Nixon vs Lennon
Inside the president's plot to deport the anti-Vietnam War superstar

Salem Witch Trials
The terrible truth behind the hysteria that tore a village apart

Brunel: Iron Man
How Britain's engineering hero built a new world

Blackbeard's Revenge
On board the ship that set timbers shivering

Mao's Revolution
The full shocking story told through pictures

Nightmare in Jamestown
Discover the tragedy that doomed a colony

Plus: Bikes through History, Battle of Thermopylae, Garibaldi, Kristallnacht, Somali Pirates and More
An army marches on its stomach, so the saying goes! W. Britain’s latest limited edition sets depict German comrades at rest, manning their ‘Heersfeld-kuche’, peeling potatoes and playing a tune or two on the concertina.
Welcome

There are few stories from history that fill me with as much disbelief as the Salem Witch Trials. For centuries historians have speculated as to what caused a group of girls to begin having strange fits and hysterical outbursts, but it is the seriousness with which their claims of bewitchment were taken that I find the most baffling. Families with long-standing disputes leaped at the chance to condemn their enemies, and within weeks, the village had descended into chaos. By the following year, more than 200 people had been accused of witchcraft, and 20 had been executed.

This issue, Willow Winsham, blogger at The Witch, The Weird And The Wonderful, exposes the terrible truth behind one of America’s most notorious miscarriages of justice. Turn to page 28 to read the full story.

The scandal continues with Nixon vs Lennon on page 42, revealing the unbelievable tale of the president’s attempt to deport the Beatles star following his anti-Vietnam war protests. Lastly, on page 64 discover the engineering superhero that was Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Editor’s picks

- The Queen Anne’s Revenge
  Take a look inside Blackbeard’s infamous flagship and find out how it fell into his clutches before slipping from them.

- 15 most barbaric blood sports
  From bear (and human) baiting to goose pulling, discover some of the cruellest – and craziest – sports from across history.

- Mao’s Cultural Revolution
  The shocking story of China’s political and social upheaval under Chairman Mao told through pictures.

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Just how close to the real story was Captain Phillips?

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Page 50
Led by Robert Leroy Parker, better known as Butch Cassidy, this gang of outlaws carried out some of the most infamous train and bank robberies of the Old West era. Despite their ominous name, Cassidy prided himself on never having killed a man, and instructed the gang to shoot at the horses rather than the riders when being pursued.

1900
HONKING MAD

Saxophonist Big Jay McNeely drives his adoring audience into a frenzy at the Olympic Auditorium, Los Angeles, through a technique known as 'honking'. Honkers overblew their saxophones and often hit the same note over and over. McNeely was renowned for being the most flamboyant of all, and often walked out of the concert halls mid-performance, leading the crowd behind him.

c. 1951
Schoolboy Edwin Link was desperate to fly, but he knew he would never be able to afford the lessons. Instead, upon graduating, he set about building the first ever flight simulator. This was operated by an electric pump and organ bellows, which made the trainer pitch and roll as the pilot worked the controls. By World War II, the Link Trainer was standard equipment at every Allied training school.
Barbary pirates terrorised the Mediterranean for some ten centuries.

In the 1980s, merchant seamen being trained for pirate attacks were told: “If pirates have the drop on you, take it easy, don’t start a fight – because you will probably lose.”

Members of the Combined Joint Task Force 151, a multinational task force, conduct counter-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia in 2010.

12 PAGES OF SWASHBUCKLING, BANDITS AND BOOTY
Pirates often tried to avoid battles when raiding and hoped to intimidate their prey into surrender with a Jolly Roger flag. Efforts to stem piracy often ended in violent and bloody clashes, such as the Bombardment of Algiers in 1816. The legend of Captain William Kidd’s buried treasure inspired Robert Louis Stevenson’s Treasure Island. At the height of her power, notorious pirate Ching Shih commanded more than 300 ships and 20,000-40,000 sailors. Gold from the wreck of the pirate ship Whydah, commanded by Captain Samuel Bellamy, was recovered in 1984. During the 17th and 18th centuries, many pirates were hanged and their bodies gibbeted. The Virgin Islands in the Caribbean were a haven for pirates during the Golden Age of Piracy. Blackbeard’s reputation was so terrifying that most who encountered him surrendered immediately.
They have inspired films and folk tales, but where did pirates come from, and how have their exploits evolved over thousands of years?

**THE FIRST PIRATES**
The earliest record of an act of piracy can be found in an inscription on a clay tablet from Ancient Egypt. From the time of the reign of Pharaoh Akhenaten, it describes how pirates strike on the waters around the Egyptian coastline.

**THE TYPANNY OF POLYCRAITES**
Polycrates is a different type of pirate - a despotic ruler. He takes control of the Greek island of Samos and uses their fleet to plunder any ships that sail nearby.

**THE PIRATE KING**
Not only did monks turn to a life of piracy, but kings too. Eric of Pomerania, the first king of the Nordic Kalmar Union, spent ten years pillaging merchants in the Baltic Sea.

**PIRACY'S GOLDEN AGE**
In the Caribbean and on the coast of America's colonies, the English and French capture the vulnerable lands left by the decline of the Spanish Empire. They encourage piracy for profit and defence.

**MARAUDING IN CHINA, JAPAN AND KOREA**
- Pirate ships with 300 crew land on Chinese shores and plunder villages.
- In 1443, Korea signs a treaty to welcome 50 Japanese trading ships a year.
- Pirates make Taiwan their base for more than 100 years in the 16th century.

**INFAMOUS PIRATES OF THE 17TH CENTURY**
History's best-known pirates thrive in the ensuing period. Henry Morgan (1635-88), a British Privateer, leads pirate invasions in Cuba and Panama. William Kidd (1645-1701) is executed for piracy on the Indian Ocean.

**ENSLAVED ON THE BARBARY COAST**
- British ships are captured by Algerians between 1677-80
- 7-9,000 men and women are taken into slavery as a result
- 850,000 slaves are captured between 1580-1680

The Algerian and Tunisian pirates joined forces early, and held more than 30,000 captives in Algeria alone by 1650.

**MAKING BARBARY SAFE**
In the 18th and 19th centuries, Britain, America and France act against Barbary piracy. Britain changes its laws so that accused pirates are tried by naval or colonial officers rather than a jury.
CILICIAN PIRATES OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

The destabilised Seleucid Empire and a need for slaves to work on plantations in Italy creates a privateering opportunity for the Cilician pirates in modern south Turkey. Grain ships are their main target.

CAPTURE OF JULIUS CAESAR

Caesar is captured by Cilician pirates, as yet undisturbed because they supply slaves to Roman senators. He is their prisoner for 38 days while a ransom of 50 talents is raised.

POMPEY VERSUS THE PIRATES

20 legions are given to Pompey to fight piracy
500 ships are at his disposal
40 days is how long it takes him to free the seas from pirates

EUSTACE THE MONK

Known as Eustace the Monk or the Black Monk, this privateer spends some time in a Benedictine monastery gaining his moniker. He is later outlawed by King John for pillaging English subjects.

VIKING PIRATES

On the offensive across Europe (and the world) from their Scandinavian homes, the Vikings secure their reputation for centuries to come by pillaging and plundering across the seas in longboats.

FALL OF ROME

After the success of Pompey's war on pirates, the Mediterranean waters are fairly safe until the fall of Rome. In the aftermath, the seas once again fall victim to a surge in piracy.

BLACKBEARD

Edward Teach, known as Blackbeard, finds infamy after blockading the port in South Carolina. He demands a medical chest, which is delivered, but will later be hunted down by the British Navy.

HIJACKING THE ACHILLE LAURO

The Italian Achille Lauro cruise ship is hijacked by Palestinian militants. They demand the release of 50 Palestinian prisoners. When this is ignored, they direct the ship off course.

SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

Piracy as terrorism reaches its most extreme point with the 9/11 attacks.

SOMALI PIRATES

Ship hijackings across the world in 2010 were by Somali pirates.
The scourge of the Atlantic and the Caribbean, Queen Anne's Revenge was a mighty vessel. Constructed in 1710 by the Royal Navy, the frigate was first stolen by the French, renamed La Concorde de Nantes and used as a slave ship before making its way into the hands of Blackbeard in 1717. Much has been made of the fearsome pirate (real name Edward Teach) and like his famous flagship, he was originally part of the Royal Navy. However, the lure of plunder and booty was too much for this young privateer who decided that a pirate's life was for him. He added 26 guns to the vessel giving it a total of 40, and its size meant it could take up to 300 tons of precious loot. Its main hunting ground was the North Carolinian coast and the ship's clever tactic was to hide in inconspicuous inlets before launching a devastating broadside on unsuspecting passing ships. Reeling from the attack, the ship would then be boarded and stripped of its wealth and booty. Queen Anne's Revenge was only Blackbeard's ship for a short time but its speed and strength helped him in his most audacious mission: the blockade of Charleston Harbor.

In 1718, Blackbeard steered the ship into the South Carolinian port in league with three other pirate ships. Five merchant ships were plundered by the corsairs as traffic came to a standstill in the dock for a week. Blackbeard made his escape, taking many Charleston citizens as hostages for ransom. He then marooned his ships and many of his crew about 300 miles north and took the treasure for himself. The infamous pirate had escaped once again but Queen Anne's Revenge had made its final voyage. It was rediscovered in 1996.

**Gun mechanism**
The cannons were kept in place by a rope noose and would be covered for added protection. Rear rigging allowed the weighty guns to be as manoeuvrable as possible.

**Reload and fire!**
In the heat of battle, sponges would cool down the cannon in between shots and a ramrod would push the loads into the gun, ready to fire.

**Armament**
Each 900kg cannon was operated by four men and fired 10kg bullets that shattered the enemy ships from stern to bow.

**Did you know?**
Rather than the usual Jolly Roger, Blackbeard's flag featured a horned skeleton piercing a heart with a spear and toasting the Devil.
Piracy

Shipwreck
The shipwreck was studied for many years before it was confirmed that it was indeed Queen Anne's Revenge. The recovered artefacts are now on show at the North Carolina Maritime Museum.

Sailing speed
With three masts and eight sails, Queen Anne's Revenge could achieve high speeds when in pursuit of an enemy or fleeing the long arm of the law.

Blackbeard's quarters
Located at the rear, the captain's cabin was the most secure place in the event of a mutiny, but only the bravest would dare rebel against Blackbeard.

Supplies
Extra rigging, food and drinking water were kept in the hull while heavier materials like ammunition were kept midship for ballast. Food supplies consisted of salt pork, salt beef and hard tack (unleavened biscuits).

Anchor
The ship's anchor alone weighed 1,500kg. Its sheer bulk meant raising it took about an hour of hard work.

Seizure
Blackbeard first came into contact with the ship off the coast of Martinique. The pirates, aboard two sloops, took over the ship easily as the crew had been severely weakened by scurvy and dysentery.

Galley
Fire was constantly a threat on board these wooden ships, so the stove was made of brick and a bucket of sand was kept nearby to extinguish flames.
**5 shocking facts about…**

**MODERN-DAY PIRACY**

**THE CONTEMPORARY ORGANISED CRIME SYNDICATES PILLAGING THE SEAS WORLDWIDE, PRESENT DAY**

01 *Arrested pirates are often released*
Although pirates are synonymous with attacks at sea, ships anchored in harbours are frequently targeted. The raids may be easy to spot but legal loopholes and prison expenses mean governments often don’t believe it’s worthwhile to imprison pirates, so let them go free.

02 *Pirates have access to high-tech tools*
Piracy can be seen as quite an unsophisticated operation, but modern-day buccaneers have 21st-century technology at their disposal. To give them the best chance of success, pirates find the most profitable shipping routes using GPS systems and satellite phones as well as night-vision goggles.

03 *Attacks increased by 75 per cent in the last decade*
A record 1,181 hostages were taken by Somali pirates in 2010, with millions paid in total for their ransom. As of 2016, numbers are reducing slightly, but the piracy hot spots are still the Somali coast off the Horn of Africa, the Gulf of Aden and the South China Sea.

04 *Worldwide financial losses from piracy are at $16 billion*
Modern piracy is such a lucrative enterprise that the world economy is struggling because of it. Many ships do not report when they have been looted. If they do, insurance rates can rise by as much as 30 per cent and valuable trading time is lost during an investigation.

05 *Piracy could be Somalia’s biggest industry*
Pirates in Somalia earned as much as $150 million in 2008, and an individual high up in the hierarchy can earn as much as $2 million a year. In 2009, pirates prowled an estimated 2 million square miles of the world’s oceans.
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During the golden years of the Hittite and Egyptian civilisations, there was one threat that simply would not go away. The Sea Peoples were the pirates of their day and terrorised the most powerful societies of the ancient world. They were a nomadic civilisation, plundering across the Mediterranean and migrating to suit their needs. More powerful on the ocean than on land, the Sea Peoples never truly stamped their authority, and as a result their real nationality and ethnicity remain unknown. One thing is for sure: they were a thorn in the side of anyone that crossed them.

RISE AND SHINE
An early wake-up call was essential. Competition for food and other resources was fierce, so getting up at the crack of dawn and swiftly heading out on coracle boats significantly increased the chances of claiming the biggest haul of supplies. If all the resources in the locality were exhausted, it was time for the group to move on, possibly running into other powers.

EARLY SKIRMISHES
The Sea Peoples were expert mariners, so coastal raids of up to 20 vessels were usually successful ventures. Using sharp daggers, they were protected by conical helmets and a bronze cuirass. Hit and run was their most successful tactic, and an early morning assault meant it was an in and out job before the bulk of the enemy military could respond.

RETURN TO THE COSTAL COMMUNITY
After a successful skirmish, it was time to return with the plunder. The societal hierarchy of the Sea Peoples was relatively unknown, but there were men known as ‘Great Ones’ who led by example in a military and political capacity. Heading into enemy territory was always a risk, as some could be seduced by the promise of a life in the Egyptian or Hittite civilisations.
TO BATTLE

Despite being primarily seafaring folk, the Sea Peoples still had up-to-date military gear. Using what they had plundered earlier in the day, the military would ride into battles on chariots with long thrusting spears. The resources of the Egyptians would often tip the balance in their favour, however, so a popular tactic of the Sea Peoples was to go into battle as allies of the Hittites.

TIMED RETREAT

The Sea Peoples were at their best in hit-and-run attacks. Unable to match the strength of the Egyptian military, quick skirmishes were the most successful tactic especially when not backed up by Hittite allies. One such example was the Battle of Djahy where the Sea Peoples had to make a hasty retreat to escape the clutches of Ramesses III.

ANOTHER WITHDRAWAL

Hit-and-run was the name of the game for attacks by the Sea Peoples, but the Egyptians soon got wise. After the retreat, Ramesses would have archers hidden along the shoreline to rain down arrows. Any failure would diminish their culture more and over time they were thought to have absorbed Egyptian customs and lost their identity.

DESIRE TO GO INLAND

Forever known as shoreline raiders, the Sea Peoples were actually keen on establishing inland settlements. After a victorious battle, household goods and building materials would be carried back with the soldiers along with women and children from the group. In the wake of another defeat, that evening they would lament on an opportunity lost to colonise new lands.

TO BED

The day done, possessions would be stashed in ox-drawn carts and they would go to bed with the same thoughts every night: the fear of Egyptian retribution yet determination to fight once more to gain new lands. As long as they kept out of the clutches of the major powers in the Mediterranean, they were free to continue their pirate ways.
FEARLESS FREEBOOTERS

From terrifying murderers to ship-bound kings, the word ‘pirate’ conjures up many images. Here are ten of the most notable to sail the seven seas.

**CHEUNG PO TSAI**
**CHINESE 18TH CENTURY**
Active during the 18th century, Cheung Po Tsai is remembered as a notorious pirate. Having been introduced to piracy after being captured by Cheng Yat, he developed a friendship that ultimately became romantic with famed pirate (and Yat’s successor) Ching Shih, leading to Tsai’s own rise. During his assaults on the Guangdong coast, he at one point counted a 20,000-strong army among his followers.

**ABDUWALI MUSE**
**SOMALIAN 1990-PRESENT**
Muse was one of four pirates who participated in the hijacking of the Maersk Alabama, as chronicled in the movie Captain Phillips. After kidnapping the captain, a standoff between US Navy SEAL forces ensued, resulting in the deaths of all the pirates apart from Muse. He was put on trial in the US and was sentenced to more than 33 years in prison.

**FRANÇOIS L’OLONNAIS**
**FRENCH C.1635-68**
Active in the Caribbean during the 1660s, L’Olonnais quickly earned a reputation for barbarity and cruelty. After surviving a shipwreck and subsequent attack off the Yucatan coast, Mexico, he proceeded to go on a bloody rampage, laying siege to and ultimately sacking a number of ports off the Gulf of Venezuela. During this time, he and his crew indulged in numerous instances of murder, rape and torture – there is one account that even has L’Olonnais tearing out and eating the heart of an unfortunate captive. Whether this is true or not, after becoming shipwrecked once again, L’Olonnais met a fittingly violent end – he was brutally murdered and most likely eaten by a group of natives.

**EDWARD TEACH**
**ENGLISH C.1680-1718**
Better known as ‘Blackbeard’, Teach is one of the most notorious pirates of all time – so much so that it can be difficult to discern the man from the myth. What is known is that as the captain of the formidable vessel Queen Anne’s Revenge, he gained infamy for his 1717-18 blockade of the port of Charleston, South Carolina, during which he ransomed the city’s inhabitants. Despite being pardoned after his ship ran aground, he later returned to piracy, although he met his match during a battle with Royal Navy Officer Robert Maynard, which ended with the feared pirate being decapitated.

Blackbeard tied lit slow-burning fuses to his hair in order to help cultivate his fearsome image.
ANNE BONNY

**IRISH** C.1700-92

One of the most infamous female pirates of all time, most of what we know about Bonny’s life is taken from Charles Johnson’s 1724 book, *A General History Of The Robberies And Murders Of The Most Notorious Pyrates*. The illegitimate child of an Irish lawyer, she emigrated to Charleston where she met John ‘Calico Jack’ Rackham, with who she began a relationship. The two – alongside fellow pirate Mary Read – attacked vessels along the Jamaican coast aboard the ship William, before they were captured in 1720. Rackham was hanged, and Read died in prison, but Bonny is believed to have been ransomed by her father.

HAYREDDIN BARBAROSSA

**TURKISH** C.1478-1546

Also sometimes known as ‘Redbeard’, Barbarossa was a pirate lord who terrorised the Mediterranean coast. After his brother was killed during a battle with the Spanish, Barbarossa pledged his allegiance to the Ottoman Empire, ultimately becoming its admiral-in-chief. His piracy thus legitimised, he went on to conquer the whole of Tunisia, and even defeated the forces of Charles V’s fleet at the Battle of Preveza in 1538. His numerous victories ensured dominance of the Mediterranean for the Ottoman Empire, and his many descendants continued his pirate legacy long after his death.

WILLIAM KIDD

**SCOTTISH** C.1645-1701

Despite gaining infamy as a pirate, there is some dispute over whether Kidd truly deserves this title, as many of his actions were implemented while working as a privateer – ie, apprehending pirates under the orders of various authorities. Some of his activities involve apprehending ships in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, although after taking the Armenian ship Quedagh Merchant in 1698, he was labelled a pirate. Upon returning to New York, he was arrested, sent to England and executed.

TEUTA OF ILLYRIA

**GREEK 3RD CENTURY BCE**

The ruler of the Ardiaei tribe in Illyria from 231-227 BCE, Teuta of Illyria was a strong leader and feared warrior. She repeatedly attacked and plundered Roman merchant vessels in the wake of the First Punic Wars. Her actions ultimately resulted in an unwinnable war against the vast forces of the Roman Empire, and little is known about her later life, but she has nonetheless gone down in history as a feared warrior and pirate.

TURGUT REIS

**TURKISH** C.1485-1545

After being captured by pirates at the age of 12, Turgut Reis learned from them to become one of the most renowned Ottoman pirates of all time. In this capacity, he won numerous important battles, such as Preveza, Porsa, and Djerba, and also assisted in the rise of Tripoli as a city. At various times in his life he served as governor of Djerba and commander-in-chief of the Ottoman fleet, and ultimately met his demise during the Great Siege of Malta in 1565.

“**If you had fought like a man, you need not have been hanged like a dog**”

Anne Bonny

**SAYYIDA AL HURRA**

**MOROCCAN** C.1485-1542

Little is known about Sayyida al Hurra – even her real name. Her designated title means ‘noble lady who is free and independent; the woman sovereign who bows to no superior authority’. Born in Granada, she fled to Morocco as a child after the city was sacked by Christian forces, and she later turned to piracy against them, along with many other Muslims. She allied with Hayreddin Barbarossa as she attacked Spanish and Portuguese shipping in the Mediterranean.
How to CAPTURE A MERCHANT SHIP

A PIRATE'S GUIDE TO PLUNDERING VALUABLE CARGO CARIBBEAN, EARLY 1700s

Everybody knows that pirates were only after one thing: treasure, right? In fact, during the Golden Age of Piracy, these bearded barnacles were looting all sorts of valuable cargo, from sugar and coffee to cocoa and silks. Pirates were a major problem for American colonists in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, strangling their essential trade routes between the New World, the Caribbean and Europe. Soon, however, the sea-bound scoundrels themselves were to become prizes worth hunting, with a rich reward given to any man who captured and killed them. With bounties on their heads, the pirates' reign of terror only lasted about 40 years.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

01 Get into position
Set sail in the Bahamas and keep a weather eye on the horizon for merchant ships. This is the perfect spot for unscrupulous operations since it's in line with trade routes and close to the cargo ports. There are also plenty of uninhabited islands and secluded coves in which to lie in wait for a passing cargo ship before ambushing them.

02 Follow your target
Shadow the merchant ship to see how many men are on board, what kind of cargo it carries and what armaments they could have. This could take several days, but a pirate must be patient; surprise is one of the greatest weapons on the open seas. Pirates were democratic, and would take a vote to make important decisions, like whether to attack.

Fearsome flag
A pirate's flag was a symbol of death, sporting depictions of skeletons and devils. They hoped it would scare the enemy into surrendering.

Deadly weapons
It was not in the pirates' interest to waste expensive gunpowder, but cannons helped to intimidate the merchant ships.

Coveted cargo
Merchant ships carried anything from molasses to kegs of rum, but also plenty of useful supplies such as ammunition and food.

RULING THE WAVES

Speedy schooner
These ships were popular among pirates during the Golden Age because of their speed and ability to sail through shallow waters.

Coveted cargo
Merchant ships carried anything from molasses to kegs of rum, but also plenty of useful supplies such as ammunition and food.
How not to... loot if you want to live

It was 1718 and of all the pirates in the Caribbean you were likely to meet, Edward Teach - better known as Blackbeard - was the most dreaded. As soon as sailors clocked the notorious flag - a skeleton stabbing a heart with a spear - they surrendered, trading their cargo for mercy.

Desperate, the locals went to the governor of Virginia, Alexander Spotswood, whose hatred of pirates sparked a manhunt. Once Blackbeard was within their sights, the sailors hid below deck, tricking the pirates into boarding their ship and using their own dirty tricks against them:

"Damnation seize my soul if I give you quarters, or take any from you," boomed Blackbeard, before bearing down on Royal Navy Officer Robert Maynard. But he didn't see the sailor that sprang from behind and hacked his head clean off. It was mounted on the bow of the ship that captured and killed the most infamous swashbuckler, but the legend of Blackbeard lived on.

4 FAMOUS... PIRATE SHIPS

ADVENTURE GALLEY
1695-99, WILLIAM KIDD
A hybrid ship combining sails and oars, Adventure Galley was poorly built, and was abandoned because of its rotting hull.

FANCY
1694-95, HENRY EVERY
After staging a mutiny and taking control of the ship, Every customised it to make it one of the fastest in the Indian Ocean.

WHYDAH
1716-17, SAMUEL BELLAMY
Originally a slave ship, the Whydah Gally was captured by Black Sam on the return leg of its maiden voyage. Its wreck is the only pirate ship authenticated beyond doubt.

ROYAL FORTUNE
1719-21, BLACK BART
This was just one of many ships acquired by notorious pirate Bartholomew Roberts to be renamed Royal Fortune.

03 Raise the flag
Wait until the dim light of dawn or dusk when the ship is difficult to see, and draw within firing range. Determine the ship's nationality and then raise that country's flag to fill them into a false sense of security. At the last moment, switch the flag for the pirate's true colours - usually black or blood red - and fire a warning shot.

04 Surrender or die
The flag is usually enough to frighten ships into surrendering without a fight. It's well known that a pirate flag usually means that no mercy will be shown once the ship has been boarded. Jam the rudder with wooden wedges so the ship can't be steered, and then use grappling hooks to pull the vessel close enough to climb aboard.

05 Take hostages
Ransack all the cargo, leaving no crate unturned, and offer the sailors a place on the pirate ship. They could have valuable skills or be used to press other crew members from merchant ships. If they refuse, toss them overboard, take them as slaves or hold them ransom. Always strip them of any jewels or money first, though.

06 Share the booty
Divide up the loot with your fellow crew, making sure that the captain receives a larger share of the stolen goods. Then either add the captured merchant ship to your fleet - making some adjustments to hide its identity, of course - or send it to the depths to destroy the evidence. There's a reward for captured pirates, so you can't be too careful.
STICK TO THE LAW
A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PIRATES HAD SEVERE PUNISHMENTS FOR WRONGDOERS
Under the reign of Ching Shih, a strict ‘law’ was implemented with severe consequences for rule breakers. Disobey orders? Your head’s chopped off. Steal from the common plunder? Say goodbye to your head. Fornicate while you’re on duty? Take a wild guess...

TAKES
PICK UP A PROFIT FROM MORE THAN JUST YOUR PLUNDER
Implementing levies and taxes on coastal towns and villages gave Qing-dynasty pirates a guaranteed profit, and thanks to the pirates’ undefeatable power, the government was too afraid to kick up a fuss about it. These taxes lasted until the dissolving of the Red Flag Fleet in 1810.

PEACE TREATY
AN UNSTOPPABLE FORCE REQUIRES SOME UNCONVENTIONAL ACTION
With an infinitely growing fleet that simply couldn’t be defeated - not by the Chinese, Portuguese nor British naval ships - there was only one course of action. The Chinese government offered amnesty to all pirates. Ching Shih retired, and all but 400 pirates kept their booty and were offered military roles.

PLUNDER
GETTING GOODS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY
As all pirates are renowned for, Qing-era corsairs would plunder towns, villages and other ships. Loot was divided up fairly, however, with the capturing ship retaining 20 per cent of the goods, while the other 80 per cent was put in the fleet’s collective fund.
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The people of Salem were wholly convinced that the devil was real, allowing for the accusations to be taken seriously against so many.
The air crackled with tension as the people of Salem, Massachusetts, gathered on Gallows Hill to witness the latest round of justice. The eight men and women who had been brought by cart were neighbours, friends and family - but this only made their betrayal sharper. For those eight - Martha Corey, Alice Parker, Mary Parker, Margaret Scott, Mary Eastey, Ann Pudeator, Wilmer Redd and Samuel Wardwell Sr - were all guilty of the most hideous and unforgivable of sins in God's eyes: witchcraft.

There was no doubt of their guilt. The cart that had carried the condemned on their final journey had been beset with difficulties - the devil's work, the people had muttered, but even the devil could not save his own now. Martha Corey prayed most earnestly before she was turned off into oblivion, and Mary Eastey's moving farewell to those that she would leave behind caused many tears from those who listened before the rope was set about her neck. But many others remained unmoved - these “Firebrands of Hell”, as one observer...
A Village Torn Apart

There wasn’t a soul in Salem not affected by the witch trials.
The afflicted girls were present in court when the accused stood trial. When the accused were called, they were getting no less than they deserved. Mercifully, although the gathered group did not yet know it, this would be the last time their beleaguered community would witness the death of a witch on the gallows. There must have been many there that day, accuser and accused alike, who wondered how they had come to this.

It all began in Salem Village in January of that year when 11-year-old Abigail Williams and her cousin nine-year-old Betty Parris fell ill. Children sickened all the time, but this was no ordinary illness. The girls suffered from fits so terrible it made others weep to watch them: at times they were struck dumb, at others they seemed to be choked by their very breath by an invisible force. As if that were not bad enough, they complained of being pinched and pricked, their bodies pulled and twisted about against their will.

In desperation, the Reverend Samuel Parris, Betty’s father, sought medical help. Far from offering hope, however, the doctor’s verdict was grave indeed. The girls were not stricken by any ordinary illness. Their suffering was the work of the devil - they had been bewitched.

While the family reeled from this pronouncement, two other girls from Salem Village, Ann Putnam Junior and Elizabeth Hubbard, started to display the same symptoms as their friends. As local residents debated this alarming development, neighbour Mary Sibley took matters into her own hands. She instructed Tituba, the Parris’s Indian slave, to prepare a ‘witch cake’. Rye and the urine of the afflicted girls was mixed together and baked; the ‘cake’ was then fed to the family dog, which was carefully watched for signs that would undeniably confirm the cause of the girls’ suffering. Carried out in good faith, Tituba would come to regret her part in the matter, as once the cake was consumed, the girls cried out that Tituba herself had been the one to bewitch them.

When Reverend Parris discovered what had been done, he was horrified: counter-magic such as this was no better than the very evil they were trying to battle, and to make matters worse, the finger had been pointed at his own servant. When questioned, Tituba denied being a witch or harming the girls, but it was too late. The girls continued to insist she was responsible, and also named Salem women Sarah Good and Sarah Osborne as her accomplices.

Dorothy, or Dorcas, Good, whose testimony convicted her own mother, was only four years old when she confessed to being a witch.

Could you be a witch?

Tick the boxes that apply to you - if you mark three or more, it's very likely that you're under Satan's spell.

- I am over the age of 50.
- I am unmarried.
- I am widowed.
- I am married.
- I have moles.
- I talk a lot.
- I dress provocatively.
- I own a cat.
- I have defended someone already accused.
- I am in a dispute with an influential member of the community.
- I argue with my husband.
- I am rich.
- I am poor.
- I don’t go to church.
Why did it happen?

Here are some of the top theories put forward to explain the outbreak of accusations:

Hand of God
The people of Salem believed that the trials were punishment for not following the will of God. They had sinned, and because of their "inordinate love of the world", God had let the devil trick them into accusing and executing their neighbours.

Fraud
A popular and early theory, the girls were, quite simply, faking it. They wanted attention and saw their "fits" and other torments as a way to get this, bringing them the status that they craved.

Acid Trip
It has been suggested that the symptoms displayed by the girls were actually caused by ergotism or rye poisoning. The afflicted villagers had eaten bread made from the infected rye, leading to the alarming fits and convulsions.

Indian Scare
The Second Indian War overlapped with the Salem trials and the fear of the witch within may have stemmed from fear of Indian attack on the frontiers. Several of the girls who made accusations at Salem were refugees from areas affected by the fighting.

Hysteria
The girls may have been genuinely experiencing hysteria: suffering hormonal and biological changes due to their age and living through a time of great upheaval, their fits were an involuntary display of the stresses placed upon their minds and bodies.

Biological Pathogen
Illness of a physical kind may have been responsible after all. It has been highlighted that the animals of Salem likewise experienced the same bizarre symptoms as the girls, and that these fitted with those of epidemic encephalitis.

Misogyny and Repression
Women with control of property considered beyond the norm were over-represented in those accused and executed at Salem. These "independent" women were seen as a threat to the established patriarchy and therefore needed to be removed.

After being formally complained against, the three women were examined by John Hathorne in the local meetinghouse - the largest building in Salem Village. The room was packed as neighbours came to hear for themselves what the witches would say. The women were by turns frightened, eloquent and defiant. Sarah Good had done nothing, she said, but the blame could be placed firmly at Sarah Osborne's door. Osborne likewise denied her guilt, pointing out that she was not to blame if the devil chose to use a spirit in her image to do his mischief. Then it was Tituba's turn. Far from denying matters, she confessed to a stunned room that she was after all guilty of causing harm to the girls through malefic magic.

She had not wanted to harm them, Tituba insisted, it had been only at the behest of Sarah Good and Sarah Osborne that she had done so. She described in great detail the familiar spirits that her associates used to do their terrible deeds. Sarah Good had a yellow bird that sucked her between her fingers, and Sarah Osborne had two spirit helpers - one a strange hairy creature, and the other that had a woman's head and legs, but also wings.

The afflicted girls, present in the room and making a display of their sufferings, fell silent as Tituba spoke. It was a brief respite, however, and they began to suffer afresh as she finished. This was Tituba announced, Sarah Good's fault, and the wailing girls loudly agreed. The session descended into chaos, leaving the good people...
of Salem with much to talk about as they left for their homes.

Over the next few weeks, the girls continued to suffer. Worse, more came forward with the same terrifying symptoms, and others including Martha Corey, Dorothy, or Dorcas, Good (the four-year-old daughter of Sarah Good) and the elderly Rebecca Nurse were accused and arrested. Tituba confessed further, saying that she had signed the devil's book with her own blood, and that she had seen the signatures of Sarah Good and Sarah Osborne there too. Throughout March and April, the terrified community turned on itself - accusations and arrests snowballing in a vain attempt to rid themselves of the curse that seemed to be upon them.

Sulromsltcmae)evantsy(eya!

 Came Sir William Phips, the newly appointed governor of Massachusetts. Arriving on 14 May, he found to his horror the province in utter chaos, with no less than 38 people imprisoned on suspicion of witchcraft. With his reputation and job on the line, Phips wasted no time in establishing a court of Oyer and Terminer - meaning to hear and determine - with nine judges appointed to hear proceedings against the accused. The news must have filled the people of Salem with satisfaction and relief: the troublemakers would now get what they deserved. Far from lessening, however, accusations continued apace and further arrests were made. By the time the court finally convened just over two weeks later on 2 June in Salem Town, there were 62 people held in custody.

Bridget Bishop was the first to come before the judges. Like any prisoner of the time, she was already at a disadvantage: conviction was the outcome more often than not once a case reached trial. But Bridget Bishop had more reason than most to fear this particular court. This was not the first time the three-times-married woman had been accused of witchcraft. Her second husband, Thomas Oliver, had accused her when he was alive, and there was talk by some that she had murdered at least one husband by witchcraft. Although she had once escaped the noose, the evidence given by the girls of Salem against Bridget was damming indeed. She had come to them in ghostly form, they said, tormenting them physically with pinches and prods, even threatening to drown one of the girls when she would not sign the devil's book for her.

Rebecca Nurse was actually found innocent by the jury, but the verdict was changed to guilty once some people protested.

Did rivalry between old and new set the stage for accusations?

At the time of the trials, Salem was divided into Salem Village - populated by farmsteads and families with traditional values - and Salem Town, where a new, entrepreneurial class had been slowly growing for the last two decades. With clear tension between the less well-off traditional farmers on the one hand and the innkeepers, tradesmen, and more market-savvy farmers on the other, it is noteworthy that the first accusations came from the interior of the Village, while the accused were from the outskirts nearest the Town. Were the trials a result of the beleaguered traditionalists striking back against the encroachment of capitalism?
In front of the packed room, people witnessed with their own eyes Bishop's guilt. If the accused woman so much as glanced at the girls, they fell into fits, wailing and writhing piteously for all to see. If that wasn't enough, someone declared that Bishop's spectral form had torn her coat - and when the coat was examined, there was indeed a tear just as stated. In her defence, Bishop swore she had never seen the girls before in her life and that she was innocent, but to no avail. The indictments against her were upheld and she was found guilty, going to the gallows on 10 June as the Salem witchcraft trials claimed their first victim.

There was a temporary lull in the madness then as the court adjourned to seek advice from the area's most prominent ministers. Cotton Mather, whose name will always be linked with the tragedy of Salem, wrote the collective response. It at first seemed rather measured, urging that "a very critical and exquisite caution" should be taken where evidence was concerned in case the devil was actually playing tricks and making fools of them all, especially if the person accused was of formerly good reputation. This urge to caution was almost entirely negated, however, by the opening and closing points of the letter. The afflictions suffered by the tormented girls were, the ministers were certain, deplorable and must be stopped at all costs: in their own words they could not "but humbly recommend unto the government the speedy and vigorous prosecution of such as have rendered themselves obnoxious, according to the direction given in the laws of God, and then wholesome statutes of the English nation, for the detection of witchcrafts."

With this endorsement, and despite the resignation of Nathaniel Saltonstall from the court in disgust at Bishop's execution, the court reconvened at the end of June. The judges were not slow to continue the work they had started: Sarah Good, Elizabeth Howe, Susannah Martin, Sarah Wildes and the elderly Rebecca Nurse were brought to trial and, declared guilty, hanged just under three weeks later. Six more were found guilty and sentenced to the same fate on 5 August: only one, Elizabeth Proctor, escaped the noose on the 19th - her execution was postponed because she was pregnant. Like those that had gone before them, their bodies were buried shallow graves for the birds and the elements unless their grieving families could retrieve them under cover of darkness.

It must have seemed to the people of Salem that they would never be free from the curse set upon them: however vigilantly they tried to root out the devil's evil, more and more witches were uncovered to take their places. Things were no better as September came round. 18 more were indicted with nine found guilty and sentenced to hang on the 17th of that month. One of those tried, however, 81-year-old Giles Corey, refused to plead either guilty or not guilty to the charges against him. He had been accused by the girls back in April, and had languished in prison ever since waiting trial. Although many came forward to give evidence against him, no words could convince the man to submit a plea. By law he was therefore sentenced to death by the process of peine forte et dure - hard punishment - where the condemned endured heavy stones placed upon his chest until they finally crushed him.

Timeline: Events moved with startling speed during the Salem trials

- **January - mid-February 1692**
  - Accused: Tituba, Abigail Williams and Betty Parris
  - Charges: Witchcraft

- **March**
  - Accused: Sarah Good, Sarah Osborne and Tituba
  - Frequented a meetinghouse
  - Tituba confesses to harming the girls under duress

- **April**
  - More Salem residents are named as doing the devil's work and arrested as witchcraft fears spread
  - Reverend George Burroughs, the former minister for Salem, is accused by the girls

George Burroughs recited the Lord’s Prayer perfectly from the gallows: this was dismissed as a trick of the devil and he was hanged anyway.
7 (Exceptionally Reliable) Tests

Spotting a witch could be tricky. Luckily, the following tests could help decide if a suspect was innocent or guilty.

Spectral Evidence

1. Victims of witchcraft often spoke of being tormented by the apparition of the accused witch, even if the actual person was elsewhere at the time. Whether to allow the admission of this form of evidence was hotly debated during the Salem trials.

Witch's Touch

2. One of the simplest but most dramatic of tests to witness: the accused party was invited to touch the victim — if they fell into fits and convulsions, then this was proof that the accused was guilty of bewitching them.

Eyewitness Account

3. If someone came forward to say they had seen the accused carrying out acts of witchcraft, this could be all the evidence needed — especially if the witness was of good reputation and the suspected witch was not.

Lord's Prayer

4. Every good Puritan was expected to be able to say the Lord's Prayer. Getting it wrong when tested was a sure sign that the suspect was guilty and working with the devil, and fear or sleep deprivation were no excuse for flubbing your words.

Swimming

5. The suspected witch had their thumbs and toes bound together before being lowered into the water. Sinking meant innocence (and the accused being quickly pulled out), but if they floated, they were found guilty and liable to be condemned.

Witch's Teats

6. Searching a witch's body could reveal teats from which the witch fed her familiar spirits or the devil himself. These were often in "hidden" places, such as the armpit, under the breasts or in between the legs.

Witch Cake

7. Made of rye mixed with urine, the 'cake' was baked then fed to a dog. If the dog acted strangely, it was proof that the suffering person had been bewitched. Not, as sometimes believed, to identify the witch themselves.

May

- George Burroughs is arrested and Sarah Osborne dies in prison. The newly arrived Governor William Phips orders a court of Oyer and Terminer to be established to try accusations of witchcraft.

June

- The court of Oyer and Terminer convenes for the first time, with Bridget Bishop the first accused of witchcraft to be seen before the judges. Found guilty at trial, she is hanged at Gallows Hill.

July

- Sarah Good, Elizabeth Howe, Susannah Martin, Sarah Wildes and 71-year-old Rebecca Nurse are executed by hanging at Gallows Hill after being tried and found guilty of witchcraft.

August

- Six more Salem Village residents are condemned to hang as the young girls continue to suffer. Five die on the gallows, however. Elizabeth Proctor escapes the noose due to pregnancy.

September

- Giles Corey is pressed to death after refusing to plea either guilty or innocent. Towards the end of the month, the last executions take place on Gallows Hill.

January – May 1693

- The new Superior Court of Judicature convenes to try those who remain in the prisons. Charges are dismissed or the accused found not guilty in all but five cases, which are pardoned by the governor.
steadfast in his refusal to speak and died two days later without confessing to guilt or innocence. It was thus that the people of Salem gathered on 22 September to witness what would be the final executions in this sorry tale. Although too late to save the eight final victims, as October came around, dissenting voices began to grow louder. Among those speaking out against the trials, Reverend Increase Mather argued against the acceptance of spectral evidence, so popular in the Salem trials, in court. Governor Phips, perhaps in part swayed by the fact that his own wife, Lady Mary Phips, had recently been accused, reconsidered matters and in October sent his recommendations to London that the trials be stopped. While he waited for a reply, further arrests were ceased, and the court of Oyer and Terminer that had sentenced so many to death was dissolved.

A new court was convened in January of 1693, with William Stoughton, a man who had been instrumental in the earlier condemnations, at the helm. The task of the new court was clear: to pardon and release as many of those left in the prisons as possible. Out of the cases that followed in the next few months, most were found innocent. Three were not so lucky; they were found guilty and sentenced to follow their predecessors to Gallows Hill. Fate intervened in the form of Governor Phips: his distaste for the whole matter evident now, he overrode a furious Stoughton, pardoning not only the three condemned but also acquitting all those who still remained in the prisons. And so it was over. The Salem witchcraft madness was spent. Tituba, the slave who had been there from the start, was one of the last to be released. Imprisoned for more than a year, she was no doubt in a sorry state indeed when she finally saw the light of day again. Her ultimate fate is unknown: her old owner, Reverend Parris, refused to pay her prison costs and she was sold to someone who would foot the bill.

Slowly, painstakingly, the shattered Salem community tried to make sense of what had happened and rebuild itself. Of those involved, some proved remorseful, while others maintained that only justice had been carried out. In January 1697, a fast day was held: the apology of Samuel Sewell was read aloud, and a dozen others who had sat on the jury pleaded for forgiveness. Petitions were made across the decades that followed for all who had been executed to be pardoned, but it was not until 2001, more than 300 years since the events took place, that all were at long last proclaimed innocent. Whether or not they rest in peace can never be known with certainty: can the lingering spectre of Salem ever be fully exorcised?
Bound by tradition
So why did only 300 Spartans march to meet the Persians? Why didn’t Sparta react with a full-strength army? The answer lies in the festival of Carneia, a religious and cultural annual Spartan celebration that forbade fielding an army against an enemy.

Gathering Greek allies
Don’t let Frank Miller’s comic 300, or Zack Snyder’s film of the same name fool you—although 300 Spartans did defend the pass at Thermopylae, they weren’t alone. In fact, they were joined by about 7,000 more men from places like Thespiae, Thebes, Mycenae and Corinth.

Prophecies and planning
Before leaving Sparta, King Leonidas consulted an oracle, who foresaw his death at Thermopylae. Resigned to his fate but refusing to cower in the face of such destiny, the king chose 300 men from the royal bodyguard who had sons to carry on their bloodlines in their stead.

Dressed for war
In reality, the Spartans that met the Persian armies at Thermopylae weren’t bare chested or wearing capes—they would have been clad in traditional armour plating and plumed helmets. In fact, up close, Spartan armour was almost indistinguishable from other Greek battle plate.
Might in sheer numbers
While the account of Greek historian Herodotus places the forces at Xerxes I's command at more than 2.5 million men, that figure was more likely to have been in between the region of 70-300,000. This army was drawn from all across the empire and included his elite warrior sect, the Immortals.

Immortals on stage, screen and the pages of literature and sequential art, the battle between 300 war-hardened Spartans and the armies of the entire Persian Empire has rightfully become the stuff of legend. The fact that such a confrontation can be called a battle considering the sheer one-sided nature of the participants gives you some idea just how brutally efficient the warriors of Greece truly were. The Battle of Thermopylae was one of many skirmishes of the Greco-Persian Wars, a series of conflicts that raged between the Achaemenid Empire of Persia and the free city-states of Greece between 499 BCE and 449 BCE.

The Persian Empire had risen around the mid-6th century BCE and expanded exponentially across Asia, Europe and the Mediterranean, eventually its eyes fell on the fragmented states of Greece. Established by Cyrus the Great in 550 BCE, the Achaemenid Empire (also known as the First Persian Empire) became the largest imperial domain of the ancient world thanks to its impressive armies that swelled with every new territory conquered.

For the Persians, Greece remained a distant principality of little consideration, but a political misunderstanding between the two would set the stage for war and invasion. The Persian monarch, King Darius, demanded gifts of water and earth from every known land as symbols of their obedience and would send emissaries across the Persian Empire to collect them. One such emissary was met by the Greeks, and believing the man had come to organise an alliance with Persia, he was duly sent back to his masters with a suitable offering in tow.

When news of the Greek pledge reached the Athenian Assembly - the governmental construct that oversaw the running of Athenian society - it immediately distanced itself from the offering, keen to preserve its status of independence. Upon hearing of the foreign principality's refusal to recognise his sovereignty, the Persian monarch dispatched a fleet to bring the rebels to heel.

The campaign proved a disaster for Darius when his armies were defeated by the Greeks at the Battle of Marathon in 490 BCE, and when the king died four years later, it fell to his son Xerxes to continue the campaign. Xerxes I spent four years amassing a grand army powerful enough to subdue all Greece and the defiant Athenians.

The Athenians knew the might of the Persian war hammer would strike, so in 482 BCE, a plan was put in place to build a huge fleet of ships to tackle the Persian sea offensive. However, Athens realised it could not fight on both sea and land, and sought an alliance of sorts with one of the other Greek states that had rejected Persian advances - Sparta. The Spartans were a hardy breed, born fighters who trained from childhood to kill with brutal efficiency. Despite the cultural and political differences between the two peoples, they agreed a coalition with Athens.

The alliance soon learned that Xerxes' mighty army, believed to have been between 70,000 and 300,000-strong, would pass through the narrow southern pass of Thermopylae. A plan was devised to funnel the Persians in that pass and use the brutal ground tactics of the Greeks to weather the storm and drive the invaders out of Greece.
Greatest Battles

Greeks

City-states

Troops: 7000

Cavalry: 0

King Leonidas I

Leader

Plutarch tells us that the fearsome Spartan leader uttered the iconic phrase, "Tonight, we dine in Hell!" at the battle.

Strengths: Superior infantry tactics and training; use of the Phalanx.

Weakness: Sparta was forbidden from going to battle during Carnea, so could only send 300 men.

The Thespian Army

Unit

King Demophilus of Thespiae brought 700 of his men to support the Spartans at Thermopylae.

Strengths: Strong allies with the state of Sparta, Thespian men worked well with the Spartans.

Weakness: Demophilus, like Leonidas, fought with his men at Thermopylae, so was vulnerable from the start.

The Phalanx

Key Weapon

This battle tactic (later mirrored by the Romans) saw the Greeks create an impenetrable 'box' of overlapped shields and spears.

Strengths: Being protected against archer volleys enabled Spartans to push infantry and cavalry back.

Weakness: Could be slow moving, allowing cavalry to circle and attack.

01 Persian landfall and archery attack

After four years of construction, the Persian fleet arrives on the Greek coast with an army of infantry, archers and cavalry somewhere between 70,000 and 300,000 men. After setting up a camp on the shore, the Persians unleash a flurry of arrow volleys into the Greek warriors waiting at the Western Gate. With their shields to protect them, the volleys fired from a distance of about 100 metres barely scratch the homeland soldiers.

02 The Persians strike the narrow path

Tired of waiting, Xerxes orders a contingent of his forces - consisting of 10,000 Cissians and Median soldiers - to attack the waiting enemy. The Persians are now committing a significant proportion of men to a frontal assault on the Greeks. However, the Greeks' geographical advantage and superior tactics drive the Persians back.

03 The Persians reach the Phocian Wall

On the second day of the siege, Xerxes once again sends a similarly sized force to besiege the path. Again, the Greeks repel the Persians, choosing to fight them in the narrowest part of the pass, in front of the Phocian Wall.

04 Betrayal and the hidden mountain pass

Xerxes pulls his forces away from the path, confused as to why such a powerful force could be held at bay by one smaller than his own. While pondering the matter at the Persian camp, an unusual visitor is brought before him - a Trachian by the name of Ephialtes. The disgruntled traitor informs the Persian king that there is a thin mountain path that would bring the Persians out behind the Greek forces.

05 Phocians lose the mountain pass

Also informed of the pass is lightly guarded by a contingent of Phocian soldiers, Xerxes sends one of his commanders, Hydarnes, with a force of 20,000 men (according to Greek historian Diodorus) to navigate the path. With the Immortals also in tow, the Phocians are destroyed and the Persians continue on through the mountains.
The Persians invade Greece
With the initial Greek resistance crushed, Xerxes's Persian forces swarm into Greece by land and race almost every city and town they pass through on their way to Athens. The city itself is evacuated and the bulk of the Athenian people and its armies hold up at the Isthmus of Corinth. The Greeks then concoct a plan to lure the Persians into the straits of Salamis, which, along with help from the elements, sees most of Xerxes's fleets destroyed. Coupled with a Greek land victory at Plataea less than a year later, it effectively ends the invasion.

Retreat to Kolonos Hill
Xerxes's forces destroy the Phocian Wall, forcing the Greeks to continue fighting off the Persians past the Eastern Gate and out towards the other side of the narrow path. The Immortals now appear from the mountain path, which forces the remaining Greek forces to withdraw to the top of the nearby Kolonos Hill. The Persians then hammer the Greeks with wave after wave of arrows. They are butchered down to the last man.

King Leonidas falls in battle
This attack on the Greek position is the most savage of the Persian siege, and with more forces added over time and the threat of the Immortals arriving behind them at any moment, the Greek advantage begins to wear down. Volleys of arrows strike the Greek position as the fighting intensifies. King Leonidas, who was leading his men from the front, is killed in the assault. The Greeks are able to recover his body, but Xerxes senses victory and the Persians push on.

The Persians strike again
Xerxes doesn't strike immediately on the third day of the siege, delaying his action to give the Immortals time to outflank the Greeks. As the morning grows brighter, he sends 10,000 infantry and cavalry to strike the Phocian Wall again. This time the Greeks meet them in a wider section of the path, presumably to increase the killing.

The Greek council of war
News of the pass becoming compromised soon reaches the Greeks, and all the commanders, including Spartan ruler King Leonidas I, meet to discuss the ramifications. Some withdraw, while others remain to stave off the Persian onslaught.

Xerxes I of Persia
Leader
Xerxes's fevered army building was the result of a prophetic dream urging him to go to war with the defiant Greeks.
Strengths Sheer numbers, his use of cavalry and the variety of troops including the Immortals.
Weakness Narrow pass at Thermopylae made it difficult for such a large army to progress.

The Immortals
Unit
The Immortals were Xerxes's elite bodyguards and were skilled in close-quarters combat and archery.
Strengths According to Herodotus, the Immortals were always 10,000 strong in number.
Weakness Fought wrapped only in cloth (they didn't wear any armour) and used wicker shields.

Composite Bow
Key Weapon
A popular ranged weapon, it was one of a number of bows used by the Persians.
Strengths Could be crafted to yield greater strength and distance for its user.
Weakness Sensitive to moisture, so could fall apart and lose its power in rain.
As the 1970s dawned on the USA, one topic was on every American's lips: 'Nam. The war was becoming more unpopular by the minute with events such as the My Lai Massacre attracting international condemnation. In September 1971, the legions of anti-war protestors found a voice that agreed with them - John Lennon. Imagine was released in September of that year and its title track in particular appealed to the protestors and their peace agenda. This was not the former Beatle's first foray into activism, as in 1969 he had staged a bed-in in Amsterdam and even returned his MBE. Both were his way of taking a stand against the Vietnam War. Over in Washington, DC, Richard Nixon was pushing through his Vietnamisation programme as the conflict continued to escalate. The president had become aware of the rebellious musician's activism and decided to monitor Lennon and his New York home closely, initiating what would become a long, drawn-out legal affair.

A LIVERPUOLIAN IN THE USA
On 10 December 1971, the John Sinclair Freedom Rally was in full swing. 15,000 attended the concert to see Lennon and various other artists at Detroit's Cobo Arena. The rally was held to try to get the writer and founder of the White Panther Party released from a ten-year prison sentence, but not every attendee was there for the music. A few men at Ann Arbor that day were undercover FBI informants tasked with spying on Lennon's activities. As well as not being fans of the music on show ("Yoko can't even remain on key," one is said to have remarked), the agents were looking for reasons to deport the meddling Englishman back across the Atlantic. This surveillance campaign would last for 12 months and 300 pages of information would be gathered. It would have profound effects on both Lennon and Nixon's lives and careers.

The reports from the rally led Senator Strom Thurmond to contact Attorney General John Mitchell. In Thurmond's memo, he described how the musician could become a serious threat to the Republican election drive. The upcoming 1972 US election was to be the first that permitted 13-year-olds to vote - the minimum voting age had previously been 21 - and youths between the ages of 18-21 were one of the most vocal groups in opposing the war and giving peace a chance. Lennon and his power as a celebrity could be a legitimate problem for the Nixon leadership, and the president knew this. His politicised lyrics...
“There is an alternative to war. It’s staying in bed and growing your hair”

John Lennon

“Let historians not record that when America was the most powerful nation in the world we passed on the other side of the road”

Richard Nixon
enabled the people to self-evaluate and then express their own political beliefs, especially in songs like Working Class Hero.

With their temporary visas, Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono were never completely safe in their US residency, but nevertheless continued to protest. Their initial plan was to follow the Nixon campaign across the nation, but the notion never got off the ground due to the input of the FBI. Regardless, the investigation into Lennon's activities officially began in January 1972, the year of the election.

ON THE VERGE OF DEPORTATION

John Lennon was now under the spotlight whether he liked it or not. His appearance on The Mike Douglas Show in February was closely monitored, as were more private matters. The FBI kept tabs on Lennon's expression of his supposed left-wing views and any correspondence with significant counterculture figures like Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman. Lennon was in some way ready for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to strike, and, using his sizeable wealth, had hired a New York immigration attorney to represent him.

Leon Wildes was first contacted by former Beatles manager Allen Klein and his attorney Alan Kahn, who knew the New Yorker was the best man for the job. Despite the American lawyer having no idea who the former Beatle was, he agreed to represent Lennon. Over tea, the musician and his wife Yoko Ono explained that they desperately needed to stay in the country to search for Ono's nine-year-old daughter Kyoko, who had disappeared in the midst of a custody suit with Ono's ex-husband. Lennon also explained that he had received a tip-off that the police were ready and willing to raid and tear apart his apartment. Wildes knew what he had to do - the battle was on.

As the election campaign began to heat up in March, the INS seized their chance to move against Lennon. Deportation proceedings began, with the main tool used by the INS being the musician's guilty plea on a cannabis possession charge in Britain in 1968, which they milked for all it was worth. A police unit broke down the door and arrested John and Yoko, as sniffer dogs searched the apartment. Lennon was determined to act like nothing was happening, and despite the watchful eye of the authorities, he continued to go about his business and even donated $75,000 to left-wing activists the Allamuchy 'Tribe, who were dedicated as Nixon to deporting Lennon, with the musician's revolutionary views and drug use riling the straight-laced Hoover. Nixon himself was not the sender or recipient of any of the FBI documents released on Lennon, but still instructed his Chief of Staff HR Haldeman to keep a close eye on the campaign and any revelations. The surveillance forced Lennon to formally announce in May that he would not be participating in any sort of protest at the upcoming Republican National Convention.

On the other side was an army of followers who came to the aid of the Imagine singer. Beatles and Lennon fans took a stand against the FBI and the INS, demanding more information in a protest that became known as 'Let them stay in the USA'. The Plastic Ono Band's 1972 album Some Time in New York City was released with a petition for fans to fill in and send to the INS. Bob Dylan, the most famous defender of Lennon, even wrote an open letter entitled Justice for John and Yoko. Nobelist and poet John Updike also waded into the conflict, claiming Lennon and Ono, "Cannot do this great country any harm, and might do it some good." Other cultural figures of the era like Jasper Johns, John Cage, Dick Cavett and Leonard Bernstein also supported the cause. It wasn't just musicians and poets who supported Lennon, either. The New York Times expressed its support for the singer as did the mayor of the Big Apple, John Lindsay.
The original files that Weiner requested were full of black blotches that hid information the FBI didn't want in the public domain.

The infamous massacre comes to light and causes outrage in the USA. The war is already unpopular with much of the population, and the Vietnamisation programme — to end US involvement in the war — gets under way.

My Lai Massacre revelation
NOVEMBER 1969
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John Sinclair Freedom Rally
10 DECEMBER 1971
Lennon and Ono join with several other performers to protest against the imprisonment of the political activist. US agents go undercover in the crowd to monitor the event and Lennon.

‘Some Time In New York City’
12 JUNE 1972
The successor to Imagine, every copy of the LP is released with an anti-INS petition inside that fans are encouraged to sign.

Deportation ruling
23 MARCH 1973
The FBI closed its investigation in 1972, and Judge Ira Fieldsteen makes a ruling that Lennon has two months to leave the country. A countersuit is filed.

Lennon’s green card
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TOP 5 ANTI VIETNAM SONGSTERS

Many musicians used their lyrics to spread messages about war.

Bob Dylan
The famous US singer-songwriter was already a popular artist by the time of Nixon v Lennon. As well as publicly supporting Lennon, he recorded a multitude of anti-war songs that focused on the Cold War, in general including tracks such as Masters Of War and A Hard Rain’s Gonna Fall.

Famous track: Blowin’ In The Wind
How many deaths will it take ’til he knows
That too many people have died?

Edwin Starr
Released in 1970, the lyrics to the War song were loud and clear. Starr was a well-known Soul singer and scored a number one hit with this song that was written by Norman Whitfield and Barrett Strong. War was by Bruce Springsteen and Frankie Goes To Hollywood.

Famous track: War (What Is It Good For?)
Oh, war, I despise
’Cause it means destruction of innocent lives
War means tears to thousands of mothers’ eyes
When their sons go off to fight and lose their lives

Jim Morrison
The popular songwriter was a cultural icon, but what is less known is that his father was a naval commander in Vietnam. His band The Doors' only number one album came in 1968 and its first single was entitled Unknown Soldier – a psychedelic criticism of the Vietnam War.

Famous track: Unknown Soldier
And it’s yours
For the unknown soldier

Buffalo Springfield
Buffalo Springfield is a band forever associated with the era, despite only being active for two years. Their signature tune For What It’s Worth wasn’t actually meant to be an anti-Vietnam war song and was inspired by clashes between police and protesters in Hollywood, California.

Famous track: For What It’s Worth
There’s battle lines being drawn
Nobody’s right if everybody’s wrong
Young people speaking their minds
Getting so much resistance from behind

Creedance Clearwater Revival
Band leader John Fogerty was drafted into the US military as part of an Army Reserve Unit. After his military service, Creedance Clearwater Revival became a staple of US radio airplay. Their 1969 song Fortunate Son is one of their best known releases and has been described as a counterculture anti-war anthem.

Famous track: Fortunate Son
Some folks inherit star-spangled eyes
Ooh, they send you down to war, Lord
And when you ask them, “How much should we give?”
Ooh, they only answer, “More! More! More!”

Nixon may have been an unpopular figure some took to be the Republican’s record of comprehensive victory in the 1972 election.
WE" = J:
be
who the lawyer ran legal rings around. Schiano
boundaries, no passports, only people."
he held a press conference on April Fools' Day
in possession of hash not marijuana and had a
his shoes in the courtroom after Schiano had
put forward as reasons for them to stay, but
there was news from the White House.
The Watergate Scandal wrecked Nixon's career
and his subsequent resignation put Gerald Ford
in the White House hot seat. The United States
Court of Appeals overturned the INS judgement
in October 1975 as Chief Judge Irving R Kaufman
knocked his gavel. The Liverpudlian was finally
free of the US government. Wildes called Lennon,
who was in hospital with Ono as she was about
to give birth to Sean, explaining that the case had
been won. A double birthday present for the now
35-year-old Beatle. The story was finally put to bed
when his green card arrived in July 1975. Shortly
after, he held a spontaneous press conference on
the steps of the courthouse to thank his fans and
anyone that helped him stay in the USA. Lennon
had won; Nixon had lost.

WHAT OF THE LEGACY?
Since Lennon's death in 1980, Californian history
professor Jon Wiener has made it his mission to
uncover the FBI files and release them into the
public domain. Using the Freedom of Information
Act, he managed to unearth many of the papers
and released a book documenting the accounts.
The FBI were seemingly willing to assist and
provided Wiener with two thirds of what they had,
but the rough botted photocopied documents convinced him
that the biggest disclosures were being withheld.
Some of the reports are trivial at best and mention
pointless issues such as Lennon using his parents' car rather than his own. It seems as if the FBI knew
all along that the former Beatle was a nonviolent
activist but still continued investigating, paranoid
about a potential political Woodstock. The files, if
anything, tell us more about the failings and the
state of the FBI at the time than what they do about
Lennon. The whole episode was a messy affair for
him. However, by 1974, he was back on track, and
there was news from the White House.

FROM NUTOPIA TO WATERGATE
The surveillance of John Lennon and Yoko Ono
ended in November 1972, the month of Nixon's
triumphant re-election. However, even though the
Republican leader, once again in the Oval Office,
won the battle, the war was far from over. The
INS would not let it be, and were intent on getting
their man out of the country, so continued to press
their claims. Lennon was determined to stay in
New York; seizing the opportunity for some satire,
he divided his time between Los Angeles and New
York and lived out an alcohol and drug-fuelled year
and a half that was also a prolific musical period for
him. However, by 1974, he was back on track, and
there was news from the White House.

What they forget to mention is that in 1980, Lennon
waved white handkerchiefs, proclaiming
himself to increase authority and surveillance on the
public. Will there be another Lennon-like figure in
the not too distant future?

* * *

It isn't just Lennon who has felt the wrath of the world's
governments

Paul
McCartney
1960, 1980
John Lennon wasn't the only Beatle to face
departation charges. In 1960, McCartney was
kicked out of Germany
on a charge of attempted
arson, and in 1980,
Japan deported him for
possessing marijuana.

Rod
Stewart
1963
The Maggie May singer
was deported from Spain
for sleeping under a
bridge. Ranished from
Barcelona for breaking
vagrancy laws, the event
was a long way from his
mega buck superstar
stardom in subsequent years!

Cat
Stevens
2000, 2004
Known as Yusuf
Islam since 1978, the
singer-songwriter has
been kicked out of two
countries. In 2000, he was
deported from Israel for
links with Hamas, and in
2004, his name appeared
on a no-fly list in the USA.

Charlize
Theron
1994
Prior to becoming a
Hollywood star, South
African-born Theron was
asked to leave the USA.
The reason was because
of her involvement in a
documentary criticising
the country's stance on
Cuba. She eventually
became a naturalised US

George
Harrison
1960
Another Beatle who was
made to leave Germany.
George Harrison was
deported on the same
Hamburg tour as
McCartney. The guitarist
was discovered to be
only 17 so was forced into
a 24-hour-long journey
home to Liverpool.
The promise of the New World is palpable among English society as the Virginia Company sets sail for America in 1606. But this zest for discovery and creation of a new country will turn to despair before it brings triumph. The lack of food to harvest, sometimes hostile relations with the natives and mismanagement from the company’s commanders will all bring about starvation and sickness for the brave colonisers.

The Virginia Company is the first English effort to challenge the Spanish monopoly on America, and with a charter from James I, their mission is to colonise North America’s eastern coast and find gold – if there is any. Led first by Christopher Newport, and later John Ratcliffe and John Smith, the company will make several mistakes, including failure to build food reserves and a freshwater well, which will lead to widespread dysentery, fever and death.

WHERE TO STAY
The colony itself is a triangular camp fortified with a wall running around its edges, with, depending on when you arrive, canvas tents, or later wooden houses, inside. It’s probably the safest place for you, if you can befriend the colonists and convince them you aren’t a native. However, while it is fortified, it holds its own perils inside, as there is very little safe water to drink (as most is taken from the sludgy rivers) and a limited supply of food. Boil all of your water before drinking, but if you manage to avoid sickness, you will be expected to work hard.

Dos & Don’ts

- Develop a taste for gruel.
  Richard Freethorne’s diary of Jamestown in 1633 declares that he has eaten nothing but peas and loblolly (gruel) since he arrived. You can, unfortunately, expect the same.

- Hold on to your sea legs.
  You will inevitably find yourself in a boat, either voyaging to England to report back, or traversing waters like Chesapeake Bay in search of new information.

- Remain optimistic.
  Despite Jamestown’s beginnings in hardship and hunger, it will become the first permanent English settlement in America. Being there from the start is rather impressive.

- Build relations with the Powhatans.
  Not only will it be good for diplomatic relations, but befriending the natives means you can learn from their superior knowledge of the land.

- Drink the river water.
  Many colonists drink from the river, but this leads to water-borne diseases like dysentery. Boil your water and make preparations to start building a well.

- Venture out alone.
  Roving settlers that (perhaps unwittingly) enter the Powhatan territory are often killed. Your best bet is to stay inside the colony when you can.

- Treat the natives badly.
  They have the power to help you through times of need, as Pocahontas does through the settlers’ first winter at the colony, by providing basic food supplies.

- Eat food all at once.
  You may want to eat what’s available while you can, but a lack of food brings the number of settlers down to just 60 in 1610.
**WHO TO AVOID**

**Powhatan**
As the chief of the Powhatan empire, the peninsula in which Jamestown lies is part of his territory. He has been known to order attacks on settlers, and states that they must stay on their peninsula to avoid death. Relations are complicated, and despite the clear dynamic of "settlers" and "natives," Powhatan and his tribe are not always to be feared. Initially, though there are attacks on the settlers, Powhatan and his tribe will trade food for English goods, but as time wears on, relations fail to the point where Powhatan attempts to starve the English out of Virginia.

**WHO TO BEFRIEND**

**John Smith**
As leader of the settlers from 1608, and an influential and experienced explorer even before this time, John Smith is a force to be reckoned with in the colony. He has already fought for the Dutch against Spain and served as a mercenary against the Ottoman Empire in Hungary. By his own account, he also seems to have a better relationship than most settlers with the natives. One particularly striking story describes him being saved by Powhatan's young daughter, Pocahontas, at the moment her father was about to kill him, for invading on their land while exploring the Chickahominy river.

Extra tip: John Smith doesn't have time to worry about his status or imagine the riches that could come from striking gold. He's too busy worrying about survival, which means finding a sustainable source of food, first and foremost. So, don't try to scheme your way into John Smith's good books, or use him to boost your status in the colony - you're better off finding something to eat, or even better, to plant. He trades goods for maize with the Powhatans, so anything worthwhile you can give him to trade with will also be greatly appreciated.

**Helpful Skills**

With some 100 colonists first arriving in Jamestown, and many dying soon after, these skills will definitely help you pull your weight

**Cartography**
You can't have enough map-makers while discovering new territory. Being able to record the vast swaths of land will also help you avoid running into disgruntled natives.

**Entrepreneurship**
John Rolfe is ultimately responsible for making Jamestown a stable, profitable place. Soon after arriving, he experiments with growing tobacco, and begins an export industry. Entrepreneurship and initiative go far in Jamestown.

**Physical labour**
When John Smith becomes president, he declares: "He that will not work shall not eat, except by sickness he be disabled." So, unless you have the pleasure of contracting dysentery, work hard.
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Through History

BICYCLES

From its beginnings in the 1800s, take a tour through the history of the two-wheeled wonder

THE DRAISINE 1817

There are plenty of unverified designs relating to the origins of the bicycle (most of which have been dismissed as hoaxes), but the first historically verified incarnation comes in the form of the 'draisine'. Designed by German Baron Karl von Drais in 1817, its design would eventually form the basis for the first popular bicycle setup, the 'velocipede'. Made entirely of wood, the draisine/velocipede had iron shod wheels, a rear brake and a frame that the user would sit astride and kick off on either side.

MICHAUX 'BONESHAKER' 1863

Velocipedes, in their various modified forms, remained popular throughout the first half of the 19th century, but it would be the French-made 'boneshaker' that would prove to be the first commercially successful design. First designed in about 1863, the updated 'boneshaker' soon became a craze between 1868-70 thanks to its front wheel-mounted pedals that made it far more useful for generating momentum. French blacksmith Pierre Michaux also designed a cheaper version that soon became the focus of said hype. The term 'boneshaker' came from the way it shook the rider around, due to a lack of suspension.

THE PENNY-FARTHING 1869

As velocipedes began to evolve and change, the front wheel increased in size in order to enable faster speeds. This slowly led to the rise of the 'high-wheel' design. The introduction of the high-wheel can be traced back to Frenchman Eugene Meyer and British inventor James Starley, who both introduced a number of changes to the construction of the bicycle wheel, including wire-spoke tension wheels, tangent spokes and a mounting step. Starley's version became popular as the penny-farthing, but was known for being rather dangerous due to sheer height of the front wheel (which was about 1.5 metres in diameter).

'SAFETY' BICYCLE 1876

Created as an alternative to the far more dangerous high-wheel design, the 'safety' bicycle was the first appearance of many of the elements we associate with the modern bike. It included the first use of a chain drive, changing the position of the rider's seat from the top of a wheel to the frame in the middle. 1876 saw the appearance of the first 'safety' design (although these early ones had back-wheel chain drives), but by 1885, they had both rear and front wheel-based chain drives.

High-wheel and the Penny-farthing 1869

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The rise of chain drives and gear ratios would see the high-wheel design phased out in favour of the 'safety bicycle'.

The pedal bike was very popular with women and saw the introduction of a special frame to stop skirts catching in the wheels.

Versions of the safety bicycle, such as the Whippet or the Swift pictured here, became huge commercial successes.
CRUISER 1933

Following the Great Depression, US bicycle sales declined sharply, as many could no longer afford these luxury products. In response, German manufacturer Schwinn created the first Cruiser, which was a sturdy, affordable bike targeted at the resilient youth market. It became a recreational must-have for holidaymakers and casual cyclists thanks to its simple (and cost-effective) steel-frame balloon tyres (a large 2-3.7-inch tyre that would later find a home on the mountain bike) and single-speed drivetrain. The Cruiser eventually faded into obscurity at the end of the 1960s as the English Roadster and BMX claimed its popularity.

E-BIKE 1895

While it may seem like a modern evolution of the bicycle, the electric bike (or booster bike, as it's sometimes known) first appeared in the 1890s as engineers and inventors started combining the classic velocipede model with a battery-powered motor. The e-bike fell into obscurity by the beginning of the 20th century but saw a resurgence at the start of the 1990s. Modern e-bikes have evolved into a number of varieties including pedelecs (which use the motor to assist manual pedaling) to models that more closely resemble a moped.

THE ROADSTER 1890

The roadster (otherwise known as the 'city cycle') was a natural evolution of the 'safety' version, and one that found its greatest popularity with women in the late 1800s and early 1900s. While the men's English Roadster was designed more for durability with its three-gear chain drive, the version popular with female riders actually enjoyed a number of technological improvements, including the introduction of coaster brakes. It also had a modified frame, known as a 'step through' that enabled a rider to use her bike without her skirts catching in the spokes.

CHOPPER 1970s

The Raleigh Chopper was a children's bicycle manufactured and marketed in the 1970s. Features that appealed to the youth market included the unusual frame, high-back seat, high-rise handlebars, 'bobbed' mudguards and differently sized wheels. The rear hoop above the seat resembled a motorcycle 'sissy bar'. Even the kickstand was designed to give the stationary bicycle a lean reminiscent of a parked motorcycle.
Weird and not so wonderful blood sports from across the centuries

15 MOST BARBARIC BLOOD SPORTS

Written by Jack Griffiths
From fierce Roman gladiatorial arenas to brutal Medieval jousts, blood sports have been big business throughout history. No matter how barbaric, these sports have proved to be enduringly popular. Some are long-standing cultural traditions, some have religious connotations while others are played simply for the entertainment value. By putting human or animal life in danger just for the buzz of winning, they represent some of the worst and most aggressive human traits imaginable. Some of the most famous blood sports, like gladiator battles and the Mesoamerican ball game, were huge events in their time that demonstrated the traditions and the bloodthirstiness of society. Not all blood sports are played on a scale this large though. Bare-knuckle boxing, for instance, was a simple pastime of England's working class before it morphed into its contemporary cousin, boxing.

Today, blood sports are not as common as they once were. This hasn't stopped some of them being played completely, though. A selection continue illegally and are even played in international tournaments. Changing social opinion has meant the majority have had their violence toned down to meet new regulations. Ultimately, the one thing they all have in common is bloodshed - and often lots of it. Read on for a rundown of perhaps the worst sports you'll ever hear of. Don't try these at home!

**BEAR BAITING**

The cruel practice that originated in England but still continues in some parts of the world today

**WHERE: WORLDWIDE**

**WHEN: TUDD ERA – PRESENT DAY**

This horrible sport was popular in England until the 19th century and is still practised, mostly illegally, in some locations across the globe. Bears were brought in from Europe and chained to a post by the neck or hind leg. Unable to move freely, it would be attacked by dogs and even on occasion whipped while blindfolded. Protected by stone walls, in some arenas up to 1,000 people would watch the torment from the stands. London's Hope Theatre played host to many bear baiting events, and at its peak, every major town in Britain had a ring, which raked in cash from spectators gambling their earnings away. The sport was eventually banned by the British government in 1835 but small events continue to take place in some countries. In Pakistan in 2014, 40 bears were involved in baiting contests. Fortunately, this is much less than the 300 reported in 2000. Several animal protection groups are determined to finally put an end to bear baiting around the world. Unfortunately bulls are sometimes used instead of bears, as there are fewer restrictions and the animals are easier to obtain.
15 Most Barbaric Blood Sports

**In Greek mythology, Theseus, the king of Athens, used pankration techniques to defeat the half-man half-bull Minotaur in the maze of the labyrinth.**

**PANKRATION**

The vicious punch up that was an Olympic sport in Ancient Greece and a favourite of the Spartans.

*WHERE:* GREECE  
*WHEN:* 66 BCE - PRESENT DAY

A brutal combination of boxing and wrestling, pankration was one of the most vicious blood sports of the ancient world. Competitors would hit, kick, twist and strangle their way to victory, and the brawl would only end when one fighter submitted or was knocked unconscious. The combat was so ferocious that many of the losers would die during battle or shortly after from their wounds. Introduced into the XXXIII Olympiad, pankration was the most violent Olympic sport. It remained in the games even after the fall of Greece; and despite being mostly phased out during the Christianisation of the Roman Empire, it still has a following today.

**GOOSE PULLING**

A simple sport anyone could try if they had a trusty steed.

*WHERE:* ENGLAND, BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS, NORTH AMERICA  
*WHEN:* 17TH - 21ST CENTURY

The premise of this shocking sport was simple: gallop on horseback at full pace and then grab a goose hanging from a noose. The aim was no more than to pull the still-alive goose's head clean off. The sport was played until the 1920s, when animal rights groups rallied to change it to a dead goose, but it is considered a key part of Shrove Tuesday in the Low Countries. Variations on the sport are common - such as in Spain, where the aim is to jump off boats and try to grab a dead goose suspended off a wire.

**PASOLA**

Both a ritual and an extreme sport, you better have your wits about you if you want to take part in this important part of Sumbanese culture.

*WHERE:* SUMBA  
*WHEN:* ANCIENT ERA - PRESENT DAY

Historically played on the secluded island of Sumba off Indonesia, Pasola involves two groups of more than 50 men each on horseback hurling blunt wooden spears at each other. The idea is to catch the spears in mid-flight, and while the blunt ends are supposed to minimise injury, there can be casualties on occasion. According to legend, victims of Pasola die as a punishment from the gods for past violations. Any blood spilt, whether from the sticks or falling from horseback, is all part of the tradition. The sport is held once a year in February as part of a larger programme of festivities.

Pankration is still practised today, but is no longer an Olympic sport.
15 Most Barbaric Blood Sports

It's not just animals that were set upon... humans have also been the bait in the bizarre world of blood sports.

**Human Baiting**

It's unclear who it was that first thought this was a good idea, but human baiting was a very real blood sport. A quick way to earn a bit of cash or the result of having lost a bet, men would duke it out with a dog. With no weapons or even a shirt allowed, both man and hound would be chained to a wall facing each other, with enough slack to engage. Another condition would be that the human competitor must remain on all fours for the whole battle. The fight would end when either the man was pinned down or the dog was stunned.

**ANIMAL TOSSING**

A strange pastime that involved chucking small animals, usually foxes, as high as possible. While foxes were being hunted for sport in Britain, in Germany it was felt that throwing them around was much more humane. A pursuit of the upper classes, an arena would be made in a courtyard and the contest would commence. This being the aristocracy, the animals would not simply be hurled by hand but instead thrown by a sling. The highest throw would win the contest, but there were also group events where foxes would be tossed between several competitors in a row. The foxes weren't expected to survive and would often turn against the participants in a confused rage.

**CRICKET FIGHTING**

The ancient blood sport that is anything but hitting a ball on the village green.

**Famous Advocates**

The well-known faces who didn't mind a blood sport or two.

**Elizabeth I**

The Virgin Queen was a big fan of both bear and bull baiting. Her Majesty would frequently attend shows in London and permitted it to take place nationwide. She even overruled the government who tried to ban the practice on Sundays.

**Emperor Commodus**

The villain of the sword and sandals epic *Gladiator*, Commodus loved gladiator combat so much that he occasionally stepped into the arena himself. His favourite act was not to fight but instead to slaughter animals from a raised platform using a bow.

**Henry VIII**

The Tudor king was a huge fan of jousting and would often compete himself. During a tournament in 1536, Henry fell and was knocked unconscious by an armoured horse landing on him. This fall is attributed to his escalating instability.

**Augustus II**

One monarch who was very fond of fox tossing was the king of Poland. He held a contest in Dresden that included 687 foxes, 533 hares, 54 badgers and 21 wildcats, all thrown in the name of Renaissance fun.

**King Alfonso VII**

Bullfighting in its current form is first recorded taking place in honour of the crowning of King Alfonso VIII. The first bullfights were conducted on horseback but changed in the 18th century when famous matador Francisco Romero introduced the red cape.
The classic blood sport of Ancient Rome was as violent as it comes, with both beast and man locking horns in the Colosseum.

WHERE: ANCIENT ROME  WHEN: 264 BCE - 404

Gladiators were the celebrities of their day and the best would boast huge fan followings. As well as humans going face to face in the amphitheatres, exotic creatures brought from across the empire would also be let loose in the arena. An event known as venatio involved hunting and killing wild beasts. The animals would face the gladiator class called bestiarii, who would often fight without weapons or armour. Usually the gladiators would win and thousands of bears, lions, elephants and even camels were slaughtered.

GLADIATOR DUELS

The image of gladiator battles is synonymous with the memory of Ancient Rome. Taking place in the Colosseum and amphitheatres across the Republic and then the empire, it was one of the Romans' favourite pastimes. Duels between armoured gladiators were the most common sight on the sands of the Colosseum, and emperors and citizens alike cheered the sight of dismembered limbs and cries of agony. Sometimes the arena was even flooded for mock sea battles with triremes and other galleys. Gladiators were the celebrities of their day and the best would boast huge fan followings.
It is still debated how a fallen gladiator's fate was decided. It could have been a thumbs up or down, or a flat or closed palm.

**Armour and weapons**
- The gladius was the most popular weapon, but gladiators also used other swords, tridents, and bows. Gladiators would wear armour to match the weapon they were using.

**Gladiator motivation**
- Some competitors had to be convinced to fight so a team of slaves armed with whips and hot metal bars kept them from escaping.

**Fights to the death**
- The gladiator ranks were primarily made up of slaves and criminals. With death just minutes away, many fought as hard as possible in the hope of being granted freedom.

**Training**
- To make the fights a pure spectacle, gladiators were trained in special schools known as Ludi. Here they could hone their skills before stepping out in front of the baying crowds.

**Unleash the beasts**
- The animals used in venation were kept in underground chambers before being released. They would be raised up on platforms by a slave-run pulley system.

**Gladiator volunteers**
- Remarkably, some free men volunteered to step into the arena to do battle. Perhaps the money or maybe even the female attention appealed to them, or they were just downright crazy.

**Big cats and mighty mammals**
- The animals unleashed in the arena could range from bears and bulls to alligators. Even elephants were captured and used in the battles along with the odd ostrich or tiger from the far reaches of the empire.

**Animal blood lust**
- To make the duelling creatures more aggressive and bloodthirsty, they would be treated badly and starved. Both man and beast could die as the crowds lapped it up.

**Cock Fighting**
- An 18th-century staple that is still seen in some secluded locations today

**OCTOPUS WRESTLING**
- The spectacle of limbs and tentacles battling was once popular in the USA

The roosters, known as gamecocks and are specially bred for the fights.
15 Most Barbaric Blood Sports

Jousting was briefly banned in France after King Henry II was killed during a tournament in 1559.

Pro-fox hunters believe the sport to be a form of pest management while others see it as barbaric and unnecessary.

Jousting

The centrepoint of a Medieval tournament, jousting was a huge source of entertainment and bloodshed.

WHERE: EUROPE WHEN: 11TH-17TH CENTURY

Jousting was initially a military exercise but soon became a form of entertainment in the Middle Ages. Tournaments, or tourneys, were meticulously planned to best show off the talents of the knights clad in armour to the masses of spectators. On horseback, two men would charge at each other at high speed with blunted four-metre-long lances. If the first clash didn't end in a broken lance or one of the knights being unseated, they would race again until three lances had hit the ground. Expert horsemanship and lance control were integral to victory.

Jousting was used as both training and entertainment in peacetime and every victor would claim prize money as well as his defeated foe's armour and horse. Veteran jousters would even travel to other parts of the country to face off against new opponents and enhance their reputation. Spectators would watch from a raised grandstand or from the castle itself. After the bloodshed had ended, it was off to feast and dance the night away.

FOX HUNTING

The controversial sport that remains a talking point in the UK to this day.

WHERE: ITALY, FRANCE WHEN: 1534-2005

Still controversial in today's society, the first fox hunts are believed to have started in Norfolk, England, in 1534. Since then, specific breeds of foxhound have been bred to effectively search for the odour of a fox. The huntsman would present the hounds with a scent and the hounds would track the fox down. The field followed on horseback and hung back as the dogs chased the fox and ultimately killed it. After 400,000 people demonstrated against the sport, the Hunting Act was passed in 2005 and ensured that fox hunting was banned in its current format.

The campaigns against cruelty

The sports may be traditional, but some have stood up to end the bloodshed. In the ancient world, particularly in the West, animals were seen as subordinate to humans, and the likes of bullfighting and bear baiting were rarely considered wrong or immoral. Attitudes began to change in the Middle Ages when Spanish Queen Isabella of Castille and Pope Pius V banned bullfighting in 1567. It was later banned again during the reign of Philip V between 1700 and 1746, but nevertheless continues in Spain to this day. In the 18th century, Jeremy Bentham was one of the first to question the suffering of animals, writing: "The right question for animals is not 'can they reason?' nor 'can they talk?' but 'can they suffer?" Words that still ring true for today's activists. Many others took the fight for animal rights further, but it was Irish politician Henry Martin who made some of the biggest changes. A pioneer of animal rights legislation, he passed the Martin's Act in 1822 that outlawed unnecessary suffering of animals. He later founded the RSPCA in 1824 and even challenged a man who killed a dog to a duel. Both men were wounded in the resulting shoot out but Martin had the last laugh as his rival was hanged for the offence.
BARE KNUCKLE BOXING

The original form of boxing was vicious and often ended in bloodshed.

WHERE: UK, USA, AUSTRALIA
WHEN: 17TH CENTURY – PRESENT DAY

Bare-knuckle boxing took off in England in the 17th century. Unlike pankration, wrestling holds were limited and hitting a downed opponent was forbidden. After a period of decline, new rules were introduced, and by the latter part of the 19th century, matches had become more organised occasions rather than unplanned scraps. Breaks between rounds were only 30 seconds long and the fights were tough endurance tasks. With no gloves, hands were often broken after landing a blow so knockout punches were much less common than in modern boxing. Famous champs include John Gully, Tom Cribb, Jem Belcher and John L Sullivan.

MESOAMERICAN BALL GAME

The most ancient sport on our list is one where winning is all that matters.

WHERE: MEXICO, GUATEMALA, BELIZE
WHEN: 3,000 BCE – 900

This sport was a favourite of the Mesoamerican people like the Olmec, Aztecs and Mayans. The court was about 45 x 12 metres large and the matches could last for days. Teams were split into two and points would be scored by hitting the ball into a stone ring or touching round disks on the walls. The games would usually have a religious significance, so the losing team’s captain, and sometimes the whole team, were sacrificed. The winners meanwhile would be treated like heroes and fed a huge feast. And they say sport isn’t all about the winning.

BULLFIGHTING

Seen by many as more than a sport, bullfighting is a bloody institution in Spain and Portugal.

WHERE: IBERIAN PENINSULA, LATIN AMERICA
WHEN: 400 – PRESENT DAY

Bullfights first began on the Iberian Peninsula in the Visigoth era of the 5th century. The enraged bulls are engaged on both horseback and on foot. These on foot are known as matadors and carry the famous red cape known as a muleta while cavaleiros rode on horses. Today the event is split up between six fights of 20 minutes, as the bull is first attacked by the horsemen and then teased by the matador before being killed to the cheers of the crowd. Bullfighting has been banned in some places but continues in other areas of Spain and Portugal as well as some parts of Latin America.
Kristallnacht

Did you know?
In the wake of Kristallnacht, the US proposed legislation to transport 250,000 Jews to Alaska. However, it ultimately failed.
Hermann Göring blames past Jewish crimes for Kristallnacht. He is reported to have said: “I would not like to be a Jew in Germany.”

Hermann Göring

Jews are rounded up and sent to concentration and extermination camps that would be built all over occupied Europe in the years to come.

Reinhard Heydrich

Kristallnacht was no random act of violence; it was carefully organised by Heydrich, the director of the Gestapo, among others.
With the accession of Queen Victoria came the end of an era. The dramatic changes to home and work life brought about by the First Industrial Revolution were now the norm, and Britain’s landscape had been forever altered. Rather than the patchwork of fields and farms her grandfather had ruled over, Victoria’s Britain was a booming industrial centre.

The invention of the spinning machine had revolutionised textile production, and cotton mills now littered the country. The invention of the steam engine had freed these machines from the limitations of water power, meaning factories could now be built anywhere – and the owners had chosen the cities. Workers swarmed in from the countryside in search of jobs, and cities grew at an unprecedented rate. Between 1801 and 1850, Manchester and Sheffield quadrupled in size, and Bradford and Glasgow grew eightfold.

With this new demand for steam power came a greater demand for coal. Mines were made deeper, and production increased from 2.7 million tons in 1700 to 50 million in 1850. Then came the steam train, hauling coal around mines and delivering raw materials to factory doors. Britain was soaring above the rest of the world; it seemed it could go no higher.

But a new revolution was dawning – a technological one. Developments in the field of metallurgy meant that materials like iron and steel could now be made at low cost and high efficiency. Railways were snaked around the country, and huge load-bearing bridges stretched spans previously deemed impossible. The shipbuilding industry boomed, as new materials and technologies meant that ships could now be built to endure the long, perilous journey across the Atlantic.

Then, an English scientist called Michael Faraday made one of the greatest discoveries in history when he found that an electromotive force could be created by moving a wire through a magnetic field. The principle, known as Faraday’s Law, opened up the possibility of a world that was powered not by coal but by electricity. By the end of Victoria’s reign, Britain had turned electric.

The Industrial Revolution was a pivotal moment in the evolution of Britain into a world superpower. It was a time of tremendous transition and upheaval, with the country becoming more productive and connected than ever before. It gave individuals with the relevant capacity and wherewithal the chance to showcase their talents – one such person was Isambard Kingdom Brunel.
“Despite being considerably younger than the majority of his colleagues, Isambard proved to be an energetic and efficient leader”
Brunel: Iron Man

Shield
Essentially an iron scaffold structure, it shunts forward as excavations progress and supports the walls/ceiling.

Gantry
A wheeled wooden gantry acts as a platform for workers to stand on to reach the tunnel roof. It follows in the path of the shield.

Brace
The shield and its cells are moved by screw braces that can be released when the tunnel has been reinforced with bricks.

The Thames Tunnel
With the Thames Tunnel came the tunnelling shield. This consisted of three iron frames mounted on top of one another like an open-backed bookcase. This structure was placed against the area of earth that needed to be excavated, allowing workers to dig in its cavities, removing soil in sections. Once the distance of the cavities had been excavated, it was shunted forward by a series of screw braces. This meant that at each stage of the dig, the shield supported the walls and ceiling, allowing time for masonry reinforcements to be installed.

The railways had opened up a whole new way of life to the British people

Timeline
Defining moment
Thames Tunnel collapse
12 January 1828
While working on the Thames Tunnel, the 21-year-old Brunel almost dies when part of the tunnel floods. Six men lose their lives, and Brunel suffers a badly injured leg and internal injuries, being saved only by prompt action from fellow engineer Richard Beamish. He is sent off to Brighton to recuperate, only for the illness to relapse, and he doesn’t recover until the spring. In the meantime, work on the tunnel grinds to a standstill - the project wouldn’t be resumed until 1834, and remained unfinished until 1843.

Defining moment
Chief engineer of Great Western Railway 1833
Brunel is appointed chief engineer of the proposed Great Western Railway, intended to link London with Bristol. After an act of parliament in 1835, work begins on the project, with Brunel taking a hands-on role. Along the way, a great many long-standing bridges, viaducts, tunnels and other landmarks are constructed, such as the Box Tunnel, Paddington Station and the Hanwell and Chippenham viaducts. It arguably remains Brunel’s most notable legacy, with much of his work remaining intact today.

1806 Born
Isambard Kingdom
Brunel is born in Portsmouth, the son of Sophia Kingdom and French-born engineer Marc Isambard Brunel, whose footsteps he will go on to follow.

1820 Attends college in France
At the age of 14, Brunel is sent to France to study. He first enrols at the Collège de Cuen in Normandy, before moving on to the Lycée Henri-Quatre in Paris. At 16, he returns to Britain.

1829 Designs Clifton Suspension Bridge
While in Bristol, Brunel successfully designs what will go on to become the Clifton Suspension Bridge. Due to various delays, it won’t be completed in his lifetime.

1836 Marries Mary
Elizabeth Horsley
Brunel marries Mary Elizabeth Horsley – the daughter of noted musician William Horsley – in Kensington Church, London. Their marriage is a happy one, and they go on to have three children together.

1838 SS Great Western maiden voyage
Then the biggest ship in the world at the time, the vessel sets off from Bristol for its maiden voyage to New York. Brunel is injured when a fire breaks out in the engine room.

1806 1820 1829 1836 1838
1812
1830
1826
1829
1836
1838

1806 1820 1829 1836 1838

1806 1820 1829 1836 1838
Brunel: Iron Man

Born on 9 April 1806 in Portsmouth, he was the son of Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, himself an engineer of some renown. Having had an affluent upbringing, Marc was determined that Isambard receive a similarly good education. After imparting upon him a solid grounding in engineering principles, he sent him to a French academy to gain experience first-hand, before returning to work as an assistant for his father.

It was shortly after this, in 1825, that he would take on his first role of real responsibility, serving as assistant engineer on a project to construct a tunnel underneath the river Thames. Despite being considerably younger than the majority of his colleagues, Isambard proved to be an energetic and efficient leader, driving the project forward - often in the absence of his father, who was preoccupied with other issues and his own poor health. However, the work was dangerous, which Isambard discovered soon enough. After initially escaping a tunnel flooding on 18 May with no loss of life, a much more serious accident occurred on 12 January 1828, killing six and nearly fatally injuring Isambard. He was hospitalised and the project was postponed, but nonetheless it provided him with vital experience for his future career.

The following year, Isambard was drawn to Bristol by a competition to design the proposed Clifton Suspension Bridge, which was to run over the river Avon. His design was chosen, causing him to remark: “I have to say that of all the wonderful feats I have performed since I have been in this part of the world, I think yesterday I performed the most wonderful. I produced unanimity among 15 men who were all quarrelling about that most ticklish subject — taste.” Unfortunately, the project was interrupted and ultimately halted by the effects of the Bristol Riots of 1831, but Brunel’s skill had got him noticed.

Defining moment
SS Great Eastern transatlantic maiden voyage 17 June 1860

Of all the projects he worked on, the SS Great Eastern proved to be the most trying. Going over budget and over time, it quickly became an ordeal with Brunel frequently clashing with shipbuilder John Scott Russell. After a number of mishaps (the first launch in 1857 failed, and the maiden voyage to Weymouth in 1859 resulted in a boiler explosion that killed six), it made its maiden transatlantic voyage in 1860 to New York.

Connecting the country
The First Industrial Revolution had seen the invention of a new method for smelting coal, and the coke pig iron it produced was used for making cast-iron goods like pipes and kettles, and later as a building material. It revolutionised metallurgy, but it was an inefficient process impractical for use on a wide scale. However, in 1828 Scottish inventor James Beaumont Neilson patented a design for a hot blast technique that drastically reduced the amount of fuel required for the process. In turn, the cost of producing the wrought iron necessary for making things like train tracks fell, allowing for the proliferation of railways in the 1830s.

Though the first steam trains had been designed in the early 1800s, they had mainly been used in coal mines and for transporting goods. The first public steam-hauled railway - the Stockton and Darlington - opened in 1825 and the first inter-city railway in the world was opened in 1830, connecting Liverpool and Manchester. Then, in an event that would change rail travel forever, the first section of the Great Western Railway was completed in the year of Victoria’s accession.

The project had been masterminded by merchants in Bristol, who wanted to ensure that...
the city remained the second most important port in the country, and the chief one for American trade. They decided the way forward was to build a railway line between Bristol and London, one that would outperform those being built in the north.

In 1833, Brunel was appointed chief engineer for the Bristol Railway project, and immediately set to work. Over the next ten years, Brunel’s work on what would become known as the Great Western Railway would dominate his professional life. While other railways were built in stages, from the beginning Brunel conceived the project as a whole. Brunel completed a vast amount of the surveying himself, going against convention to choose a route through the Vale of White Horse (providing better access to Oxford, Gloucester and the north), connecting London to Reading via Paddington (for which he would design the station), and Bath to Bristol by way of the Avon Valley. After some opposition, an act of parliament was passed in 1835, allowing the building work to commence. It was by far Brunel’s biggest project to date, and it was to be plagued with controversies. The most infamous was Brunel’s decision to use a 2.14 metre track gauge, known as a broad gauge. He decided on this gauge with the future of rail travel in mind, foreseeing that high-speed trains would need wider, lower carriages to reduce air resistance. However, the Birmingham and Gloucester railway had already been built with a standard gauge measurement of 1.435 metres. This meant that when the line would eventually be connected to the broad-gauge Bristol and Gloucester line, all passengers and goods travelling between the north and the south west would have to change trains halfway through their journey. This problem sparked the ‘gauge war’, which was eventually battled out in parliament.
The Hot Blast Process

By preheating the air blown into a blast furnace, fuel consumption could be dramatically reduced and its output increased.

1. Charging hole
   Iron ore, coke and limestone are poured into the furnace through the charging hole.

2. Stove
   A stove preheats the air to 150 degrees Celsius, which is then blown into the blast furnace.

3. Chemical reactions
   The hot air reacts with the coke to produce carbon dioxide. This then reacts with more coke to produce carbon monoxide.

4. Molten iron
   Carbon monoxide reacts with the iron ore to produce molten iron, which trickles down to the bottom of the furnace.

5. Hot air
   Hot air from the furnace is drawn off to heat the stove.

The first section of the new track - from Paddington to Maidenhead - was opened on 4 June 1838, incorporating the Wharncliffe Viaduct, the first in a series of similarly impressive structures. The route was extended to Twyford in July 1839, then Reading in March 1840, through the Vale of White Horse to Wootton Bassett by December 1840, down into Chippenham in May 1841 and finally on to Bristol in June. This last section of the route was delayed due to difficulties with the construction of the 1-mile-long Box Tunnel, which in turn produced a knock-on effect with delays to the completion of the Bristol-Bath route.

Among the new landmarks on this route were the Bristol Temple Meads railway station, the bridge over the river Saltash near Plymouth and the tubular suspension and truss bridge over the Wye at Chepstow.

In 1846, parliament ruled in favour of the standard gauge, declaring that all trains outside of the south-west were to be built without Brunel's design. Over time, lines that had been made with a broad gauge would have to be converted. By 1892, it had disappeared completely.

"Brunel was meticulous and hands on, wanting to be involved at every step"

Further innovation

Despite its failure to revolutionise railway design, the Great Western Railway did revolutionise travel. It kickstarted a new era of rail tourism, as Londoners flocked to the south west to enjoy its sandy beaches and slow-paced way of life. Upholstered seats, armrests and enclosed carriages soon became the norm, and cheap tickets were also offered, with excursion trains operating to popular destinations and events like the 1851 Great Exhibition. Railways were even built below ground, marking the birth of the London Underground.

By the end of the 19th century, there was hardly a small town in Britain that did not have access to a train station. Fresh produce could be shipped across the country and newspapers could be printed in London and whisked up to Edinburgh the same day. The railways had opened up a whole new way of life to the British people, one that remains over a century on.

Though an improvement on the earlier wooden railway lines, wrought iron was not strong enough to support the heavier locomotives. It was possible...
Captured in 1844, this image of SS Great Britain is believed to be the first taken of any ship.

**SS Great Britain**

Considered the first ever modern ship, Brunel's design revolutionised shipbuilding.

**Hull**

Brunel had originally planned to build a wooden ship, but changed the design to iron as it was cheaper, stronger, lighter, and wouldn't rot. It was the longest passenger ship of its time at 98 metres long.

**Propeller**

Used in 1839, steamships had been driven by paddle wheels, but Brunel chose to design SS Great Britain with a new invention called a screw propeller. These also operated using steam but were more economic and allowed greater speed and stability for the ship.

**Dining saloon**

The dining room was believed to be the finest of its time. It could seat up to 360 people and was elaborately decorated with white and gold columns.

**Engine**

The steam engine was three storeys high and ran on 200 tons of seawater that was stored in the boiler - the largest of its time. It could power the ship forward at a rate of 12 knots.
Brunel: Iron Man

Watt’s Steam Engine
Bringing steam to the masses allowed industries to upscale their operations

The Watt steam engine made two critical improvements to existing models. The first was the addition of a separate condenser cylinder alongside the main piston cylinder. This meant that the majority of condensation – and therefore vacuum creation – took place outside the heated drum. This allowed the main piston cylinder to remain at a temperature where water could quickly be pressurised. The second improvement was the introduction of an extra steam valve. The added valve increased the power of the engine as it cycled and inserted low-pressure steam into the upper part of the main piston cylinder. This sped up vacuum creation, increasing the piston’s downsroke power and, as a result, its actions per minute.

With its advanced industrial technologies, Britain was leading the international trade market. The British government knew that in order to operate and maintain this successful trade empire, they would have to ensure that their ship services were also fast, reliable and regular.

Earlier developments in shipbuilding, like the invention of the screw propeller in 1835, had improved speed and durability, and the invention of the surface condenser allowed boilers to run on seawater without having to be cleaned, making long sea journeys possible. The first steam-assisted crossing of the Atlantic had taken place in 1819, when US ship Savannah sailed from Georgia to Liverpool in 633 hours. Brunel, seeing the feats of engineering accomplished by his rivals, persuaded his directors that a transatlantic shipping line would be a natural extension to the services offered by their railway.

Determined to outdo the Americans one way or another, in 1837 Brunel launched SS Great Western – the longest ship in the world at 72 metres – which had been constructed in the Floating Harbour in the port of Bristol. Aside from a few early mishaps (including Brunel himself being injured during an engine-room fire), Great Western successfully made its maiden voyage to New York, although the ship’s large size made frequent use of the Floating Harbour inconvenient, thus restricting it to the river near Avonmouth.

Six years later, SS Great Britain was launched, which was considered the most revolutionary ship of the early Victorian period. Designed for speed and comfort, it was made from metal rather than wood, powered by an engine rather than wind or oars, and driven by a propeller rather than paddle wheels. It was equipped with cabins and state rooms for 360 passengers, and had the largest and most lavish dining room ever seen. But again, the project was not to be without problems. Brunel had been hired in 1832 to report on the deteriorating condition of Bristol’s Floating Harbour, which he did, although the Dock Company – which owned the harbour – delayed acting on his suggestions. This indecision came to a head upon the completion of SS Great Britain in 1843, when...
**Developments in other industries**

With innovations in iron, steam-power and textiles, as well as electricity and steel, productivity soared in many industries.

**Media**

Not only did the Industrial Revolution see the mass production of textiles and metals, it also signalled the start of the mass media. The invention of the steam-powered rotary printing press in 1843 allowed printers to create millions of copies of a page in a single day. Combined with the development of the railways, newspapers could now be printed and transported to thousands of destinations around the country, making news more accessible than ever.

**Textiles**

The textile industry was at the centre of Britain’s industrial expansion in the Victorian period. Technological advances meant that cottons, wools, silks and dyestuffs could be produced at unprecedented rates. By 1870, steam power in factories was the norm, and the invention of machinery like the semi-automatic Lancashire Loom and the self-acting mule meant that cotton could be spun in a fraction of the time it had taken a century earlier.

**Agriculture**

Though the Industrial Revolution saw a move away from agriculture, it remained an important part of the British economy. In the decade following Victoria’s accession, agriculture flourished as new crops were planted and artificial fertilisers started being used. However, the invention of reliable refrigeration technology towards the end of the 19th century meant that cheap meat could be imported from overseas, causing a drop in British sales.

**Automobile**

The world’s first automobile was patented by Karl Benz in Germany in 1886. Two years later, he began to sell his vehicles, making them the first commercially available cars. In the USA, Henry Ford took advantage of the new assembly line process to run his own car manufacturing business. In Britain, Herbert Austin founded Wolseley Motors Limited, which was the United Kingdom’s largest car manufacturer until Ford opened its doors in 1913.

**Electrification**

Before Victoria’s reign, an electric current could only be produced using a battery. In 1831, Michael Faraday discovered electricity could be generated by simply moving a magnet over a wire. This discovery heralded the practical use of electricity in technology. One of the most significant uses was for electric lighting in homes. In 1850, Joseph Swan began experimenting with carbonised paper filaments in a glass bulb. In 1880, he patented a design for the first incandescent light bulb.

**Telecommunications**

In 1837, Englishmen William Fothergill Cooke and Charles Wheatstone installed the first commercial telegraph system between Luton railway station and Camden Town. The system used electric current to move magnetic needles, transmitting messages in code. An underwater cable was built between England and France, and SS Great Eastern later laid down the first transatlantic cable. With transmitters in every post office, mass communication was now possible.
it became clear that the ship was too wide to pass through the entrance lock. Brunel had anticipated that improvements to this area would have been made by this point, but his suggestions weren't acted on. Ultimately, masonry had to be removed from the side of the lock so the ship could pass, never to return again, as it was sold off after the Steamship Company was wound up in 1848. By 1853, it was operating a London to Australia service, and continued to do so for almost 20 years.

In 1854, Brunel began to look even further afield. The SS Great Eastern was conceived as being long voyages economically and speedily by steam, [which] required the vessel to be large enough to carry the coal for the entire voyage at least outwards, and unless the facility for obtaining coal was very great at the out port, then for the return voyage also. However, the construction process of the SS Great Eastern would prove to be an ordeal for Brunel. The project quickly ran over budget and overdue, and his relationship with shipbuilder John Scott Russell quickly became strained. While Brunel was meticulous and hands on, wanting to be involved at every step of the build, Russell was more laid back, giving his workers instructions and then leaving them to get on with it. As the shipyard was under Russell's control, Brunel relied on his co-operation. When it became clear that this wasn't to be as forthcoming as he would have liked, he grew frustrated. Further adding to his problems, the first attempt to launch the ship on 3 November 1857 failed. It was successfully launched in 1858, and made its maiden voyage to New York in 1860 - which Brunel wouldn't live to see. Although it never fulfilled its original purpose of travelling to Australia, the vessel found use in successfully laying transatlantic cables, and at the time was the largest ship ever built.

The Iron Man's legacy
Brunel's engineering vision and innovation made the building of large-scale, propeller-driven, all-metal steamships a practical reality, and between 1860-70 the shipbuilding industry soared. At Clydebank alone, more than 800,000 tons of iron ships were built. From the 1870s, steel replaced wrought-iron, resulting in the construction of lighter ships that could travel at much greater speeds. The Royal Navy were the first to take this brave new step into engineering, launching HMS Iris - the first all-steel ship in the Royal Navy - in 1877. Reaching speeds of more than 17 knots, HMS Iris was the fastest ship the world had ever seen.

In addition to his work on travel infrastructure, Brunel worked in a number of other fields. He was responsible for the redesign and construction of various docks, such as Cardiff, Milford Haven and Monkwearmouth, and designed prefabricated hospitals to be shipped out to the Crimean War. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1830, and married Mary Elizabeth Iorsley in 1836, with whom he had three children: Isambard Brunel Junior, Henry Marc and Florence Mary.

Brunel suffered a stroke in 1859, and died ten days later on 15 September, aged 53. He was buried close to his father in the Kensal Green Cemetery in London. His legacy lives on, not only in the numerous landmarks and locations bearing his name, but also in the travel network that he left behind. A large proportion of the railway routes and bridges in the south west of England were a result of Brunel's drive to improve the country's infrastructure - in doing so, making him a vital player in the journey to what Britain is today.
Gluseppe Garibaldi

The Italian patriot driven by a burning desire to unify his country often overstepped the line with his unconventional methods

Written by Jack Griffiths

Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo had a huge effect on Europe, not least the Italian peninsula, which underwent radical political transformation over the ensuing century. The Italian unification, or Risorgimento, was a hard fought conflict, and one of the key figures to emerge from it was Giuseppe Garibaldi. Born in 1807 to a family of coastal traders in Nice, Garibaldi grew up in a region finally free from long-term Napoleonic rule. After snubbing his mother's request to join the priesthood, he became a talented mariner and served in the Piedmont-Sardinia Navy for ten years. It was at this time that the Italian came under the influence of Giuseppe Mazzini, the godfather of Italian nationalism and creator of the 'Young Italy' movement. Garibaldi was so taken by Mazzini's teachings that he participated in a failed plot to claim the arsenal of Genoa and was condemned to death by a Genoese court. He fled to South America in 1836 to save his life.

Modern study on Garibaldi is primarily geared towards his achievements in the Risorgimento rather than his time spent in exile. Surrounded by scenes of rebellion, South America was where his revolutionary persona was moulded after a small taste of it in Nice. A naval captain for the Riograndense Republic, he helped the small de facto state try to break free of Brazilian rule. A South American gun for hire, Garibaldi joined the Uruguayan Navy in 1842 and participated in another liberation, his finest hour coming at the 1846 battles of Cerro and Sant'Antonio. The news of his heroic victories made its way to European shores, and the guerrilla warfare learned by Garibaldi in his time in South America would prove to be invaluable to him later in the decade, when he made his triumphant return to the Old World.

In April 1848, Italy was fractured into the Austrian Empire in the north, the central pope-run Papal States and the Kingdom of Naples in the south. However, Garibaldi, now more steely and determined...
GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI

Garibaldi's legacy is by and large a positive one and this statue in La Spezia is just one of many sculptures of him.”

Defining moment

Asked to serve in the American Civil War

So admired abroad was Garibaldi that US President Abraham Lincoln offered him the command of Union forces in the American Civil War. Garibaldi declined, as he would only accept if he had supreme command of the army and a complete condemnation of slavery, which Lincoln could not promise. Garibaldi was immensely popular with many working-class movements.

Garibaldi sailed to Sicily from Genoa with an army of 1,000 Redshirts and proclaimed himself dictator upon landing.”

“Garibaldi sailed to Sicily from Genoa with an army of 1,000 Redshirts and proclaimed himself dictator upon landing.”

Garibaldi’s capture of Palermo in 1860 showed that the Expedition of the Thousand meant business.

neutral ground of San Marino. The band of runaways was still not out of the woods yet though. Pursued doggedly by the Austrians, a brave crossing of the Apennine over the spine of the peninsula allowed Garibaldi to make his escape despite being a wanted criminal. The rebel with a cause wouldn’t return to Italy until 1854, but in his absence, the stories of his achievements grew. His qualities as a leader had not gone unnoticed.

After a few years of travelling around North America and South America Garibaldi returned once again. After an audacious attempt to release political prisoners from Naples in 1858, Cavour, the prime minister of Piedmont, desired his services. Given the rank of major general in the Piedmontese Army, Garibaldi led a group of Alpine huntsmen to capture Varése and Como, reaching the border of South Tyrol. Lombardy was now part of Piedmont and the rest of Italy was next in Garibaldi’s sights as the drive for the Risorgimento began to escalate. Northern Italy was now united and in relative peace as Garibaldi held talks with King Victor Emmanuel II in Florence over a potential invasion of the Papal States in central Italy. The king eventually backed down, he didn’t share Garibaldi’s vision of complete unification and was only concerned with expanding Piedmont’s borders. Two further blows came shortly after when Nice was given back to France from Italy despite Garibaldi’s protestations, and he married and then left her within a matter of hours after discovering his new wife was already five months pregnant.

After the successful conquest of the Papal States, Sicily and Naples were next on the agenda. Pursuing his quest even without government backing, Garibaldi sailed to Sicily from Genoa with an army of 1000 Redshirts and proclaimed himself dictator upon landing. The Sicilian peasants were attracted to his promise of ending slavery and feudalism, both of which were still rampant on the island. A victory in a small skirmish at Galatina proved his forces were
more than a match for the local army, and within a month, the capital Palermo had been captured. The Redshirts had proved their worth further and were now bolstered by Hungarian allies as well as being given the green light from Cavour and Victor Emmanuel to push onto the mainland. Crossing the Strait of Messina, Garibaldi swept north in a rapid moving tactic and by 7 September 1860, Naples had been conquered. Renaming himself the ‘Dictator of the Two Sicilies’, Garibaldi was in a joyous mood especially after winning a critical victory at the Battle of Volturmo. The success meant that Victor Emmanuel was now the undisputed king of united Italy. After riding in the royal carriage during a triumphant procession through Naples, Garibaldi declined any further rewards and simply requested to govern as the king’s vicere. However, his radical ideas of social reform and open desire to re-conquer Rome from its French garrison meant local conservatives distrusted him, but at the same time were all too aware of his popularity with the masses that exceeded even the king’s.

With the Risorgimento almost complete, Garibaldi should have been free to walk in the lands he had reclaimed but constantly found himself on the periphery. Within a year, Victor Emmanuel had yet another request - go north and repel the Austrians once more. Another volunteer army was raised and Garibaldi, now the king’s attack dog, set off to the Balkans to do battle for his kingdom once more. On the journey, he couldn’t shake the feeling that Rome was meant to be Italian and took the decision to abandon his mission and instead led an assault on the Eternal City. Almost predictably, this did not go well and the Royal Italian Army as well as the French roundly defeated Garibaldi’s forces as he was wounded and taken prisoner. He was freed shortly after, but in 1866, he was once again used as the tool in which to engage the forever threatening Austria. Once again successful, Venice was assumed into the Italian kingdom but within a year, Garibaldi attempted to take Rome for Italy and was once again defeated.

He led one final campaign assisting France against Prussia but by the turn of the 1880s, he was jaded from a life of fighting. Crippled by rheumatism and his collection of war wounds, he retreated to the island of Caprera, which he had partly owned since 1855. Living out his life as both a socialist and a pacifist, his methods weren’t always fair or correct but his ideas of workers’ rights and the emancipation of women most definitely were. He died on 2 June 1882 and is remembered as a flawed thinker and campaigner who was ahead of his time both in methods of warfare and social views. A firm believer of patriotism, his lack of interest in personal power but advocacy of dictatorships make him an anomaly and an enigma of the era.

Was Giuseppe Garibaldi a hero or a villain?
Let us know what you think

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In the 1960s, China's youth rebelled in their millions. Believing they were saving the world, they were actually unwitting pawns in a devious politician's game.

In pictures

MAO'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

In April 1968, people in the British colony of Hong Kong noticed hundreds of mysterious objects drifting into Victoria Harbour. At first it was believed they were sacks that seemed to be flowing into the waterway from rivers in mainland China. As these objects grew closer, however, it became clear that they weren't sacks at all, but something altogether more sinister.

James Lilley, then a CIA operative working at the US Consulate General in Hong Kong, recalled: "In a city called Wuzhou to the north there'd been a huge factional battle in which people were executed by the winning side. They'd tied their hands behind their backs, shot them and pushed them in the river. These bodies floated down into Hong Kong, we could see them floating down..."

Terrifying rumours had been emerging from China for months that the country was in chaos, and the bloated corpses that choked up Victoria Harbour confirmed the worst. With the support of China's army, gangs of youths known as the Red Guard were roaming the land torching schools, destroying offices, and attacking - often killing - anyone who got in their way. There were even reports of cannibalism. In the southern Chinese province of Guangxi, at least 137 people were killed, cooked and devoured in punishment for the crime - real or imagined - of being against the country's absolute ruler Chairman Mao.

The young fanatics who made up Mao's Red Guard had been primed since birth by his teachings. The tidal wave of terror they now unleashed upon the nation was - they believed - integral to what their idol was calling the Cultural Revolution. Little did they suspect that they had actually been duped and were simply pawns in Mao's scheme to save his political skin. Or indeed that, when the time came, he would cynically destroy them, too.
MAO'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

MAO ZEDONG – THE BOOKISH REVOLUTIONARY

Mao Zedong was a librarian turned revolutionary. Born in 1893 into a peasant family, he moved to Beijing in 1919 where he found work in the city’s university library, and became a co-founder of China’s Communist Party (CCP). By 1927, the CCP’s activities had become so troublesome that China’s nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek went after them. Mao would spend the next 22 years at war, first against Chiang, Kai-shek and then Japan, which, in 1937, invaded China.

As his military victories mounted, Mao’s fame as an inspirational leader spread and a vast movement of largely peasant revolutionaries grew around him. By 1949, this army of farmers had booted the Japanese out, and chased Chiang’s nationalists off the mainland to Taiwan. It now endorsed Mao as leader of the newly established People’s Republic of China. More than 20 million Chinese had been killed in fighting during the previous two decades, and Mao’s speeches now seemed to offer real hope to a people who had suffered terribly. That hope, though, was to be short-lived.

According to Marxist theory, for a communist society to succeed it must emerge from an industrialised, capitalist economy – not a rural, feudal one, which China’s largely was. Mao’s solution to this, like Stalin’s before him in Soviet Russia, was to rush the country towards industrialisation. In 1958, he launched a huge social engineering project he called the Great Leap Forward – it was an unmitigated disaster. Overnight, millions of Chinese farmers were turned into steelworkers and miners. With few left to tend the fields, the harvests failed. Upwards of 38 million starved to death and as the death toll rose, so did opposition to Mao’s policies among the communist leadership. It was this opposition and Mao’s refusal to admit he was wrong that sowed the seeds of the turmoil to come.

MADAME MAO TAKES A BOW

By 1960, Mao’s former allies in the CCP, men such as Deng Xiaoping, wanted closer ties with Russia – and Mao gone. Trapping the revolution’s poster boy was never going to be an option, though, so instead they tried to sideline him by turning him into an empty icon with no real power.

But the shrewd and politically calculating Mao wasn’t about to forsake his empire. Revolution had brought him to power, he reasoned, and revolution could help him retain it – this time in the form of a cultural one. To help him, Mao turned to his (fourth) wife, Jiang Qing, also known as Madame Mao.

This former film star was seen by the public as their leader’s glamorous and devoted wife. In private, however, their marriage was a loveless sham and she a bad-tempered schemer. Nevertheless, he trusted her, and as culture was her forte, she’d be ideal to stage manage his Cultural Revolution. In May 1966, he announced the politicisation of the arts, and appointed Madame Mao artistic adviser to the army. She immediately set about attacking artists and banning works she deemed ‘capitalist’.

China was subjected to Madame Mao’s censorship and propaganda campaign for the next ten years. All art from other countries was outlawed, while a billion people were encouraged to watch the few indoctrinating films and plays she would endorse. Every one of these saccharine works carried the same message – sacrificing yourself for the revolution is an honourable act. For an entire generation of Chinese children, it was the most powerful idea their minds were exposed to as they became hard wired to kill and to die for the cult of Chairman Mao.
“class traitors” were worked to death in Laogai (re-education) camps.

18.77 MILLION guns were in civilian hands during the factional fighting.

68,000 Beijing citizens were subject to Struggle Sessions in a single month (July-August 1968).

54 months - how long the Cultural Revolution’s mass killings went on for.

4,922 places of “historical or cultural interest” were destroyed in Beijing alone.

77 the age Madame Mao was when she died in prison in 1991, allegedly by her own hand.

THE BILLION-SELLING LITTLE RED BOOK

While China’s youth would be the agents of Mao’s Cultural Revolution, its military would be his muscle. In 1964, chief of the People’s Army (PLA) Lin Biao produced a handbook of Mao’s teachings that became known as The Little Red Book. When Mao shrewdly named Lin as his successor in August 1966, Lin responded by heavily promoting it.

Alongside the AK-47, the book became standard issue in China’s 2 million-strong army, and under Lin’s orders, about a billion were printed. Filled with Mao’s aphorisms - such as “Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun” - it became Cold War China’s bible.
The Cultural Revolution was launched on 3 September 1966, when General Lin Biao made an inflammatory speech accusing Mao’s political opponents of treachery. Lin urged the nation’s students to defend China against those who favoured Soviet-style communism over Mao’s own brand and the cult of personality it had produced.

To galvanise this youth movement, which named itself the Red Guard, Mao summoned up a demon – a privileged class, he told millions in a series of rallies in Beijing, of “landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries, bad elements, rightists, traitors, foreign agents, capitalists and intellectuals” that wanted to destroy the revolution. Only China’s uncontaminated youth, Mao told his infatuated worshippers, could stop them. They were instructed to return to their neighbourhoods and stop them. This they did with zeal. Within weeks, China was ablaze – books and schools were burning, while the blood of teachers, officials and parents flowed through the streets.

The Red Guard – Mao’s Agents of Change

In the 1960s, young people all over the world were in open rebellion against their parents and governments, as the Vietnam War raged and the arms race escalated. Nowhere was this rebellion fiercer than in China, but with one crucial difference – the revolt was created by the country’s leader so he could cling to power. Dressed in green jackets similar to those worn by the army and sporting red armbands, millions of children and young people persecuted, attacked and often killed local party officials, teachers, intellectuals and anyone found without The Little Red Book. The Red Guards, as they were known, suddenly found themselves with unprecedented power over the adult population. All they needed to get it was to swear allegiance to Mao. Amid the pandemonium that had been unleashed, Mao got his way as his harshest critics in the CCP were swept away in a savage orgy of cruelty. By the time the purge was over, just 30 of its 90-strong Central Committee remained. To quote the Red Guard’s own battle anthem, the pests had been swept away.
THE REVOLUTIONARIES ARE BETRAYED

By 1967, Red Guard units had overthrown party authorities in entire districts and the country had become engulfed in a civil war-like chaos. By the time rival factions began emerging in the Red Guard, Mao's political opponents had been suitably marginalised, and he could now afford to crush the revolt he had instigated. In the summer of 1968, Mao ordered the Red Guard to disband. Lin Biao's PLA seized buildings occupied by Red guards and millions of young people were forced into the countryside to toil in the fields. Those who resisted were executed, or killed if they put up a fight. Hundreds of thousands of loyal Mao followers were slaughtered, and it would take three years for the bloodletting to abate. Mao had sacrificed an entire generation for his own cynical political ends.

ASSASSINATION AND INTRIGUE

By 1971, with the Red Guard effectively disposed of, Mao now turned his attention to his loyal general and named successor Lin Biao. The Cultural Revolution had made Lin a powerful man, perhaps too powerful. The military leader, fearing that he was at risk of being purged, plotted to assassinate the 78-year-old chairman. Mao, though, was quickly onto him. The planned coup was soon exposed and Lin and his family tried to flee to Moscow. But before they could get there, the plane they were travelling on mysteriously crashed, killing everyone on board. To this day speculation remains rife that the crash was no accident. With Lin out of the way, and no obvious successor to Mao's throne, the power mongering began in earnest.

The road to revolution

1958

The Great Leap Forward

Intending to catapult China into the industrial age to bring about a revolution, Mao instead creates a huge famine as farmers abandon the land for factories.

1960-65

Communist party splits

Due to differences over China's future economic development, the CCP fractures. Mao is increasingly criticised by moderates like Deng Xiaoping.

1964-65

Little Red Book published

The head of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Lin Biao emerges as a supporter of Mao. He creates The Little Red Book to indoctrinate his troops.

May 1966

Madame Mao put in charge

Mao appoints his wife Jiang Qing (aka Madame Mao) as artistic adviser to the army. She sets about propagandising all aspects of the Chinese arts.

August 1966

The stage is set

Mao announces that Lin Biao will eventually replace him as China's leader. All the pieces are now in place for Mao's Cultural Revolution to begin.
MAO FINDS A MOST UNLIKELY ALLY

By 1972, despite the purges of the Cultural Revolution, China’s Prime Minister Zhou Enlai had held onto enough power and trust to remain at Mao’s side. This pragmatic politician now sought to end the chaos and restore stability to China’s economy. He solved the first problem by getting the still-loyal PLA to crack down on social unrest. An effective, if unimaginative, remedy. His solution for the second problem, however, was one of the most astonishing diplomatic coups in history. Relations between China and the US had been nonexistent for 20 years, but on 21 February 1972, one of the most right-wing presidents the US had ever elected landed at Beijing airport. For years, straw effigies of Richard Nixon had been used in China for bayonet practice. Yet, at the height of the Cold War, Zhou Enlai persuaded the most conservative leader in Western politics to attend a trade summit with the most iconoclastic leader in the communist sphere. The summit was a success and China’s closed economy was cured after decades of wild uncertainty.

THE STRUGGLE SESSIONS

Arguably the most iconic image of the Cultural Revolution is the sight of Mao’s enemies being paraded through the streets on their way to Struggle Sessions. Essentially kangaroo courts designed to rile up the masses, they began with a mob of Red Guards marching to a ‘counter-revolutionary’s’ home or office, dragging them onto the street and hanging a placard around their neck with the nature of their ‘crime’ scrawled upon it. The victims were then theatrically paraded through the streets, sometimes in an open-topped truck, and brought to a crowded auditorium. Here, in front of a furious crowd, they were chastised, spat upon, and beaten sometimes for days on end. Thousands died as a result – either as a result of the beatings or from suicide.

September 1966
Revolution begins
Under Mao’s instruction, Lin Biao makes an inflammatory speech designed to whip up the nation’s youth so they’lloust any CCP officials who oppose Mao.

1966-68
Chaos is unleashed
Millions of youths organised into Red Guard units rampage through the country destroying culture and buildings, while attacking Mao’s opponents.

July 1968
Betrayal of the Red Guard
With millions dead and the country in chaos, Mao – knowing his opponents have been toppled – sends in the PLA to destroy the Red Guard.

February 1972
The road to recovery
With order violently restored and Lin Biao disposed of, Mao opens up successful trade talks with the US salvaging both China’s economy and his dictatorship.

9 September 1976
The end of an era
Mao dies in office aged 82. While the nation wallows with grief, his cronies – including Madame Mao – are arrested. Deng Xiaoping replaces Mao as leader.
FORBIDDEN IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

In Mao's China, 'political correctness' was used by the state's legislature to control, repress and bully its population, with often absurdly counter-productive consequences.

COSMETICS
Along with perfume, as well as Western fashions, make up was banned because it didn't conform to the "ideology of the collective proletariat" - or to put it another way, it would allow too much scope for individual expression.

GOLF
This pastime so beloved by wealthy men in bad trousers was banned almost as soon as Chairman Mao came to power. The all-powerful leader officially outlawed the pastime across the country on the grounds that it was "a sport for millionaires."

GAMBLING
Considered betting to be a hugely destructive vice and banned it in all its forms - from casinos to mah-jong - in 1949. In 1957, his government created the re-education through labour programme that was, in part, used to punish gamblers.

THE BEATLES
While the rest of the world was getting down to the music of the Fab Four during the 1960s, the work of Lennon and McCartney - like all Western rock music - was banned from the airwaves for being symbolic of "bourgeois western decadence."

DR SEUSS
Or more specifically, Green Eggs And Ham for its "portrayal of early Marxism."

THE END OF MAO AND HIS CRONIES

Chairman Mao died of heart failure on 9 September 1976 aged 82, and with him died the last embers of the Cultural Revolution. Mao's chief architect of the Cultural Revolution - Madame Mao, Wang Hongwen, Zhang Chunqiao and Yao Wenyua - now began lobbying to replace him. Known collectively as the gang of four, this group had enjoyed years of privilege and power, and were despised throughout the Chinese Communist Party. Without Mao to protect them, they were soon arrested and imprisoned.

Ironically, the man who did replace Mao after his death was probably his greatest critic. Deng Xiaoping had been one of Mao's harshest detractors a decade before. Indeed, Deng's loud criticism of Mao's misguided economic policy had been instrumental in persuading Mao to unleash his dreaded Cultural Revolution.
THE DEATH TOLL

Mao was responsible for more deaths than anyone in history. A 2005 study put the estimated number of people who died under Mao's regime at 70 million. The Great Leap Forward's famine accounted for 38 million, while the Cultural Revolution was responsible for most of the remaining 32 million.

MAO'S LEGACY

In 2013, the 120th anniversary of Mao's birth saw both celebratory parades throughout China and Chinese critics reminding us of his atrocities. His position as father of modern China is indisputable, as is the role he played in liberating its people from oppressive rulers and foreign invaders. It's also true that, having reached such a vast audience, he was one of the 20th century's most influential thinkers. But his ideas about how to put Marxism into practice caused misery and famine. His refusal to accept this, and his willingness to sacrifice an entire generation rather than adapt, also reveal him to be one of history's great villains. A man who, despite his iconoclastic teachings, ruled China with greater ruthlessness than any of its ancient emperors.
MARY ROSE OWNERS’ WORKSHOP MANUAL

A guide to a Tudor legend that’s ship-shape

Author Brian Lavery Publisher Haynes Price £25 Released Out now

In the last few years, the Haynes Owners’ Workshop Manual series has broadened in scope to include not just the professional automotive guides for mechanics and petrolheads but other, less likely vehicles too. There have even been tongue-in-cheek tear-downs of fantasy vehicles such as the Millennium Falcon, so a Haynes Manual for Henry VIII’s famous warship, the Mary Rose, is well within the remit of the series.

The ship was an innovative design for its time, and after being launched in 1510, proved itself in a number battles around the French coast and English Channel. However, it capsized after taking too sharp a tactical turn in February 1543, then sank into the Solent on the south coast of England. It’s garnered its fair share of media attention in the last few decades, becoming a totem for British maritime archeology and the Royal Navy. The ship was a hot topic in the early 1980s when it was being recovered after deteriorating for more than 400 years in as little as 11 metres of sea water, and much was made (perhaps embellished) of its historical significance and importance to Henry VIII’s fleet. This Haynes Manual leads with these bookends, detailing the Mary Rose’s active military history and recovery for the uninitiated, but history buffs and Haynes fans will welcome the middle chapters that deal with rarer knowledge of the Mary Rose’s construction, its crew and its effectiveness in war.

No doubt, this is where consultation from the Mary Rose Trust (the charity responsible for its conservation) proved invaluable, as the painstaking recovery of the ship and its careful reconstruction would have given its experts unique insights into a Tudor shipwright’s trade. The 19,000 artefacts - syringes, ceramics, swords, rings, grooming implements and skeletons (human, as well as the ship’s dog) - recovered allow this Haynes manual to add idiosyncratic touches to some of the characters already known to have lived and worked aboard the Mary Rose.

One of the most interesting chapters comes towards the end of the manual and deals with the discovery and rediscovery of the Mary Rose - the woeful tales of fishermen fouling their nets at a site in the north-east of the Solent and confirmation of the Mary Rose’s final resting place with the use of new sonar technology in 1966.

As you’d expect from a Haynes title, there’s at least one eye-catching drawing, illustration or photo on every page and, true to form, a colour cutaway diagram of the hull spanning two pages.

The launch of this manual is deliberately timed: the final drying phase of the vessel, in which 100 tons of water is being extracted from the timbers over five years, has reached a critical stage and the Mary Rose museum will re-open in summer 2016 to allow the public an unobstructed view of the hull. Although poring over illustrations isn’t quite the same as seeing it in the flesh, you could do a worse than to read the Mary Rose Owners’ Workshop Manual in the meantime.
NO MORE SOLDIERING: CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

There are alternatives to fighting

Author Stephen Wade Publisher Amberley Price £16.99 Released Out now

When discussing World War I, attention is focused on those who made the ultimate sacrifice: those conscripts who fought and died in the trenches so that future generations may have better lives. For all the admiration that is reserved for them, the level of scorn aimed at those who made every attempt to avoid fighting is almost equal. But is it deserved? That's what this book attempts to discern.

Importantly, author Stephen Wade attempts to draw a strong line of distinction between his take on events and traditional accounts that have painted conscientious objectors as at best cowards and at worst traitors and collaborators. He focuses on the history leading up to the introduction of the Military Service Act of 1916, for the first time requiring forced conscription of civilians into the British Army, before highlighting the ire heaped on those who refused to fight.

The activities of the NCF (No-Conscription Fellowship) remain at the forefront. Supported by figures like Bertrand Russell, Alfred Salter and William Mellor, you get a true idea of what was faced by those who refused to take up arms: social ostracism at best, and imprisonment at worst - where they were treated so harshly that a number actually died. If the point is to highlight that the suffering of some of the objectors actually rivalled that of the soldiers, then it is a point well made. With case studies of sole providers of elderly parents or large families being forced to fight, the indictment of the military is at times damning.

Yet it doesn't always feel as balanced as a book on this subject matter needs to be. Most of the chapters conclude with a scathing put-down of the empowered military - true, much of this is justified, but it's all too easy to judge their actions through a modern lens, especially during a time of unprecedented hardship and upheaval. Right from the opening paragraph, you know what the conclusion will be, and this lack of balance detracts from what is otherwise a well-written book.

Women in the east end of London hoist the 'White Feather' flag deriding those not enlisting in a time of war with the message 'Serve your country or wear this'
MAPS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD
A look at the world, but not as we know it
Author John OE Clark Publisher Pavilion Books Price £15 Released Out now

Some books draw you in because of a high-profile author, an interesting subject, or an intriguing connection to current affairs. Then there are books that are just mesmerisingly beautiful, and something in the back of your mind tells you, “I have to have it”. Maps That Changed the World is one such book. With its gorgeous cover, glossy thick pages and lucid maps and imagery inside, this book deserves to be displayed rather than stuffed between inferior books on a shelf.

However, this book is more than just a pretty face; as inside you’ll find a comprehensive history of navigation and cartography. From the first time humans tried to portray the world as they knew it on stone tablets to the many changing maps of Israel as political forces pushed and pulled at its borders, author John OE Clark provides insight into the relationship between man and Earth. Scientific research, technological advancements, war and propaganda, environmental changes and the spread of human civilization and settlements result in changes in our view of the land, and it’s fascinating to see how far we’ve come.

However, it’s not the maps of the physical places that make this book an interesting read; it is the way Clark explores the expressions of culture and religion through mapmaking. One definite highlight is the visual representation of the many otherworldly dimensions of the Norsemen, including Valhalla and Midgard, spread over three levels of life and death.

Another is Tolkien’s incredibly detailed representation of Middle-Earth, showing that a fictional map can be just as interesting as a satellite image. If not more. Clark blurs the borders of the definition of a map with incredible skill, making for a book that is as visually pleasing as it is insightful.

THE REAL DAD’S ARMY
How the lording TV sitcom was accurate to life
Author Norman Longmate Publisher Amberley Price £10 Released Out now

The Real Dad’s Army follows the accounts of author Norman Longmate—formerly of the Third Sussex Battalion, Home Guard, and author of more than 20 books on World War II—and his experiences of the war. Having joined the real equivalent of the long-running sitcom at 17, the same age as Dad’s Army’s Private Frank Pike (as played by Ian Lavender), Longmate has high praise for how accurate the situation comedy was in comparison to his experiences.

Covering all aspects of his life during wartime, The Real Dad’s Army includes first-person accounts and has more than 70 illustrative images that aid in the depiction of the subject in both a heartfelt and informative manner.

Interspersed throughout his thoughtful, and oftentimes touching, recollection, Longmate uses the wartime poetry of others to assist in building the image of war. In particular, in the opening to his final chapter ‘The Last Round’, he begins with a short musing from a member of the 11th Denbighshire Home Guard that touches on the harsh reality of the end of a long-fought war.

Giving an honest perspective on what it was like to be a part of the Great War, Longmate offers a thought-provoking account, linked into something that most contemporaries to the original sitcom would have possibly never seen in such a serious light. Within these pages, you may not learn anything new factually about World War II, but you will take away a new perspective on what the reality was like, from the weapons and camaraderie to the final surge towards a win and a push to come home.
ELECTRONIC DREAMS:
HOW 1980S BRITAIN LEARNED TO LOVE THE COMPUTER
Did Britain dream of electric sheep?

Author Tom Lean Publisher Bloomsbury Price £16.99 Released Out now

If you've ever watched Apple or Microsoft launch a new product, you know that today technological press releases are a big deal. Legions of fans press together with reporters to try and glimpse the newest unveilings by today's tech giants. In stark contrast, the creation of the first microcomputer, the forerunner to all modern computing, was cobbled together by four men in a dingy room at Manchester University. There wasn't even a picture taken to commemorate an event that would have unimaginable consequences.

The computer revolution took the UK by storm. Rising from the murky depths of Merseyside, it must have seemed to some as a 1984 Orwellian nightmare come true. Others embraced the technological revolution and soon the market was flooded with affordable personal computers.

Step by step, Tom Lean guides us through the birth of modern computing and its unleashing on the British market, from the first affordable computer - the Sinclair ZX-81, popular for showing that programming could be done by the masses and not just scientists - to the growth of the video game industry. Older readers will look back misty eyed as Lean takes us back in time to the development of landmark games such as Manic Miner and Chuckie Egg while younger readers will marvel at the primitiveness of these breakthroughs by today's standards.

Even though the entire book is about the computer industry, the language has been carefully used so as not to confuse or put the reader off. Lean does a fine job of bringing the computer revolution to life with an easy prose, a sprinkling of humour and anecdotes that show early designers weren't all spotty teenagers living in a basement; some were cult figures living in European communes. This book will entertain, educate and probably make you blow the dust off your ZX-Spectrum; it's been far too long.

DAD'S ARMY
Does this modern update of the BBC classic cut the mustard?

Certificate PG Director Oliver Parker Released Out now
Cast Catherine Zeta Jones, Bill Nighy, Toby Jones

A modern update of a classic is always a tough ask, especially a sitcom as beloved as Dad's Army. Do the producers stick with a tried and tested formula and be labelled boring, or change it up and risk alienating the longtime fans? Dad's Army sticks its marching boots into both camps and mostly succeeds. As you can imagine, the film is ahistorical, but let's face it, you're not watching for a history lesson. Set in 1944, Captain Mainwaring and his Home Guard are given the chance to play a major part in the war effort when a German radio signal is transmitted from Walmington-on-Sea.

The seaside town is beautifully re-imagined and the new actors make a good list of emulating the legendary cast, with Michael Gambon as the gentle Private Godfrey and Danny Mays as the cockney spiv Private Walker. Two original cast members make a welcome return and its great to see Ian Lavender, the original Private Pike, in a role of authority for once as well as a small role for Frank Williams as Reverend Timothy Farthing. Catherine Zeta Jones brings a touch of Hollywood glamour, which helps elevate the film from just being a long episode of the sitcom.

The film isn't massive on gags but, like the original show itself, it was always more of a gentle humour, and ramping up the comedy for the big screen would have felt wrong. As the storm always did, the film portrays the national pride of the era immensely well and serves as a fascinating insight into the determination of the British public to protect its shores. Dad's Army is faithful to its source material and will help attract new fans as well as pleasing the old, and may even make you smile all the way through.
Who built Abu Simbel?

One of many grand Ancient Egyptian structures, Abu Simbel was built to celebrate a great victory over the Hittites.

Was it built by...
A. Ramesses I  B. Ramesses II  C. Ramesses III

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After the Battle of the Norwegian Sea, NATO is determined to invade Eastern Europe. As the Army of the Danube assembles under General Schwarzkopf, the United States gathers a massive fleet in the Pacific. Meanwhile in the Politburo the struggle between the hawks and the doves reaches critical mass and Mikhail Gorbachev moves to take control of the situation.

The battle moves to communist territory in World War 1990: Operation Eastern Storm.
Why did John Wilkes Booth kill Abraham Lincoln?

Seamus Ashby

The first of four presidents to be assassinated in the history of the USA, Abraham Lincoln was shot dead with a single bullet at Ford’s Theatre, Washington, DC. His assassin, John Wilkes Booth, was a fervent supporter of slavery and wanted to prevent the Republican president from ending the practice. Prior to his assassination attempt, Booth’s initial plan was just to kidnap President Lincoln and transport him to Richmond, Virginia. Here, the president would be held captive until the release of a sufficient number of Confederate prisoners. Booth was taking this plan very seriously, giving up his promising acting career and spending more than $10,000 on supplies.

Booth changed his mind after he attended a public meeting in which Lincoln expressed his desire to allow African-Americans to vote. With the defeat of the South in the Civil War imminent, Booth changed his plan to kill Lincoln. That night, two other assassins were hired to kill Vice President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William H Seward as well. Disappointingly for Booth, he was the only one of his gang of conspirators to hold his nerve and carry out the murder. He was now the most wanted man in the Union.

This day in history 3 March

Battle of Brier Creek
The Continental Army suffers a devastating loss to overwhelming British numbers despite Colonel Samuel Elliott’s last stand. 180 Americans die and the Patriots are forced to retreat to North Carolina.

Second Opium War begins
Britain and France declare war on China and attack undefended forts in Canton. With assistance from American warships, the Chinese are outrun and forced into signing the unequal Treaty of Tientsin a year later.

Russia exits WWI
After the Bolshevik takeover, the Russian SFSR withdraws from the war. The breaking of the Triple Entente is secured by the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which is signed by Austria-Hungary, the German Empire and the Ottoman Empire.

Colour TV announced
The BBC announces that colour TV will be broadcast into homes within a year. The UK becomes the first place in Europe to do this and initially shows four hours of colour per day.
Who was Antonio Salazar?

Peter Forster

The prime minister of Portugal for 36 years, Antonio Salazar came into office in 1932. He instantly made his presence felt and drafted a new authoritarian constitution known as the Estado Novo (New Order). Under Salazar's new state, the military police were given a greater role and political freedom was dramatically reduced. Salazar kept Portugal neutral during World War II and recognised Francisco Franco's nationalist government. After the war, Portugal's railway and road networks were greatly expanded but Salazar had trouble maintaining colonies in Africa at a time when other nations were deconstructing their empires. He died on 27 July 1970.

Who invented the marshmallow?

Hannah Parker

The popular campfire treat has a more detailed history than you may think. The earliest marshmallows date back to as early as 2,000 BCE when the Ancient Egyptians served them as a delicacy. This food was made from the sap of the mallow plant and mixed with nuts and honey. The sweets first appeared in their current form in the 19th century when French candy makers mixed the initial ingredients with egg whites and sugar.
An attempted British government World War II cover up

Tammy Foster

I have been researching my family tree and so far I have discovered that they were all mostly farmers from Northumberland on my dad’s side and rag mill workers from Lancashire on my mother’s side (which is nice to know as my family runs its own farm and I work in a mill making carpets, so I feel like I am keeping the family link to the industry). Most interestingly, my great grandfather, Lance Corporal Charles Lowther, was a soldier in World War II.

I have a few photographs of my great grandfather Charlie in his soldier’s uniform and I asked my father what he knew about his grandparents. My dad pointed out that he died taking part in the D-Day landings, but said that is all he knew because it wasn’t something that was spoken about in his family.

I checked and discovered that Charlie was born in 1899 in Delaval, Northumberland, to Thomas and Magdalene Lowther. He moved to Alnwick in 1919 and married Mary Jane Wylie while working on a farm there. Charlie and Mary Jane had four girls and two boys. When the war broke out in 1939, he enlisted in the Royal Pioneer Corps.

On 17 July 1940, Charlie was on board the RMS Lancastria, a British Cunard Liner that was originally called Tyrrhenia when it was launched in 1920 but had been refitted and renamed. The
The ship had sailed between Liverpool and New York and was commandeered by the British government during the war as a troop ship. The Lancastria was taking part in Operation Ariel, evacuating people from Saint-Nazaire, France. At about 4pm on 17 July, it was bombed by the Luftwaffe, causing thousands of deaths including my great grandfather's.

I looked further into the story and discovered that the ship had turned over and sunk within 20 minutes, spilling gallons of oil into the sea, which then caught fire. Many either drowned, were choked by the oil or shot by strafing aircraft. It was the highest death toll for British forces in a single engagement in the whole of World War II. The immense loss of life was such that the British government suppressed news of the disaster. Many of the families of the dead knew only that their loved one died serving the British Expeditionary Force and the full story of the Lancastria never came out. As part of the government-ordered cover-up, survivors and the crews of the ships that had gone to the aid of Lancastria did not publicly discuss the disaster.

The Lancastria Association of Scotland began a campaign in 2005 to secure greater recognition for the loss of life aboard Lancastria. I have been doing further research myself and have found that Charlie has a burial stone in the La Bernerie-en-Retz cemetery in France. I hope to visit his grave sometime soon, and tell him that we will always remember him and pass on his story to future generations of the family. My dad is very happy to know more about him as his mother (Charlie's daughter) would never discuss anything about the war and when her husband, who fought in the war in the royal engineers, mentioned anything about it, she would disappear into the kitchen muttering, "Bloody war." The photographs that I have and the certificate for Charlie's medals were always carried in my grandmother's handbag no matter what and I have put them in a special family album to keep them safe. I will pass them on to my children so that they know they had a true hero in the family.

Do you have any family stories to share? /AllAboutHistory @AboutHistoryMag
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CACTIN PHILLIPS

Director: Paul Greengrass Starring: Tom Hanks, Barkhad Abdi Country: USA Released: 2013

An emotional experience, but is this tense survival thriller truthful?

WHAT THEY GOT RIGHT...

Phillips really did shoot flares to ward off the pirates when they first approached, and the container ship seen in the film is identical to the Maersk Alabama, the ship that was actually hijacked. The nurse who tends to Captain Phillips in the film was also a real medic, who treated the scene as a training exercise.

WHAT THEY GOT WRONG...

1. Richard Phillips is portrayed as being more heroic than he was in real life and didn't actually offer that the pirates shoot him rather than his crew. He also didn't ask to urinate outside the lifeboat and instead tried to escape when one of the pirates was taking a leak.

2. In one scene, broken glass is spread around the engine room to purposely injure the pirates, but this didn't happen. Phillips himself didn't go below deck to the engine room and instead sent a crew member to lead Muse around the ship's lower levels.

3. During a particularly moving part of the film, Phillips writes a letter to his family when he is convinced that he is about to die. In real life, this couldn't have happened because Phillips didn't have access to a pen and paper on the lifeboat – a farewell note was never written.

4. After his rescue by the Navy SEALs in the film, Phillips is in a visible state of shock. This portrayal of his behaviour is off the mark, as the real Captain Phillips has stated that the ordeal only sunk in when he tried to get to sleep later that night.
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