

**HISTORY AND POLITICS SOCIETY 2019-2020**



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*All of the articles on the following pages are strictly the opinions of pupils, aged 13-16, in the Third Year, Fourth Year and Fifth Year at Abingdon School*

## Hong Kong In Revolt by Jonathan Ocheró

The mass street protests, the tear gas and clashes with the police, the chaos and insurgence in what was once one of the most idyllic and prosperous places in the world, all started with a young couple and their trip, their destination, Taiwan.

Poon Hiu-wing (girlfriend) and Chan Tong-kai (boyfriend), 20 and 19 respectively, were on a holiday together in Taiwan, but when it was time for them to return to Hong Kong, where they lived and came from, Poon Hiu-wing was nowhere to be seen. Chan Tong-kai came back alone. Under investigation by Hong Kong Police Chan Tong-kai, would later confess that he strangled and stuffed his wife in a suitcase, before dumping the suitcase behind some bushes near a train station in Tai-Chung, Taiwan. However, this incident was nearly a year ago, and it was only earlier on this February, nearly a year after Chan's arrest, that the Hong Kong government cited the case to propose legislation that would allow the city to transfer criminal suspects to Taiwan and other places with which it lacks an extradition treaty — including mainland China.



It is from this seemingly small case that I'm sure many people looking at the scenes in Hong Kong from a western perspective have never even heard of. But it is also from this seemingly small case, that one of the most stable, striving cities in the world, completely collapsed, turning it from a peaceful, business and tourist hub, to a dangerous war zone. In this article, I will be discussing the ravaging protests that are currently going in the city state of Hong Kong, China. How are they affecting Hong Kong, and are they really making a positive difference?

Firstly, the Hong Kong protesters have 5 main objectives:

- Complete withdrawal of the extradition bill from the legislative process
- Retraction of the "riot" characterisation
- Release of arrested protesters
- Establishment of an independent commission of inquiry into police conduct and use of force during the protests
- Resignation of Carrie Lam and the implementation of universal suffrage for legislative council and for the election of the chief executive

Most of these objectives seem at least remotely sensible or justifiable, although whether the objectives are likely to be granted, is another whole matter one could write an article on.

At first, these views were expressed in moderately peaceful ways, with peaceful protests and marches throughout the city. In 12 June, 2019, when the second reading of the extradition bill was to be debated, protestors successfully stopped the reading by surrounding the Government Headquarters. This led to

Police using controversial methods like firing tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse protestors. Following the clashes, protesters began asking for an independent inquiry into police brutality and urging the government to retract the "riot" characterisation. Looking at these events, it seems evident that protestors hadn't done too much wrong, and that it was in fact the Police who were acting far too aggressively. Following all this was the annual march on 1st July, that was during the day and largely peaceful. At night however, protesters stormed the Legislative Council, while police took little action to stop them. The protestors were partly angered by heightened cases of suicides since 15 June, and they smashed furniture, defaced the Hong Kong emblem, and presented a new ten-point manifesto. It is from here the protests in Hong Kong started to escalate. The protests became more and more violent, and turbulent clashes with Police became more frequent. At first the Police were the ones who were provoking violence, but after that day, the aggression from protestors escalated.

Now, the protests have done more than bruise the streets of Hong Kong. They have created a strong divide between the people. Hong Kong society has been as divided as ever by its three social groups: Yellow Ribbons, which composes of all people who support the protests and strongly oppose Beijing, Green Ribbons, whom are neutral, and Blue Ribbons, who oppose the protests, and some also strongly support Beijing too. Although this existed far before the protests started, these social groups have never divided Hong Kong so much, until now. However, calling this a social divide wouldn't be so accurate, as an overwhelming majority class themselves as Yellow Ribbons. Friends of mine who live in Hong Kong tell me that practically all their friends back in Hong Kong are Yellow Ribbons, and oppose anybody who is otherwise, meaning people who are both Green and Yellow Ribbons are in great fear, some for their lives. Many elderly people who are Blue or Yellow Ribbons decided not to vote in the District Council elections, in fear that Yellow Ribbons will come for their lives. 'These Yellows...' one of my roommates said 'They are ruining Hong Kong of its stability, and freedom of speech.' He is a Green Ribbon, meaning he isn't really on anybody's side. But like countless other people who attend Abingdon School and live in Hong Kong, he believes that the protestors have crossed the line with their aggressive behaviour. 'They are not bringing any peace to Hong Kong. All they are doing is destroying it.'

Society isn't the only thing the protests are destroying. One thing you should have in mind is that Hong Kong is one of the world's most significant financial centres and commercial ports, and has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world. Generally, massive financial hubs like Hong Kong are partly successful thanks to their stability. Nobody wants to make business in a war zone, which is what the streets of Hong Kong could be loosely associated with. The protests are a threat to investors, some of whom abandoned their purchases of land in fear of Hong Kong's current instability. Shops who are accused of supporting the mainland are looted, some even burnt, putting businesses in very sticky situations. Tourism was also affected. The number of visitors travelling to Hong Kong declined by 40% in August 2019 compared to August 2018, which is no surprise as the Hong Kong International Airport was repeatedly targeted by violent protestors who tried their best to disrupt flights and the general flow of things at the airport. All this is evidence that the protests truly have bruised Hong Kong's formerly brilliant financial record.

Saying all that I've mentioned, there is a group of protestors who are much more peaceful in what they do, and who, instead of repeatedly clashing with police and vandalising the streets of Hong Kong, take to more peaceful strategies, like raising awareness of the protest's cause, organizing strikes and forming human chains to show their views. However, this group does not condemn the violent actions of the more violent group, on the other hand, they support them, and not only this, but their peaceful actions are simply overshadowed by the bigger, more aggressive protest group.

To conclude, all the protests really seem to be achieving, is trouble. It's simply making a massive mess of Hong Kong, ruining its reputation both economically, politically and socially. None of its 5 objectives are even close to being granted; all they really seem to be doing is testing Beijing's patience. I doubt that China will conduct a full scale invasion of Hong Kong- it would simply make an even bigger mess of a messy situation, making foreign powers involve themselves further into a situation that China doesn't want them to be involved in. But the protests are slowly by slowly, beginning to shake Hong Kong's foundations. And if these protests continue at the rate of which they are doing so now, they may be no Hong Kong left to fight for.



## The Wars of the Roses by Ruairi Tilley



The wars of the roses lasted 30 years between the 22 may 1455 and 22 august 1485. The war between the royal houses of Lancaster and York. the war began when Duke Richard of York felt that his cousin King Henry VI was unfit to rule (he was not wrong) and felt cheated out of the throne when Henry had a son named Edward. Many believe that the white rose and red rose were the symbols the houses wore into battle, this is false as there is evidence that suggests king Henry VII came up with the idea years later to show he unified the houses with the Tudor rose. The first battle was in St Albans on 22 august 1455 when the king and his train were travelling through the area and were ambushed by Richard in an attempt to claim the throne for himself. The battle went in Richard' s favour and he continued to fight for 4 years until he was captured in 1459. Richard was held in captivity for the next few months until his execution in 1560. His claim passed to his son Edward. Edward was a great warrior and was,

according to sources, 6 foot 4 and broad shouldered. He also had a gift for evoking loyalty in his followers. He also had the support of the most powerful noble in the land, Lord Richard Neville, the Kingmaker. The first major turning point was in the October of 1455 when the Kingmaker invaded from Calais, taking the king captive along with many of his prominent followers. In 1461 Edward of York was declared king Edward IV. He managed to retain his title thanks to a crushing battle at Towton. This was arguably the most important battle until the battle of Bosworth in 1485. There was over 50,00 men on the field with 28,000 never leaving it. The Yorkist forces were severely outnumbered, with a large number of their army yet to arrive. They did however have one thing on their side, the wind. The wind was amazingly strong and blowing at their backs, directly into the faces of the Lancastrian forces. This meant their arrows would go faster and further. At one point in the battle king Edwards horse fled with him on it, the men would have been horrified to see their king abandoning them, only to see him return helmetless and on foot to re-join the battle. There was also an incredible display of leadership by the Kingmaker, who gave an incredible speech about some nobles using horses to abandon their men, he then proceeded to kill his horse then and there to show he was with them all the way. It is regarded as one of, if not the bloodiest battle on English soil.

The 20-year period of relative peace that followed under Edward IV was one of unrest for many. This included the Kingmaker as his minor local lords gained power as one of their daughters, Elizabeth Woodville, married the king. In response to this the Kingmaker went to France, to ally himself with Margaret of Anjou and put Henry VI back on the throne. The next two years were rapid successions of battles, with York victories at Barnet, where the Kingmaker was killed by being stabbed in the eye 63 times,



and Tewkesbury where the Lancastrian heir Edward was either killed or executed after the battle. Henry was taken captive and murdered this was the end of the Lancastrian line directly. There was also a lot of resistance against Edward by his brother George and Richard on account of his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville. With Georges and Richards wives also being siblings, Isabel and Anne Neville. In 1476 Isabel died, with George and Richard suspecting Elizabeth of the murder. George was executed for treason on account of this, he asked to be drowned in the queen's favourite wine, this was an attempt to spite her, it worked. In 1483 king Edward died unexpectedly, and Richard seized the throne. The people of the north loved Richard, as he had been a good liege lord to them for years. The nobility however did not like Richard, as they saw him as a power grabbing pretender. The final battle of the wars was in 1485, Henry Tudor, a distant Lancastrian relative, fighting against Richard the III. Richards army was much larger, and he was understandably confident. However the Stanley brothers decided not to fight until the end, and the duke of Northumberland refused to fight for Richard. This shifted the odds in Henry's favour. Seeing his predicament, Richard lead an all or nothing charge in a last-ditch attempt to kill Henry. He smashed through Henry's bodyguards and almost reached the young lord, only to be blocked by sir John Chaney, he clawed across Chaney's face, leaving him permanently disfigured, and continued towards the Lancastrian lord. The Stanley brothers decided to charge in at that exact moment and cornered Richard in a bog, Richard hacked and hacked but was eventually overpowered. The wars had ended the Lancaster name was extinct alongside the York name, but they gave rise to a more powerful one, one that everyone would know, the Tudor dynasty.

## Where has Brexit gone wrong? by Jonny Evans

In 2016 there was a referendum on whether we should leave the EU or not. It was a close vote but the public voted to leave the EU with 52% of the vote. I am going to tell you how Brexit has gone wrong.

On 31st March 2019 we were meant to leave the EU but MP's in the House of Commons rejected Theresa May's deal three times due to some issues we have delayed it until the 31st October. The deal covered a range of topics such as the rights of the EU citizens in the UK and British citizens in Europe how much money the UK was to pay the EU and the backstop for the Irish border. Many MP's disagreed with the backstop including the DUP. Currently, there are no border posts, physical barriers or checks on people or goods crossing the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The backstop is designed to ensure that continues after the UK leaves the EU.

Another factor is the single market. The single market enables goods, services, people and money to move between all 28 EU member states, as well as Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland, who are members of the European Economic Area. Countries in the single market apply many common rules and standards. At the moment we have not left the single market but we want to leave it because we want to make our own regulations and laws. There is also another thing called the customs union which ensures that all EU countries charge the same taxes on goods coming in from outside. They do not charge taxes on each other's goods. We want to leave the customs union because at the moment the EU negotiates trade deals on behalf of all countries which means that each country has to agree each deal before it is adopted. Outside the customs union the UK will be able to negotiate their own trade deal such as with America.



At the moment the debate is whether we should have a second referendum or we completely scrap Brexit or leave without a deal. A no-deal Brexit could cause a bit of disruption if the pound falls but I believe people are panicking too much as it won't be a complete disaster if we leave without a deal but Boris Johnson is trying his best to get a deal but at the moment we could be leaving without a deal.

Brexit is hugely complicated and Theresa May has made some big mistakes in trying to get a deal through Parliament as the majority of the MP's don't like how she negotiated with the EU. If we leave we leave.



## The downfall of Egypt by Warwick Jones

Egypt, the land of the pharaohs, pyramids and gods. Unconquered for thousands of years until alexander the great conquered it and installed the Ptolemaic pharaohs, and that is where it began. The first few Ptolemies were not that bad, but things soon spiralled downhill. The power in the world was changing, the mighty Carthaginians were destroyed and a new empire began to grow in Italy. By the time of Ptolemy the 13th, Egypt was a shadow of its former self, subservient to the Greeks who had been defeated and occupied by the roman empire. To make matters worse Ptolemy was only 13 and his older sister and co-ruler Cleopatra was keen to take solo rule as well as him. Cleopatra began minting her face on all the coins in Egypt while also putting her name on documents, not with Ptolemy's. Eventually the pair of power struggling siblings finally snapped and Ptolemy exiled Cleopatra to Syria. However, she gained a lot of support and declared war on her brother, sparking a civil war which tore Egypt in two. The war waged on with no clear winning side until Pompey, fleeing from Greece after his strongholds were taken by Julius Caesar, landed in Egypt seeking aid for his civil war. Ptolemy, seeing an opportunity to gain the legendary Caesar as an ally had Pompey and his men executed and presented caterer with his foe's head in a pickled jar upon his arrival. Instead of gaining an ally, Caesar was disgusted and demanded his former friend be given a proper burial and then sided with Cleopatra with whom he fell in love.



With the roman legions backing them, and the siege of Alexandria lifted, the scene was set for a final battle. Ptolemy's forces gathered on the banks of the Nile and Cleopatra's army, with Caesar's reinforcements, engaged from the west. The battle was a victory for Cleopatra and Ptolemy drowned while trying to cross the Nile. Cleopatra reigned in Egypt with her and Caesar's son until she fell in love with Mark Anthony and allied herself with him in the civil war against Octavian. The story from here is well known. Octavian invaded Egypt and won decisive victories against the Egyptian and Mark Antony's armies. After being told mark was dead Cleopatra committed suicide and after Mark Antony, who was not dead, heard of this he committed suicide as well. Following this the Egyptians surrendered and Egypt became a roman colony and the reign of the pharaohs had ended. The 2 siblings desire for single rule and civil war crippled Egypt followed by invasion and colonization by roman forces marked the end of this great civilization. If Ptolemy had not cruelly murdered Pompey and if Cleopatra had put her nation above love, Egypt would have likely retained its independence and remained for many more years as a roman ally not a colony



## Robert Mugabe: Tyrannical Tyrant or Legendary Leader? By Dhruv Hegde

To some people, Robert Mugabe is considered a tyrant and evil dictator who should have been assassinated in the many previous attempts, To others, he was the greatest President who brought Zimbabwe out of its misery and into a new era.

“If you were my enemy, you are now my friend. If you hated me, you cannot avoid the love that binds me to you and you to me.”

**Robert Mugabe**

During national address, 1980



Mugabe had nearly 40 years running Zimbabwe. Once a freedom fighter, imprisoned for his beliefs, and at the time benefitting from wide support among the western left, he was elected prime minister in 1980 as Zimbabwe's saviour. Clever and articulate, he preached pan-African black power but also reconciliation. However, the institutions in the fledgling democracy, borrowed from Westminster (which, we are discovering, is a weak democratic model), were easily abused.

In the beginning, he was welcomed by a reborn country yet by the 1980's, he had started an ethnic cleansing of opposition supporters. This led to anti-government protests which started to become out of hand. To avoid this, he forcibly removed white farmers, paving a way for his political aides. Then hyperinflation went through the roof, at 500 billion%; something which the country still hasn't recovered from. This led to the issuing of 100 trillion



dollar notes, which were so worthless that the poorer members of Zimbabwean society using it as fuel for their fires. As a result of this, Mugabe was stripped of his knighthood and sanctions were placed on the country. He retorted by accusing the British of stealing their natural resources. This was part of his propaganda which he used for his victory in 2008 elections but by 2017, he was facing protests to step down as prime minister. Eventually he was ousted by the military. His Zanu-PF Party stayed in power with Emmerson Mnangagwa being its new leader. Many people were angered by the new leader's decision and violent protests f

Many people thought of Robert Mugabe as a tyrant and a dictator but he kept Zimbabwe as a democracy.

## The importance of Kwame Nkrumah by Christian Lyons-Appiah

Kwame Nkrumah was the first president of Ghana after he guided the country to gain independence from Britain in 1957. He was born in 1909 and died in 1972. He is notorious for dancing with Queen Elizabeth on November 18th 1961. He was eventually overthrown by a coup in 1966.

His father was a goldsmith and his mother a retail trader. He spent nine years at the Roman Catholic elementary school in nearby Half Assini. In 1930, he became a teacher at Roman Catholic schools in Elmina and Axim.



Nkrumah started to get involved in politics and so decided to start university in the USA. He studied at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania in 1935 and, after graduating in 1939, obtained master's degrees from Lincoln and from the University of Pennsylvania. He studied the literature of socialism, especially Marcus Garvey, the black American leader of the 1920s. Eventually, Nkrumah came to describe himself as a 'Nondenominational Christian and a Marxist socialist.' He started working, reorganizing and becoming president of the African Students' Organization of the United States and Canada. He left the USA in 1945 and went to England, where he organized the 5th Pan-African Congress in Manchester.



He was then invited to serve as the UGCC's (the United Gold Coast Convention) general secretary, Nkrumah returned to Ghana in 1947. He addressed meetings throughout the Gold Coast and began to create a huge base for the new movement. When riots occurred in February 1948, the British arrested Nkrumah and other leaders of the UGCC.

Nkrumah was arrested again and sentenced to one year in prison. In 1951 Elected to Parliament, Nkrumah was released from prison

to become leader of government business and, in 1952, prime minister of the Gold Coast. As Ghana became independent in march 1957, was the first president of the country.

In 1958 he legalised going to prison without trial. People soon began to realise that Nkrumah's government was to be authoritarian. Nkrumah's popularity in the country rose, and as new roads, schools, and health facilities were built and as the policy of Africanization created more and better career opportunities for Ghanaians. Although later on in his career as president he started to fund more and more projects which rocketed the country's debt sky high to more than \$125 million. As the economy decreased widespread labour unrest created a general strike in September 1961. From then on Nkrumah began to become a much more careful apparatus of political control and to turn increasingly to the communist countries for support.

There was an attempted assassination of Nkrumah in Kulugungu in August 1962, the first of many. In early in 1964 Ghana was officially designated a one-party state, with Nkrumah as president for life of both nation and party. While the administration of the country passed into the hands of corrupt party officials.

Meanwhile, the economic crisis in Ghana worsened and shortages of foodstuffs and other goods became awful. On February 24, 1966, while Nkrumah was visiting Beijing, the army and police in Ghana seized power. Returning to Africa, Nkrumah found an asylum in Guinea, where he spent the remainder of his life. He later died of cancer in Bucharest in 1972.

## The curious case of ‘The Killdozer’ by Angus Fenton

Marvin Heeymer was a welder and mechanic in Granby, Colorado. He had moved to Granby over 10 years before 2004 and had been attempting to set up a business since 1992, being described by many residents of the town as a likeable person and that he was willing to “bend over backwards for anyone. Although normally seeming to be a very normal man Heeymer had been facing legal and financial troubles

due to a zoning dispute. In 1992, Heemeyer purchased 2 acres (0.8 ha) of land from the Resolution Trust Corporation, the federal agency organized to handle the assets of failed savings and loan institutions. He purchased the land for \$42,000 to build a muffler shop. He subsequently attempted to sell the land to Cody Docheff, for the construction of a concrete plant, for around \$250,000, however, he eventually began to increase this price up to \$1 million. In 2001, the zoning commission eventually agreed that the concrete plant should be built on Heeymer’s land, without his permission, he attempted to have the decision repealed, as the plant blocked access to his shop, but was unsuccessful. Due to the construction of the plant he was unable to hook his shop up to the sewer line as it blocked access to the sewer system, this resulted in a \$2,500 fine from the town council. All of this, combined with multiple personal troubles experienced earlier, such as his wife leaving him, was enough to make him snap, and making him vow revenge on those who had wronged him.



a .308 semi-automatic rifle, and a .22LR rifle, all fitted with a one-half-inch-thick (1.3 cm) steel plate. Heemeyer apparently had no intention of leaving the cabin once he entered it. Authorities initially speculated that he may have used a homemade crane, found in his garage, to lower the armoured hull over the dozer and himself.

Marvin Heeymer was later t have found to have written in his diary, “I was always willing to be reasonable until I had to be unreasonable. Sometimes reasonable men must do unreasonable things.” This was his justification for his following project, which would take him roughly 1.5 years. He would modify a bulldozer which would be used to enact his vengeance. The bulldozer was a modified Komatsu D355A, that Heemeyer referred to as the “MK Tank” in audio recordings, fitted with makeshift armour plating covering the cabin, engine, and parts of the tracks. In places, this armour was over 1 foot (30 cm) thick, consisting of 5000-PSI Quikrete concrete mix sandwiched between sheets of tool steel (acquired from an automotive dealer in Denver), to make ad-hoc composite armour. This made the machine impervious to small arms fire and resistant to explosives. Three external explosions and more than 200 rounds of ammunition fired at the bulldozer had no effect on it. For visibility, the bulldozer was fitted with several video cameras linked to two monitors mounted on the vehicle’s dashboard. The cameras were protected on the outside by 3-inch (76 mm) shields of bulletproof plastic. Compressed-air nozzles were fitted to blow dust away from the video cameras. Onboard fans and an air conditioner were used to keep Heemeyer cool while driving. He had made three gun-ports, fitted for a .50 calibre rifle,



On June 4, 2004, Heeymer drove out of his previous business in his bulldozer and directly towards the concrete plant. Over 2 hours Heeymer would destroy the concrete plant, the town hall, the office of the local newspaper that editorialized against him, the home of a former mayor/his widow. He would destroy a total of 13 buildings and cause a total of \$7 million. No one else was killed except for Heeymer, who committed suicide when he was trapped.

## The Halley's Comet panic of 1910 by Rory Sheppard

There have been a multitude of times the world was predicted to end. The Mayan calendar was interpreted to predict the end of days on December the 21st, 2012. Charles Manson thought a race war of apocalyptic proportions was to erupt in 1969, killing billions of people. Rashad Khalifa predicts that the world will end in 2280, his research based on sources taken from the Qur'an. However, no apocalyptic scare on a mass scale and so relevant to the west has been more overlooked in Western modern history than the Halley's Comet panic of 1910.



Technological advancement and economic prosperity in the Western world during the 1900's allowed for the majority of its richer population to afford some sort of rudimentary gadget or gizmo, or, if they preferred, to seek further education in a certain subject. (E.g, scientific textbooks, or if they were thinking something more flamboyant, a lecture from some expert in a certain field.) This meant that many more people within the west were interested in such things like astrology, and so when the Halley Comet was predicted to pass over the earth on the 18th of May, 1910, public interest in the comet spiked to an all time high, becoming a nation-wide fascination.



Telescopes were sold at an impossible rate to sustain, hotels offered special deals, allowing people to gather on roofs and let the meteor pass, and the news ran wild with speculation. However, one man changed this almost festive atmosphere surrounding the comet to something far more foreboding. Camille Flammarion, a French astronomer believed that the tail following the comet, (at a length of 24 million miles,) contained a poisonous and lethal cyanogen gas, (which was devolved from cyanide, as the name suggests.) Which had given the comet its greenish hue. Flammarion speculated that the deadly gas would seep into the earth's atmosphere, where upon it would, "impregnate the atmosphere and possibly snuff out all life on the planet."

His fears were picked up by the New York Times, resulting in a small piece published by the newspaper, encouraging some less-trustworthy newspapers to distort Flammarion's speculation into a supposed fact. This wave of tabloids prophesising the end of the world, only a few days before the comet was due to pass resulted in people ransacking stores for gas masks.

Astronomers tried to reassure the public that the comet tail would be too dispersed when it reached the atmosphere, meaning that no one would even notice when the gas made contact with the earth. Tabloids nonetheless continued to proclaim a coming apocalypse, telling everyone it would be the death of all earthly life. The public's reaction was an uncanny mixture of panic and celebration as the date approached. Many

people took to storm cellars or sealed off their homes, shutting the flues in chimneys, stuffing cloth into door cracks, and tried not to breathe too deeply. Others went out to pubs and dances and partied the night away, having decided to spend their final hours in pubs and brothels dancing drunk and getting particularly raunchy thrills from a cheap prostitute.

Conmen took the bull by the horns by selling anti-comet pills, resulting in thousands of people being cheated out of their money, and some people worried the comet would cause the Pacific to change basins with the Atlantic and turn the world into one heterogeneous mass of chaotic confusion. Parishioners held final masses, and archaeological evidence from the period shows that people sealed up their keyholes to keep poison out of their homes.

When the comet finally passed, people found the air at a regular standard, and a bitter sense of embarrassment when they realised their fear was based off unfounded theories and baited titles spread by cheap tabloids. And although some people clung to theories linking the deaths of King George the 7th and Mark Twain to the comet, as well as the start of the Great War four years later, the West was swift to forget the time that cheap tabloids resulted in one of the biggest illegitimate scares it has seen in history.

## Major events of World War Two by Asher Zamler

World war 1 ended with the defeat of the allies to the Triple Entente. Known as the war to end all wars, it resulted in 40 million people and the birth of seven countries. The Treaty of Versailles was massively one sided to the Triple Entente saying that “Germany (to) accept the responsibility and her allies for causing all the loss and damage.” This required Germany to disarm, make territorial concessions, and pay 132 billion (442billion dollars in 2019). This treaty was a massive failure as it was unfair to the Germans and it was sure that they would want revenge against Britain and France, furthermore Neville Chamberlain held a passive attitude towards the Nazis as they allowed them to claim Austria without any military action.

### *Invasion of Poland:*

Finally in 1 September, the Nazis invaded Poland. However, 16 days later the Soviet Union also invaded Poland; claiming the west of Poland. This was because of the famous treaty of Molotov also known as the Treaty of Non-aggression between Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as neither France nor Britain wanted to corporate with the Soviet Union. Also known as the Molotov – Ribbentrop Pact, both side knew it was only a temporary peace treaty as Germany would attack the Soviets two years later. The invasion only took 35 days through the new tactic of Blitzkrieg thank to Heinz Guderian for his invention of heaving usage of his armoured division. Although Britain and France made a treaty with Poland stating they would help them with their military, they were helpless against the Nazis and would later suffer on the western fronts just months later.



### *Battle of France:*

After successfully conquering Poland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Holland, Germany wanted France. As a matter of fact, the French was well prepared for this attack as they spent 3 billion francs, its creator, Andr é Maginot was confident this defensive barrier (Minister of War of France 1929-1931) would stop attacks to France. However, although this actually prevented any direct attacks, it failed strategically. In 10 May 1940 Manstein decided to invade through Belgium to outflank the Maginot line. In the battle field, the Germans advanced quickly which resulted in conquering France and multiple other countries. On 22 June, the Second Armistice at Compi è gne was ‘agreed’ by the French and Nazis in which the Vichy government would still retain unconquered territories in the South. The Germans would occupy parts of France until the allied liberation in 1944.



### *Battle of Britain:*

After overwhelming France and the low countries, the Brits were left to face Germany. The Battle of Britain started around July 1941, although there are some disagreements between the exact dates with the Brits official recognising the start date as 10 July July until October 31 and the German historians regard this campaign to have lasted between July 1940 to June 1941. The Nazis aimed to complete the Operation Sea Lion which is to invade Britain. The first part of the invasion was weaken Britain’ s air force to make land



in Britain. It is the first major military campaign fought entirely by airforces. The Germans failed to conquer Britain is known as a major turning point in this world war as the Germans were successful so far in their campaign of their Europe. Luftwaffe was unable overwhelm the RAF and was postponed which led to the cancellation of Operation Sea Lion.



#### *Battle of Kiev:*

The Battle of Kiev was a German name for the operation which resulted in the biggest encirclement in the history of warfare. This lasted from 7 August to 7 September as part of their Operation Barbarossa, however the Soviets called it the Kiev strategic Defensive Operation. Most of the Red army was encircled including 452,700 soldiers, 2,642 guns and mortars and 64 tanks. The Soviets suffered 700,544 casualties, including 616,304 killed, captured or missing during the battle, both of the Western front and South-western front had to be recreated from scratch by the soviets as a result of severe casualty. The Germans managed the victory as their troops were better trained and had better equipment. However by committing the encirclement, Hitler made one of the worst mistakes of not invading Moscow which could have caused them to lose.

#### *Battle of Moscow:*

The battle of Moscow was a strategically important campaign on the Eastern front of WW2. It took place between October 1941 and January 1942 in the capital and largest population of the Soviets. The German strategic offence, known as Operation Typhoon advanced to Moscow in a full out attack as this would decided the fate of World war 2. Initially the Soviets conducted strategic defending but as time passed, they attempted to do counter-offensive and small-scale offensive operations which drove the Germans back. As the Germans failed, Hitler replaced the commander of OKH. Originally, Hitler's plan was to destroy the Soviet Union economically by seizing the control of the resources in Kiev. He declined the idea of Franz Halder who suggested him to attack Moscow straight away, but he decided to seize Ukraine.

#### *Normandy Landing(D-Day):*

The Normandy landings was a landing operation on 6 June 1444 of the Allied invasion of Normandy in Operation Overlord during WW2. This operation was the largest sea born invasion in history and would result in the liberation of France. The Allied forces managed to win this important battle was one of the biggest ally force victory yet.

#### *Conclusion:*

After the Normandy landing, there were some battles but the war finally ended on 2 September 1945 and resulted in the death of 70-85 million people.

## The Rwandan Genocide by Thomas Chorley

The Rwandan Genocide was a devastating Incident that changed the world and filled it with terror. It all started when In 1959, the Hutus overthrew the Tutsi monarchy, though the Tutsi where in the minority they led the country and tens of thousands of Tutsis fled to neighbouring countries, including Uganda. In just 100 days in 1994, about 800,000 people were slaughtered in Rwanda by ethnic Hutu extremists. They were targeting members of the minority Tutsi community, as well as their political opponents, irrespective of their ethnic origin. A group of Tutsi exiles formed a rebel group, called the Rwandan Patriotic Front, which invaded Rwanda in 1990 sadly and fighting continued and blood was shed until in 1993 a peace deal was agreed.



One Important event happened on 6th April 1994 a plane carrying then-President Juvenal Habyarimana, and his counterpart Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi was shot down, killing everyone on board. In the Genocide everybody was against everybody, Neighbours killed neighbours and some husbands even killed their Tutsi wives. Many deaths were ordered by Militants when Weapons and hit-lists were handed out to local groups, who knew exactly where to find their targets. The Killing spree lasted 100 days, around 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus had been killed, however barely anyone tried to stop the genocide. The Killing was made quick and efficient as thousands were killed by killers who used tools like machetes and clubs they also herded people into buildings and set them aflame with Kerosene.

## The Great Northern War (1700 - 1721) - by Magnus Taylor

The Great Northern War was started in response to Sweden's sudden growth in power in the Baltic, during the 17th century, under Gustav Adolphus. The empire, one of the European superpowers of the time, included modern-day Finland, Estonia, Latvia and parts of northern Germany and western Russia. Her neighbours: Russia, Poland-Lithuania and Denmark-Norway, had disliked this and started a secret coalition against her. Russia wanted a sea port on the Baltic, while Denmark-Norway wanted to reclaim the southern Swedish province of Scania, which had historically been Danish. Finally, the Polish-Lithuanian King, an elected and not very powerful role, wanted to make the country a hereditary monarchy. The Livonians promised to support this if he was able to free them from their Swedish masters. The coalition decided to strike soon after the new, young, King Charles XII was crowned King of Sweden in 1697. Denmark was first to launch an invasion to the Swedish satellite state of Schleswig in early 1700. This was soon followed by a Polish-Lithuanian invasion of Livonia (Latvia and Estonia) in June and a Russian invasion of Ingria (western Russia) in August.

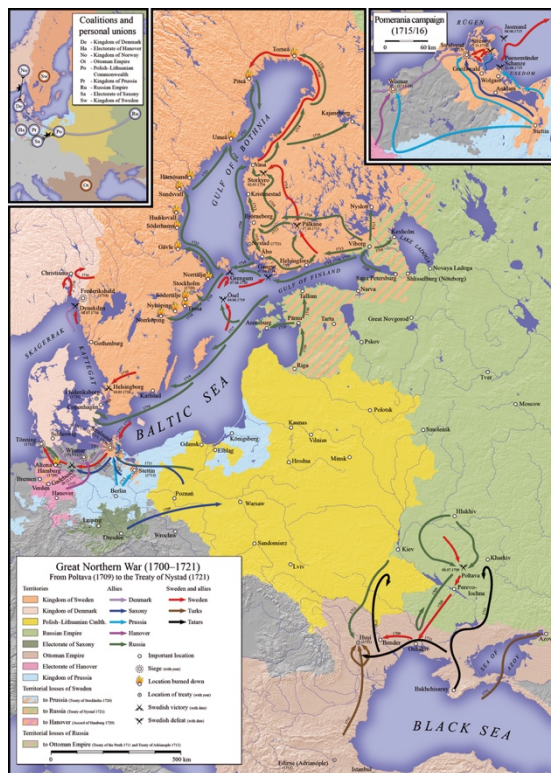
The young King was fast to act with a daring invasion of Zealand (the Danish island with its capital) and an embarrassing entrance of Copenhagen, forcing Frederick IV to exit the war with the Treaty of Travendal. After this, he immediately crossed the Baltic in October. Once in Ingria he marched to face the Russians with a relatively small army of 8,000. Once there, he reached besieging Russians at the large town of Narva. The town was surrounded by 40,000 Russians and under the leadership of Peter the Great, but, as Charles approached, Peter left, as he assumed he would not attack with such an exhausted army. However, during the first night, a blizzard completely blinded the Russians and Charles attacked. Without their King's leadership, the Russian army was slaughtered by the Swedes in the ensuing battle. The battle was a complete rout and a decisive Swedish victory. The Tsar feared a full-scale Swedish invasion of Russia and started to muster a second army. However, Charles stayed the winter in Livonia and prepared for an invasion into Poland-Lithuania the following year. During all of this, Western Europe had been fighting the War of Spanish Succession and Charles had been sent many invitations, from both sides, to be the single deciding factor in the war by securing peace with powers he had just defeated, determining who would get the lands of the large Spanish Empire and ensuring another century of Swedish dominance in Eastern Europe. However, Charles never responded to these, instead focussing on the current war.



In 1701, Charles started what would be a five-year long campaign in Poland-Lithuania with defeating the Poles and Russians besieging the town of Riva. The next year, he crossed into Poland-Lithuania at the river Duna. The crossing itself was famous as another victory for the Swedes against the odds. They were outnumbered three to one by the Poles and Russians, who were also dug in, all the while the Swedes had to perform an amphibious assault. Burning boats full of damp straw covered their approach. Then, when they landed, they realised the majority of the soldiers were ill-trained and not disciplined in the ways of war. The Swedes, on the other hand, were the best regiments led by their King and so the Poles and Russians started to flee. The general in charge of them, who had thought Charles would land further downstream, came back, but he was now outnumbered and he too soon faltered and fled. Now Charles was sufficiently supplied by what he was able to take from the camps for a long campaign in Poland-Lithuania. After several more defeats, Charles eventually captured the capital, Krakow. However, this left other Swedish provinces undefended, such as Ingria, which was invaded by Peter the Great. Peter was also able to defeat a Swedish army at the Battle of Errestfer. Charles, unconcerned by this, deposed Augustus and installed a loyal puppet king. At this, Augustus, now in exile in Saxony, started a Civil War by going against the new King with a small army. After trying to gain support for his new puppet king, Charles had to retake the capital after Augustus had recaptured it. After doing this, Charles invaded Saxony, a supporter of Augustus, and when he stormed its capital Leipzig, Augustus was forced to recognise the new King and formally abdicate the throne in 1706 with the Treaty of Narva.

After Charles had successfully driven Poland-Lithuania out of the war for good, he set his sights on an invasion of Russia. As I stated before, the Russians had invaded Ingria and they eventually had reached the coast of the Baltic at the Swedish fortress of Nyenskans. He tore this fortress down to build an even greater one - St. Petersburg. This port was the reason that he had entered the war, and so he tried to sue for peace with Charles, but he Charles refused. After two years of failed attempts by the Swedes for St. Petersburg and failed negotiations, on the first of January 1708, Charles entered Russia with an army of 45,000, his largest ever. He started well, covering lots of ground before waiting for spring in Minsk. After this he had partial success, defeating some Russian armies and reaching the Dneiper river by June. After this however, Peter opted for a scorched earth policy, wherein the retreating Russians would burn whatever supplies they could before the Swedes could capture them and avoiding any conflict with the Swedes. To combat this, Charles turned southwards from Moscow, now heading for Ukraine, where he would meet a planned Cossack revolt

and a ten thousand strong Swedish supply army. However, this would prove to be Charles' greatest error. For, Peter had learnt of this Cossack revolt and so he destroyed it in October before it could start. The Swedish supply army also failed in their task, being defeated by a similar sized Russian army at the Battle of Lesnaja. Although the supplies were lost, 6,000 men still made it to Charles. The worrying thing for Charles, however, was the new skill of the Russian army, no longer an ill-trained mass but a well-trained one. This left Charles with little supplies for the winter, he had little artillery and gunpowder as it either gotten too wet or they could not carry it along the broken and dangerous Russian roads. Also, this winter was no ordinary one, it was called The Great Frost, the coldest winter in Europe for five hundred years. Even the Venetian Lagoon was frozen over. By the next spring in 1709, Charles had lost over half of his original men. Charles, now growing desperate, knew his only chance of winning was by having one decisive battle with Peter. And so, Charles began a siege of the Southern Russian fortress of Poltava, in order to try and gain a base within Russia. While overseeing siege works, a stray bullet hit Charles in the foot, forcing him to remain far from the battlefield in a litter (a chair) for the rest of the campaign. Finally, Peter came to meet him with at least 80,000. The battle was a disaster for the Swedes, the army was dwarfed by the Russians and the King, their leader, who was always at the front, had to remain behind them. To try and turn the tide of battle Charles ordered his litter-bearers to bring him to the front line to raise the morale of the troops. However, the Russian artillery and guns killed most of the litter-bearers before they could reach the front line, and soon Charles fell. With Russians near it seemed he would be captured. But, his remaining litter-bearers fought bravely to defend their King and bought him enough time for a Major to put Charles on his horse, before being cut down himself. The routed Swedes now faced a dilemma, either they could try and retreat behind the Dneiper where they would be safe or make a stand against the masses of Russians. In the end, they decided to leave a large portion of the army to defend the retreat of Charles who fled, along with 1,500 cavalry to the border between Russia and the Ottoman Empire. The remainder of the army was soon captured by Peter and 14,000 Swedes were forced to surrender in mass.



Charles was welcomed to the Ottoman Empire and even persuaded the Ottomans to start war with Russia, who desperately wanted Charles to be released and were currently invading. Trapping them with the enormous Ottoman Home Army of 200,000, Peter was able to leave with his army, but in return, he had to allow Charles safe passage back to Sweden. Not happy with these terms, Charles pressed the Ottomans to destroy the Russian army, however, they refused and ordered him to return to Sweden. With no other choice, and after four years in the Ottoman empire, the defeated King left and returned to Sweden in 1714. During his stay in the Ottoman empire, the original coalition wreaked havoc on the Swedish Empire. Russia captured the majority of the Baltic states under Sweden's control and large swathes of Finland. Augustus usurped the puppet King of Poland-Lithuania and helped the Danes attack Sweden's German possessions and the Danes even tried to invade Scania, but in vain. When Charles returned his spirit spurred on the Swedish war effort, however, on a campaign in Norway, Charles was shot in the head during the siege of Fredriksten. The Swedes were able to protect Swedish Pomerania in Germany and the homeland itself, even getting peace deals of pre-war conditions with Denmark-Norway and Poland-Lithuania. However, the war with Russia carried on until 1721 when Sweden was forced to sign the humiliating Treaty of Nystad, in which they lost their all their Baltic possessions. Luckily for Sweden, they were able to keep Finland and Russia even paid some compensation. The war saw the end of the Swedish empire as a

superpower of Europe and saw Russia emerge as a new one. Now it controlled the Baltic and it could finally have a true say in Western European affairs.