The world's most intrepid explorers
Fearless voyagers who redefined the map

Who is history's ultimate ruler?

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How they shaped our world
Insight from experts
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Welcome

What makes a great ruler? This is a conundrum that has taxed intellectual heavyweights from Plato to Machiavelli, Shakespeare to George RR Martin. Nonetheless, this is effectively the question we put to you two months ago, when we asked the public to crown the ultimate monarch in our online poll. Your answers surprised our entire team!

We did give you some guidelines: we limited it to just European kings and queens from the Middle Ages onwards. We also focused on deceased rulers, so it couldn’t feature anyone currently reigning. This still gave you over a 1,000 years worth of royals to choose from, including mighty conquerors that amassed vast empires, just rulers who governed fairly, and glorious leaders that inspired legends with their daring acts of do.

To find out who won our real-life game of thrones, turn to page 30 for a royal extravaganza. This includes a 28-page countdown of the greatest kings and queens, in-depth articles on what made these monarchs so marvellous, and expert insight from celebrated historians including Tom Holland, Dan Jones and Linda Porter.

Disagree with our final royal rankings or want to celebrate a sovereign’s top slot? Let us know via Twitter or Facebook and don’t forget to use the hashtag #TheRoyal50.

Jack Parsons
Editor

Editor’s picks

The Great Game is afoot
From code names to covert missions, discover the British Empire’s spy war with Russia in Central Asia

Land of milk and honey
Go inside the Ancient Egyptians’ obsession with honey, using it in everything from magic to medicine to mummification

Viva the Weimar Republic!
Was the Nazis’ rise to power guaranteed? Perhaps not, argues one expert on interwar Germany

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Voyage of the damned

Victims of the RMS Lusitania sinking are buried together in a common grave at a cemetery in Cobh, Ireland. The transatlantic liner was torpedoed by a German U-boat during World War I as it sailed into the Irish Sea, heading to Liverpool. 1,198 of its 1,959 passengers drowned – including 129 children. The killing of an unarmed civilian ship, even within a declared war zone, was unprecedented and shocked the world.

1915

DEFINING MOMENTS

VOYAGE OF THE DAMNED

Victims of the RMS Lusitania sinking are buried together in a common grave at a cemetery in Cobh, Ireland. The transatlantic liner was torpedoed by a German U-boat during World War I as it sailed into the Irish Sea, heading to Liverpool. 1,198 of its 1,959 passengers drowned – including 129 children. The killing of an unarmed civilian ship, even within a declared war zone, was unprecedented and shocked the world.

1915
A unidentified woman operates a hand drill on a "Vengeance" dive-bomber at Vultee Aircraft in Tennessee. She was one of millions who joined the wartime workforce after American men shipped out to fight during World War II. The Rosie the Riveter propaganda poster – with its ‘we can do it’ slogan – was created in 1942, to encourage women to apply for industrial jobs that had not been open to them before.

1942
RISE OF 3D CINEMA

Two New Yorkers embrace during a 3D movie unaware that they are being snapped with an infrared film. Primitive stereoscopic or 3D movies date back to the late 19th century, but did not really catch on until Bwana Devil was released in 1952. The first colour 3D film, it was a smash hit, prompting a glut of thrilling pictures that are now considered classics, including House of Wax, Dial M for Murder and The Creature From the Black Lagoon.

1943
“There was nowhere to go but everywhere, so just keep on rolling under the stars”

Jack Kerouac
EXPLORATION
Meet the intrepid few who ventured into the unknown and redefined the world map time and time again

Who did discover America?

Join a gentleman’s expedition

Apollo 11’s final frontier

South Pole survival snack

Written by David Crookes, Jessica Leggett, Zara Gaspar
Coming to America

No one person ‘discovered’ the New World, rather it was settled in migratory waves, often leading to violent clashes.

**The First Americans**

During the last ice age, a large group of hunter-gatherers from North East Asia crossed a land bridge on the Bering Strait and arrived in North America for the first time.

**Divide and Conquer**

While one group of early Native Americans stayed in Alaska, another moved south along the Pacific Coast, forming settlements in the modern US as well continuing into Central and South America.

**French Foundations**

A settlement is established by the French at Port Royal, known as Acadia, in Nova Scotia. It was the first permanent settlement by Europeans in what would become Canada.

**The Lost Colony of Roanoke**

Number of people led by John White to establish the first English settlement in the Americas in 1587

**Planting the Flag**

The Spanish founded St Augustine, in modern-day Florida. This was the first permanent European settlement in North America and marked the start of wider colonisation of the New World.

**Birth of Jamestown**

The Virginia Company established the first successful, permanent English settlement in Virginia, naming it for King James VI and I.

**The Proclamation Line**

King George III issues the Royal Proclamation of 1763 to ease tensions with Native Americans, forbidding white settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains, but did not curtail the pioneers for long.

**Lewis and Clark Expedition**

The newly independent United States charted Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the Louisiana Purchase and the Pacific Northwest. The expedition party was aided by Sacagawea, a Shoshone woman.
CRONLOGIC

1000

1492

1494

1518

1503

1498

1497

1862

1990

2010

VIKING EXPLORATION
Norseman Leif Erikson and his crew travelled up and down the eastern coast before wintering in an area they called Vineland. Later Vikings also established permanent settlements, but they did not last long.

COLUMBUS SAILS THE OCEAN BLUE
Number of ships Columbus set sail with on his first voyage from Spain: 3
Number of men in his crew: 90
Number of men left behind to establish the La Navidad port in Haiti, all died: 39
5 WEEKS at sea before ships arrived in the Bahamas

SETTING BOUNDARIES
The treaty of Tordesillas was signed by Spain and Portugal to settle arguments over the lands newly discovered by Columbus and other explorers. The lands were divided up between the two countries.

CONQUERING THE AZTECS
Spaniard Hernán Cortés arrived in Central America with 500 men and 11 ships. He set about subjugating its Native American population, mostly notably killing the Aztec Emperor Montezuma II.

NAMING THE NEW WORLD
Italian explorer, navigator and cartographer Amerigo Vespucci was the first to realise that North America was actually a distinct continent and not part of Asia. The ‘Americas’ were then named after the Latin version of his first name.

SIGHTING SOUTH AMERICA
Columbus reached South America on his third voyage, landing at the mouth of the Orinoco River, on the modern-day Colombia-Venezuela border. The zealous explorer thought he’d found the Garden of Eden.

RE-FOUNDLAND
Navigator John Cabot, working for King Henry VII of England, became the first European to set foot in Vinland in five centuries. Unaware of its previous Viking visitors, he dubbed it ‘New-found-land’.

GO WEST
Many Americans headed west to escape the horrors of the civil war. The Homestead Act allowed would-be farmers to claim up to 160 Acres of the Great Plains, however this led to fresh clashes with Native Americans.

THE FINAL FRONTIER
The United States Census Bureau announced the end of the frontier line in the west, meaning there were no large tracts of land yet unexplored or left to settle.

NATIVE AMERICANS TODAY
The total population of Native Americans and Alaska Natives in the US is 2.9 MILLION
Combined with other races, this number rises to 5.2 MILLION
Alaska is the state has the highest proportion of Native Americans and Alaska Natives at 19.5%

Throughout long rumoured, evidence of Norse settlers in Newfoundland was not discovered until 1960
STEP INSIDE THE ROYAL COURT OF THE UNEXPECTED TUDOR KING

The second-born son of an upstart monarch, Henry VIII was never meant to be king – so how exactly did this prince in the shadows rise up to become England’s most notorious ruler?

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A Victorian explorer always came prepared for the worst, so would be fully armed. Henry Stanley packed a shotgun, two carbines, four rifles, eight pistols, 24 flintlock muskets, two swords, two daggers, two axes, 24 hatchets, and 24 long knives. His favourite was Model 1866 Winchester - a .44 rimfire lever-action repeating musket. He said it was great as a defence “against African banditti”.

On the advice of so many 19th century physicians, tropical outfitters, guide books, budding explorers would don wool-based flannel, on the grounds that it was both hard wearing and porous, allowing for perspiration in hot and humid climates. Their outfits would also typically be long sleeved to avoid sunburn.

A gentleman explorer might wear a utility belt or light satchel to carry a few essential items. However, he would leave the heavy lifting to his porters. While exploring Central Africa, Stanley employed 157 men to carry two years’ worth of supplies, including food, weapons, medicine, books, his canvas tent and more.
For thousands of years, Polynesian navigators employed traditional wayfinder techniques to explore the vast Pacific Ocean. The first Polynesians set sail from South East Asia and over the centuries settled as far and wide as Hawaii, New Zealand, Tahiti, Fiji, Tonga and Easter Island. Relying on their observations of the natural world, they could navigate long voyages without the modern instruments that we trust today. One of their most useful techniques was the star compass, a mental mind map of the location of all the constellations in the sky - knowledge that was passed down from generation to generation. Their navigational skills, as well as their sturdy canoes, amazed European explorers from the 16th Century onwards.

**TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Polynesians needed a steady mode of transport to cross the tricky waters of the Pacific Ocean. In preparation for their voyages they built their double-hulled canoes, with the hulls made from either dug out tree trunks or from planks sewn together with coconut fibres. The canoe was also fitted with an outrigger and a deck, which joined the two hulls together.

**LOADING SUPPLIES**

As the Polynesians sought out islands to inhabit, either as a result of overpopulation or warfare, they took with them the resources that they would need to support themselves in their new home. This included livestock, such as pigs and chickens, as well as different plants, which were covered in protective leaf casings to shield them from the salt water.

**OBSERVING THE SURROUNDINGS**

The paths of migrating birds as well as the types of fish in the ocean were helpful indicators for the navigators to determine if there were landmasses nearby. The presence of clouds and their shape, colour and place in the sky were also very useful in locating land, as well as giving the Polynesians idea of upcoming weather.
GUIDED BY THE LIGHT
The sun was one of the most important natural navigational aids available to the Polynesians during the day. Thanks to sunrise and sunset, the changing position of the sun allowed the navigators to determine which direction was east and which was west. The sun also created lowlight, which made it far easier to observe the currents in the ocean.

RESPECT THE WATER
Navigators knew that they had to understand and respect the waters if they were going to reach their destination safely. They would feel the water hit the hull as the ocean swelled, causing the canoe to rock. This allowed the navigators to correctly position themselves, and it also gave them an indication of the weather as it approached from the distance.

FEEDING TIME
Sea voyages meant spending very long periods of time sailing the ocean without stepping onto land. To survive the journey, the Polynesians brought food provisions such as bananas, breadfruit and taro, which they had to ration to make sure supplies lasted. They also consumed the fish that they caught with the trolling lines that were out all day.

NIGHT-TIME NAVIGATION
As darkness fell, the Polynesians used their star compass for navigation. They memorised the positions of hundreds of stars and constellations, and so they could recall where each star would rise and set on the horizon. If it was not possible to see the stars clearly, they also relied on the oceanic wind's changing direction to indicate where they were.

USING OTHER METHODS
Like all navigators, the Polynesians relied on the North Star, known as Hōkūpa’a, to guide them towards the North. However, Hōkūpa’a was not visible south of the equator and so the navigators employed various other aids to predict their location - relying on other constellations and a combination of mental tricks and their hands as a guide to their position.
How to
ESTABLISH A TRADE ROUTE

GET RICH OR GET LOST EUROPE TO ASIA, 15TH – 17TH CENTURY

The engine of exploration was not always simple curiosity, many adventurers were also motivated by a desire for goods that were not available in their own lands. The earliest evidence of long distance trade was between Mesopotamia and the Indus Valley in modern-day Pakistan, with exotic spices transported back and forth via camel train from around 3000 BCE.

During the Age of Exploration, European merchants preferred to ship their goods by, er, ships. Read on to discover how they established trade routes and how this led both to the sharing of ideas and bloody warfare.

Understand the objective
Columbus set sail in search of wealth, seeking lucrative goods that could be piled on to ships and taken to Europe.

Find a wealthy patron
If you’re not rich enough to fund the fact-finding trip, get some help. Columbus was financed by Queen Isabella I of Castile, after agreeing to share whatever treasures he found.

Pack supplies
Have an idea of distance to ensure there’s enough food and drink on board, otherwise some planned stops may be in order. Columbus set sail with enough provisions to last a whole year.

Take more than one ship
Uncharted waters can be dangerous, so bring a spare ship or two. Columbus set sail with three, but only two returned when his flagship, the Santa Maria, hit a reef off of Haiti and sank.

Find a shortcut
Do your homework like Italian explorer Christopher Columbus - he reckoned crossing west across the Atlantic would be shorter than south around Africa.

01 FIND A SUPPLIER
If there is an item you need but you can’t find a producer or supplier growing, making or herding it locally, look further afield. You could import tasty pepper, nutmeg, cloves or cinnamon, from Asia, but understand Arab and North African merchants that control the existing trade routes hike up their prices and often take a long time to deliver them.

02 HEAD FOR THE SEA
Cut out those middlemen by seeking direct deals instead. Avoid going by road because you’ll probably bump into them and test the waters by sponsoring a voyage or becoming a navigator. Take advantage of navigation technology by using a caravel – a small ship for exploration – to seek a suitable sea route to channel your goods through.
How not to... lose control of your supplies

Europeans craved many spices from the East during the Age of Exploration. But the most sought after was nutmeg, a spice native to the Banda Islands in the Moluccas of Indonesia that was believed to be an hallucinogen, a protector against plague and an aphrodisiac.

Initially, the Portuguese seized control, colonising the islands in 1512. But after Portugal fell under the control of Spain in 1580, the Dutch formed the Dutch East Indies Company in 1602 and later established a treaty with Banda village chiefs – only for it to fall apart when the Bandas broke the terms, leading the Dutch to slaughter thousands.

While it established a Dutch near-monopoly, the British fiercely controlled an island called Run. It led to battles which saw the Dutch take Run in exchange for Manhattan in the Treaty of Breda (1667). But while this handed the Dutch full control over the nutmeg trade, it couldn’t retain it forever. Britain worked out how to cultivate nutmeg in Malaysia and India in 1809, making the Dutch trade route far less lucrative.

03 STRIKE THE DEALS

With an ideal route figured out, begin striking direct trading partnerships by mooring at important South-East Asian ports and entering negotiations. Make sure you have plenty to offer. Huge amounts of Latin American silver for use as currency is likely to go down well but if you have items that others will want to buy, then your wealth will grow.

04 START SHIPPING GOODS

Now get on with the task of importing and exporting goods, getting around the issue of the Ottoman Empire blocking land routes and controlling the ancient sea routes from the East. Use a carrack (a large ship) to transport the goods to Europe. Use military might if pirates try to intercept your ships and take annoying merchants hostage if need be.

05 SECURE TRADING POSTS

Secure your monopoly by controlling ports for taxation purposes and establish a series of trading posts along the coast. Over time these places will grow into hamlets, villages and bustling towns as more people stop by and visit to trade goods and share news, keeping the wheels of commerce turning. They are also safe places to stop and shelter.

06 CONSIDER COLONISATION

Be aware that other European countries are known to duel over certain items so you may want to start planting your nation’s flag in a larger way. Colonise any territory that has an abundance of desirable goods and raw materials not found back home and sell items that you have to their people. Better to sell more than you buy, as mercantilists would say.

4 FAMOUS... TRADE ROUTES

THE SILK ROAD

CENTRAL ASIA

130 BCE – 1453 CE

Running across central Asia, connecting East and West, this route saw cities and towns flourish from the lucrative trade in silk.

OLD SALT ROUTE

GERMANY 956 – 1700

Covering a distance of 100 kilometres, this route traded salt from Lüneburg in northern Germany to Lübeck on the coast.

INCENSE ROUTE

EURASIA 600 BCE – 100 CE

Thousands of tons of frankincense and myrrh – used for embalming and perfumes – were transported via land and sea from India to the Mediterranean via Arabia.

TEA HORSE ROAD

SOUTHWEST CHINA

600 – 1900

Covering about 2,250 kilometres, this web of routes traded tea and warhorses as it cut through mountains and across rivers.
The space race - a high stakes battle between the United States of America and the Soviet Union to explore and conquer the night sky - sparked into life on 4 October 1957. The USSR had launched the first satellite, Sputnik 1, into orbit around the Earth, taking the Americans by surprise. The USA felt it had to respond.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) formed on 29 July 1958, vowing to peacefully explore space for the purposes of science. But when the Soviets made Yuri Gagarin the first human in space on 12 April 1961, the USA became determined to put a man on the moon. President John F Kennedy said he wanted to see this happen by the end of the decade so the three-man Apollo program was given the go-ahead in 1961. Over the course of the next few years, the Americans came just short of landing. In 1969, however, Apollo 11 was the victory.

The Apollo spacecraft was powered skywards on the nose cone of the Saturn V, which remained the world’s most powerful rocket until the debut of SpaceX’s Falcon Heavy last year. The launch was watched by a million people at Kennedy Space Center, Florida. At 110.6 metres (363 feet) high, the rocket comprised three stages. The first had five engines that burned 15 tonnes of fuel per second during the launch from Earth, the second helped lift Apollo into space, and the third broke away from the rest and used a single engine to force Apollo to leave Earth’s orbit.

While this was taking place, astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins were safely inside Apollo’s command module. As they got within distance of the moon, Armstrong and Aldrin entered the lunar module, Eagle, touched down on the moon’s surface, and the third broke away from the rest and used a single engine to force Apollo to leave Earth’s orbit.

The spacecraft doubled as transport, an office and accommodation, protecting those on board from the hostile environment of space while ensuring everything they needed was on hand. No-one has touched down on the moon again since 11 December 1972.

### Seating arrangements
Manufactured by North American Rockwell, Apollo II’s Command Module was called Columbia and it carried astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin and Michael Collins to the moon and back. Doubling as the control centre and living quarters, the cramped space had three coupled seats capable of adjusting from flat to 85 degrees. For the launch journey, Armstrong sat to the left looking out, Aldrin in the middle and Collins to the right. Collins and Aldrin switched places for the landing.

### Cramped conditions
The astronauts remained seated for most of the 400,000km (250,000 mile) trip since the command module was just 12 feet 10 inches in diameter and 10 feet 7 inches tall. The only way two astronauts could stand at the same time was to fold the seat portion of the centre couch but even then, of the interior volume’s 366 cubic feet, only 210 cubic feet was usable given the amount taken up by equipment bays, lockers, astronauts and couches.

### Service module
Situated underneath the astronaut couches in the command module was the aft section where there were storage lockers, propellant tanks, ten reaction control engines, water tanks, wiring and plumbing. But the power and support systems, as well as Apollo’s main engine, were in a separate service module that remained linked with the command module (forming the Command and Service Module). These modules remained together during the trip to the moon and while the craft was in lunar orbit, being jetisoned only on the return trip to Earth.

### Heat shield
Given that the temperature on the surface of the command module reached as high as 2,760 degrees Celsius (5,000 degrees Fahrenheit) during its descent, it was vitally important to protect the crew from being cooked. NASA’s engineers, who had worked on the Apollo program since 1961, devised a heat shield that used an ablative coating. As temperatures rose, the coating eroded and the excessive heat was simply reflected away.
Getting in and out
The astronauts climbed aboard the command module via one of two side hatches. But there was also a third hatch mounted at the top of the docking tunnel. After leaving Earth’s orbit, the command and service module separated from the rocket, turned and docked with the lunar module. This third hatch allowed astronauts to make their way into the lunar module. This would land on the moon and become their home as they explored the lunar surface.

Amazing views
The astronauts could gaze at the stars with five windows to look out of. As well as two forward-facing rendezvous windows measuring 200 by 330 millimetres (8 by 13 inches), there were two of 330mm (13 inches) square on either side of the outer seats and a circular one, 27 cm (10 5/8 inches) in diameter within the access hatch. Three thick panes of glass were placed within each opening.

Storage of vital items
Lining bays on the interior walls of the spacecraft was lots of equipment such as emergency medical kits, sanitation supplies, waste management, water, clothing and food (the first meal they ate was beef, potatoes and grape juice). Michael Collins also drew a small calendar on a section of smooth wall underneath one of the lockers. The dates 16 to 23 July 1969 were crossed out, leaving just 24 – the day of the landing.

Controlling the crafts
Astronauts on board the command module could make use of a seven-by-three feet main display console and its accompanying wings, managing communications, fuel, the electrics and other functions via toggle and push switches. The ascent stage of the lunar module was less sophisticated but it had instrument panels and flight controls along with its own hypergolic propellant tanks to return it back to the command and service module.

Forward compartment
The command module was split into three compartments. As well as the part housing the crew, there was a forward section in the nose of the cone that was itself divided into four segments. Covered by a heat shield, it contained Earth-landing equipment such as the parachutes, sea recovery sling, recovery antennas and beacon light. There were also a couple of reaction control engines and the forward heat shield release mechanism.

Lunar module
While Collins stayed on the command module, two of the three astronauts - Armstrong and Aldrin - entered the lunar module. Devised in two parts - with ascent and descent stages - it landed on the moon on four splayed, shock-absorbing legs and the astronauts went outside by climbing through a hatch and down a set of ladders. The astronauts had to stand to control the vehicle and they were able to communicate with mission control via antenna.
Did Captain Cook really discover Australia?

Trevor Stephens

Technically, Captain Cook was the first European to ‘discover’ the east coast of Australia. However, he did not achieve this alone and accompanying him was Tupaia, a Tahitian and Polynesian navigator, priest, linguist and artist. It was with Tupaia’s navigating skills, and a map of the Society Islands, that Cook completed his journey. It is also important not to forget the indigenous Australians who had inhabited that country for thousands of years before Captain Cook ever set his sights on it.

Why were sea monsters included on Medieval and Renaissance maps?

Sonia Taylor

There are a few reasons for the use of sea monsters on old-fashioned charts. Firstly, to think of mythical creatures in the depths of the oceans may seem rather ridiculous to us today, but back then it was a whole other story. At the time, people truly believed that these so-called sea monsters existed and although they were unsure as to what they looked like, it was assumed that they were similar to animals found on land. As a result, aquatic versions of mammals, such as lions, are frequently portrayed on these maps.

Secondly, the inclusion of mythical creatures on maps was also from a decorative point of view, as they were often used to adorn the homes of the rich and wealthy. But, above all else, these monsters symbolised the possible dangers of the sea, particularly in areas of the globe that were unexplored at the time. In some cases, sailors were even inspired to travel the waters in search of these monsters. However, as scientific understanding increased during the 17th century, these mythical creatures started to disappear from maps and were replaced with more realistic imagery. This was coupled with the fact that improved navigation techniques diminished fears about the risks at sea.

When was the magnetic compass first used?

Geoff Evans

When the magnetic compass was first invented in China during the Han Dynasty (202 BCE – 9 CE), it was used as a device for fortune telling. By the 11th century, the Chinese had begun to use the magnetic compass as a navigational tool. The first recorded reference of a magnetic device being used for land navigation was found in a book from the Song Dynasty, dating between 1040 and 1044, and by the 12th century it was being used for maritime navigation.
MODEL MILITARY VEHICLES
TREMENDOUS TANKS

Dominating the battlefield for 100 years, the tank was initially designed to break the stalemate of trench warfare and provide infantry units with a mobile, armoured base of fire that would give them a significant tactical advantage. Since that time, the tank has developed into an essential component of any integrated military force, whilst always challenging designers to find new ways of combining effective fire-power with greater speed and mobility – in the world of tank warfare, bigger is not always better.

First introduced by the British during the Battle of the Somme on 15 September 1916, the tank was developed under the utmost secrecy for fear of alerting the Germans to these decisive new weapons. Originally known as Landsheep, workers involved in their production were told that the vehicles were nothing more than mobile water tanks for use in the desert war. As military planners looked for a suitable code word for the new machines, the word tank was adopted.

As the tank developed, it would become a crucial component of German Blitzkrieg during WWII, as they perfected the use of fast moving armoured vehicles to back up infantry assaults, following devastating aerial bombardment. Today’s tanks can trace their lineage back to the first British Mark I machines of the Somme Offensive and will still be found at the spearhead of any ground based military operation.

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**LEIF ERIKSON**

**ICELANDIC CIRCA 970-CIRCA 1020**

Whether or not Leif Erikson was the first European to land in North America, he got there 500 years before Columbus did. When King Olaf I sent the converted Christian from Norway to introduce the religion to Greenland, it’s believed Erikson was blown off course and discovered part of North America, which he named Vinland. Whether truly accidental or a deliberate detour based on another explorer’s tale, Erikson went on to build a small Norse settlement in Vinland.

**MARCO POLO**

**ITALIAN CIRCA 1254-1324**

At just 17 years old, Marco Polo accompanied his father and uncle on their second trip to Asia, unaware he would spend a third of his life travelling. Residing in the land of Mongol ruler of China, Kublai Khan, Polo was sent on diplomatic missions around China. His closeness to Khan’s daughter resulted in him escorting her to Persia via several south-east Asian countries before returning to Venice. Polo’s adventures encouraged European interest in China and likely inspired Columbus’s later voyages.

**IBN BATTUTA**

**MOROCCAN 1304-1377**

Covering over 112,650 kilometres (70,000 miles) and visiting more than 40 modern countries, Moroccan Muslim scholar Ibn Battuta is one of the greatest travellers of all time. Spending approximately 30 years of his life travelling extensively around the Islamic world, as he set out on a pilgrimage, or Hajj, to Mecca, his adventures led him through non-Muslim lands too. Ibn Battuta encountered near-death experiences from bandits to sinking ships, but thankfully lived long enough to tell his tales.

**CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS**

**ITALIAN 1451-1506**

Christopher Columbus did not ‘discover’ America, contrary to popular belief. Unbeknown to him, natives had lived there for many centuries, and been discovered by other Europeans. However, he stumbled across the continent rather accidentally while taking what he thought was a shortcut from Europe to Asia. Despite others landing there first, Columbus made Europeans more aware of this New World, leading to increased contact between the lands and ultimately the development of the modern Western world.


“"The sea is dangerous and its storms terrible, but these obstacles have never been sufficient reason to remain ashore" – FERDINAND MAGELLAN

FERDINAND MAGELLAN
PORTUGUESE 1480-1521
Ferdinand Magellan had a dream: to visit the Maluku Islands. Magellan set off with five ships and more than 200 men, heading west via South America. Unaware how vast the Pacific was, they faced great challenges and many died. The remaining crew reached the islands, where Magellan was shot with a poisoned arrow in a fight with Macan people, and died. Only one ship and 18 men from Magellan’s crew made it back to Spain.

ESTEVANICO
MOROCCAN CIRCA 1500-1539
Muslim slave Estevanico was born in Morocco but sold by the Portuguese to a Spanish nobleman, and taken on the Narváez expedition in 1527. Estevanico consequently ended up travelling for almost an entire decade, exploring both modern-day United States and Mexico and experiencing the challenges that accompanied such expeditions. Estevanico was likely the first African to explore the continent, and was one of only a few survivors on this trip, returning as an expedition guide some years later.

SACAGAWEA
AMERICAN NATIVE CIRCA 1788-1812
Born into the Shoshone tribe, Native American Sacagawea was kidnapped as a child, then ‘acquired’ by French-Canadian Toussaint Charbonneau, whom she married. When Lewis and Clark led the Corps of Discovery to their North Dakota camp, they hired the pair as guides. Being female, Sacagawea was a symbol to other tribes that the group was peaceful and harmless, yet played an equally fundamental role in helping to navigate, trade, translate and survive. Remarkably, the trip led them up the Missouri River to Sacagawea’s homeland and family. A true explorer, though, she continued on the expedition, travelling approximately half of the 12,875-kilometre (8,000-mile) expedition.

FRANCIS DRAKE
ENGLISH CIRCA 1540-1596
On becoming a ship’s captain in his 20s, Francis Drake was on his way to fulfilling his dream of finding an undiscovered land in the Pacific. Drake’s travels took him to the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico before finally embarking on a secret expedition for Elizabeth I to the western coast of North America. At sea for almost three years, his circumnavigation helped identify the true geography of our planet.

NEIL ARMSTRONG
AMERICAN 1930-2012
For some, land exploration just isn’t enough. After serving as a US Navy pilot in the Korean War and becoming a test pilot, Neil Armstrong joined NASA in 1962, later becoming the organisation’s first civilian astronaut to fly in space in 1966. As if this great achievement wasn’t enough, in 1969 he went on to become the first person to walk on the Moon as commander of the Apollo 11 mission.

ROALD AMUNDSEN
NORWEGIAN 1872-1928
Trading a life as a doctor for one as a polar explorer was an easy decision for Roald Amundsen. His heart set on exploring the Arctic, Amundsen quit university and began his adventures via land, sea and air, first sailing through the Northwest Passage. Beaten to the North Pole, Amundsen was determined to be the first to reach the South Pole, and he was. Subsequently crossing the Arctic by air, Amundsen became one of the greatest polar explorers.

It is a myth that Drake introduced potatoes to England, they had actually been available for 10 years before his circumnavigation.

600 million people worldwide watched Neil Armstrong make his famous “one giant leap for mankind” moon walk on television.
On the Menu

HOOSH

In 1914, Sir Ernest Shackleton’s Endurance expedition to the South Pole went horrifyingly wrong when their ship became trapped in the ice and sank. Remarkably, the entire crew survived, thanks in part to a food called hoosh. Known as a “meat stew of the ravenous”, hoosh was a staple for adventurers during the early 20th century’s ‘heroic age’ of polar exploration, when figures like Shackleton, Robert Falcon Scott and Roald Amundsen inched their way across the ice. Essentially a stew, hoosh was made with dried meat known as pemmican, melted snow, and crushed sledging biscuits. While it was undoubtedly disgusting, this meagre ration supplied all the energy the explorers needed to survive in subzero conditions, without taking up too much space or weight amongst their supplies.

Did you know?
On another failed expedition in 1902, Shackleton surprised his teammates with a Christmas pudding he’d “hidden with his socks”.

Ingredients

For pemmican
- 500g lean beef
- 125g fat from beef (this can be cut off the beef but buy extra if needed)

For sledging biscuits
- 30g butter
- 120g white flour
- 30g oats
- ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 50ml cold water

For hoosh
- 60g pemmican per person
- 75g biscuits per person
- 100ml melted snow per person

South Pole Explorer’s Staple: Antarctica, 1897-1922

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 70°C or its lowest setting. Using a sharp knife, cut the beef into thin strips – the thinner the better. Spread the pieces out across a baking tray so none of the meat overlaps.
2. Place the tray in the oven to dry out the meat. This should take around seven hours, but could take longer depending on your oven. The beef jerky should be hard and crack when you break it if it is ready. If you have a dehydrator you can use this instead of an oven.
3. Again, using a sharp knife, slice the fat as thinly as possible. Put it in a pan over a low heat, stirring occasionally until it has melted. This should take around 1.5 hours. Take the fat off the heat, but do not let it go hard, and remove any lumps.
4. Explorers would have ground the beef by hand, but to save time use a food processor to grind the beef jerky into a fine powder if possible. A pestle and mortar can also be used if you want it authentically chunky.
5. Add the fat to the ground meat. The ratio of meat to fat should be around 60:40.
6. Line a container with aluminium foil or cling film and put the mixture into the container, then to mimic Antarctic condition, place it in the fridge to set.
7. To make the biscuits, mix all of the biscuit ingredients together in a bowl, slowly adding the water until it forms a sticky dough. Roll out the dough until it is about 1cm thick.
8. Cut it into eight equal pieces and place on baking parchment on a baking tray. Prick the pieces several times with a fork and then bake for 20 minutes at 190°C until a light golden brown. Baking powder can be omitted for less rise.
9. Once the biscuits are made, crush them using a food processor or using a rolling pin if you want to do this by hand.
10. On an expedition, hoosh would have been made by melting the snow, however you can just use 100ml of water. Once the pemmican and crushed biscuits are ready, mix them with boiling water until you reach a porridge-like consistency.

Did you make it? Let us know!
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'MEN, BORN OF WOMEN,'
Who forgetting they were
Do like vipers deface the wombs wherein they were bred.

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Emilia

Writer
Morgan Lloyd Malcolm
Director
Nicole Charles

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Written by Harry Cunningham, Catherine Curzon, Jessica Leggett, Jack Parsons, Peter Price
50 Greatest Kings & Queens
50 Greatest Kings & Queens

50

OLAV V
1903 - 1991
An Olympian who excelled at ski-jumping and yachting, winning gold for the latter in 1928. As King of Norway (1957-1991) in the aftermath of World War II, he continued the work of his father whom he served loyally during the resistance, helping lead the Allies to victory. By the time of his death, he had earned the moniker ‘People's King’.

49

JOHN III SOBIESKI
1629 - 1696
This King of Poland (1674-1696) was determined to restore his country’s prestige after invasion by the Ottomans. A military man through and through, as a general he sided with the Holy Roman Emperor and the Hapsburgs to fight off the Ottomans culminating in his glorious victory at the Battle of Vienna in 1683.

48

FRANCIS I
1494 - 1547
The great celebration of power in 1520, coined the Field of the Cloth of Gold, symbolised contemporary expectations of this thoroughly Renaissance prince. Yet as King of France (1515-1547) he lost swathes of territory to Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and ended up a prisoner in Spain.

47

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS
1594 - 1634
Known as the ‘Lion from the North’, this Protestant King of Sweden took the throne in 1611. Wary of imperial expansion in the Baltic, early in his reign he warred with Denmark and Russia, before distinguishing himself during the Thirty Years War, only to find himself slaughtered at the Battle of Lützen in 1632.

46

MATTHIAS
1432 - 1490
Known as Corvinus – derived from the Latin word for raven, because of the birds on his shield – this elected king (1458-90) attempted to rebuild Hungary after decades of feudal anarchy. His desire for domestic peace and promotion of Renaissance culture was overshadowed by his desire for military expansion. Most of his possessions – including Vienna – were lost shortly after his death.

45

WILHELM I
1797 - 1888
The unifier, who, as King of Prussia (1861-88), brought the German states together in an empire following his victory over France in the Franco-Prussian war. Becoming the first kaiser in 1871, he exerted traditional Prussian dominance over all the states, while relying heavily on his conservative ‘Iron Chancellor’ Otto von Bismarck.

44

ELIZABETH
1709 - 1762
A daughter of Peter the Great, Elizabeth showed little interest in politics during her early adult life, allowing the Russian throne to pass seamlessly down the line. However, when threatened with imprisonment in a convent by Ivan VI’s regent and spurred on by the French ambassador, she staged a successful coup, ruling from 1741-1762, founding Russia’s first university in Moscow and building the extravagant Winter Palace.

43

ALBERT I
1875 - 1934
Though a reluctant wartime king, Albert refused to let the Germans march through his territory during World War I, then joined his troops in the trenches when the kaiser invaded anyway. While the Belgian government went into exile, Albert personally took command at the Siege of Antwerp and the Battle of Yser. His wife, Queen Elisabeth, also served as a Red Cross nurse.
Charles V
1500 - 1558

Holy Roman Emperor (1519-56), King of Spain (1516-56), and Archduke of Austria (1519-21), Charles V’s litany of possessions outshone all other European royals in the 16th century, for they also included the much-prized Spanish American colonies.

Born in Ghent, Flanders, and succeeding to his first possessions aged 16, he dreamed of creating a united Catholic Christendom. With his volume of titles, this might have at first seemed a reasonable goal. But it came unstuck almost immediately when in 1517 Martin Luther ushered in the Protestant Reformation and sparked the biggest and most violent schism in the history of Christianity.

In the end, fatigued and perhaps realising his territories were simply impossible to govern, he decided to give it all up. He gifted his brother Ferdinand the Holy Roman Empire and his son Phillip, the throne of Spain. After his abdication, he spent his final days reading, shooting pigeons and tending to his garden.

Political not Religious
Although there is some religious imagery, the portrait tries to highlight Charles’ victory as a political triumph over those who had challenged his imperial authority, not religious triumphalism.

Seeing Red
The rose-coloured sash could be interpreted both as a reference to the Catholic faith, of which Charles was a staunch supporter, or as the colour of the Holy Roman Empire.

“HE DREAMED OF CREATING A UNITED CATHOLIC CHRISTENDOM”

Holy Lance
In his portrait by Titian, Charles V holds a lance symbolising the one used to check Jesus was dead during the crucifixion as well as the might of Holy Roman emperors.

Keep it in the Family
Titian deliberately minimised Charles V’s slightly disfigured jaw, which was a genetic trait that came to be known as Habsburg’s Jaw.

Imperial Propaganda
Because Charles’s empire was so big, the role of propaganda in crushing dissent in the popular mindset cannot be overstated: the celebration of the monarch’s personal victory on horseback is a classic example.
50 Greatest Kings & Queens

41. VICTOR EMMANUEL II
1820 - 1878
The extravagant monument to Victor Emmanuel in Rome that evokes memories of the ancient empire, reveals how Italians once felt about the first monarch to unite their country since the 6th Century. While his actual reign was unremarkable, the shrewd military strategy he employed to win the crown of Italy was truly remarkable.

40. ALEXANDER II
1818 - 1881
This liberal reformer, who took the throne in 1855, attempted to bring Russia into line with the rest of Europe by addressing the lack of democracy and feudal mindset. He emancipated the Serfs in 1861 and was on the cusp of implementing measures to create the first constitutional assembly when he was assassinated by terrorists in March 1881.

39. PHILIP II
1527 - 1598
Known for launching the 1588 Armada that ended in disaster, Philip was not just King of Spain (1556-98) but also King of Portugal (1580-98), Naples, Sicily and - during his marriage to his wife Mary I - was even King consort of England. He oversaw Spain’s golden age when its colonial dominance seemed to have no bounds.

38. MEHMET THE CONQUEROR
1432 - 1481
This Ottoman Sultan (1444-6 and 1451-81) showed off his political prowess when he captured Constantinople in 1453, putting to bed the long-held dream of a united Christendom and ushering in the Early Modern period. He also captured territories in the Balkans and Asia minor and developed the Ottoman Empire into a mighty imperial force to be reckoned with. He also restored rights to religious minorities such as Christians and Jews.

37. FREDERICK THE GREAT
1712 - 1786
The king who shored up Prussia’s reputation as Europe’s greatest military power, Frederick acceded in 1740 at a time when the Enlightenment was sweeping through Europe and debates about the role of the monarchy raged. The term ‘enlightened despot’ was coined to reflect his style of monarchy, which incorporated religious toleration combined with absolutist military might. He died in 1786.

36. IVAN THE TERRIBLE
1530 - 1584
Ivan IV was the first Russian monarch to take the title Tsar of Russia in 1547, having previously used the title Grand Prince of Muscovy (Moscow) like his predecessors. He took the throne in 1533, aged just three, and soon gained the epithet ‘the terrible’. Although the word is better translated from Russian as ‘awe-inspiring’, he was indeed ruthless, executing thousands and possibly murdering his own son. Yet despite infamous bouts of rage, as well as mental instability, Ivan succeeded in transforming his country into an empire - although it came at the cost of his people and to the detriment of the Russian economy.
Wilhelmina’s reign of almost six decades (1890-1948) saw her steer her country through both of the devastating World Wars.

A formidable leader, Wilhelmina worked hard to maintain the neutrality of the Netherlands during World War I. However, imports were severely affected due to blockades by the Allies, who feared that the Netherlands would provide Germany with supplies. This angered Wilhelmina and at the end of the war, she granted Kaiser Wilhelm II political asylum in her country.

When Germany invaded the Netherlands in May 1940, during World War II, she was forced to flee to London, where she took charge of the Dutch government-in-exile. Wilhelmina found herself at odds with her Prime Minister, Dirk Jan de Geer, who hoped to seek a peace with Germany. Outraged at this idea, the queen successfully had him removed from power.

She became a beacon of hope for her people, making a series of defiant radio broadcasts on Radio Oranje, which they illegally listened to in secret, away from Nazi ears.

Wilhelmina encouraged them to resist the repressive regime of the Nazis, who quickly discovered they could not rely on the silent complicity of the Dutch people to assist them in carrying out their atrocities.

“SHE GRANTED KAISER WILHELM II POLITICAL ASYLUM IN HER COUNTRY”
The remarkable reign of Peter the Great is regarded today as one of the finest examples of how a ruler can truly shape a nation. Peter I changed the culture, fabric, and even the outlook of his vast Russian realms, ushering in one of the most vibrant periods they had ever seen. Much of the Tsar’s reforming zeal was inspired by his so-called Grand Embassy, a diplomatic tour of Europe that he undertook in search of allies.

Peter became Tsar of Russia in 1682, remaining in power for over 40 years until his death on 8 February 1725. At first he ruled jointly with his brother, Ivan V, but when Ivan died in 1696 Peter inherited sole control of the enormous Russian Tsardom. The country Peter inherited had been virtually unchanged for centuries. As Russia expanded into inhospitable Siberian terrain, further than ever from the flourishing west, Peter set his sights on claiming the coastline of the Black Sea from the Ottomans – thus opening up new trade routes and horizons. Yet such an ambitious plan called for a navy, and as things stood, Russia lacked the engineering knowhow.
and seafaring expertise to make that a reality. With no real allies, the isolated lands of Russia could call on absolutely no one to lend them support if it became needed.

Peter’s solution was to undertake what became known as his Grand Embassy. When he set out with an entourage of 250 people, Peter became the one of the first Tsars to travel abroad. He intended to travel incognito and adopted the pseudonym Pyotr Mikhalov but, standing at well over six feet in height (which was unusual for the era), Peter found that anonymity was hard to achieve.

The Grand Embassy was meant to give Peter a chance not only to examine and acquire modern naval technology and expertise, but to win the support of other monarchs for his push against the Ottoman Empire. On the latter goal he failed, because he had chosen to make his foray onto the continent just as the early moves in the War of Spanish Succession were being made. This burgeoning conflict drew in seemingly every nation and the last thing his fellow rulers wanted to think about at such a crucial moment for Europe was lending assistance to Russia.

Although he discussed an alliance with Frederick I of Prussia, Peter found that there was little taste in Europe for a battle with the Ottomans. Despite this, the Grand Embassy rolled on. Peter began to realise just how isolated Russia had become and in doing so, how far behind it had fallen. Fascinated by new

“PETER SET HIS SIGHTS ON CLAIMING THE COASTLINE OF THE BLACK SEA”

Boyars such as Pyotr Potemkin had to shave off their beards or pay a tax

Peter’s brother, Ivan V, was co-ruler until his death in 1696

Whilst in England, the fashionable Godfrey Kneller painted this portrait of the young Peter
developments in naval engineering, Peter took a four month position with the Dutch East India Company in the Hague, working as a shipbuilder. One onlooker said that he "worked with his own hands as hard as any man in the yard". During his stopover in the Netherlands he met and hired some of the most talented workers in the industry, including shipwrights, naval engineers and experienced seamen, all of whom would play their part in the reform of the Russian Navy. Among them was vice-admiral Cornelis Kruys, who became the Tsar's most important maritime advisor, and played a major role in the development of the Russian Navy.

At the invitation of William III, Peter's next stop was England. He arrived in January 1698 and enjoyed a packed schedule including trips to the House of Lords, the Royal Mint and Royal Observatory at Greenwich.

He passed many happy days with the shipwrights of Deptford, observing their work in minute detail. In England, Peter was fascinated by the architecture he saw, and he began to imagine how differently St Petersburg might look with this kind of inspiration.

Peter left England and headed for an audience with Augustus II of Poland.

Though their talks would later be the foundation of the Russo-Polish alliance against Sweden, Peter's travels were curtailed by news of the Streltsy Uprising in Moscow, which was an attempt to unseat him. The tour headed home to Russia and when Peter got there, he quelled the dissent, and set about putting what he had learned in Europe into practice.

Although Peter the Great's Grand Embassy was not the success he had hoped for when it came to winning military support against the Turks, in other ways it was enormously influential.

He realised that the Russian way wasn't necessarily superior to its western counterparts and was sometimes woefully inferior, especially when it came to engineering and scientific progressions.

After the lessons of Europe, returning to Russia was like stepping back in time for Peter - in everything from military power to intellectual advancement and even fashion. Hoping to introduce a more modern mindset, he enacted a law commanding his courtiers to wear European clothing and insisted that long beards be shaved off, in accordance with western fashion. The Boyars, who proudly wore full beards, protested and were invited to retain their facial hair on the condition that they paid an annual beard tax.

Continuing with his programme of modernisation, Peter banned arranged marriages and even brought the date of New Year's Day in line with continental Europe, changing it from 1st September to 1st January. This was a seminal moment, for it turned back the clock in Russia in the name of advancement. What had been the year 7207 of the old Russian calendar was wiped out, becoming 1700 of the Julian Calendar, in accordance with the rest of Europe. The old ways were truly being pushed aside.

Peter didn't only bring back military knowledge, but modern scientific tools, dental practices and taxes from Europe. To nurture homegrown talent he established the School of Mathematical and Navigation Sciences in Moscow, and the Naval Academy in Saint Petersburg. Russian manufacturing became a global force. He made the army and navy standing units and ensured that for the first time, promotion came from
Peter the Great expanded the Russian Navy and modelled it on European ones. Peter the Great labours in his workshop.

merit, rather than family name. Peter encouraged economic growth and ensured his subjects that hard work could bring rich rewards. It did, but not for the poor.

As industry flourished, Peter became a friend to those at the top of the social heap.

Meanwhile, he granted permission for peasant serfs to be bought as labourers. They were forced to live and work where they were told, a far cry from the free movement they might have hoped for under his reforming zeal. Priests were now obligated to preach the importance of loyalty to the Tsar and from the pulpit, the legend of Peter the Great grew.

Peter singlehandedly reformed the military and bureaucracy of old Russia and ushered in the dawn of the Russian superpower that was to follow. In light of the Grand Embassy, a nation that was essentially trapped in the Middle Ages underwent a renaissance in everything from government to culture. Yet the cost to the Russian identity was high and in forcing European culture on the country, some have argued that he robbed it of its traditional identity, pushing the values and lifestyle of the West onto a country that accepted them not through choice, but because it had to.

The reforms Peter enacted after the Grand Embassy were the making of his reputation, and few rulers were able to shape their country to fit their will quite as successfully as he.

When Peter left Russia to begin his odyssey he was simply Peter I but when he returned, the young man had become a leader to be reckoned with. He starts to become the legend of the famed Peter the Great.
To all those who lived through it, the reign of the Sun King (1643-1715) must have seemed like it would never end. At 72 years, it remains the longest of any European monarch. Perhaps Louis’ most famous achievement was the great baroque palace he built at Versailles. He ruled England for 22 years and Scotland for 57 years, the first time in history that the crowns of both countries had been joined together in a personal union. However, James’s ambition to see a political union between both his kingdoms was rejected.

Suleiman the Magnificent
1494 - 1566

“Suleiman ruled the Ottoman Empire at its zenith. In the west he was known as ‘the magnificent’ for his supreme wealth and power, he faced military defeat only twice in his 46-year reign. In the east, however, he was known as ‘the lawgiver’ for his sensible and effective overhaul of the legal system.”

Jem Duducu, author The Sultans and host of Neon podcast

James interrogates Gunpowder Plot ringleader Guy Fawkes

26 JAMES I & VI 1566 - 1625

The son of the Catholic Mary, Queen of Scots, executed in 1587, James, raised a Protestant, took the Scottish throne when he was just a baby. When Elizabeth I died in 1603 he became King of England, to the horror of Catholic rebels who attempted to destroy his entire regime during the Gunpowder Plot.

Just like Elizabeth, James was a great patron of the arts and notably supported many artists and playwrights, including William Shakespeare.

Seeing himself as a scholar, James even wrote a few works in his lifetime including his famous Daemonologie, inspired by his fascination with witchcraft and magic.

He notably sponsored the English translation of the Bible, completed in 1611, which has subsequently been named the King James Bible and is still used today. James was keen to avoid war and attempted to do so to the best of his ability. After he ascended the English throne, James only returned to Scotland once, in 1617.

He ruled England for 22 years and Scotland for 57 years, the first time in history that the crowns of both countries had been joined together in a personal union. However, James’s ambition to see a political union between both his kingdoms was rejected.

25 SULEIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT
1494 - 1566

This bolshie Welsh prince fought back against English domination of Wales. In 1400, he declared himself regnal prince. He ransacked and plundered towns on the Welsh boarders and headed to Shrewsbury to see off Henry IV’s troops. His rebellion failed and he went into hiding never to be heard of again.

23 OWAIN GLYN DWWR
1399 - 1415

This bolshie Welsh prince fought back against English domination of Wales. In 1400, he declared himself regnal prince. He ransacked and plundered towns on the Welsh boarders and headed to Shrewsbury to see off Henry IV’s troops. His rebellion failed and he went into hiding never to be heard of again.

24 LOUIS XIV
1638 - 1715

1003 - 1066

Called the Confessor because of his religious piety, this English king leveraged political strength during his reign (1042-1066) by playing off the different factions in his court off against each other. However his death caused deep divisions as numerous candidates including William the Conqueror claimed they had been promised the throne.

22 EDWARD THE CONFESSOR
1003 - 1066
When Anne, the second daughter of James II/VII, took the throne in 1702, England and Scotland had already been joined in a union of the crowns for nearly a century. Yet any attempt to unify the two nations, politically, had always staled. Now, however, with the relative stability of the new constitutional monarchy that was installed in 1689, and a sole Stuart monarch back on the throne, fresh attempts were made to bring her two countries together.

Politically a staunch Tory, surrounding herself with Tory ministers, Anne was able to negotiate the Act of Union in 1707 after a botched investment scheme aimed at creating a Scottish colony in Darien, Panama, ended in disaster nearly bankrupting the country. There would now be one parliament, one flag and one coinage but Scotland would be allowed a degree of autonomy over its legal system and its established church.

She died in 1714.

“THERE WOULD NOW BE ONE PARLIAMENT, ONE FLAG AND ONE COINAGE”

QUEEN ANNE BY NUMBERS

1 MILLION

Population of Scotland in 1707. England and Wales had a population of 5.5 Million

£398,000

The amount England paid to bail out Scotland from the Darien Scheme

45

Number of Scottish MPs added to form the British Parliament in 1707

18

Number of pregnancies of Queen Anne. Only 1 child survived

260 TORIES, 223 WHIGS, 20 UNCLASSIFIED

Number of MPs in the English Commons, 1705-1708
When Charles II returned to London on his 30th birthday in May 1660, cheering crowds met him. While estimates of the number vary wildly between 20,000 to 100,000, it was said the press of people was so thick the king’s entourage, “brandishing their swords and shouting with inexpressible joy,” took seven hours to pass through the city.

With this triumphant parade, Charles Stuart reclaimed the thrones of England, Scotland and Ireland. After more than a decade-long experiment in republic government under Oliver Cromwell following the bloody English Civil War, there was widespread hope that the restored monarchy would bring stability after many years of upheaval.

After his coronation, the country saw a reversal of the stringent Puritan morality that defined Parliamentarian rule. The theatres reopened after years of being banned under Cromwell, with women even allowed to perform on stage for the first time. While this gave rise to a new genre known as Restoration comedy, full of double entendres and themes of adultery, the king himself began an affair with the most famous actress of the era: Eleanor “Nell” Gwyn. She was far from his only mistress. Charles’s court is said to have been one of the most hedonistic in English history, home to notorious libertines including John Wilmot, the 2nd Earl of Rochester, the dramatist Charles Sedley and the king’s Master of Revels, Charles Killigrew.

The myth of the raucous Restoration belies the fact the king overcame many crises
However, the party could not last. Royalist landowners settled scores with neighbours and tenants who had sided with the Parliamentarians during the war. The bishops, now installed or re-installed in their dioceses, rigorously enforced the new religious settlement and, as a result, over 2,000 clergy who could not accept the ‘high church’ doctrines and ceremonies of the new, Royalist regime were turfed out of office. Charles’s revenge on those who killed his father was also brutal. Dozens were tried for regicide, then hung, drawn and quartered. Even the bodies of Cromwell and others who had already died were exhumed and hung in chains at Tyburn.

If this alone did not bust the myth of Charles II as the ‘merry monarch’ we mostly remember him as today, it’s worth noting that in 1666 alone the king had to contend with the worst plague outbreak in England since the Black Death, the Great Fire of London, and a protracted war with the Dutch.

While the king fled London for the 18 months from spring 1665 that plague killed 15 per cent of the city’s population, he showed more gallantry as the city burned. Lasting for almost five days from 2 September 1666, the king rode on a horse directing efforts to tear down buildings and stop the fire. After the disaster, which destroyed a third of the city and left 100,000 homeless, Charles spearheaded efforts to rebuild London.

The Anglo-Dutch War was less of a success, with both the king and the country humiliated when the Royal Navy was defeated at the Battle of Medway. It perhaps surprising then that Charles committed to fighting the Netherlands once more in 1670, this time as part of a treaty with Louis XVI of France. Charles had made the deal in return for subsidies that gave him more financial independence from Parliament. After his restoration, the politicians had rewarded him with his own standing army and sanctioned the purges against those who had killed his father, but had put him on a short leash since the failed war. Parliament and the crown remained in an uneasy alliance for the remainder of his reign, as anti-Catholic hysteria once more came to dominate British politics. This reached fever pitch after Charles’s wife, Queen Catherine, failed to produce a male heir, and many feared his Catholic brother, James, Duke of York, would assume the throne. To appease the public, Charles arranged for his niece, Mary, to wed the Protestant William of Orange.

However, this all changed after the false accusation of conspiracy, known as the ‘Popish Plot’, to kill the king in 1678. As a result, innocent people were hung, slanders were made against Queen Catherine, Charles sacked his chief minister. He then dissolved parliament in 1681. He ruled alone until his death four years later. That the public tolerated this says something about his enduring popularity.

Rather than simply lurching from crisis to crisis, Charles’ reign saw Britain grow more prosperous than ever, foreshadowing the emergence of the British Empire, with the passage of the Navigation Acts securing Britain’s future as a sea power. Charles also oversaw greater colonisation and trade – including bank-rolling the slave trade – in India, the Caribbean and the Americas.

“HIS ENDURING LEGACY IS THAT HE SURVIVED AND THE MONARCHY SURVIVED WITH HIM”
Linda Porter, author of Royal Renegades: The Children of Charles and the English Civil Wars. Read full interview with Linda at historyanswers.co.uk
50 Greatest Kings & Queens

**Henry VII**
1457 - 1509
A tenuous claimant to the throne, Henry Tudor defeated Richard III at Bosworth in 1485 and married Elizabeth of York, ending the infamous War of the Roses that had blighted the kingdom for 30 years.

Shrewd with finances, by the time of his death in 1509, he had sown the seeds for England to become an Early Modern powerhouse on the global stage.

**Napoleon I**
1769 - 1821
“Napoleon is unique in European history; he rose from nowhere, joining the coup which ended the Revolution in 1799 as a general, but he became Emperor by 1804 through careful political manipulation. His military exploits ended in disaster; his empire collapsed, but his reforms still shape the public sphere of modern Europe.”

Michael Broers, professor of western European history at Oxford University and author of *Napoleon: The Spirit of the Age: 1805-1810*

**Richard III**
1452 - 1485
The short reign (1483-5) of perhaps England’s most controversial king, the last to die in battle, is often used to earmark the end of the Middle Ages. His involvement in the disappearance of his nephews, Richard, Duke of York and Edward V – the ‘princes in the tower’ – is hotly contested, particularly following the 2012 discovery of his corporeal remains in a Leicester car park.

**Eleanor of Aquitaine**
1122 - 1204
One of the most powerful women of the Middle Ages, Eleanor was Duchess of Aquitaine in her own right, became Queen Consort of France (1137-52) and later Queen of England (1154-89). After her first marriage to the French king Louis VII ended in divorce, she took up with the future Henry II.

For nearly two decades, Eleanor played an active role in the running of Henry's Angevin Empire, but plotted against him with her sons in 1173. While this revolt failed and she was imprisoned for 16 years, Eleanor would often govern England while her son Richard I was on crusade.

**Henry V**
1387 - 1422
Best known for his defeat of the French at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, this warrior King of England (1413-1422), secured a victory prize for his son that had been sought after since time immemorial – the throne of France. But Henry’s eponymous son, who suffered from a mental illness, soon squandered it all.

**Catherine the Great**
1729 - 1796
As the wife of Tsar Peter III of Russia, Catherine was Empress Consort. But in 1762 he was quickly disposed of and Catherine assumed the imperial role. A reformist, she expanded Russia deep into the west, annexing the Crimea, Belarus and Lithuania and entertained Enlightenment philosophers like Voltaire and Diderot.
Brian Boru

Initially King of Munster (976-1014), Brian subsequently became King of all Ireland (1002-1014) when he successfully invaded Ossory in 983, leading all other regional kings voluntarily giving up their lands, recognising he was too powerful to oppose. However, he is best remembered for defeating the Northmen and the Eóghanachta clan at the dramatic Battle of Clontarf in 1014. Though it broke the Vikings’ grip on Ireland, it was a pyrrhic victory for Brian – who was killed in the struggle.

George V

1865 - 1936

This English King was an avid stamp collector. The German Kaiser, Wilhelm II, once described him as a ‘homebody’ – a bore. This may well have been true but unlike Wilhelm, who lost his throne, George’s reign (1910-1936) was characterised by Liberal reforms which bolstered the ‘primacy’ of the House of Commons and ensured the monarchy was above politics.

As King of Great Britain during World War I, George did his best to keep morale up in his country. However, as the war dragged on, anti-German sentiment became rife in Britain. Noting that their German heritage could cause an issue, George decided to make a change.

In 1917, he announced that he was changing the name of his house from the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha to the House of Windsor, which was far more British.

While many European monarchies fell at the end of the war and in the years after, the Windsor dynasty remains on the throne to this day, with Queen Elizabeth II currently at the helm.
The ravens flocked overhead, their raucous calls eagerly anticipating the feast that would surely follow the battle. The glittering ranks of spearmen, the cream of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, stared down the coalition of Irish, Britons and Scots that was spread before them. On the bloody field of Brunanburh, the boundaries of Britain would be decided. The slaughter that would soon commence was so great that it would echo through the centuries. Kings, nobles and common men would fall in droves, all called to the field by the will of one man, the Anglo-Saxon king Athelstan - the 'Thunderbolt' as William of Malmesbury called him - perhaps the true founder of England and a titan in post Roman Britain. Whilst he was not from humble beginnings, Athelstan's future as 'King of all Britons' was anything but certain. Scorned by his father, the young Athelstan was fostered in Mercia by his aunt, Queen Aethelflaed. A pivotal role model in Athelstan's life, Aethelflaed strengthened Mercia's defences and inflicted stunning defeats on roving bands.
of Vikings. Her rebuilding of Chester, which in Roman times had been a strong bastion, helped cement her rule over all of Mercia and the proximity to the memory of Roman imperialism could have rubbed off on the young Athelstan. Since his formative years were spent away from Wessex he was never quite welcome in the land and by its inhabitants, often members of his own family, sought to block his accession to the throne. Despite apathy and hostility from his father, Athelstan enjoyed great patronage from his grandfather Alfred, who showered him with gifts and probably saw him as the future king of Wessex after Edward. This distrust created a cloud of confusion around Athelstan’s accession to the throne. Athelstan’s father Edward the Elder ruled over Wessex and Mercia and probably meant for the kingdoms to be carved up and given to his various sons after his death. Athelstan was to get Mercia and his half brother Aelfweard rose to the throne of Wessex, but died after only two weeks. This paved the way for Athelstan to extend his rule over both kingdoms. Dissent in Wessex saw his younger brothers conspire against him, calling his legitimacy into question due to the uncertain position of his mother in court. The squabbles culminated in an attempt to have Athelstan blinded in Winchester, masterminded by a nobleman named Alfred. However, Athelstan weathered it all, and he saw off the internal threats to his rule. He was crowned in 925AD. With Mercia and Wessex united, Athelstan turned his sights on Northumbria, known as the Danelaw, which had been under Norse control for over a century. Despite the violent nature of the Danes, the takeover was achieved without too much apparent bloodshed. Athelstan managed to secure a marriage alliance between his sister and Sihtric, the Norse ruler of York. Although not been brought together into a united kingdom. Her influence on her nephew was palpable. What did Athelstan achieve in his own right that Alfred the Great and his father Edward hadn’t already set in motion? He completed the great project of fusing the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms that had been conquered by the Vikings into a single kingdom. Alfred had saved his native kingdom of Wessex from destruction; Edward had brought everywhere south of the Humber under his rule; but it was Athelstan, by capturing York in 927, who provided the coup de grace. By the end of year he was being hailed as ‘rex totius Britanniae’ – ‘the king of the whole of Britain’. Beyond his military accomplishments, what does Athelstan deserve to be remembered for? Formidable in war, he was formidable as well in peace times. Writing in the 12th century, the historian William of Malmesbury hailed him as the greatest of England’s kings, “The opinion of the English that he governed them with a greater concern for law and for education than anyone else in their history is a valid one.”
much is known about the treaty, it seems to have been signed in Athelstan’s territory. This could suggest that this was not an alliance of equals, and that Sihtric was bending to Athelstan’s will. After Sihtric’s death his cousin Guthfrith sailed from Ireland to secure the city but was repulsed by the Saxons. Now Athelstan could claim lordship over the three main Anglo-Saxon kingdoms and the title of ruler of the English.

Under Athelstan’s rule England was thrust into the heart of the European political stage. Francia, once the jewel of European kingship under Charlemagne and his descendants, had fallen into infighting and its borders harried by invasions and in contrast, England was now a bastion of peace. Marriage into this English royal family was highly coveted on the continent, a demand that Athelstan used to foster trade and alliances.

Athalstan’s piety was tied to his statesmanship. He collected great works of art and religious relics, then gifted them to the Church, which he ardently supported. By all accounts, Athelstan was also a fair and reasonable ruler to his people. Concerns about banditry and lawlessness were a staple of the time but Athelstan took his laws one step further, forbidding the execution of anyone under the age of 15. He also saw to the care of his own and saw that his subjects would not succumb to starvation. He also limited large trade to the various burhs throughout the kingdom and this, coupled with a common coinage and language, helped solidify common ties between the various kingdoms under his control.

By 927 Athelstan was the most powerful ruler in the British Isles and moved to cement this notion in the minds of the other kingdoms. Kings and rulers from Scotland, Strathclyde, Wales, Northumbria and the southern Anglo-Saxon kingdoms all gathered at Eamont to hear Athelstan claim the title ‘the king of the whole of Britain’. Despite his prostrations at Eamont, Constantine II of Scotland would categorically refuse to submit to Athelstan’s rule. A few years of uneasy peace reigned between the two countries until Athelstan saw fit to marshal the might of the Anglo-Saxons to push north in 934. With the last potential family troublemaker to

**“Athalstan’s piety was tied to his statesmanship”**

**The Ascent of England**  How Athelstan and his clan took control of a country

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**ENGLAND C.700**

- Northumbria
- Mercia
- East Anglia
- Essex
- Kent
- Sussex
- Wessex

**ENGLAND 878**

- Northumbria
- Wessex
- Daneslaw
- York

**ENGLAND C.1000**

- Northumbria
- Wessex

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**664**  **793**  **878**  **910**  **937**  **991**

**Synod of Whitby**
This saw Easter celebrated by the customs of the Roman church. An important move in the influence of Papal authority in Britain.

**Sacking of Lindisfarne**
One of the first documented Norse raids on British shore. Lindisfarne this marked the beginning of the Viking Age.

**Battle of Edington**
Alfred the Great’s victory saw the tide turn in favour of the Anglo-Saxons, with Northmen slowly pushed out of Wessex.

**Battle of Brunanburh**
Athalstan defeats a coalition of his rivals, establishing English hegemony.

**Battle of Maldon**
The Viking defeat the Saxons, but their courage and loyalty is celebrated for centuries to come.
his throne dying the year before, Athelstan was in a position to bring his military might against Constantine and force him to submit. Looking to overwhelm the Scots in a massive show of force, his army looted and burned its way through the highlands while ships ravaged the coast all the way up to Caithness. Overwhelmed with brutality and numbers, Constantine had no choice but to bend the knee and acknowledge Athelstan as overlord. Despite the brutality inflicted upon his subjects, the Scottish king was not cowed and longed to shake off the yoke of English overlordship. While Athelstan basked in European politics, the Scots, Britons and Vikings schemed to bring the newly formed kingdom to its knees. Forging a three way alliance, they forced Athelstan to marshal a formidable army and march to meet them at the fateful battleground of Brunanburh.

This would turn out to be one of the bloodiest battles ever fought on the British Isles and Athelstan’s victory over the coalition was achieved when the Saxons smashed the enemies’ shield wall and put them to flight. Victory poems praise the Saxons on their prowess and martial skill, painting a picture of a great slaughter inflicted upon their enemies. But although a victory was achieved, Athelstan’s forces seem to have also been severely bloodied. No move was made to capitalise on the victory and no expedition, like the one in 934, was sent to secure potential new holdings.

He reigned supreme in England but his imperial ambitions were tempered. This monumental battle, the largest in centuries, seemed to take its toll on Athelstan - he died two years later. The man who had fought to create and cement the borders of Britain was brought low by the stress of holding his newly found empire together. The king, who forged what we now know as modern day England has been resigned to a footnote in history, eclipsed by his grandfather as the founder of the nation. His legacy lives on as the man who saw ‘...England now made whole’ and was ‘glorious through his deeds’.

**Richard I** 1157-1199

“His success during the Third Crusade – and dramatic kidnapping en route home – fed a reputation for military genius and chivalric derring-do. As a king of England he was a cipher – barely appearing in his realm throughout his reign. His massacring of thousands of prisoners of war outside the gates of Acre now feels excessive.”

Dan Jones, author of *The Templars and The Plantagenets*

**Cnut the Great** 990-1035

Descended from the Vikings, Cnut ruled England for 19 years between 1016-35, alongside Denmark (1019-35), Norway (1028-35) and some of Sweden, with an astute military acumen which propelled him to power and diplomacy. In Britain, he kept both the Germanic Anglo Saxon settlers as well as the Danes in check.

**Charlemagne** 742-814

In view of his conquering Saxony and the Kingdom of the Lombards, this mighty King of Franks (768-814), is also considered to be the first Holy Roman Emperor, a gift bestowed on him by Pope Leo III who crowned him Emperor of the Romans in 800.
50 Greatest Kings & Queens

6 GEORGE VI
1895 - 1952
The reluctant prince who was never meant to be king, George VI stepped up to lead his country after the scandalous abdication of his brother, Edward VIII. Affectionately known as ‘Bertie’ by his family, George battled his shyness and stammer to steer Great Britain through the devastation of World War II, maintaining public morale and becoming a symbol of stability during such turbulent times. With popular opinion falling dramatically following the abdication crisis, George helped to bring the monarchy back from the brink.

5 WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR
1028 - 1087
William changed the course of English history when he conquered England in 1066, becoming the country’s first Norman king. His reign lasted until his death in 1087, during which time William created a new feudal system, enacted anti-slavery laws, established castles and keeps (such as the White Tower, inside the Tower of London), integrated the French language within the court and government and commissioned the Domesday Book.

“WILLIAM’S REIGN LASTED UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1087”

4 HENRY VIII
1491 - 1547
Few monarchs have changed their countries in the way that Henry VIII did. Succeeding to the throne at 18 years old in 1509, the young king had little interest in government and left political matters to his powerful advisor, Cardinal Wolsey, while he pursued his dream to emulate his warlike predecessors, Edward III and Henry V.
While his hopes of military glory remained unfulfilled, Henry remains infamous thanks to his desperate quest for a son and the lengths he went to in order to get one. Refused an annulment from his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, he broke with the papacy and established the Church of England, sparking the English Reformation.
Henry famously had six wives, with two of them, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, heading to the executioner’s block.

Henry VIII’s 1520 summit with Francis I, known as the Field of Cloth of Gold
Alfred is considered to be one of the most important kings in English history. As he ascended the throne, the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex was under siege from relentless Viking raids. After years of fighting, Alfred successfully defeated the Danes at the Battle of Edington in 878. The Danes were forced to seek peace. In a quirk of medieval diplomacy, the Viking leader, Guthrum had to accept Alfred as his adoptive father as well as be baptised as a Christian. Alfred also reorganised his armed forces into a standing army and established a navy to stop raiders along the coast. His reforms worked, as the Vikings’ attempt to invade Wessex in 892 ultimately failed.

Domestically, Alfred made legal, social and education reforms to improve his kingdom, even proposing that education should be taught in English rather than Latin.

By the end of his reign, Alfred had transformed his kingdom and had become the most dominant ruler in England.

“Alfred combined the talents of a general, visionary administrator and philosopher to forge a powerful English state”
Max Adams, author of Ælfred’s Britain: War and Peace in the Viking Age
To think of Queen Victoria conjures up an image of a petite yet rather ample woman, dressed all in black and wearing a stern expression on her face. It is how most of us envision her, after she spent over 40 years in mourning for her beloved husband and consort, Prince Albert. But there was so much more to Victoria than the melancholy old woman of her later life.

When Victoria assumed the throne of Great Britain in 1839, at the tender age of 18, she had a mammoth task ahead of her. During her 60-year reign, this queen provided constancy through a century of rapid progress while quietly revolutionising the constitutional monarchy.

The reputation of the monarchy had fallen into disrepute thanks to her spendthrift and wanton uncles, and Victoria needed to rehabilitate the monarchy’s image.

With their nine children, Victoria and Albert created an example of a happy, loving and moral family for the nation to aspire to – even though Victoria disliked pregnancy and privately expressed her repulsion of babies.

Morality characterised Victoria and her reign, to the point where perhaps no ruler has embodied the time in which they lived more than her. As Christian values and piety became a bigger focus, both the monarchy and Victorian society moved away from debauchery of the Georgian era – well, at least on the surface.

Along with Albert, Victoria redefined Britain’s constitutional monarchy. Noting the growing criticism of the royals, their wealth and lifestyle, Victoria had a far more visible role with the public than her predecessors. She went on numerous trips with Albert to towns such as Birmingham, Leeds and Glasgow, starting a trend of royal visits that continues to this day.
At the same time, Victoria became increasingly involved in charity work as a patron of various different organisations involved in healthcare, education and many other areas. Knowing the importance of royal patronage, the queen always wore British made clothes in public. For example, her wedding dress was adorned with Honiton lace, at a time when the country’s lace makers were struggling against French imports.

As well as transforming the monarchy, Victoria saw Great Britain through a time of great social, political and economic change. Not only was the British Empire at its highest during her reign, new inventions emerged during the industrial revolution that steered the country to economic prosperity, shifting the country’s largely rural population to an urban one by the 20th century.

Amongst these technologies that were invented during Victoria’s reign was photography. Victoria and Albert became some of its earliest supporters, becoming the patrons of the Photographic Society of London in 1854. Taking advantage of the propaganda opportunities that photography offered, Victoria released hundreds of official photographs of herself and the royal family during her time as queen, which proved immensely popular and kept the monarchy at the forefront of public minds.

One such photo was Victoria’s official Diamond Jubilee portrait, released in 1897. Dressed in her classic widow black with a coronet and a lace headdress, it became one of her most iconic images. Victoria was the first British monarch to reach her Diamond Jubilee and street parties held all over the country in celebration of the milestone. By this point in her reign, Victoria had been nicknamed as “the grandmother of Europe” thanks to her efforts in organising the marriages of her children and grandchildren into the different European royal families – by 1914, eight of the thrones in Europe were occupied by her grandchildren. Thanks to the precedents set by Queen Victoria, the British monarchy stands as the constitutional monarchy that we know today.
Rows of men, ready to fight for their country, waited in anticipation for their queen. She looked majestic as she approached - flame-haired, clad in armour and astride her white horse - she was every inch the warrior queen, ready to face the Spanish Armada. Looking out at her troops, Elizabeth I gave the most famous speech of her life. Unwavering in her passion, she declared, "I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too."

While the downplaying of her gender might sound odd to our modern ears, the point Elizabeth was making remains clear: I am your fearless leader and I will lead you well - even into battle. The successful defence of England in 1588 against invasion on such an unprecedented scale boosted the prestige of the queen and encouraged a new sense of nationalism.

At Tilbury Camp, it’s said the troops surrounding Elizabeth cheered for her. But rather than declaring 'Elizabeth' or even 'God Save the Queen', they shouted 'Gloriana! Gloriana! Gloriana!'

Elizabeth I had a habit of picking up nicknames - she also went by 'Good Queen Bess' - but 'Gloriana' was by far the most regal.

Taken from a poem called The Faerie Queen by Edmund Spenser, 'Gloriana' best evoked the image she was trying to project: the ageless virgin queen who was wedded to her country and would lead it to greatness.

Considering her glorious reign, just short of 45 years, it is hard to imagine that Elizabeth was never meant to become queen.

Before his death, Henry restored Elizabeth to the line of succession, after her half-siblings Edward and Mary.

It was never believed that she would wear the crown with two others standing in her way. The reigns of Edward and Mary were a trying and uncertain time for Elizabeth - she barely escaped the death penalty under Mary, when she was accused of plotting against her and imprisoned in the Tower of London.

Nevertheless, Elizabeth overcame all obstacles to assume the throne after Mary died childless. At 25 years old, the new queen was young, beautiful and intelligent.

But above all, Elizabeth was a Protestant and there were many who were waiting for her to re-establish Protestantism in England.

Years of religious turmoil had followed Henry’s decision to break from Rome and establish himself as the Head of the Church of England. Edward, a Protestant zealot, tried to drive Roman Catholicism out of the country, while Mary, a devout Catholic, believed it was her duty restore England to her religion, even if she had to burn hundreds of Protestant heretics to do so.

The country could not cope with the upheaval of being pulled from one religion to another, and an answer was needed.

**“SHE BARELY ESCAPED THE DEATH PENALTY UNDER MARY”**

The defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 has long been held as one of England’s greatest military achievements.
The Elizabethan Religious Settlement consisted of the Acts of Supremacy and Uniformity, passed in 1559. The former declared Elizabeth the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, and reinstated the Oath of Supremacy that had been repealed during Mary's reign. The latter stated that everybody had to attend the Church of England at least once a week and use the English Book of Common Prayer. However, for the most part Elizabeth favoured a tolerant approach, wanting to reach a middle ground between Protestantism and Catholicism, which allowed people to believe in what they wished. Although recusants of both religions resisted the new measures, a tentative balance was reached. As a female ruler, she held unprecedented power in a patriarchal world, with many struggling to accept her divine position – indeed, Elizabeth had watched as Mary, England's first queen regnant, spent her short reign struggling to balance her role as monarch with her duty as a wife. With no husband and no heir to succeed her, Elizabeth's dynasty was insecure. Immediately, her advisors set to work on finding a suitable husband, one who would not threaten her royal authority or meddle in the affairs of England. The queen was the most eligible bride in all of Europe, and numerous suitors flocked to her side hoping to win her hand, but none of them were successful. While Elizabeth enjoyed the men's attention, she knew that her authority would always be questioned if she had a husband. The queen told her exasperated council that she would eventually choose a husband, but she never did.

A ROYAL ICON  How the Elizabeth fashioned her own image as the 'Virgin Queen'

MASK OF YOUTH
Elizabeth maintained her extremely pale complexion, a sign of her high status, by caking layers of ceruse on her face. Made from a mixture of white lead and vinegar, the highly-poisonous concoction was applied to her face, neck and hands.

A FADED SYMBOL
In her right hand Elizabeth clasps a rainbow, a symbol for peace, although it has faded with time. It tells the viewer that it is the queen who ensures peace and prosperity for the realm.

FIERY LOCKS
The queen was known for her bright red hair, which contrasted with her pale skin. Inherited from her father, it contradicted rumours of her illegitimacy. When Elizabeth started to lose her hair, she wore red wigs to cover it up.

JEWELS OF INNOCENCE
Like in many of her portraits, Elizabeth is adorned with pearls, a symbol of her virginity and purity. They also connected her to Cynthia, the Greek goddess of the Moon, who was also a virgin.

AN UNREALISTIC PORTRAYAL
The majority of Elizabeth's people only saw her through her portraiture or coinage. Therefore, it was easy for Elizabeth maintained her ageless appearance throughout her reign - this portrait is dated to around 1600, when the queen would have been around 67 years old.

MOTHER OF ENGLAND
Central to Elizabeth's image as a 'Virgin Queen' was the idea that she was married to England. On her sleeve is a bejeweled snake, an emblem for wisdom, clapping a heart in its mouth. It shows Elizabeth as a queen whose heart is controlled by her head.
Rumours about the true nature of her relationship with court favourite Robert Dudley have fascinated us for centuries, but Dudley already had a wife and the rest of her advisers were against her marrying one of her subjects, concerned of the power he would gain as her husband. In her 50s, Elizabeth also came close to marrying Francis, Duke of Anjou, even though he was French noble over two decades her junior. They had a real affection for each other, but the queen’s councillors were against her marrying a Catholic, and they feared in the event of her death, England would fall into France’s hands.

Instead of producing an heir, she used propaganda to assert her independence and stabilise her position on the throne. To bring herself closer to her subjects, she toured England, so that her people could get a glimpse of the queen that they had only seen in portraits and coins.

The Elizabethan era is remembered as a golden age for England, thanks the flourishing of art and literature, playwrights such as William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe entrancing the stage. With the age of exploration in full swing, Elizabeth opened up trade routes with countries around the world so that England was no longer dependent on Catholic Europe. With her patronage, Sir Francis Drake became the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe.

Though Elizabeth experienced much prosperity during her reign, she also suffered from indecision and poor choices. Her cousin, Mary, Queen of Scots, is the obvious example of this, who spent two decades under house arrest on Elizabeth’s orders. She was eventually implicated in a treasonous plot against Elizabeth, who wavered on deciding her punishment. Mary was executed in 1587, with Elizabeth claiming that she had never fully given her consent, despite signing her cousin’s death warrant. Approval of Elizabeth waned in her final years.

The image that she painstakingly crafted for herself, the Virgin Queen, an emblem for stability, now made her seem like a symbol for the old status quo, resistant to change.

Still Elizabeth’s popularity rallied once more after delivering her emotive ‘Golden Speech’ to parliament in 1601. Knowing that this would be the last time she would address them, Elizabeth movingly declared, “Though you have had and may have many mightier and wiser Princes sitting in this Seat, yet you never had, nor shall have any that will love you better.” There was a sigh of relief when the throne peacefully transitioned from Elizabeth to King James I of Scotland upon her death in 1603, despite her reluctance to name an heir. With her death, she left behind a country that was far more stable and secure than the one she inherited.

As our public vote shows, Queen Elizabeth arguably instills in us a stronger sense of patriotism than any other monarch to grace the throne. For this reason she remains celebrated today, as she was in her own lifetime, as England’s ‘Gloriana’.
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Greatest Battles

Mid-afternoon massacre
As predicted by the former Roman dictator Quintus Fabius Maximus, the Battle of Cannae was a catastrophe for Rome, with approximately 50,000 men being slaughtered and 20,000 taken prisoner. Only about 14,000 soldiers managed to escape.

An absence of elephants
While it is well known that Hannibal successfully brought a herd of war elephants over the Alps (37 to be precise), these lumbering beasts were in fact only used at the Battle of the Trebia in 218 BCE. They had all but perished by the time the Carthaginian general prepared to fight at Cannae.

Speed over substance
Much of Hannibal’s army was lightly armoured, a force built more for speed and agility than crushing power. The ability of the mixed soldiers under Hannibal’s command to outmanoeuvre their Roman adversaries ultimately led to a bloodbath of epic proportions.
In one of the bloodiest battles in ancient history, Rome confronted its greatest foe, Hannibal, at Cannae, in an effort to halt the Carthaginian commander’s invasion of Italy. Hannibal had the Roman Republic on the back foot from the get go, destroying the Roman-allied city of Saguntum in Iberia (modern-day Spain) in 219 BCE, before shocking the world by crossing the treacherous slopes of the Alps to enter Italy with an army and 37 elephants the following year. He quickly defeated the Romans at Trebia and Lake Traismene, inflicting losses of 43,000 men.

A panicked Senate appointed a dictator – a ruler temporarily entrusted with absolute power during an emergency - by the name of Quintus Fabius Maximus to take control. However, Maximus was wary of meeting Hannibal in open combat and favoured sending armies into the countryside to fall upon any towns that supported Rome’s nemesis. He believed that this, coupled with depleting supplies and little hope of reinforcement, would fatally weaken Hannibal. Unfortunately for Maximus, his pragmatic approach did not go down well, with many lambasting him as a ‘cunctator’ (delay). Exploiting the growing fissures in Roman command, Hannibal cunningly ordered his men to spare any property belonging to Maximus while incinerating the homes of the rest of the political elite. This play resulted in accusations of treason being levelled at Maximus, who struggled to convince his peers that he had not made a secret pact with the Carthaginian devil.

In 217 BCE, the Senate elected to replace Maximus with two consuls – Lucius Aemilius Paullus and Gaius Terentius Varro - who would take joint command of 80,000 men, one of the largest Roman armies assembled to date.

The two sides met in August 216 BCE. Hannibal, who by this time had lost an eye in a skirmish, was the first to arrive with his 50,000-strong army at the battle site outside the village of Cannae, in south-eastern Italy. As well as allowing him to seize control of the grain silo that was there, Hannibal dominated the River Aufidus, the main water source in the area. While Paullus deemed it foolish to fight Hannibal on an open plain when the Carthaginian possessed a larger, more superior cavalry, Varro was so determined to snatch glory that he commanded his men to form ranks beyond the south bank of the river. This forced the already hungry and thirsty army to approach with the hot wind in their faces - blowing dust and grit into their eyes - a disadvantage that cannot be ignored.

The battle that followed was a disaster for Rome, with up to 50,000 troops slaughtered in a simple yet brilliant encirclement. It had a devastating impact on Roman society, with a day of mourning declared and the city apparently resorting to human sacrifices to appease the gods and rescue the situation. Despite having such a dangerous enemy on their doorstep, the Romans refused to surrender and - thanks to its vast wealth and manpower - ultimately won the Second Punic War, sending Hannibal skulking back to Carthage in 203 BCE.
**SlingShot**
*Key Weapon*

Famed for their skill, Balearic slingers constructed their weapons of choice from a type of rush, meaning they were relatively quick, easy and cheap to make.

**Strengths:** Deadly at ranges of up to 400 metres, slings could exceed the distance achieved by a bow.

**Weaknesses:** Slingshots were probably not particularly effective if they struck armour.

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**HANNIBAL BARCA**
*Leader*

Allegedly compelled as boy by his father Hamilcar to pledge his life to the destruction of Rome, Hannibal grew into a brilliant commander.

**Strengths:** Hannibal managed to forge a rag-tag group of mercenaries and foreign troops into a ruthless fighting machine.

**Weaknesses:** Far from home and with little hope of being reinforced, it was all or nothing for Hannibal.

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**NUMIDIAN CAVALRY**
*Key Unit*

Described by Livy as “by far the best horsemen in Africa”, Numidian riders shunned saddles, commanding their steeds with a rope around the neck.

**Strengths:** Fast and agile, the Numidian cavalry was able to outmanoeuvre opponents before wheeling away from any reprisals.

**Weaknesses:** If these riders were unhorsed by opponents they would be extremely vulnerable.

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**Carthage**
*Troops: 40,000*
*Caavalry: 10,000*

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**01 Strength in numbers**

Confident that nothing can withstand the sheer weight of the largest Roman army ever assembled, Gaius Varro orders his infantry to adopt a tighter, deeper formation than the one usually deployed by Roman armies. While this makes for an awesome vision of Roman might, it fatally constricts the space in which the infantry can manoeuvre and fight, compressing it into a narrow wedge that can only march forwards.

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**02 Caution thrown to the wind**

The glory-hungry Varro orders his army to cross to the south bank of the Aufidus River, a position that, once they face west, places the sea behind them. Committing the cardinal sin of war, Varro has allowed Hannibal to fight the battle on his terms, his men having to march into a hot southerly wind.

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**03 The trap is set**

Hannibal opts to use the Roman infantry’s size against it. Distributing his infantry (largely Gauls and Spaniards) in a thin convex line facing the enemy, Hannibal moves his light troops (slingers and spearmen) to form up behind them. He then positions his heavy African infantry and mercenaries in reserve before placing his Spanish cavalry on the left under the command of his brother Hasdrubal and his Numidian horsemen to the right under his nephew Hanno.

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**04 A lethal lure**

Leading from the centre alongside Mago, another of his siblings, Hannibal saliers forth to provoke the Roman hordes and ensure that they march directly towards his centre.

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**05 Clash of the cavalry**

As the two sets of infantry meet in the centre a vicious fight ensues on the flanks as the opposing cavalry collide. The Spanish horsemen career into their Roman counterparts and rout them before wheeling around to help their Numidian comrades finish off the riders under the command of Varro.

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**06 A measured withdrawal**

Believing it is rolling up a weakening opponent, the Roman infantry surges forward. Hannibal orders some of his men to begin a withdrawal, allowing fresh ones to come in – a ploy that sucks the enemy troops into the jaws of death.
**LEADER**

Gaius Varro possessed all the desire but none of the talent or experience required to competently confront Hannibal. Strengths: Utterly determined to end the threat posed by Hannibal, Varro marched out to face a general who had yet to taste defeat. Weaknesses: Varro ignored his more cautious fellow commander, a decision that ultimately led to the massacre of an entire army.

**Key Unit**

The heart of any Roman army, the infantry was a well-oiled, highly disciplined machine capable of systematically cutting through a far larger army. Strengths: The soldiers at Cannae were fighting to save a Roman city, which instilled a gritty determination in the ranks. Weaknesses: Due to severe losses in manpower, the army that marched to Cannae was mostly comprised of raw recruits.

**Key Weapon**

With a head of strong steel and a shaft comprised of lighter steel, this ingenious weapon could be used in close-quarters fighting or launched at the enemy. Strengths: With a weight of up to five kilograms and a pyramidal head, the pilum could puncture both armour and shields. Weaknesses: While its weight made it a lethal missile, the pilum would have proved heavy to wield in prolonged hand-to-hand fighting.

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**Hannibal’s captives**

After the battle approximately 20,000 Romans find themselves in Hannibal’s custody, who is quick to stress that he is not in Italy to destroy Rome, rather, he wishes to emancipate the Italians under Roman control and restore Carthage’s honour. However, Rome does not wish to entertain talk of peace on Hannibal’s terms, a rejection that so enrages the African commander that he forces his prisoners to fight one another to the death.

**The circle closes**

With his enemy exactly where he wants it, Hannibal presses the advantage, his men methodically cutting down their terrified opponents with ruthless efficiency. The killing takes all day, claiming the lives of around 50,000 Romans, including 80 senators and Lucius Paullus. Varro, who had been so sure of victory, flees to Rome.

**Hannibal’s cavalry returns**

Having put their opponents to flight, Hanno and Hasdrubal turn their steeds back towards the main battle. Thousands of hooves beat the dry ground as the agile Spanish and Numidian cavalry charge for the Roman rear, crashing into the exposed foot soldiers unfortunate enough to find themselves stationed at the back of an army that is now surrounded on all sides. The folly of Varro’s formation is brutally revealed.

**Mercenaries on the move**

The moment now arrives for the heavily armed African infantry that Hannibal had held in reserve. These battle-hardened men, bearing the armour, swords and shields stripped from dead Romans at the Battle of Trasimene the year before, smash into the flanks of the Roman infantry. Panic ripples through the cramped Roman army as men struggle to wield their weapons in the crush of bodies. Their struggle will be in vain.

**Infantry**

**Pilum**
On 15 August 1945, a week after Hiroshima and Nagasaki were levelled by the world’s first nuclear weapons, Emperor Hirohito took to the airwaves to speak to the people of Japan.

"After pondering deeply the general trends of the world and the actual conditions obtaining in our Empire today, we have decided to effect a settlement of the present situation by resorting to an extraordinary measure... The enemy has begun to employ a new and most cruel bomb, the power of which to do damage is, indeed, incalculable, taking the toll of many innocent lives.

"Should we continue to fight, not only would it result in an ultimate collapse and obliteration of the Japanese nation, but also it would lead to the total extinction of human civilisation."

With that, Japan surrendered. Almost four years after it had entered World War II, 3.1 million Japanese civilians and soldiers had died, its stockpiles were exhausted and industry had been gutted. American general Douglas MacArthur was charged with overseeing an Allied occupation, with an aim of ensuring the country could never threaten the United States again. This would mean demilitarising and democratising Japan, but the Allies refused to "assume any responsibility for the economic rehabilitation of Japan or the strengthening of the Japanese economy". So how did the country rise from the ashes to become a greater industrial powerhouse than ever before?

**ISOLATION NATION**

In 1633, the ruling Tokugawa clan completely shut Japan off from the world to protect itself from rampant colonialism. All foreign trade was banned, with the exception of some tightly controlled arrangements with China, Korea and the Netherlands, and the Japanese people were forbidden from travelling abroad or building sea-going vessels. But that all changed in 1853, when four American battleships arrived in Edo Bay demanding that the US be allowed to trade there. Unable to compete with their superior firepower, the ports were opened and a period of Westernisation began. The Industrial Revolution had reached Japan.

With this new era, education became accessible to the masses and the industrial sector witnessed unprecedented growth.

The government commissioned the building of factories and shipyards, which were sold to entrepreneurs at a fraction of their value. Pro-business policies were introduced and huge loans were handed out to private companies. The textile industry in particular boomed, and Japan was able to compete successfully with British products in China and India. By the beginning of the 20th century, Japan had emerged as a world power.

The country benefitted from the absence of European competitors on the world market during World War I, and exported more than it imported for the first time since the isolation.

Its economy suffered less from the Great Depression than most industrialised nations, with its GDP expanding at the rapid rate of five per cent per year. In the 1930s and 40s, Japan expanded its reach into Southeast Asia, seizing coal mines in China, sugarcane in the Philippines and petrol from the Dutch East Indies and Burma.

But this would prove too great a burden. The vast expansion spread Japan too thinly, and it underestimated how quickly the US would react to its bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941.

World War II saw rampant inflation, and with all industrial efforts devoted to the military effort, shortages were rife. Air raids on its major cities by Allied B-29 Superfortress heavy bombers destroyed much of its industrial plants and infrastructure. Production ground to a halt, and the Japanese economy came to a virtual standstill.
“Japan’s economy suffered less from the Great Depression than most industrialised nations”

Pac-Man creator Masaya Nakamura is credited with masterminding the video game craze

The bombing of Tokyo during World War II cut the city’s production in half

Factory workers do collective exercises, 1960. Working conditions greatly improved in the post-war years thanks to powerful unions

Neo-Tokyo

The Men that Rebuilt Japan

Shigeru Yoshida
1878-1967
Prime minister of Japan from 1946-47 and 1948-54. Yoshida’s pro-American attitude and knowledge of Western society made him a prime candidate for leader of an Ally-occupied Japan. His policies focused on strengthening the alliance with the US to provide military protection, as well as economic recovery.

Joseph Dodge
1890-1964
The president of the Detroit Bank was selected as General MacArthur’s financial advisor during the American occupation of Japan. The Dodge mission was to bring Japan’s rapid inflation rates under control by imposing a regime of fiscal austerity to balance the Japanese budget, establish a single exchange rate for the yen, and abolish the black market.

Hayato Ikeda
1899-1965
Previously Minister of Finance and Minister of International Trade and Industry, Ikeda was also the Japanese prime minister from 1960 to 1964. He has been described as the “single most important figure in Japan’s rapid growth” thanks to his investment in technological fields and his income-doubling plan.

Douglas MacArthur
1880-1964
After rising through the ranks to brigadier general during World War I, MacArthur was made commander of the US Army Forces in the Far East in 1941. Following the war, he oversaw the occupation of Japan, becoming its effective ruler. He reversed the administration’s initial economic policies to transform Japan into an industrial powerhouse.

Shinji Sogo
1884-1981
The fourth president of the Japanese National Railways is credited with the creation of the first bullet train, the Tokaido Shinkansen. He resigned in 1963, the year before its inauguration, as the estimated budget was far lower than the final costs. However, his project revolutionised travel in Japan.

Akio Morita
1921-1999
Morita co-founded Tokyo Telecommunications Engineering Corporation along with Masaru Ibuka in 1946. In 1950, it sold the first tape recorder in Japan and in 1957, it produced a pocket-sized radio. The next year, Morita and Ibuka decided to rename it Sony, and in 1961, it became the first Japanese company to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange.
The Bullet Train Blasts Off

Japan’s iconic bullet trains (Shinkansen) were the first of their kind, an aerodynamic, innovatively-designed train that was capable of traveling at speeds up to 200 miles per hour. Introduced in 1964 (just in time for the Olympics that year), the first line ran from Tokyo to Osaka, and was an immediate hit with Japanese travellers. Cutting the journey time from almost seven hours to just four, passengers were delighted with the rapid ride, but it came at a cost of over 400 billion yen (almost $5 billion) to the Japanese government – twice the original estimate.

Far in advance of anything else in the world, the Shinkansen trains were symbolic of Japanese regeneration. They supported the vision for a new Japan, with the metropolis Tokyo at its heart. To this day, most tracks on the Shinkansen network lead to Tokyo. However, the bullet trains are no longer the fastest in the world. China’s Shanghai Maglev boasts that badge – but it only runs 20 miles, from the airport to the city’s outer suburbs.

Japan has also recently introduced maglev trains, and in one test, they broke the land speed record for passenger trains by reaching a record speed of over 600 km/h.

Did you know? Britain didn’t stop using steam trains until four years after Japan introduced the bullet train.
BEYOND SURRENDER

For the first three years of the occupation, the MacArthur administration pursued punitive measures that deliberately worsened conditions in Japan. Factories were dismantled, equipment was sent abroad as reparations payments, purge lists of top business managers were compiled, and “excessive concentrations of economic power” were identified. In particular, there was a focus on the dissolution of the zaibatsu – family-controlled, monopolies that passed from father to son, which had been at the heart of industrial activity within the Japanese empire. The Americans were suspicious of monopolies and restrictive business practices, which they believed were not only inefficient and prone to corruption, but anti-democratic.

But in a drastic turn of events, the orders were soon rescinded. With tensions between the US and USSR growing, concerns were raised that the poor state of the Japanese economy would lead its people to turn to communism. Dissolution of the zaibatsu was halted and $2.2 billion was given to the nation in financial aid. Major investments were made in electric power, coal, steel and chemicals.

Factories were rebuilt and equipped with better and more modern machines than before, giving Japan an advantage over even the victor states. The Japanese media dubbed this “the reverse course”.

Shigeru Yoshida was appointed prime minister in 1946, and his policies, known as the Yoshida Doctrine, stipulated that Japan should forge a close security alliance with the United States and prioritise the economy.

In 1949, his cabinet created the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) with a mission to promote economic growth through close cooperation between the government and big business. The ‘Inclined Production Mode’ was adopted that focused industrial efforts on the production of raw materials including steel, coal and cotton. The recruitment of new labour was encouraged – particularly female. With the growing workforce, powerful new enterprise unions were established, and by the 1950s, union membership had skyrocketed. The annual wage negotiations between enterprise unions and workers, called shunto – translated as the ‘spring wages offensive’ – were key to boosting the low wages of the 1940s and improving working conditions.

A system of shushin koyo provided the security of lifetime employment in big corporations, allowing them to retain a loyal and experienced workforce.

But it was the breakout of the Korean War in 1950 that really set the gears of change in motion.

The US needed somewhere from which to operate, and Japan was perfectly positioned to act as a military base. The order of mass firearms and other materials and services greatly stimulated the Japanese economy – so much so that Yoshida called the war a “gift of the gods”.

These “special procurements” brought an estimated $2.3 billion into Japan between 1950 and the end of 1953.

Steel production increased 38 per cent in the first eight months of war and the automobile industry was revived – Toyota boosted its production by a whopping 40 per cent.

The San Francisco Peace Treaty, signed on 8 September 1951, finally brought the US occupation of Japan to an end. By that year, industrial production was back at its pre-war level. In 1952, Japan joined the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, bestowing it with worldwide economic respectability. Incredibly, by 1955, production had surpassed pre-war levels, and Japan had become one of the first developed countries in East Asia. Hayato Ikeda was elected prime minister in 1960, and pursued a policy of heavy industrialisation. This led to the emergence of ‘overloaning’ – the Bank of Japan issued loans to city banks, who in turn issued loans to industrial conglomerates, who borrowed beyond their capacity to repay. This gave the Bank of Japan complete control over dependent local banks.

The companies formed from the earlier dismantling of the zaibatsu were reintegrated into a new business structure to create horizontal keiretsu – sets of companies with interlocking business relationships and shareholdings. Member companies held a small portion of the share in the other companies, which protected them from stock market fluctuations and takeover attempts. Not only did this allow for long-term planning, it also led to an attitude shift among Japanese managers, who began to tolerate temporarily low profits in exchange for better interest rates.

This new capitalism would prove to be more flexible and competitive than ever before, and capable of responding to even the greatest global economic and technological challenges.

The first bullet trains were built to coincide with the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. General Douglas MacArthur stands beside Emperor Hirohito following the surrender.
Japan’s Postwar Resurgence

THE GOLDEN YEARS
Ikeda’s famous ‘Income Doubling Plan’ aimed to double the average personal income within ten years, and this was achieved well ahead of schedule. Throughout the 60s, household amenities such as refrigerators and sewing machines became more accessible, as did luxury items such as televisions, radios, cameras and air-conditioning. Personal savings rose, which in turn increased the funds available for industrial investment. While the consumption of daily necessities like food and clothing decreased, the consumption of recreational and entertainment activities and goods increased, including furniture, transportation, communications, and reading. Ikeda’s government rapidly expanded investment in Japan’s infrastructure, building highways, high-speed railways, subways, airports, port facilities and dams. This decade became known as the ‘Golden Sixties’.

In Tokyo, by 1962 the population had exceeded 10 million, making it the largest city in the world. Two years later, it hosted the 1964 Summer Olympics. Enormous sums were spent on upgrading the city’s infrastructure, including a new satellite tower to facilitate live international broadcasts. TRANSPAC-1, the first trans-Pacific communications cable from Japan to Hawaii, was also finished in time for the opening ceremony, and the port of Tokyo was congested streets were also completed in time for the opening ceremony, and the port of Tokyo facilities were expanded to handle the traffic. The Olympics marked Japan’s re-emergence on the world stage: the new Japan was no longer a wartime enemy, but a nation of peace and prosperity. But no sooner did Japan earn its place on the world stage that crisis hit at home.

In 1973, the price of oil increased from just three dollars per barrel to over 13 dollars per barrel. The following year, and for the first time since the war, a negative growth rate was recorded and inflation soared. During the second oil shock of 1979, oil increased again to 39.5 dollars per barrel. But the Japanese economy showed itself remarkably resilient. A special focus was put on telecommunications and computers. The automobile industry also boomed, with Japanese cars securing a third of the American market.

As of March 1980, the unemployment rate in Japan was below five per cent – an impressively low figure that would continue to drop throughout the decade and into the early 1990s. The austerity that defined the country during the immediate post-war period gave way to extravagance and conspicuous consumption. Life in 1980s Japan became one big, expensive party, with businessmen spending tens of thousands of dollars in Tokyo’s restaurants and nightclubs and housewives sipping cups of coffee sprinkled with gold dust. It was also a period of increased international travel, as Japanese people went to the United States, Europe and Oceania in record numbers, shopping for Louis Vuitton and Gucci handbags, Savile Row and Armani suits, and the finest wines.

Anime and manga stole the limelight as the major forms of entertainment for the Japanese public, while Studio Ghibli, arguably the most famous and respected animation studio in Japan, was established in 1988. The decade saw the birth of characters like Donkey Kong and Super Mario Bros, and classic anime like Astro Boy and Akira. Nintendo came of age, offering video arcade games and their famous Family Computer (also known as the Famicom) video game system. American-based Atari struggled to compete in Japan – they couldn’t defeat the Sega-Nintendo duopoly in the country’s neon arcades.

Tokyo became a major financial centre, home of some of the world’s major banks, financial firms, insurance companies, and one of the world’s largest stock exchange, the Tokyo Securities and Stock Exchange. Soaring land prices meant that developers were forced to build upwards. For many families, this trend put housing in central cities out of reach. The result was lengthy commutes for workers, with many travelling for two hours each way every day in the Tokyo area. British newspapers reported on workaholic Japanese living in ‘rabbit hutch’es’. Prices were highest in Tokyo’s Ginza district in 1989, with some properties fetching over $1.5 million per square metre. A ¥10,000 note dropped on one of these streets was worth less than the tiny amount of ground it covered. Meanwhile, the Imperial Palace was said to be worth more than France.

The fun was not to last. With more people saving their income, loans and credit became easier to obtain, and with Japan running large trade surpluses, the yen’s value rapidly increased against foreign currencies. While the Japanese stock market hit its all-time peak in 1989, the bubble burst in early 1992, and the period that followed would become known as the Lost Decade. Twenty-five years later, Japan has yet to recover from this period of great economic downturn. However, the island nation remains one of the most powerful countries in the world, and its cultural influence extends into homes, cinemas and streets across the globe.
One of Japan’s biggest exports are its popular cartoons, known as anime. The hand drawings, featuring colourful characters and sharp lines, are a hit with adults and children alike. Storylines in comic books (known as manga), films and TV shows can vary from sheer fantasy to high drama. Anime has its origins in the Second World War era, but it didn’t really take off worldwide until the 1980s. Then, in 2003, Spirited Away (by anime firm Studio Ghibli) won an Oscar for Best Animated Feature.

This old martial art was spread to the West as early as the 1940s, when the US army began incorporating it into their hand-to-hand combat training. After the war, Japanese masters were soon crossing the Pacific in force, as movies showcasing the grace and skill of Asian martial arts created a surge in popularity. The craze spread to Europe, too, particularly in Britain where people set up karate clubs – with the help of Japanese instructors – all over the country.

There’s more to Japanese food than sushi, but it’s a good place to start. The innovative style of dining – featuring small plates of intricately presented dishes, usually involving rice and seafood – spread to the West in the 20th century. Perhaps the most famous hybrid is the ‘California roll’, featuring Japanese rice and seaweed, but with a distinctly American twist – avocado. Now, you’ll find sushi in your local supermarket, and Japanese restaurants are widespread.

Though it’s associated with bad, drunk X Factor wannabes in dingy pubs, Japanese karaoke goes far beyond the realm of the amateur. Instrumental versions of popular songs are played, with their lyrics displayed on a screen, while you sing your heart out. In Japan, you can indulge yourself in a variety of ways – in a booth to yourself, or with your friends in specially designed karaoke boxes. It’s taken pretty seriously, and karaoke rooms can even be found in the most genteel of establishments, such as restaurants.

Meaning ‘cute’ or ‘adorable’, the love of things that make you go “awwww” is strong in Japan. ‘Kawaii’ designs usually incorporate sweet animals, wide-eyed characters, and bright, child-like colours. As well as buying ‘kawaii’ products such as clothing and makeup, a person can even act ‘Kawaii’ by exaggerating their innocence and naivety. Perhaps the most famous brand is Hello Kitty. Hello Kitty has featured on everything from jets to dim sum restaurants.

**Video games**

Japan’s affinity for technology and entertainment combined to produce an unstoppable force. Originating in the neon lights of 1980s Tokyo arcades, gamers poured money into the slots of Japanese-made machines, hoping to get the next top score.

More recently, gaming fans have been able to take this form of entertainment home. Japanese games consoles such as Sega, Nintendo and PlayStation have long dominated the market.
To say that France was a fractured country during the early days of Cardinal Richelieu’s career is an understatement. At the turn of the 17th century, it was emerging from the bloodthirsty French Wars of Religion between the warring Catholics and the Protestants. A strained truce was reached but religious tensions still remained throughout the country.

The monarchy was severely weakened following the civil war and the French nobility wielded excessive control over their provinces. This situation was exacerbated when King Louis XIII ascended the throne in 1610 – aged just eight years old. On the world stage, the once mighty France had been eclipsed by other European powers, such as Spain and the Holy Roman Empire, both of which were ruled by the Hapsburg dynasty.

France desperately needed change and there was no one more determined to overhaul the country than a young man named Armand Jean du Plessis. Though he would later raise himself up to the high stations of cardinal and the 1st duke of Richelieu, his career at the royal court began aged 30, when he was appointed as the chaplain to Louis’ wife, Queen Anne of Austria, in 1615. Mentored by the cunning Concino Concini, chief advisor to the queen mother and regent, Marie de Medici, the highly-intelligent Richelieu was quickly named the secretary of state for foreign affairs.

Though his political career was off to a good start, it was almost entirely derailed by Louis XIII. Fed up with his mother’s refusal to relinquish control after he had reached his age of majority, the teenage king ousted Marie and Concini from power in 1617 – even going as far as having his mother’s advisor assassinated. Dismissed as another one of Marie’s creatures, Richelieu was also banished from court. However, when Marie attempted to launch an aristocratic revolt against her son in 1619, the king quickly recalled Richelieu to intervene and calm the situation down. Seizing the opportunity, Richelieu successfully reconciled mother and son (at least for a time).

Having proved himself a skilled politician and negotiator, Richelieu’s rapid rise to unprecedented power began. In 1622, he was appointed as a cardinal upon recommendation by the king and within two years, he had become Louis’ chief minister. Already, he had established his own personal guard that rivaled the Musketeers of the king, a testament to his political authority.

In his new position, Richelieu set about restoring France to its former glory. As a staunch believer in royal absolutism, he felt the best way to do this was to consolidate the power of the king. Yet while he set out on a mission to stabilize the monarchy, it soon became obvious that it was Richelieu who had really gained true power.
Marie de Medici had come to despise Richelieu and the control he had over her son and with the support of Richelieu’s enemies, Marie persuaded the king to remove him. However, the next day Louis had private conversation with Richelieu and reinstated him, realising how much he needed him. It was the closest that Richelieu ever came to being dismissed by Louis.

10 November 1630

In the words of Richelieu, “To mislead a rival, deception is permissible; one may use all means against his enemies.”
Firstly, Richelieu initiated a series of reforms to restrain the influence of the freewheeling feudal lords. He employed commoners into the civil service in an effort to break the aristocrats’ stranglehold on government jobs. He also destroyed fortresses and castles across the country, which could be used to bolster the nobles if they decided to rebel against the king.

The cardinal’s actions immediately earned him a number of enemies amongst the aristocracy who resented his blatant efforts to undermine their rights. But by successfully limiting the dominance of the nobility, Richelieu’s efforts had set France on the path of becoming a more centralised, modern state.

With the conclusion of the Wars of Religion, King Louis’ father, King Henri IV, had introduced the Edict of Nantes. It permitted political and military rights and religious tolerance for Protestants for the first time, a huge step for a staunchly Roman Catholic country. However, with the edict came the rise of the Huguenots, a Protestant group who developed into a powerful faction. By Richelieu’s time, the Huguenots controlled several city governments across France, putting a considerable fighting force at their disposal.

Despite his own position in the Catholic Church, Richelieu was prepared to accept the Huguenots’ right to religious dissent. It was when they began to question royal authority that he set them in his cross-hair. His efforts to crush them culminated in his ruthless siege of La Rochelle in 1627. The Huguenot stronghold successfully held out for a year before surrendering, ravaged by famine and disease. The Huguenots were left with no choice but to meet Richelieu’s demands, losing the majority of their rights beyond simple religious freedom.

Although a man of the church, Richelieu relished his role as a politician - and the intrigue that came with – and he thrived on it. Earning the nickname ‘Éminence rouge or ‘Red Eminence’, nobody in France was safe from Richelieu. But at the same time, the cardinal was acutely aware that his influence completely relied on the faith and support of Louis XIII – without it, Richelieu had nothing.

To stay on the king’s good side, Richelieu effectively gave Louis whatever he wanted and in return, received the freedom to pursue essentially any policy he wished. However, Richelieu knew that to maintain his hold over the monarch, he would have to drive away anybody else who might threaten his position.

This included Queen Anne, whom Richelieu deliberately prevented from exercising political influence so that she could not gain control over her husband. As a Hapsburg and sister to King Philip IV of Spain, Anne resented Richelieu’s aggression against her family. She actively worked against him, even becoming involved in a foiled plot to depose him.

To make matters worse, Richelieu had declared war against Spain in 1635 after his Protestant allies suffered a catastrophic defeat. He automatically suspected the queen of treachery and started monitoring her personal correspondence. After two years, he finally uncovered the evidence he was looking for – Anne had secretly been communicating with her brother behind the king’s back.
With his discovery, Richelieu accused Anne of treason, completely humiliating her at court. Though she survived the accusations, the incident jeopardised Anne’s fragile relationship with Louis, which never fully recovered, although she did provide the king with two male heirs in 1638 and 1640. Richelieu knowingly damaged the royal relationship supposedly for the sake of France, but he undeniably secured his hold of the king in the same instance. The war with Spain demonstrated how far Richelieu was willing to go to achieve his goals. Despite his role within the Roman Catholic Church, he allied himself with other Protestant powers against the Hapsburgs. In doing so, he arguably betrayed his own religion. Then again, it also showed his willingness to make necessary sacrifices for the sake of his country, which paid off when France triumphed over the Hapsburgs after Richelieu’s death.

However, these sacrifices came at a great cost to the French people, even with Richelieu’s justifications that it was for the good of the country. To fund his quest to defeat the Hapsburgs, Richelieu raised taxes at home, leading to widespread discontent and even famine amongst the French people - hardly the actions of a hero.

While the Hapsburgs dominated his foreign policy, Richelieu also laid the groundwork for future developments abroad. When it came to the sea, France was considerably weaker than the other European powers, including the English. To change this, Richelieu upgraded France’s sea power; purchasing ships from the Dutch, and granted himself the title of grand master of navigation. French shipbuilding also improved during his tenure and he significantly increased the naval budget, so that France could compete at sea. Though it did not occur during his lifetime, Richelieu’s reforming of the navy had set the scene for French exploration overseas, leading to the development of the French Colonial Empire.

Although a formidable man, Richelieu suffered with ill health throughout his life. Despite deteriorating quickly during his last few months, Richelieu still gave orders from his deathbed and even named his follower, Cardinal Mazarin, as his successor. His death, on 4 December 1642, was a blow to King Louis who depended on him – he would die himself just five months later.

By the time of his death, Richelieu’s merciless pursuit to reform the country had made him easily the most feared and despised man in France. Over 200 years, this black legend inspired Alexandre Dumas to make the cardinal the foil to his heroes in The Three Musketeers; published 1844. While Dumas’ vision of the villainous Red Sphinx endures today, the real-life Richelieu was undeniably one of the greatest statesmen in French history, paving the way for his country to become the most dominant power of the late 17th century.

Defining moment

**Treaty of Bärwalde**

In his effort to undermine the Hapsburgs’ power, Richelieu made the bold decision to engineer an alliance between Catholic France and Protestant Sweden, promising financial support in their fight against the Holy Roman Empire during the Thirty Years War. In return, Sweden maintained armies in Germany to support the Protestant Princes against the Holy Roman Emperor.

**23 January 1631**

Marie de Medici regretted elevating Richelieu and attempted to remove him from power.
More than just a delicious treat, honey played a vital role in Ancient Egyptian life from being offered to the gods to embalming mummies.

When Howard Carter uncovered the lost tomb of Tutankhamun in 1922, he was astonished by what he found. “It was a sight surpassing all precedent, and one we never dreamed of seeing,” he later wrote. Though it had been partly looted in ancient times, the royal necropolis still contained a vast hoard of treasures. Much has been made of the famous pharaoh’s opulent sarcophagus and the royal chariot, life-size statues and richly decorated throne that were buried with him.

However, some of King Tut’s prized possessions that are often overlooked are the numerous jars of honey that he took to the grave with him. Tutankhamun was not alone, many pharaohs did this. Honey played an important role in every facet of Ancient Egyptian life. As well as being used a sweetener for cakes, both honey and beeswax were used in religious rituals and was even used as a medicine to treat wounds. While pharaohs would flaunt their wealth through honey, beekeeping would employ hundreds if not thousands of workers. You could go as far as to say the sticky substance played such a pivotal role that it was the glue that bound Ancient Egyptian society together.

Nectar of the gods

A testament to how highly valued honey was to the Ancient Egyptians, they developed an elaborate mythology surrounding it. According to the Salt Magical Papyrys, when the god Re wept, his tears turned into bees upon hitting the earth. These creatures then toiled among the flowers and trees, producing honey. Elsewhere in some of the Pyramid Texts, it is said that the sky goddess Nut could take the form of a bee. The goddess Neith’s temple at Sais, in the Nile Delta, was known as the ‘House of the Bee’.

Honey was also incorporated into many religious rituals. Honey featured in the ‘Opening the Mouth’ ceremony, in which the deceased was prepared for the afterlife by symbolically having their mouth opened, so they could eat and drink once their soul crossed over. In one section of it, known as the ‘Chapter of the Festal Perfume in the Form of Honey’, the priest recited “Hail, Amun-Re, Lord of the Throne of the Two Lands! I present unto thee honey, the Eye of Horus, the Sweet One, the exudation from the Eye of Re, the Lord of Offerings, Amun-Re, the Lord of the Two Lands is flooded therewith, for it is sweet to thine heart, and it shall never depart from thee.” In both texts, bees or honey are symbolically shown coming from Re’s eyes.

Honey was also a key ingredient in the embalming fluid used to prepare mummies. This actually had a solid basis in science. When combined with bodily fluids, honey creates hydrogen peroxide which slows the growth of bacteria, in turn slowing the corpse’s decomposition.
Keeping the Gods Sweet

Likely for the same reason, the Egyptians used honey to treat injuries. Hundreds of prescriptions involving honey are found in surviving medical papyri. As well as being used as an ointment, it would have made their often unpalatable medicines go down more easily.

Honey also figured in marriage ceremonies, with a husband pledging “I take thee to wife... and promise to deliver to thee yearly 12 jars of honey.”

The Westcar Papyrus relates that a priest named Aba-aner, who lived during Egypt’s Old Kingdom period of roughly 2686-2181 BCE, and fashioned a crocodile out of beeswax and placed it within a pool where his straying wife’s lover had a habit of taking his bath. When this man came near to the pool, the wax crocodile came to life, grabbed him and dragged the love rival beneath the water, never to be seen again.

Honey was also often given as an offering to gods. While ordinary people would give what they could, pharaoh Ramesses III (c. 1217-1155 BCE) is said to have had a great system for avoiding insect bites: he would cover a slave in honey. Flies swarmed to the slave and left Pepy in peace.

However, in any discussion of the Ancient Egyptian’s honey obsession, someone always points out that since the civilization’s First Dynasty, all the way back in 3100 BCE, one of a pharaoh’s many grand titles was ‘He of the Reed and Bee’. To see this as a reflection of the high esteem with which the honeybee was held is rather too simplistic interpretation. In fact, the bee hieroglyph represented the Lower Egypt (the Nile Delta region, in the north of the modern country). Meanwhile, the reed symbolised Upper Egypt. Therefore to call the pharaoh ‘He of the Reed and Bee’ was to emphasise the extent of the ruler’s dominion. If you went back to the original source

“The Egyptians also believed that the destruction of waxen sculptures moulded by a magician could hurt the target in real life.”
Ancient Egypt

Long-Lasting Honey

Incredibly the honey found in Egyptian tombs is often still edible. There are a number of reasons for this. Honey is a sugar and it has a very low water content, making it a poor environment for microorganisms that would cause other foods to go bad. Further, the glucose in the honey is converted by an enzyme into hydrogen peroxide and glutonic acid. The glutonic acid depresses the honey’s pH to such a low acidic level that it further hinders bacterial growth. These characteristics make it useful as an effective treatment for cuts and burns and as a preservative. However, you might think twice before tasting it. A team of robbers were digging for treasure in the graves outside the Pyramids. They found a sealed jar containing honey. They began eating the tasty substance, dipping in with bread, continuing until one of them noticed that one of his fellows had a hair on his fingers. To their horror, they found that inside the jar had been preserved the body of a young child.

“The process of getting honey was clearly a large-scale operation, of great importance to the Egyptian people”

of the pharaoh’s title, this is made explicitly clear. The Kahun Papyri states ‘he hath united the two lands, he hath joined the reed to the bee’. By extension, the many hieroglyphs of bees that have been found in tombs.

Hive of activity

To fuel their honey addiction, the Egyptians employed various methods. Foreigners were offered forced to pay it as a form of tribute. The mighty warrior-pharaoh Tuthmosis III received numerous jars of honey from Syria. It was also noted as one of the spoils collected from the alien Hyksos by Pharaoh Kamose in the 16th century BCE. However, the greater part of the Egypt’s honey was produced locally. The Nile River, which runs the length of Egypt, proved to be a welcoming habitat for bees. The annual flooding of the Nile deposited a dark, nutrient-rich soil wherever its waters reached. Farmers then used the river to irrigate their plots. The result was a bounty of crops in the lush riverland, which in later years would earn Egypt the nickname ‘the breadbasket of Rome’. We know Egyptian bees would have feasted on this crop, as the preserved honey that has been recovered from Egyptian tombs has been tested and proven to contain nectar and pollen collected by the busy insects from fruits and vegetables cultivated by the Egyptians. It also contains traces of the pollen of plants grown to provide fodder for animals, including clover and alfalfa. The flavour would have seeped into the honey, and depending on the type of plant the bee has been harvesting, the floral aroma and taste will vary from pot to pot.

While honey-hunters collected the golden syrup from hives found in the wild, bees were also systemically farmed to provide the country with a constant flow of the sweet stuff. A sign of the coordination involved, one official during

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While honey-hunters collected the golden syrup from hives found in the wild, bees were also systemically farmed to provide the country with a constant flow of the sweet stuff. A sign of the coordination involved, one official during
the Middle Kingdom (c. 2040-1710 BCE) held the title 'Overseer of Beekeepers of the Entire Land'. Much later, in the Ptolemaic period (305-30 BCE) archaeologists have found evidence of enormous apiaries at Fayum. One person who lived in Fayum owned some 5,000 hives. Professional beekeepers were employed to man these hives. Remarkably, these beekeepers travelled with their hives all over the country.

A papyrus discovered at Fayum, dating to the third century BCE, indicates that bees would be transported across Egypt to make the most of the earlier and later flowering times of different kinds of plants. This 'Petition from the Beekeepers' was written by a group of beekeepers to an official by the name of Zenon, complaining that the donkeys needed to transported the hives back from the fields outside the city of Philadelphia.

The bees were supposed to have been in the fields for 10 days, but 18 passed, while donkeys were nowhere to be seen. The local peasantry were eager to flood the fields and burn brushwood. If the donkeys were not sent soon, the beekeepers warned that 'the hives will be ruined'. Given how reliant we now know Ancient Egyptian society was on this sticky treat, let's hope that those donkeys eventually arrived.
You’ve a great game, a noble game before you,” wrote Captain Arthur Conolly to Major Henry Rawlinson, who had just been posted as a political agent to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in July 1840. This was the first recorded reference to a phrase which would become a by-word for almost a century of intrigue in Central Asia, with the rival British and Russian empires competing for influence in the region through covert spy missions and even all-out war.

The Great Game covered a vast terrain, spurred on by the advance of British power northwards in India on the one hand, and the steady advance of Russian dominance southwards across Central Asia (with the absorption of the independent Khanates of Khiva and Kokand) on the other. By the late 1860s, the gap between the two was only a few hundred miles. The land in the middle, Afghanistan, became the pawn of the Great Game players and the chess board on which much, but not all, of the action would take place.

The territory of present day Afghanistan sits at the crossroads of four major regions - the Middle East and Iran (formerly Persia) to the west, Central Asia and the Russian territories to the north, and the Indian subcontinent to the south and east. At different times in its history, this territory has been conquered by Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan, as well as the Persians. It began to take its present form when Ahmad Shah Durrani (sometimes known as Abdali), a former general in the Shah of Persia’s army, gradually built an empire through conquest in the late 18th century, which reached deep into modern day Pakistan and parts of northern India. His phenomenal success was blighted by ill health for most of his adult life in the form of a devastating disease that gradually ate away his face, and - as so often happened with brilliant leaders – a succession crisis after his death. While he could turn the former to his advantage by wearing a diamond encrusted false nose as he rode into battle, he could do nothing to prevent the gradual break up of his empire after he died in 1772.

His sons brutally fought against each other, and then their sons did the same in turn. The slow fragmentation of this empire sets the backdrop against which the Great Game began. A gun commissioned by Ahmad Shah Durrani in 1762, now locally known to Lahoris as ‘Kim’s Gun’ after the Rudyard Kipling novel, sits on its plinth outside the Lahore Museum as a living reminder of the great general. When it was built, it was one of the largest guns ever made in the Indian subcontinent.

The Game is Set
The Great Game arguably started in 1809, when Britain received intelligence that Napoleon intended to invade India through Afghanistan and Persia. In response, the government sent an emissary, Montstuart Elphinstone, to the winter court of the Amir of Afghanistan in Peshawar,
The Great Game
Spies in Central Asia

Rudyard Kipling's novel popularised the Great Game, but he took some artistic licence

Kipling invented the term, the Great Game
Kipling popularised the term after the publication of Kim, but the man first credited with using it was one of the first players, Lieutenant Arthur Conolly, in a letter to a friend in the 1830s.

India was awash with Great Game spies
Although Kim's spies have numbers like C25, R17 and E3, there were actually only around half a dozen Indian spies or Pundits trained to work in territories under Chinese suzerainty, such as Tibet.

Kipling's characters are imperial stereotypes
Kipling either personally knew, or had read about the people mentioned in the book. Colonel Creighton is modelled on Montgomery; Lurgan Sahib on AM Jacob, a dealer of gems and member of the political service in Simla; and Hurree Chunder Mookerjee on Sarat Chandra Das, a real Bengali pundit.

There were no Frenchmen in the Great Game
The Great Game began with fears of Napoleon invading of India. When Kipling wrote Kim, France and Russia had recently reaffirmed an alliance, and Britain and France had sparred in Fashoda in the Upper Nile, until it was seized by Britain in 1898.

There were no boys like Kim in the Great Game
There were several children of European descent who did not lead a conventional life. Elphinstone seemingly met one in 1812, called Durie, the son of a British soldier and an Indian woman, who had lived in Kabul and Kandahar.

Kim tells the story of the Great Game
The book never spells out what the Game is, or gives any specific details about it. The Game is purely the background noise in Kim's adventures and provides a role for many of the people he meets.

Kim participates in the Anglo-Afghan Wars
Kim's Game is set entirely within British India and is concerned as much with the enemy within India as with Russian activities east of the North-West Frontier, in Chitral and Hunza, now in north Pakistan.

Kim spent most of his life in India
Kipling spent his first six years in India, and then from 1882-9 when he worked for newspapers in Lahore and Allahabad. He never returned. He finished writing Kim in the United States.

Remnants of an Army by Elizabeth Butler shows William Brydon staggering back to Jalalabad

Meanwhile, Ellenborough also hatched an ingenious scheme to map the River Indus. Twenty-five year old Lieutenant Alexander Burnes was selected to sail 700 miles up the river from the coast to Lahore in 1833 with five English dray horses (the largest horses ever seen in Asia) and a specially constructed state coach to present to Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the powerful, half-blind Sikh ruler of the Punjab. He had captured part of Ahmad Shah's territory during his campaign to unite warring Sikh factions and had made Lahore his capital. He would later take Peshawar, and the Koh-i-Noor diamond, from the Afghans in 1834. Burnes was an excellent choice - he mixed tremendous charm with extensive language skills and soon won over Ranjit, spending two months at his court covertly observing his troops and military capabilities.

Burnes is forever now associated with Britain's disastrous defeat in the First Afghan War of 1839-1842, which broke out following a decision by the government to adopt a so called 'Forward Policy' of active occupation and engagement in territory beyond the frontier of the empire. Burnes, newly knighted, was appointed deputy to the first British Envoy to reside in Kabul, Sir William Macnaghten. For three years, British and Indian soldiers lived in a cantonment just outside the town, but Burnes felt so at ease that he chose to live in a house in central Kabul. Following rumours of Burnes' affairs with Afghan women however, and a decision to reduce subsidies to tribal chiefs, the Afghans rebelled. The violence began when Burnes and his brother were slaughtered in their house in the old town. After weeks of fighting, Macnaghten met one of the Afghan leaders, Wazir Akbar Khan, to negotiate a truce on 23 December 1841. It was a trap. Macnaghten was assassinated by Akbar, and then Akbar forced the British-Indian army, as well as 400 cavalry and infantry, a dozen elephants and 600 camels to demonstrate British power and influence. By the late 1820s, attention had shifted to Russia. Lord Ellenborough in London concluded the threat needed to be contained outside British India, and Britain therefore needed to collect information about the territories to the north to develop a plan.

A series of young British army officers and political agents were therefore sent, in disguise, into Afghanistan and Central Asia. One of the first was Arthur Conolly, who travelled through the Caucasus, Khiva and Afghanistan alone in 1829-30, mapping the region and gathering local intelligence while disguised as a merchant on route to Khiva.
FROM KABUL WITH LOVE

Key flashpoints of the Anglo-Russian spy war

1. Capital of Kings
Lahore was once the favourite place of the Moghul emperors of India in the 17th century, became Ranjit Singh's capital 200 years later, and the capital of the Punjab after the British won the Sikh wars in 1849. Kipling's father, John Lockwood Kipling, was curator of the Lahore Museum.

2. Network of Spies
Dehradun is the home of the Survey of India. It was from here that Thomas Montgomerie trained his network of spies. The museum houses his surveying equipment and three of the greatest Pundits, including Nain Singh, are commemorated with busts.

3. Gateway to the North West Frontier
Peshawar was the winter capital of the Afghan Amirs, and later captured first by Maharajah Ranjit Singh then the British in 1849. The Bala Hisar Fort greeted Elphinstone in 1812, one of the first British people to venture so far north. It is now the home of Pakistan's Frontier Corps.

4. Great Defeat
Gandamak will be forever associated with one of the greatest defeats the British army has ever faced. It was here that Britain's retreating army from Kabul during a bitterly cold winter in January 1842 was slaughtered by the Afghans. Only one man survived to tell the tale.

5. Graveyard of Envoys
Britain sent two envoys to the Amir of Afghanistan in Kabul and neither returned alive. Sir William Macnaghten was actually killed by Wazir Akbar Khan during peace negotiations. Wazir Akbar Khan is now one of Afghanistan's folk heroes and the British embassy is located in the area named after him.

6. Nicholson's monument
This monument, raised beside the Grand Trunk Road between Rawalpindi and Taxila marks the spot where one of the most famous soldiers of his day, John Nicholson, was wounded during the First Sikh War. It is still a landmark on this major artery through Pakistan.

7. The Roof of the World
Lhasa was first reached by the Indian Pundits in the 1860s, but became the last scene of the Great Game when Francis Younghusband reached it in 1904, after a series of battles which saw the Tibetan militia, mostly comprised of monks, swiftly defeated and killed by a well-equipped modern army.

8. Victory at Last
A British force was besieged in Chitral Fort for a month and a half in 1895, with events closely monitored by all the newspapers in London, fearing another defeat like Gandamak. Its relief was hailed as a victory with medals for all concerned, and apparently there were provisions for extra leave and pay.
as women and camp followers (16,000 in all) to retreat to the Khyber Pass. Many died from the cold, others were killed by Afghans who picked off stragglers on route, and the rest were killed or captured at Gandamak, just short of the Pass. Only one soldier, Dr William Brydon, reached safety to relay the news. Arthur Conolly became one of the victims of the fallout. Incarcerated with a fellow British officer in the Emir of Bukhara’s so-called ‘bug pit’, the Emir could now see no reason to keep these representatives of the infamous British army alive and had them publicly executed. Conolly’s brother died in Akbar’s prison in Kabul.

After Gandamak, the British withdrew from Afghanistan, but turned their attention to the Punjab, where Ranjit Singh’s death in 1839 had been followed by a succession crisis and instability. After two wars against the Sikhs in the 1840s, the British established an administrative base for the Punjab in Lahore in 1846, and captured Peshawar in 1849. One of the heroes of the Sikh wars was John Nicholson, a military officer whose battle scars epitomised the lives of many soldiers during the Great Game. Captured in Afghanistan during the Afghan War, he was later wounded during the Sikh wars, and then died aged 35 defending Delhi during the Indian Mutiny in 1857. The site where he was wounded in Punjab is commemorated by a monument on the Great Trunk Road near Rawalpindi, which is still prominent to this day.

As British India extended northwards however, and one Central Asian Khanate after another fell to the Russians in the 1860s, the need to secure the north and north-western frontiers of India became increasingly urgent. For a number of years, the British kept out of Afghanistan, preferring to contain the threat from the border region. In 1879 however, they decided to change course and send a new envoy, Sir Louis Napoleon Cavagnari, to Kabul, prompted by intelligence that Russia was sending its own mission to Kabul imminently. Within weeks of his arrival, Cavagnari, his staff and guards were slaughtered by mutinying Afghan troops, and soon after, an avenging British army suffered a humiliating defeat at the battle of Maiwand – unsurprisingly, Afghans celebrate Maiwand and their earlier victory at Gandamak to this day. During the ensuing peace deal, the Amir of Afghanistan agreed to cede control of his country’s foreign policy to Britain in exchange for an annual subsidy and protection against Russian invasion. Ten years later, he agreed with Sir Mortimer Durand, the British foreign secretary in India, that the border between British India and Afghanistan should be demarcated. It is still called the Durand Line and is now the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Britain had finally secured a buffer against Russian advancement on the north-west frontier. This only left the little matter of the northern frontier.

SURVEYING THE LANDS
The British had assumed that the mountain ranges of the Hindu Kush, Pamir and Karakoram would provide natural barriers against invasion, but they were never 100 per cent sure. This area was where Afghanistan merged with China, and covered lands nominally under Chinese suzerainty along the ancient Silk Road – Yarkand, Kashgar and Tibet – and the independent hill kingdoms of Chitral and Hunza. Russians had already begun to map the region; so had the British under the leadership of an unlikely hero, Captain Thomas Montgomerie of the Survey of India based in Dehra Dun. To avoid potential political embarrassment if British spies were captured, he had hit on the idea of using Indian agents to map the terrain. They became known as the Pundits (scholars), while their names were changed to numbers or cryptograms so that no one at the Survey knew who they were. Montgomerie personally trained them in measuring distances using a constant stride whether they were walking uphill or downhill, and developed an ingenious adaption of Tibetan Buddhist symbols - using the prayer wheels and strings of prayer beads carried by Buddhist monks and pilgrims to record information and measure distances. The roll of written prayers on paper inside a prayer wheel was an ideal place to write notes. The 108 prayer beads were apparently
The fear of invasion from the north increased when the surveyors discovered it was just possible to traverse the mountains during the brief spring and autumn months, and from there reach Chitral, which was alarmingly close to British India. The first Russians reached Hunza in 1888 and Chitral in 1891. In the latter case, a Russian frontier soldier named Colonel Ivanov had turned away a British band of explorers going back to India via Baza'i Gonbad (modern day Afghanistan), declaring them to be in Russian territory. To address the threat, the British tried to buy the local rulers’ loyalty, but were never fully confident that the rulers wouldn’t sell themselves to a higher bidder.

The issue came to a head in 1895 when a disputed succession in Chitral led to a power play between Britain, Russia and Afghanistan over rival contestants. The senior British officer in Gilgit, Major George Robertson, set out for Chitral with four British officers and 400 Sikh and Kashmiri troops in tow, to put Britain’s choice on the throne, but he and his men then found themselves besieged in Chitral Fort with limited food and ammunition for a month and a half until a relief party arrived from Gilgit led by Colonel James Kelly. Kelly’s force of 200 mile march in deep snow over the mountains and through the Shandur Pass with 400 Sikh Pioneers and 900 troops sent by the rulers of Hunza and Nagar, while carrying heavy artillery and being shot at from the surrounding hills, was one of the greatest military feats of the century. The Chitralis were taken by complete surprise and then found themselves out-matched by Kelly’s mountain guns. Thereafter, Chitral was absorbed into British India and a permanent garrison was established there. Success in Chitral helped put to bed the disgrace of Gandamak and Maiwand, and the recent assassination of General Gordon in Khartoum in the Sudan, brought Britain new pride in its heroes.

The novelist Rudyard Kipling popularised the Great Game in his 1901 novel, Kim, painting it as an adventure of British derring-do. However, by that time the spy war was coming to an end. In 1907, Britain and Russia signed a pact not to meddle in Tibet, recording 1,200 miles, roughly 2.5 million steps, disguised as a Buddhist pilgrim reaching Lhasa in 1866. Awarded Companion of Indian Empire and received the Royal Geographic Society Victoria Medal.

Playing the Game

The Great Game was played by a kaleidoscope of characters ranging from upright British and Russian army officers, to political agents and Indian adventurers, often travelling in heavy disguise and aware that even if they escaped being caught, they constantly risked death through disease, hypothermia or being attacked by bandits.

Montstuart Elphinstone
(1779-1859)

Appointed the first British Envoy to the court of the Amir of Afghanistan whom he met in Peshawar, the Amir’s winter capital, in 1809. Wrote the first European account of the country, An Account of the Kingdom of Cabul, which was first published in 1815.

Lieutenant Arthur Conolly
(1807-42)

A British army officer with a talent for languages, he travelled from Moscow through Central Asia and Afghanistan in the early 1830s, coining the phrase ‘The Great Game’ in a letter. Was captured trying to negotiate the release of a fellow officer in Bukhara and executed in 1842.

Captain (Sir) Alexander Burnes
(1805-41)

Known as ‘Bukhara Burnes’ for his journey through the Hindu Kush to Bukhara, his book of his travels became a best seller. Became the political agent in Kabul, but massacred alongside his brother at the outset of the First Afghan War.

Captain Thomas Montgomerie
(1830-78)

Led the trigonometrical survey of the Maharaja of Kashmir’s territories, an area of 70,000 square miles, then trained a handful of Indians – called Pundits – from 1863 to survey more remote northern regions in disguise. The likely model for Kim’s Colonel Crichton.

Rai Bahadur Nain Singh Rawat
(1830-95)

Pundit Number One, trained by Montgomerie in 1863-5, then did the first of his many journeys to Tibet, recording 1,200 miles, roughly 2.5 million steps, disguised as a Buddhist pilgrim reaching Lhasa in 1866. Awarded Companion of Indian Empire and received the Royal Geographic Society Victoria Medal.

Babu Sarat Chandra Das
(1849-1917)

A Hindu Bengali, who studied at Calcutta University and became a Tibetan scholar. First travelled to Tibet with a Lama from Darjeeling, and then later as one of the British Pundits in 1884. Published a book about his Tibetan adventures in 1885. Model for Kim’s Babu.
Mayan pyramids are amongst the most iconic structures built in human history. However, these monuments also serve very real purposes for the people living in the cities. While some are simply tombs, others are used for priests to perform sacrifices to the gods, and as training centres. Some pyramids even contain secret tunnels and doors. Although you may not be able to stay inside one of these structures, it is wise to set up camp near or around a pyramid, as they stand as central points in Maya cities, serving as landmarks and important cultural hubs. If you want to be in the heart of the action - look for the pyramids. The largest pyramid can be found in the city of Tikal.

**Dos & don'ts**

- **Practice your alphabet**: The Maya elite use complex hieroglyphic writing, and if you want to connect with the upper echelons of society you'll need to be able to read and write with it too.
- **Expand your horizons**: The Maya are surrounded by an array of neighbouring cultures and the Maya enjoy a very close relationship with the Toltec capital, Tula. Be sure to keep these connections tight, as maintaining them will be crucial to survival.
- **Remember who is in charge**: A Mayan king is seen as the supreme ruler and mediator between the people and the gods. The Maya are also a warrior culture, so as well coming from the right family, a king must prove his skill on the battlefield by taking enemies captive.
- **Don't be afraid to fight**: Every Mayan man is expected to volunteer for their city’s army during times of conflict. These warriors were often highly disciplined.
- **Become a sacrifice**: Victims, who could range from slaves to the captured rulers of foreign city-states, are generally decapitated or have their hearts cut out as part of various religious traditions.
- **Get too comfortable**: The Maya city-states are in vicious rivalries. Tikal and Calakmul are constantly competing for power, and every opportunity will be exploited for the upper hand.

**WHERE TO STAY**

Mayan pyramids are amongst the most iconic structures built in human history. However, these monuments also serve very real purposes for the people living in the cities. While some are simply tombs, others are used for priests to perform sacrifices to the gods, and as training centres. Some pyramids even contain secret tunnels and doors. Although you may not be able to stay inside one of these structures, it is wise to set up camp near or around a pyramid, as they stand as central points in Maya cities, serving as landmarks and important cultural hubs. If you want to be in the heart of the action - look for the pyramids. The largest pyramid can be found in the city of Tikal.
**WHO TO BEFRIEND**

**Pakal the Great**
Born in the height of violence, when he was only a child Pakal watched his city, Palenque, sacked and its leadership swapped between hands. However, now he has come of age Pakal’s rule is rapidly increasing the power of the city and he is also encouraging a staggering building program. Although it may be difficult gaining access to him, it is well worth getting friendly with this ruler, as his reign will go on for 68 years, the longest in the history of the Americas and the longest worldwide until the 15th century.

Extra tip: A good way to get close to Pakal is through his mother. Lady Sak K’uk ruled before her son reached maturity and she continues to guide him. Female rulers are not unusual when a male ruler is not available and her influence over her son should not be underestimated (or unexploited).

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**WHO TO AVOID**

**Uaxaclajuun Ub’aah K’awil**
Better known today as 18 Rabbit, this king sits on the powerful throne of Copán, and is considered the greatest patron of the arts in its history. He has built a huge imposing ball-court, seven monuments and even a massive man-made mountain. 18 Rabbit has changed the landscape of his city and you’d be forgiven for thinking him a wise friend to make. However, the ruler is doomed to be captured and beheaded by a rival. It will be a brutal and final end to an illustrious rule. All the significant building work will end, and no new structures erected for 18 years.

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**Helpful skills**

**Ball game**
This dangerous but illustrious game is played throughout the Maya civilisation. Representing the battle between light and darkness, though defeat in this game can sometimes result in death, winners are handsomely rewarded and exalted to near god-like adoration.

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**Astronomy**
Astronomy is at the centre of Mayan culture, the sky is used to tell the future, the passing of time and is believed to be a link to the Gods themselves. Skilled astronomers cannot find a better place to hone and be appreciated for their craft.

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**Farming**
The most common Mayan profession is farming, which isn’t easy in a land that by turns swampy, mountainous and dense with jungle. However, using techniques such as irrigation and slash-and-burn they manage to produce an excess of crops.
During the interwar years, Germany faced numerous crises but it was defined by progressive leadership and Hitler’s rise was not guaranteed.

How was Germany run after Kaiser Wilhelm II was overthrown?
In the last weeks of [World War I], a popular revolution began with sailors in the port of Kiel and it spread to industrial cities, then throughout the country. Throughout the winter of 1918 a revolution unfolds in Germany and like all revolutions it was very contested. On the radical end were workers, who established workers councils - soviets - in the factories and this spread even to artistic realms, in theatres, and all through the country.

They were demanding a kind of radical democracy. Not really Bolshevik communism, but some kind of system in which workers would at least have influence over the economy. But the more moderate socialists, who were deathly afraid of ‘Bolshevik chaos’ as they called it, moved quickly to establish a parliamentary democracy.

The Social Democratic Party - the same party that we have today in Germany - in alliance with the liberal [German Democratic Party] and the Catholic Centre Party formed the Weimar Coalition. Their coalition prevailed at the election of January 1919 and then they empanelled a constitutional convention, which appointed a committee, that met in Weimar because of the civil war raging in Berlin. They drafted a constitution in summer 1919 and on that basis the Weimar Republic was created. This lasted until 30 January 1933, when Hitler was named chancellor.

What was life like in 1920s Berlin?
There was most definitely a lot going on. It was both tumultuous and crisis ridden, but at the same time, it was one of the most creative eras of the 20th century. Perhaps there is a relationship between the two - we can never prove it - but the fragility of the political order, I think, contributed to the kind of artistic ferment that is still with us today. Particularly in the cities - Berlin of course was the centre - there was vital artistic experimentation going on.

Here we have the creation of artistic modernism; expressionism in painting and theatre; very creative film, the new popular medium of the 1920s; radio, also. Martin Heidegger’s Being and Time, Thomas Mann’s Magic Mountain, Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill’s The Threepenny Opera – all of these incredibly innovative and creative works emerged in the [Weimar Republic].

There was a lively cabaret scene, again in the cities, a very lively public life with people out in the streets. They were having very open discussions about sexuality.

I sometimes laugh to myself when people in the United States say discussing sexuality is so new, when Germans were having them in the 1920s. So it was very socially progressive?
Quite vibrantly so! There were discussions about homosexuality and pressures to reform Germany’s highly restrictive abortion law. They also set up public health clinics that offered counselling about sex. The Weimar constitution was probably the most democratic constitution anywhere in the world in the 1920s. Proportional representation, which ultimately contributed to the paralysis of the political system, was far more democratic than the American system of winner-takes-all. The security services sometimes responded brutally to public demonstrations, but in general there was a lively free press and freedom of assembly.

Jewish life also flourished – another sign of openness. There was still prejudice and areas like the Officer Corps were closed off to Jews. But it was possible for Jews to get university professorships.

How did right-wing groups such as the Nazi Party gain ground?
In the early 1920s, you have literally hundreds of extreme right-wing organisations. Many of them...
Jewish life also flourished – another sign of openness.

“What if... the nazis had never gained power?"

“Jewish life also flourished - another sign of openness”
were very small and local. But there were also right-wing opposition groups, which were by and large demobilised soldiers, let go under the armistice conditions and the final Versailles Peace Treaty.

These demobilised soldiers were aghast at the prevalence of socialists and communists in public spaces and leading government – as well as Jews in high-level positions. In 1919 the Jewish social democratic chancellor of Bavaria, Kurt Eisner, was assassinated. In 1922 the Jewish banker and intellectual, foreign minister Walter Rathenau was killed. So there was a lot of right-wing terrorism going on, carried out by these small groups. The Nazis eventually unified these groups under the Nazi Party – that was one of their first accomplishments. In 1923, when hyperinflation completely disrupted economic and social life, these right-wing groups grew in size and the Nazis made their first attempt to seize power. [in the failed Munich Beer Hall Putsch].

So after the hyperinflation, was the Nazi Party’s rise inevitable? Actually, between 1924-29, the so-called golden years of the Weimar Republic, there was a move back to the political centre. You see it in the elections of 1928 when both the extreme right and extreme left lost significant support. The Nazis in 1928 are a small party, they’re a police problem, but they’re not really a political threat. Hitler has been banned from speaking in many of the German states. They're really nowhere until 1929 when the Great Depression hits and that then gives wind – I mean a thunderstorm, a hurricane force of wind – to the Nazi sails. But even in the 1930 elections, the Nazis got slaughtered with only 18 per cent of the vote. It was a shock. The highest vote they would get in a popular election was 37.4 per cent in July 1932. Now that’s a large chunk to be sure, but it’s

The Weimar Republic’s vibrant nightlife inspired the movie *Cabaret*.
There is discontent within the Nazi party about Hitler’s leadership not a majority and that’s significant because they never had a majority. You know, before the Third Reich, they never had a majority of popular support.

If the Nazis were polling so badly, how did Hitler become Chancellor of Germany in 1933?
There is a popular understanding that the German people let Hitler into power, but that’s absolutely wrong. So all through 1932 whilst the economy keeps falling, the political system has completely fragmented. There are three major elections in the course of 1932, two parliamentary elections and one presidential election. The biggest electoral turnout the Nazi Party gets is 37.4 per cent. In November 1932 they lose again and this time are down to 32 per cent. There is discontent within the Nazi Party about Hitler’s leadership, and I think it is possible to imagine the dissolution of the party.

However, in the end, in January 1933 a group of alpha men, bankers, army officers, high public servants – including Franz Von Papen, Kurt Von Schleicher and the president’s own son, Oskar von Hindenburg - prevail upon Hindenburg to name Hitler chancellor. So in the very end it’s a small group of powerful men around the president who are responsible for the Nazis coming to power.

Why did these figures want to help Hitler? Their motives were to destroy the republic and replace it with some kind of conservative authoritarian system and to overthrow the Versailles Peace Treaty so that Germany could become a great power again. Basically you have a coalition of interests between older more traditional conservatives and the Nazis. Each side is using the other, but the conservatives find that they cannot actually contain the Nazis. Not at all.

If the Nazis had dissolved or Hindenburg had maintained his opposition to Hitler, could the Weimar Republic have survived?
The optimistic assessment would be that the Weimar coalition parties would gradually win more support, people would come back to the centre and you would have a viable social democratic parliamentary government, as we were getting in Sweden in the same period in the 1930s. But when the Great Depression comes, it hits Germany so fast and it affects them more than any other place. At the same time, the Social Democrats were exhausted and the political system fragments and becomes essentially unworkable. Even before the Nazis seize power, the president signed emergency orders one after the other to issue budgets, to pursue his deflationary policy that only worsened the economy.

In either scenario, without Hitler, was World War II still inevitable?
I think World War II was inevitable when the Nazis came to power, but I don’t think it would have been with a conservative group in power. It would have still been a nasty military dictatorship probably, but they would have been far more cautious. We know that because the conservatives thought Hitler was too radical with his moves into the Rhineland in 1936, and Czechoslovakia in 1938 – they’re much more cautious and don’t support those measures.

Night of the Long Knives
In a bloody purge of the SA leadership and Hitler’s political rivals, Papen narrowly escapes with his life. 30 June 1934

Nuremberg Laws
Hitler announces new measures that establish apartheid in Germany, with Jews losing their civil rights and becoming second-class citizens. 15 September 1935

Reoccupying the Rhineland
Hitler marches 20,000 German troops into the Rhineland, directly contravening the Treaty of Versailles. 7 March 1936

Buchenwald opens
SS authorities open the Buchenwald concentration camp. The following year, almost 10,000 Jews were sent here. 16 July 1937

Kristallnacht pogrom
Joseph Goebbels leads an attack against German and Austrian Jews, which is called the ‘Night of the Broken Glass’ after the devastation it causes, including piles of smashed shop windows. 9 November 1938

World War II declared
Following the invasion of Poland two days before and Hitler’s refusal to withdraw, Britain and France declare war on Nazi Germany. 3 September 1939

What if the Nazis had never gained power?

What if…

The Nazis had never gained power?
Bluffer’s Guide
The Monkey Trial

Did you know?
Dayton officials first approached Scopes to work with the ACLU, hoping the trial would draw publicity to the town.

Timeline

25 May 1925
John T Scopes was indicted by a grand jury for violating the Butler’s Act, after three students testified against him for teaching evolution.

10 July 1925
The trial against Scopes began in Dayton, Tennessee, at the Rhea Country Courthouse. It was the first trial to be broadcast over live radio.

13-15 July 1925
Darrow attempted to get the Butler’s Act declared as unconstitutional, which was the ACLU’s aim, but the judge, John T Raulston, rejected the challenge.

17 July 1925
Bryan and the prosecution have their request granted to have expert testimonies from scientists barred from the proceedings - Darrow accuses the judge of favouring the prosecution.
What was it?
The Monkey Trial, officially known as The State of Tennessee v. John Thomas Scopes, is one of the best-known court cases in America, famous for putting both science and religion in the dock.

In March 1925, the Butler Act was passed in Tennessee, prohibiting the teaching of evolution in schools, because it contradicted the biblical view of creation. The law, while supported by religious fundamentalists, angered many people including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

To challenge the Butler Act on constitutional grounds, the ACLU hired teacher, John T Scopes, to explain evolution to his high school students during a biology class in Dayton, Tennessee. As expected, the authorities took Scopes to court for the violation, with the prosecution led by William Jennings Bryan, a former Congressman, ex-Secretary of State and prominent figure in the anti-Darwinism movement. For Scopes's defence, the ACLU brought in famed attorney Clarence Darrow. Scopes was found guilty and fined $100, but this was later overturned due to a technicality.

What were the consequences?
The week-long trial caused a national sensation, dominating newspaper headlines across the country, with journalist HL Mencken coining the nickname ‘the Monkey Trial’. The case was also the first to be broadcast live over national radio, with WGN radio paying $1,000 a day just for use of the court house's telephone lines.

During the trial, Darrow called Bryan to the stand and cross-examined his fundamentalist beliefs. Forced to admit under questioning that he took every word of the Bible literally, Bryan was humiliated for what many believed to be his backward beliefs. The trial seemingly took its toll on him - Bryan died five days later, on the 26 July.

Although Scopes and Darrow ultimately lost the case, the Monkey Trial brought attention to their cause and the need for academic freedom. The press attention also highlighted the scientific evidence for evolution and increased overall interest in teaching it in schools.

Who was involved?

John T Scopes
1900-1970
Scopes was put on trial for teaching his high school students the theory of evolution, which had been prohibited by the Butler Act.

William Jennings Bryan
1860-1925
Lawyer for the creationists, Bryan led the prosecution against Scopes and obtained a guilty verdict at the trial.

Clarence Darrow
1857-1938
A famed defence attorney, Darrow agreed to represent Scopes during the trial for free and famously mocked Bryan for his beliefs.
From the end of pagan Rome to the upheaval of the Protestant Reformation, Eamon Duffy brings together a series of essays spanning a thousand years of religious history. *Royal Books and Holy Bones: Essays in Medieval Christianity* tackles questions surrounding prayer and pilgrimage, hope and fear, and explores the world as it was perceived by Medieval Christians from cradle to grave and beyond.

The collection is divided into four parts: *Books*, *Crisis and Movements*, *Saints* and *On the Eve of Reformation*. The essays are then organised as chapters within these sections, and they cover a wide array of topics. Their scope is incredibly impressive.

The nature and changing conceptions of childhood are questioned, as well as how people understood and prepared for the trials of Purgatory. Saints of course form a natural point for discussion, such as the analysis of the cult of ‘St’ Henry VI. Within months of his murder in the Tower of London in 1471, on the orders of Edward IV, the fallen king was venerated as saint. Duffy’s examination of this unofficial saint-cult, and how it came into being, is particularly interesting.

A further essay tackles the horrors and ravages of plagues. During the Black Death, a Franciscan chronicler of the disease left pages in his book blank so that survivors, if there were any, might later complete his work. His name was John Clynn, and - as he had anticipated - he did not survive.

This is but one example from among many of the suffering plagues wrought in an emotive and searching chapter.

While their subjects may be diverse, there is an interest in material culture that is repeated throughout the essays. Duffy unpicks prayer books, rosaries and relics, and in doing so breathes life into the Medieval world. This focus places the experiences of the people of that period - the things they believed, saw and touched - at the heart of the book. *Royal Books and Holy Bones* also contains a selection of full colour images with accompanying descriptions. They underline the vibrancy of the era and support the focus on material culture.

Re-worked from earlier articles and lectures, *Royal Books and Holy Bones* is highly readable and the writing style is compelling. There is an inquiring tone that permeates the pages. And, as the essays are stand-alone pieces of work, the collection can be easily picked up and put down again if one’s reading happens to be interrupted. In that sense, there is an episodic feel to the essays.

Additionally, the book is situated within a wider framework of research and study. The work of other scholars is frequently referenced and explored, and this aspect of the essays proves interesting and engaging.

In short, *Royal Books and Holy Bones* is an eloquently written and authoritative volume, which will draw in readers interested in the Medieval period and the history of Christianity. It highlights the multifaceted beliefs of Medieval people, and the recurring theme of material culture makes their world feel almost tangible once again.

*This superb collection of essays offers an engaging and thought-provoking exploration of Medieval Christianity.*
While the skyline of Rome has changed dramatically over the past 2,000 years, one building has remained constant – the Colosseum. Slowly falling into ruin but not quite as dilapidated as some of the other Roman ruins in the city, it’s an easy target for books and most classicists have taken a pop at it. But now the iconic Haynes Manuals have tackled it. On the one hand, it’s hard to see what new information can be brought to the table on this one topic. Countless books have been published on the Colosseum and almost all of the information can be found on the internet with a fairly easy Google search. For this reason, it’s perhaps not worth the somewhat hefty price tag. This is perhaps compensated by the book leaning away from the Colosseum itself and looking into gladiators in general and amphitheatres through the Roman Empire, but, again, this is all information that is readily available elsewhere - not that much is new. Having said that, the handy illustrations and cutaways of some of the bits the public doesn’t necessary get to see are nice and the inside isn’t as text-heavy as you might think. There are stunning shots of the Colosseum illuminated in Rome, along with illustrations of the different tiers and how the structure was originally built and extended down the years. All in all, this is a book that’s good to have as a handy reference guide or to complete your Haynes Manual set but it does seem a little overpriced for what it is.

THE COLOSSEUM MANUAL

Another look at one of Rome’s most iconic buildings

Certificate 15 Distributor Acorn Media International Cast Tom Rosenthal, Ryan Sampson, Jonathan Pointing, Tom Basden Price £20 Released Out now

The boys are back in town, but there’s a new pleb on the block

The laugh-a-minute sitcom Plebs, returns to Rome (well, technically it’s filmed in Bulgaria) for a fourth season. But, spoiler alert - season favourite Stylax is killed off within the first 30 seconds. With their friend down, Grumio (Ryan Sampson) and Marcus (Tom Rosenthal) need to find a new flatmate, or else their dodgy landlord will send in the heavies. Enter Jason, played by Jonathan Pointing. He’s a vain blonde builder, who seems to have come straight out of The Only Way is Essex (the comedy was originally broadcast on ITV2 after all). Working his way into the lads’ lives, he becomes Stylax’s replacement. The gang are also in need of money, and decide to set up a wine bar in a disused toilet. In a stroke of genius, Grumio tries his hand at haute cuisine, and their ‘Crown and Toga’ bar becomes Rome’s hottest gastropub - but only for a moment. With new neighbours to contend with, will the boys make it through another year in Rome and live to tell the tale? Stylax, of course, will be sorely missed. The series retains its irreverent and amusing style, but swapping Stylax for yet another white, blonde, heterosexual male character feels like a step backwards - a missed opportunity to further diversify the show’s cast. That said, the not-so-subtle social commentary that’s integral to Plebs is, as ever, on point. It’s scathing towards hipsters, and the writers have no time for charity funding scandals, either. The show is still 100 per cent fresh, a must-watch for all comedy lovers.

Discover the triumphs and tragedies of Winston Churchill

Explore the extraordinary life of Winston Churchill in this new bookazine. As well as featuring his finest hour leading Britain through World War II, it reveals his less well-known early years as a war correspondent in South Africa, his secret life as a painter and final days as an elder statesman. However, this comprehensive guide doesn’t shy away from the controversies that have made the man routinely voted history’s greatest Briton a divisive figure either. The whole thing is rounded out with photos and amazing memorabilia from Churchill’s life.

Out now!
Empire of Guns
How one weapon reshaped the world

Author Priya Satia Publisher Gerald Duckworth & Co Ltd
Price £30 Released Out now

Stanford history professor Priya Satia explores the roots of the firearms trade, and how guns have influenced not just the outcome of battles but also global culture. Empire of Guns: The Violent Making of the Industrial Revolution is a study of some three centuries leading up to 1815, during which time the British Empire expanded its territory and influence all around the world - all at gunpoint.

As its title suggests, this hefty volume focuses on the role and importance of the gun trade to the Industrial Revolution, but also deals in the moral quandaries of those deeply involved in its success. The arms manufacturer Samuel Galton was accused of contradicting his Quaker faith by his involvement in producing lethal weapons. There is certainly a case to be made, as Galton and his fellow arms dealers were not very concerned about whose hands their weapons fell into. As Satia observes, in 1715 alone, "the government discovered that London gunsmiths were making 15,500 guns," which would be shipped all around the world, with some 4,000 of them, "for Service not Known". However, Satia uses Galton's case to show how the actual production of weapons was just one gear in the great war machine of the British Empire. Everyone from the miners who provided the raw materials to the bankers who funded Galton, Satia argues, were part of the emerging imperial military industrial economy.

The historian fires with both barrels in this unique work, which has broad implications for the modern world.

France
A frank and funny journey led by a gifted storyteller

Author John Julius Norwich Publisher John Murray
Price £25 Released Out now

Compiling his prologue for France in March this year, John Julius Norwich wrote that the title would likely be his final book. The sad news that the popular historian died in June aged 88 means this is the last work of a writer who has tackled such towering subjects as the Byzantine empire and the rise of Venice. It is fitting that Norwich's remarkable career is concluded with this ode to the country he loved best.

Intimated by the subtitle 'From Gaul to De Gaulle', the book is a delightfully witty jaunt through 2,000 years of French history. Royal enthusiasts will find much to enjoy, as the book gallops through the reigns of key monarchs, from the legendary (Francis I, Louis XIV) and the talented (Henry IV, Philip Augustus) to the altogether disastrous (Charles VI, Louis XVI).

It's no mean feat to squeeze 200 centuries of history into a 300-odd page book but John Julius Norwich deftly moves through the events, revealing an excellent overview of France's domestic and foreign highs and woes, spanning war, peace, religion, culture, society and more.

Fans of Norwich's ebullient style will be pleased to see his on-point descriptions of the figures chronicled and his trademark tongue-in-cheek footnotes, which contain such delights as the unexpected perils of playing a game of tennis.

And anecdotes from Norwich's boyhood mingling with the great and famous - including asking French president Charles de Gaulle if he was going to finish his apple pie - top off the narrative nicely. He will certainly be missed by all who have previously enjoyed his work.

The British Empire expanded its territory and influence all around the world - all at gunpoint

FRANCE
Lively, Erudite, Endearing

WAR RECOMMENDS...

WORLD WAR II AT SEA
Author Craig L Symonds Price £25
Publisher Oxford University Press

From Dunkirk to the Battle of the Atlantic, Pearl Harbor to Midway, the tide of World War II was turned at sea, argues this compelling read from acclaimed naval historian, Craig L Symonds, World War II at Sea: A Global History offers a sweeping overview of the war’s major naval engagements – from the fight for Norway’s fjords to Japan’s Pacific dominance – and major belligerents. This sprawling history reveals the conflict’s staggering scale and interconnectedness.

EmPiRe oF Guns

The Violent Making of the Industrial Revolution

Author Priya Satia
Publisher Gerald Duckworth & Co Ltd
Price £30

Empire of Guns
How one weapon reshaped the world

Author Priya Satia
Publisher Gerald Duckworth & Co Ltd
Price £30

Out now!
I, TONYA

Despite the odds this black comedy biopic finds its feet on the ice

Certificate: 15
Director: Craig Gillespie
Cast: Margot Robbie, Sebastian Stan, Allison Janney
Released: Out now

In January 1994, American figure skater Tonya Harding ceased to be famous for her triple-axel jumps and became infamous following an attack on her competitor, Nancy Kerrigan. The ensuing media frenzy overshadowed the year's Winter Olympics, before the disgraced champion was banned from major competitions for good. Craig Gillespie's darkly comic I, Tonya reminds us that while it's unclear how much or little Harding knew about it (eventually pleading guilt to conspiring to hinder prosecution) she did not personally attack her rival, and her reputation as redneck brawler of ice skating is deeply unfair.

The film begins with Harding as a plucky working-class kid in 1970s Oregon, more interested in hunting in the woods than becoming an Ice Capades princess. But her overbearing mother, LaVona Fay Golden (a scene-stealing Allison Janney) pushes her into it. Golden tries to motivate her daughter through cruel taunts from the woods – her coach turns to the camera and says, “She actually did this.”

While this makes for stylised, more entertaining viewing, more pedantic viewers may come away frustrated that the film replicates the ‘he said, she said’ accusations that played out on the tabloids at the time, without serving up a definitive answer.

Where the film does land hard is in its condemnation of Harding's trial by media. A victim who refused to act like it, putting on the same ultra-tough front. The sheer scale and scope of the camp system throughout Nazi-occupied Europe.

I, Tonya offers a breath of icy fresh air to the sports biopic genre, while shedding new light on a misunderstood figure.

TOP FIVE BOOKS ON... NAZI GERMANY

THE THIRD REICH: A HISTORY OF NAZI GERMANY
Author: Thomas Childers
Price: £16
For those looking for a broad overview of the Nazi's rise and fall, you can't go wrong with this guide. From Hitler's childhood through to World War II, this exhaustive chronicle profiles key events and players in detail. The book also boasts a wealth of maps, photographs and notes for those that want to dig deeper.

BECOMING HITLER
Author: Thomas Weber
Price: £16
In Mein Kampf, Hitler created an origin myth for himself as a self-assured leader who united the National Socialists with his clear vision for Germany in 1919. Weber teases this idea apart in this gripping biography, revealing how a loner turned into a demagogue only after years of shifting political opinions and priorities.

KL: A HISTORY OF NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS
Author: Nikolaus Wachsmann
Price: £15
This in-depth account of the Holocaust is comprehensive and necessary, but its harrowing savagery will test even the strongest constitution. As well as providing a close-up look at life and death in the concentration camps, it details the sheer scale and scope of the camp system throughout Nazi-occupied Europe.

TRAVELLERS IN THE THIRD REICH
Author: Julia Boyd
Price: £20
Julia Boyd features letters and diaries from journalists, politicians and even celebrities like Charles Lindbergh and Samuel Beckett that visited Germany in the 1930s. These accounts range are diverse and often contradictory, ranging from trivial to tragic, but they combine to produce a thorough picture of life under Hitler.

STORMTROOPERS
Author: Daniel Siemens
Price: £13
While we're used to seeing footage of the Nazi Brownshirts marching in mass, rarely do we consider the motives of the individual rank and file. Siemens' biography does just that, with portraits of ‘ordinary’ SA members, while also chronicling the organisation's roots, and why Hitler turned to the paramilitary group.
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In the film, Prime Minister Tony Blair’s wife, Cherie, refuses to curtsy to the Queen. Though tabloids have long accused Cherie of snubbing the royals, she wrote in her autobiography that she actually got on well with the Queen but struggled with the wider family.

According to the film’s writer, Peter Morgan, Prince Philip does affectionately call Her Majesty ‘cabbage’. However, the royal couple are shown on screen sharing a bed at Balmoral Castle, when in actual fact they sleep in separate bedrooms.

Sorry to nitpick, but Robin Janvrin was not the Queen’s private secretary in August 1997 as the film claims, but her deputy private secretary. However, he was the one who had to break the news of Diana’s car crash to Queen in the middle of the night.

The royal family are accurately shown staying secluded at Balmoral for the first few days after Diana’s death. Like in real life, this caused outrage amongst the public, which forced the Queen to travel to London to give a televised speech the day before the funeral.

Interspersed throughout the film is actual newsreel footage of the week following Diana’s death. Such real-life scenes included Diana’s press conferences, the mass gatherings and floral tributes outside Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace.

Director: Stephen Frears  Starring: Helen Mirren, Michael Sheen, James Cromwell, Helen McCrory  Country: United Kingdom, France, Italy  Released: 2006

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