the Stockton to Darlington line (1825) with the first steam locomotive



The Bridgewater Canal, built by James Brindley, was completed in 1761. It is considered to be the first canal in England.

roads were repaired and improved. Such tolls still exist today from the M6 in the Midlands to the Penmaenpool Toll Bridge in Wales. John Macadam and Thomas Telford were at the forefront of revolutionizing roads. They developed better roads, with firm foundations, drainage and a smooth surface. Macadam created the first tar-macked surface by spraying roads with tar to waterproof them. Between 1803 and 1821, Thomas Telford alone engineered over 1000 miles of road, including 1000 bridges.

Canals

There was a boom in canal-building in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Famous canal-builders were James Brindley and Thomas Telford. Brindley built the Bridgewater Canal from the Coalmines at Worsley in Lancashire to Manchester. This was no mean achievement since it involved the construction of both an aqueduct and a tunnel through a hillside. There followed "Canal Mania" where canals linked Birmingham to London, Liverpool, Bristol and Hull. About £20 million was invested in canal building between 1755 and 1835. By 1850, the canal network covered 4,000 miles. However, there were some

pulling a coach, 21 passenger cars and 12 loaded wagons. In 1829, Stephenson worked with his son to create the Rocket, which travelled at over 48km/hr. 'Railway Mania' swept the nation, with over £3 billion spent building the railways between 1845 and 1900. In 1870, 423 million passengers travelled on 16,000 miles of line. Significant engineering achievements included the London Underground (1863) and the Forth Bridge (1890). Isambard Brunel became the foremost railway engineer, constructing the impressive Clifton Suspension Bridge in Bristol and Paddington Station. The revolution within railways created thousands of jobs, dramatically reduced the cost of transport and goods and enabled people in the UK to explore parts of the country that they had never seen before.

The Industrial Revolution was the most important era of history, shaping the way both industrial and rural areas appear today. Every aspect of our lives would be very different today if it were not for the pioneers of this period whose creativity in areas including farming, manufacturing, medicine and transport revolutionised the way we live ■

The Swinging Sixties

A Decade of Change

By Miss Wain

The nineteen-sixties represented, in both Britain and the USA, the decade of self-confidence. The austerity of post-WW2 was over and Britain in particular was basking as a country reborn into affluence. It was also a massively unsettled decade, punctured by some of the seminal events of the past century – the building of the Berlin Wall and the Cuban Missile Crisis, as well as the assassinations of JFK and Martin Luther King, and the first men in space and on the moon. But in my opinion, the sixties is most significant as a decade of social change. The cultural explosion of the sixties led to the breaking down of the class system, the rise of young people and women as forces to be reckoned with and the prominence of protest as a means fighting for political and social change. The politicians of the time recognised this – JFK promised a ‘New Frontier’, Johnson a ‘Great Society’ and in the UK Harold Macmillan heralded the beginning of the decade by declaring we had ‘never had it so good’, but even they could not envisage the massive changes that would shape society. In my opinion, the social changes that occurred in this decade, the liberalisation and the battle lines drawn that are still being fought, make this the biggest turning point in our history.

The real battleground of civil rights was the sixties. In America, the fight for racial equality saw its biggest wins, and losses, in this decade. The non-violent struggle that groups such as the NAACP had been fighting against the racist Jim Crow laws in the Southern US states reached fever pitch. This began with the Greensboro lunch counter sit-ins of 1960, where students protested against segregation laws which refused to allow blacks and whites to sit at the same lunch counters. The protest, which began with just four students, gained three hundred supporters by the fourth day and spread across North Carolina and into the other southern states. The peaceful nature of these sit-ins gained great support and admiration for the cause as, despite facing physical and verbal abuse by white customers, the protestors maintained their peaceful conduct. Indeed President Eisenhower responded to the protests by stating he was ‘deeply sympathetic with the efforts of any group to enjoy the rights of equality that they are guaranteed by the Constitution.’ The nature of these protests culminated in the legendary March on Washington of 1963. This huge protest which garnered over 200,000 people is most famous for Martin Luther King’s delivery of his iconic ‘I Have A Dream’ speech but should also be noted as one of the most effectively coordinated protests by several different civil rights groups. It was also key as a driving force behind

the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 which outlawed discrimination in schools, workplaces and other public places. This act, while not necessarily effectively enforced immediately after its passing, paved the way for the passing of a considerable amount of later civil rights



1961: The Berlin Wall goes up

legislation, not only in the area of race but also for women and people with disabilities.

This struggle was not only limited to the US, the fight for racial equality also manifested in the UK, most prominently in the Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963. England in the sixties was well on its way to becoming the multicultural society that we inhabit today, but this was not without its challenges. Immigration to the UK had started post-Second World War and had massively increased by the 1960s. Unfortunately this immigration did not come without its challenges and the bus boycotts of 1963 exposed the discrimination many immigrants received. As the Bristol Omnibus Company refused to employ any black or Asian bus crews, Bristolians boycotted the buses for four months leading to an overturning of this colour bar. This also paved the way for the 1965 and 1968 Race

Relations Acts, Britain’s first anti-discrimination laws. In other areas of discrimination, the decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK in 1967 and the Stonewall

*The spirit of the sixties was in many ways
about subverting the norm and
challenging what was seen as tradition*

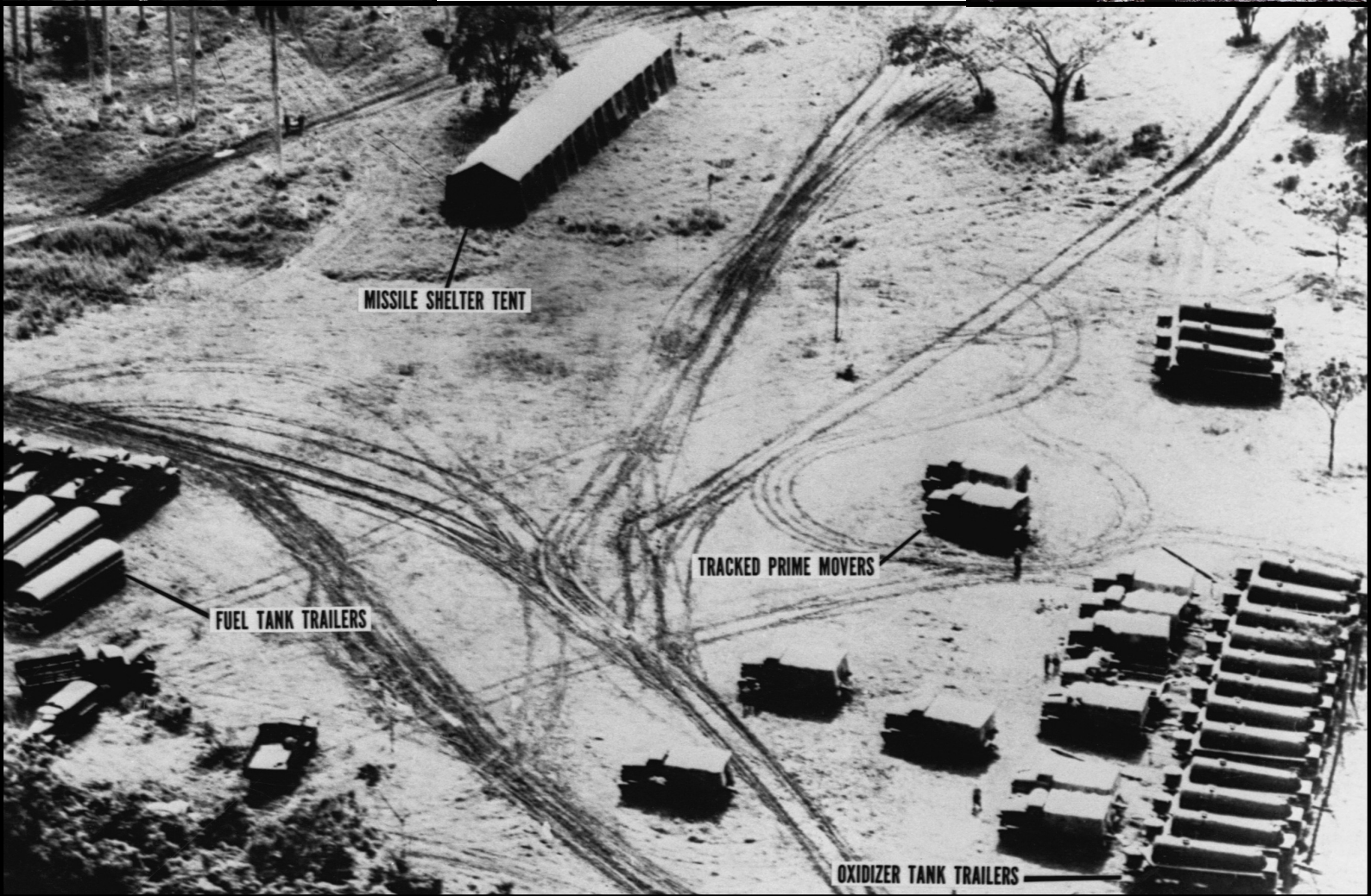
Riots of 1969 in New York opened the door to the modern fight for LGBT rights. The spirit of the sixties was in many ways about subverting the norm and challenging what was seen as tradition. This spirit was vital in bringing about these protests against values which for many decades had been largely unchallenged. The fervour for change in the sixties has been vital in setting the tone for challenging injustice, even in the present day.

For women, the sixties represented an era of liberalisation. Despite the movement of women into the work force during the Second World War, the fifties had seen a



Iconic images of the 1960s

Clockwise from top left: **1964** US President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964, outlawing discrimination based on race, colour, sex or religion. **1966** The Beatles perform live on Top of the Pops. **1969** US astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the Moon. **1962** Photographic evidence for the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba, taken by US spy planes during the Cuban Missile Crisis. **1969** A young activist is detained by New York police at one of the Stonewall Riots of 1969, protesting for LGBT rights. **1963** Martin Luther King gives his iconic 'I Have a Dream' speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.

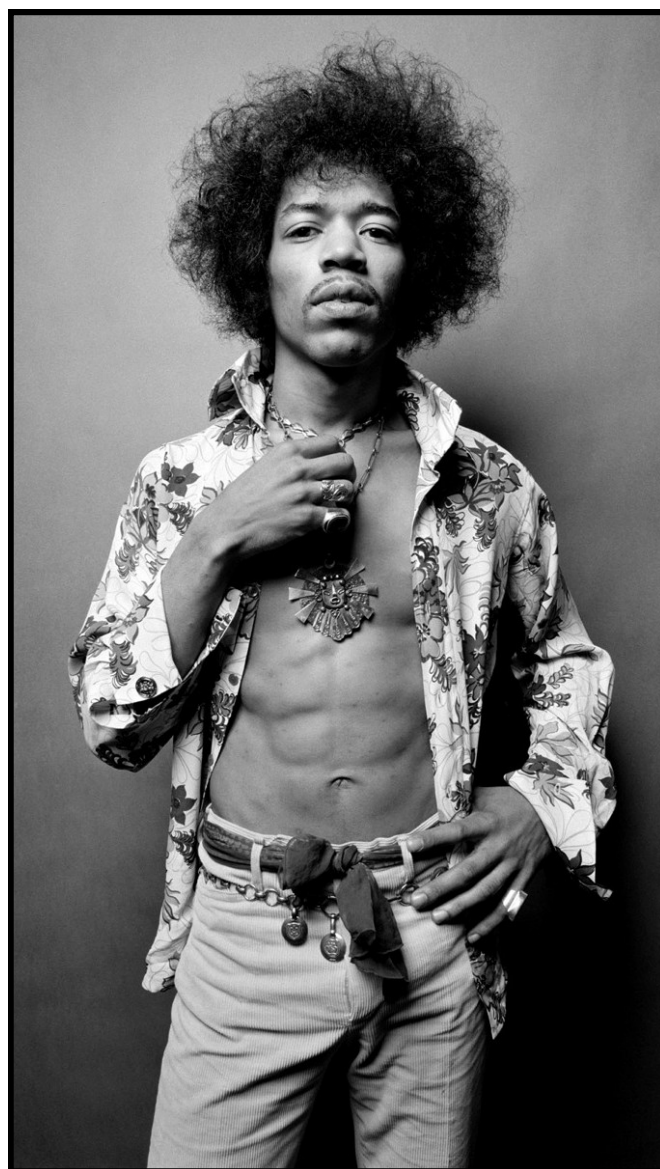


return to the traditional image of women as wife and mother. The rise of the Women's Liberation movement in the sixties aimed to subvert this image and give women the right to pursue equal rights, status and treatment. The prosperity in the UK during the sixties led to a boom in the number of jobs for young single women, giving them the opportunity to be more than wife and mother. In 1962, more than 26,000 young women were studying at university. Experiencing the independence of living away from home gave women greater expectations for their future, beyond just finding a suitable marriage. Women began to criticise their portrayal in the media, as Betty Friedan stated 'women are shown solely as man's wife, mother, love object, dishwasher, cleaner and never as a person.' The introduction of the Pill in 1961, firstly for married women and then extended in 1967, gave women greater freedom and control over their sexual activities. The 1967 Abortion Act which legalised abortion up to 28 weeks after fertilisation also gave women more choices and control over their futures. By the end of the sixties, demands for equal pay and opportunities were being fervently argued by protests, marches and strikes such as that at the Dagenham Ford Plant in 1968, and there was a degree of success with the passing of the Equal Pay Act of 1970. This 'second wave' of feminism was sparked by the prosperity and social development of the sixties. The mood of the time was to challenge outdated traditions, through which women gained greater control over their lives and more options for their futures.

The sixties was a time of booming cultural development, from the widespread dominance of colour TV, to the chart dominance of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, to the rise of hippie culture. The empowerment of young people was largely behind this cultural change, as the youth began to question traditional values. Dissatisfaction rose, caused by social pressures such as the Vietnam draft which forced young people to enlist in the army, and this caused a desire to rebel and to be different. This wasn't necessarily a completely new phenomenon, certainly young people have always had a stubborn way of making their own path, but in the sixties this was amplified. Rock and roll music, with its themes of sex, drugs and rebellion, became the music of choice – the Beatles, the Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan and Motown were the sound of a generation. This was characterised in Britain with the 'Mods and Rockers' – two conflicting youth subcultures. 'Rockers' listened to rock and roll and wore leather jackets, whereas 'Mods' focused on fashion, wearing suits and listening to ska, soul, and rhythm and blues. Certainly London in the 'swinging' sixties was a place of vibrancy – Carnaby Street becoming one of the hippest destinations, associated with fashion and music. Fashion changed rapidly, the conservatism of the fifties replaced with the mini-skirts, long beards and the tie-dye shirts of the sixties. However most importantly, I think, was the way that young people used their voice in the sixties. The hippie culture represented a rejection of traditional values and an embracing of cultural and religious diversity. The message of 'peace and love' freed young people from social constraints and encouraged them to explore their freedoms in a way that had not really been seen before. This led into the rise of student protest, often with young people protesting against things that their parents supported. The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Commit-

tee (SNCC) was formed in 1960 by a group of students who wanted to fight for racial equality. The student protests against the Vietnam War gained a huge amount of political prominence and attention, as students challenged the validity of the war and the draft. In Britain the issues of Vietnam and racism were also protested, as well as other social issues. In 1967, a sit-in at LSE and a national student rally of 100,000 was held to protest the suspension of two students. The sixties represented an era of young people finding their independence, identity and voice. The legacy of these cultural changes can be seen in a myriad of forms in modern day society.

It is impossible to pin down one event in the sixties as a 'turning point', instead the decade itself must be regarded as such. The cultural and social development of this seminal decade set the tone for what came after, in terms of our fashion and music, but also more importantly how we challenge injustice and discrimination. The changes that were made in the sixties, in both how people fought for change and the legislation itself, have been key in forming the diverse society which we have nowadays. It is by no means perfect, or finished as such, but the idea of wanting to change it for the better, and the methods of achieving this, can be found in the nineteen-sixties ■



Jimi Hendrix, 1968

Changing Western Superpowers: The

By Luke Tinniswood, Year 10

Throughout the course of history, power has changed hands on many occasions. Civilisations such as the Roman Empire, Portuguese Empire and the Spanish Empire have all been among the most powerful of their time; however, in modern world history the central power role in the Western hemisphere has arguably been held by only two nations: the British Empire and the United States of America. In my opinion, this change happened in 1947 during the Civil War in Greece.

Since the British Empire was first established between the 16th and 18th centuries, it had become the world's foremost global power, spanning the globe with up to a fifth of the population under their control. It was aptly named the "the empire on which the sun never sets" due to its expanse across the globe. However, after the First World War, the British government started struggling financially and in terms of population. After devastating much of Europe

with four years of constant trench warfare, every Western European nation was depleted. Britain, in particular, had committed hundreds of thousands of soldiers to the war effort and had begun to decline economically. Furthermore, the rising economies and military strengths of the United States, Germany and the Soviet Union gave the British Empire a lot to worry about.

In 1939 the British Empire, along with its Crown colonies, declared war on Hitler's Nazi Germany. In addition, the United States and Soviet Union joined their fight and the Second World War was eventually victorious for the allies, though Britain suffered greatly in the fight. They

They provided \$13 billion worth of Marshall Aid in Europe to attempt to rebuild trade routes, help military allies and conquer the threat of communism. And still, their economy remained the strongest in the world

lost much of their South-East Asian land to the Japanese and the economy began to decline rapidly. The need for money was great and they soon took out a \$3.75 billion loan from the United

States along with \$2.7 billion taken from Marshall Aid. The "greatest empire the world had ever seen" became essentially bankrupt and in debt to none other than the



Greek soldiers involved in the guerrilla warfare of the civil war

Greek Civil War

United States of America.

The Roaring Twenties saw the United States' economy gather pace and it started being compared to that of the British Empire. The Great Depression in 1929 was a blip, recovered from under the command of Roosevelt, and following World War Two, the United States' power was really on show with the first Nuclear weapons developed and used against Japan. The economy remained intact with a greater political and military influence all over the globe: with American troops staying in Europe to attempt to keep peace. They provided \$13 billion worth of Marshall Aid in Europe to attempt to rebuild trade routes, help military allies and conquer the threat of communism. And still, their economy remained the strongest in the world.

When reaching 1947, the United Kingdom had lost much of its empire and was in desperate need of rebuilding. For the last couple of hundred years, they were able to provide most of the world with economic and military aid but were now in need of help themselves. They began attempting to tie up loose ends. Since 1944, Britain had provided £85 million to aid the Greek government, but was struggling to keep it going. A full-scale guerrilla war began during 1946 by the vast communist movement in

the country. The Greek government was struggling to contain the rebels and was in need of more aid than they were receiving from the British government. Furthermore, they were receiving little aid in terms of military power. Harry S. Truman, the President of the United States at the time, saw this and attempted to negotiate with Britain and the Greek government to take over the aid. And in 1947, along with the announcement of the Truman Doctrine, the US military and economic aid of Greece began, thus relieving the United Kingdom of their duties. The war carried on for another two years until the Greek army managed to eradicate the provisional communist government that had been set up in the Northern Mountains. This, all with the aid of the United States- not Great Britain.

The Greek Civil War, however insignificant it looks in the overall scheme of things, can be seen as the change in western central power from The British Empire to the United States of America. Since World War One both countries had their economies and military strength change dramatically, but in different ways. The world knew that the efficient rise of the United States would eventually overtake the dominance of the British Empire, but the Greek Civil War can be seen to mark the specific point when the change happened ■



A group of Macedonian female partisans involved in the civil war

The Wright Brothers

By Luka Jojic, Year 9

In 1903 the Wright brothers set out to change the course of history. They wanted to make the world a smaller place by creating the first ever object that could fly. On 17th December 1903, Orville Wright flew the first powered airplane over 6 meters above a windy beach in North Carolina. This flight lasted a record breaking 12 seconds with a distance of around 40 meters. There were three more flights made on this day and the record breaking one was Orville's brother Wilbur - he managed to fly for 59 seconds for a distance of 852 feet.

The brothers started experimenting with the concept of flight in 1896 in their bicycle shop in Dayton Ohio. They chose the beach on which they tested their inventions, Kitty Hawk, due to the constant winds that ravaged the beach. In 1902 the brothers went to the beach with a glider and managed to pilot 700 successful flights.

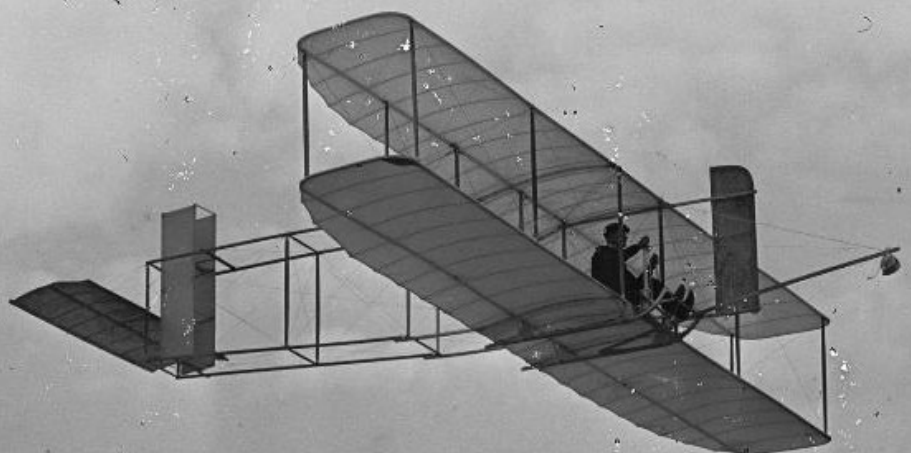
Having successfully built a good glider, these two driven men decided to take it one step further and make the first ever powered aircraft. Although the brothers had manufactured a glider, they did not have the expertise or the money that was necessary to build an engine fit enough for an aircraft. They went to many automobile manufacturers in the hope that they could build a motor for them.

The manufacturers however could not build a motor both light enough and powerful enough for the needs of an aircraft, so the brothers decided to spend a very long time saving up and making their own motor. All of the hard work that they had put into making a machine capable enough of lifting a plane came together on that windy December day where they became the first people to fly and changed the course of history forever. Both brothers went to many newspaper companies and told them about having flown, however only one newspaper published information on the event.

It is not the fact that they were the first humans to fly, but the fact that they inspired other men to strive to create better ideas and revolutionise the planet as we know it. These men are the reason that we can go to the other side of the planet within one day. Previously this was not possible and very few people even went beyond the channel. These men have both made the world a smaller place and without them I would not be able to see my family in Serbia. The Wright Brothers were thought crazy by many people who did not believe it was possible to fly and one would think that they would have given up after all of the failures that they suffered. However, these men had a belief and an idea, and they really did change the course of history■

It is not the fact that they were the first humans to fly, but the fact that they inspired other men to strive to create better ideas and revolutionise the planet

Below: Orville Wright pilots the brothers' 1911 glider, which flew for a record breaking nine minutes and forty-five seconds



The Battle of Zama

By Nicholas Woolgar, Year 12

Throughout the Roman Empire, one of the most famous and successful civilizations in the history of the world, there were a number of turning points that contributed to the growth, and the eventual pre-eminence of the empire. One particular battle, between Rome and one of its most vicious rivals, springs to mind when prompted by the question: 'What was the most pivotal point for Rome in ancient history?' This was of course the battle of Zama in 202 B.C, a battle which effectively annihilated Rome's strongest competition for world dominance at the time and allowed the empire to expand unchecked for a couple of centuries.

Carthage was indisputably key in shaping Roman history. It was Rome's first, and arguably most ferocious, imperial opponent. The Carthaginians took the great Roman Empire to the brink of destruction and it can be argued that the principal cause for Rome's unparalleled military strength and discipline - transforming it into the supreme fighting force in the Mediterranean - was in fact the threat posed by the Carthaginians. In 216 B.C. the Romans sustained a horrific defeat at the Battle of Cannae to the military genius, Hannibal Barca. The Roman troops, possibly the finest in their day, were lured into a trap set by Hannibal, a young but eminently successful Carthaginian General, and were soon surrounded and defeated. Prior to this, the Romans had lost other much smaller battles, also to Hannibal, prompting the training of their mighty force, 50,000 in number, to try and win the battle of Cannae. The defeat at Cannae shook Rome to its foundations and due to the success of Hannibal's campaign, Rome had lost a third of her army. With her forces significantly weakened and a seemingly invincible military genius on the fringes of her very homeland, Rome seemed doomed.

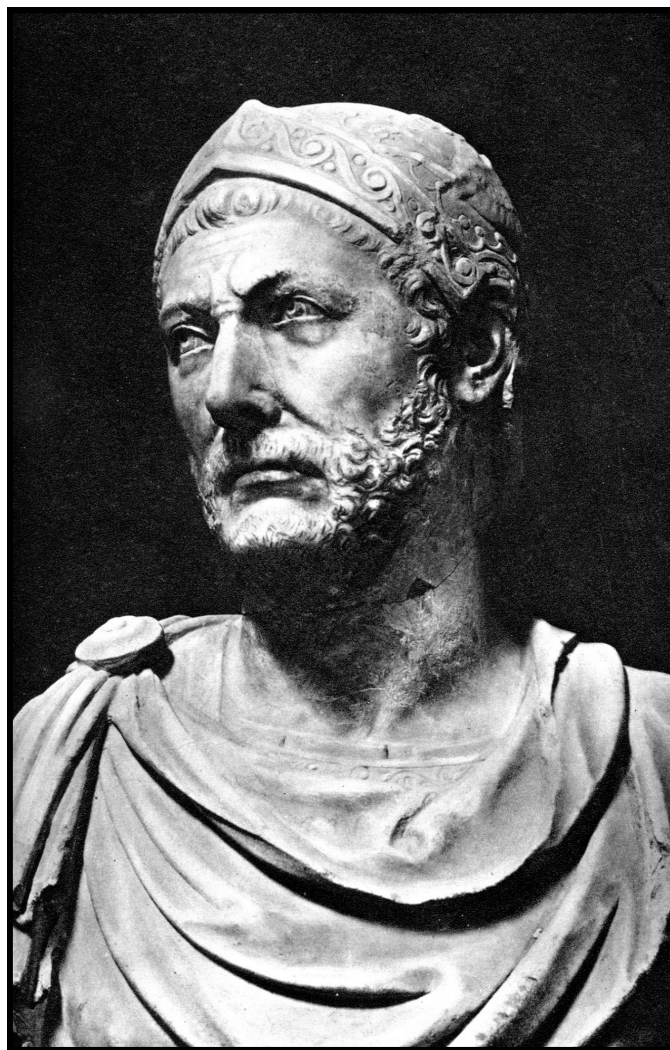
Furthermore, Hannibal, in 215 B.C. had reached his political peak as various rulers chose to support him in place of the generals of the Roman Empire. For example, Hieron of Syracuse died and was succeeded by Hieronymus, who broke off the treaty with Rome and changed instead to the Carthaginian side. Mago, Hannibal's brother, arrived in Spain bringing reinforcements to deal with the Scipios (a ruling family of Rome lead by General Scipio) and the Spanish tribes. The army of Roman General Postumius, 25,000 strong, was obliterated by the Gauls of Northern Italy, who were actually allied with Hannibal. Sardinia began to revolt against Roman rule and King Philip V of Macedon allied with Carthage against Rome. Against this growing threat from Carthage and her allies, Rome's vic-

tory at Zama was not only momentous but crucial to the survival of the Roman Empire.

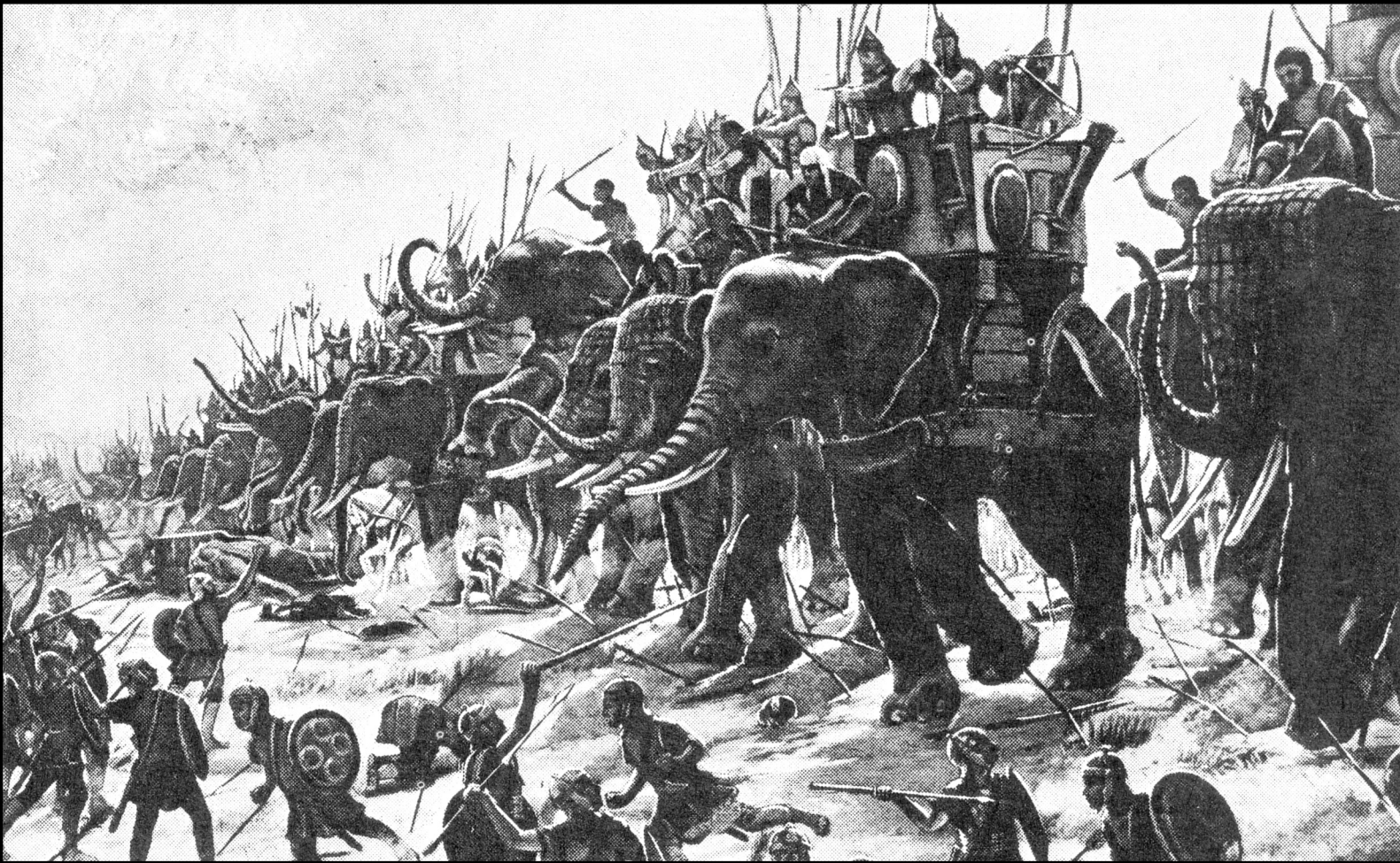
The threatened hammer blow of Carthage and Hannibal on Rome was never dealt. Rome was not defeated at Zama. As a matter of fact a few mistimed losses for the Carthaginian army permitted General Scipio to return from his campaign in Spain and allowed Rome to effectively recuperate. In the following few

years General Scipio was successful in defeating and then allying with King Syphax. Syphax was the king of the Numidian people and was, prior to Scipio's successful African Campaign, an influential ally to the Carthaginians. The tables were turning and the African Empire of Carthage was being carved up by a previously decimated

The battle to be fought at Zama was to be one of monumental scale. 40,000 troops on each side lined up against one another, in possibly the most pivotal battle of the ancient times, perhaps even of world history



A marble bust found at the ruins of the ancient city of Capua, Italy, most probably of Hannibal Barca.



French artist Henri-Paul Motte's interpretation of the battle, painted in 1890.

Rome. Inevitably the armies were set to clash outside the city of Zama, the Numidian Capital.

The Battle of Zama spelt the end of Hannibal Barca and subsequently the Carthaginian Empire. This battle also marks the pinnacle of General Scipio's career, whose reforms in the army made him legendary. Just like at Cannae, the battle to be fought at Zama was to be one of monumental scale. 40,000 troops on each side lined up against one another, in possibly the most pivotal battle of the ancient times, perhaps even in world history. Hannibal, with his fear inducing elephants, but poorly trained infantry, set himself up against Rome's less impressive looking but battle hardened and disciplined army. The elephants, once crucial in determining the outcome of battles between Carthage and Rome, were cleverly dispatched by General Scipio. By now the Romans had seen elephants, they were nothing new. Thus, Scipio had devised a very ingenious tactic to deal with these formidable opponents. He lined up his troops with large gaps between segments of his army. Hannibal sent in his elephants and Roman velites (skirmishers) attracted and drew the elephants down through these gaps. Scipio also instructed every trumpet player to sound his horn, which terrified the beasts and actually caused them to crash into their own troops.

The next stage of the battle began and Rome's cavalry cleaved apart the Carthaginian army, causing them to rout. Once the fleeing troops had been chased from the scene, the Roman cavalry turned back and attacked from behind. From this point on it was a straightforward victory for General Scipio and his troops.

This battle is so significant in history because it allowed

Rome to defeat the army that had effectively been holding it back. Ironically, in being the reason for the vigorous training of the Roman troops, the Carthaginians themselves helped to bring about their own demise. Whoever won this battle was to gain dominance over the known world at that time. The Roman Empire had actually not been formed at this point (this occurred in 27 B.C. with Augustus) and had not yet developed the inventions to which we owe much of our modern infrastructure and culture. Would the Carthaginians have managed to invent concrete, newspapers and aqueducts? Would the calendars and roads we use today have been invented and built? How far would surgery have progressed without Roman inventions? All of these were vitally important developments, needed for the modern world to be born out of antiquity. There is a strong argument to suggest that the Carthaginians were less revolutionary than the Romans and would not have contributed to the world's development to the same extent. The importance of this battle in the ancient world and its legacy and significance for our modern times is evident. It was this battle that enabled the Roman Empire to grow to what it became, unchecked and unchallenged; the most influential civilization to date ■



The ruins of Carthage, near Zama and home to the Carthaginians, as they are today

The Iranian Revolution

By Joe Hearn, Year 10

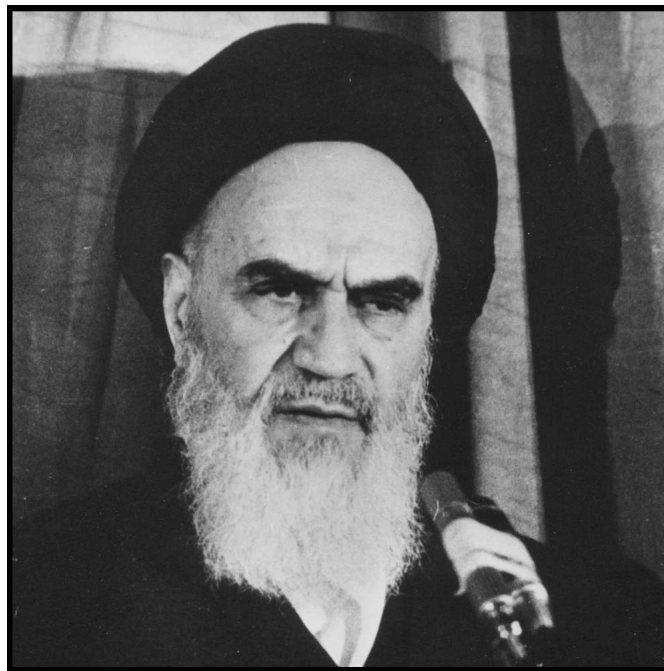


For many in the Western world, the Iranian revolution simply conjures up images of U.S. hostages and the film *Argo*. However, to many in the Muslim world it is a potent symbol of Islamic might against looming American imperialism. How did a US-backed leader fall so rapidly and change the face of Middle Eastern politics?

In January 1963, just three months after the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Shah of Iran - Mohammad Reza Pahlavi - laid out a new plan of modernisation aimed at creating rapid economic growth and prosperity for his country. Named the White Revolution, the project was backed by huge US aid grants that enabled the construction of a nationwide transport network, dams and irrigation systems and the eradication of serious diseases. Many landowners and religious hardliners in Iran were appalled by this seeming Westernisation of their country, and the land reforms that created small commercial farms - on the other hand many liberals felt there was too little progress towards democratization and freedom. Although the policy was successful in some aspects with the literacy rate increasing from 26% to 42% and agricultural production by 80%, it disillusioned al-

most the entire population - the rich had their land taken, the clerics their power and the poor could now voice their qualms but not achieve power.

The most vocal voice of opposition amongst the Shia elite was Ruhollah Khomeini, a previously "quiet" member of the theological establishment from Qom. So vehemently did he attack the Shah that in November 1964 he was exiled to Turkey, then to Iraq. However this did not muffle him as he continued to exert an increasing influence on the international community and inside Iran itself.



Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of the Iranian Revolution

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, tensions inside Iran gradually increased as the Shah's secret police - the SAVAK - escalated their brutality using torture techniques developed with guidance from the CIA. This culminated in the bloody "Black Friday" massacre on 8th September 1978 where sixty four protestors were killed after defying martial law. Meanwhile, Khomeini had moved to Paris and from his base many thousands of miles away from Iran he fanned the flames of revolution. His sermons were smuggled into his country and he proclaimed the start

of an Islamic revolution. In November he wrote, "With people's revolutionary rage, the king will be ousted and a

democratic state, Islamic Republic, will be established."

On December 6th 1978, with the situation rapidly spiralling out of control for the Shah as the people massed for huge demonstrations, a new military government was announced along with a gradual transition to democracy. Just prior to this announcement, Iran's leader spoke in a broadcast to the nation; "Let all of us work together to establish real democracy in Iran ... I make a commitment to be with you and your revolution against corruption and injustice in Iran." However, as happened in 1963, the consequences turned out to be entirely contrary to those he intended – instead of ending the protests, the speech was seen as a sign of weakness and unrest grew. The days of Tasu'a and Ashura – 10th and 11th December – heralded previously unseen numbers of protestors on the streets of the capital and many towns; it is estimated that more than 10% of the population marched on these two days. Although these rallies were relatively peaceful, they were accompanied by small scale mutinies in the army, and a dozen officers were shot. Throughout these troublesome times, American support had stubbornly continued, reaching an apex in December with President Carter's statement that, "Under the Shah's brilliant leadership Iran is an island of stability in one of the most troublesome regions of the world. There is no other state figure whom I could appreciate and like more."

The Shah saw that events would soon be out of his control and so moved to appoint a civilian Prime Minister from the opposition. He settled on Shahpour Bakhtiar and announced that he and his family would be taking an "extended vacation". On 16th January 1979, Bakhtiar was officially appointed as the new head of government and the Shah and his family flew out of Iran into exile in Egypt. They would never return.

After coming to power, Bakhtiar did liberalise Iran to an extent by dissolving the hated SAVAK and inviting Khomeini back home. Khomeini took this invitation up and on 1st February 1979, the figurehead of the revolution finally arrived back in his own country after fifteen years in exile. Huge crowds gathered to meet their hero at Tehran's airport and it soon became clear to everybody that

A strange moment occurred on the flight into Iran when Khomeini was asked how he felt at that moment. He replied "Hichi" – nothing

the Ayatollah - not Bakhtiar - was the true leader of the revolution. A strange moment occurred on the flight into Iran when Khomeini was asked how he felt at that moment, and he replied "Hichi" – nothing. As soon as he arrived the cleric started launching vicious verbal attacks on Bakhtiar's administration. Khomeini appointed Mehdi Bazargan as his own 'Prime Minister' and started to utilise his absolute religious authority to persuade Iranians to support his rival government. The rhetoric of his speeches became increasingly authoritarian as his grip on power tightened: "I hereby pronounce Bazargan as the Ruler, and since I have appointed him, he must be obeyed. The nation must obey

him. This is not an ordinary government. It is a government based on the sharia."

Bakhtiar became increasingly isolated as, one after another, senior government and military figures defected. Numerous bloody encounters between Khomeini's and Bakhtiar's forces ensued whilst the US tried to position itself best by promoting dialogue between the two sides. However, the sudden revolutionary onslaught had taken

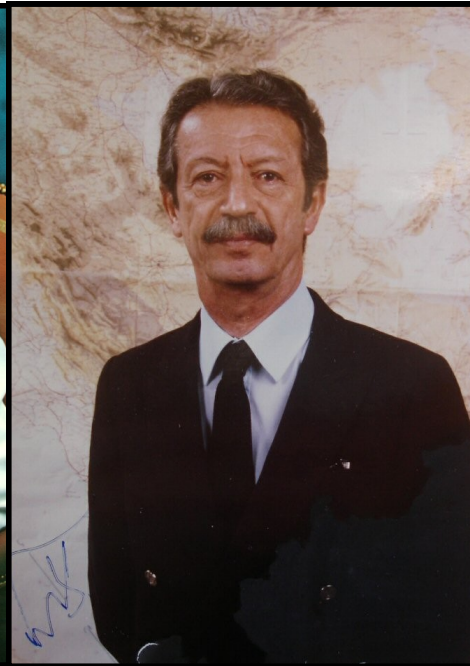
Carter's Washington administration by surprise and they soon realised that a previously steadfast ally in the region was about to become an arch enemy. Finally, at 2pm on 11th February 1979 came the announcement by Bakhtiar's Supreme Military Council that it was declaring itself "neutral in the current political disputes in order to prevent further disorder and bloodshed."

This simple capitulation meant victory for Khomeini and the destruction of the last remnants of Persia's 2500 year-old monarchy. Bakhtiar fled the country in disguise but was later shot by Iranian agents in Paris in 1990.

The fallout from the revolution meant numerous executions and widespread chaos as the Ayatollah consolidated his power base. It also irrevocably changed the landscape of Cold War geopolitical relations. A stark illustration of this is the US embassy hostage crisis that began just nine months later. The Iranian revolution and its aftermath also stand as a compelling reminder of countless US political misjudgements in the Middle East, before and since ■



Mohammad Reza Pahlavi



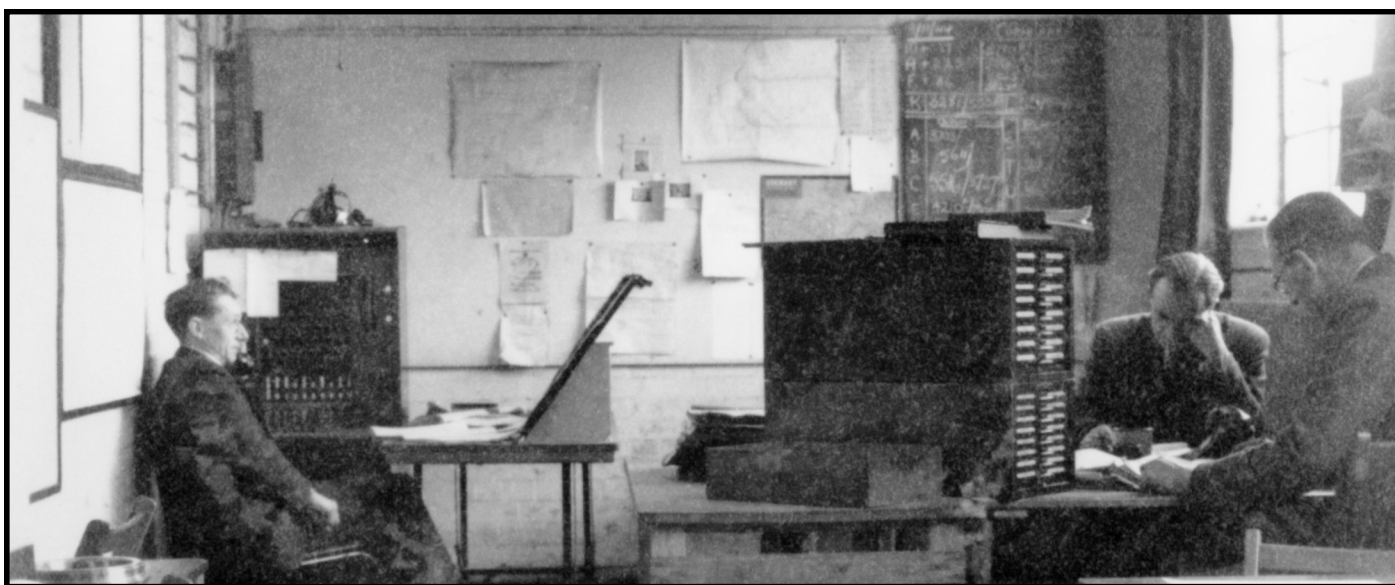
Shahpour Bakhtiar

Cracking The Enigma Code

By Joe Goodman, Year 12

In the middle of World War Two, in a little wooden hut in Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, the war was won. Alan Turing and his team of avid codebreakers deciphered the ostensibly 'undecipherable' Enigma code, heralding the Allied forces' progression towards victory. Arthur Scherbius' Enigma machines circulated around the world and were adopted and utilised by a multitude of governments and military forces to transmit encrypted messages. Although this original Enigma code had been deciphered, it was the Nazi Party's development of such transmitters that appeared unbreakable. However, as recently immortalised in 'The Imitation

ery's victory in the Western Desert. However, the primary success that the Enigma machine facilitated was in the Battle of the Atlantic. Since the beginning of the war, German U-boats had terrorised the Allies' naval vessels and were succeeding in cutting off supplies to Britain, jeopardising their ability to continue the war. The Allies' supplies and defence was dwindling, having a detrimental effect on the war effort. However, upon Turing's deciphering success, the Allies could divert U-boats away from their fleets and could combat both supply and fighter German submarines. The hunters became the hunted. In fact, by May 1943, U-boat losses were so heavy that



Code cracking in the Intercept Control Room, Hut 6, Bletchley Park

Game' film, Turing's team's persistent endeavour to break the supposedly impenetrable German machine proved fruitful. Unfortunately, immediately after the war these intellectual masterminds did not receive the praise that their work warranted, but it later transpired the paramount importance that they played in the Allied victory. The significance of Alan Turing's successes merited Winston Churchill's candid observation that cracking the codes was "the secret weapon that won that war."

To appreciate how significant the breaking of the Enigma code was as a turning point, it is essential to highlight its paramount importance in winning World War Two. In the early stages of the war, the Nazis undoubtedly had the edge over the Allies, in regards to communications. Hitler's team of code breakers had, unsurprisingly, deciphered the Allies' primitive means of communication. However, in Bletchley Park's Hut 8, Turing's team's persistence and undoubted intellectualism finally proved fruitful; the infamous Enigma code had been cracked. Such a breakthrough enabled the Allied forces to intercept secret Nazi messages to gain an invaluable advantage over the opposition. Thus, the tides of the war had turned: in North Africa in 1942, the Allies were able to attack Rommel's supply routes, prompting Montgom-

they were withdrawn from the North Atlantic, salient evidence of Turing's influence: complete Allied dominion of the waters. This control strangled the Nazis' supply routes and dominated where their major superiority had been prior to the breaking of the Enigma code. This Allied success is often cited as a major turning point of World War Two in that it has been claimed that the Nazis would have succeeded in knocking Britain out of the war, wiping them out indefinitely. The endeavour and intelligence of Turing's team therefore is estimated to have saved approximately two million lives.

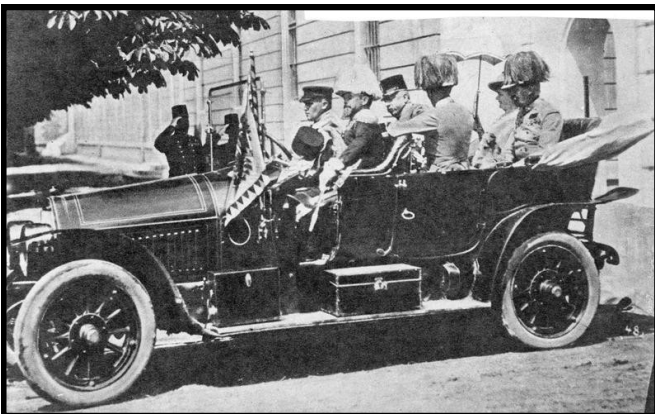
If we are to accept that the breaking of the Enigma code was a decisive moment in the Allied triumph in World War Two, it is critical then to establish the importance of winning the war itself. Simply, Europe would have been mercilessly and abhorrently oppressed by the agenda of a totalitarian sociopath. One dare not even think of the utmost atrocities that would have been committed, had the Nazis won the war. Today's Europe owes its freedom and protection to the valiant heroes that won the war for the Allies 70 years ago, including the intellectual pioneers in Hut 8 at Bletchley Park. For that alone, the breaking of the Enigma code merits recognition as one of the most significant turning points in modern history■

June 28th 1914. The fateful day that drastically changed the course of the Twentieth Century; the day that Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated in Sarajevo.

Having had a bomb bounce off the Archduke's car and ostensibly losing track of the motorcade, a dejected young man sat at Moritz Schiller's café – Gavrilo Princip. Who would have known that a last minute change of plan and a wrong turn would have brought Princip's target right in front of him as he tucked into his sandwich? Evidently, the young assassin took his chance, first shooting and instantly killing Franz Ferdinand's wife and then shooting the Archduke himself, severing his jugular vein.

Quite how the group of Young Bosnians managed to make such a meal of the assassination, with no less than seven assassins in the city, is beyond me. It seems a very amateurish and poorly, if at all, planned mission. They managed to send two of the Archduke's men to hospital, murder his wife and Princip even failed to take his own life after taking an ineffective cyanide tablet that had oxidised a ten inch deep river. Despite these mishaps, Gavrilo Princip was indeed in the right place at the right time and "took revenge", as he put it, ending the life of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It was the spark of the chain of events that plunged six of the major superpowers in Europe into war just over a month later.

Revenge? Perhaps. Having just gotten out of the oppressive jurisdiction of the Ottoman Empire in 1905, Serbians were already having their freedom curtailed by bold territorial advances by Austria-Hungary. The annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908 stirred an anti-Austrian hatred amongst the Balkan states with the Serbians being most antagonised by this act as they were denied an Adriatic port by the expansions from their northern neighbours. The Young Bosnians were a revolutionary group active before WWI and fought for a single, unified south-Slavic state which was, most importantly, free from Austrian control. They were thought to be assisted and supplied by a similar revolutionary group known as the Black Hand, founded by Dragutin



Franz Ferdinand on the fateful morning of June 28, 1914. Taken mere hours before his assassination.

Dimitrijevic (otherwise known as Apis) in 1911. The Black Hand trained guerrillas and carried out political murders, most notably the murder of King Alexander I of Serbia and his wife Queen Draga, a murder which Apis personally planned.

It seems fair enough that a group of revolutionaries full of indignation wanted change from the oppressive nature of the Austro-Hungarian rule. The Archduke was a rather disliked man. His marriage to the Duchess, Sophie, who was not of royal blood meant that the imperial house did not want her or her children to inherit the throne and that the aristocracy were generally opposed to Ferdinand's rule. Ferdinand highly valued the empire and was intent on ensuring its preservation and prosperity but himself was a bigoted man

SARA

What, Why

By Karan Power, Year 12



whose opinions were all over the place. He was a devout Catholic and held the accompanying anti-Semitic views as well as being a strong conservative. He often referred to Serbs as pigs and generally thought the Slavic people to be less than human; an understandable target then? But what if the Young Bosnians chose the wrong man?

Despite his frankly backward views, Franz Ferdinand

believed in two things that would have proved vital in the course of the following years, had he not been assassinated. Firstly, in spite of his views on the Serbs, he would have done what was best for the nation and so was sympathetic towards turning the bipartite state of Austria-Hungary into a tripartite state which included a union of the Slavic people as the third part of the empire. In this way, his assassination by a Serb worked very much against Serbian interests. Secondly, and more applicably to the whole of Europe, was the fact that Ferdinand (in contrast to the majority of his empire) was completely and utterly opposed to any sort of conflict with Russia and even said himself that he would do everything in his power to prevent one happening. Here we are talking about something so significant that it may have meant that the Great War would never have broken out.

All of this was sparked by a young assassin who was twenty seven days too young to receive the death penalty

caused over forty million casualties, ten million of whom lost their lives, and a war that shattered and devastated vast areas of Europe.

The war caused the dispersion of four empires which may have lasted years longer and changed the makeup of Europe, altering political, military and trading ties within the continent. Where before WWI there had been nine-

teen monarchies and three republics in Europe, by 1922 there were fourteen republics, thirteen monarchies and two regencies (Albania and Hungary). The huge cost of the war also led to an

enormous increase in taxation, from 6% of income in 1914 to 25% in 1918, crippling many who were already suffering due to the war. The demands of the war had also led to a doubling in the size of the civil service, and greater government control of national life, obviously affecting the way people in Europe lived.

You could even go as far as to say that Hitler may not have come to the forefront of German politics had WWI not happened due to the lack of anger in Germany as they would not have been crippled due to the reparations agreed at the 'peace' talks in Versailles, Paris. He may not even have been moved to go into politics had he not experienced the pain and suffering of the war as a soldier himself. Already we see huge consequences of the assassination, without which the course of the 20th Century would have been incomprehensibly different.

Looking at it from another angle, had the war not occurred, significant technological advances in tank warfare and aviation would not have happened as a consequence of the war. The large jumbo jets we use today for international flights came as an adaptation of the planes first developed for use in the war, the development of modern day planes may have been significantly hampered had Gavrilo Princip not ignited the war.

Clearly then, WWI was influential in many ways and set the foundations for a very different future in terms of technology, politics and way of life. As for Princip, he sat in prison while the events of the Great War played out. He eventually died of tuberculosis in 1918, weighing only forty kilograms. His body was deformed by the disease which attacked his bones, so much so that his right arm had to be amputated. It is safe to say he died blissfully unaware of the effects his actions nearly four years earlier would have for many a generation to come ■



The semiautomatic .380 Browning 1910-model pistol which Princip used to assassinate Franz Ferdinand.

JEVO

and What If?



As it happened, Austria-Hungary (allied with Germany) declared war on Serbia whose ally, Russia, declared war on Austria and Germany. The French, allied with Russia, did the same and German threats to neutral Belgium's security due to the Schlieffen Plan brought Britain into the war. All of this was sparked by a young assassin who was twenty seven days too young to receive the death penalty. His action, the one bullet fired from his pistol

The Irish Potato Famine

By Paddy Christy-Parker, Year 11

During the early 1800s, the Irish population of nearly 8 million was being increasingly impoverished as they were forced to survive on tiny plots of land oh-so-very-kindly provided by their rich British landlords. As a result, the bulk of the population was becoming almost entirely dependent on the agricultural marvel that was the potato, but when practically the whole of the crop failed for three successive years the country was plunged into famine.

The 'Great Famine', as it was labelled, was scientifically caused by a virulent fungus spread by the wind in the autumn of 1845, which caused the potato plants to wither and the potatoes themselves to rot underground. Meanwhile, British landlords had been crippling many of the Irish population with high rents, forcing poor workers to survive only on small plots of land where potatoes were the easiest and cheapest food to grow. Even more outrageously, the Irish were made to export other crops and meats to England, rather than keep them in Ireland to feed themselves. Therefore, when the potato harvest crumbled for three years, the country was set in disarray. The British relief effort was commandeered by Sir Charles Edward Trevelyan (my great-great-great-great grandfather), who unfortunately believed that laissez-faire politics was the best solution and so felt that minimal effort was required from the British government as it was the landlords and Irish nationals' problem to sort out. It is even suggested that he deliberately slowed and minimised relief operations during the height of the famine, as he explained in a letter to an Irish peer that he felt the famine to be "an effective mechanism for reducing surplus population". Luckily for the Irish, Trevelyan was not the only man organising relief, as Prime Minister Peel privately started providing shipments of Indian maize to combat the severe famine. These were far from ideal as the maize had to be ground twice in a country devoid of many mills, but out of necessity, the Irish made do and ultimately survived off this imported corn.

As well as the obvious famine, a lack of crops for many heartbroken farmers meant that they were unable to pay their rent and were evicted from their meagre homes. With this, many hundreds of thousands of starving Irish migrants flooded to America, and by the end of the famine nearly 1 million had arrived in America, both legally

and illegally. Once there, the Irish were able to exert political influence and with their hatred of colonial systems of oppression like that of the British in Ireland, they formed a huge segment of the Northern fighting force during the Civil War, known as the Irish Brigade, to fight against the forces of American slave owners.

Back in Ireland, due to the mass migration and nearly 1 million deaths due to the famine, the population was severely down on what it had been just three years earlier. As a result, birth rates were down, and an extremely slow economic progress led to the continued loss of hard-working young people, with an estimated 4.5 million more leaving for America between 1851 and 1921. Not until the 1960s did the population stop falling and level off at around four million, which shows the long-lasting effects that the famine had on the country. Other than a dramatic fall in population, the famine was also a turning point in the relationship between the Irish and their rulers; the British. Due to the large-scale eviction of the bankrupt Irish by their British landlords and the lack of support from the government, the vast majority of the population were turned against the British, and the social unrest finally erupted in violence in a small uprising in 1848. However, as it was still during the famine, this was easily crushed. Nevertheless, as Irish migrants gained influence elsewhere, they were able to financially support the local economies and began to envisage an Ireland free from British rule. Whilst it is hard to say that the famine eventually led to Irish Independence, it did definitely encourage a profound sense of alienation from the supposed benefits of being part of the British Union.

So the Irish Potato Famine of 1845 is not as inconsequential as it first seems; it resulted in a crippling loss of population in Ireland, if fuelled hatred towards the British which indirectly influenced the Irish contribution to the American Civil War, along with encouraging many negative feelings towards the British rule in Ireland which probably served as the foundations for their long struggle towards independence. Finally, it even disgraced my old family name in Ireland and so now there is a popular Irish folk song called 'The Fields of Athenry', sung at Celtic Football Club, which is about a man who has been sentenced to transportation to Australia for stealing 'Trevelyan's corn' to feed his starving child ■



Members of the 'Irish Brigade'; men who had emigrated to America and fought in the civil war, 1862

The Norman Conquest

By Max Sinclair-Johnson, Year 10

In my opinion, The Battle of Hastings in 1066 is the most important turning point in British history. The battle itself is significant, yet the unprecedented results that stem from it are more important, as it led to the Norman Conquest of England, which revolutionized England forever. It is one of history's turning points that affects us today and will certainly in the future.

The Battle of Hastings was fought between the Norman-French army of Duke William I of Normandy (William the Conqueror) against an English army under the Anglo-Saxon King Harold II, 8 miles northeast of Hastings in East Sussex. It is estimated that William had approximately 8,000 men on his side (5,000 infantry and 3,000 knights), whilst Harold had approximately 8,500 (2,500 housecarls and 6,500 members of the fyrd). Harold's men started at the top of the hill, whereas William's started from the bottom. During the first 5 hours of the battle, it seemed like the Anglo-Saxon army was going to win, as their 'Saxon shield wall' was impenetrable. As the Norman-French forces continually attempted to break the shield wall with archers, they were pelted with axes and stones. However, it was after roughly 6 hours that the English made their fatal mistake. To the English, it seemed that the French were retreating, so some of Harold's men broke the shield wall in order to give 'chase'. The French army simply turned around and ruthlessly slaughtered these men, leaving Harold with not only less men to fight with, but also a severely broken and weakened shield wall. William's many cavalry soldiers rode between the separated shield wall, cutting down the defenseless soldiers as they went. Within a short period, Harold and his brother Gyrth had both been killed, and within an hour, the English were defeated.

The English defeat meant that the path was clear for William's army to march to London, and they arrived easily, with little resistance. By 25th December, William was crowned King of England. This coronation and the subsequent Norman Conquest led to many consequences in England, some of which are still being felt today.

One obvious repercussion of the invasion was that of the change of language in England: 'Old English' was replaced with 'Old Norman French' and Latin. Although it wasn't for three centuries before the upper-middle and upper classes (such as the Nobility) spoke English again, the lower classes still spoke English. Moreover, the sudden influx of thousands of French words to the English language means that we frequently use French words everyday now, in the 21st century. Latin was made the official language of the English government and this was preserved for many years. English names like 'Harold' were slowly ousted from use, being replaced with Norman names ('William', 'Robert' etc). 'William' has been one of the 'Top 20 Baby Names' for over 50 years, showing the lasting effect on our dialect that the Norman Conquest has on us even today.

A subtle cultural transformation in Norman England was the replacing of Old English 'mead hall' banqueting, with the French fashion of wine drinking. Wine is very popular nowadays in England and the Norman Conquest must be partly accredited for this.

Another aspect of Norman control in England that is still clearly felt today is that of the building (en masse) of Norman Castles, typically in the 'Motte and Bailey' design. Before the Norman Conquest, there is thought to have been no castles anywhere in the whole of Britain, which shows the changes that the Normans made on our landscape. The Normans also remodeled many churches and cathedrals, such as the cathedral of Ely, and these stunning examples of Norman architecture can still be seen today. One of London's most famous attractions, the Tower of London, was in fact built under the rule of King William I to symbolize the Norman control over the people of London, and also to try and discourage rebellion.

Under the rule of William, the 'Domesday Book', a remarkably advanced book detailing the land and resources of 11th century England was produced. For many centuries this book was used for administrative and legal uses, and for modern historians it provides an excellent reference of local history. The power of the Norman government is clearly shown as most of England is comprehensively researched and recorded- this level of detail was not matched in a survey of this kind until the population census of the 19th century. It must be acknowledged therefore that the Norman Government was sufficiently more advanced and efficient than the Old English Government, and it must be recognized that the 'Domesday Book' exists thanks to the Norman Conquest.

The effects of the Norman Conquest are being felt equally strongly today just as they were back then. For example, the transformation of the English language since 1066 has been remarkable- not only has Old English been eradicated from use, but we use French words every time we speak! Without the Norman Conquest, we would not have any of the castles that make up some of the most beautiful landscapes of England. Moreover, the Tower of London exists only because of William the Conqueror- the Tower for many years played great significance in our history, and still does today! Fine Norman architecture can still be witnessed up and down the country, especially in cathedrals that are still in use today. Without the Norman Conquest it is likely we would be living much less civilized lives than the ones we do. For over millennia the Battle of Hastings and subsequently the Norman Conquest have shaped British history. They are two of Britain's most important turning points ■

Martin Luther

The 95 Theses and the Reformation

By James Hudson, Year 11

Martin Luther was born in Eisleben, Germany in 1483 and became a scholar, studying at the University of Erfurt. The story goes that after almost being hit by lightning, Luther, “terrified of death and divine judgement”, decided to become an Augustinian friar. On behalf of some of the Augustinian monasteries, Luther visited Rome in 1510, where he was shocked by the wide scale corruption occurring in the Catholic Church, particularly the vending of indulgences - a system whereby, in return for a fee, the church guaranteed no punishment for sin. This selling of indulgences was to help finance the building of the grand St. Peter's Basilica. In 1517, Luther met with indulgence salesman Johann Tetzel in Wittenberg, and it was at this point he decided to confront the issue. He believed that the Pope and the Church had condensed religion into a product to be sold, and was strongly opposed to this. In protest, he drafted ‘95 theses’ and nailed them to the doors of the Church of Wittenberg on 31st October 1517. The main messages displayed were that ‘salvation was a gift from God received through faith’ and that the ‘Bible is central to religious command’. This paved the way for the protestant reformation. Many people from all classes had made complaints about the Church, but it was this one act that kick-started the reformation, which would become one of the great turning points in history.

One of the reasons Luther's ideas were so widely received was due to the relatively newly invented printing press, which allowed Luther's beliefs to be able to be communicated quickly across Europe. Also, his ideas resonated strongly with a lot of people, especially the peasant population, who suffered due to poor living standards and corruption. The Reformation led to the creation of a Church that was meant to be purer and simpler, without extravagance, cost or corruption. It was a Church where salvation

was decided through deeds, which was perhaps another reason why the poorer peasant population were so supportive of it.

So why was this such a major turning point?

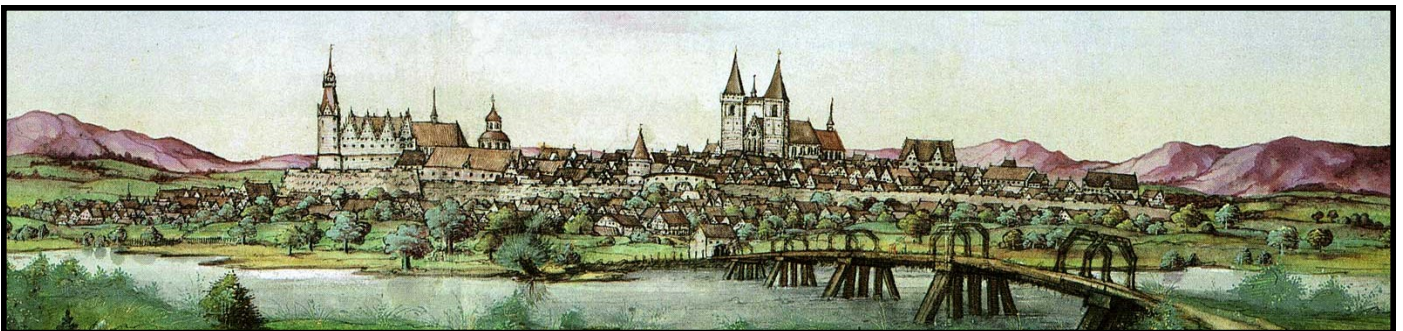
The protestant revolution gained the support of rulers wishing to be free from Rome and the Catholic Church's control over them. As a result, the Reformation increased the power and status of rulers or the monarchy within a country. Yet, most significantly, as more countries struggled

free from Rome, the religious unity in Europe became lost, for no longer were the countries bound together by Catholicism. Naturally, without unity, the European countries were more independent and hence the Reformation

seems to have indirectly led to over 400 years of war in Europe, as countries had lost a common bond. For example, it led directly and almost immediately to the ‘Thirty Years War’, which was the most destructive conflict in European history before WWI. Also, the Spanish Armada was a battle between Catholic Spain and Protestant England. Only with the creation of treaties and the European Union following World War II were the countries able to be re-united by a mutual need to help one another. Hence, there has been a huge reduction in conflict since that date. Additionally, it must be noted that in the modern day, it is trade and not religion which has unified Europe.

Luther's actions also had other less immediate and obvious impacts that were felt for centuries. Firstly, the success of this movement would encourage more people to challenge authority, both at the time and in the future. It also marked one of the first instances of giving one man a voice - after all, unknown friar Luther succeeded against the Holy Roman Emperor and the Pope, and Catholicism

The Reformation led to the creation of a Church that was meant to be purer and simpler, without extravagance, cost or corruption. It was to be a church where salvation was decided through deeds



Otto Heinrich's depiction of the town of Wittenberg, where Luther nailed his 95 theses to the Castle Church door in 1517



Martin Luther

as a whole, so why could others not do the same? It is also significant in the way in which it influenced later events. It is likely that the Protestant Reformation set the precedent that gave Henry VIII the impetus to also break away from Rome, and also form a new denomination of Christianity. This, therefore, also led to internal conflicts over religion in various countries and led to acts such as the dissolution of the monasteries. Furthermore, Mary I became known as 'Bloody Mary' through her executions of Protestants during her reign shortly after the reformation.

The Reformation led to a needed diversity of opinion and thought and because of this it led to unrest and a sense of disarray in Europe, stimulating many famous battles and conflicts in history to occur. However, now the period of fighting in most of Europe is over, the benefits of the freedom and diversity which stemmed from the Refor-

mation and the inspiration of Martin Luther are showing in today's society.

In conclusion, the Reformation of 1517 is a huge turning point and an event of great significance in history. This is because it perhaps marks the moment where there was a transition from the Middle Ages to the (early) modern times. For one of the first times in history, authority has been successfully criticised by humans of lower status, leading to a change, a Reformation. This event sets precedent and adds motivation to other movements leading to the renaissance of religion, art and literature. The Reformation led to times where people could freely express themselves, which is why this event must surely be one where humanity enters the modern age. Perhaps most significantly, it arguably also marked the beginning of the decline of religion being a dominant force throughout society ■

China's Great Armada

By Matthew Harris, Year 12

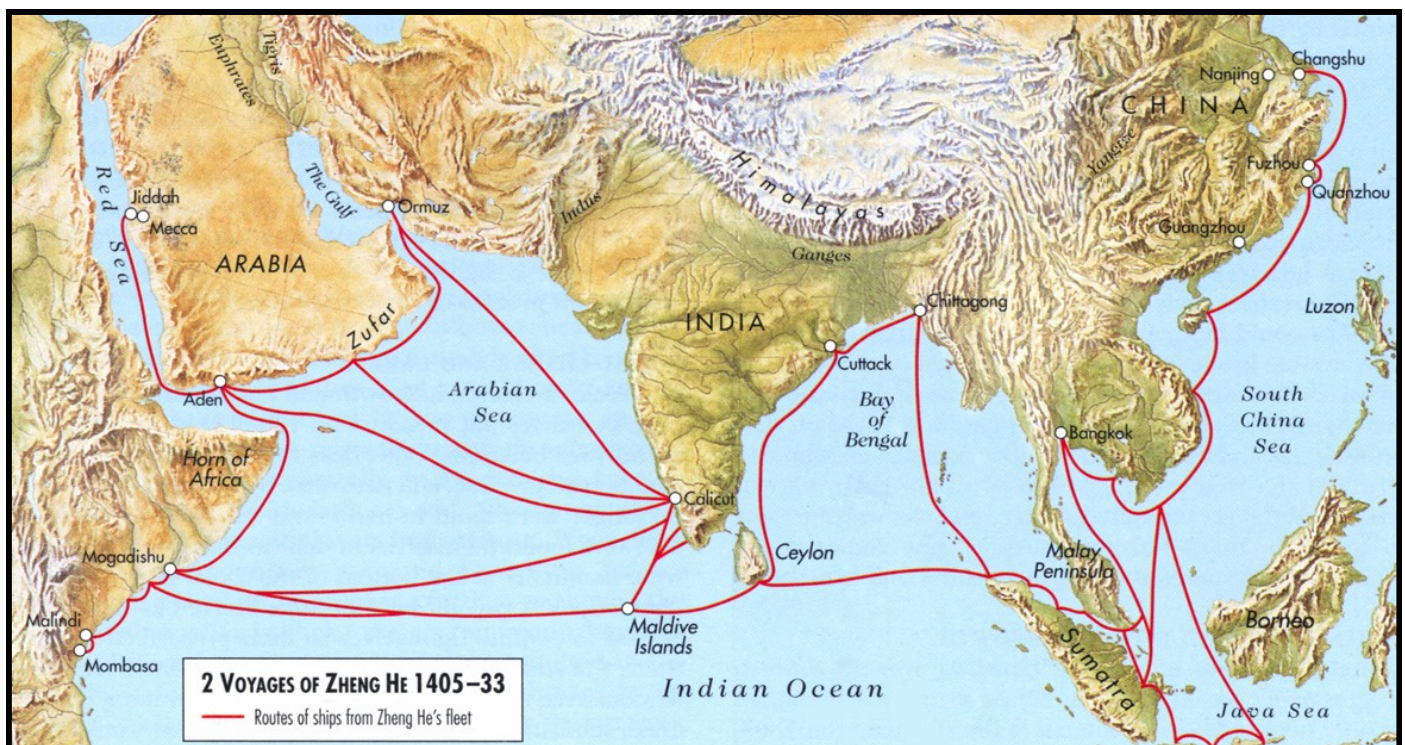
In 2005, China celebrated the 600th anniversary of their greatest explorer, Zheng He. With a fleet larger than the Spanish Armada, Zheng launched a series of unprecedented expeditions to countries across the world. His voyages took him to Africa, Arabia, Thailand and India. But they ended abruptly after the death of the Yongle Emperor in 1424, dramatically changing world history. The new emperor, Hongxi, began a long period of isolationism, turning China into a reclusive nation for centuries, leaving the countries of the west free to conquer the new world and gain ascendancy over the old.

Life

Zheng was captured by Ming armies as they entered Yun-nan in 1381, seizing power from the Yuan Dynasty. At the age of 10, Zheng was castrated and brought to serve under the 21-year-old Prince of Yan, the future Yongle emperor. He joined the army and over the next few years, quickly came to prominence for his military achievements. In 1402, he helped the future emperor carry out the Jingnan campaign, the rebellion against the reigning Ming emperor. The victorious Prince of Yan was then crowned as the Yongle Emperor. The old Yuan Dynasty had constructed fleets of vast ships known as the treasure fleets. Joseph Needham, a respected sinologist, concluded that the ships were mostly likely to have been between 400 and 600 feet long. Zheng was promoted to senior positions within the new administration and, starting from 1405, the new emperor sponsored him to embark on seven naval expeditions, using the treasure ships.

The Expeditions

The Emperor's aims with the new expeditions were to establish a Chinese presence overseas, gain control of trade in the Indian Ocean and gain more tributary states (Tributary State – a state which had its own government but had to send a tribute to the Emperor - there were a number of weaker nearby territories that functioned as tributaries to China at this time). Most importantly, however, the expeditions were a display of strength. As sociologist Janet Abu-Lughod explains, "The impressive show of force that paraded around the Indian Ocean during the first three decades of the 15th century was intended to signal to the 'barbarian nations' that China ... had once again become the 'Middle Kingdom' of the world." The fleet that Zheng He would command was unprecedented. Assembled in 1405, it was made up of 317 ships with 28,000 crewmen and linguists and emissaries from across China. The largest of the junks in the fleet was 400 feet long and 150 feet wide, larger than a football pitch, dwarfing the ships later used by Christopher Columbus. The voyages reached Thailand, India, Arabia and the Horn of Africa. Zheng He exchanged gifts with the peoples he met who, in exchange, offered tributes to the emperor. He was presented with wild animals including ostriches, camels and a giraffe. At the end of his seventh voyage and at the command of a much smaller fleet sponsored by the Yongle emperor's successor, Hongxi, the 62-year-old Zheng He died. As Confucian members of the court gained influence and attacks by the mongols in the north drew money away from exploration, the treasure fleets that



Map of Southeast Asia showing the route of Zheng's fleet, on voyages across the Indian Ocean, as far as Arabia and the east coast of Africa then throughout the islands of Southeast Asia



Emperor Hongwu, the first emperor of the Ming dynasty who ruled from 1368-1398

had been brought in by the Yuan dynasty were brought to an end. By 1503, the navy had shrunk to one tenth the size it had been in the early years of the Ming dynasty.

But was this a turning point? Some historians believe that Zheng He's expeditions were merely an aberration in the course of Chinese history and not by any means a turning point. After all, in accordance with Confucian belief, the first Ming emperor, Hongwu was opposed to all outside influence. In fact, it is extraordinarily lucky that these expeditions were even allowed to take place given that the basis of Chinese culture, Confucianism, objected to commerce, the creation of which was one of Zheng He's major aims. Confucius believed that merchants harmed society by seeking profit with no regard for others. He wrote, 'the superior man understands what is right, while the inferior man understands what will sell.' The first emperor of the Ming dynasty made Confucianism the basis for Chinese culture by reintroducing civil service examinations. In order to enter the civil service, a candidate would be tested on their knowledge of Confucius' works. In other words, the emperor ingrained Confucian beliefs about merchants and exploration into Chinese society, irreversibly.

However, even if they were not a major turning point in Chinese history, they were a significant turning point in world history. China's return to isolationism marked the beginning of a shift in power from east to west, the effects of which can be seen all over the modern world.

This was the last real attempt by the Chinese to engage with the outside world until the middle of the 19th century, when it was forced by European imperialists to open itself up to trade. While China closed itself off, Europe was growing in power and influence. As historian Daniel Boorstin wrote of the differences in attitude to exploration, "When Europeans were sailing out with enthusiasm and high hopes, land bound China was sealing her borders. Within her physical and intellectual Great Wall, she avoided encounter with the unexpected.... Fully equipped with the technology, the intelligence, and the national resources

The impressive show of force that paraded around the Indian Ocean during the first three decades of the 15th century was intended to signal to the 'barbarian nations' that China had once again become the 'Middle Kingdom' of the world

to become discoverers, the Chinese doomed themselves to be the discovered." While more capable than Europe of exploration in the new world and engagement in world trade, China began a period of isolationism.

Just 57 years after Zheng He's death, in 1492, Christopher Columbus discovered the new world. It is hard to believe that the age of European expansion began less than six decades after the biggest fleet in recorded history had set sail from Chinese shores. The Ming Dynasty was the richest and most powerful empire in the world, but the death of the Yongle emperor and the succession of Hongxi marked the beginning of the end. The end of Zheng He's expeditions marks a shift in power that is only beginning to change today. It is only recently, over 600 years later, that China has started to take its place as a world power ■



By Simon Knowles, Year 9

What do the English Civil War, the American Revolution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Second World War and the rapper Jay-Z all have in common? They all take inspiration from one of the most famous documents in the world, the cornerstone for democracy, liberty and freedom: Magna Carta ("The Great Charter" in Latin). Although it was created 800 years ago, it could be argued that it is just, if not more, important today than it was in 1215, when King John of England and the Barons met at Runnymede to negotiate (albeit in the long term unsuccessfully) a peace treaty to an ongoing power struggle. When King John was forced to fix his Great Seal to the document, he could not possibly have known the implications, almost a millennium later, of what he was doing.

Without a doubt, John was an atrocious King. Early in his reign in 1202, he murdered his nephew, Arthur of Brittany, because he was a threat to the throne, setting a precedent that stayed with him throughout his reign – trust no one. Then, in 1204, he lost Normandy and most of his – and his Barons' – land in Northern France. John was an embarrassing opposite to his famous, much-loved elder brother, Richard the Lionheart, and his infamous father, Henry II. Endeavouring to reclaim his land and his dignity, he abused his feudal rights to collect taxes and arbitrarily raised tolls by 2 or 3 times to fund a campaign, which culminated in a humiliating defeat at the Battle of Bouvines in 1214. Tired of subsidising pathetic campaigns through exorbitant taxes and losing lands in France, around half of the Barons rebelled and captured London on 17th May 1215. This on its own, however, did not force John to meet their demands, because he had a powerful army of French mercenaries and strategically placed castles; the two sides had reached a stalemate, with neither daring to make the next move. To resolve the feud before it escalated into a civil war, the

two sides agreed a meeting point half way between London and John's stronghold, at the meadows in Runnymede on the Thames, to draft a document that we today recognise as the bedrock for democracy.

Quite surprisingly, democracy and freedom were not the primary aim of Magna Carta in 1215; the Barons simply wanted more power from the King, who was happy to appease them for as long as it took to muster an army to quash their rebellious spirit, and, as might have been expected, it failed miserably as a peace treaty. As soon as John realised what he had sealed (not, as the Royal Mint's Commemorative £2 would have you believe, signed!), he wrote to Pope Innocent III and asked that it be annulled. Despite the falling out between John and the Church, and the subsequent small matter of John's excommunication in 1209, the Pope agreed, saying it was "illegal, unjust, harmful to royal rights and shameful to the English people". Within 10 weeks of its sealing, Magna Carta was invalid and both sides declared Civil War.

Today, however, we draw particular attention to clause 39: "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law

of the land." Buried in the depths of inane clauses about fishing laws on the Thames and Inheritance Tax, this clause did not attract any special interest in 1215, but nowadays it exemplifies what Magna

Carta is about – to establish the Rule of Law, stating that no one, not even the King, is above the law and everyone must abide and be protected by it. Following on from Henry II's overhaul of the justice system in the mid-to-late 12th century, Magna Carta supposedly put an end to John's autocratic rule which blatantly opposed Feudal

For centuries to come, Magna Carta replaced the anachronistic relationship between King and subject with an "updated" view of how the King was to treat all his people, for the first time giving the common man freedoms

law, establishing that the law is the same for everyone, and according to clause 40 "To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice". Everyone must be tried fairly, and the King was suddenly unable to tax and imprison as he pleased with no real reason other than his own interests. For centuries to come, Magna Carta replaced the anachronistic relationship between King and subject with an "updated" view of how the King was to treat all his people, for the first time giving the common man (albeit limited) freedoms.

For the majority of the English in 1215, Magna Carta was not all it was made out to be. For a start, clause 39 only promised that "no free man shall be seized...", when in fact only about half of the 3 million men and women of England were free; most were villeins, essentially peasants, that worked on the Barons' estates in return for very small amounts of land on which to live and work. Indeed, the free were promised all these fantastic rights, yet the peasants were promised nothing, with Magna

freedom and liberty. It was used again in 1649 at Charles' trial when he tried to halt legal processes that would hold him responsible and later lead to his execution

Over a century later it was used again, this time in the American Revolution, when colonists cited Magna Carta over issues of arbitrary arrest and the searching of private property, and the right to their freedom and independence. Indeed, the famous slogan "No taxation without representation" could be one based on Magna Carta. So much did the Americans accept the laws of Magna Carta, that parts of it can be seen in the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. When, in 1964, Nelson Mandela stood trial, he argued for the importance of "independence and impartiality" of any judicial system. After WWII, Eleanor Roosevelt called the new United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights "a Magna Carta for all mankind".

Overall, I think Magna Carta was a key turning point, not only in British but also in international history. For the



Runnymede castle as it stands today. It was once home to Gilbert Fitz-Reinfrid, lord of Kentdale and Westmarieland, a baron who was fiercely opposed to Magna Carta

Carta only increasing discrimination against them- there was protection of villeins from excessive taxation by the King, but no protection against unfair taxation by their Barons! This discrimination extended to women as well- of the 39 names on the document, not a single one was a woman, and although women too had the right to a trial, the jury and the public office would have been solely male.

It is not so much what Magna Carta meant in 1215 that is famous, but it is how it has been used through the ages and today. In 1628, Magna Carta was used by Sir Edward Coke in parliament to argue against Charles I imposing taxes not agreed by Parliament, to billet troops or imprison subjects without trial. This, he argued, went against Magna Carta and the right it gives the English people to

first time, a King was subject to the same laws as his people, and there was common law that led to the downfall of autocratic behaviour in England and the rise of courts and Parliament. Even 800 years later, 3 clauses of the revised 1225 edition of Magna Carta still appear in the English statute book as law. From inspiring Gandhi and Mandela, to the trial of Charles I, to the American War of Independence and the UDHR, Magna Carta has influenced the lives of everyone across the globe. And, as we celebrate 800 years of freedom and liberty this year, we hope that Magna Carta, and the freedom and liberty it represents, lives on for another 800 years ■

Turning Points - More Peace from Violence?

By Ciarán Cartmell, Year 12

I was doing some research recently into nuclear weapons, as you do, and I came across extracts from a book by Steven Pinker called 'The Better Angels of Our Nature'. The main conclusions from the book were that we, the human race, are becoming less and less violent and that this is due to us becoming less psychologically inclined to traits such as revenge and tribalism. Many people would strongly disagree with him, probably citing the rise of terrorist groups such as IS, genocides and wars both international and internal. However, in a sense I agree with Steven Pinker. I do believe that we are becoming less violent in terms of international conflict, and even in some cases less brutal, but I do not completely attribute this to a psychological change.

I personally believe that it is a fearful reaction to less frequent but very shocking events that make us feel, well, shocked so much into a state where we oppose more and

more types of violent acts. I do not feel that there are many events can be said to have been as pivotal, in this sense, than the abhorrent dropping of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. These in my opinion, had long lasting effects in the countries that were directly affected by them.

On the 6th August 1945, a plane called Enola Gay flew over Japan, carrying the result of a \$2 billion research plan that culminated in the creation of 'Little Boy', the codename for the first nuclear bomb. The resultant figures that exhibit, quite clearly, how destructive this bomb was are that: 70,000 people died instantly, 75,000 people were injured by the bomb, 70,000 people died over the next five years from radiation poisoning, 70% of the buildings were destroyed and of the people that died instantly, 60% of them died due to burns and 30% due to falling debris. One very simple fact about this event that I

Below: Enola Gay, the plane which dropped the world's first nuclear bomb on Japan in 1945, and her crew





think supports my view is that no nuclear attacks have taken place since. I apologise to any Year 10s for whom I have just ruined the Cold War course, but I feel that neither side was prepared to launch a nuclear weapon at any point, even during the tensest periods of this era, namely the construction of the Berlin Wall and the Cuban Missile Crisis. I think that this shows a clear link between the brutality of the attacks on Japan, and the current nuclear peace. Why? I feel it must be because of the moral fears of becoming the person that killed 140,000 men, women and children, but also because of the fear of the same happening to those around the person that fired the missile. Despite them probably being in a concrete bunker miles below the surface, in which case, they have no one to deal with in the aftermath.

Additionally, how many world wars have there been since the dropping of the nuclear bomb in 1945? Surely no one thinks that this is coincidence? This cannot be attributed to the losses of people during the period between 1937 (not a mistake, Japan were fighting China at his point with foreign 'involvement') and 1945. This is demonstrated by the fact that the deaths of 8.5 million people over the four year WW1 was not enough for lasting 'peace'. Moreover, even when the USSR and the West were indirectly fighting each other during the Korean War, no attacks were made on either of the 'major' powers' home nations, in my opinion, because they all had nuclear weapons. The fact is that this war over the independence of South Korea dragged on for a further two years when US President Truman fired a general for threatening to use the nuclear bomb against China. Was there a link between China only being scared of nuclear weapons (which they themselves were trying to get a hold of) and the war continuing once this threat was removed? It is more likely than not in my opinion.

Another arguable effect of the dropping of the bombs is that since then, the countries that were notably influenced by the bombs have seemingly become less brutal. The obvious example is Japan itself. Before 1945, they regularly attacked foreign nations, most prominently China. As well as organising a National Humiliation for the modern day superpower, they committed the most unthinkable atrocities in the Chinese city of Nanjing. In addition, Japan had regular political instability with its many warlike leaders at a time when the country experienced a number of forceful coups. You may be wondering how this links to my point that they have become less brutal, but the answer is that all of these things happened before 1945. Yes, there may have been a fairly significant war coinciding with this date, but Japan offered an unconditional surrender after the nuclear bombs, not any

other form of military action. Furthermore, since then, Japan has had to rebuild large amounts of its infrastructure and economy, and if it further proves the point, they are now one of the most prosperous nations with one of the highest worldwide life expectancies.

Of course I am not saying that the death of hundreds of thousands of citizens was a good thing, but, it does appear to have had adverse effects that have led to the improvement of Japan in general. Just in case the obvious example was not enough, other nations that were affected by the development and use of nuclear weapons also seem to be doing fairly well. Germany has achieved dominance in Europe, through long running projects to develop the Germany economy since the unification of the country. Moreover, the UK, France and other Western European nations appear to have become less involved in the affairs of other nations, with a few notable exceptions, surely this is better than all-out war? But then how come terrorist groups such as IS are still around and atrocities such as genocides still occur today? Even if certain countries appear to have improved financially, is this enough to say that we have become less brutal? Well, quite simply, no?

The response to this is not the most satisfactory, but it does appear to slightly support the initial point. Nevertheless, it is basically the comparison between all of the

Even when the USSR and the West were directly fighting each other during the Korean War, no attacks were made on either of the 'major' powers' home nations because they all had nuclear weapons

international conflicts before 1945, and all of the ones after. Although there are huge differences in the lengths of time, there have of course been less major wars between different countries. Some posit this as the result of the fear

of nuclear retaliation between countries. Moreover, how many times have we seen countries openly at war with nuclear nations on their own soil? The answer appears to be nowhere near as frequently as before Hiroshima.

Despite some fairly legitimate counter arguments, I still believe that international relations, in terms of the frequency of open conflict are improving. I put this down to the fear of all out nuclear conflict. Although international wars do occur it appears that they are less frequently aimed at those countries who do have these weapons of mass destruction that kill millions of people. Moreover, I still feel the need to state that I am opposed to the use of nuclear weapons and that the dropping of two bombs on Japan was horrific, but, I think that these weapons have kept a certain degree of international peace. Why? Well to use part of a quote from Steven Pinker, "Human nature is complex. Even if we do have inclinations toward violence, we also have inclination to empathy, to cooperation, to self-control", and in my opinion, the collective, overriding fear of death ■

Medicine in WWII

By Sean Titus-Glover, Year 11

World War Two was a time of major medical advances, in direct response to the many diseases plaguing many soldiers on the front line. With these illnesses, along with tight cramped spaces and the thought of death in the minds of soldiers, life during the war was extremely tough and challenging to get through.

Advances in medicine had already occurred pre-war, however with the huge numbers of people losing their lives to such devastating epidemics during the 6 year conflict, research pioneers pushed forward to find solutions. In 1936, the firm May & Baker produced the drug known as "M+B", the first effective sulphonamides that could be used for a variety of infections. Sulphonamides are defined as a group of chemically synthesised molecules that are able to prevent the multiplication of not just one but several bacterial pathogens, especially for the prevention of pneumonia.

Pneumonia is a disease where the lungs become inflamed and the air sacs become filled with pus, caused by bacteria or viruses. This sort of illness was rife amongst soldiers, purely because it was so contagious and untreated, meaning it spread like wildfire through the cramped masses of people and developed quickly inside the body. The first type of sulphanilamide was called "M+B693" and was successfully used to treat sore throats, pneumonia and gonorrhoea pre-WWII. However, the very nature of war meant that both treatments were needed in far greater quantities than during peace time. This acceleration of production was achieved by the drug being placed on war footing just before and during the start of the war on the home front so that the supplies that were required were produced. In 1943, Winston Churchill was given 'M+B 693' as a treatment for pneumonia:

"This admirable 'M+B' from which I did not suffer any inconvenience, was used at the earliest moment and after a week's fever the intruders were repulsed."

~ Winston Churchill - December 29th, 1943

Other such advances in medicine during WWII included penicillin that was mass-produced in the early 1940's, produced by Sir Alexander Fleming in 1928. During

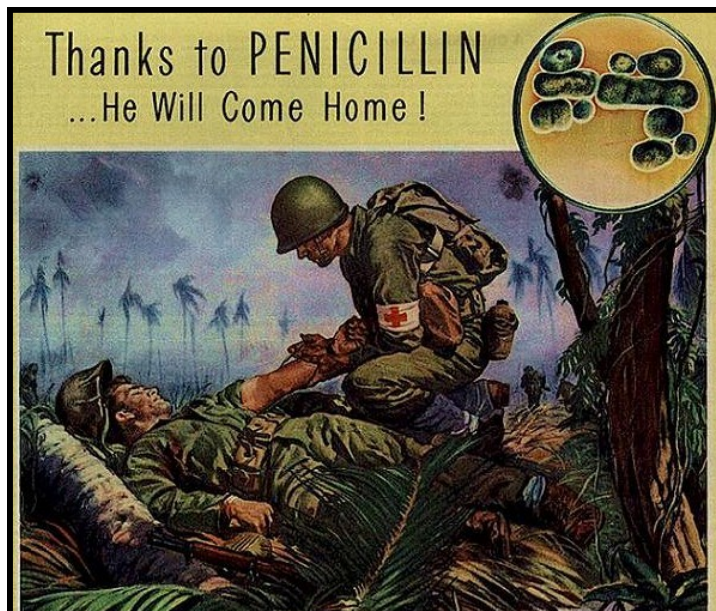
WWII, several strains of penicillin had been produced to combat many different pathogens and the application of the drug on any wound greatly reduced the chances of the wound getting infected at all.

Penicillin was so effective that production increased from 400 million units in early 1943 to more than 650 billion units per month by the end of the war in 1945.

The majority of penicillin used during the war was produced by drug giant Glaxo. Supplies of penicillin were sent with the troops making the D-day landings in June 1944. It was discovered to be particularly effective against gangrene. As a result, the death toll from infected wounds dramatically decreased. Penicillin was also used to solve a problem that plagued the battlefield: the wait time between when a soldier was wounded and when he was seen by a doctor for surgery or treatment. In the Allied Forces, the average wait time was nearly 14 hours. The longer the wait, the greater the probability the infected area would need amputation. Administering penicillin to the wounded vastly reduced the chance that the wound could get infected and increased the survival chances in the interim time between the wounding and surgery.

Morphine, as a pain killer, was widely used during World War II. It is a powerful drug that dulls the senses and relieves serious or unbearable pain effectively and quickly. During World War II, Squibb, a pharmaceutical company, developed a way for medics to administer on the front lines a controlled amount of morphine to wounded soldiers. What Squibb introduced was called a morphine syrette, which was like a miniature toothpaste tube that contained the morphine. This syrette had a small needle that could be inserted just under the skin for the morphine to be squeezed into the human body to take neurological effect.

Unfortunately, morphine is a depressant, much like heroin, which is highly addictive with withdrawal symptoms including anxiety, sleeplessness, and seizures. With this trait, many soldiers on both forces of the war in WWII and even in WWI became addicted to morphine, because of its addictive chemical nature, helping to relieve stress in the trenches and also because of its numbing ability, meaning many soldiers with injuries of a massive range could enjoy the sensation of no such pain for a few hours ■



We have taken a famous event in history and summarised it in just seven words - all you have to do is work out which event we are talking about.

If you think you have all 10 of the answers correct, then email the full list, along with your name and form, to: lwain1@suttonmail.org, with the subject 'Retrospect Quiz' before 1st May 2015 and you will be entered into a prize draw. Answers (and the name of the winner) will be published in Issue 5 of *Retrospect*. Good luck!

1. Assassin becomes Princip-al target for Sarejaven forces.
2. No sino change in East Asiatic relations.
3. German communist election hopes up in flames.
4. Citizens lacking bread. Cake based solution unpopular.
5. "They'll never take our freedom!" Freedom taken.
6. Right Wing candidate gets Fuhrer in politics.
7. Misguided cruise liner receives icy reception.
8. Overly zealous baker accidentally makes London toast.
9. Esteamed inventor, James Watt, engineers a revolution.
10. German East-West talks hit a wall.



Editorial

And with that, another issue of *Retrospect* is brought to a close. Hopefully you found it interesting and educational. Look out for the next issue, coming out sometime in the Summer term! In the meantime, keep an eye out for posters going up around the school advertising lunchtime sessions run by us. Thanks for reading, we hope to see you again soon.

Until next time,

Your Editors

SGS History Society is...

Miss Wain

Louis Garnham

Joe Goodman

Karan Power

Ciarán Cartmell

Callum Newens

Nick Woolgar

John Heffernan

