

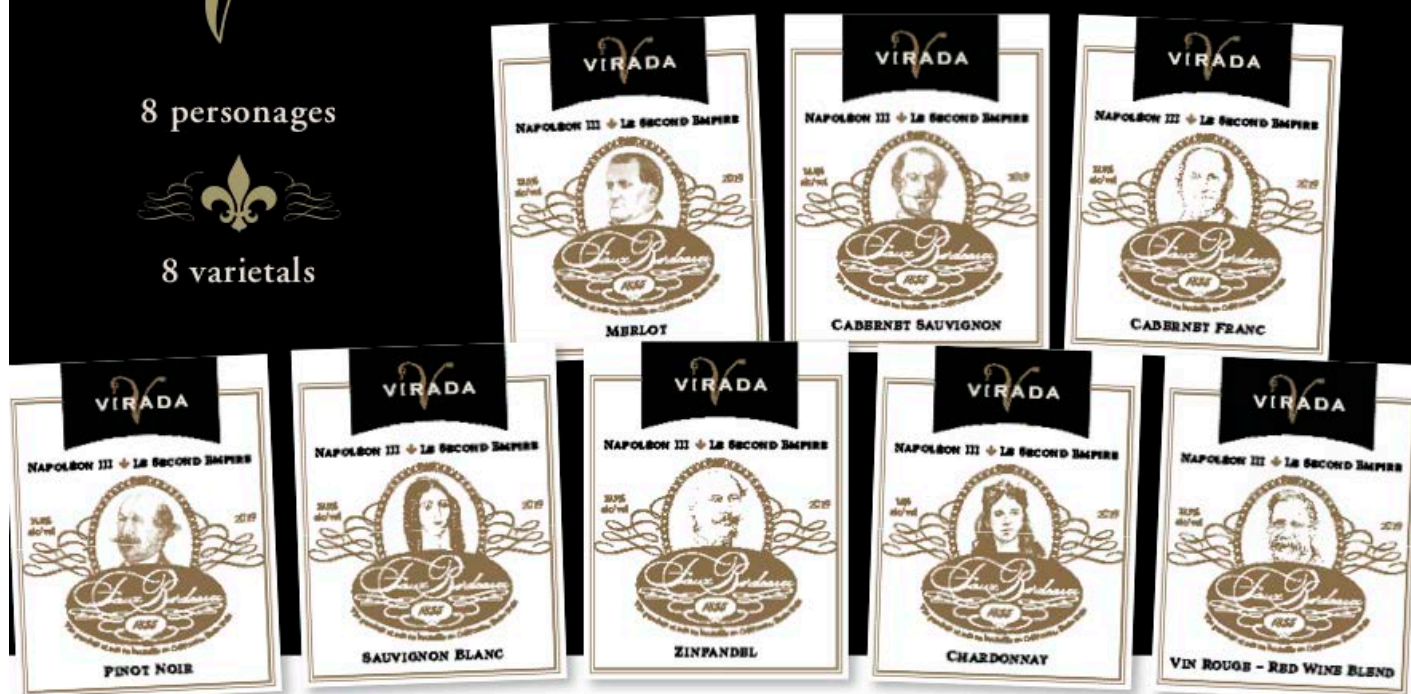
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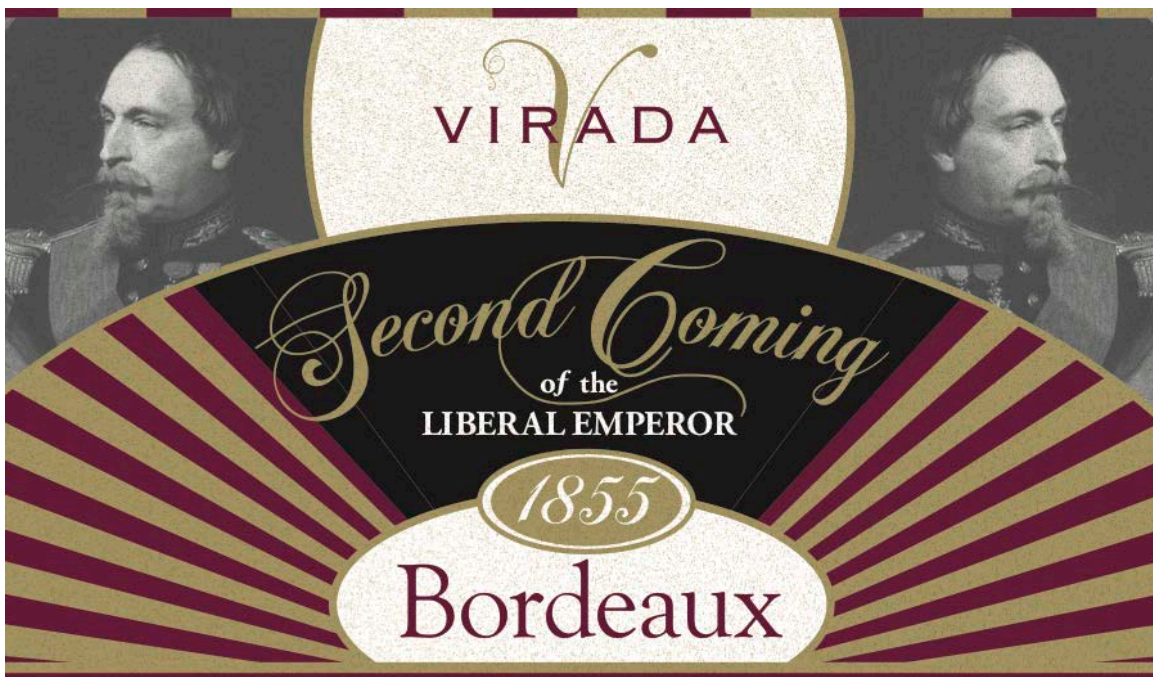


French Second Empire: Dec. 02, 1852 — Sep. 02, 1870

Drops & Dribbles:

Wine Trade Through Civilization

Part Three



His Just Desserts

The Big Top Epic Collapse on the Greatest Carnival Ever

The Cataclysmic Fall of the Second Empire of France

The Atacama Caravan of El Condor

March 2023



Entrée de Napoléon I à Berlin 27 octobre 1806

1810

Napoléon's I entry of Berlin

by Charles Meynier

- Note famous Brandenburg Gate -



*Napoléon I, Alexander I of Russia, Queen Louise and
King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia in Tilsit, July 1807*

by Nicolas Gosse, c. 1900

Prisoners of Time
Prussians, Germans and other Humans

By Christopher Clark [Allen Lane; UK] 2021

Pg. 62-65

Jena & Junkers

Failure is a far better teacher than success. A case in point is the Battle of Jena fought on 14 October 1806 on the plateau west of the River Saale between the forces of Napoléon I of France and Fredrick William III of Prussia. Jena seemed decisive at the time, because, along with the defeat at nearby Auerstadt, **it led to the truncation of Prussia**, which retained only its four core provinces, the imposition of *a French occupation and a massive indemnity and political subjugation to Napoléon's France.*

>>> DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

>>> But in the longer term, these consequences were relativized. **Victory in the War of the Sixth Coalition (1813-14) brought Prussia back into possession of most of its lost lands, canceled out the indemnity by means of a counter-indemnity imposed on defeated France and restored Prussia's position as a European power.**

But Jena was also significant for another reason: **the shattering defeat of one of Europe's proudest armies**, an army whose pride in itself rested on the extraordinary reputation of Frederick the Great in the previous century, **prompted a profound process of self-examination and reform.**

The Prussians had been defeated by a better managed force of about the same size (there were 53,000 Prussians and 54,000 French deployed).

Even worse was the news from Auerstadt a few miles to the north, where on the same day **a Prussian army numbering some 50,000 men** under the command of the Duke of Brunswick was **routed by a French force half that size under Marshal Davout.**

Over the following fortnight, the French broke up a smaller Prussian force near Halle and occupied the cities of Halberstadt and Berlin. Further victories and capitulations followed. **The Prussian army had not merely been defeated; it had been ruined.**

The reformers also had wider objectives. *They aimed to overcome the caste-like exclusiveness of the officer corps.*

>>> **Aristocracy must make way for meritocracy [less pedigree, more ability].**

**Revenge is most often served ice cold by a *Biche* with a
long elephant's memory:**

Treaties of Tilsit

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaties_of_Tilsit

- Truncated -

The **Treaties of Tilsit** were two agreements signed by Napoléon I of France **in the town of Tilsit in July 1807** in the aftermath of his victory at Friedland. The first was signed on 7 July, between Emperor Alexander I of Russia and Napoléon I of France, when they met on a raft in the middle of the Neman River.

>>> The second was signed with Prussia on 9 July. *The treaties were made at the expense of the Prussian king, who had already agreed to a truce on 25 June after the Grande Armée had captured Berlin and pursued him to the easternmost frontier of his realm.*

>>> In Tilsit, he ceded about half of his pre-war territories.

>>> The Prussian state was diminished by nearly half under the terms of the [humiliating] treaty of Tilsit from 5,700 Prussian square miles to 2,800 (323,408.4 to 158,867.28 km² (124,868.68 to 61,339.00 sq mi)). Instead of 9.75 million inhabitants, **no more than 4.5 million remained within the new boundaries of Prussia.**

The state revenue, which formerly amounted to forty million dollars per annum, was decreased in a still greater proportion; since the ceded provinces were quite rich and fertile and on whose improvement many millions had been expended. **Almost all that Prussia had gained by the partitions of Poland (1772–1795) was taken from it.** Saxony, a former confederate of Prussia, was the recipient of the provinces; and **Russia,**

the more powerful of its erstwhile allies, gained territory with a population of 200,000.

>>> Talleyrand [Part One] had advised Napoléon I to pursue milder terms; the treaties marked an important stage in his estrangement from the emperor.

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>>> The French, it appears, suffered from a general amnesia about the partition of Prussia by Napoléon I with their grating outrage about the loss of Alsace Lorraine.

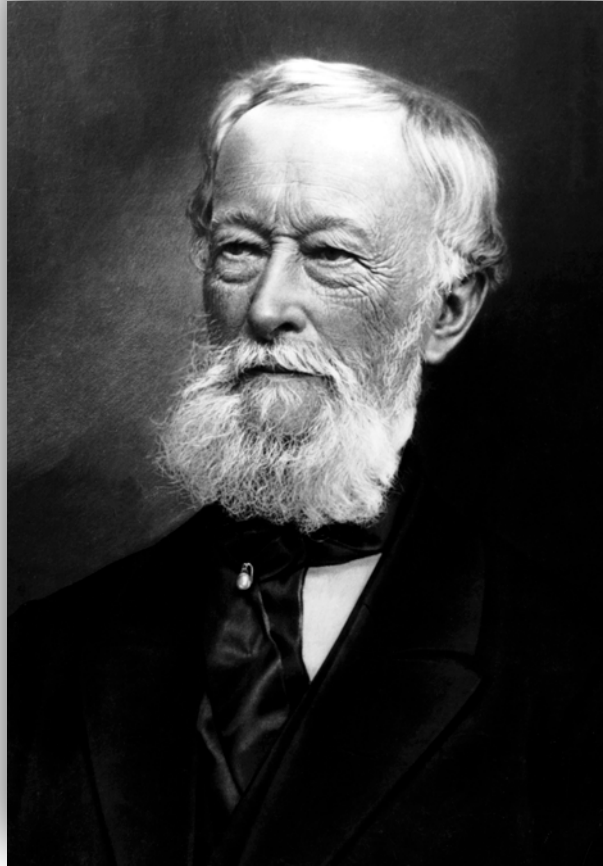
>>> Fast forward fifty-seven years later:

The Arms of Krupp

By William Manchester [Little, Brown & Company; New York] 1964, 1965, 1968

Pg. 93

In the spring of 1864 he entertained a Russian artillery mission at the Gartenhouse, which he had decided to retain as a guesthouse...**The Gusstahlfabrik, he wrote Todleben, “now employs nearly 7,000 men, of which the greater part is working for Russia.”** [Note Russia arming from Prussia after the bitter loss at Crimea to an Anglo-French alliance]



Alfred Krupp

“When window shopping with gold bullion, call on ‘old King Krupp’”

Inevitably the surge in **Krupp** activity attracted outside attention... a Berlin newspaper published details of his Muscovite contract. Foreign papers had picked it up; in a few weeks **he was “*le Roi des Canons*” in Paris and “*The Cannon King*” in London.**

Pg. 104

...Burned in Vienna, he should at least have become shy of foreign gun trade. But no: in less than a year, **at the peak of 1868’s Franco-Prussian crisis over Luxembourg, we find him trying to arm the French during the second Paris exhibition.** The crisis worsens — Napoléon III, frightened by Wilhelm’s waxing power, is trying to annex the duchy— and **Alfred hesitates**. He wants Berlin to understand that “In the event of war I

am prepared to do all in my power that can be of service.” Then he lunges ahead. **At the exhibition he displays an 88,000 pound ingot [40,000 kg] (the wary jury insist that the floor be reinforced) and a gigantic fourteen-inch gun.** His advertisements acclaim the cannon as “a monster the world has never seen, they were no exaggeration. The barrel alone weight fifty tons, the carriage forty; the powder charge for each projectile is a hundred pounds. **Enchanté, the emperor awarded Krupp a Grand Prix and an officer’s rank in the Legion of Honor.** Prospects grow hotter. **In September the Luxembourg quarrel end in Napoleonic humiliation.** Maybe the emperor is in the mood to make something of it. If so, Krupp has some nice persuaders for sale. **On January 31, 1868, Alfred had sent the Tuileries a catalogue of his weapons.** “Encouraged by the interest which Your Gracious Majesty has shown in a simple industrialist,” he begged the emperor to inspect “the enclosed report of a series of firing tests which have just taken place,” and suggested that “**the steel cannon which I manufacture for various high powers of Europe will be worthy of Your Majesty’s attention for a moment, and will be an excuse for my boldness.**” Boldness was an understatement. The two nations were armed camps. It nearly led to something, too. Then General Edmond Leboeuf, Minister of War and a Schneider [French weapons manufacturer] intimate, intervened. *Despite a brilliant piece of intelligence by a French artillery mission which had observed the superior range and accuracy of the new Krupp breechloaders during Belgian maneuvers, the French declined Alfred’s proposition.* On March 11, 1868, the War Ministry in Paris closed its Krupp file with the terse note; *Rien à faire.*

...The patriot in him and the internationalist continued to coexist, partly because the lines of nationalism hadn’t quite hardened in central Europe, partly because he had become something unique. **Jérôme Napoléon [Plon-Plon], stopping in Essen as a visiting diplomat, described the firm as “a state within a state.”** That was close. In a period of wildfire militarism *the munitions manufacturer was a figure of world admiration*, and Krupp had, as he put it in Saint Petersburg, “**the greatest of existing gun factories.**”

Bismarck - A Life

By Jonathan Steinberg [Oxford University Press; Oxford UK] 2011

Pg. 132

Bismarck's Perception about Louis-Napoléon

Bismarck replied at even greater length in a letter of 30 May 1857 [to his patron Gerlach]:

The principle of struggle against revolution I recognize as mine as well but **I consider it mistaken to make Louis-Napoléon the only representative of revolution....**The present form of government in France is not arbitrary, a thing that Louis-Napoléon can correct or alter. It was something that he found as a given and it is probably the only method by which France can be ruled for a long time to come. For everything else the basis is missing either in national character or has been shattered and lost...**Louis-Napoléon did not create the revolutionary conditions [1848]; he did not rebel against an established order, but instead fished it [power] out of the whirlpool of anarchy as nobody's property.** If he were now to lay it down, he would greatly embarrass Europe, which would more or less beg him to take it up again.

Pg. 188-189

This modesty and absence of show continued to mark the Bismarcks throughout their lives. Visitors could not believe how simple and unpretentious their habits were. *Show and possession never mattered to Bismarck.* He worried about money and expenses all his life but spent as little as possible on himself. Johanna shared these puritanical attitudes. As Holstein unkindly put it, **'Princess Bismarck [Johanna], although she**

looked like a cook all her life, had not the slightest idea of how to cook or at any rate how to give dinner parties.

...Bismarck worked at a very intense level and expected no less from the staff. **Neither clerks nor cabinet officers could expect thanks and almost none got any [old school]**And in spite of the way Bismarck treated them, his immediate staff worshipped him....

Pg. 114

He may not have married **Johanna ‘in order to have a society wife for others’** but he needed her to become one now, and that she absolutely refused to concede. She never did learn French and never provided him with the glamour he needed professionally. As she grew older, she did it less and less. By the time Bismarck had been in diplomatic service for a decade, she had become what Holstein as a young attaché in St. Petersburg described as **‘a peculiar person.’** Nobody can know the secretes of a marriage but we can see with great clarity that he simply gave up after a certain point. **The Bismarck’s dined unfashionably at 5:00 in the late afternoon, a custom which everybody in Frankfurt and Berlin thought odd.**

Pg. 139

Hypochondria, illnesses of all sorts, and depression regularly accompanied changes in Bismarck’s political situation. With age and — oddly — success they would get worse.

Pg. 166

Two Sides of Bismarck

He behaved brutally to friends but cared very much for his brother and sister. Both sides of Otto von Bismarck were present at all times: the family man who craved the soothing quiet of his own home, the loving brother who addressed his letter to his kid sister 'my beloved heart', and in the same moment he could behave as the tenacious, devious, and utterly ruthless schemer, determined to get power no matter how.

Pg. 183

Bismarck's Personal Attributes

Falsehood and honesty, kindness and vengeance, gargantuan energies and hypochondriac frailty, charm and cold remoteness, frankness and deceit, Bismarck was all those contradictions but one attribute never changed. Anybody who said the wrong thing or did the wrong thing in Bismarck's opinion would finish in outer darkness.

Pg. 181-182

Iron and Blood

Bismarck's 'Iron and Blood' speech, his first as Minister-President, could easily have been his last and nearly was. Informed opinion in the country was shocked and outraged...**He was, as always, very careful not to admit fault**, let alone that the speech had been a blunder.

Pg. 192

Bismarck's Oratory Gift

He still wore civilian clothes then, **his full mustache was still red-blond as was the thinning hair on his head.** His tall broad shouldered figure seemed at the minister's table mighty and impressive, whereas a certain casualness in stance, movement and speech and something provocative about it. He kept his right hand in the pocket of his light-colored trousers and reminded me of the 'crowing second' at the Heidelberg dueling fraternities. **He already had a certain way in which in hesitant speeches he seemed to search for words and always found the most penetrating and *showed his knack for sharp crushing responses.***

Pg. 188

Bismarck's Office

...Visitors were astonished at the simplicity of their reception. No porter in dress uniform with 'Cerebus demeanor' guarded the portals. 'One must ring just as one does at the homes of ordinary mortals.' In the antechambers were no lackeys in gold and silver of the kind favored by diplomats and ministers. Bismarck received his visitors in a plain, sparsely furnished office of medium size dominated by a large mahogany desk. **'No provincial prefect in France [think Baron Haussmann] would have been satisfied with such modest surroundings'.**

Pg. 156

‘en grandeur’ and a bottle of Bordeaux

Bismarck had been told by doctors in Berlin that my ‘growing hypochondria’ arose **from worries about his Berlin existence and the expenses caused by regular dinners with nine people at meals, thirteen domestic servants, and two secretaries. He felt he was ‘being plucked at every corner.’**

.... A little attention would usually cheer him up and in this case it came from the command to wait upon the Tsar, who had visited Poland to do some serious hunting on the vast Polish domains. Bismarck, restored to good spirits, wrote to Johanna [wife] from the Lazienki Palace in Warsaw on 19 October:

The whole day ‘en grandeur’ with Tsar Alexander II... I can only tell you in plain words that I am very well. Breakfast with the Emperor, then audience, exactly as gracious as in Petersburg. **Visits, dinner with his Majesty, evening theatre, really good ballet and the boxes full of pretty women.** Now I have just slept splendidly. Tea stands on the table and as soon as I have drunk it, I shall go out. The aforesaid tea consisted of not only tea but coffee, six eggs, 3 sorts of meat, baked goods, **and a bottle of Bordeaux.....very comfortable.**

Pg. 129

The scale and risks of the reform program confirmed the truth of **de Tocqueville's** wise remark that **'the most dangerous moment for a bad government is when it decides to reform.'**

Pg. 227

Great Britain had shown itself unwilling or unable under the Liberals to intervene in defense of Denmark. **Napoléon III had got involved in an absurd attempt to found an empire in Mexico**, and Tsarist Russia had to cope with the social upheaval caused by the emancipation of the serfs in 1861.

Krupp A History of the Legendary Firm

By Harold James [Princeton University Press; Princeton & Oxford] 2012

Pg. 60

Krupp first met Otto von Bismarck in October 1864, when Bismarck was returning from his meetings with Napoléon III in Paris and Biarritz and visited Essen en route. The Prussian minister-president was immensely impressed, and called on the Essen manufacturer during Krupp's next visit to Berlin. **The two men thought in parallel ways.** Bismarck explained his philosophy during that first visit to Essen, setting out a view of the world that might as well have belonged to an entrepreneur: "If I see something as right and possible to achieve, I will try to accomplish it, even if the most skilled and intelligent people tell me it is impossible."

Napoléon III And His Carnival Empire

By John Bierman [St. Martin's Press; New York] 1988

Pg. 280

...Nine years before, while still in the diplomatic service, he [**Bismarck**] had visited Paris and **had been singularly unimpressed by the glitter of the Second Empire.**

>>> **“From a distance it is stunning,” he remarked, “but when you get up close there is nothing there at all.”**

>>> As for Napoléon himself, Bismarck's cold, Teutonic gaze had bored right through the inscrutable exterior which so bemused others and found that there was nothing there, either.



Otto von Bismarck, 1863 (Age 48)

Pg. 282

In October of 1865, Bismarck paid a private visit to France and took the opportunity to meet with Napoléon at Biarritz and later at Saint-Cloud. The atmosphere at the Villa Eugénie was, as ever, informal, and Mérimée- the perpetual house guest- played a great prank on the visiting junker by making a **papier-mâché model of his head and putting it into the bed of one of Eugénie’s ladies-in-waiting.**

Pg. 206

“Much as you have been disposed to confide in him, I think you must now doubt his trustworthiness,” Clarendon admonished Cowley, “and wish you had not coped with so much genius, ambition, conspiracy and fatalism. He deceives by never telling the whole

truth- you never arrive au fond de son sac- there is always something in it that does not suit him to divulge, and **when you think you have reached a final point, you find it is only one from which he makes a fresh start.** “

Pg. 313

“You are wrong to think that the Emperor has plans,” he wrote to a friend. “If he did he would have been overthrown a hundred times already. His strength is in having none and in allowing himself to be carried along by events. **He has aspirations, but not plans.”**

Pg. 310

>>> **DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT** <<<

While **Napoléon’s string of foreign policy failures** was undermining the Second Empire’s standing abroad, an extraordinary political process was under way at home: **Napoléon was attempting to reconcile the irreconcilable by turning his personal dictatorship into a parliamentary régime, but without relinquishing his ultimate grip on power.**

This was more than a mere exercise in hypocrisy. One of the items in the ragbag of political, social, and economic ideas that Napoléon carried around with him all his life was often-stated belief in the virtues of democracy. He had promised at the outset of his reign that he would eventually **“crown the edifice with liberty”**- that is to say, when he judged that France was mature enough to handle it without falling back into revolution and anarchy. Supporters, opponents, and onlookers alike may have regarded that pledge as little more than high-flown rhetoric, not to be taken as notice of serious intent, but Napoléon evidently meant it – to his fashion.

...”**He can’t give a little liberty** and then play fast and loose with it as a cat does with a mouse,” said the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Clarendon. ...**I am sure his opinion is, as it was his uncle’s, that the French are ungovernable, except *despotically*.**

...He recognized that in his reform decree of 1860, Napoléon had planted the fatal seed of evolution. “It is a small step, but in time it will have decisive results,” Olivier said, and when Napoléon judged the time to be right, he would “**grant liberty of his own accord**, which, far from weakening him as people think, will in fact consolidate his throne.”

Pg. 311

A Liberal Democracy

The government practiced what it **called ‘an active and dynamic electoral geography’ to ensure that hostile urban areas were chopped up and dispersed as constituency boundaries were redrawn to accommodate population changes**. More important, the government sponsored the “official” candidates whom it wanted to win and went to considerable lengths to induce the electorate to vote for them, while making life as difficult as possible for the opposition candidates.

Authorized candidates’ campaigns were paid for and run by the local prefecture and assisted by an army of minor officials- policemen, schoolteachers, postmen, magistrates, and the like – while opposition candidates had to pay their own way as they battled against official intimidation, harassment, violence, and occasional arrest. Official candidates’ manifestos, always printed on **white** paper, were posted up by the prefect or sub-prefect in the most advantageous locations and it was illegal to tear them down; opposition candidates had to put their **colored** posters up where they could find space and these could be torn down with impunity, which they frequently were.

In addition, bribery and blackmail were frequently resorted to on behalf of official candidates. The dead were resurrected to cast their ballots, while multiple voting, stuffed ballot boxes, and rigged results were commonplace.

Pg. 320

The British charge d'affaires, Lionel Sackville-West, to report to Whitehall that **“the Second Empire has gone off the rails. *It is no longer being guided. It is hurling towards the abyss.*”**

..So Émile Ollivier, as leader of the parliamentary majority, became prime minister and the Liberal Empire was born. A degree of confidence returned and the collective wisdom of the world said that, for all its air of decline, there was plenty of life in the Second Empire, might even reinvigorate itself under its new quasi-democratic Constitution. **Certainly, no man of sense would be rash enough to predict its imminent downfall or the end of the Napoleonic dynasty.** After all, the Austrian and Ottoman empires had been in decline for generations but remained major players on the world scene.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luxembourg_Crisis

The Luxembourg Crisis was a diplomatic dispute and confrontation in 1867 between the French Empire and Prussia over the political status of Luxembourg. The confrontation almost led to war between the two parties, but was peacefully resolved by the Treaty of London.

The Second Schleswig War of 1864 had further advanced nationalist tensions in Germany, and, throughout 1865, it was clear that Prussia intended to challenge the position of the Austrian Empire within the German Confederation.

>>> DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

Despite potentially holding the balance of power between the two, Napoléon III kept France neutral. Although he, like most of Europe, expected an Austrian victory, he could not intervene on Austria's side as that would jeopardise France's relationship with Italy's post-*Risorgimento*.

>>> As a result, at Biarritz on 4 October 1865, Napoléon III promised Prussian Prime Minister, Otto von Bismarck, France's neutrality, hoping that such an open statement of intent would strengthen France's negotiating position regarding the western bank of the Rhine. Bismarck refused to offer any land from the Rhineland, *which was Napoléon's preferred region*. However, he did make suggestions of French hegemony in Belgium and Luxembourg, *although not committing anything to writing*.

When Austria and Prussia did go to war in 1866 (the so-called Seven Weeks' War), the result was a shock to Europe. Prussia quickly defeated Austria and her allies, forcing Austria to the negotiating table. Napoléon III offered to mediate, and the result,

the Treaty of Prague, dissolved the German Confederation in favour of a **Prussian-dominated organisation, the North German Confederation.**

To avert a war that *might drag their own countries into conflict*, other countries rushed to offer compromise proposals. Austria's Foreign Minister, Count Beust, proposed transferring Luxembourg to neutral Belgium, in return for which France would be compensated with Belgian land. However, **King Léopold II of Belgium refused to part with any of his lands**, putting paid to Beust's proposal.

With the German public angered and an impasse developing, Napoléon III sought to backtrack; he certainly did not want to appear to be unduly expansionist to the other Great Powers. Thus, he demanded only that Prussia withdraw its soldiers from Luxembourg City, threatening war in the event that Prussia did not comply. To avoid this fate, Emperor Alexander II of Russia called for an international conference, to be held in London. The United Kingdom was more than happy to host the talks as the British government feared that the absorption of Luxembourg by either power would weaken Belgium, its strategic ally on the continent.

All of the Great Powers were invited to London to hammer out a deal that would prevent war. As it was clear that no other power would accept the incorporation of Luxembourg into either France or the North German Confederation, **the negotiations centered upon the terms of Luxembourg's neutrality. The result was a victory for Bismarck**; although Prussia would have to remove its soldiers from Luxembourg City, Luxembourg would remain in the *Zollverein*.

The Luxembourg Crises showed the influence the public opinion could have on the actions of governments. **It also demonstrated the growing opposition between France and Prussia and foreshadowed the Franco-Prussian War which would break out on 1870.**

For Luxembourg, this was an important step towards full independence, despite the fact that it remained united in a personal union with the Netherlands until 1890. Luxembourg was provided an opportunity to develop itself independently, leading to the emergence of the steel industry in the South of the country.

Bismarck - A Life

By Jonathan Steinberg [Oxford University Press; Oxford UK] 2011

Pg. 136

Moltke with Silesian Nobility

...He became virtually **a member of the family for the old Silesian nobility** who took until noon for the *grande toilette* and did not always say what he thought. **They lived in beautiful castles set in wonderful parks with French-style gardens and paintings by old masters on the walls.** Moltke sketched the counts and countesses, wrote poetry and met all the neighbors. ...

>>> **Moltke painted and drew superbly, spoke six or seven languages (sources disagree on the number), and had immaculate manners.** He had every grace and virtue (including discretion) to be the ideal courtier.

Paris, City of Dreams

Napoléon III, Baron Haussmann and the Creation of Paris

By Mary McAuliffe [Rowman & Littlefield; Lanham MD, London UK] 2020

Pg. 264-265

Sarah's Sorrow in 1869

Bernhardt's own apartment, on Rue Auber — alongside the rising Paris Opéra — was far more to her taste, furnished with a variety of luxurious items as well as with a number of antiques. **By her own account, she spent a fortune on furnishings and curiosities, including a tortoise whose back was covered with gold and set with topazes.**

But one evening, fire broke out probably due to a misplaced lighted candle. Whatever the cause, the fire destroyed everything (including the [gilded] tortoise) and ruined Bernhardt; for in addition to her personal loss, she was held responsible for damage to other apartments in the building. Worst of all, she was not insured, having put off signing the insurance papers.

Homeless and penniless, she was forced to go back to living with her mother. This in itself was humiliating, but in addition, she felt that she “could not live without comfort or luxury.” Fortunately her plight the attention of sympathizers, who arranged a gala benefit for her at the Odéon.

Bernhardt's taste in men as well as in furnishings ran to the luxurious. Her frequent escort and lover at this time was Charles Haas, whom she described as “a most charming man, who was very intelligent and distinguished.”

This was an understatement. **Haas, a sophisticated and renowned man about town and one of the few Jewish members of the Jockey Club,** would in time as a model for Proust's Charles Swann, in *In Search of Lost Time* — much as Bernhardt would serve as an inspiration for Proust's actress Berma....She flattered and cajoled him with missives such as **"I have a thousand lovers but only one who is the real thing."** And she beseeched him with "Come, and give me your lips."

Haas came for a time, but Bernhardt may have amounted to a little more than a pleasant diversion for this man who had scores of beautiful women vying for him. **She did not remain with him for long. Their affair soon ended, with Haas providing Bernhardt with a substantial and gentlemanly "loan."**

Pg. 272

...Early in 1870, she was given the lead in George Sand's new play, *L'Autre* (The Other). Sand, too, had acerbic comments about Bernhardt, remarking in her journal that Bernhardt was **"stupid, but she has a charming nature"** and interprets **her role like the great tart she is."** But Bernhardt, who would not have known about Sand's journal, in any case had no need to worry about such slights. She was a triumph in *L'Autre* and was ready to move on to other triumphs when *history suddenly intervened.*



Appartements Napoléon III at the Louvre: Second Empire c. 1861

The Arms of Krupp

By William Manchester [Little, Brown & Company; New York] 1964, 1965, 1968

Pg. 108-109

The stakes were nothing less than the life of Prussia and the future of Europe. Alfred's assessment of Louis-Napoléon's mood had been correct. **After his Luxembourg mortification he *had* wanted to turn to the last resort of kings. He still did; he was looking for a final reckoning with Prussia.** The Junkers were delighted to oblige.

>>> **Since October 29, 1857, when Moltke had been appointed chief of the general staff six days after Wilhelm became prince regent, the staff had been planning an *Aufmarsch* against France.** It was only a matter time before the two powers sprang at each other. Before the cannon question was settled [bronze traditional Old-School or *Kruppstahl* untested in actual battle] it was to be a matter of months.

...The general was concise. Krupp, he reported, had brought muzzle velocity up to 1,700 feet per second [518 meters/sec] and could raise it to 2,000 feet [610 meters/sec]. "The king," the general reported to Alfred, 'saw at once that bronze couldn't stand that strain, that the soft metal would melt, and the weight of the gun would have to be increased so much the four-pounder [1.8 kg] would be too heavy for field use.'" That was the end of that.



A Seductive Spy in Boudoir Proudly Posed Before an Assault on Senses for Intelligence

April 1870. Paris and Berlin are squaring off. In the Palais Bourbon there is talking of cutting Prussia down to her pre-Koniggratz size. Bismarck's finger is on the trigger. Wilhelm orders him not to squeeze, but intrigue is leading to hostilities all the same. The Spaniards have expelled their nymphomaniac queen, Isabella II. **Her successor has yet to be chosen, and Bismarck is quietly backing Prince Leopold, a Hohenzollern.**

Pg. 114

...On June 19, **Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern**, with Wilhelm's approval, **decided to accept the Spanish crown.** There was a leak, Paris found out, and the hotheaded Duc de Gramont, who had only recently taken over the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, threatened Berlin. Wilhelm hesitated, then advised Leopold to withdraw. **But Gramont and Empress Eugénie weren't satisfied. They demanded a royal apology. At Ems spa the king declined.**



Rosa Bonheur with Bull by Édouard Dubufe, 1857

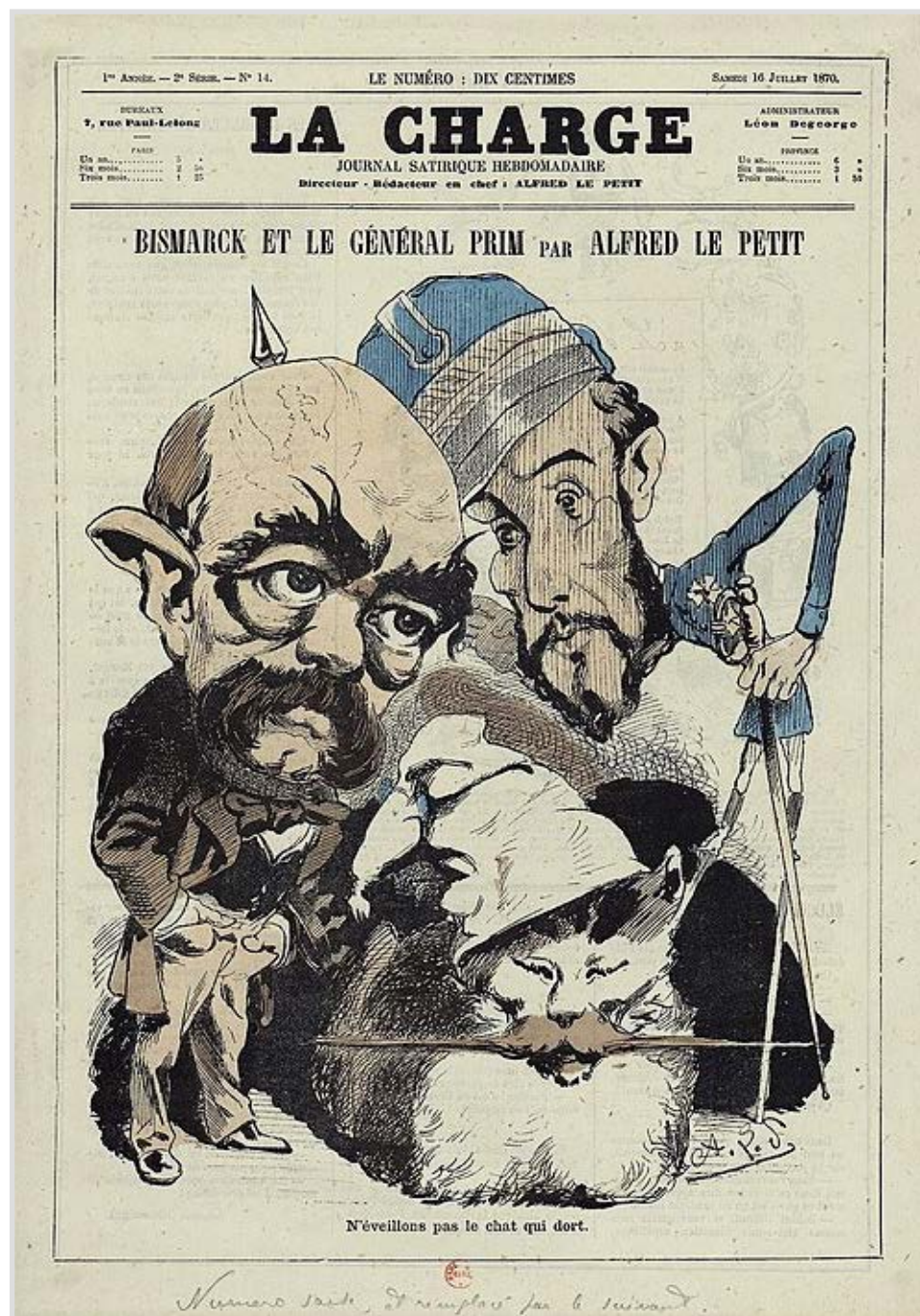
Bismarck saw his chance. On July 13, with Roon and Moltke [generals] at his elbow, he edited Wilhelm's telegram of refusal, sharpening a sentence here, honing a phrase there, *until the telegram had become an instrument of provocation*. 'His Majesty the King,' Bismarck's version concluded, had "decided not to receive the French ambassador again, and sent to tell him through the aide-de-camp on duty that His Majesty had nothing further to communicate with the ambassador." This, Bismarck assured Moltke (who was egging him on, pointing out that it would be better to fight now than in a few years' time, when French military reforms would be taking hold) would **have the effect of a red rag on the Gallic bull**. It did. Indeed, under the intricate rules of nineteenth-century diplomatic etiquette it could have no other effect. **It was so insulting that Louis-Napoléon was deprived of choice**. His honor was now the issue. He had to declare war, and two days later he did, thereby bringing on one of Alfred Krupp's most agonizing headaches. At first this was puzzling. For him the war was, after all, the opportunity of a lifetime. Eventually he came to see that, but at the moment he discovered a ghastly error. His plans for it were all based on the use of a specific building material-French limestone from the quarries at Chantilly, outside of Paris.

Bismarck - A Life

By Jonathan Steinberg [Oxford University Press; Oxford UK] 2011

Pg. 281-282

...an important event occurred in Spain that gave him **[Bismarck] a chance over the 'Hohenzollern Candidature'**, as it is known. In September 1868, a junta of generals in Spain overthrew the monarchy of Queen Isabella II...



Bismarck et le général Prim Dessin d'Alfred Le Petit pour son journal *La Charge* n°14, 16 juillet 1870.

>> The facial hair personified whom was who. Check out the cat with the hat.

...In October 1868 Prim [lead junta general] convinced his colleagues in the Council that they needed to find a suitable prince to replace the Queen and for the next year agents of the Spanish government approached a variety of French, Portuguese, and Italian royal princes without success. In the spring of 1869 the Generals settled on Leopold von Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, a member of the Catholic, south German branch of the Prussian royal family and on his mother's side a relative of the Bonaparte dynasty.

... 'a Hohenzollern in Spain would give rise to a wild outcry in anti-Prussian Europe and either precipitate or defer the solution of many pending questions. That was precisely its attraction to Bismarck. ***He knew he needed a crisis with France and possibly even a war to overcome the resistance of the southern German [Catholic] states to final unification under Prussian [northern Protestant] leadership.***

Pg. 284-286

...the Crown Princess wrote to Queen Victoria, 'After the Spanish crown and been decidedly refused by the Hohenzollerns and the King, the former has been applied to again, and, having changed their minds meanwhile, seem likely to accept it — much to the King and Queens's annoyance.

On 19 June Prince Leopold finally sent his acceptance letter to Madrid, which was made public on 2 July.

....The same day the British Ambassador Layard sent a telegram in which he reported that through an indiscretion he had got news of the acceptance of the Crown of Spain by Prince Leopold. The following day, the new French Foreign Secretary, the Duc de Gramont announced to the French Chamber of Deputies that **the Hohenzollern candidacy for the Spanish crown constituted a serious attempt to change the**

European Balance of Power to the detriment of the French Empire. The honor and interests of France had been severely injured. He hinted that France would regard it a ground for war.

...As Waldersee [Moltke's pre-war attaché in Paris 1870] recorded:

They allowed themselves to be talked into it by Bismarck, and the prince who had doubted that he had the guts to be King of Spain, was suddenly filled with idea that he had the guts to be King of Spain, was suddenly filled with idea that he had a mission to make Spain happy. I begged him earnestly to think it over very carefully, but when he insisted I gave him my permission as head of the family....I have Bismarck to thank for this because he took the matter so casually, as he has so much else.

>>> **This testimony...makes it impossible not to think that Bismarck engineered the crisis and that the French reacted as he had imagined they would.**

Pg. 288

If the Duc de Gramont had taken Gorchakov's advice and been satisfied by the public and stunning victory of French diplomacy over Bismarck, **again war would have been avoided but he took a further step.** He ordered his ambassador who was still in Bad Ems *to get a promise from the King that Prussia would take no similar action in the future.* On the 13th as Bismarck, Moltke, and Moon sat together over dinner, a telegram from William I arrived from Bad Ems that reported how Ambassador Benedetti had confronted the King and insisted that the King give his solemn word that nothing of that sort would happen again. **The King, offended, not only said that he could make no such promise but, when asked by Benedetti if he could have another chance to discuss the matter, refused to see the French ambassador.** The King asked Bismarck

‘whether the new demand and my refusal should not be communicated to our embassies abroad and to the press’.

Bismarck now had what he needed. He took a pencil and edited what he received from the King to make it sound more offensive. In the original text the King had written that he had ‘let the Ambassador be told through an adjutant that he had now received from the Prince confirmation which Benedetti had already received from Paris and nothing further to say to the Ambassador.’ **Bismarck altered the phrase to make it more provocative.** In Bismarck’s version it read, ‘His Majesty the King had thereupon refused to receive the French Ambassador once more and let him know through an adjutant that His Majesty had nothing further to communicate to the ambassador.’ Years later Lucius von Ballhausen happened to be present when the three conspirators showed up at an evening in the Wilhelmstrasse and recalled the events of 1870:

After dinner we sat around smoking cigars, Field Marshall Roon arrived, coughing and puffing and breathless. He suffered from asthmatic condition...Later Count Moltke arrived....He received him very cordially and said, tapping him on the knee, ‘the last time we three sat together was on 13 of July 1870. **What a stroke of luck it was the French went so far!** How hard it would have been toffee another equally favorable opportunity! We never altered Benedetti’s dispatch but condensed it in such a way as to show the French pretensions in their full strength. Everything had been surrendered with respect to the Hohenzollern candidacy and had the French not insisted that we promise never to do so again, we might have given up yet more. I asked you both “are we ready?” You said “we are ready.”

On 14 July 1870 the **French ministerial council** deduced to declare mobilization and **declared war on 19 July.** Bismarck claimed afterwards that his editing of the Ems Dispatch had forced Napoléon III to go to war, though evidence suggests that France had

decided to fight earlier. As in the case of the Austrian war, an ill-prepared and badly organized state and army went to war without proper mobilization.

On the Prussian side the Crown Princess was not unrepresentative of the anti-French feeling that had been stirred as a result of French arrogance. On 16 July she wrote to Queen Victoria:

We have been shamelessly forced into this war, and the feeling of indignation against such an act of such crying injustice has risen in two days here to such a pitch that you would hardly believe it; there is a universal cry 'to arms' to resist an enemy who wantonly insults us.

Pg. 290-291

The Prussian Army had recently fought a victorious war and in the interim had learned a variety of lessons. **In 1866 it had expected a long bloody war but the opposite had occurred.** They saw no reason not to repeat the exercise in 1870 and in the first stage of the war, they were right. Moltke in short summary of the official history of the war gives a desolate picture of French preparations. **The French went to war in a collective fit of insanity.**

>>> Old Prussia went into battle equipped with new technology, transportation, weaponry, and communications.

Pg. 130

von Waldersee in Paris February 1870

In February 1870 Bismarck briefed Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Count von Waldersee (1832-1904) on his appointment as military attaché at the German Embassy in Paris.

Waldersee, from a distinguished Anhalt military family, grew up in Prussian service. His father had been a general and Minister of War. Waldersee stood out, along with his contemporary Albrecht von Stosch, as ferociously ambitious and political. He like Stosch kept a diary and collected his correspondence. **By 1866 he had become adjutant to the King and had excellent connections.**

In the interview, according to Waldersee's diary, Bismarck warned him to avoid legitimist circles and 'too hasty judgements...The political situation is one of an idyllic peace. Nobody can know how long that will last. **The French have so much to do domestically that they have no time to think of foreign affairs.'**

At this stage, 6 February 1870, Bismarck assumed that peace would continue for a while, as did the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Clarendon...

Paris, City of Dreams

Napoléon III, Baron Haussmann and the Creation of Paris

By Mary McAuliffe [Rowman & Littlefield; Lanham MD, London UK] 2020

Pg. 268-269 1870: The Liberal Emperor & Empire's Economy

>>> **As for the emperor's liberal reforms**, they did not touch the urban masses, *nor had they been intended to do so*. Rather, Louis-Napoléon had aimed at satisfying the bourgeoisie, especially its conservative businessmen and clerics.

Left behind in the scramble for wealth and profits, the poor simmered and the nascent labor movement took strength, expressed in a growing number of strikes.

For too many, **overwhelming poverty was still an everyday presence**, even though the average wage for workers had risen during the Second Empire, when work for the most part was plentiful. This was due to the unhappy fact that prices had also risen during these years, wiping out any gains in wages.

In addition, **the scale of capitalism had rapidly escalated, encouraging concentration, squeezing out small and medium-sized enterprises, and leaving workers well behind.**

>>> **By 1870, wages had not even begun to keep up with profits, and the gap between rich and poor had dramatically widened.**

>>> **DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT** <<<

Early in 1870, the most massive one to date erupted after the death of a republican journalist, Victor Noir, who was killed in a duel with the emperor's cousin, **Prince Pierre Bonaparte**. The journalist had challenged the prince, but nonetheless, duels were supposed to let off steam, not result in serious injury let alone death.

The republican opposition quickly compared Noir's death with the [Second] Republic of 1851.

>>> **Henri Rochefort editorialized that:**

“for eighteen years France has been in the bloodstained hands of these ruffians who, not content with gunning down republicans in the street, draw them into vile traps in order to slit their throats at home.”

He concluded, **“People of France, do you really not think there has been enough of it?”**

The government arrested the prince (who was no favorite of the emperor's) but also prosecuted and jailed Rochefort and impounded the newspaper in which he had published. None of this had any impact on the popular outcry. **On the day of the funeral, huge demonstrations — as many as one hundred thousand people — showed up, *alarming the emperor and the forces of law and order.***

Yet, despite facing a growing opposition on the streets and a diminution of his imperial power as the bicameral parliamentary system began to take shape, **Louis-Napoléon was not about to give up his empire without a fight, however charming he might be**

about it. Reform there might be, but it must be understood as coming from his gracious dispensation.

That spring, he went over the heads of his ministers and deputies to his old standby, the people of France — including, most importantly, **those rural areas where his support had always been strongest [even though he and Haussmann remaking Paris]** — and asked them to vote on whether they approved of “the liberal reforms in the Constitution carried out since 1860 by the Emperor with the cooperation of the great bodies of the State.” Further, **he asked voters whether they wished to ratify the decree of April 1870 that henceforth divided power between the emperor and a bicameral parliament.**

>>> **It was a deft ploy, since the voters could not accept the liberal reforms the emperor offered without endorsing the emperor.**

Victor Hugo irately responded that the true question was “Can arsenic be rendered edible?” His comment appeared in Paris in *Le Rappel* and other papers, leading to a warrant for his arrest and yet *another prison sentence for his sons.*

>>> But despite consternation on the left, **the response — *powered by the rural vote* — was an overwhelming Yes. This represented a victory not only for the emperor’s model of a more liberal empire, but also — and most importantly — the emperor himself and for the continuation of his line.**

As Louis-Napoléon reportedly told his young son [Prince Impérial]: “My child, your coronation is assured with its plebiscite. More than ever we can look to the future without fear.”

Flaubert in the Ruins of Paris
The story of a friendship, a novel, and terrible year

By Peter Brooks [Basic Books; New York] 2017

Pg. 25

Champ de Mars Marches to its Doom

>>> In July 1870, France went to war with Prussia. **If the origins of the war seem trivial, those of the Franco-Prussian War were ridiculous, artificial, trumped up for the occasion.**

Emperor Napoléon III wanted to prevent Leopold, a prince from the Hohenzollern family who was related to the king of Prussia, from succeeding to the vacant Spanish throne, sensing that France would in that eventuality be surrounded by Germans. The Germans retreated on Leopold, but France pressed for guarantees there would be no further attempts to occupy the Spanish throne.

The German chancellor, Otto von Bismarck, though, in fact wanted war with France as a needed part of his plan for the unification and consolidation of Germany, and manipulated public opinion — in part through a doctored telegram that made it seem as if the king of Prussia had insulted the French ambassador.

>>> DOUBLE MARITAL HYPER-IMPORTANT: PUSHY WIFE <<<

>>> **A reluctant Emperor Napoléon III was pushed into the war *by his commanding spouse*, the Empress Eugénie [of Spanish minor nobility so the Spanish Succession crisis was of major importance],** who saw war as a counter to the rising force of liberal opposition to his autocratic rule, a chauvinistic National Assembly, and a bellicose populace.



Emperor Napoléon III et Empress Eugénie 1870

by Eugène Disdéri

As Caesar famously remarked: 'The General's general...'

The Franco-Prussian War
The German Conquest of France, 1870-1871

By Geoffrey Wawro [Cambridge University Press; New York] 2003, 2005

Pg. 67-68

On 28 July, Napoléon III rose, smoked what would be his last cigarette on his favorite perch about the gardens of St. Cloud, and then made his way down to the imperial train, accompanied by his fourteen-year-old son and **his quarrelsome cousin Jérôme [Plon-Plon]**, for the journey to Metz where he would dramatically place himself at the head of the Army of the Rhine. By now, just ten days into the war and before the fighting had even begun, **Napoléon III must have been beginning to regret his bellicosity in the matter of Prince Leopold Hohenzollern [Spanish crown succession]**. The patriotic fury of the French masses had already begun to ebb away, replaced by skepticism and the first signs of discouragement...



Marechal François Certain de Canrobert

photo by Félix Nadar

>>> DOUBLE-HYPER IMPORTANT <<<

Napoléon III's high command was also deeply divided. **Although he had no real military experience, *Louis-Napoléon insisted on personally leading France's principal army into battle.*** Critics ascribed nefarious motives to the emperor. He needed to appear at the head of his troops to take personal credit for any victories. **The *Armée du Rhin* was his *Grande Armée*, a means of linking himself in the public mind with his more storied uncle.**

>>> He feared Marshal's Bazaine and MacMahon, who might gain too much stature from a French victory and eclipse the Bonapartes altogether. Probably all these musings influenced the emperor, which may explain the bizarre construction of his headquarters staff.

>>> France's leading soldiers — Bazaine, MacMahon, and Canrobert — were exiled to outlying corps while the emperor himself presided at imperial headquarters with General Leboeuf, now Marshal Leboeuf, as his *major général* and Generals Leburn and Jarras as his *aide-major-généraux*.



Marechal Bazaine stands confidently next to a recently made obsolete muzzle loaded French brass cannon, **1867**

Pg. 69

Outside headquarters, the corridors and lobby of the Hotel de l'Europe swarmed with journalists, tourist, and gawkers, who plucked at the emperor and his marshals whenever they stepped out for a breath of fresh air or a cigarette. **“It was under *these* conditions,” Leboeuf bitterly noted, “that France embarked on the war.”**

Later that evening, **Napoléon III invited Marshall Achille Bazaine to the imperial headquarters** for an informal discussion of the war. That meeting, a chilly affair, portended trouble between the emperor and this chief field commander. **Sixty years old in 1870, Bazaine was the most celebrated general in France.** The son of a Versailles engineer, he had flunked the entrance exam to the *Ecole Polytechnique* as a young man, enlisted in the army, and struggled through the ranks. A private at age twenty, Bazaine was a colonel at thirty-nine, a general at forty. None of this was due to nepotism, the route of many Napoleonic officers. Bazaine had earned his stars the hard way, always leading the front. **He had organized successful counter-insurgencies in North Africa and Mexico, and taken Fort Kinburn in the Crimean War, had commanded divisions at Sebastopol and Solferino, and had been wounded twice, first in Algeria and then in Italy.** In 1863, Bazaine had been dispatched to Mexico to shore up the faltering command of Marchal Frédéric Forey. More accolades awaited him there. He replaced Forey, defeated a Mexican field army, and took Mexico City. By 1864, Bazaine was a folk hero in France, a bourgeois risen from the enlisted ranks to conquer an exotic, faraway country. He was made an Marshal of France that year and ordered to complete the “pacification” of Mexico so that Archduke Maximilian of Austria, a French client, could be seated on the throne of the “Mexican Empire.”

At the peak of his fame and power, Bazaine’s career began to unravel between 1864 and 1866. Although the marshal organized an effective counter-insurgency, he could never totally eradicate the roving guerrillas of Benito Juarez, whose strategy was simply to prolong the war and wait the French out. **By 1866, Juarez’s strategy paid off: appalled by the mounting cost of the “Mexican adventure” the French legislative body demanded that Napoléon III abandon it.** He did so in 1866 [post-US Civil War] ordering, Bazaine and the troops home (and leaving poor Archduke Maximilian in the lurch). When Bazaine returned to French soil with the last troop transport in March 1867, he made an infuriating discovery. **To deflect blame for Mexico from the Bonapartes, Napoléon III had blamed Bazaine** (subtly, discreetly, through cabinet members and the

press), **an insult that marshal never forgot or forgave.** After giving Bazaine leave (and a lovely provincial château to enjoy it in), Napoléon III attempted to win back the marshal, giving him command of III Corps (Nancy) in 1868-69 and the elite Guard Corps in 1870. None of these attempts at reconciliation worked; when war broke out in July, **Bazaine still burned with resentment at the way he had been treated three years earlier.**

Napoléon III's rough treatment of Bazaine in July 1870 only exacerbated the situation. As Bazaine was the senior marshal at Metz, Napoléon III gave him temporary command of all units in Lorraine until the emperor's arrival on 28 July. However, the command of what amounted to nineteen divisions of infantry and cavalry was conferred with an explicit ban on "initiatives of any kind without orders from Paris."

Pg. 42

Many French generals ignored the menacing overhand of Prussian manpower, consoling themselves with the thought that France's *grogards* or old grumblers – grizzled **veterans of the Crimean, Italian, and Mexican campaigns- would perform far better than Prussia's green recruits or hastily recalled reservists.** And yet there was much surprising evidence to contradict even this view for those willing to face it. In his anonymously published *L'Armée Française en 1867*, General Louis Trochu laid bare the flaws of the French system. French soldiers, who habitually reenlisted and soldiered into their fifties and sixties, were simply too old, too jaded, and too cynical. Plucked from their villages and families at a young age, the *troupiers* had become coarse and impenetrable in an all-male society. Despised by their officers and indifferently supplied even in their peacetime barracks, they had become habitual scroungers and *débrouillards*, a practice that all too often crossed the line into thievery. Jean-Baptiste Moutaudon, a French officer who had seen discipline collapse in the Franco-Austrian War of 1859 when thousands of French soldiers pretended to "lose" their units to scavenge or escape the

fighting, called French soldiers “vermin” and “parasites”. Trochu called them “whoremongers” – “*fricoteurs*”- and pleaded for stricter discipline. **An astonishing number of French soldiers in the 1860s were alcoholics who eased the boredom of garrison life with hard drinking. Because troopers took a dim view of drinking alone – a practice they called “acting Swiss”- individual tippling tended always to widen into a torrent.** In this respect at least, republican sneers about the “corrupting life of the barracks” seem to have been on target. **Trochu asserted that French soldiers literally drank the entire day, beginning with wine (*un pauvre larme* – “a little teardrop”),** progressing to spirits (*le café, le pouss-café*, climaxing with a gut-searing brandy (*le tord-boyaux*- “the gut-wringer”), and ending with *la consolation*, a sweet liqueur that the French soldier sipped as he lay in bunk contemplating the next day’s exertions. Far from imbuing the army with an esprit de corps, the French system tended to destroy it, fresh-faced youngsters succumbing to the bad habits of elders.

For all their military experience, the French lacked this psychological strength, with General Trochu frankly admired in a lecture to the French artillery school at Metz in 1864: “The Prussian army has the best moral in Europe because the sentiments of patriotism and honor are so well-developed *even among ordinary soldiers*. Trochu lamented the absence of similar sentiments in the French army. Because the troopers were assumed to be bumpkins or sots, they were continually punished. The pettifogging character of French discipline eventually bred a fearless indifference. Orders to perform fatigues, soldiers would slouch away, muttering “let me die in peace.” **A Prussian visitor to Metz in 1865 noted that French soldiers went through their exercises chatting casually with their friends,** often falling so deep into conversation that they did not hear the commands of their officers.

Pg. 45

The sins of the French army would not have escaped the notice of the French war ministry, which held a lottery every year to select conscripts and then reaped handsome profits selling exemptions to frightened draftees. **The fact that even poor peasant families would scrape together 2,400 francs (\$ 7,200) to buy a son or husband out of military service suggested that something was amiss in the French army.** Bourgeois conscripts fairly ran for the exits, leaving the enlisted ranks with the uneducated dregs of rural society. Like dregs in any vessel, these had an inconvenient tendency to rise to the top. Because the low pay and pensions and slow advancement of the French army attracted few officer candidates, fully two-thirds of French infantry and cavalry officers in 1870 had been promoted from the ranks. Naturally the level of education and culture was appalling; **Waldersee, no snob, noted that foreign attachés recoiled from the ‘coarse, uneducated society’ of even high-ranking French officers.** French officers were also old in comparison with their Prussian equivalents; clambering through the ranks, these men had first had to make sergeant, then waited ten years to make second lieutenant, and so on. Incredibly (to a Prussian), the average age of French lieutenant in 1870 was 37, a captain 45, a major 47. And those were the average ages; in the battles of 1870, the Prussians would capture French junior officers in their fifties and sixties. **These men were ten to thirty years older than their Prussian peers, physically unfit, intellectually blank, and, in the judgment of a French contemporary, all too often “apathetic and inert,” having endured too many disappointments in their own lives to take much interest in those of their men.**

One of Napoléon III’s adjutants painted an even grimmer picture; **French senior officers were “torn by favoritism and rivalries,” and junior officers “shut their mouths and stupefied themselves in the café;** NCOs [Noncommissioned officers] were ‘jealous and critical, sentiments that they passed to their men.’”

Clearly France's "old grumblers" were not all that they were cracked up to be, which made some approach to Prussian methods and troop strength after 1866 essential. **To rejuvenate the French army and flush out the hard drinking *grogards***, Marshal Adolphe Niel, the French war minister from 1867-69, stopped paying bounties to entice reenlistments. The immediate effect was unanticipated and disastrous; thousands of old veterans abruptly retired at a moment when as many as 20,000 of the 80,000 French conscripts called every year were buying their way out of military service. In theory, the army was supposed to replace these men with substitutes; in practice, the millions raised by the sale of exemptions were deposited in a fund kept secret from the legislative body, **the *dotation de l'armée*, which was regularly tapped by Napoléon III to buy gifts for his cronies or settle gambling debts.**

Pg. 48

>>> **DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT** <<<

Major Alfred von **Waldersee**, **Moltke's attaché in Paris**, cultivated the pretty mistress of Napoléon III's principal aide-de-camp [*probably Favé...whom suggested the emperor request Pasteur to investigate diseases of wine, Part One*], who provided the **Prussian general staff with much useful information on the French army.**

Pg. 56

To find their way across unfamiliar terrain and cohere with the overarching battle plan, all Prussian officers were issued large-scale general staff maps.

Pg. 50

Amid this sniping and confusion, French planning, mapping, and war-gaming were utterly neglected....When **Marshal Achille Bazaine** took command of the French III

Corps at Nancy, hard by the German border, **in 1868**, he asked to see maps of his new district and was told that none existed. **His requests to Paris for maps were never answered.**

In 1869, the French army's own newspaper criticized the lack of even basic competency and the tendency toward "paper-pushing" and "bureaucratic servility" in the French general staff. **Much of the problem stemmed from a lack of strong leadership.**

>>> PRUSSIAN ESPIONAGE <<<

By 1870, France still had no general staff chief, rather the emperor- the nominal commander-in-chief- communicated with the army through his chief adjutant, **General Barthelemy Lebrun** (*whose mistress provided the Prussian embassy with much useful military intelligence*), and his war minister, first Marshal Niel, then General Edmond Leboeuf. At least as worrisome as the lack of a general staff chief was the lack of war plans.

Pg. 52

Prodded by Napoléon III, who took a keen personal interest in the project, Antoine Chassepot and team of French engineers rushed a breech-loading rifle into service by late 1866. France's model 1866 infantry rifle, which had been introduced by the Prussian firm, Dreyse, twenty-five years earlier and was long in tooth by the 1860s. With an effective range of 1,000 yards and maximum range of 1,500, the Chassepot thoroughly outclassed the Dreyse, which as effective to only 400 yards and 600 yards in the most experienced hands... **The Chassepot breech was sealed with a rubber ring, which was a novel safety feature from *France's new rubber plantations in Indochina*.** When all of

the differences were considered, one better understands the almost erotic admiration German soldiers for the Chassepot.

Pg. 56-57

Although wisely conceived, Prussia's infantry tactics were still vulnerable to the law of ballistics, namely that **the Chassepot could hit targets at 1,200 yards twice the range of the needle rifle**. This "Chassepot gap" meant that every Prussian attempt to encircle the French might be conceivably beaten back before it could come into range.

>>> DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

...Indeed the reason that they were lumbered with such a mediocre rifle in 1870 was that they had invested so heavily in procurement of cutting-edge artillery after 1866. **The Prussians now relied on breech-loading steel Krupp cannon that fired more quickly and accurately and farther than *France's ten-year-old bronze guns, which had been state-of-the-art in 1859, but were already obsolete in 1870.***

The new models, manufactured by Krupp, were relatively big caliber steel breech-loaders. While the mainstay of the French artillery was still the muzzle-loading four-pound gun, with a twelve-pounder for heavy service, the standard Prussian field gun after 1866 was a six-pounder – "six pounds" describing the weight of the projectile- their heavy gun a twenty-four-pounder. This discrepancy in firepower made a difference, but **the real advantage of the Krupp guns was their superior rate of fire, range, accuracy, and ordnance**. With superior rifling, breech-loading mechanisms and percussion detonated shells, the Krupp guns had three times the accuracy, twice the rate of fire, a third greater range, and many times the destructiveness of the French guns, which had to be loaded at the muzzle and changed with an unreliable time-fused shell that

could burst in two possible zones, a short one, 1,300 yards, or a long one, 2,500 yards, sparing all who found themselves in the broad gap between the zones. **In a word, the French guns, though they had performed brilliantly in 1859, were thoroughly outclassed by 1870.** This surprised no one in the Franco-Prussian War. France's military attaché in Berlin, Colonel Eugène Stoffel, had warned repeatedly of the superiority of the Prussian artillery after Koniggratz and, in a closely watched arms sale, the Belgian army had rejected the French *Napoléon* (the bronze four-pounder) and rearmed with the Krupp six-pounder in 1867. And yet the French still clung to their bronze tubes with the same tenacity and logic with which they would cling to the quick-firing "seventy-fives" before 1914: the gun would compensate for its weak caliber with a greater mobility. **That illusion would be shattered in 1870 as brutally and conclusively as it was in 1914.**

...In brief, the Prussians moved away from "*grossen Batterien*" ("great batteries") and included instead toward "*Artillerie-Massen*" ("artillery masses")... Artillery masses were dynamic; they were independent batteries of guns that massed were needed, poured in gouts of fire, then limbered up and massed somewhere else, either with the same group of batteries, or with others.... A French critic called the Prussian artillery of 1870 "*la charpente*" or "framework" of Moltke's army... **The great benefit of artillery masses was their mobility, their capacity not only to move briskly and opportunistically, but to swarm around a target and subject it to desolating cross fires...** clearly favored ring masses of artillery, a trend that would culminate at the battle of Sedan in September.

The Arms of Krupp

By William Manchester [Little, Brown & Company; New York] 1964, 1965, 1968

Pg. 116-122

Even the Prussian leaders assumed that hostilities would open with a French *offensive à outrance*. Wilhelm himself was so sure of it that he decided there was no reason to issue maps of France from the outset. The French commanders made the same decision – a ghastly error.

...and **on assuming command of his armies** on July 28 the French emperor told them, “Whatever may be the road we take beyond our frontiers, we shall come across the glorious tracks of our fathers. We shall prove worthy of them. ***All France follows you with its fervent prayers, and the eyes of the world are upon you. On our success hangs the fate of liberty and civilization.***”

The French were so sure. For three generations the long shadow of the first Bonaparte had dominated military thought. Now his nephew in the saddle, and behind him stood what were, *by universal agreement, the finest legions in Europe*. **Seasoned by thirty years of continuous fighting in Africa and Mexico, blooded on the continent by victories over Austria at Magenta and Solferino, bearing battle flags emblazoned by combat streamers from the Crimea and Asia**, gaudily uniformed in dashing kepis, tunics striped with light blue and yellow, and *pantalons rouges*, they were the envy of every foreign chancellery. **Turkey, in 1856, and Japan [Tokugawa shōgunate], in 1868, had chosen French officers to guide them in building their armies.** The élan of Louis Napoléon soldiery could scarcely have been higher; they eagerly looked forward to heroic attacks carried out by gallant men crying “*En avant! A la baignotte!*” to the strains of *La Marseillaise*. **Their faith in their leadership was absolute.** The emperor himself was a student of artillery and had published two treatises on it, the first which, **his *Manuel d’Artillerie*, had commanded professional admiration for thirty-five years.**

To imperial France, Prussia's martial stance seemed nothing less than an **impertinence**....The emperor's office corps regarded them with contempt. Moltke's stunning triumph of 1866 was discounted. Anybody could defeat the Austrians, and nearly everyone had. Anyhow, that had been largely a stroke of efficiency, which, in French eyes, was pedestrian virtue. **The fact that Prussia had built its railroad grid with war in mind, had studied General Sherman's brilliant use of railways in Tennessee [recent American Civil War; Sherman victorious Union general], and had mastered the coordination of telegraph and troop trains was considered of small consequence in Napoléon's headquarters.** Should anyone have insisted otherwise he would have been dismissed as a dreamer.

Really they were the dreamers....**The industrial revolution had transformed the profession of arms**, but in their martial illusions they refought the battles of Napoléon I....France's fatal weakness was ordnance... **the Frenchmen's artillery was hopelessly obsolete**...When *Les Papiers Secrets du Second Empire* was published in Belgium after the war it was discovered that the marshal himself [Leboeuf] had scribbled the "*Rien à faire*" across Krupp's offer to supply France with cast steel breech-loaders....moreover, he himself remained stubbornly loyal to muzzle-loaders. He was, of course, wrong on all counts.

...The Junkers were spurred by a desire to avenge a thousand years of inferiority, and the German privates in their uniforms of Prussian blue, singing the Protestant hymn In allen meinen Taten and chanting "**Nach Paris!**" around their campfires, **believed they had embarked upon a mighty crusade to humble the city** Prussian newspapers called "*the new Babylon.*"

The Pacific War

By John Costello [Rawson, Wade Publishers; New York] 1981

Pg. 16 **French First to Arm and Train Armed Forces of Japan**

A modern navy was established with British-built warships under the supervision of Royal Navy officers. **The Imperial Army [actually Tokugawa shōgunate] was issued its first modern firearms and trained by the French — until they were defeated in the [1870] 1871 Franco-Prussian War, *when they were quickly replaced by [P]russian officers.*** [Perhaps a simple typo error in publishing]

Japan, too, was trying to find an outlet for her manufactures, and **in 1876 borrowed the favorite diplomatic tactic of Western imperialism** by sending her warships across the China Sea to demand **concessions from the independent kingdom of Korea.**

Pg. 20 **1894: Japan-Germany-Korea**

>>> **Japan's Prussian-trained troops trounced the Chinese Army,** but the intervention of Russia in the peace negotiations blocked Japan's intended annexation of Korea and allowed **her control over Formosa [Taiwan] instead.***

***Taiwan continues to use Japanese styled chopsticks than on the mainland instead.**

Bismarck - A Life

By Jonathan Steinberg [Oxford University Press; Oxford UK] 2011

Pg. 130

Bismarck in Paris - "Babylon"

In the **summer of 1856 Bismarck visited Paris** and received a lecture [from his patron Gerlach] ... he replied:

>>> **You scold me that I have been to Babylon but you can hardly expect from a diplomat eager to learn the rules this sort of political chastity...** I have to get to know *the elements in which I have to move* from my own direct observation when the opportunity arises. You need not fear for my political health. I have a nature like a duck and water runs off my feathers and there is a long way between by skin and my heart.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon



The Queen of the Night

The figure could be an aspect of the goddess Ishtar,
Babylonian goddess of sex and love.

The Revelation of St. John in the Christian Bible refers to Babylon many centuries after it ceased to be a major political center. **The city is personified by the "Whore of Babylon"**, riding on a scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns, and drunk on the

blood of the righteous. Some scholars of apocalyptic literature believe this New Testament "Babylon" to be a dysphemism for the Roman Empire.



Entry of Alexander into Babylon

[Alexander is depicted by the “Sun King”, the supreme King Louis XIV]

a 1665 painting by Charles LeBrun, depicts Alexander the Great's *uncontested entry into the city of Babylon*, envisioned with pre-existing Hellenistic architecture.

The opening skirmish came in at Wissembourg in Alsace on August 4: the French general was killed by a Krupp shell.

..after eight hours of hammering by Krupp cannons the French lines broke and retreated in wild disorder.

Worth – called the battle of Froschwiller by the French – was an omen; **villagers required a full week to recover the splendidly pantalooned corpses from vineyards** and forests...The war diaries of the participants are more vivid; a Prussian saw the distant blue blouses reacting “like a startled swarm of bees,” **a French observer wrote that tunics littered the ground so thickly that it looked “like a field of flax,”** and a historian noted that the records of Louis-Napoléon regiments revealed “a gradual disintegration under the weight of German shells.”

...Within twenty-four hours the French dream had become a nightmare.

MacMahon abandoned Alsace and Louis-Napoléon retreated to the mighty fortress of Metz...Louis-Napoléon escaped at the last moment and galloped south to MacMahon... the consequence was disaster.

...On Thursday, September 1, the emperor’s exhausted right wing met King Wilhelm’s flushed corps seven miles from the Belgian border at Sedan, a small, obsolete fortress on the Meuse [river] with seventeenth-century works. To MacMahon [French field marshal] irregular high ground north of the town was a “*position magnifique*,” but the General Auguste Ducrot, a veteran of Worth, knew what was coming.

Panicking, the French barricaded themselves in the town’s old stone houses, which were **swiftly demolished by shellfire**. As dawn lightened the valley sixteen Krupp batteries, brilliantly deployed on the slopes above, far beyond the range of the French guns, annihilated an entire Zouave* division, including the commanding officer and his chief of staff. **No one was safe from the murderous bursts**. With daylight less than an hour old a shell fragment wounded MacMahon himself; carried back into the tiny fort on a litter, he passed his baton to Ducrot.... “We need a victory.” Ducrot replied, “You will be very lucky, *mon général*, if this evening you have a retreat.”

* The **Zouaves** were a class of light infantry regiments of the French Army serving between 1830 and 1962 and linked to French North Africa, as well as some units of other countries modeled upon them. The Zouaves, along with the indigenous Tirailleurs Algeriens, were among the most decorated units of the French Army.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zouave

United States Zouave Cadets

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Zouave_Cadets

The **United States Zouave Cadets** (also known as the **Chicago Zouaves**, **Zouave Cadets of Chicago** and the **National Guard Cadets of Chicago**) was a short-lived Zouave unit of the Illinois militia that has been credited as the force behind the surge in popularity of Zouave infantry in the United States and Confederate States in the mid-19th century. **Established in 1856, it adopted Zouave uniforms and drill in 1859.*** Its 1860 tour of the United States popularized the distinctive Zouave appearance and customs, directly and indirectly inspiring the formation of dozens of similar units on the eve of the American Civil War.

* Note after the end of the Crimean War



During the governorship of William Henry Bissell, the United States Zouave Cadets held the ceremonial designation of Governor's Guard of Illinois. Its march, the "Zouave Cadets Quickstep", has been named by the Caxton Club as one of 101 publications that shaped the early image of Chicago.

1860 tour

In July of 1860, the unit undertook a tour of the United States, **appearing in parades and performing exhibition drills** in Adrian, Michigan; Detroit, Michigan; Cleveland, Ohio; Buffalo, New York, Rochester, New York; Utica, New York; Troy, New York; Albany, New York; New York, New York; and Boston, Massachusetts. Their tour closed with exhibition drills for General Winfield Scott at West Point, for President of the United

States James Buchanan at the White House, and in one final public appearance in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Later history

The United States Zouave Cadets effectively ceased to exist with the outbreak of the American Civil War with most of its personnel scattering to other units. Ellsworth himself took command of the 11th New York Infantry, a Zouave regiment raised in New York City in May 1861, and was killed in action capturing a Confederate States flag in Alexandria, Virginia. In April of 1861, officers of the United States Zouave Cadets formed three separate Zouave companies each comprising between 80 and 89 men, which were integrated into the 19th Illinois Infantry Regiment.



United States Zouave Cadets

>>> IMPORTANT <<<

Charles De Villiers, the French physician and veteran of Crimea who had originally inspired Ellsworth's interest in Zouaves, was later employed as an informal inspector of the Camp Dennison recruiting post. He was described in one account by a Camp Dennison soldier as "a dapper little gentleman of very dark complexion".* The 11th Ohio Infantry later elected De Villiers its commander and he was commissioned a colonel. He was captured by Confederate forces during a skirmish at Gauley Bridge in Virginia in 1861.

* Oh No! Black! Don't say that! Can't be! He's French after all!

Legacy

The popularity of the public appearances undertaken by the United States Zouave Cadets during their 1860 national tour helped inspire the formation of additional Zouave units in other states, many of which saw service during the Civil War. More than 50 Zouave units existed in the Union Army alone, with additional Zouave forces raised by the Confederate States.

The Arms of Krupp

By William Manchester [Little, Brown & Company] 1964, 1965, 1968

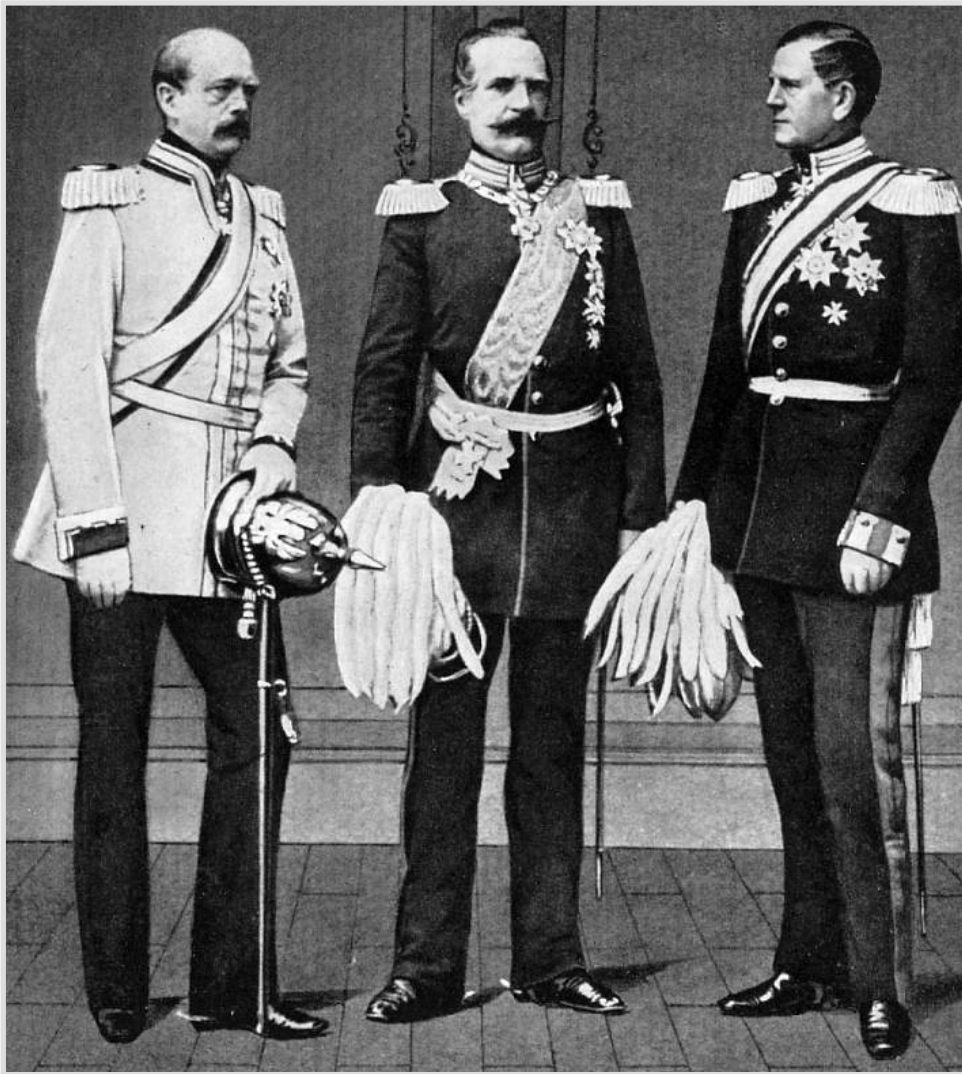
Pg. 116-122



Zouave Infantry Soldier, c. 1870

Altogether the Prussians and their fellow Germans had five hundred Krupp cannon. Wilhelm, raising a telescope to see the fruits of Essen's labor, beheld an extraordinary spectacle – mile after mile of thrashing red trousers beneath the long gun line of the Second Bavarian Corps and beyond their flashing, the deep green ridges of the Ardennes.

By noon Wimpffen [French general] knew the day was lost. He then tried to breakout, couldn't even assemble enough troops for an attempt, and at one o'clock sent to Sedan for Louis-Napoléon. The emperor wouldn't come. He wasn't afraid. **On the contrary, he mounted his horse and galloped recklessly through the blizzard of shrapnel, preferring death on the battlefield on *the dishonor of surrender*...** The King of Prussia lowered his spyglass. He murmured, "Ah! Les braves gens!"



Bismarck, Roon & Moltke, c. 1860s

"Never before," wrote Howard, "had gunfire been used in war with such precision."

Bismarck - A Life

By Jonathan Steinberg [Oxford University Press; Oxford UK] 2011

Pg. 135

War Games with Dice

>>> **War games originated with two Prussian officers...between 1810 and 1824....A** set of rules, an umpire — the conductor — who mediated between the opposing sides, **and dice standing for the element of chance in the war.** War gaming was practiced at three or four distinct levels. One was indoors around the map or sand table. The other three were done outdoors.

Pg. 130

Dicey Political Games of Chance

The metaphors that Bismarck begin to use in the 1850s came from **his experiences in games of chance, cards, dice and the like.** Politics had, he asserted more and more openly, nothing to do with good and evil, virtue and vice; they had to know the rules of the game, the psychologies of the other players, and the number of moves open to him. As he observed years later,

My entire life was spent gambling for high stakes with other people's money. I could never foresee exactly whether my plan would succeed...Politics is a thankless job because everything depends on chance and conjecture. One has to reckon with a series of probabilities and improbabilities and base one's plans upon this reckoning.

Pg. 135

General Moltke

Moltke was as remarkable as Bismarck but temperamentally and socially his exact opposite.

...Modest family circumstances 'decided that Moltke together with his two brothers, Wilhelm and Fritz, without any concerns for their own desires, had to become soldiers'. Lack of money led Moltke all his life to a certain obvious frugality. **Even as a Field Marshall and the greatest general in Prussian history *he travelled second class and usually took a sandwich in a paper bag.***

Moltke graduated top of his class. He was always effortlessly the best at everything but was too poor to take the position he had earned in the Great General Staff because he lacked the private income needed to pay for his horses. As a result, like Albrecht von Roon, Moltke joined the topography section and became a 'land artist.'

Pg. 137

There seems to be nothing, *especially in the arts*, that he could not do...His assignment as adjutant to Prince Heinrich, who lived a solitary life an art lover in Rome, gave him an opportunity to learn Italian and to draw the great architectural treasures of the Eternal City. **Moltke was that rare human being, a universal man.**

Moltke and King Wilhelm were the same kind of people: economical and simplicity loving, moderate and unpretentious. Both used the unwritten parts of letters to make notes and disliked replacing old clothes with new....He himself had been a product of the

General Staff as an educational institution. Moltke was now an alumnus of the institution that he now commanded.

Stories of Moltke's calm detachment circulated throughout his career. In July 1870 Holstein reports that

Colonel Stiehle also told me that he had found Moltke on the sofa with a novel of Sir Walter Scott in his hand. When the colonel passed some remark about such reading matter at such a moment, **the General replied placidly: 'Why not? Everything's ready. We've only got to press the button.'**

During the Franco-Prussian War, Lieutenant Colonel Julius Verdy du Vernois was one of the chief staff officers. On 9 January 1871 he wrote his assessment of Moltke as a boss in his private diary. It is a remarkable testimony to the great general's character:

Moltke lives entirely with his staff, and is kind as ever to everyone of us. No one has ever heard a single harsh word from him during the whole campaign. With us, he is even merry in his simple, cheerful and modest way. We will happily be in his company, and absolutely love and worship. But outside of our small circle, there is only one feeling and that is admiration towards him; everyone says he is a truly ideal character.

On the evening of the battle of Sedan, the greatest victory of Prussian arms in the nineteenth century, the King gave dinner for the top commanders. Alfred Count von Waldersee, then a staff officer, recorded the following passage in his diary:

At dinner were Roon, Moltke and Bismarck. The King raised his glass and drank to the health of 'the man who sharpened the sword for me, the man who used it, and the man who directed my policies.' These words have been frequently quoted differently but I can guarantee that this is what he said.

Pg. 135

Railroads Build a Future

Other changes took place against the background of the Crimean War which strengthened Prussia. The first half of the 1850s saw a very rapid expansion of railroad building which transformed the mobilization of the Prussian army...Although Prussia never tested these [railway and timetable] plans in a full-scale mobilization in the 1850s, an operational timetable was in place by 1856.

Pg. 144

Reprise: Industrialization of Prussia [1860s]

Friedrich Engels, who returned to Prussia for the first time **a generation after the Revolution of 1848, was astonished by the change.**

Whoever last saw the Prussian Rhineland, Westphalia, the kingdom of Saxony, upper Silesia, Berlin and the seaports in 1849 found them unrecognizable in 1864. Everywhere machines and steam-power had spread. **Steamships gradually replaced sail-ships, first in the coastal trade, then in maritime commerce. The railways multiplied in length many times.** In the dockyards, collieries, and iron works there prevailed an activity of the kind the ponderous German had previously thought himself capable.

...The Prussian aristocracy still monopolized power in the army and civil service, **while society had begun the rapid modernization that accompanies very sudden industrialization.** It brought with it the rise of a wealthy middle class and a large industrial working class that demanded more representation and genuine parliamentary politics.

Pg. 234-235

While Bismarck negotiated with the Austrians, Moltke had begun to draw lessons from the Danish War, not all of them happy ones. ***The Prussians had done less well than the official propaganda suggested.*** The Danes had very effectively used trenches and fortified worlds and by concentrating their fire had inflicted heavy casualties on the Prussians and Austrians. ‘**Now that a cannon could hurl a shell seven kilometers [4.3 sm]** and an infantry rifle could bring a man down at 1,000 paces, it would be difficult to redirect a regiment from an enemy’s center to his flank in the heat of battle.’ Moltke also became convinced that the size of the modern army meant that traditional Napoleonic doctrines of concentrated forces must lead to disaster, a kind of military traffic jam. During the 1850s the General Staff and the railways cooperated more and more closely so that in time of war the army could count on good transport arrangements. The gradual extension of military control or railroads meant that Moltke could work a very different mobilization timetable and hence a different deployment of troops. The slogan - march separately, strike together - came to be associated with Moltke’s bold innovation — to have his armies deploy separately but come together to fight. Great enveloping movements became possible and one of them led too the greatest victory of 1866. The King, who understood military matters, gave Moltke the same ability to experiment that he gave Bismarck, and **it is a remarkable fact that the greatest diplomat and the greatest strategist of the nineteenth century served the same monarch and the same state.** In addition, the two generals without whom Bismarck could not have unified Germany, Roon and Moltke, came from untypical Prussian backgrounds, Moltke from Denmark and Roon more distantly from Holland. Neither had personal wealth and neither owned estates.

Pg. 140

General Roon

Roon came from a very modest background and probably from Dutch bourgeois stock. Certainly 'de Roon' had no claims to nobility, and **his paternal grandfather had a wine business in Frankfurt.** During the Nazi period, the existence of a significant number of 'Noahs' and 'Isaacs' in his Dutch ancestry gave cause for a certain amount of alarm and they touched up his genealogy.

Pg. 143

Prussia was not a free state. It had no citizens, only subjects. Neither the Regent nor his military adviser intended to alter that. **Hence Roon called the *Landwehr* a 'politically false' institution, in that it gave its soldiers ideas beyond their station.** It was false in a second sense because it went back to the 'people's rising' of 1813 to 1815, which had for the first time enlisted volunteer units to fight alongside the Royal Prussian Army. **The legend of the heroic young men fighting in their *stylish black uniforms* in a war for freedom** [Think pre-SS troops in WWII] comforted a bourgeoisie who could to get commissions in the proper army and who claimed their share of the patriotic War of Liberation

Pg. 148

1859 Franco - Piedmont Alliance against Austria

Roon's fate and that of Bismarck were, in fact, being decided in a different part of the world. On 29 January 1859 a Franco-Piedmontese treaty, ratified by both parties, largely codified the terms agreed between Napoléon III and Count Cavour, the Piedmontese Prime Minister, at Plombières in 1858: in the event of an Austro-Piedmontese War in Italy resulting from Austrian aggression, France would join Piedmont in an effort to drive the Austrians from Italy and establish a Kingdom of Upper Italy under the House of Savoy. A few days later, on 4 February 1859, **Napoléon published a pamphlet, 'L'Empereur Napoléon III et l'Italie', in which the nephew of the great Napoléon set out his agenda for following in his predecessor's footsteps.** He too would liberate Italy and reduce the power of the reactionary Habsburg Empire.

>>> This bold attack on international order of mid-century Europe would set off tremors that would lift both Roon and Bismarck to power and create the conditions in which Germany too could be unified.

Pg. 237

Horse Power

During the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, 250,000 horses were mobilized by Prussia and more than 300,000 by France.



Battle of Wörth, August 6, 1870

1887

by Aimé Morot

François Achille Bazaine

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois_Achille_Bazaine

"Nous marchons à un désastre"

It is clear even at this early stage that Bazaine was acutely aware of his Army's shortcomings against the well known speed and menacing efficiency of the Prussian military machine, evidenced by his remark to a friend whilst boarding the train from Paris to Metz: "*Nous marchons à un désastre.*" ("**We are walking into a disaster.**") He had absorbed certain lessons that were to become a vital part of French military thought. From the story of Waterloo he had learned that a line of resolute men on the defensive could again and again break an enemy attack.

>>> HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

From Mexico he had watched Lee's dashing Confederates lose a war despite their commander's brilliance in attack. He had also learned that dramatic sorties were invaluable in North Africa but were risky against European armies.

Finally, Bazaine saw with misgivings the Prussian invention all-steel Krupp breech-loading gun, which was to shape the future of artillery on the battlefield.

He concluded at this time that for France defensive war is better than offensive war.

"It is better," he said, "to conduct operations systematically (i.e., defensively), as in the Seventeenth Century."

Bazaine takes over as Commander-in-Chief from Napoléon III

Bazaine took no part in the earlier battles, but **after the defeats** of Marshal MacMahon's French Forces at Wörth and Marshal Canrobert's at Forbach, Napoléon III (who was increasingly poor health) was swift to give **Bazaine the title of Commander-in-Chief of the French Army on 13 August 1870**. At the time, Napoléon's choice was considered to be a wise one. It was widely believed by French politicians and soldiers alike, that if anyone was capable of saving France from the Prussian onslaught, it was "notre glorieux Bazaine" ("our glorious Bazaine"). **He was the only remaining Marshal of France not to have suffered defeat at the hands of Prussian forces in the early weeks of the war**. However, being the youngest of the French Marshals, Napoléon's choice was met with suspicion and jealousy by the older, socially superior Marshals. Hence **it was with reluctance that he took up the chief command, and his tenure became the central act in the tragedy of 1870**. He found the army in retreat, ill-equipped and numerically at a great disadvantage, and the generals and officers discouraged and distrustful of one another. Bazaine's solution was to bring back his army to Metz.

The Franco-Prussian War
The German Conquest of France, 1870-1871

By Geoffrey Wawro [Cambridge University Press; New York] 2003, 2005

Pg. 202-203

Collapse at Sedan

MacMahon's move to Reims puzzled everyone in Prussian headquarters; did it portend a defense of Paris from a sheltered position behind the Aisne and the Canal de la Marne or a bold flank march east to relieve Bazaine?

Prince Leopold of Bavaria witnessed the momentous decision during supper with the King Wilhelm, Bismarck, Moltke, and Roon at Bar-le-Duc late on the 25th. "At the table

we talked of nothing but the possible meaning of the French move and the prospective moves against it.” According to Leopold, “only Moltke’s penetrating eyes could settle the uncertain future into a concrete plan.”

A Saxon colonel in Prussian great headquarters later asserted that it required Moltke’s “veritable clairvoyance” to make sense of the mystifying French movements and risk the wheel north toward Sedan. Once it was begun, all doubts evaporated...like spectators at a chess match, the Prussians felt certain that MacMahon was making a disastrous move, what Bismarck judged “a blundering maneuver.” Throwing caution to the wind, **Napoléon III and MacMahon were leading their last four corps away from Paris and into the crushing embrace of two Prussian armies.**

Pg. 212

In Donchéry, hungry Prussians swarmed joyously into abandoned **French supply trains** to feast on their contents: sausages, hams, bread, jams, sugar, sardines in oil, **red and white wines, and cases of champagne.** For many this would be their last supper. On the grassy slope about Frénois, Prussian enlisted men were staking out a luxurious enclosure, where the King of Prussia, Bismarck, and Moltke would invite the princes of Germany, the foreign attache’s and the international press corps to watch the trap snap shut on 1 September.

For any officer who just days earlier had written that “the Prussian system consists of concentrating forces to maneuver decisively in great masses,” Marshal Patrice MacMahon was showing precious little discernment in his deployments around Sedan. The position, three parallel ridge lines descended to the Meuse, was tailored made for what was becoming a Prussian specialty, the “*Zirkel-Schlacht*” or “circle battle,” in which German troops would surround an enemy army and demolish it with masses of artillery and converging infantry attacks...

Instead of having a broad river and fortress works across his front, MacMahon would find them in his rear... The deployment was, in the words of a French participant, “*très défectueuse*” – not least because it contained no obvious line of retreat. The entire defensive triangle above Sedan measured no more than fifteen miles. With 120,000 troops and 700 guns, the Germans would have little trouble engulfing such a small space, and each step forward would shrink the battlefield some more, multiplying the power of the Prussian guns and increasing pressure on the French.

Pg. 222

The Prussians stared in disbelief; they had two entire infantry corps with 144 guns deployed along this face of the triangle, all within range of the French attack and with perfect visibility. “There were heaped up bodies everywhere, yet one looked in vain for a single intact, undamaged corpse; the men had been mutilated [by the fire] **I spotted a beautiful pair of cavalry boots lying on the ground and them up; there were legs and feet still inside them...By the end, the French horses did not so much charge as pick their way gingerly over the piles of fallen mounts and men.**

Watching the French from a distance, a Prussian officer could not help but to feel pity for them: “They were backed up behind their guns there were no intervals between them...Abandoning all pretense at discipline, the French troops ran for the rear, dissolving the entire defense front from Illy and Fleigneux down to Floing. **The Prussians exploited the collapse, rushing to occupy the French positions and pour fire into the retreating units.** Watching the battle through his telescope from the height of Donchéry, Crown Prince Friedrich Wilhelm, nursing a sour stomach, found the “scene painful and repugnant; French infantrymen were running around unarmed, restless and bewildered.” “...**The tactical chaos on the French side was beyond description; the corps fought as isolated detachments, not concentrated units.**

In the closing circle around Sedan, German guns in mobile masses were cooperating so effectively that their fire often converged at ninety-degree angles on the same target, **literally enfolding the terrified French in shellfire**. At noon, 200 Prussian and Saxon guns rake the Bois de la Garenne from end to end, killing hundreds of French fugitives and bring the rest into the green downs south of the wood. As the French emerged in the open, the German batteries followed them. German battery commanders had maneuvered their guns into positions of textbook effectiveness, gaining a tactical advantage far more likely to be illustrated on a blackboard than ever actually achieved in the chaos of battle.

With six-pound shells bursting in their midst, the French troops dissolved in a great *suave qui peut* headed for Sedan. **There men tumbled into the ditches and frantically tried to climb the walls of the fortress.**

...Dozens of French cannon and *mitrailleuses* had simply been left behind by their fleeing (or dead) gun crews. The wounded were “mutilated, dying men, mostly artillery casualties, without arms, feet, legs, many with open skulls, their brains oozing out. The screams were horrible, from the awful wounds or the razor pain of the Chassepot bullet.” Here a Bavarian captain paused and vomited at the sight of a French gunner dismembered by a direct hit: “He had only a head, chest and one arm...Most of the rest had been blown away by a shell that struck him directly.” **Nearby was a pile of butchered horseflesh, the remains of a general and his staff literally blown to smithereens.** Ordered to identify the dead general, a Saxon lieutenant found only a scrap of his underwear, labeled “General T.”

By the end of the battle, the Germans had almost 700 guns in action. Having neutralized MacMahon’s 550 cannon early in the day, they had turned their fire on the French infantry and cavalry for most of the battle.

...Watching the slaughter with Bismarck and Moltke on the height of Frenois, the American observer Philip Sheridan wondered how Napoléon III would survive it: “Oh no,” Bismarck chortled. **“The old fox is too cunning to be caught in such a trap; he has doubtless slipped off to Paris.”**

Louis Pasteur

By Patrice Debré [John Hopkins University Press; Baltimore & London] 1998
Translated by Elborg Forster

Pg. 245-246

The Year of the Storm: 1870

Edmond About [also an imperial guest at Compiègne with Pasteur and Dumas *fils in 1856 and lover of courtesan Alice Ozy noted earlier] had written in 1860:* “The unification of Germany is the most fervent and most heartfelt wish of France, for it loves the German nation with an unselfish friendship. France sees without fear an Italy of 26 million inhabitants to its south, and it would not be afraid to see 32 million Germans founding a great nation on its eastern frontier.” The imperial policy chose to believe that united Germany would respect its borders and that the federated provinces would become a neutral state.

In the spring on 1870, Pasteur, who was passing through Strasbourg, and Sainte-Claire Deville, who was on his way back from Bonn, saw troop movements on the other side the Rhine. **It was the deployment of the Prussians along the frontier.** The two Frenchmen barely had time to wonder about it.

Events took a dramatic turn in July: in the famous Ems telegram, a veritable provocation, Bismarck explained to the press how William I had tricked the French ambassador,

Benedetti. **The insult was deliberate. France was swept away by a wave of patriotism. The French were ready to go to war over this diplomatic slap in the face.**

...By early August, defeats began to accumulate. Alsace had to be evacuated by Marshal MacMahon. Toul and Strasbourg were defenceless. Bazaine retreated to the outskirts of Metz, where he was soon encircled. The remainder of the French troops followed more than led by Napoléon III, a sick man, allowed itself to be surrounded in the pocket of Sedan. It was there that the Emperor capitulated and declared himself a prisoner on 2 September. Two days later, the Republic was proclaimed at the Paris city hall after Gambetta and Jules Favre, pressured by groups of workers who had occupied the National Assembly, had called for a vote on **the liquidation of the Empire**. While the Empress fled to England, a government of national defense was formed and accepted by acclamation. In early October, Gambetta [Italian and Jewish descent] used a hot-air balloon to travel from the already besieged Paris to Tours, the provisional seat of the government, where he took charge of the continuation of the struggle.

>>> **Pasteur had never made a secret of his sympathy for the imperial régime. Brought up with the legend of the Eagle [*Aigle*] ('The Emperor was more than a great man!')** and hatred for the Bourbons, he was fiercely loyal to the imperial dynasty. **In his eyes, the Empire was the most precious guarantee for preserving national dignity.**

The Arms of Krupp

By William Manchester [Little, Brown & Company] 1964, 1965, 1968

Pg. 116-122

Yet death spurned Louis-Napoléon. Shells engulfed his cavalry, his massed infantry, his staff, and his lieutenants, **but not a splinter fell near him, and he returned to Sedan unharmed.** At dusk he sent a sergeant with a white pennant to ask terms and ordered the white flag hoisted over the fort itself.'

Louis Pasteur

By Patrice Debré [John Hopkins University Press; Baltimore & London] 1998

Translated by Elborg Forster

Pg. 245

...**The news of the capitulation at Sedan and the Emperor's abdication surprised Pasteur while he was still in Paris.** On 5 September, he wrote to Marshal Vaillant that he was broken with grief and asked the favor of being remembered to the deposed Empress. **He wanted to be counted among those, he said, who would forever remember the blessings of the Empire and who believed that the reign of Napoléon III would go down in history as one of the most glorious periods in French history.**

For Pasteur, the demise of the Empire had an immediate minor by symbolic consequence: the decree by which he had been appointed senator had not yet become official, so that **Pasteur's name would not be listed among the senators of the Empire.** This also meant that the scientist would not receive the pension for a position in which he had never served.



King Wilhelm I of Prussia Departing to the Army
for Franco-Prussian War on July 13, 1870

by Adolf von Menzel painted 1871

Georges Bizet

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georges_Bizet

- Truncated -

Georges Bizet (25 October 1838 – 3 June 1875), registered at birth as Alexandre César Léopold Bizet, was a **French composer of the Romantic era**. Best known for his operas in a career cut short by his early death, Bizet achieved few successes before **his final work, *Carmen*, which has become one of the most popular and frequently performed works in the entire opera repertoire.**

During a brilliant student career at the Conservatoire de Paris, Bizet won many prizes, including the prestigious Prix de Rome in 1857. He was recognised as an outstanding pianist, though he chose not to capitalise on this skill and rarely performed in public.

After a series of perceived provocations from Prussia, culminating in the offer of the Spanish crown to the Prussian Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern, **the French Emperor Napoléon III declared war on 15 July 1870.** Initially, this step was supported by an outbreak of patriotic fervour and confident expectations of victory.

>>> HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

>>> Bizet, along with other composers and artists, joined the National Guard and began training. He was critical of the antiquated equipment with which he was supposed to fight; *his unit's guns, he said, were more dangerous to themselves than to the enemy.*



Georges Bizet c. 1860

The national mood was soon depressed by news of successive reverses; at Sedan on 2 September, the French armies suffered an overwhelming defeat; Napoléon III was captured and deposed, and the Second Empire came to a sudden end.

Bizet greeted with enthusiasm the proclamation in Paris of the Third Republic. The new government did not sue for peace, and by 17 September, the Prussian armies had surrounded Paris.

Unlike Gounod, who fled to England, Bizet rejected opportunities to leave the besieged city: **"I can't leave Paris! It's impossible! It would be quite simply an act of cowardice"**, he wrote to Mme Halévy.

Life in the city became frugal and harsh, although, by October, there were efforts to re-establish normality. Padeloup resumed his regular Sunday concerts, and on 5 November, the Opéra reopened with excerpts from works by Gluck, Rossini, and Meyerbeer.

The Franco-Prussian War
The German Conquest of France, 1870-1871

By Geoffrey Wawro [Cambridge University Press; New York] 2003, 2005



The Surrender of Napoléon III at Sedan 1870 by Eduard Hellberger, 1875

Pg. 202-203

The following day Napoléon III, Emperor of the French, was carted off to a *Stalag* at Wilhelmshöhe with his elegant baggage, his periwigged footmen, and his huge entourage. The splendid weather had been replaced by a driving rain. Napoléon's surviving troops were huddled in a hastily improvised internment camp on the banks of the river. From *le*

camp de la misère, as they called it, they shouted epithets at him. Moltke and Bismarck stood together, watching the emperor's carriage roll away.

“There is a dynasty on its way out,” Bismarck murmured.

He might have added that two others were remorselessly rising: those of Hohenzollern and Krupp.

The French were embittered; nearly a half-century later at Versailles, **Georges Clemenceau***, who was now mayor of Montmartre and whom this disaster brought into national politics, would recall the taste for *revanche* he had acquired in his twenties and use it to demolish Woodrow Wilson's policy of mercy toward the then prostrate Germany [World War I...which led the rise of Hitler for a German revenge on France in World War II].

*** Note Clemenceau's observation in Part One about the state of morality in Paris; opposed Ferry's colonization policy Part Two**

Far from it: having slipped the Prince Impérial [Lou-Lou] over the border into Belgium in the last days of August, the “old fox” was now conferring individually with his generals in Sedan...General Douay wearily dictated his reply: “I have only three intact brigades, little ammunition, and no artillery.” There would be no holding the Prussians in the rear, or anywhere.

... Napoléon III simply ignored Wimpffens request that he ride out and place himself at the head of the last breakout attempt; **he raised the white flag instead.**

Bismarck dictated the reply to the French emperor: ‘Regretting the circumstances you find yourself in, I accept the sword of Your Majesty and appoint General Moltke...to

negotiate the capitulation of the army that has fought so bravely under your orders.

**Offered a flask of brandy by his nephew, Bismarck toasted all present in English-
“here’s to the unification of Germany”- and drained the entire bottle.**



*Bismarck et Napoléon III se rencontrent à Donchéry, le 2 septembre 1870 après la
Bataille de Sedan.*

1878

by Wilhelm Camphausen

Note: Bismarck is holding the imperial sword of Napoléon III

Pg. 228

>>> September 2nd <<<

Napoléon III Sat Down as a Bad Boy and Schooled By Bismarck

Rising early on **2 September**, he rode out to Donchéry to appeal personally to King Wilhelm I for leniency. **Bismarck intercepted the French emperor, steered him into a courtyard of an inn, sat him on bench and berated him a full hour.** The Prussians would show no mercy aside from the usual surrender formalities. **Witnesses who watched them from a respectful distance noted that Bismarck gesticulated passionately while the emperor slumped deeper into his seat.** Moltke appeared and reiterated that the Army of Châlons must give itself up unconditionally. Napoléon III had been under the impression that Moltke had lifted the siege of Metz to reinforce his numbers at Sedan. He was now disabused of that notion as well as another: Bazaine had used the respite to free his army and deliver it to Empress Eugénie. “*Ja, dann ist alles verloren,*” the emperor mumbled in the German that he had learned in his boyhood exile. “Yes, quite right, all is really lost.” Permitted to see the Prussian king, **Napoléon III entered the room in his general’s uniform, *with tears streaming down his cheeks...***the Prussian king could scarcely contain his delight with Louis-Napoléon’s predicament; Wilhelm I had a long memory, and regarded Sedan as “our Tilsit,” a reference to the vindictive French-imposed treaty of 1807 that had annexed half of Prussia’s territory and population.

Two hours later, General Wimpffen signed the Prussian-dictated armistice in the **Château de Bellevue**, a hilltop industrialist’s mansion halfway between Sedan and Donchéry. Only the French officers were paroled, the 20,000 French troops captured during the battle and the 80,000 fugitives around Sedan were transported to prison camps. ***It is difficult just how shocking this was to contemporaries.*** An Austrian witness described the “sensation,” calling Sedan “one of the most stunning events in history...**An army of 100,000 that had fought twenty victorious campaigns in every part of the world laid**

down its arms...costing France the premier world power position that it had gained over the years at the cost of thousands of its own sons killed in battle. In Paris, Prince Richard Metternich went to Empress Eugénie to offer his condolences and found her “crushed, sleepless, weeping with desperation.”

The Arms of Krupp

By William Manchester [Little, Brown & Company] 1964, 1965, 1968

Pg. 116-122

...Bismarck, in declining to be generous, fixed the French general with his pale blue eyes and replied that “One should not, in general, reply on gratitude, and especially not that of a people.” **Instead the Junker demanded the surrender of the entire French force at Sedan, including Louis-Napoléon himself.**

Even as the bourgeois emperor fumed, Wimpffen was scrawling his name on it in the Château de Bellevue on the river.

He begged the king to let him be taken to prison through Belgium. If he were marched through France, he pointed out *he would be subjected to intolerable humiliation.*

The Franco-Prussian War The German Conquest of France, 1870-1871

By Geoffrey Wawro [Cambridge University Press; New York] 2003, 2005

Pg. 250

On 28 October **Bazaine ordered his regiments to deposit their flags and eagles at the Metz arsenal for surrender to the Prussians.** This hugely controversial step was but one of many Bazaine controversies in the final days, because every unit preferred to burn its colors rather than give them to the enemy for boastful display in his palaces and garrison churches. Offered full military honors by Prince Friedrich Karl, Bazaine actually refused them. Instead of parading his troops over to the Prussian lines with shouldered arms, mounted officers and bands playing, he ordered the men to stack their rifles in Metz and await transport to German soil. **Instead of spiking his 600 guns, he handed the cannons over to the Prussians in working order.** Many troops revolted at this semi-treasonous conduct, sparking riots in Metz, an attack on General Coffinières house, and a fire in the cathedral. The three conflagrations were successively doused by local national guards frantic that their city might be destroyed at its long-awaited hour of deliverance by Bazaine's furious *grogards*.

The next day, Metz and its army of 133,000 men with their 600 guns surrendered under a cold rain. The notorious separation- the division of the enlisted men from their officers- occurred on 29 October, when the French officers delivered their troops into Prussian captivity and then returned alone and unguarded to Metz. This was a gross violation of a French army motto, "*tel vaut le chef, tel vaut le corp*"- "the officer counts no more than the soldier," which merely deepened the men's resentment and their conviction that they had been "sold out" by Bazaine and the officers.

For his part, **Bazaine** would not even face his men. He smuggled his wife across to the Prussian lines on the 27th, **met covertly with the Metz paymaster on the 28th to collect the September and October salaries of a Senator and Marshal of France, and they slipped across to the German lines in the pre-dawn darkness of the 29th.** Unlucky to the end, Bazaine reached the German lines at Ars only to be turned back. Prince Friedrich

Karl, still asleep in the château at Corny, could not receive the marshal at such an early hour. **Pelted with stones and garbage, booed and hissed by his own troops, Bazaine withdrew for the day to a little cottage** beneath the guns of Fort St. Quentin. There he remained to one of his entourage: “This sad affair will have at least one good result: it will force Paris to cease its resistance and restore peace to our afflicted country.”

Pg. 236

On the Road to Paris: The Reborn Babylon

To end of the war, the victors of Sedan closed relentlessly on Paris. Moltke moved his headquarters to Château Thierry on 15 September, to Ferrières [sumptuous château owned by Rothschild] four days later. **General Sheridan [Philip; an American observer after US Civil War] marveled at the unquenchable thirst of the German troops for French wine:** “Almost every foot of the way was strewn with fragments of glass and the wine bottles, emptied and then broken by the troops... The road was literally paved with glass and the amount of wine consumed (none was wasted) must have been enormous. ...All the way down from Sedan there were two almost continuous lines of broken bottles along the roadsides.”

German infantry struggling up the wet roads from the east never forgot their first glimpses of, as one put it, “the great world metropolis, its towers and domes, Notre Dame, the Arc de Triomphe!” Paris would be a tough nut to crack, even for seasoned, confident German troops. The city of 2 million harbored a garrison of 400,000 troops and was ringed by powerful suburban forts sited on the limestone bluffs around the capital. Every approach to the city was barred by fortresses that bristled with 1,300 guns and commanded a sixty-mile circle around the city. ...French gunners had so much ammunition that whole batteries would open fire on single German sentries, sending them sprawling into their trenches under gouts of exploding earth.

....To cause the German besiegers maximum difficulty, Trochu [General] had ordered the destruction of all roads, canals, bridges, and railways out to a distance of fifty miles. Closer in, he had devastated the land by burning farms, razing villages, and slaughtering livestock to deny the Germans food and shelter. **He even ordered the great forests of Paris burnt down, including the Bois de Boulogne, St. Cloud, and Versailles.** “You cannot imagine the waste and destruction of the villages around Paris,” a Saxon officer wrote home in late September. “Everything demolished, cabinets smashed, beds carried away, the most gorgeous mirrors and furniture destroyed. Who has done this? Not the Prussians or the Saxons, but the French themselves. Here the inhabitants fear their own [troops] far more than us. But the French had done their work well. Without ready supplies of food, forage, or fuel, the Germans would now have to dedicate precious rolling stock to rations and building materials, giving Trochu’s ragtag army more time to improve the defenses of Paris.



The Duel After the Masquerade (c. 1857–59) depicts a duel after a costume ball in **Bois de Boulogne, Paris**. The Walters Art Museum by Jean-Léon Gérôme

Pg. 239

Shrewd French politicians also concocted a **“red scare”** to entice friendly intervention. **Adolphe Thiers** warned foreign ambassadors on 8 September that if the “moderate provisional government” collapsed because of further defeats or a harsh peace, “a violent red republic would install itself in France, with revolutionary propaganda and principles subversive to society. France, in other words, might fall like a domino in a revolutionary chain reaction emanating from the gritty faubourg of Paris. Four days later, **Thiers departed to put France’s case directly to the European capitals, his first stop was London, then St. Petersburg, and finally Vienna.** “A weak and irritable France,” Thiers warned the powers, “unable to assist...but ready for every occasion to recover her lost prestige,” would undermine the peace of Europe. In Paris, Victor Hugo threw his literary reputation behind Thier’s diplomatic offensive, informing “humanity (*le genre humain*) and the civilized states” of their “duty to save the French republic.”

...In meetings at **Ferrières, a sumptuous Rothschild château** where Prussian headquarters had moved after Sedan, Favre offered instead “an indemnity of several billions and a fraction of the French fleet,” [Note importance of sea power] but “not a piece of territory.” Bismarck coldly rejected the offer, Favre discovering something unexpected: the usually level-headed Bismarck lost his composure when the subject was France, a country that the German chancellor held responsible for all of Germany’s miseries since the seventeenth century. **Bismarck angrily reminded Favre of the successive pillage and annexations of Richelieu, Louis XIV, and Napoléon Bonaparte. France would now be forced to pay for its past arrogance and depredations.** “Bismarck is as crazed as the king and his entourage,” Favre stammered after a conference at Ferrières. “All I get from him is hardness and inflexibility.”

Determined to wring a final settlement from the French before a “league of neutrals” coalesced against him, Bismarck moved to create a more cooperative French government.

When Favre refused to cede Metz and Strasbourg despite the advance of two Prussian armies on Paris, **Bismarck threatened to unleash Marshal Bazaine and Napoléon III against the Provisional Government.** The gambit had been painstakingly prepared, Napoléon III held not as prisoner of war after Sedan, but as a “visiting monarch” in the days after his arrival at Schloss [Castle] Wilhelmshöhe in Kassel, a little north German state annexed by the Prussians in 1866. **Wilhelmshöhe had been thoughtfully stocked with the best wines and food and entrusted not to Prussian troops but to six-foot French guardsmen captured at Sedan and transported to the Schloss as a face-saving imperial guard.** Bismarck, in short, was dangling the bloated, worn-out emperor over the republic’s head, calling Napoléon III “the legitimate ruler of France” and dismissing Gambetta [of Italian-Jewish ancestry] new republic as no more than “*un coup de parti*” – “a partisan coup.”

Flaubert in the Ruins of Paris

The story of a friendship, a novel, and terrible year

By Peter Brooks [Basic Books; New York] 2017

Pg. 35

The Prussians meanwhile had encircled Paris, neutralizing many of the forts built to defend the city, and on September 19 began the siege that would last into January.

Paris was cut off from the rest of France: pigeon post and hot air balloons became the principal means of communication over the German lines. The Germans in turn soon had anti-balloon artillery in place and started importing falcons to bring down the pigeons.

Léon Gambetta, the energetic minister of the interior, made a **daring escape from the city by balloon on October 7** to try to rally the government and rebuild an army, first at Tours, in the Loire Valley, and then further southwest, in **Bordeaux**.



Départ de Léon Gambetta pour Tours sur le ballon l'"Armand-Barbès", le 7 octobre 1870, à Montmartre

c. 1871

by Jules Didier et Jacques Guiaud

Musée Carnavalet

>>> **Sand** stood firm in her refusal to despair: **“Let’s not despair of France, she is undergoing an expiation of her insanity, she will be reborn, whatever happens.”**

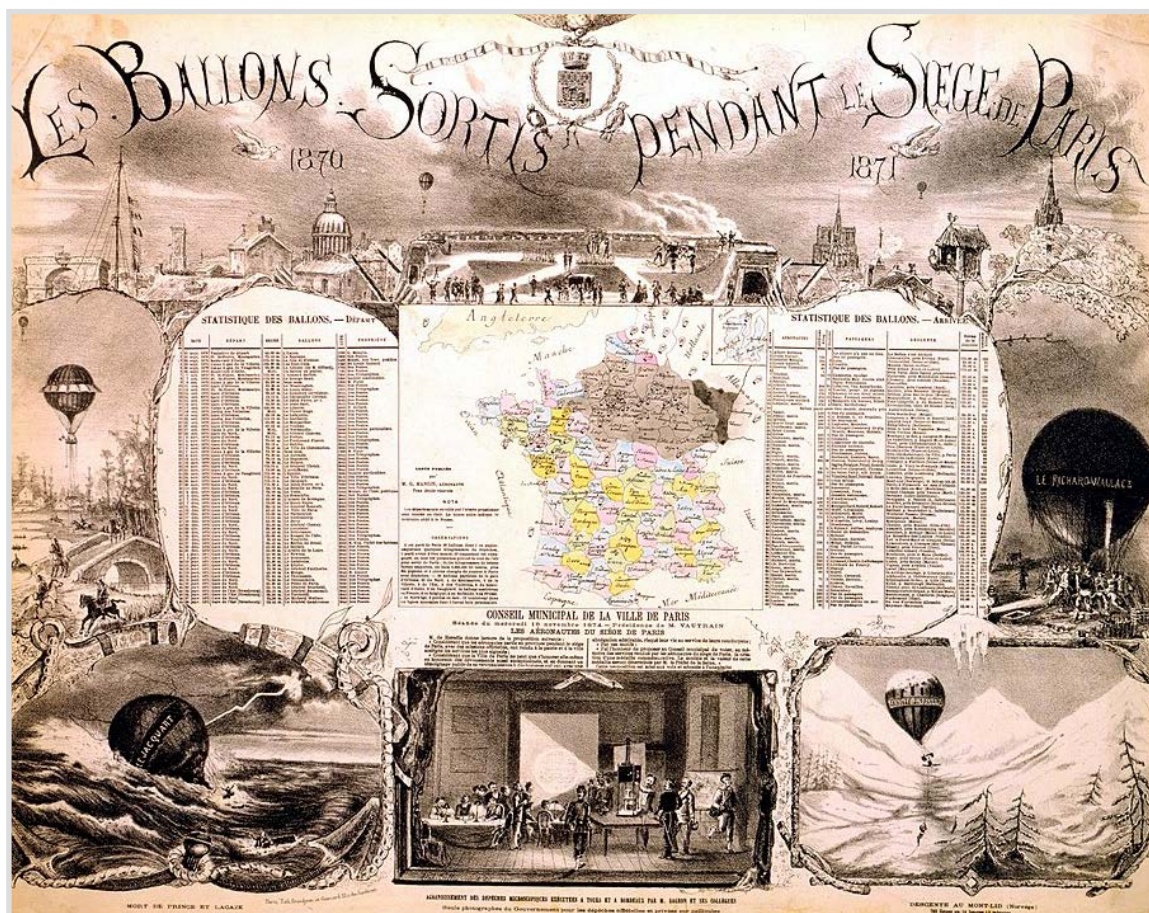
“Expiation,” because the **Second Empire of Napoléon III** was seen *as a time of excess, corruption and immorality* — by Sand on the Left of the political spectrum, but even more strongly by the political Right, from whom expiation would take on the mantle of religious orthodoxy. France was in a crisis of political ideology as well as political event.

Pg. 38 **Thiers Government in Bordeaux: Loss of Alsace and Lorraine**

In Paris, the political situation was swiftly polarizing. **The National Assembly in Bordeaux**, who headed by veteran politician **Adolphe Thiers**, **made peace with the Prussians and voted to reassemble at Versailles late in March**, signaling by its choice of the former seat of monarchy an aversion to and a fear of Paris. **Paris had never accepted the onerous terms of the peace treaty, which included loss of Alsace and much of Lorraine and war reparations of 5 billion francs.** The city began to come under the sway of its radicals, including the National Guard, which has become a political force, proposing to replace the French government with a confederation of municipalities.

Pg. 25 **Siege of Paris — German Style**

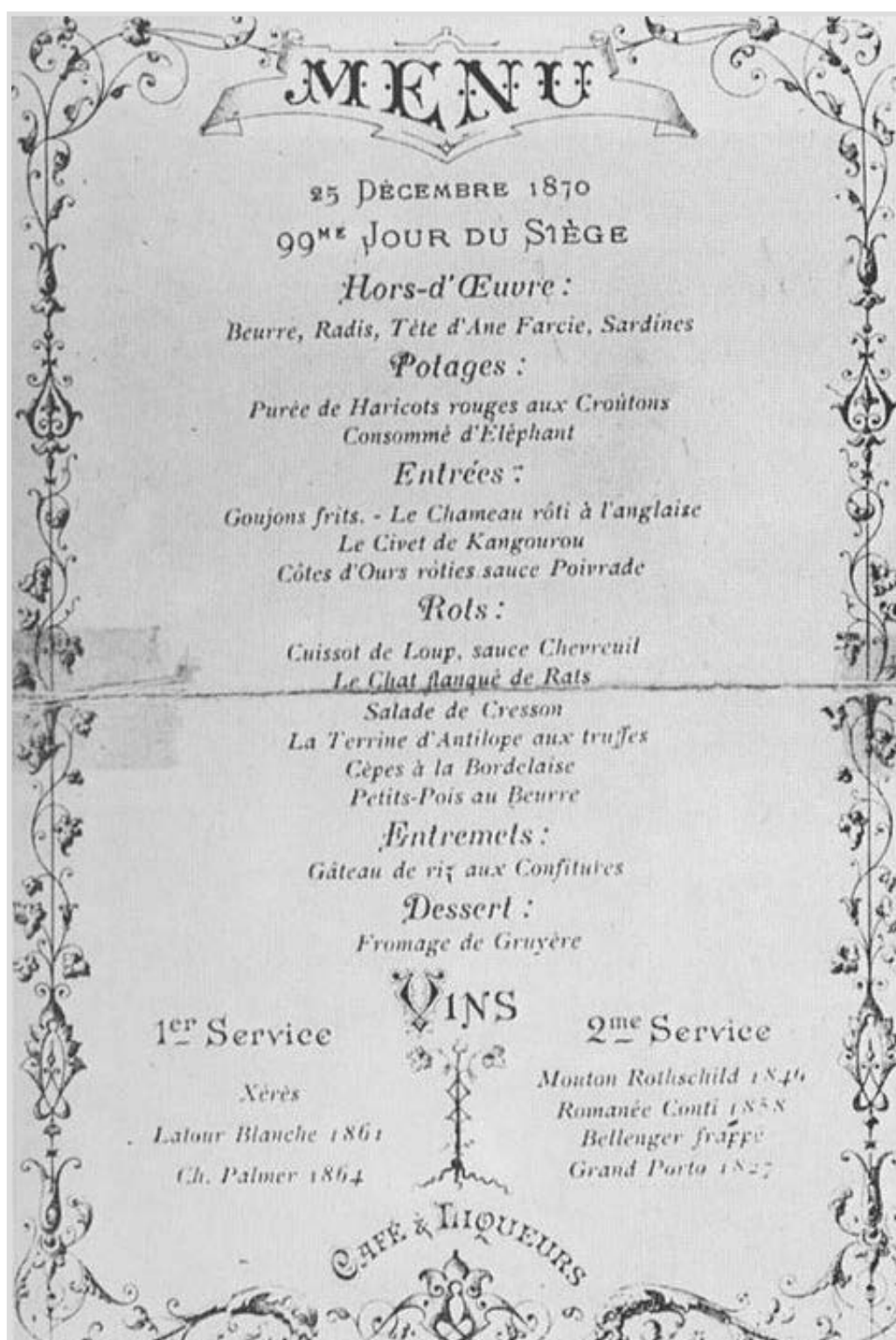
>>> **Then began the protracted agony: the siege of Paris by the Prussians, resulting in famine and misery during the cold, hard winter of 1870-1871.** Those who couldn’t escape from Paris suffered, the poor far more than the rich.



Long lines formed at the bakers and grocers and the butchers. Soon, for most of the population, all that could be found was ersatz bread, made from straw, rice, and other unidentified ingredients, and at the butcher shops, horses, cats, dogs, and then, finally, rats. Of some 100,000 horses in Paris at the start of the siege, only a third remained at the end. An estimated 25,000 cats were eaten, and *salami de rat* was standard fare.

>>> The wealthy dined for a time off the animals from the zoo in the Garden des Plantes: one by one, antelope, camel, and then finally, **Castor and Pollux, the elephants dear to the heart of Parisians were shot.** The Bois de Boulogne was shorn of its trees for fuel and stakes to repel invasion. The City of Light went black at night for want of gas for the streetlamp. Death from disease and malnutrition was on the rise.

Then, in January [1871], the Prussians frustrated by French resistance, did what most thought was unthinkable: they began bombarding Paris from the positions encircling the city. **The whistling of shells became part of everyday reality [courtesy of Krupp].** Finally came armistice on terms humiliating to France, including a parade of Prussians down the Champs-Élysées, the loss of the eastern provinces of Alsace and Lorraine and the payment of an indemnity of 5 billion francs.



Pg. 36

>>> **By the dawning of the new year, 1871, defeat had become part of daily reality.**

“I had no idea of what invasion was like,” Flaubert wrote to Caroline on January 23.

Furthermore, **the winter was turning out to be bitterly cold. Ice in the Seine. Snow.**

Things were of course worse in Paris: under siege since September, then subject to Prussian bombardment from the surrounding forts beginning on January 6, **Parisians were running out of even disgusting rations that had sustained them for the past weeks.** The city was being denuded of its trees, which were needed for firewood during this freezing weather. The command of General Louis-Jules Trochu, governor of Paris, was feckless; the rare attempts he made to break the siege ended in disaster.

Pg. 33

A letter to his close friend **Maxime Du Camp** the next day was full of hope and assurance about the French armies, and he mentioned that he had bought himself a soldier's knapsack. But his militaristic fanfaronades don't quite pass the test of his critical thinking.

He went on, to Du Camp:

“What saddens me is the immense stupidity that will fall upon us, afterwards! All kindness, as Montaigne would have said, is lost for a long duration. Children will be raised in hatred of the Prussian. Militarism and the most abject positivism, that's our lot from now on.”

Reprise:

Pg. 33

>>> **DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT** <<<

He echoed the news of his politically reactionary interlocutor on an issue they could agree upon, **the falsity of the Second Empire**:

>>> “You are right!

We are paying for **the long lie** that we have been living in, for everything was fake:
fake army, fake politics, fake literature, fake credit and even *fake whores*.

— **Telling the truth, that has been immoral!”**

Dawn of the Belle Époque

The Paris of Monet, Zola, Bernhardt, Eiffel, Debussy, Clemenceau and Their Friends

By Mary McAuliffe [Rowman & Littlefield Publishers; Lanham, MD] 2011

Pg. 09

Restaurant Voisin

[Victor] Hugo arrived just as the siege set in, and on October 22, he reported in his diary, “We are eating horse in every form.” A month later, he noted: **“People are making rat pâté,”** adding (with a bit of ghoulish delight), “It is said to be quite good.”

Several days later he was one of the lucky ones still to have meat, only this time it was **antelope, bear, and stag, in that order** — courtesy of the zoo in the Jardin des Plantes. (During the same desperate days and weeks, young César Ritz, who was working at the elegant — yet similarly food-deprived — Restaurant Voisin, served up *épagneul*, or spaniel, and a dish of elephant trunk with *sauce chasseur*.)

Pg. 09

Imperial Boulevards of Broken Dreams

But when Hugo returned to Paris in triumph in 1870 [after exile], he found a city he no longer recognized, set out along **broad boulevards that served *a distinctly military* as well as aesthetic purpose.**

Flaubert in the Ruins of Paris

The story of a friendship, a novel, and terrible year

By Peter Brooks [Basic Books; New York] 2017

Pg. 37

German Victory Parade in Paris

The capitulation of Paris, when it finally came on January 28, seemed as inevitable as it has humiliating. **The Prussians turned the screw of humiliation by demanding a triumphal parade down the Champs-Élysées**, which would take place on March 1, as Parisians closed themselves indoors behind shuttered windows.

Flaubert wrote to Princess Mathilde on March 4 that he could see in his mind's eye their bayonets flashing in the sunlight, and hear their “odious music” resonating under the Arc de Triomphe. Meanwhile, on January 18, King Wilhelm of Prussia had himself proclaimed emperor in the Galerie des Glaces of the **Palace of Versailles, from which the French kings once commanded the respect of all of Europe.**

Krupp
A History of the Legendary Firm

By Harold James [Princeton University Press; Princeton & Oxford] 2012

Pg. 59 **Russian Orders before Prussian Army**

In 1871, at the end of the Franco-Prussian War, Krupp wrote to Wilhelm (now German emperor): ***“In the interest of truth it is necessary to point out that thanks for the perfection of the artillery are due above all to the Russian government, and the Russian army and navy, for its support and confidence. Russia was given Germany the example of how to appreciate the product of its own country and of the Gusstahlfabrik.”*** Krupp was still at this time complaining of the excessive attachment of the Prussian military to idea of bronze artillery, which he regarded as a waste of material and of manpower. “We are now living in the age of steel. Railways, **Germany’s greatness, France’s ruin**, are in the steel age, the bronze age is over. Steel has finished being the material of war, it now has a milder destiny, it should be used for the first monument of victory, for monuments of great deeds and great men, as the expression of external and domestic peace, it should ring in church bells, be used for ornaments and commercial purposes, and in coinage.

Napoléon III And His Carnival Empire

By John Bierman [St. Martin's Press; New York] 1988

Pg. 283

Napoléon later rationalized his failure to make specific demands at Biarritz or Saint-Cloud by saying that “**one must not seek to shape events, but let them happen of their own accord**”— **astonishing words from the mouth of a Man of Destiny**. More likely, he was merely rationalizing a generalized incompetence and indecisiveness greatly exaggerated by his poor state of health.

Pg. 291

...As for France, she was “**no longer the first Military Power and I doubt her recovering her place**, for Prussia will take care to keep ahead of her, both in numbers [soldiers fielded] and in armaments.

Pg. 330

So France went to war without allies and without friends. The British, in particular, were totally out of sympathy with their erstwhile ally [**following the Crimean War and destruction in China where they bonded forces**] and feeling an almost brotherly affinity with the Prussians. “Words are too weak to say all I feel for you and what I think of my neighbors!” wrote **Queen Victoria to her daughter Vickie, now wife of the Prussian crown prince** [note that the British monarchy were transplanted Germans after all].

Pg. 331

Bismarck was to boast later that in the Hohenzollern candidature crisis [putting a German prince on the Spanish crown uneasily on France's southern border in alliance with Prussia] **he laid a trap for the French**, into which they stumbled. **It would be truer to say that the French dug the pit for themselves**, filled it with sharpened stakes, then marched bravely into it, with banners flying and band playing.

Pg. 329

>>> **Influence of Empress Eugénie** <<<

Later, when the Second Empire lay in ruins and the Prussian guns were pounding Paris, she [**Empress Eugénie**] would vehemently deny reports that she exulted, **"This is my war!"** But whether she actually used those words or not, the verdict seemed inescapable: together with Gramont- whom Bismarck rightly called the stupidest man in Europe"— *she was a major factor in taking France over the brink.*

Bismarck - A Life

By Jonathan Steinberg [Oxford University Press; Oxford UK] 2011

Pg. 292

...On 2 August he [von Waldersee] wrote on the quarters taken up in Mainz:

The King and his entourage have been housed in the grand-ducal palace. Otherwise The rest of the headquarters is scattered across Mainz, about which many are annoyed, in particular, **Bismarck, who lives very prettily with a patriotic wine merchant** but pretty far out. He complains all the time.

Pg. 293

There followed several other bloody confrontations and part of the defeated French army regrouped at Metz. When they tried to break out, the greatest battle of the entire war followed, the Battle of Gravelotte-St-Privat, in which the Prussians this time **under the direct command of Moltke with two whole armies and over 180,000 men attacked about 112,000 French troops under Marshal François-Achille Bazaine.** The attacking forces as in the Battle of Gettysburg in the American Civil War [as a few years before] faced withering French fire and the Prussians and southern German allies lost over 20,000, in part, as Moltke admitted through a miscalculation of his.

The first fourteen days and six battles had cost the Prussians over 50,000 dead.

Bazaine's troops took refuge in Metz and, though, as Moltke wrote, 'the siege of Metz had formed no part of the original plan of the campaign', he had no choice but to invest the city.

Meanwhile Marshal MacMahon in command of the French Army very prudently planned to withdraw to Paris to confront the invaders with a strongly fortified city. Napoléon III ordered him to relieve Bazaine in Metz and with the newly formed Army of Châlons with Napoléon in command set off northwards along the Belgian frontier to try to go round the Prussians.

On 2 September 1870 at Sedan, Moltke caught them in one of his pincer movements and defeated MacMahon's army and took Napoléon III prisoner. Within hours of the news reaching Paris, crowds of furious citizens took to the streets and declared the revival of the Republic on 4 September 1870 [Third Republic].

>>> Original Armistice Demand <<<

Though the war had been much more devastating than Moltke had expected, he had won it by his immaculate planning and the generally orderly operations of the three armies under his command. What happened next had not been imagined. **Léon Gambetta, Jules Favre, and General Trochi formed a government of National Defense and rejected Bismarck's relatively moderate demands for an armistice.**

Jules Favre on behalf of the Government of National Defense declared on 6 September that France would not yield an inch of its territory nor a stone of its fortresses.

Gambetta became Minister of War and, as Moltke drily writes, '**Gambetta's rare energy and unrelenting determination availed, indeed, to induce the entire population to take up arms,** but not to direct these hasty levies with unity of purpose.'

Pg. 295

Ferrières

On 20 September 1870 the [Prussian] **Royal Headquarters moved to the famous villa of Baron James de Rothschild at Ferrières.** Before dinner the King walked through the ground floor rooms of the chateau. **In the hall of mirrors, he looks at the many reliefs on the walls and said: 'I am too poor to buy myself such a thing.'**

Paul Bronsart von Schellendorf also recorded his impressions of Ferrières: 'The ancestors of Baron Rothschild (coats of arms, lions and eagles) are very numerous and often set in marble, bronze, oil and pastel. **There wherever possible, the coat of arms has been placed.**

>>> General Stuckow declared that whole interior decoration was shameless.' The various staff officers joked about coat of arms with JR (James de Rothschild) in them and played with phrases like '**Judaeorum Rex**' and '**der Judenkönig**'.



On 1 October 1870 the General Staff entertained Count Bismarck at their table.
Lieutenant Colonel Bronsart von Schellendorf recorded a conversation in his diary:

He had, as it happens, expected that immediately after the arrival of the King, Baron von Rothschild would have enquired about the King's orders and arranged for **a decent reception of the entourage. That did not happen.**

>>> *Bismarck thereafter decided to treat him as a Jewish merchant. He wished to buy wine from the cellar.* The administrator replied in this house '*ou l'argent nest rien*' nothing was ever sold. Bismarck insisted, ordered wine and a bill on which the price of every bottle plus 50 centimes for corkage was added.

Château de Ferrières

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Château_de_Ferrières

Château de Ferrières is a French château built between **1855 and 1859 for Baron James de Rothschild** in the Goût Rothschild style located in central France, some **26 km east of Paris.**

Rothschild ownership of the Château de Ferrières was passed down through the male line according to the rule of primogeniture, until it was donated by the family in 1975 to the University of Paris.

Considered to be the largest and most luxurious 19th-century château in France, it can be reached from Rue Rucherie in the town of Ferrières-en-Brie in the Seine-et-Marne department.

Napoléon III – A Life

By Fenton Bressler [Carroll & Graf Publishers; New York] 1999

Pg. 353

Within just over *two months*, it was all over. The Second Empire no longer existed and Louis was a prisoner-of-war in exile. Why? Because, at last, Bismarck got the war against France for which he had been longing and destroyed Louis' empire as the inevitable price of victory. The French Empire had to die so that Bismarck could proclaim over its prostrate body a new German Empire with his own King of Prussia as the first German Emperor.

>>> And Bismarck got his war because the French people, half-led by and half leading their Emperor, *blundered into a senseless conflict for which they were totally unprepared.*

Pg. 386

On 18 January 1871, France suffered the indignity of King Wilhelm being proclaimed German Emperor at the Palace of Versailles to the acclaim of assembled German princes and generals. Paris herself still fought bravely on, but only for a short while longer. *Ten days later, the capital surrendered at the end of a four month's siege and three weeks bombardment.* The Government [note no empire now] immediately asked for an armistice, and a three weeks truce was agreed to allow for an Assembly to be elected to negotiate a permanent peace.

Mediocre
The Dangerous Legacy of White Male America

By Ijeoma Oluo [Seal Press; New York] 2020

Pg. 22-23

General Philip Sheridan & Wholesale Slaughter

In **1869 [post-US Civil War]**, facing a protracted battle with Native tribes like the Sioux, President Ulysses S. Grant appointed Philip Sheridan as commanding general of the army and asked him to help **solve the “Indian Problem” once and for all.**

>>> Sheridan reached out to William Tecumseh Sherman, who had distinguished himself with his *scorched-earth battle tactics* during the Civil War, for advice.

Sherman observed that wherever buffalo existed there would be Native people, and they would continue to fight for land wherever the buffalo roamed. Sherman’s advice to Sheridan was simple: remove the buffalo in order to remove the Indian. “I think it would be wise to invite all the sportsmen of England and America there this fall for a Grand Buffalo hunt, and make one grand sweep of them all,” Sherman wrote to Sheridan. **No more buffalo, no more Indians.**

>>> As Cody gained a reputation as a skilled hunter, he went to work for Sheridan, killing as many buffalo as he could. Buffalo hunting became a wildly popular sport for white people in the West —well, “sport” is far too generous a term, because there was little sportsmanship involved. **Men from all over the country boarded trains headed west in order to shoot buffalo with .50-caliber rifles from train windows.** They killed thousands of buffalo a day, leaving the animal’s lifeless bodies where they fell on the plains to rot.

Wealthy and powerful men from the East Coast and even Europe rode west to join in on the fun, guided by **William Cody, by this point known as Buffalo Bill**. As journalists travels with the wealthy men to document the hunts for newspapers across the country, Cody saw his first real opportunity for fame. As Buffalo Bill started featuring in major newspaper stories as a symbol of the adventures to be had in the Wild West, Cody capitalized the attention. He began partnering with the authors of dime-store novels and started commissioning plays about his exploits. Soon, **Cody was regularly traveling back and forth — east to star in stage shows, and then back west to continue the wholesale slaughter of buffalo.**

As famous hunters like Cody popularized buffalo hunting and countless men joined in the killing, they found that they had to travel farther west in search of buffalo as numbers dwindled. The excitement following the widespread slaughter of buffalo began to wane. **Cody, now having tasted celebrity, went in search of greater fame and found it in battle.** An experienced scout with the US Army, he signed on to join in the Plains Wars in 1876, announcing from the stage of one of his shows that **he was leaving “play acting”** in search of the “real thing.” He packed his costume and went off to war.

Pg. 25

Cody would go on to develop more stage productions showcasing the violent masculinity of the West to great success, leading to the 1883 debut of **his most famous show, *Buffalo Bill’s Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World*.**

Bismarck - A Life

By Jonathan Steinberg [Oxford University Press; Oxford UK] 2011

Pg. 294

Isolate France: Keep other Powers out of War

After the declaration of total war by the French Government of National Defense, military and diplomatic considerations became hopelessly entangled. **Bismarck needed to get an armistice to keep the Russians, Austrians, and English out of the struggle....**Bismarck needed to get the war over quickly. These anxieties mingled with the wild and uncontrollable rage that seized Bismarck when anyone opposed him, and now Moltke and his 'demi-gods' did so daily.

Pg. 297

Siege of Paris

Bismarck's temper worsened as the General Staff debated what to do about the siege of Paris during October and November. **They considered uncertainly whether to bombard the city with their powerful [Krupp] siege guns or to try to starve it into submission.**

... I concluded from that, Moltke's refusal to shell Paris could not be overcome, although it was well know that Roon favored it.

Pg. 296

What to do with the French popular rising continued to trouble the General Staff and Bismarck. On 4 October **Waldersee** recorded a conversation with the American **General Philip Sheridan**, who had been assigned to the Prussian Army as a military observer. Sheridan (1831-88) had become famous or infamous for his campaign in 1864 in the Shenandoah Valley [Virginia] during the American Civil War, **when he ordered his Union troops to set fire to civilian houses and barns in the so-called 'burning', an example of the technique known later as 'scorched earth'**. Sheridan said to Bismarck:

'You know how to defeat an enemy better than any army in the world, but to destroy him, you have not learned. One must see smoke from burning villages; otherwise you will not finish the French.' And I am convinced that the man is right. ***Destroy great strips of territory à la Sheridan across the country, that will take the wind out of French sails and put an end to snipers.***

Pg. 269

Stosch explained to his wife how **Bismarck decided everything by himself in negotiating an armistice with the French after the Franco-Prussian War** and this typical behavior can be seen, multiplied dozens of times, in the diaries of all those who served under him....

Pg. 313

Alsace and Lorraine

He [Bismarck] equally explicitly...rejected a soft peace with France. **He insisted as part of the peace the annexation of the two provinces of Alsace and Lorraine.** Here even the Crown Princess, his enemy on most matters, backed the decision, as she wrote to Queen Victoria in December 1870:

About Alsace and Lorraine there is but one voice all over Germany, that if we do not keep them (or part of them), we shall be doing a wrong thing, as **we shall be exposing ourselves to the same calamity as threatened us in July — *being attacked and overrun by the French*** whenever it suits them, as our frontiers are too weak to keep them out.

...France would never ally with Germany as long as the territories remained in German hands. **France had one foreign policy — revenge— and one goal — the ‘lost’ territories.**



Wilhelm I is proclaimed German Emperor in the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles, France

by Anton von Werner, 1885 (3rd Version)

Wilhelm I, German Emperor

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_I,_German_Emperor

He also wanted it to be *Kaiser von Deutschland* ("Emperor of Germany"), but Bismarck warned him that the South German princes and the Emperor of Austria might protest. William eventually—though grudgingly—relented and **on 18 January [1871], in the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace of Versailles, he was proclaimed *Kaiser Wilhelm*. The date was chosen as the coronation date of the first Prussian king in 1701.*** In the national memory, 18 January became the day of the foundation of the Empire (*Reichsgründungstag*), although it did not have a constitutional significance.

Pray tell, was a wet-stone and gunflint Mosel Riesling served on polished argent platters in Versailles, with a brimming Bismarck for his new German emperor? We'll leave that cold story on the shelf, as some tales are worth being twice-told.

*** Karmic Retribution:** Napoléon III's army with Baron Gros cutting up China with the British after Crimea, looted and burn-downed **the Summer Palace outside Beijing.** **This was perhaps poetic justice served ten years later. Doubly, this profound humiliation was sixty-four years after Napoleon I's entry after the fall of Berlin and subsequent Treaty of Tilsit. What goes around seems to have come around.**

Bismarck - A Life

By Jonathan Steinberg [Oxford University Press; Oxford UK] 2011

Pg. 304-305

Bebel described what happened, as Delbrück rose in a portentous way and announced, "the day before yesterday His Royal Highness Prince Luitpold of Bavaria had presented to His Majesty the King of Prussia a letter from His Majesty the King of Bavaria with the following content...Delbrück stopped. He could not recall in which pocket he had stuck the letter. In highest agitation he search all his pockets, a spectacle which provoked enormous hilarity in the whole house. Eventually he found it but the effect had fizzled.'

The 18th of January 1871 had been chosen as the ceremonial day for the proclamation of the new Reich [Empire]. The date recalled the day in 1701 when the Hohenzollern dynasty at last became royal. The Elector Frederick III of Brandenburg became Frederick

I, King in Prussia (in 1713 the important 'of' replaced 'in'). The coronation of 1701 was the most glorious and expensive ceremony ever celebrated in that frugal state up to that point. **As 18 January 1871 approached, Bismarck ran into an infuriating new difficulty.** The King insisted on the title of Emperor of Germany, not German Emperor, which Bismarck had painfully secured from the Reichstag and the German princes. The King stubbornly refused to concede the traditional grandeur of Emperor of Germany for the threadbare German Emperor.

Pg. 306

The 18th of January 1871 dawned grey and lowering but as the honor guards marched beneath the King's window a ray of sunlight came through which lifted the King's black mood. The ceremony took place in the Palace of Versailles in the Hall of Mirrors and an overflow in the *Salon de la Paix*. A simple field altar had been erected on a platform in the well of the hall at which the King stood covered in all his orders and decorations....**'the improvised altar stood right next to a naked *Vénus*, a relationship which in the Palace of Versailles cannot be easily avoided.'**

Pg. 307

Thus Bismarck lived the moment of his greatest triumph, the proclamation of the German Empire, in a foul temper, clear to everybody in the Hall of Mirrors...heard from Bismarck later, 'His Majesty took the opposition to the latter title so badly [German Emperor] that on the day of the proclamation of the Empire, he cut him completely.' Nor were the princes assembled full of joy.

Pg. 316

France Withdraws from Rome after Sedan Defeat

The other crisis in this phase of Bismarck's career had begun even before the Franco-Prussian War was finished.

The Prussian victory at Sedan not only destroyed the Empire of Napoléon III but *allowed the Kingdom of Italy [King Victor Emmanuel II] to seize Rome on 20 September 1870 [Part One, Pope Pius IX].*

>>> The new French [Third] Republic had withdrawn the French garrison stationed there since 1849 and maintained by Napoléon III as a gesture **to his own Catholic supporters [Empress Eugénie calling the shot].**

>>> *Bismarck's third war indirectly ended the sovereignty which had lasted from the fall of Rome. [1,114 years!]*

The loss of temporal power coincided with the greatest ever public extension of papal spiritual power in the declaration of Infallibility promulgated in July 1870 at the first Vatican Council.

Pg. 309-310

On 26 February 1871 a preliminary peace between France and Germany was signed at Versailles. French reparations were set at 5 billion francs. Bleichröder wrote to the Crown Prince: ‘Count Bismarck would seem to have conducted himself during the negotiations with monstrous brusquerie and intentional rudeness, and by such behavior to have shocked the Paris Rothschild who in the first instance addressed him in French. On 4 March 1871 The Economist commented on the reparations:

To extract huge sums of money as the consequence of victory suggests a belief that money may be the object as well as the accidental reward of battle. A flavor of huckstering is introduced into the relations between States which degrades the character of statesmen, and is sure sooner or later to infect the character of the people.

The Crown Prince, not inaccurately, concluded that Bismarck intended to appoint ‘only persons of a sort to carry out his orders directly and implicitly. I gathered the impression today more than ever that he means to play the “All-Powerful”, “**the Richelieu**” in these countries [Alsace Lorraine].

The Emperor and the Crown Prince arrived in Potsdam on 17 March 1871 after a rapturous reception at every stop in Germany. The victory and the unification of Germany had dazzled the German people across the political spectrum.

Bismarck - A Life

By Jonathan Steinberg [Oxford University Press; Oxford UK] 2011

Pg. 184

Bismarck's Summary

These nine years, and this 'revolution', constitute the greatest diplomatic and political achievement by any leader in the last two centuries, for Bismarck accomplished all this without commanding a single soldier, without dominating a vast parliamentary majority, without the support of a mass movement, without any previous experience of government, and in the face of national revulsion at his name and reputation. This achievement, **the work of a political genius of a very unusual kind, rested on several sets of conflicting characteristics among which brutal, disarming honesty mingled with the wiles and deceits of a confidence man.** He played his parts with perfect self-confidence yet mixed them with rage, anxiety, illness, hypochondria, and irrationality.

He created a system of rule that expressed his power over others — his capacity to manipulate King William I, to neutralize the royal family by inserting himself between father and son, between husband and wife, between father-in-law and daughter-in-law with what Russel rightly called 'demonic' power. He outmaneuvered all the generals except Moltke, with whom he eventually arrived at a truce of mutual respect. He undermined and destroyed the power of the sovereign princes of the German states and simply abolished several German states, including a venerable kingdom, when it suited him. **He managed to keep all the 'flanking' powers — the Tsarist Empire, Napoléon's France, and Great Britain— out of the German civil war until they had to accept the achievements of his mastery or face destruction as Napoléon III foolishly chose.** He used democracy when it suited him, negotiated with revolutionaries and the dangerous Lassalle, the socialist might have contested his authority. He utterly dominated his

cabinet ministers with a sovereign contempt and blackened their reputations as soon as he no longer needed them. He outwitted the parliamentary parties, even the strongest of them, and betrayed all those of the Kreuzzeitungspartei who had put him into power.

>>> **By 1870 even his closest friends, Roon, Moritz von Blackenburg, and Hans von Kleist, realized that *they had helped a demonic figure seize power.***

As early as 1864, Clemens Theodor Perthes wrote to Roon to warn him that Bismarck had no principles.

Pg. 278

This is the Bismarck who had transformed the map of Europe and the history of Germany in four years and who **in 1870 would engineer the destruction of the Napoleonic Empire.**

Pg. 236

Perthes too had concluded that **he [Bismarck] was cynical and believed in nothing, a cold, calculating rationalist.** The next ten years in which Bismarck unleashed two wars, trampled on the sovereignties of the German princes, invoked the ‘revolution’ in the form of universal suffrage, declared war on the Roman Catholic Church, and introduced secular marriage, divorce, and school inspection into the very heartlands of Junker piety might suggest he had no religious scruples but — as always — Bismarck defied categories. He kept religious and devotional literature by his bedside and strongly denied that he had no faith. **His colossal achievements often seemed to him to have been God’s work.**

Pg. 264

The founder of states, the world-historian figure, **Otto von Bismarck, retained to the end the tight-fisted pettiness of the impoverished country squire.**

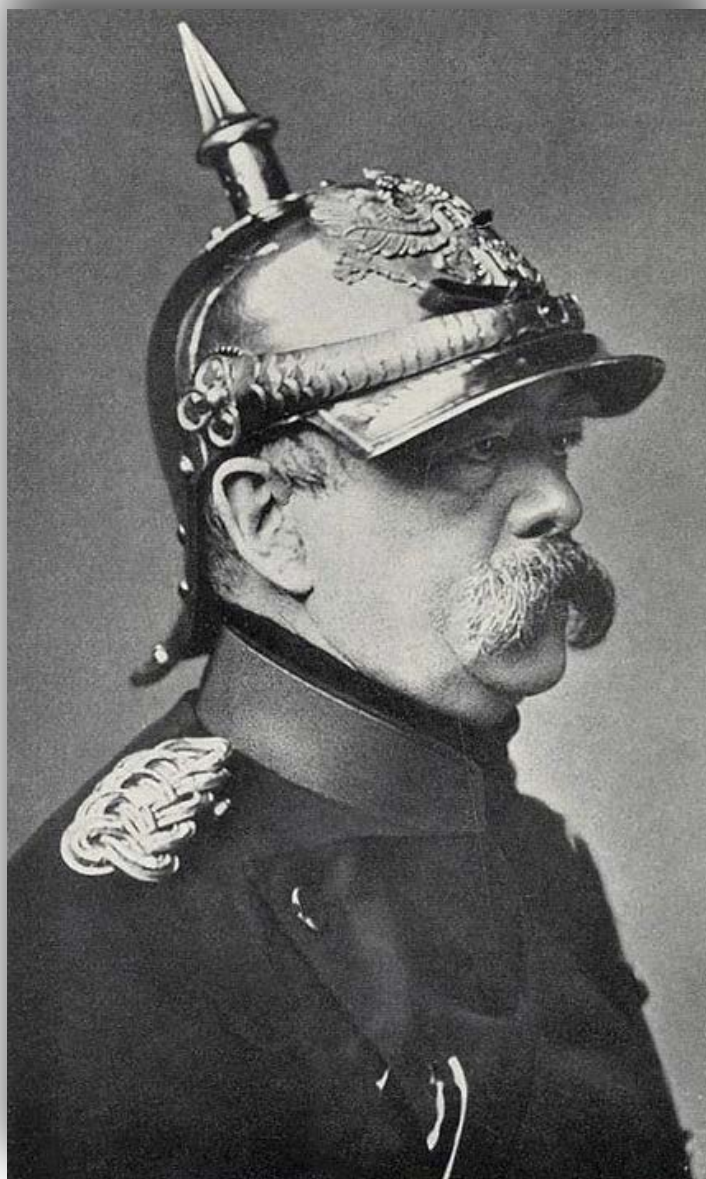
Pg. 263

By the 1860s the German popular press had begun to develop and it too quickly turned Bismarck into what we would call a media personality....**Pictures and busts of Bismarck were sold by thousands. He had become a symbol.**

Pg. 292

...the German public began to worship at the altar of the German giant...**his distinctive features, instantly recognizable and ideal for pictures, ornamental mugs, and busts looked particularly good in the *Pickelhaube*.***

* The public can readily recognize even Bismarck yet scratch temple over Napoléon III who has been basically erased from collective memory. Who would have thought, back in the day?



Bismarck wearing a cuirassier officer's metal *Pickelhaube*

Perhaps the tacit message sent with this publicity photo:

“I am not playing around with your French *derrière* today!”

The Sleepwalkers

How Europe Went to War in 1914

By Christopher Clark [Harper Collins; New York] 2013

Pg. 124

Aftermath of 1870: Trigger Warning

The roots in the Franco-Russian Alliance lie in the situation created in Europe by **the formation of the German Empire in 1870**. For centuries, the German centre of Europe had been fragmented and weak; *now it was united and strong*.

>>> The war of 1870 placed the relationship between Germany and France on a permanently difficult footing. The sheer scale of the German victory over France — *a victory most contemporaries had not predicted* — traumatized the French elites, *triggering a crisis* that reached deep into French culture, while the annexation of Alsace-Lorraine — strongly advocated by the military and reluctantly accepted by German chancellor Otto von Bismarck — *imposed a lasting burden on Franco-German relations*.

Alsace-Lorraine became the holy grail of the French cult of *revanche*, providing the focus for successive waves of chauvinist agitation. The lost provinces were never sole driving force behind French policy. Yet they periodically inflamed public opinion and exerted a stealthy pressure on the policy-makers in Paris. Even without the annexation, however, the very existence of the new German Empire would have transformed the relationship with France, **whose security had traditionally been underwritten by the political fragmentation of German Europe**. After 1871, France was bound to seek every possible opportunity to contain the new and formidable power on its eastern border. A lasting enmity between France and Germany was thus to some extent programmed into the European international system. **It is hard to overstate the world-historical impact**

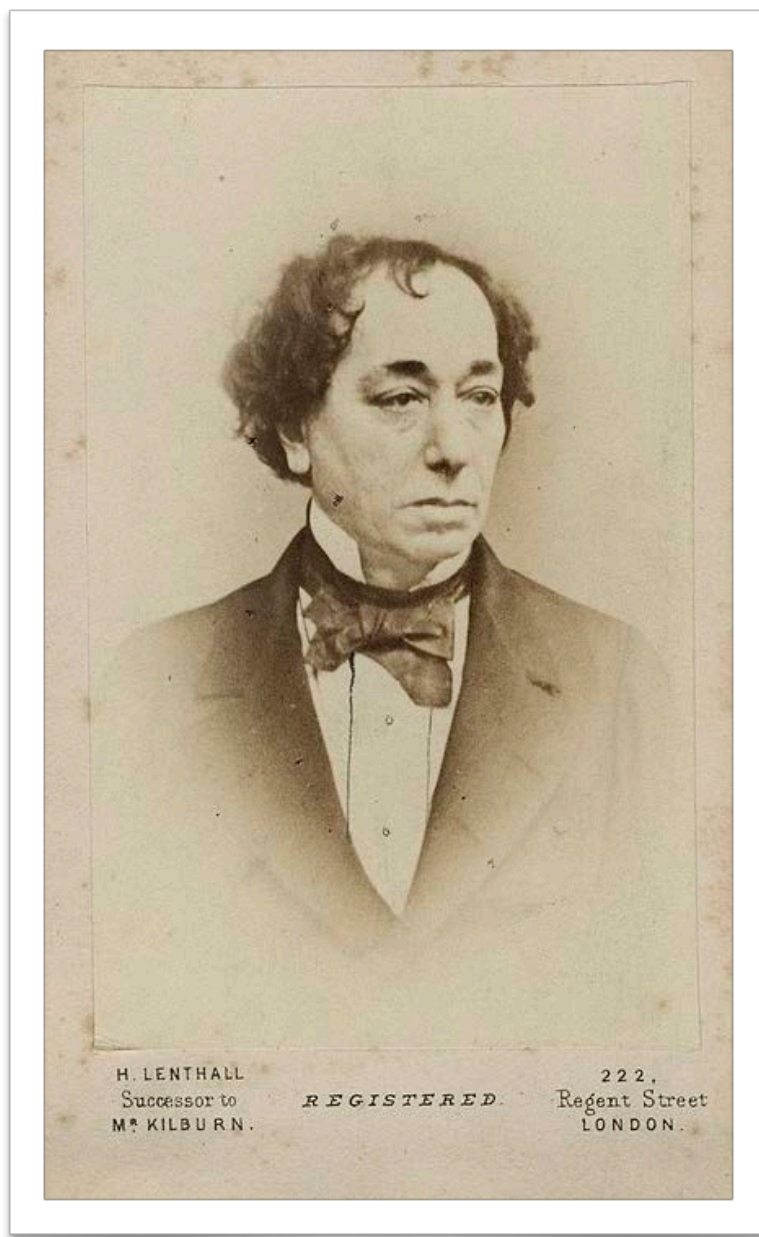
of this transformation. Relations among the European states would henceforth be driven by a new and unfamiliar dynamic.

Given the size and potential military capacity of the new German Empire, the chief objective of French policy had to be to contain Germany by forming an anti-German alliance. The most attractive candidate for such a partnership, despite its very different political system, was Russia.

Pg. 125

The German chancellor Otto von Bismarck, chief architect of the empire and the principal author of its foreign policy until his departure from office in March 1890, was fully aware of the problem and fashioned his policy accordingly. His objective, as he declared in the summer of 1877, was to create ‘an overall political situation in which all powers, except France, need us and are kept by virtue of their mutual relations as far as possible from forming coalitions against us.’ **Bismarck adopted a *double-edged policy* that aimed, on the one hand, to avoid direct confrontations between Germany and other major powers and, on the other, to exploit the discord among the other powers whenever possible for Germany’s advantage.**

Bismarck pursued these objectives with considerable success. He reduced the risk of British alienation by staying out of the rush for colonial possessions in Africa and the Pacific....When Russia’s war on the Ottoman Empire in 1877-8 triggered a major international crisis, Bismarck used the Berlin Congress to persuade the powers that Germany was capable of acting as the disinterested guardian of continental peace. By mediating in the conflict over the post-war territorial settlement without seeking any direct reward for Germany, the chancellor aimed to demonstrate that European peace and German security were in effect one and the same thing. In 1887, the heyday of the Bismarckian alliance system, Germany was tied by agreements of one kind or another to virtually every continental power.



Benjamin Disraeli **1870**

[Conservative] Prime Minister of United Kingdom

First and only prime minister of Jewish ancestry

Britain approaching apogee of Empire

>>> **DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT** <<<

Pg. 136 **‘No Common War’ — Balance of Great Powers Destroyed**

In a speech to the House of Commons of 9 **February 1871**, only three weeks after the proclamation of the German Empire in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles, the Conservative statesman **Benjamin Disraeli reflected on the world-historical meaning of the Franco-Prussian War.**

>>> **It was, he told the members of the house, ‘no common war’,** like the war between Prussia and Austria in 1866, of the French wars over Italy, or even the Crimean War. **‘The war represents the German revolution, a greater political event than the French Revolution of last century.’** There was not a single diplomatic tradition, he added, which had not been swept away.

>>> **‘The balance of power has been entirely destroyed, and the country which suffers more and feels the effects of this change most, is England.’**

But to read the speech this way — through the lens of 1914 and 1939 — is to misapprehend his intentions. **What mattered most to the British statesman in the aftermath of the Franco-Prussian War was not the rise of Germany, *but the untethering of Britain’s old enemy Russia from the settlement imposed on her after the Crimean War (1853-6).*** Under the terms laid down by the governments of Britain and France in **the Treaty of Paris of 1856, the waters of the Black Sea were ‘formally and in perpetuity interdicted’ to ships of war** either of the powers possessing its coasts or any other power. The purpose of the treaty was to prevent Russia from threatening the Eastern Mediterranean or disrupting the British land and sea routes to India. But the political foundations of the 1856 treaty were destroyed by the defeat of France. **The new French [Third] Republic broke with the Crimean settlement, renouncing its**

opposition to a Russian militarization of the Black Sea. Knowing that Great Britain alone could not enforce the Black Sea clauses, Russia now pressed ahead with the building of a Black Sea battle fleet. On 12 December 1870, news reached London that **Russia had ‘repudiated’ the Peace of 1856 and was constructing a ‘new Sebastopol’ — an arsenal and port for ships of war —** in the town of Poti on the eastern coast of the Black Sea, only a few miles away from the Turkish frontier.

Pg. 137

...Russia was not the only threat on Disraeli’s horizon — he was also concerned at the growing power and belligerence of the United States — but the important point is that when he spoke of the ‘German revolution’ he was not referring to the threat posed by the new Germany, but **rather to the global and imperial consequences of the recent war between Germany and France, a war which had ‘dislocated’ the ‘whole machinery of States.’**

Pg. 166

Fear Sells Well for Selling Foreign Policy

British foreign policy — like American foreign policy in the twentieth-century — had always depended on **scenarios of threat and invasion as focusing devices.** In the mid-nineteenth century, French invasion scares had periodically galvanized the political elites; **by the 1890s, France had been displaced in the British and public imagination by Russia,** whose Cossack hordes would soon be invading India and Essex. Now it was Germany’s turn. The target was new, but the mechanisms were familiar.

Pg. 164

>>> **Made in Germany** <<<

In 1862, when Bismarck had become minister-president of Prussia, the manufacturing regions of the German states accounted, with 4.9 per cent, for **the fifth-largest share of world industrial production — Britain, with 19.9 per cent, was well ahead in first place. In 1880-1900 Germany rose to third place behind the United States and Britain. By 1913, it was behind the United States, but ahead of Britain.**

>>> In other words during the years 1860-1913 [53 years], the German share of world industrial production *increased fourfold*, while the British *sank by a third*.

Even more impressive was Germany's expanding share of world trade. In 1880, Britain controlled 22.4 per cent of world trade; the Germans, though in second place, were well behind with 10.3 per cent. By 1913, however, Germany with 12.3 per cent, was hard on the heels of Britain, whose share had shrunk to 14. 2 per cent. Everywhere one looked, one saw the contours of an economic miracle: between 1895 and 1913, German industrial output shot up by 150 per cent. **By 1913, the German economy generated and consumed 20 per cent more electricity than Britain, France and Italy combined.**

In Britain, the words '**Made in Germany**' came to carry strong connotations of threat, not because German commercial or industrial practice was more aggressive or expansionist than anyone else's, but because **they hinted as the limits of British global dominance.**

Bismarck - A Life

By Jonathan Steinberg [Oxford University Press; Oxford UK] 2011

Pg. 313

>>> **Made in Germany** <<<

The French and Austrians might well have contested the idea that England, which had not been defeated by Prussia, ‘suffers most, and feels the effect of this great change most’, but in a deeper sense, [PM] Disraeli was right. He saw a fundamental reality which the would would slowly and painfully understand. The *Pax Britannica* rested on the European Balance of Power. Metternich had known that and worked with Lord Castlereagh in 1814-15 to make sure **that no one state gained too much from the defeat of Napoléon. Bismarck destroyed that balance.**

>>> **Between 1871 and 1914, the German Empire would become an economic superpower.**

Its coal, steel, and iron production grew larger than the entire production of its continental rivals put together. Whereas in 1871 Germany and France had roughly the same population, by 1914 Germany had half again as many people, better educated, better disciplined, and more productive than any people in the world. In science, technology, industrial chemistry, electrical engineering, optical instruments, metallurgy, and many other areas, **Germany had become the most advanced manufacturer anywhere. ‘Made in Germany’ meant the very highest quality.** By 1914 the Reich [Empire] had the most powerful army and had constructed the second largest navy.

Germany had achieved a supremacy in Europe which only the French Empire of Napoléon had reached at a few moments but Germany had a much more powerful industrial and technological foundation.



Krupp works in Essen of the Ruhr Valley, 1890

In the Shadow of the Sword

The Battle for Global Empire and End of the Ancient World

By Tom Holland [Abacus; London] 2012

Pg. 144

Rome was not yet, as she celebrated her millennium, prepared to acknowledge Persia as an equal. Nevertheless, barely two decades after Ardashir had seized the throne, she had been given a foretaste of what was to come. Shapur I, Ardashir's son, had already expelled the Romans from Mesopotamia for good. The imperial high command, in a desperate attempt to preserve the remainder of Rome's provinces in the East, had been obliged to denude the Rhine and Danube of troops. Then, in 244, with the emperor himself on campaign in the East, there was yet another coup. The new Caesar, a hard-bitten warrior named Philip, was frantic to return from the front to Rome to shore up his position. He duly sued for peace. The truce, when it was agreed, came at a monstrous cost- and Shapur made sure the whole world knew it. **It was Philip who would be portrayed on the cliff face west of Persepolis groveling before the triumphant *Shahanshah*.** It was Philip as well, four years later, in the April of 248, who enjoyed the supreme honor of presiding over Rome's millennium celebrations.

A few months later, in 249, he was dead: killed in battle by a rival Caesar named Decius. Two years on, Decius himself was hacked to death by a Goth war band. A decade after that, **the dignity of the imperial throne reached its nadir, when Shapur captured the latest emperor, Valerian, and used him from that moment on as his mounting block. For the Persians, a living, breathing Caesar was the ultimate in trophies;** and they duly made sure to record Valerian's humiliation alongside Philip's on the cliff face just west of Persepolis. Even death did not bring to an end to the humbling of the wretched

emperor: his skin, flayed from his body after his death and dyed a lurid red, was lovingly preserved in a temple as one of the supreme treasures of the House of Sasan.

Pasteurization of France

By Bruno Latour [Harvard University Press; Cambridge & London] 1984, 1988

Translated by Alan Sheridan and John Law

Pg. 10

For instance, an anonymous editorial, written **just after the Franco-Prussian War** states: **“It is science and the scientific spirit that have conquered us.** Without a complete resurrection of the great French science of former times, there is no possible salvation (1872, p. 102).

Pg. 16

From July 1871 on, Pasteur claims, **he was mobilizing science for the cure of “the Prussian canker** (1871, pp. 73-77). It was not only France, humiliated and defeated that had to be generated; it was also mankind in general and, more particularly, the urban masses.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar_Degas

—Truncated—

Although he exhibited annually in the Salon during the next five years, *he submitted no more history paintings*, and his *Steeplechase—The Fallen Jockey* (Salon of 1866) signaled his growing commitment to contemporary subject matter.

>>> The change in his art was influenced primarily by the example of Édouard Manet, whom Degas had met in 1864 (while both were copying the same Velázquez portrait in the Louvre, according to a story that may be apocryphal).

Upon the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, Degas enlisted in the National Guard, where his defense of Paris left him little time for painting. During rifle training his eyesight was found to be defective, and for the rest of his life his eye problems were a constant worry to him.

>>> DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

After the war, Degas began in 1872 an extended stay in New Orleans, where his brother René and a number of other relatives lived [often unmentioned was Degas' maternal family was prosperous with cotton therefore indelibly tied with the slave trade in Louisiana].

Staying at the home of his Creole uncle, Michel Musson, on Esplanade Avenue, Degas produced a number of works, many depicting family members. **One of Degas's New Orleans works, *A Cotton Office in New Orleans*, garnered favorable attention back in France, and was his only work purchased by a museum (the Pau) during his lifetime.**

Degas returned to Paris in 1873 and his father died the following year, whereupon Degas learned that his brother René had amassed enormous business debts. To preserve his

family's reputation, Degas sold his house and an art collection he had inherited, and used the money to pay off his brother's debts.

Dependent for the first time in his life on sales of his artwork for income, he produced much of his greatest work during the decade beginning in 1874. **Disenchanted by now with the Salon, he instead joined a group of young artists who were organizing an independent exhibiting society. The group soon became known as the Impressionists.**



Bureau du coton à la Nouvelle-Orléans par Edgar Degas, peint à la Nouvelle-Orléans en 1873 / A Cotton Office in New Orleans

by Edgar Degas

Musée de Beaux-Arts de Pau

The Sleepwalkers

How Europe Went to War in 1914

By Christopher Clark [Harper Collins; New York] 2013

Pg. 141

German Colonial Policy

The primary aim of German foreign policy in the Bismarck era was to prevent the emergence of a hostile coalition of great powers. For as long as it continued, the tension between the world empires made this objective relatively easy to accomplish. **French rivalry with Britain intermittently distracted Paris from its hostility towards Germany**; Russia's hostility to Britain deflected Russian attention from the Balkans and thus helped to stave off an Austro-Russia clash. As a mainly continental power, Germany, so long as it did not itself aspire to found a global empire, could stay out of the great struggles over Africa, Central Asia and China. **And as long as Britain, France and Russia remained imperial rivals, Berlin would always be able to play the margins between them.** This state of affairs enhanced the empire's security and created a certain wriggle room for the policy-makers in Berlin.

But the Bismarck strategy also exacted a cost. It required that Germany always punch under its weight, abstain from the imperial feeding frenzies in Africa, Asia and elsewhere and remain on the sidelines when other powers quarreled over global power shares. It also required that Berlin enter into contradictory commitments to neighboring powers. The consequence was a sense of national paralysis that played badly with the electors whose votes determined the composition of the German national parliament. **The idea of colonial possessions — imagined as eldorados with cheap labor and raw materials and burgeoning native or settler populations to buy national exports — was as**

bewitching to the German middle classes as to those of the established European empires.

It should be noted that even modest German efforts to overleap the power-political constraints on imperial expansion met with sturdy resistance from the established world powers. In this connection, it is worth recalling an obvious but important difference between the belated German Empire and its world-imperial rivals. **As the possessors of vast portions of the earth's inhabited surface with a military presence along extended imperial peripheries, Britain, France and Russia controlled tokens that could be exchanged and bargained over at relatively little cost to the metropolis.** Britain could offer France concessions in the Mekong delta; Russia could offer Britain a demarcation of zones of influence in Persia; France could offer Italy access to coveted territories in northern Africa. **Germany could not make such offers, because it was always in the position of a parvenu with nothing to trade,** pushing to gain a place at an already crowded table. **Its attempts to secure a share of the meagre portions that remained usually met with firm resistance from the established club.**

Pg. 150-151

>>> **Germany: A Place in the Sun** <<<

German naval construction was intended to provide support for that had come to be known by 1900 as *Weltpolitik* — meaning literally ‘global policy’. The term denoted a foreign policy focused on extending Germany's influence as a global power and thereby aligning it with the other big players on the world scene.

>>> **‘Phenomenal masses of land will be partitioned in all corners of the world in the course of the next decades,’** the historian and publicist Hans Delbrück warned in an important essay of 1897. **‘And the nationality that remains empty-handed will be excluded for a generation to come from the ranks of those great peoples that define**

the contours of the human spirit. In a popular and influential speech of 6 December 1897, the secretary of state of foreign affairs, Bernhard von Bülow, articulated the ebullient mood. 'The times when the German left the earth to one of his neighbors, the sea to the other, and reserved for himself the heavens where pure philosophy reigns — these times are over,' he announced. **'We don't want to put anyone in the shadows, but >>> we too demand *our place in the Sun.*'**

In the mid-1890s, after a long period of stagnation and relative decline, naval construction and strategy came to occupy a central place in German security and foreign policy. Public opinion played a role here — **in Germany, as in Britain, *big ships were the fetish of the quality press and its educated middle-class readers.***

The immensely fashionable 'navalism' of the American writer Alfred Thayer Mahan also played a part. Mahan foretold in *The Influence of Sea Power upon History* (1890) **a struggle for global power that would be decided by vast fleets of heavy battleships and cruisers.**

>>> Kaiser Wilhelm II, supported the naval program, was a keen nautical hobbyist and an avid reader of Mahan; in the sketchbooks of the young Wilhelm we find many battleships — lovingly pencilled floating fortresses bristling with enormous guns. But the international dimension was also crucial; it was above all **the sequence of peripheral clashes with Britain that triggered the decision to acquire a more formidable naval weapon.**

The Pacific War

By John Costello [Rawson, Wade Publishers; New York] 1981



Pg. 20

Kaiser Wilhelm [II] aggressive moves to secure **“a place in the Sun”** were being executed by studiously following Mahan’s theories.

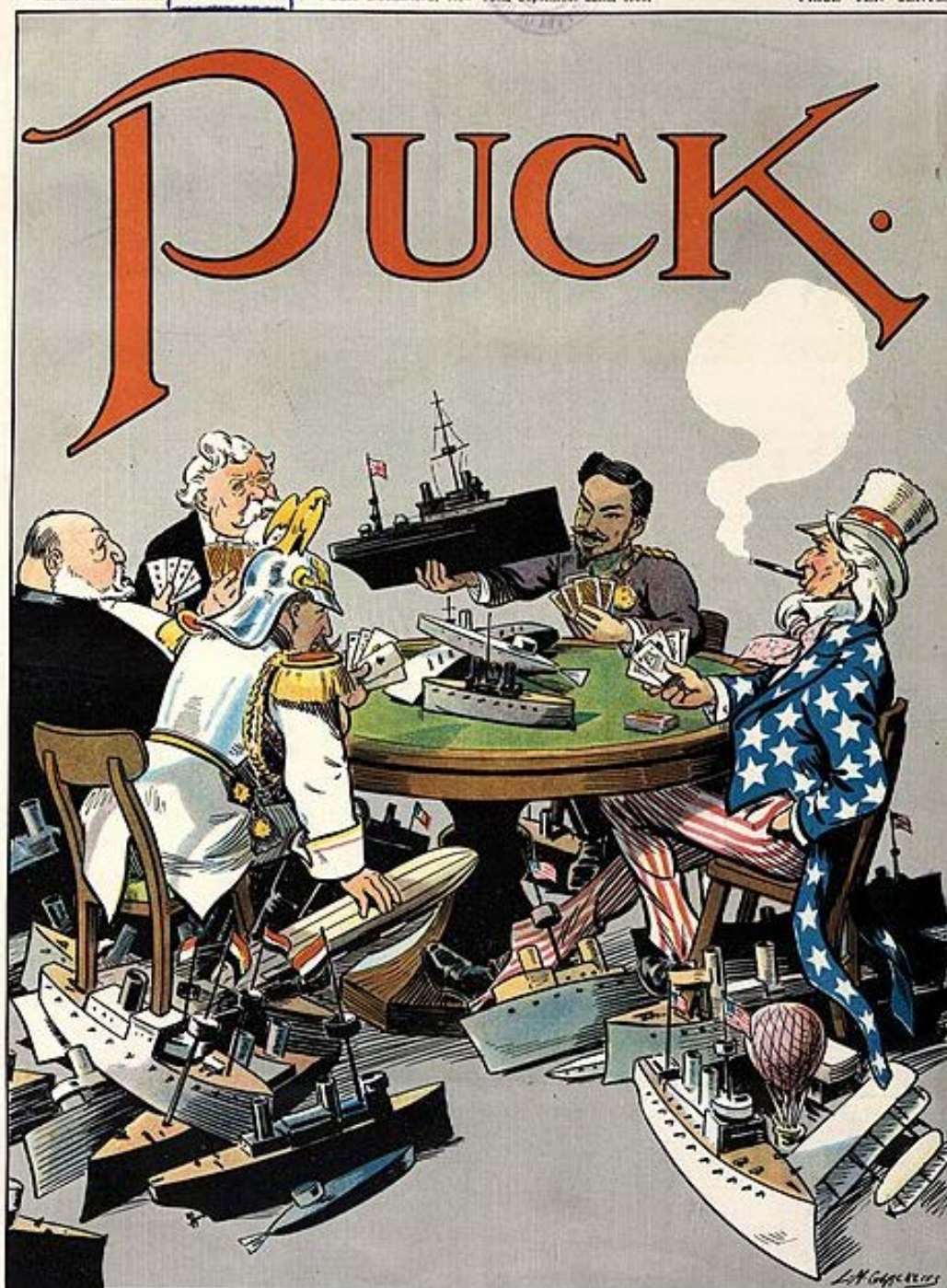
Both the Kaiser and Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz, father of the growing German Navy, were among the captain’s most ardent admirers; when Mahan’s seminal study *The Influence of Sea Power upon History* was published in 1890, it became required reading for every officer in the Imperial Fleet.

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193061
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JAPAN.—I see your Cruisers and raise you a Dreadnought!

Pg. 132-133

The Judgement of Paris: Delcassé

For France, too, there were difficult decisions to be made about **how to balance the imperatives generated by rivalry with Britain with those arising from relations with Germany.**

Like most politically active Frenchmen, **Delcassé was profoundly suspicious of Germany** and constantly revisited this issue in his political writing and utterances. **His ardor for the lost provinces was so intense that the member of his family dared not mention the names ‘Alsace’ and ‘Lorraine’ in his presence;** ‘we had the confused feeling that it was too sensitive to be spoken of, his daughter later recalled. But as an imperial power bent on expanding its influence on multiple fronts, France faced other predicaments that could on occasion eclipse the confrontation with Germany. In 1893, as colonial under-secretary, it was Delcassé who had pressed for the deployment of French colonial forces to challenge Britain on the Upper Nile. When he came to office at the height of the Fashoda crisis, his first step was to back down in the hope of securing concessions from London in southern Sudan. But when London simply refused to budge, Delcassé swung back to an anti-British stance and attempted to challenge the British occupation of Egypt. His ultimate goal was the French acquisition of Morocco.

...In January 1900, leader articles inspired by Delcassé’s press office urged Germany to join forces with France on the Egyptian question, pointing out that Germany too would benefit from **the neutralization of the Suez Canal, and that the combined naval forces of the continental power would be sufficient to ensure British respect for any international settlement.** In the diplomatic community, it was common knowledge that



Théophile Delcassé

Vanity Fair 9 February 1899

these articles hailed from the office of Delcassé and expressed the official policy of the French ministry of foreign affairs.

While he waited for a German response, Delcassé prepared his colleagues in Paris, with characteristic impetuosity, for a war with Britain that might well be global in scope....**Britain represented a threat to world peace, Delcassé declared, and it was time, was remarked to a journalist in March 1900, to take a stand ‘for the good of civilization.’**

...The project of a joint démarche on Egypt [with Germany] was unceremoniously dropped. Instead, Delcassé gravitated, via a series of intermediate positions, toward the notion that French objectives could be achieved in collaboration with Britain, by means of an imperial barter: the consolidation of British control over Egypt would be exchanged for British acquiescence in French control of Morocco.

...This reorientation had profound implication for Franco-German relations, for **the decision to *appease* rather than to oppose Britain facilitated a more forceful articulation of the anti-German potential in French foreign policy.**

Pg. 231

Press Releases to Make an Unofficial Point: Delcassé

Inspired leader articles might also be formulated for the eyes of a foreign government. During the Morocco crisis of 1905, for example, **Théophile Delcassé used thinly disguised press releases** divulging the details of British military planning in order to intimidate the Germans. Here the inspired press functioned as a form of deniable, sub-diplomatic international communication that could achieve a deterrent or motivating

effect without binding anyone to a specific commitment; **had Delcassé himself issued a more explicit threat, he would placed the British Foreign Office in an impossible situation.**

Pg. 307

The hardening of commitments continued after Poincaré ascended to the presidency of the Republic. The appointment of Théophile Delcassé as ambassador to St Petersburg in the spring of 1913 was an unmistakable signal. Delcassé's was to be a short posting — he made it clear from the outset that he intended to stay in St Petersburg only until the 1914 French elections. Nevertheless, the choice of this eminent, long serving former foreign minister who had fallen from office at the height of the first Moroccan crisis left little doubt as to the orientation of French policy. With Delcassé in St Petersburg and Izvolsky in Paris, both parties to the alliance were represented by ambassadors with a strong personal animus against Germany.

>>> Delcassé had grown even more Germanophobic in recent years — when he met with Jules Cambon on his way to the east via Berlin, it was noted that he refused to step out of his train so that he could avoid touching German soil with the sole of his shoe.

Frommer's Complete Guide to France - 24th Edition

[Frommer Media LLC; New York] 2019

Pg. 48

As ever, intra-European conflict knocked France off its pedestal once again. In 1870, the Prussians — a rising power in the German east — defeated Napoléon III at Sedan and held him prisoner with 100,000 of his soldiers. **Paris was besieged and occupied, an inglorious state for the world's greatest city.**

After the Prussians withdrew, a violent revolt ushered in the Third Republic and its elected president, Marshal MacMahon, in 1873. Peace and prosperity slowly returned, **France regained its glamour, a mania of building occurred, *the Impressionists made their visual statements, and writers like Flaubert redefined the French novel into what today is regarded as the most evocative in the world.*** As if as a symbol of this period, the Eiffel Tower was built as part of the 1889 Universal Exposition.

Paris Reborn

By Stephane Kirkland [St. Martin's Press; New York] 2013

Pg. 286

In May 1873, Ferdinand Duval was appointed Prefect of the Seine... The first undertakings of the Duval administration were the two major projects interrupted by the war: the boulevard Saint-Germain and the **avenue de l' Opéra...**

>>> **DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT** <<<



>>> ***The avenue Napoléon, renamed avenue de l' Opéra in 1873***, was only a stub of about one hundred yards facing the façade of the Opéra that remained untouched until 1875...

Pg. 211

Second Empire Lost in Paris & France....*By Design*

In March 1864, **Haussmann** received an honor rarely bestowed within one's own lifetime: **One of Paris's main arteries was named after him**. After considering to name what is now known as the boulevard Saint-Michel after him, it was decided **to give Haussmann's name to the new boulevard that passed near the location of the house where the prefect had been born-** a house destroyed, it was noted, by the *grands travaux* themselves. This street, of which on the first portion had been built at the time, has kept its name to this day, ***while many other Parisian streets named after prominent figures of the Second Empire have been renamed.***

>>>> Where is he? We can't find the emperor! <<<<

The name of Napoléon III is only carried by a small square in front of the Gare du Nord that hardly anyone knows has a name at all.

Paris, City of Dreams

Napoléon III, Baron Haussmann and the Creation of Paris

By Mary McAuliffe [Rowman & Littlefield; Lanham MD, London UK] 2020

Pg. 03 >>> **Napoléon III: An Imperial Embarrassment Forgotten** <<<

As for the man who claimed title of Napoléon III, *he has been forgotten*, in the way that embarrassments of history are largely forgotten.

He led France into a devastating defeat against a newly unified Germany, and therefore there is no memorial to him in Paris save for the small (and easily overlooked) area **in front of the Gare du Nord called the “Place Napoléon III.”**

>>> Yet this was the man who created the Paris that is so beloved today.

Paris, city of dreams, has survived Napoléon III into the twenty-first century, and perhaps it can be said that this Paris, *the Paris he created*, is his lasting memorial.

Gare du Nord:

Why Europe's busiest station needs a makeover fast

[bbc.com/news/world-europe-50643585](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50643585)

December 28, 2019

By Hugh Schofield BBC News, Paris

Ask Parisians what is their least favourite part of the city, and most will probably tell you it is the area around the Gare du Nord railway station.

Described a few years ago - admittedly by a Briton - as the "**squalor pit of Europe**", the location where the Eurostar arrives from London is set for a multi-million euro makeover. But the prospect of yet another railway station-cum-shopping centre is far from being universally accepted.

Cramped, crowded and cruddy would be a fair description. Plus crime-ridden if you wanted a fourth alliteration.

A survey published in November concluded that it was the scariest place on the Paris transport system.

The authorities are perfectly aware of its grim reputation. **They also know that as Europe's busiest station - serving local, regional and international connections - the Gare du Nord acts as a window to the capital.**

With passenger numbers set to rise from a daily 700,000 to 900,000 by 2030, and with the 2024 Olympics looming, the station is preparing for another major revamp - the last was only 18 years ago.

The project - a joint venture by SNCF and the Auchan supermarket chain - is meant to revitalise and clean up the Gare du Nord, making it not just a transport hub but also a nerve centre for the greener city of the 21st Century.

According to Patrick Ropert, until recently the head of SNCF's stations and connections department, the new Gare du Nord "is an emblematic example of what railway stations are going to be in the world of tomorrow".

SNCF's vision is to "bring to the station progressively more and more of the elements that make up a city", including not just shopping, but services like creches and medical labs, cultural venues, offices and sports areas.

"We are reinventing the old 19th Century bains-douches [public baths], with changing areas and showers for people who want to take their exercise before or after taking the train," Mr Ropert says.

"If we want to fight back against the problems of over-crowding and pollution, we need to reconstruct our cities around the 'mobility-centres' which are our stations. Everything has to be redesigned so that a maximum of people can get around the city on foot."

But opponents see this as self-justifying hooey - the SNCF rationalising its reliance on private finance to get the expansion done.

The mayor of the 10th arrondissement (district), Alexandra Cordebard, says the installation of yet more shops and restaurants at the heart of this already congested area will create "more traffic, more noise pollution, more air pollution - day and night".

"The neighbourhood simply cannot absorb it," Mr Cordebard says.

A group of eminent architects wrote to Le Monde newspaper demanding that the plan be reworked.

They included British architectural historian Andrew Saint, **who described Jacques Ignace Hittorff's 1864 Gare du Nord with its pitched roof, iron columns and statued façade as "undoubtedly the finest of Paris's stations, inside and out". [Second Empire]**

"The main architectural problem is these three footbridges, which will be very intrusive indeed and spoil the spatial effects," he said.

But the most widespread complaint is that the new development hastens what many people deplore as the "airport-isation" of railway stations, where concourse becomes mall and traveller becomes consumer.

"The beauty of a railway station is to be an empty space. Emptiness provokes serendipity and a bit of chaos, which is very healthy," says the London-based French writer Gaspard Koenig, who uses the Gare du Nord regularly.

"But what you will have here will be like in an airport - you go through the equivalent of a duty-free zone being harassed by all sorts of shops and advertisements. And I don't think that is right, because it is not something that you have chosen. It is not something that is avoidable."

But truth be told, opponents of Stationord are fighting a losing battle.

Paris's other big stations - Montparnasse, Saint-Lazare, Austerlitz - have already had their commercial makeover. Why would the Gare du Nord be any different?

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Ville_du_Havre

- Truncated -

Ville du Havre was a French iron steamship that operated round trips between the northern coast of France and New York City. Launched in November 1865 under **her original name of *Napoléon III***, she was converted from a paddle steamer to single propeller propulsion in 1871 and, **in recognition of the recent defeat of her imperial namesake, the Emperor Napoléon III, was renamed [innocuously] *Ville du Havre*.**

Napoléon III was originally built as a paddle steamer by Thames Ironworks, London (engines by Ravenshill & Salked, London) in late **1865 for the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique (French Line)**. She was a 3,950 gross ton ship, length 365.9 ft with 45.9 ft beam, straight stem, two funnels, two masts, iron construction, paddle wheel propulsion and a cruising speed of 11.5 knots.

>>> **There was accommodation for 170 first class [53%], 100 second class [31%] and 50 third class [16] passengers. Launched in November 1865, she sailed on her maiden voyage from Le Havre for Brest and New York City on 26 April 1866.** She made five round voyages on this service, the last commencing in August 1869.

On 15 November 1873, *Ville du Havre* sailed from New York with 313 passengers and crew on board, under the command of captain Marino Surmonte.

>>> About half way across the Atlantic ocean, **she collided with the iron clipper, *Loch Earn* at about 2 a.m. on Saturday, 22 November**, at the position 47°21'N 35°31'W. At the time of the collision, *Ville du Havre* was proceeding under both steam and sail at about 12 knots.

Karmic Retribution:

A lot of twos for ship's sinking after the Second Empire sunk, too.

Avenue Name Changes since the Second Empire [truncated]:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Place_Charles_de_Gaulle

1. Avenue Hoche: **Avenue de la Reine-Hortense** during the Second Empire
2. Avenue Foch: Avenue du Bois during the Third Republic and **Avenue de l'Impératrice** during the Second Empire
3. Avenue MacMahon: **Avenue du Prince-Jérôme** during the Second Empire
[Plon-Plon]

Grandes Horizontales

The Life and Legends of Four Nineteenth-Century Courtesans

By Virginia Rounding [Bloomsbury; London] 2003

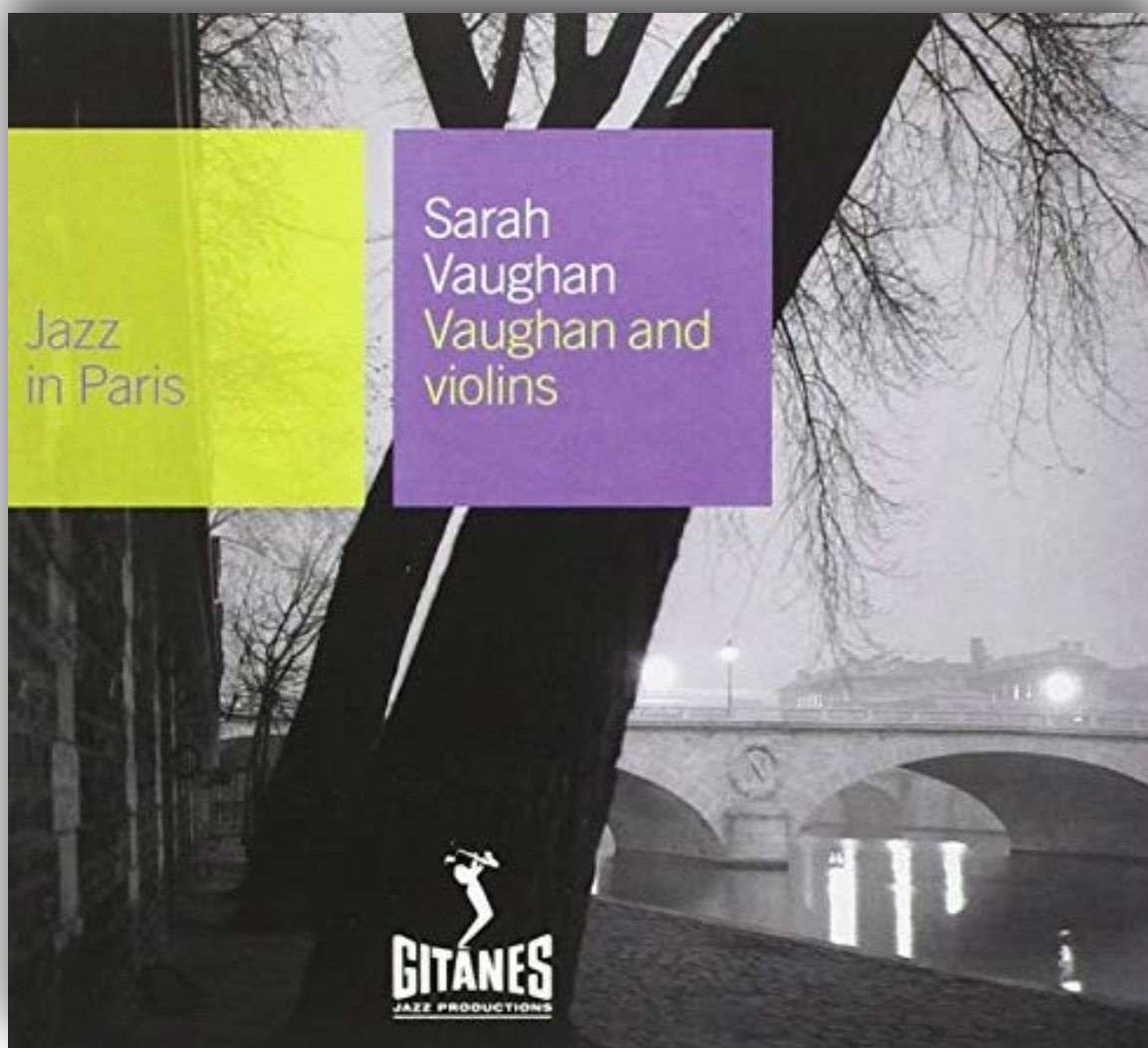
Pg. 155 **Second Empire Seine Bridge Names Have Been Changed**

Five new bridges were built over the Seine- **the Pont Napoléon (now the Pont National)**, the Pont de la Gare (now the Pont de Bercy), the Pont du Point du Jour (now the Pont d'Auteuil), the Pont de l'Alma and the Pont de Solférino- and six others were rebuilt.



Gitanes Jazz Productions CD Cover — 2005

N motif conveniently changed in meaning from Napoléon III to National — somebody had to think up something to make lemonade out of a sour lemon



Flaubert in the Ruins of Paris
The story of a friendship, a novel, and terrible year

By Peter Brooks [Basic Books; New York] 2017

Pg. 107

Progressive Second Republic

For Flaubert to call the legislation of **the short-lived Second Republic the most humane** ever may surprise us, though most readers today would to agree that the world of the provisional assembly was remarkably progressive: **it included election by universal manhood suffrage, the abolition of slavery in French colonies, and of the death penalty for political crimes.**

The conjuring of the specter of the guillotine and the Reign of Terror of 1793 was *a spectacular overreaction that would prepare the way for Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte's rise to power as the figure of "order"*. The final image of France as a blind man without his cane, as a child without its nurse, suggest a kind of Olympian judgment of a missed historical opportunity.

Pg. 82 - 83

So you have in the rhetoric of guidebooks, and in tourists' reactions to the ruins, a simultaneous lament on the destruction wrought by the Communards, the work of a kind of human volcano, and a meditation on the seductive beauty of this instant Pompeii.

The ruins resurrected the earlier fascination, of Romantics and the Gothic Revival, with the picturesque ruin: the sentiment that led the moneyed to have instant ruins created on their estates, for instance, and to meditations on the slopes of Etna and Vesuvius by Romantic heroes from Châteaubriand to Matthew Arnold.

And here, of course, the tourist was in a sense viewing the ruins of empire — *of Napoléon's Second Empire, which had seemed affluent, powerful, enduring regime until it undid itself in war with Prussia. So to many, the ruins appropriately marked the sic transit of empire.*

>>> **Ernest Meissonier** <<<

One sees the ruins' aesthetic in full flower in a rare oil painting of the Tuileries done by **Ernest Meissonier, famous as a painter of Napoleonic battles and nearly an official court painter under the Second Empire.**

Meissonier, possibly working from the contemporary photographs, uses a sightline through the ruined *Salle des Fêtes* of the palace out toward the Arc de Triumph du Carrousel, originally part of the palace complex but today standing alone in the Tuileries Garden, itself a kind of evocation of what once was there. Meissonier apparently described the arch with its imperial figure in a chariot drawn by four horses as **“Victory on her chariot....abandoning us.”**

But others viewed this glimpse of past glory through the ruins as promise of better future, the rebirth of France.

Pg. 84

Yet there is also an act or artistic witnessing, less horrifying than the photo but equally tragic, in the sketchy lithograph by **Édouard Manet** — who left Paris after the armistice but returned during the Bloody Week — called, simply, *Guerre Civile*.

The burning of Paris becomes the unforgettable and unpardonable record. That may explain why the image of the largely mythic *pétroleuse*, the proletarian woman running from the building to building with a milk can filled with petrol to start a fire, became so dominant in the first journalistic histories of the Commune. The *pétroleuse* is a figure invented to create a dramatic and infernal narrative of the burning of central Paris. She is in a sense a fictional narrative that results from the photographs.

Pg. 57 **Mademoiselle Papavoine's Consummate Support of Commune**

On September 6, Flaubert wrote with approval, to Sand and to others, of an article Sand had published in *Le Temps* the previous day, where he thought that for the first time she spoke the truth about the Parisian working class—the need for it to rededicate itself to reality and to work, and to cease chasing chimeras of revolution. He had acerbic yet somehow delighted remarks to make about one of the so-called *pétroleuses*, Mademoiselle Papavoine, alleged to have sex with eighteen men on a barricade, and who did not deny the allegation. Flaubert found that better than the end of *Sentimental Education*, where the old friends Frédéric and Deslauriers remember their visit as timid teenagers to a brothel — and ending deemed far too cynical when the novel was published (especially since the two men describe the scene as the best of their lives) but now eclipsed by reality. We find again a kind of fascination with a populace that infringes all bourgeois rules.

Pg. 102 **Garrison: Château d'Eau in Flaubert's *Sentimental Education***

But the purpose of this attack **on the garrison of Château d'Eau (in what is now the Place de la République)** was to free fifty prisoners, who weren't there.

Pg. 126

La Opéra: Decadent Display of Second Empire

There were early proposals that the basilica be constructed on the foundations of the Opéra, designed by Charles Garnier under Napoléon III but not yet finished, which **was considered to many to be the very incarnation of Second Empire excess and decadence.**

Pg. 74-75

The one action of the Commune given an intense historical record — evidently the conscious creation of a *lieu de memoire* (site of memory), a site needing a record all the more in that it was creating an absence, a hold in the city — was the felling of the Place Vendôme. This event would later be reckoned among the chief “crimes” of the Commune, a sign of its wanton, barbaric, ignorant, and fundamental destructiveness. Destroying this monument was in fact a strange expenditure of energy and political capital. The column (quickly restored after the fall of the Commune) **commemorates the first Napoléon, whose gilded statue as Roman emperor stands atop it.** It was sheathed originally with brass bas-reliefs made from melted-down cannon captured from the enemy at the Battle of Austerlitz in 1804 [his greatest victory].

>>> It was re-symbolized, as it were, by **the Second Empire, which was always seeking to connect to the glorious Napoleonic past:** Napoléon III replaced an earlier statue of his uncle with what had in fact been the original conception, **an imperial Caesar, in Roman dress.** It was by 1871 a familiar and generally beloved part of the Roman landscape.

>>> Yet it drew the particular ire of the Communards, who declared it **“a monument to barbarism, a symbol of brute force and false glory, an affirmation of militarism, a negation of international law, a permanent insult of the conquerors to the vanished, a perpetual attack on one of the three great principles of the French Republic: Fraternity.”**

>>> **DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT: AFTERMATH** <<<

Pg. 124-125 **General MacMahon & Terrible Year Reflection: “Moral Order”**

Nonetheless, recent events provoked a period of intense reflection and debate in France over the causes of the Terrible Year and possible future remedies. **The partisans of a new “Moral Order” predominated in the debate when Marshal MacMahon rose to the presidency in 1873.** Flaubert, who thought him a dangerous fool, dubbed him “the Bayard of modern times,” capturing in the allusion to the pure knight of legend **the fatuous hypocrisy of the preachers of morality and repression who now ruled France.** He had predicted this victory of the reactionaries.

The builders of Sacré-Coeur saw it as expiation for the sins of republican France, most egregiously represented in the Commune. The idea for the church originated in 1870 with two laymen...who attributed France’s defeat by Prussia to French decadence and secularism, it s falling away from the way of Christ. This was the extreme version of a popular story that wanted to see 1870-1871 as divine chastisement.

Pg. 80

Tuileries

As for the Tuileries Palace, another of the most dramatic ruins, there ensued a long and heated debate as to whether and how to restore it....In the failure of that restoration, even the conservative Republic of the Dukes, which followed upon the fall of the Thiers government, led by the monarchist marshal and duke Patrice de Mac-Mahon, **had trouble mustering much enthusiasm for rebuilding that which, though briefly a people's palace in the spring of 1871, had come *to seem a symbol of tyranny and excess.***

The debate ended only in 1882 — when the republicans were firmly in control — with the decision to raze the ruins and remove the debris, thus creating the Place du Carrousel as we know it today.

Pasteurization of France

By Bruno Latour [Harvard University Press; Cambridge & London] 1984, 1988

Translated by Alan Sheridan and John Law

Pg. 68-69

Pasteur began as a crystallographer who interested a dozen or so of his respectable peers and ended up **as the deified “Pasteur,” the man of a century, the man who gave his name to streets all over France.**

Pg. 14

He did everything; he regenerated, revolutionized, created the new medicine, the new biology, the new hygiene. Landouzy writes: **“Never will have a century have worked for the century whose dawn you will soon be welcoming, as did the century of Pasteur (1885, P. 107).**

Pg. 08

There are a number of reasons for believing that there is no better example than that of the revolution introduced into medicine, biology, and hygiene by the work of Louis Pasteur... **Most people would agree that, with Pasteur, the medical art became a science.** The Pasteur blitzkrieg, in striking contrast to the physician's and surgeons' blind struggle against an invisible enemy, reveals a convincing scientific manner, free of compromise, tinkering, and controversy.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pasteur_Street

Pasteur Street (Persian: خیابان پاستور) **is an important street in Tehran, Iran in which key government institutions are located.** It is highly secured because of the presence of key institutions such as the office of the Iranian President, the center of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Intelligence leadership, the center of the Assembly of Experts for the Leadership, and the Supreme National Security Council. Also Several military schools, the center of the Armed Forces Logistics and Center for Strategic Studies are located in the street.

The Sympathizer

By Viet Thanh Nguyen [Corsair; London] 2016

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, 2016

Pasteur Reprise:

Pg. 31

The route from villa to airport was as uncomplicated as anything could be in **Saigon**, which is to say not uncomplicated at all. One made a right out of the gates down Thi Xuan, left on Le Van Quiet, right on Hong That Tu in the direction of the embassies, **left on Pasteur**, another left on Nguyen Dinh Chieu, right on Long Ly, then straight to the airport...

Paris Metro Station: Alexandre Dumas

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandre_Dumas_\(Paris_M%C3%A9tro\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandre_Dumas_(Paris_M%C3%A9tro))

Alexandre Dumas is a station on Paris Métro Line 2, on the border of the 11th and 20th arrondissements.



The station was opened on 31 January 1903 as part of the extension of line 2 (known at the time as "2 Nord") from Anvers. It was the eastern terminus of the line until 2 April 1903 when it was extended to Nation.

The station was originally called *Bagnolet* after the *Rue de Bagnolet*, the road to Bagnolet. **On 13 September 1970, it was renamed after the French author Alexandre Dumas and the Rue Alexandre Dumas.** It was the location of the *Barrière de Fontarabie*, a gate built for the collection of taxation as part of the Wall of the Farmers-

General; the gate was built between 1784 and 1788 and demolished during the nineteenth century.

Paris Metro Blue Line # 2:



Alexandre Dumas Station ^

^

Léon Gambetta Station (Line 3)

Pereire Station (Line 3) - not shown



Bismarck, North Dakota USA

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bismarck,_North_Dakota

- Truncated -

Bismarck is the capital of the U.S. state of North Dakota and the county seat of Burleigh County. It is the second-most populous city in North Dakota after Fargo. The city's population was estimated in 2018 at 73,112, while its metropolitan population was 132,678. In 2017, *Forbes* magazine ranked Bismarck as the seventh fastest-growing small city in the United States.

Bismarck was founded by European Americans in 1872 on the east bank of the Missouri River. It has been North Dakota's capital city since 1889, when the state was created from the Dakota Territory and admitted to the Union.

In 1872 European Americans founded a settlement at what was then called Missouri Crossing, so named because **the Lewis and Clark Expedition crossed the river there on their exploration of the Louisiana Purchase in 1804-1806.** It had been an area of Mandan settlement. Later the new town was called Edwinton, after Edwin Ferry Johnson (1803–1872), engineer-in-chief for the Northern Pacific Railway. Its construction of railroads in the territory attracted workers and settlers.

In 1873 [post Franco-Prussian War], the Northern Pacific Railway renamed the city to Bismarck, in honor of German chancellor Otto von Bismarck.

It is the only US state capital named for a foreign statesman. Railroad officials hoped to attract German immigrant settlers to the area and German investment in the railroad.

Louis Pasteur

By Patrice Debré [John Hopkins University Press; Baltimore & London] 1998
Translated by Elborg Forster



Louis Pasteur in Laboratory by A. Edelfeldt, 1885

>>> HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

Pg. 494-495

New Years' Day 1895: Pasteur & Dumas *fil*s

On 1 January 1895, Pasteur received all of his students and collaborators to wish them a Happy New Year. That day, **Alexandre Dumas the Younger [*fil*s]** also came to salute his confrère of the *Académie française*. “I wanted to begin the year right,” he told Pasteur, unaware that he himself would not live to see its end.

Alexandre Dumas *fil*s

Pg. 497

>>> **A media phenomenon of the first order, Pasteur was the first scientist to bring questions of experimental medicine, and of medicine in general, to the front pages of newspapers.** In this sense he was the principal architect of the transformation of public opinion in medical matters. At the end of the nineteenth century, in a world where laboratories were still few and far between, and where the teaching of science was hemmed in by the traditional rules and without prestige, **he generated faith in the progress of medicine and created a new type of hero: the Pasteurian scientist.** Without this media revolution, the advances of science would surely have been much more timid.

...On one occasion the hundredth anniversary of the scientist's birth, President Warren Harding [one of the least admired Republican presidents unfortunately with Napoléon III's personal inclinations and a corrupt scandal-ridden régime as well] wrote to Raymond Poincaré, prime minister of France at the time: **"America was one of the first countries to put Pasteur's discoveries into practice. Pasteur belongs to America as much as he belongs to France."**

...Pasteur's face was elevated to the rank of an allegory, for **in 1929 he became the first famous man (except for Napoléon III) to be depicted on a postage stamp**; and in 1966 he was honored by the Banque de France, which had his portrait engraved on a widely used banknote, the five-franc bill. The symbolism is eloquent, for here Pasteur is no longer only a scientist or a discoverer; he serves to bind people together. Two French ships were christened with his name: the first launched in 1928 served as a troop ship, while the second, launched in 1968, was a cruise ship.

Pg. 493

Pasteur had become a living symbol, embodying both science and France. French speaking-speaking countries in particular considered him a special ambassador. At the proposal of the deputies of the Province of Quebec, the Canadian government gave his name to a county on the Maine [Canadian-US] border. A few months later, it was Algeria's turn to honor the scientists of the metropole; the government general of Algeria decided to name a town in the province of Constantine "Pasteur." Thanks to you,"

Pasteur wrote to Jules Cambon, 'my name will remain attached to this corner of the Earth. When in the future a child of this village will ask about the origin of this name, I would hope that the teacher will simply tell him that it was the name of a Frenchman who had loved France very much... The thought that my name might some day awaken in child's soul the first stirrings of patriotism makes my heart beat faster."

Pg. 495

In May [1895] he learned that the Berlin Academy of Sciences wished to honor him with the medal of the Prussian Order of Pour le Mérite. The idea that he was to be distinguished by Emperor William [Wilhelm] II gave Pasteur a burst of energy; his anger was good for him. Alsace and Lorraine were still German! **How could he possibly accept a decoration from the victors of 1870?** He refused this honor, just as he had once returned his diploma *honoris causa* to the dean of Bonn University...

Pg. 498

In 1922, the celebrations commemorating the centenary of his birth marked the high point of the **cult of Pasteur**...

On 27 December 1922, at seven in the morning, the church bells in every town and village in France-Comte began to ring as if **to celebrate a *second Christmas***....a sheaf of flowers and some palm branches were deposited at the door of Pasteur's birthplace. At Strasbourg, the liberations of Alsace was celebrated along with the memory of the scientist who "never separated the fatherland from science."

Throughout the world, squares and streets were named for him; his portrait was hung in classrooms, in laboratories, in hospitals. Pasteur would have been a hundred, and what was being celebrate was the century of science, the century of Pasteur.

SO MANY SPEECHES about this taciturn man.

From the Second Empire to the Third Republic, and even after his death, Pasteur had known how to use the powers that be for his own purposes, and **the governments in turn had used him as a symbol to establish their own political identity and to justify their *civilizing power***....

Georges Duboeuf: 'Pope of Beaujolais' wine dies aged 86

[bbc.com/news/world-europe-50999806](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50999806)

January 05, 2020

Georges Duboeuf, one of the great wine merchants of the 20th Century, has died at the age of 86.

He was best known for turning the release a little-known French product - an ordinary red wine called Beaujolais Nouveau - into a global phenomenon.

By the 1980s, Mr Duboeuf's enthusiastic promotion of the wine had led to its monthly release date being known across the world as Beaujolais Nouveau Day.

It also earned him the nickname "the Pope of Beaujolais".

Mr Duboeuf died of a stroke at about 18:00 (17:00 GMT) on Saturday at his home in the eastern village of Romanèche-Thorins, his daughter-in-law Anne told AFP news agency.

In the 1950s Mr Duboeuf set up L'Écrin Mâconnais-Beaujolais, an association of wine producers, to help promote local wines. Through the association, he developed strong relationships with traders and restaurateurs across the region.

He then opened his own winery, Georges Duboeuf Wines, in 1964. **He applied traditional methods of winemaking to his craft, including rigorous monitoring of the wine and an apparently almost *clinical dedication to hygiene*.***

The winery later grew to other regions, and in 1993 Mr Duboeuf set up a shop and museum of winemaking in Romanèche-Thorins.

But it was his tireless promotion of Beaujolais Nouveau in particular that set Mr Duboeuf apart.

Throughout the 1980s he held Beaujolais Nouveau festivals which were attended by celebrities of all kinds, including Michelin-starred restaurateurs.

By the time he passed the company on to his son Franck in 2018, the company was producing *about 30 million bottles a year that were sold internationally.*

Dominique Piron, president of the Inter Beaujolais company, said Mr Duboeuf was responsible for "raising the Beaujolais flag all over the world".

"He had a nose, an intuition, [he was] a step ahead of everyone," he said.

*** Pure Pasteur!**

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More than an Alien Interest in Flying Beaujolais

- Fact Seems Stranger than Fiction -

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan_Airlines_Flight_1628_incident

- Truncated -

Japan Airlines Flight 1628 was a claimed UFO incident that occurred on November 17, 1986 involving a Japanese Boeing 747-200F cargo aircraft.



JAL Cargo Alien Incident - imagine if a 747 passenger aircraft with multiple witnesses

>>> **The aircraft was en route from Paris to Narita International Airport,**

near Tokyo, with *a cargo of Beaujolais wine.* <<<

On the Reykjavík to Anchorage section of the flight, at 17:11 over eastern Alaska, the crew first witnessed two unidentified objects to their left. These abruptly rose from below and closed in to escort their aircraft. Each had two rectangular arrays of what appeared to be glowing nozzles or thrusters, though their bodies remained obscured by darkness.

>>> **When closest, the aircraft's cabin was lit up and the captain could feel their heat on his face. These two craft departed before a third, much larger disk-shaped object started trailing them.**

Anchorage Air Traffic Control obliged and requested an oncoming United Airlines flight to confirm the unidentified traffic, but when it and a military craft sighted JAL 1628 at about 17:51, no other craft could be distinguished. The sighting lasted 50 minutes and ended in the vicinity of Mount Denali.

On November 17, 1986, the Japanese crew of a JAL Boeing 747 cargo freighter witnessed three unidentified objects after sunset while flying over eastern Alaska.

The objects seemed to prefer the cover of darkness to their left, and to avoid the brighter skies to their right. **At least the first two of the objects were observed by all three crew members:** Captain Kenju Terauchi (寺内謙寿, *Terauchi Kenju*), an ex-fighter pilot with more than 10,000 hours flight experience,^[2] in the cockpit's left-hand seat; co-pilot Takanori Tamefuji (為藤隆憲, *Tamefuji Takanori*) in the right-hand seat; and flight engineer Yoshio Tsukuba (佃善雄, *Tsukuba Yoshio*).

The routine cargo flight entered Alaska on auto-pilot, cruising at 565 mph (909 km/h) at an altitude of 35,000 ft (11,000 m). At 17:09, the Anchorage ATC advised a new heading towards Talkeetna, Alaska.

As the city lights of Fairbanks began to illuminate the object, Captain Terauchi believed to perceive **the outline of a gigantic spaceship on his port side that was "twice the size of an aircraft carrier"**. It was, however, outside first officer Tamefuji's field of view. The object followed "in formation", or in the same relative position throughout the 45 degree turn, a descent from 35,000 to 31,000 ft, and a 360 degree turn. The short-range radar at Fairbanks airport failed, however, to register the object.

Captain Terauchi cited in the official Federal Aviation Administration report that the object was a UFO. In December 1986, Terauchi gave an interview to two Kyodo News journalists.

JAL soon grounded him for talking to the press and moved him to a desk job [i.e, instead flying a prototype Fuji inkjet paper-copier solo in an August windowless non air-conditioned room with Korean assembled certified Sony transistor AM/FM AA battery radio to monitor hourly Tokyo-Narita weather and temperature for office tower lift attendant's daily purposes]. He had only been reinstated as a pilot several years afterward, and retired eventually in the north Kanto, Japan.

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Back to more earthly matters:

The Fortunes of Africa

A 5,000-Year History of Wealth, Greed and Endeavor

By Martin Meredith [Simon & Schuster; New York] 2014

Pg. 520

As well as laying the foundations of modern education, colonial rule brought advances in public health. After the discovery in the 1900s that mosquitoes were the infective vector for both malaria and yellow fever, anti-mosquito campaigns and prophylactic drugs led to a steep decline in death rates. As a result of mass vaccination programmes, smallpox ceased to be a major killer. Much attention was paid to the treatment of leprosy. **In urban areas, colonial government concentrated on sanitation, clean water-supply and hospital services; in rural areas clinics were set up.** The overall effect was a significant rise in population levels. In 1900, Africa's population was estimated to be 130 million. By 1939, it had risen to about 170 million.

The Discoverers
A History of Man's Search to Know His World and Himself

By Daniel J. Boorstin [Vintage Books; New York] 1983

- Truncated -

Darwin has interested us in the history of nature's technology.

- Karl Marx, *Capital* 1867

Pg. 470-472

Alfred Russel Wallace [(1823-1913) of impoverished family], whom history would recognize as co-author of the idea of natural selection, offered a vivid contrast to Darwin [of wealthy family]...He set out promptly for the Malay Archipelago. There and in the Moluccas he spent eight years exploring and gathering specimens, and formulated the theory of natural selection in the paper that Darwin received early in **1858**.

By his later trip though the Malay Archipelago covering fifteen thousand miles [twenty-four thousand km] and gathering some 127,000 specimens, he aimed to gather conclusive evidence...**Wallace's essay "On the Law which Has Regulated the Introduction of New Species" (1855) was published three years before the paper he sent to Darwin.**

The facts of geographical distribution that provided the cautious Darwin with questions supplied the brash Wallace with answers. ***Seeing natural selection led Darwin away from religious faith.***

Increasingly he [Wallace] needed a God to explain what he saw in nature. "I hope," Darwin told Wallace when Wallace's review of Lyell's books in **1869** laid bare his

resurgent faith in a God, “you have not murdered too completely your own and my child.”

Pg. 328

Louis Pasteur’s Experiments

Just as the telescope had brought together the Earth and the most distant heavenly bodies into a single scheme of thought, now microscopic vistas revealed a minuscule world surprisingly like that seen on a large scale every day...Still belief in other forms of spontaneous generation survived...**Louis Pasteur’s experiments with fermentation in the nineteenth century, and his practical application of his ideas for the preservation of milk**, that the dogma ceased to be scientifically respectable.

Pg. 431

Louis Pasteur (1822-1895), the ambitious and hardheaded son of a French tanner, a faithful conservative Catholic and a brilliant experimentalist, saw the matter differently. To him an orderly concept of species was necessary for God’s creative work in the Beginning.

>>> After acrimonious debate, **his simple experiments with fermentation proved the prevalence of microorganisms in airborne dust**, and showed that heating the exclusion of airborne particles would prevent the appearance of vegetation.

>>> **The successful application of his ideas to “pasteurizing” milk and improving production of beer and wine helped clinch the arguments against spontaneous generation.**

Louis Pasteur

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Pasteur

Fermentation

In 1855, Antoine Béchamp, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Montpellier, conducted experiments with sucrose solutions and concluded that water was the factor for fermentation. He changed his conclusion in 1858, stating that fermentation was directly related to the growth of moulds, which required air for growth. He regarded himself as the first to show the role of microorganisms in fermentation.

Pasteur started his experiments in 1857 and published his findings in 1858 (April issue of *Comptes Rendus Chimie*, Béchamp's paper appeared in January issue). Béchamp noted that Pasteur did not bring any novel idea or experiments. On the other hand, Béchamp was probably aware of Pasteur's 1857 preliminary works. With both scientists claiming priority on the discovery, a dispute, extending to several areas, lasted throughout their lives.

However, Béchamp was on the losing side, as the BMJ obituary remarked: His name was "associated with bygone controversies as to priority which it would be unprofitable to recall". Béchamp proposed the incorrect theory of microzymes. According to K. L. Manchester, anti-vivisectionists and proponents of alternative medicine promoted Béchamp and microzymes, unjustifiably claiming that Pasteur plagiarized Béchamp.

Pasteur thought that succinic acid inverted sucrose. **In 1860, Marcellin Berthelot isolated invertase and showed that succinic acid did not invert sucrose.** Pasteur believed that fermentation was only due to living cells. Hans Buchner discovered that zymase catalyzed fermentation, showing that fermentation was catalyzed by enzymes within cells. Eduard Buchner also discovered that fermentation could take place outside living cells.

>>> **Pasteur was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour in 1853, promoted to Officer in 1863, to Commander in 1868, to Grand Officer in 1878 and made a Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor in 1881.**

Louis Pasteur

By Patrice Debré [John Hopkins University Press; Baltimore & London] 1998
Translated by Elborg Forster

Pg. 496

Pasteur's Crypt

In keeping with his family's wishes, **Pasteur was not interred in the Panthéon but in a crypt built in the cellars of his Institute**, very close to the apartments where he had spent the last years of his life. There he is keeping watch at the doors of the laboratories where his work continues.

In 1940, when the Germans, who had occupied Paris, wanted to visit the tombs of Pasteur and Marie- who died fifteen years after him- **they were denied access by a little white-haired man**. It was Joseph Meister, the concierge of the Institute and the guardian of the sanctuary. **He had survived the war of 1870** and he had survived rabies, but this humiliation was more than he could tolerate, and so he obstinately refused to unlock the gate of the crypt and to allow the descendants of the Prussians to disturb Pasteur's rest. Sinking into a deep depression, he locked himself into his little apartment and finally committed suicide.

The Body

By Bill Bryson [Doubleday; Canada] 2019

Pg. 325

Pasteur Family Deaths

Typhoid fever was no less frightening and caused at least as much distress. The great French microbiologist **Louis Pasteur** *understood pathogens better than anyone of his day* but still lost three of five of his children to typhoid fever. [Thanks, in large part, to Napoléon III first requesting Pasteur to study diseases in wine which is deliberately neglected in wine publications, we observed, by authorities].

Napoléon III – A Life

By Fenton Bressler [Carroll & Graf Publishers; New York] 1999

Pg. 371 >>> **IMPORTANT: Critical Factual Omission By Design** <<<

The Sedan of today is a typical small French country town of some 21,000 inhabitants. Its main tourist attraction is a seventeenth-century château fortress where, **in the seven-page glossy leaflet** which boasts of it as the largest fortified castle in Europe and recounts proudly its long military history, **there is no mention whatsoever of the fact that it served as Marshal MacMahon's headquarters during the battle that raged on 1 September 1870.** [and surrender the following day!]

COLLECTIVE AMNESIA

>>> HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

To the foreign visitor, Sedan seems to be a town which does not know if Napoléon III ever existed or, if it does, would prefer to forget it.

The former sub-prefecture in the middle of town where Louis spent his last two nights as emperor now stands empty and derelict, perhaps awaiting demolition. **But, again, no one knows and, even more cruel for the shade of Louis, no one cares.**

>>> **This is where an emperor and a man's dream ended, and in the Sedan of today one cannot even hear a sigh in the air.**

>>> DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

Pg. 332

It was not an empire, *it was a carnival*, and the carnival-master was a cosmopolitan roué, his physical strength seeping from him, who smoked innumerable cigarettes and is said to have spoken 'German like a Swiss, English like a Frenchman and **French like a German.'**

After nearly two decades of this kind of living, the French ruling classes were no match for the lumpen single-mindedness of the Prussians, resolute to build a new German nation.



Helix Gluteus Maximus Felix

Pg. 331

The second, non-medical reason for the deterioration of Louis' physique and spirit relates to *the fundamental flaw in his character* that the fulfillment of his destiny has revealed. Put quite simply, *the great conspirator became a victim of his own greatest conspiracy.*

>>> Hypoxic Dope on Two Legs Standing, Leading to Patriotic Ruin <<<

>>> There can be no doubt that he kept his charm to the end. As one visitor related, ‘**At first glance I took him for an opium addict. Not a bit of it; *he himself is the drug*, and you quickly come under his influence.**’ [as Hitler and Trump]

But in many respects, he had become soft and indolent, seduced by the glamour, the luxury and the sheer self-indulgence of the Empire that he had brought into being. **He became the ultimate hedonist. *Hedonism does not breed men of action: it dulls the senses and make strong men weak.*** As the 1860s ran their course, he no longer had a strategy, only tactics. ‘**I never form distant plans,**’ he said. ‘**I am governed by the exigencies of the moment.**’

>>> DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

The Great Ship of State: Louis Floating and Asleep at the Wheel

He became increasingly content to flow with the tide, more and more willing to hand the tiller of the ship of state to Eugénie. An aging *libertine*, wracked from time to time by immense pain, does not often make a strong head of state.

The key to the weakness that now increasingly held Louis in its grasp is, in part at least, to be found ***in the spirit of the age*, in the very hedonism that had become the quintessence of the Second Empire.** ‘Paris!’, the writer and diplomat, Wilfred Scawen Blunt, was to recall. ‘What magic lived for us in those two syllables! What a picture they evoked of vanity and profane delights, of triumph of the world and the romance of pleasure! **How great, how terrible a name was hers, the fair imperial harlot of civilized humanity.**



**Born to avenge my sex,
and to control yours.**

- Madame de Merteuil to Valmont, in Laclos, Les Liaisons dangereuses, letter LXXXI

- Sade, The 120 Days of Sodom

Sade
 The Invention of the Libertine Body
 By Marcel Hénaff [U. of Minnesota Press] 1999

The three storytellers [demimondaine Musketeers], magnificently dressed as upper-class Parisian courtesans, were seated below the throne upon a couch, and Madame Duclos, the month's narrator, **in very scanty and very elegant attire, well rouged and heavily bejeweled, having taken her place on the stage, thus began the story of what had occurred in her life.**

The Body
 By Bill Bryson [Doubleday; Canada] 2019

Pg. 145

Arguably the real father of endocrinology lived a generation before Brown-Séquard. **Thomas Addison (1793-1860) was one of a trio of outstanding doctors, known as the Three Greats, at Guy's Hospital in London in the 1830s.** The others were Richard Bright, discoverer of Bright's disease (now called nephritis), and Thomas Hodgkin, who specialized in disorders of the lymphatic system and whose name is specialized in disorders of the lymphatic system and whose name is commemorated in Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphomas. **Addison was probably the most brilliant,** certainly the most productive, of the three. He provided the first accurate account of appendicitis and was a leading authority on all types of anemia. At least five serious medical conditions were named for him, of which the most famous was (and remains) **Addison's disease, a**

degenerative disorder of the adrenal glands that Addison described in 1855, *making it the first hormonal disorder to be identified.* Despite his fame, Addison subject to spells of depression, and **in 1860**, five years after identifying Addison's, he retired to Brighton and killed himself.

Addison's disease is a rare but still-serious illness. It affects about one person in ten thousand. **History's most famous sufferer was John F. Kennedy, who was diagnosed with it in 1947, though he and his family always emphatically and untruthfully denied it [he actively served in the US. Navy during WWII].** In fact, Kennedy not only had Addison's but was lucky to survive it. In those days, before the introduction of glucocorticoids, a type of steroid, 80 percent of sufferers died within a year of diagnosis.

Louis Pasteur

By Patrice Debré [John Hopkins University Press; Baltimore & London] 1998

Translated by Elborg Forster

Pg. 272-275

>>> **DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT** <<<

Since Semmelweis had not succeeded in communicating his discoveries to the scientific world, **it is the Englishman Joseph Lister who must be officially credited with being the first to apply Pasteur's discoveries to medicine.** He became the founder of modern surgery when he identified gangrene of the extremities as the first example of a pathological fermentation in humans, thereby establishing a connection between putrefaction of necrosed tissue and the action of germs from outside discovered by Pasteur.

It was not by coincidence that Lister became acquainted with Pasteurian reflections, for his father, **Joseph Jackson Lister, was a wine merchant** at Upton (Essex) who, despite

an early end to his schooling, was keenly interested in mathematics and optics. That is how he came to initiate himself into the techniques of the microscope, and eventually to publish studies on the form of red corpuscles and the manner in which they are stacked in cylinders.

How did he, a young specialist in hemostasis and inflammation, come to be interested in airborne microbes? Like all surgeons, Lister often faced abscesses that ruined the benefits of the scalpel; he also observed that bone fractures usually healed without complications when they were not open. Infection developed when the skin was torn, so that the bones came into contact with the air. The explanation most often given by the surgeons was that gangrene had something to do with the oxygen in the air. As it entered the wound, it was said, the oxygen corrupted the tissue and caused it to putrefy. This explanation pleased everyone, particularly the operating surgeons, who thus could not be held responsible for the development of abscesses and septicemia. It was credible enough, yet it soon became clear to Lister that it could not by itself account for the phenomenon. How, for instance, could one explain that flesh did not become infected even though the blood brought oxygen to the tissues? Moreover, in certain traumas within the closed thorax, air did penetrate under the skin, and yet no abscess appeared on the broken rib. **This led Lister to a different explanation: as a result of his study of coagulation and inflammation, he came to believe that an *external agent* was involved.**

>>> This was the time of Pasteur's first publications on the chemistry of fermentation. In 1865, Thomas Anderson, professor of chemistry at Glasgow University, first read some of the reports Pasteur had presented to the Academic des sciences in the late 1850s. Knowing that Lister was working on putrefaction, he then told him, and Lister experienced a flash of insight, in which he immediately understood the potential link between decomposition of organic matter and post-operative infection. He also did not

hesitate to accept the role of bacteria. **Won over by Pasteur's explanations and acting as a true scientist**, he began by trying to verify and confirm his colleague's findings.

>>> **With the help of his wife, he set out to replicate the French scientist's experiments** in the family laboratory, and his conclusions were indeed confirmations: **fermentation and putrefaction cannot occur in sterilized sugar or protein solutions unless germs are introduced from the outside.**

For Lister as for Pasteur the ambient air now became one of the principal causes for the propagation of microbes. Since one could not reasonably expect to prevent any contact of the wound with the surrounding milieu, Lister invented a means of destroying bacteria within the wound itself. He felt that it must be possible to kill germs with the help of a substance that would not be toxic to human tissue, and thereby to prevent abscesses despite a septic environment....

Among all the substances traditionally used to treat wounds, certain ones, such as wine and turpentine, unquestionably had an antiseptic effect, yet they also did much to favor infections....

It was a stroke of genius on Lister's part to analyze a recommendation of the hygienists in biological terms and to understand that the carbolic acid did not simply remove the smell that testified to putrefaction, but that it also killed the microbes and could therefore be used to prevent gangrene. **He had just discovered antiseptis.**

The Body

By Bill Bryson [Doubleday; Canada] 2019

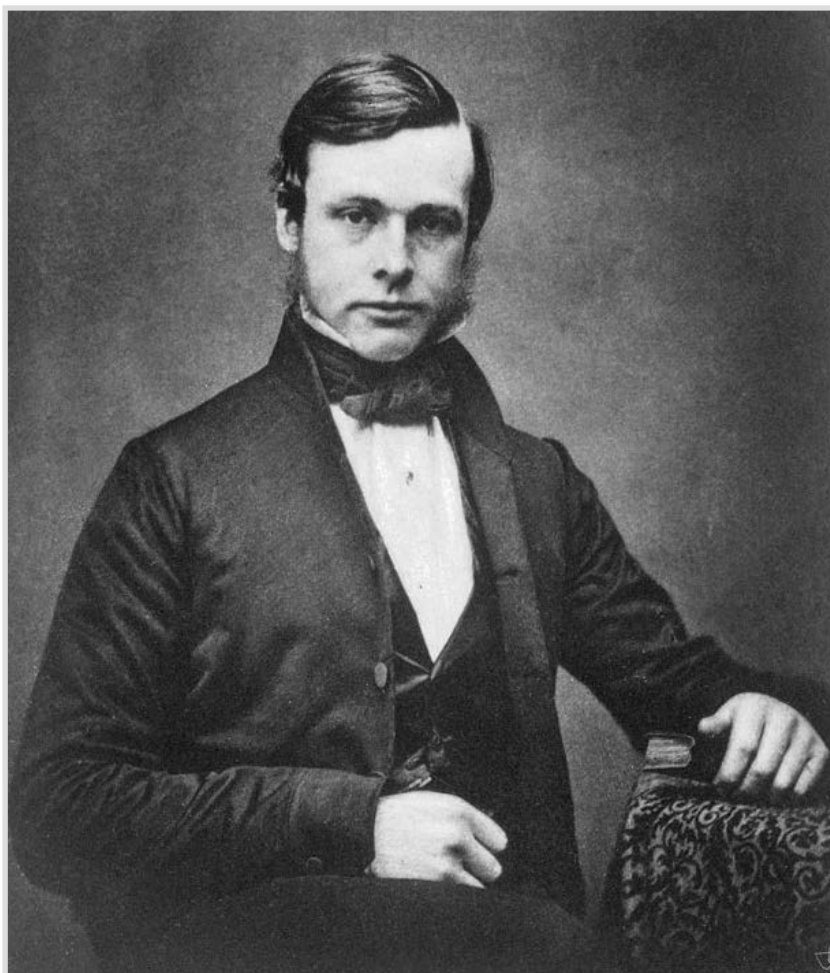
Pg. 296

A commitment to hygiene [Pasteur's insight] did gradually catch on, though it was an uphill battle. **In Britain, the surgeon Joseph Lister (1827-1912) famously introduced the use of carbolic acid, an extract of coal tar, into operating theaters.** He also believed that it was necessary to sterilize the air around patients, so he built a device that put out a mist of carbolic acid all around the operating table, which must have been pretty awful, particularly for anyone wearing spectacles. ***Carbolic acid was actually a terrible antiseptic.*** It could be absorbed through the skin of patients and medical practitioners alike and could cause kidney damage. In any case, Lister's practices didn't spread much beyond operating theaters.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Lister

- Truncated -

Joseph Lister, 1st Baron Lister KCVO, OM, PC, PRS, FRCSE, FFPS (5 April 1827 – 10 February 1912), was a British surgeon and a pioneer of antiseptic surgery. From a technical viewpoint, Lister was not an exceptional surgeon, but **his research into bacteriology and infection in wounds raised his operative technique to a new plane where his observations, deductions and practices revolutionised surgery throughout the world.**



Joseph Lister c. 1855

Lister promoted the idea of sterile surgery while working at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Lister successfully introduced carbolic acid (now known as phenol) to sterilise surgical instruments and to clean wounds.

Applying Louis Pasteur's advances in microbiology, Lister championed the use of carbolic acid as an antiseptic, so that it became the first widely used antiseptic in surgery. He first suspected it would prove an adequate disinfectant because it was used to ease the stench from fields irrigated with sewage waste. He presumed it was safe because fields treated with carbolic acid produced no apparent ill-effects on the livestock that later grazed upon them.

>>> Lister's work led to a reduction in post-operative infections and made surgery safer for patients, distinguishing him as **the "father of modern surgery"**.

While he was a professor of surgery at the University of Glasgow, **Lister became aware of a paper published by the French chemist, Louis Pasteur, showing that food spoilage could occur under anaerobic conditions if micro-organisms were present.** Pasteur suggested three methods to eliminate the micro-organisms responsible: filtration, exposure to heat, or exposure to solution/chemical solutions. **Lister confirmed Pasteur's conclusions with his own experiments and decided to use his findings to develop antiseptic techniques for wounds.** As the first two methods suggested by Pasteur were unsuitable for the treatment of human tissue, Lister experimented with the third idea.

In 1879, Listerine antiseptic (developed as a surgical antiseptic but nowadays best known as a mouthwash) was named after Lister. Microorganisms named in his honour include the pathogenic bacterial genus *Listeria* named by J. H. H. Pirie, typified by the food-borne pathogen *Listeria monocytogenes*, as well as the slime mould genus *Listerella*, first described by Eduard Adolf Wilhelm Jahn in 1906.

Lister is depicted in the **Academy Award-winning 1936 film, *The Story of Louis Pasteur***, by Halliwell Hobbes. In the film, **Lister is one of the beleaguered microbiologist's most noted supporters *in the otherwise largely hostile medical community*, and is the key speaker in the ceremony in his honour.**

In 1883 Queen Victoria created him a Baronet, of Park Crescent in the Parish of St Marylebone in the County of Middlesex. In 1897 he was further honoured when Her Majesty raised him to the peerage as Baron Lister, of Lyme Regis in the County of Dorset.

In March 1893, Lister received a telegram from Pasteur, Félix Guyon and Charles Bouchard that informed him, he had been elected an associate of the Academie des Sciences.

Pasteurization of France

By Bruno Latour [Harvard University Press; Cambridge & London] 1984, 1988

Translated by Alan Sheridan and John Law

Pg. 23

The hygienists used this movement to attack disease on every side or, in their language, to act on the pathogenic terrain. **The Pasteurians, who numbered, let us not forget, *no more than a few dozen men at first*, set out in turn to direct and to translate the hygienist movement.** In France, the result was such that the hygienist movement came to be identified with the man Pasteur, and ultimately, following a very French habit, the man

Pasteur was reduced to the ideas of Pasteur, and his ideas to their “theoretical foundations.”

The fulcrum provided by bacteriology should not let us forget that the enormous social movement was working for that mixture of urbanism, consumer protection, ecology (as we would say nowadays), defense of the environment, and moralization summed up by the word *hygiene*.

Pg. 47

The act of operating no longer kills: we are more or less masters of the cuts we make, we direct them almost at will toward immediate healing... The serious interventions of former times, the amputations of limbs, the hollowing out of bones, articular resections, removal of breasts, first entered everyday practice. Then the horizon widened: abdominal surgery was created out of nothing. We cut, we resected, we sewed up the stomach, the intestines, the liver and its biliary vesicle, the spleen, the kidney, the pancreas itself.... **Antisepsia made this miracle possible: complications in wounds were now the exception, and thanks to M. Pasteur’s discoveries, M. Lister* has deserved the celebrated gold statue promised by Nélaton to whoever delivered us from purulent infection.** (Reclus: 1890, P. 104)

* Think of an antiseptic mouthwash called “**Listerine**” sold worldwide.

“Kills up to 99.9% of germs that cause Plaque, Gingivitis and Bad Breath”



Fernande

The Story of a Courtesan

By Alexandre Dumas *père*

Translated by A. Craig Bell [St. Martin's Press; New York] 1988

Alexandre Dumas was born on July 24, 1802, at Villers-Cotterêts, a village to the north of Paris. Though not formally educated, the young Dumas was an omnivorous reader, and soon after come to Paris to work as a government clerk he was inspired to write. The first of his romantic dramas, *Henri III and His Court*, was published with great success, and **Dumas became an overnight sensation.**

Although other successful plays followed- notably Antony, a modern melodrama- it was the influence of Sir Walter Scott that spurred Dumas on to writing novels and inspired **his confessed ambition to “write the history of France.”** His universally famous series of historical romances- the Valois trilogy, the Musketeer and Revolution cycles, **The Count of Monte Cristo**, and *Olympe de Clèves* among them- bear witness to the achievement of his ambition.

While penning some sixty-five novels and forty plays, Dumas somehow found time to travel around Europe and Africa gathering material for his series of travel books. He also built a theater and a château for himself, earning and spending three fortunes during his lifetime: **yet Dumas died penniless and worn, in the care of his son Alexandre Dumas fils, on December 5, 1870.**

[Just mere months after Napoléon III's defeat at Sedan in September. Also, notice NOT any mention of Dumas being of African ancestry. Being born 'a village to the north of Paris' is misleading as it *implies* he was, indeed, a white Frenchman]



Alexandre Dumas *père*

photo by Félix Nadar

Krupp
A History of the Legendary Firm

By Harold James [Princeton University Press; Princeton & Oxford] 2012

Pg. 51

He was especially captivated by the idea that China would be the next economic and military superpower. In 1866 the first diplomatic mission of the Chinese government to Europe visited the Essen Krupp works, and in 1870 Krupp appointed a representative for China and Japan, the Cologne merchant Friedrich Peil. **By the next year, China had already ordered 328 artillery pieces.** Alfred Krupp had a correspondence with the German traveler and scientist Ferdinand von Richthofen, who worked on the development of Chinese coal reserves. **Krupp was enormously impressed by Li Hong-zhang, the general and official who had engineered the coup of 1875, whom he thought of as “the Bismarck of China.”** Li in fact was a great admirer of both Bismarck and Krupp: he kept a photograph of Bismarck in his study, and depended on Krupp not just as a supplier of munitions and railroad goods but **also as a model for a strategy of how to industrialize China.**

The profile of Krupp in Japan was equally prominent. Even before the appearance of Commodore Perry's black ships, Friedrich Graf zu Eulenberg had brought a Krupp rolling machine to Japan as a present and statement of European technical prowess.

>>> In 1873 [post Franco-Prussian War after France dropped], as part of a Japanese fact-finding expedition to Europe, a fifteen-man delegation visited the Krupp works. And Germany became very much the model for Japan's modernization as well.

The Arms of Krupp

By William Manchester [Little, Brown & Company; New York] 1964, 1965, 1968

Pg. 135

Krupp Post-Sedan Victory Orders

When Krupp wrote flattering letters to **Li Hongzhang ('the Bismarck of Asia')** and sent him a model railroad, Li responded by ordering 275 field guns, another 150 cannon to arm the Taku fort guarding the approach to Tientsin, and complete armament for eight warships. **In gratitude Alfred hung over the head of his bed a portrait of Li**, despite his fear of combustible objects in the castle. Word of this Chinese coup reached Potsdam, and the Kaiser **chortled "Krupp tell governments what they must buy."** If governments were really poor enough, he really did. Backward countries were given shipments of obsolete weapons Despite the huge bill paid by Asia's Bismarck, Li Hongzhang didn't receive Essen's latest model, which was being delivered to Saint Petersburg that winter. **The Taku forts got outdated cannon, and a handsome order from Bangkok was filled from the same prescription.** Alfred wrote tartly,

>>> **Chinese and Siamese can blow their enemies to bits well enough with these!**

The Fortunes of Africa

A 5,000-Year History of Wealth, Greed and Endeavor

By Martin Meredith [Simon & Schuster; New York] 2014

Pg. 476-477

Krupp Boer Orders

Gold revenues had made the Transvaal the richest state in southern Africa, enabling Kruger to challenge hegemony in the region and thwart Rhodes's plan for a confederation of British-ruled states. ...To counteract he began to cultivate links with Germany, encouraging German investment and German immigration. **At a banquet to mark Kaiser Wilhelm's birthday in 1895, Kruger spoke of cementing ties with Germany.**

In Pretoria, Kruger reacted to signs of British belligerence by strengthening the Transvaal defences. **He ordered a vast array of modern military equipment from Germany and France- field guns, siege guns, Maxim guns, howitzers and modern rifles.*** Fortresses were constructed in Johannesburg and Pretoria.

Although Rhodes had been thwarted in his bid to take over the Transvaal, Chamberlain [Britain's colonial secretary] pursued the same aim ruthlessly. He considered the rise of the Transvaal as a wealthy, **independent state to represent a threat not only to Britain's hold on southern Africa but to its standing as an imperial power.**

>>> IMPORTANT <<<

...The war that Britain provoked was expected to last no longer than a few months. Milner confidently predicted the Boers would put up no more than 'an apology' of a fight. London newspapers envisaged a 'tea-time' war that would be finished by Christmas. ***But it turned into the costliest, bloodiest and most humiliating war that Britain had waged in nearly a century.*** From the outset, the British campaign **suffered one military defeat after another.** It took a British expeditionary army eight

months to reach Johannesburg and Pretoria and another two years before the war was finally over.

* The French felt the wrath of Krupp weaponry at Sedan. **This was the first direct encounter the British army had with Krupp cannons directed at them.** This Anglo-Boer War was a harbinger of the apocalyptic devastation that would be encountered by **Allied forces against Germany in WWI a few years later.**

...By 1907, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State were again self-governing under the control of defeated Boer generals who had signed the terms of surrender. Britain next decided to amalgamate its four colonies into a Union of South Africa in the hope that the Boers and the British might find a way of resolving their differences and merge into a single South African nation.

The black population fared badly out of this arrangement. **After a hundred years of wars and clashes against the British and Boers, *all the African chiefdoms lying with South Africa had succumbed to white rule. Most of their land had been lost through conquest and settlement.*** During the Anglo-Boer War, some 116,000 Africans were caught up in sweeps carried out by British military commanders to 'scour' rural districts of all means of support for Boer guerrillas and sent to their own concentration camps where some 14,000 died, most of them children. In the aftermath of the war, African leaders had confidently expected British rule would lead to improved political rights for the black population. But Britain's priority was to facilitate reconciliation between Boers and the British which meant ignoring African demands.

Krupp
A History of the Legendary Firm

By Harold James [Princeton University Press; Princeton & Oxford] 2012

Pg. 01 **Hitler's *Kruppstahl***

>>> **For Adolf Hitler, Krupp was also an icon.** In Mein Kampf and again in 1935 at the Nuremberg party rally, **Hitler exhorted German youth to be as “quick as greyhound, as tough as leather, and as hard as Krupp steel.”** Some people quibbled that Krupp steel was notably resilient (because slightly malleable) rather than hard, but **the company liked the analogy at the time.**

Pasteurization of France

By Bruno Latour [Harvard University Press; Cambridge & London] 1984, 1988

Translated by Alan Sheridan and John Law

Pg. 68-69

Pasteur abandoned crystallography but found himself, in the problem of ferments, at the heart of a famous quarrel among the chemists and also at the heart of the beer-, vinegar-, and wine-producing industries, whose economic weight was out of all proportion to that of a few colleagues in crystallography.

Pg. 71

He began as a crystallographer in Paris and Strasbourg; he ended with “divine honors.” Such a metamorphosis does not come about solely by one’s own efforts.

If he had stayed in Strasbourg, working at crystallography, even his hagiographers have to agree that others would have been accorded the divine honors- even it, as Dubos claims, his researches into the origin of life had been much more important for “pure science.” **In other words, Pasteur *sought* that glory, and sought it well.**

Pg. 72

With this double endeavor- recruitment of allies, negation of their efficacy – we end up indeed with the impression that a revolution was emerging from Pasteur’s laboratory and spreading into society, which it then turned upside down. The very formulation of what Pasteur did was imposed on his contemporaries (in France at least) by Pasteur himself. I have one more reason for admiring this strategy, which is that a hundred years later it is still at work in more than on philosopher of science. To remain indisputable for so long is surely a lasting victory. **Scientific leaders, it must be admitted, are more skillful than military ones.** Whereas nobody regards Danton or Lenin as revolutionaries any more, everybody, even in the suburbs, thinks that Archimedes, Galileo, or Einstein carried out ‘radical revolutions.’

Pg. 90

All the Pasteurian “applications” were “diffused,” as we say, only if it was previously possible to create in situ the conditions of a laboratory. The pasteurization of beer or milk, hermetically concealed containers, filters, vaccines, serum, diagnostic kits- all these served as proof, were demonstrative and efficacious, only in the laboratory. **If these**

applications were to spread, the operating room, the hospital, the physician's office, the wine grower's winery, *had to be endowed with a laboratory.*

Louis Pasteur

By Patrice Debré [John Hopkins University Press; Baltimore & London] 1998

Translated by Elborg Forster

Pg. 358-359

Pasteur's Second Crusade

...it was more than compensated for **by *the second aspect of Pasteur's genius, that is, his remarkable ability to see the application of his discoveries...*** There was something of Christopher Columbus in Pasteur: the same obstinacy, the longing for distant shores, the endeavor to join different universes, the exploitation of new resources. His exploration relied on very thorough planning, which enabled him to adapt to the changing circumstances of the universe he was discovering.

>>> DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

...that of Pasteur burst forth in the well-reasoned choice of scientific programs and in the application of his discoveries. ***His reflections on fermentation unfailingly led Pasteur into the area of pathology.*** He thus defeated the spontaneous beliefs twice, after having *twice fought the same battle*, led the same crusade.

Pg. 255-256

Ramifications of France's Defeat

Less than fifteen years after the tragic defeat of 1870, Pasteur had thus indeed succeeded in creating the “beer of revenge.” But it was properly thought-out revenge, **a far cry from narrow nationalism and grand patriotic gestures**. Looking at an industry he considered inadequate and weak, he wanted to use his expertise to contribute to the recovery of the state. During the French Revolution, pointed out, Lavoisier, Chaptal, and Berthollet had taught new means of extracting salt peter, manufacturing steel, and making gunpowder, and Monge had shown how to found cannons. The role of the scientist in a national crisis was clear to Pasteur: he was called upon to apply the results of basic research to an emergency situation.

Saint-Claire Deville expressed a generally accepted idea when he asserted that **France had been crushed by technology rather than by tactics**. Pasteur went even further: seeking to go beyond a strict distinction between science and warfare, he predicted that economic war would become the new form of the struggle for power and control over people. **When he realized that his inventions enabled him to control the microbes that could contaminate wine and beer, he therefore felt that he was handing a weapon to his country.**



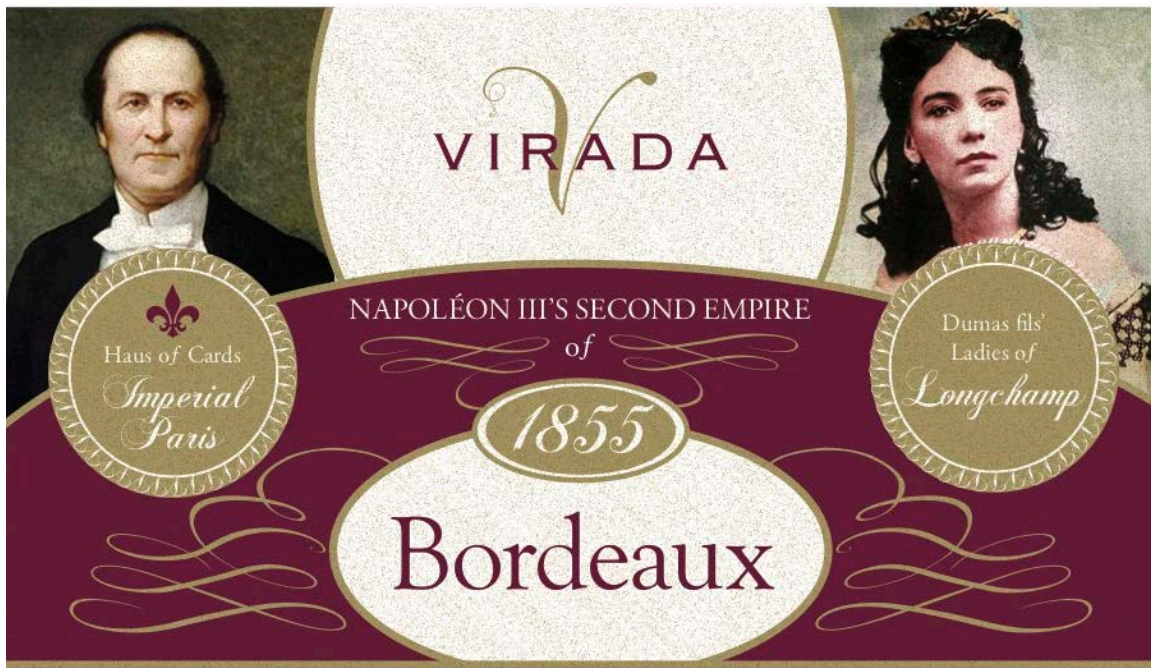
Original brewery located in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) on Pasteur Street

Hanoi, Vietnam

January 2019

At the same time, Pasteur could not help but think about other applications for his methods. He had seen the wounded of the battlefields of 1870, he had smelled the atrocious stench of gangrene, and he had recognized these mutilations and these putrefactions as aspects of **the same principle he had sought to defeat in order to save fermented beverages or silkworms.**

>>> “Seeing that beer and wine,” he wrote, “undergo profound alterations because these liquids have given shelter to *microscopic organisms* which, having invaded them fortuitously and without being seen, have rapidly multiplied within them, how can one help being obsessed by the thought that phenomena of the same kind can and must sometimes occur in humans and animals?



>>> A CRU-CIAL OBSERVATION <<<

The Second Empire had crumbled like a house of cards, but this did not slow down the research Napoléon III had asked Pasteur to carry out. On the contrary, it led to technical and even commercial advances rich in implications- and profits- for the future. Indeed, the defeat seems to have spurred the scientist on to greater combativeness and oriented him toward new endeavors, from the needs of industry to the struggle to save lives. Henceforth, Pasteur's laboratory was to have ties not only to the factory and the manufacturing plant but also to the hospital.

In 1884, when Pasteur attended an international medical convention at Copenhagen in the presence of the king and queen of Denmark, he used this opportunity to visit the brewery. By this time, it no longer exported four million, but two-hundred million

hectoliters of beer per year. **The entire Carlsberg plant was run according to the principles taken from Pasteur's studies. The head of the laboratory, Hansen, used different kinds of yeast to give different flavors to his beers, using multiplication techniques he had learned in Paris.**

Pg. 475

Champagne Germ Warfare

...Pasteur's letter to Le Temps was published verbatim **and read by the widow Pommery, owner of a celebrated Champagne cellar in Reims.** She too wanted to exterminate rabbits, for they were digging their burrows under her storage cellars and causing stones falling from the ceilings to break her champagne bottles. In December 1887, Madame Pommery therefore addressed herself to Pasteur, who was enthusiastic about the idea of trying out this method on a small scale. Loir was dispatched to spread the chicken cholera on top of the cellars. It was a complete success. **Dozens, perhaps hundreds of dead rabbits were counted.** The ground was littered with dead bodies. Rather strangely, the epidemic stopped at the borders of the wine-making estate. Everyone was delighted, Madame Pommery at being rid of her rabbits, Pasteur at having achieved success in a new experimental field.

Dragon Lady Life & Legend of the Last Empress of China

By Sterling Seagrave [Vintage Books; New York] 1993

Pg. 369

Another who took his booty to America was Auguste Chamot, Swiss proprietor of the Peking Hotel. He and his wife, Annie, had married in San Francisco in 1895 and then

headed for China. **When they returned eight years later, the thirty-six year old Chamot was a rich man.** At his hotel in the legation quarter **he had been in a superb position to acquire loot.** He also obtained a \$ 200,000 indemnity for damage to his building. In 1903 the Chamots used some of this wealth to build a mansion in Inverness, California, in Marin County overlooking Tomales Bay. **The three story villa with a mansard roof was decorated with loot, including a screen made for Emperor Chien Lung and a headdress stolen from the quarters of Tzu Hsi.** At the villa Chamot kept a menagerie of pythons, monkeys, bears, and panthers. *He consumed destructive quantities of champagne aboard his sailing yacht in San Francisco Bay, at parties that ended with the boat's smashing into piers.* He gambled his assets away in three years, and when his mansion was destroyed in the great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906, he was forced to sell his remaining loot. On a trip to New York to sell these objects, Chamot fell in love with a manicurist named Betsy Dollar. **Divorced by his wife, he married Betsy, and died an alcoholic three years later, in September 1909, leaving fifteen cents to Miss Dollar- a poor rate of exchange.**

Story of Wine

By Hugh Johnson [Octopus Publishing; UK] 1989, 1999

Pg. 368 **Chinese in Napa & Sonoma before US Immigration Exclusion**

Lack of affordable manpower was the principle problem for anyone in California with a big project on hand. Haraszthy solved it by talking to Ho Po, a Chinese labour contractor in San Francisco, who business was bringing in skilled hands from Guangdong. The east coast labourers' rate was about \$ 10 a month. In California was \$30. Ho Po charged \$8 plus board and lodging for eager and indefatigable workers. **The great projects were to come both in Sonoma and Napa were largely manned by Ho Po's coolies. In 1880s they provided over 80% of the California wine workforce.** But in the 1890s racial

prejudice drove them out of the country they had so honourably served. **It was largely Italian labour that took their place.**

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ah_Toy

Ah Toy (亞彩 Taishanese: /aɪ tʰɔi/, Standard Cantonese: *Aa³ Coi²*, (1829–1928) was a **Cantonese-born [Guangzhou] American prostitute and madam in San Francisco, California, during the California Gold Rush, and purportedly the first Chinese prostitute in San Francisco. Arriving from Hong Kong in 1849, she quickly became the most well known Asian woman in the Old West. *She reportedly was a tall, attractive woman with bound feet.***

When Ah Toy left China for the United States, she originally traveled with her husband, who died during the voyage. Ah Toy became the mistress of the ship's captain, who showered gold upon her, so much so that by the time she arrived in San Francisco, Ah Toy had a fair bit of money. Before 1851 there were only seven Chinese women known to be in the city, and noticing the looks she drew from the men in her new town, she figured they would pay for a closer look. **Her peep shows became quite successful, and she was known to charge an ounce of gold (sixteen dollars) for a “looker”.** She quickly became the most famous Chinese prostitute, and one of the highest paid and most famous in San Francisco.

Ah Toy was a determined and intelligent woman and frequently used the San Francisco Recorder's Court to protect herself and her business from exploitation. Ah Toy proceeded to open a chain of brothels, importing girls from China as young as eleven to work in them. By 1854 however, Ah Toy was no longer able to take her grievances to court. In the case *People v. Hall*, ***the California Supreme Court reversed the conviction of George Hall, who had murdered a Chinese man, extending a California law that African Americans and Native Americans could not testify in court to include the Chinese.*** While this law was not directed at prostitutes, it severely handicapped Ah Toy's

ability to protect herself from the domineering Chinese tongs that had for so long sought to control her and her business. **Coupled with the anti-prostitution law of 1854, which was carried out *mainly against the Chinese***, the pressure to stay in business became too great, and Ah Toy withdrew from San Francisco's prostitution business.

In 1857, she supposedly returned to China a wealthy woman to live the rest of her days in comfort, but returned to California not long afterward. **From 1868 until her death in 1928, she lived a quiet life in Santa Clara County [Silicon Valley] returning to public attention only upon dying on 1 February 1928 three months short of her hundredth birthday in San José.**

[Canadian actress Olivia Cheng plays *Ah Toy* in television series “Warrior” produced in 2019 based on a concept by Bruce Lee who resided in Oakland]

San José apologises for past racial discrimination against Chinese community

[bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-58729097](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-58729097)

September 29, 2021

When Young Soong Quong first arrived San José, California in the late 19th century, the Chinese teenager stocked shelves at his uncle's shop in the city's vibrant Chinatown, where thousands of Chinese immigrants worked back-breaking, low-wage jobs to send money back home.

Young was later hired as a domestic worker by a white family living outside of Chinatown. Whenever he returned home, he would run very fast because white children

would throw rocks at him, his granddaughter and historian Connie Young Yu told US media KQED.

In 1887, the Chinatown that Young called home was burned to the ground, days after the city council had declared the neighbourhood a public nuisance.

More than a hundred years later, San José has officially apologised to Chinese immigrants and their descendants for the role the city played in "systemic and institutional racism, xenophobia, and discrimination".

The fire in May 1887 tore through what was once a merchant Chinatown with dozens of stores and restaurants, displacing about 1,400 residents. A church attended by Chinese immigrants was also burned.

San José once had five Chinatowns - two were destroyed by suspicious fires. But the Chinese immigrants rebuilt their neighbourhoods, and Young passed down the vivid memory of combating racism to his descendants, his granddaughter said to KQED.

The city's apology on Wednesday comes amid a rise in anti-Asian hate in the US during the Covid-19 pandemic, drawing attention to the country's legacy of racism against Asian Americans.

Chinese immigrants first arrived the US in large numbers during the California Gold Rush in the mid-1800s. After the scramble for gold ended, many stayed to build the Transcontinental Railroad or to take up other difficult industrial and agricultural jobs for low wages.

During this period, Chinese immigrants faced intense racial discrimination in America. They were required to pay special taxes, banned from owning properties and land, and blamed for stealing jobs and driving down wages.

The anti-Chinese sentiment later escalated into assaults, arson and murder.

More than 150 anti-Chinese riots took place through the American West during the 1870s and 1880s. **One of the worst examples was in the Los Angeles Chinatown in 1871, when 19 Chinese people - 10% of the small Chinese population of the city at the time - were killed by a mob.**

>>> **The Sinophobia culminated in the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, which virtually prohibited the immigration of Chinese labourers.** Congress has apologised for the law, which remains the country's only legislation limiting immigration based on race or nationality.

San José is the latest and largest US city to officially apologise to Chinese immigrants and their descendants.

"An apology for grievous injustices cannot erase the past, but admission of the historic wrongdoings committed can aid us in solving the critical problems of racial discrimination facing America today," the city of San José's resolution says.

San José now has a population of more than one million people, of which around 30% are Asian.

In May, the town of Antioch, California became the first to apologise for its treatment of early Chinese immigrants, who dug secret tunnels to commute home from work because they were barred from walking city streets after sunset.

Ms Yu and other Chinese community members formally accepted San Jose's apology at a Wednesday ceremony at the location where the destroyed Chinatown once existed.

Napoléon III – A Life

By Fenton Bressler [Carroll & Graf Publishers; New York] 1999

Pg. 110

Some forty years later, **when the Second Empire was in ruins and Napoléon III languished as an exiled prisoner-of-war in Germany**, officials of the Third Republic raking through the ashes of his burnt out Tuileries Palace found fragments of the *Papiers et correspondance de la Famille Impériale*. In 1871, they were published in two slim, black-covered volumes. One set is now in the Library of the Reform Club in London, an entry from the Emperor's personal accounts on page 137 of the second volume tells us that in the early 1860s a Mme Knussy, 'daughter of the carpenter Laubly at Ermatingen [a small village near Arenenberg] near the house of Doctor Dobler had married a sculptor but they were not happy and wanted to emigrate to America. **She claimed to be the daughter of His Majesty and wrote to the Emperor for help. He handed the letter to Hippenmayer, his confidential assistant to deal with.**'

>>> *There can be little doubt that she was his illegitimate daughter.*

Napoléon III And His Carnival Empire

By John Bierman [St. Martin's Press; New York] 1988

Pg. 03-08

As it began, so it would end — in fiasco...

During the years linking those events **he would create a glittering empire, his armies would range *the globe from China to Mexico*, and he would establish himself as the arbiter of Europe. Only after the fall would France and the world come to realize the utterly implausible he and his imperium had been.**

>>> But then, Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte was conceived in implausibility: although he would become Emperor of the French very largely on the strength of his illustrious name, he was quite probably not a Bonaparte at all. His mother loathed her husband, fastidiously avoiding sexual contact with him, and young Louis was more plausibly the child of one of her lovers. Which one scarcely matters.

Hortense de Beauharnais was the daughter of the great Napoléon's Empress Josephine by her first husband, who died on the guillotine in 1794. One contemporary describes her in young womanhood as “an exquisite blonde with amethyst eyes, supple waist and harmonious gestures. Her feet were rather too small, her teeth rather too large; but what perfect hands and ivory nails, beautifully kept.” Josephine having failed to give him an heir, Napoléon married his stepdaughter off to his younger brother, Louis- much to the dismay of both parties- in the hope that she would bear Bonaparte boys to continue the dynasty.

It was not a good marriage.

...The pettifogging and misanthropic **Louis had none of the qualities of his brother**, or any others that Hortense could admire, and proved to be a dull, petulant, and increasingly paranoid husband. **Worse, he was physically repulsive to Hortense, suffering from a scrofulous right hand which made her shrink from his touch.** He was also afflicted with a condition which contemporary accounts discreetly characterize as “rheumatism,” but which was probably gonorrhea, the result of an escapade while serving in his elder brother’s Egyptian campaign.

In 1806, in line with his policy of creating satellite kingdoms throughout Europe, the emperor bestowed a second dazzling gift on his brother by making him King of Holland. This arrangement did not work out any better than the marriage.

>>> **“Your quarrels with the queen are becoming known to the public,” the emperor wrote to him in April 1807.** “In your private life you should exercise the mild and paternal qualities you display in government, while in government you should be excercising the rigorousness you show at home. You are treating a young woman as if you were commanding a regiment....”

...Left to her own devices, **Hortense took off on a tour through the mountains with a small retinue which included some gentlemen of the court** as well as her ladies-in-waiting and personal servants....A far more likely candidate seems to have been...**the elegant René de Villeneuve**, who, unlike Verhuell [Dutch admiral], **was one of her party in the Pyrenees.**

...Why did Hortense rush to Toulouse to give herself to the husband she had previously avoided so assiduously? She could, after all, have gone directly to Paris and met him there to put in the required joint appearance at the imperial wedding. Either she had a sudden and unprecedented attack of conjugal feeling or, surely more plausibly, realizing that she was pregnant as a result of an extramarital fling in the mountains, she decided to

stifle her loathing in an attempt to make it appear to Louis and the world that he was the father.

It looks suspiciously like bogus evidence of legitimacy that word was put about after the accouchement that the child was four weeks premature- which he must have been if conceived during the “*second honeymoon*” – and consequently so delicate that **he had to be soaked in wine and wrapped in cotton wool to preserve his life.** It does not seem that King Louis was fooled. The child bore little resemblance to him; he refused to attend the christening; and not long afterward he wrote to Hortense telling her their marriage was through: “My only consolation is to live away from you, to have nothing to do with you, and nothing to expect from you. Adieu, madame, adieu for ever.”

The following year, seeking the emperor’s permission for a formal separation from Hortense, King Louis asked for custody of his older son only, leaving the younger to the care of his wife. **Writing at about the same time to Hortense, he pointedly referred to the younger child as “your son,”** and in July 1810, announcing his abdication as King of Holland, he referred to the older boy as “our well-beloved son,” but to the younger only as “his brother, Charles-Louis-Napoléon.”

...All that can be said for certain about the future emperor’s paternity is that it remains shrouded in ambiguity. However, historical judgments being at best a balance of probabilities, it seems more likely that he was not sired by his mother’s husband than that he was.

Certainly, King Louis never formally disavowed the boy (although this could have been because he did not want to broadcast his cuckoldry to the world), and on his death he left him his entire fortune (although this could have been because by that time there was no one else to leave it to.).

>>> ROYAL PEDIGREE COUNTS: STRONG DOUBTS <<<

>>> More important, perhaps, than whether Louis-Napoléon was or was not of the blood imperial is *the fact that the doubts existed and that they were known to Louis-Napoléon, along with the ruling circles of Europe*. Nevertheless, whatever he felt about the speculation and whatever doubts he may harbored in private, he never once referred to the matter, either in jest or anger. Indeed, throughout his life he never expressed anything but a sublime **certainty that he was destined by birth to occupy the throne and re-create the Empire**.

1177 B.C.

The Year Civilization Collapsed

By Eric H. Cline [Princeton University Press; Princeton and Oxford] 2014

Pg. 04

Philistines

The Peleset of the Sea Peoples [**Mediterranean invaders of Egypt**] are generally accepted as none other than the Philistines, who are identified in the Bible as coming from Crete. The linguistic identification was apparently so obvious that **Jean-François Champollion, the decipherer of Egyptian hieroglyphics**, had already suggested it before 1836, and the identification of specific pottery styles, architecture, and other material remains as “**Philistine**” was begun early as 1899 by biblical archaeologists working at Tell el-Safi, identified as biblical Gath.

Napoléon III And His Carnival Empire

By John Bierman [St. Martin's Press; New York] 1988

>>> **Summation of the Second Empire** <<<

The Best of France yet the Worst Attributes Alloyed

DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT

Pg. 275

>>> **Philistines of Paris** <<<

That the Second Empire was *philistine*, hypocritical, corrupt, and relentlessly materialistic cannot be denied.

>>> *But some of France's greatest painters, poets, composers, and novelists flourished in its time, and they were recognized no less and persecuted no more than they might have been under regimes a good deal more liberal politically.*

Louis Pasteur

By Patrice Debré [John Hopkins University Press; Baltimore & London] 1998

Translated by Elborg Forster

Pg. 477

The Awakening of Immunology

From bacteriology to vaccination, the **Pasteurian doctrine** was coming into its own. **Little by little it conquered the globe.** Now a new science, still in its infancy, came upon the scene, for the elderly man whom came to check on his latest experiments was inaugurating the field of immunology.



Louis Pasteur photo by Félix Nadar, before 1895

Immunology- the word did not even exist yet. By advancing from the notion of natural resistance to that of acquired resistance, Pasteur had laid the foundation of theory of immunization. **The laboratories of the *Institut Pasteur* were set up to breed bacteria for making vaccines**; the science of the infinitely small came to be called ***microbiology***, a term that was finally judged to be more appropriate because it was more general. Here was the starting point of an enterprise of industrial dimensions, which aimed to modify the natural rhythms of life by means of systematic vaccination.

Pg. 481

The simultaneous discoveries of Roux in France and Behring in Germany had thus brought about an extraordinary therapeutic advance. **Almost twenty-five years had passed since Sedan**, and the progress of science was such that it was beginning to outweigh patriotic resentments. In 1894, at Roux's request, Behring was officially received at the *Institut Pasteur*, where he was awarded a medal of honor. **But on that day, Pasteur refused to appear: for his part, he could not bring himself to honor a German in his establishment as long as Alsace and Lorraine had not been returned to France.**

The Body

By Bill Bryson [Doubleday; Canada] 2019

Pg. 251

Pasteurization of Milk

In a long and distinguished career, Smith [born Schmitt of German immigrants] also did work on yellow fever, diphtheria, African sleeping sickness, and fecal contamination of drinking water, and showed that tuberculosis in humans and in livestock was caused by different microorganisms, pricing Koch wrong on two vital points. [Robert] Koch [also of German ancestry] also believed that TB could not jump from animals to humans, and [Theobald] Smith showed that that was wrong too. **It was thanks to this discovery that *pasteurization of milk became a standard practice.* Smith was, in short, the most important American bacteriologist and yet *is almost completely forgotten now.***

The Courtesans
The demi-monde in 19th century France

By Joanna Richardson [Phoenix Press; London] 1967, 2000

Pg. 80

...She was in fact being considered as a paramour for the Emperor; and soon afterwards, in a little hunting lodge at Saint-Cloud, **Napoléon III made her the last of his official mistresses.** ‘Of all the adventures of Marguerite [Bellanger] wrote **Hector Fleischmann, in *Napoléon III et les Femmes***, ‘this is certainly the most wonderful and the most unexpected; it never ceases to astonish us. ‘*



Femme nue couchée by Gustave Courbet, 1862

*** Olympia by Manet: Part One/ Part Two / Part Four**

Marguerite delighted the Emperor by her tomboyish ways, her refreshing, frank, plebeian manners; after the etiquette of the Court he enjoyed her spontaneity and naturalness. **The liaison continued for nearly two years. Mocquard, his secretary, bought her a small *hôtel* in the rue des Vignes, at Passy, and the Emperor often visited her there.**

It is said that Marguerite had her notepaper embossed with a silver-petalled, gold-centered marguerite, and the motto: 'All things come to those who wait.' She followed her *cher siegneur* to Vichy, and once, in broad daylight, she arrived by carriage at his *chalet*, where he was presiding over a council of ministers. She went to Biarritz and to Plombières. When the court moved to Saint-Cloud, she lived in a little house which

adjoined the wall of the private park; **there was a hidden door in the wall, for the Emperor's use.**

Napoléon III And His Carnival Empire

By John Bierman [St. Martin's Press; New York] 1988

Pg. 241

Marguerite Bellanger Riding Under the Big Top

There, inevitably, she was abandoned by her seducer once he had tired of her, and she joined the circus where, **in training to become an acrobatic dancer and bareback rider, she learned a repertoire of tricks and contortions that were later to earn her the imperial approval.** Not only was she purportedly able to leap to her feet in a flash from the prone position, she could also perform a wide variety of functions while walking or standing on her hands. Lubricious gossip would have it that she liked to present herself to the embraces of the Emperor in this unusual position.

Pg. 332

Weaponry apart, the differences between French and Prussian military philosophy were huge. **France adhered to the concept of a relatively small, largely professional, long-serve army- at that time about 300,000 strong.** Conscription was by ballot, but if one drew an unlucky number, one could pay someone else to do one's service and there **was no shortage of peasants and proletarians willing, for a price, to serve in the place of a young bourgeois.** By contrast, **the Prussians** had universal conscription for a three-year term, followed by two-years part-time service in the Landwehr, which provided them **with a ready force of over one million men.**

Beyond this, there was a profound difference of esprit. **Until the 1860s, the Prussians had been considered bit players in the military scheme of things and the French-**

dashing, glamorous, and colorful — the true master of land warfare, as the British were of the sea. The ruling principle of the French Army was “*on se débrouille*”- we’ll muddle through- which the officer class laughingly as “System D.” By contrast, the **Prussian generals**, a new breed of military technocrats, **believed wars were to be won not by panache but by meticulous and detailed planning.**

>>> **In short, war was an art to France and science to Prussia.** Where the French were Cavaliers, the Prussians were Roundheads. And they calculated, correctly, that the Second Empire’s victories had been won largely because its enemies’ armies had proved even more disorganized than its own in such mundane matters as supply, administration, training and logistics.

...the French failed to realize the extent to which modern technology had ushered in an age of total war. ..and the rifled artillery piece*, permitting the heavy and accurate bombardment of the enemy’s rear positions and population centers.

“They all vouched for our victory...and what a victory!” Eugénie would recall in her old age. “I can still hear them telling me at St. Cloud, ‘**Never has our army been in better condition, better equipped, in better fighting mettle! Our offensive across the Rhine will be so shattering that it will cut Germany in two and we shall swallow Prussia at one gulp.**”

* No excuse after reviewing Krupp catalogues and the exhibit at the Universal Exposition of 1867 *in Paris*. If that didn’t raise sober questions about which way the wind was blowing with artillery, what would? Everyone was out having too much fun, we guess.

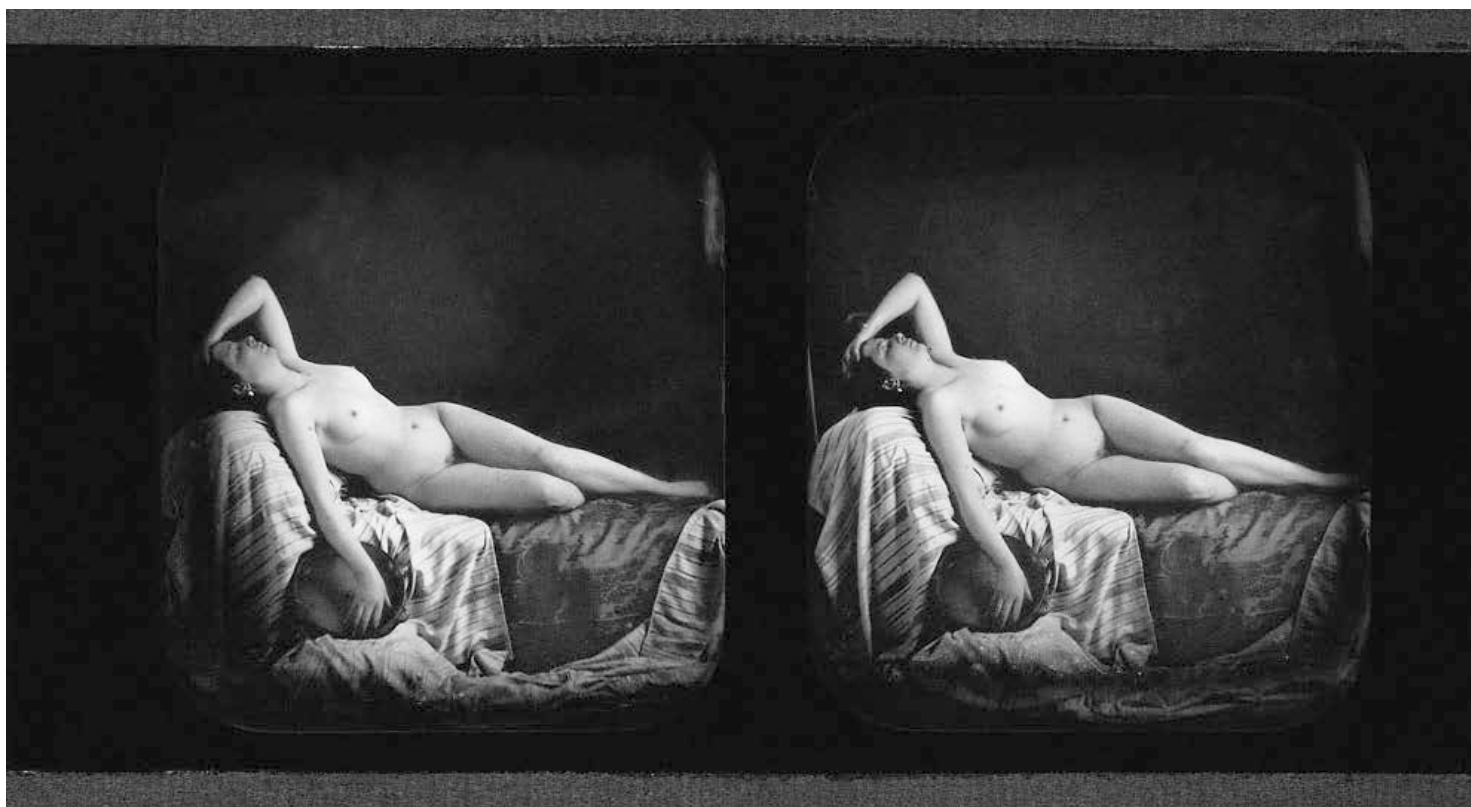
The Courtesans The demi-monde in 19th century France

By Joanna Richardson [Phoenix Press; London] 1967, 2000



Don't return and expect any *second chances* if one cannot pay handsomely to play. We may just get more than our tender feelings hurt, we are warned, Messieurs. This sultry courtesan has a heart cold as crystal ice, even if her derrière is white hot. She doesn't take prisoners on the battlefields of Eros. This brazen blond Second Empire *cocette* exceeds tellingly as a champion in counting her many male conquests with exquisite gems, pearls and gold louis in her purses; ultimately with Bordeaux châteaux, old beaux. This lass can break more than glass, so look but don't touch.

Double Vision of the Second Empire



by Bruno Braquehais c. 1856

>>> Hindsight is often said to be 20/20 <<<

Pg. 150

...but the *grandes cocettes* had been the phenomena of the Second Empire. Certainly they had proclaimed its weaknesses: its avidity for money, its febrile quest for excitement – like Baudelaire, they had plunged *au fond du gouffre pour trouver du nouveau*. They had symbolized frivolity and irresponsibility, and they had helped to undermine public morals, to make men lose their generous ambitions, their proper sense of values. **When in the massive study of Paris, Maxime du Camp [Princess Mathilde, Part One] came to write of prostitution, he blamed *les femmes interlopes*, as he called them for corrupting the solid middle classes, and for making Sedan [France's hastened defeat] a possibility.** It was, he said, the generation of *petits crevés* who had lost themselves in a life of pleasure, and therefore lost the Franco-Prussian war. ***They had changed the course of French history...***

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Buzenval_\(1871\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Buzenval_(1871))

The Franco-Prussian War arose, and found [**Henri**] **Regnault** foremost in the devoted ranks of the Battle of Buzenval, where he fell on 19 January 1871.

The (**Second**) **Battle of Buzenval**, also known as the **Battle of Mont Valérien**, was part of the siege of Paris during the Franco-Prussian War. On 19 January 1871, **the day after Wilhelm I was proclaimed German Emperor, Louis Jules Trochu attacked the Germans west of Paris** in Buzenval Park. The attackers seized the town of Saint-Cloud, coming close to the new Emperor's headquarters at Versailles. Trochu was able to maintain his position at St. Cloud for most of the day, but the failure of other French forces to hold their positions left him isolated and the Crown Prince's army was able to force Trochu's salient back into Paris by the next day. This was the last effort to break out

of Paris. Trochu turned over command of the Paris defenses to Joseph Vinoy who surrendered the city 10 days later.<<<



Salomé 1870

by Henri Regnault
Metropolitan Museum of Art



The Siege of Paris in 1870

by Ernest Meissonier 1884 Musée d'Orsay



Le Dernier Jour de Corinthe/ The Last Day of Corinth

1870

by Tony Robert-Fleury

Musée d'Orsay

A prophetic painting exhibited at the Salon of 1870 showing the collapse of empire by invading Roman forces. For the French and other European powers, it was unimaginable the same should happen to Paris that same year. Note the unmasked sensuality drawing on the 'air of the times' of the Second Empire which contributed to the fall, not soldiers defending but instead wily prostitutes interrupted on parade at the capital's decadent core. This painting sums up the empire's demise and as a precursor for blaming the courtesans.



The burning of the Tuileries Palace by the Paris Commune

May 24, 1871



A secret weapon of Bismarck & Co. - A Venus flytrap for French officers & officials

It was this thought which touched the heart of **Marie Colombier, the actress-courtesan**, when she was exiled from Paris during the Commune- and when, one evening, from the terrace of Saint-Germain, which overlooked the city, **she saw Paris burning**. Sparks, borne by the wind, whirled overhead: they were documents from the *Cour des Comptes*. **Or, rather, they were the history of the Second Empire which was passing, page by**

page, in the smoke and flames...the creatures of luxury and joy who had all the beauty of Esther, all the wit of Jenny Cadine, had only, now to grow old and to die. **Their reign was over for ever and ever: *the ass's skin worn out, all the goblets at the orgy had been drained.***

Gaston Auguste, Marquis de Galliffet

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaston,_Marquis_de_Galliffet

Gaston Alexandre Auguste, Marquis de Galliffet, Prince de Martigues (Paris, 23 January 1830 – 8 July 1909), **was a French general, best known for having taken part in the repression of the 1871 Paris Commune.** He was Minister of War in Waldeck-Rousseau's cabinet at the turn of the century, which caused a controversy in the socialist movement, since independent socialist Alexandre Millerand also took part in the same government, and was thus side by side with **the *Fusilleur de la Commune* (the "Commune's executioner")**).

Gaston Galliffet entered the army in 1848 and was commissioned as a sub-lieutenant in 1853. **He served with distinction at the Siege of Sevastopol in 1855**, in the Austro-Sardinian War of 1859, and in Algeria in 1860, after which **for a time he served on the personal staff of the emperor, Napoléon III.**

During Napoléon III's intervention in **Mexico**, Galliffet displayed great gallantry in 1863 as **a captain at the siege and storming of Puebla**, when he was severely wounded.

When he returned to France to recover from his wounds, he was entrusted with the task of presenting the captured standards and colours to the emperor, and was promoted *chef d'escadron*. He returned to Algeria in 1864, took part in expeditions against the Arabs, returned to Mexico as a lieutenant-colonel and, after winning further distinction, **became in 1867 colonel of the 3rd *Chasseurs d'Afrique*.***

*** Franco-Prussian War & World War I**

Churchill and Empire
A Portrait of an Imperialist

By Lawrence James [Pegasus Books; New York] 2014

Pg. 99

Black men won the white man's war in Africa. The protracted campaign in East Africa required two or three porters for every fighting man and wasted rates from disease were high. In all, just under a million carriers were recruited, a third of whom came from conquered districts of German East Africa. Roughly two-thirds of adult males in Nyasaland served as askaris or porters in what the latter called the war of *Thangata*; that is 'work without benefit.' Labourers for the vast base camps and storage depots in Egypt and France were hired in China, Egypt and South Africa. France imposed conscription on its West African colonies to provide 135,000 factory workers who filled the places of Frenchmen in the trenches.

>>> As in 1870, the French deployed Algerian and Senegalese troops in the front line.

Flaubert in the Ruins of Paris
The story of a friendship, a novel, and terrible year

By Peter Brooks [Basic Books; New York] 2017

Pg. 52

Officers of Colonial Atrocities in the City of Light>>> **DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT** <<<

It is to the point that many of the army generals who commanded the invasion of Paris and the suppression of the Communards had seen service in French colonial wars in Algeria and Mexico, and were used to meting out harsh treatment to “native populations” that didn’t bow to French rule.

>>> During the Bloody Week [*la semaine sanglante*] , they treated the Paris populace like an other and inferior race, ready for slaughter without deference to the forms of justice.

Gaston Auguste, Marquis de Galliffet

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaston,_Marquis_de_Galliffet

(continued)

In the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–71, he commanded this regiment in the Army of the Rhine, until promoted to General de Brigade on 30 August [Napoléon III (who was increasingly poor health) was swift to give Bazaine the title of Commander-in-Chief of the French Army on 13 August 1870]. **At the Battle of Sedan**, which marked the defeat of Napoléon III and the subsequent dissolving of the Second Empire, he led the brigade of *Chasseurs d'Afrique* in the heroic charge of General Margueritte's cavalry division, which earned him the admiration of the old king of Prussia. **Made prisoner of war at the capitulation**, he returned to France during the Siege of Paris by the French Army of Versailles, and **commanded a brigade during the repression of the 1871 Paris**

Commune. He was henceforth one of the most criticised figures in French public life, along with Adolphe Thiers* who had directed the assault.



Gaston Alexandre Auguste

photo by Félix Nadar

As mentioned at the banquet table in film “Babette’s Feast”

*** Adolphe Thiers: Part Three**

In the suppression of the **Paris Commune**, he did his duty, as he saw it, rigorously and inflexibly, and **earned a reputation for severity**, which, throughout his later career, **made him the object of unceasing attacks in the press and the chamber of deputies**. In 1872, he took command of the Batna subdivision of **Algeria**, and commanded an expedition against El Golea, surmounting great difficulties in a rapid march across the desert, and **inflicting severe defeats on the revolting tribes**.

On the general re-organization of the army, he commanded the 31st infantry brigade. Promoted General de Division in 1875, he successively commanded the 15th infantry division at Dijon, the IX army corps at Tours, and in 1882 the XII army corps at Limoges. In 1885, he became a member of the *Conseil Supérieur de la Guerre*. He conducted the cavalry manoeuvres in successive years, and **attained a Europe-wide reputation on all cavalry questions and, indeed, as an army commander**.

Decorated Grand Officer of the Légion d'Honneur in 1880 by **Léon Gambetta**, he was **appointed governor of Paris**. In 1887, he was also decorated with the Grand Cross of the Légion d'Honneur. He then received the Military Medal for his able conduct of the autumn manoeuvres in 1891. After again commanding at the manoeuvres of 1894, he retired from the active list.

Later, he took an important part in French politics, as war minister (22 June 1899 to 29 May 1900) in Waldeck-Rousseau's cabinet, and distinguished himself by the firmness with which he dealt with cases of unrest in the army in the midst of the Dreyfus Affair. Galliffet then retired into private life, and died on 8 July 1909, aged 79.



Rue de Constantine

1865

by Charles Marville



Proclamation de l'Empire, à l'Hôtel de ville, le 2 décembre 1852



L'Hôtel de Ville incendié, assailli par les troupes de Versailles, 1871

1871

by Gustave Boulanger

L'Hôtel de Ville 1871



Rue de Rivoli 1871



— 1^{er} Floréal an 79 —

2 SOUS

LE FILS
DU
RE DUCHÊNE
ILLUSTRÉ

Paraissant deux fois par semaine

LA COLONNE VENDÔME



Eh ben ! bougre de canaille, on va donc te foutre en bas comme ta crapule de neveu !...



Flaubert in the Ruins of Paris

The story of a friendship, a novel, and terrible year

By Peter Brooks [Basic Books; New York] 2017

Pg. 27

Commune Fights On

Food returned to Paris. But there followed the revolt of Paris, which proclaimed itself an independent **Commune that would refuse the terms of the armistice and fight on**. The official government fled to Versailles.

>>> Then came **a new siege of Paris by French troops**, bombardment anew, and finally, invasion of the city by the French Army (many of them liberated from Prussian prisoner-of-war camps for the purpose), and **the bloodiest civil war France has ever known**.

By the end of *la semaine sanglante*, the Bloody Week, on May 28, 1871, some 20,000 Parisians had been gunned down, many in summary executions, and those of other marched off to Versailles for trial — resulting in execution or deportation to New Caledonia [South Pacific]. Central Paris was a scorched ruin, many of its buildings — especially governmental headquarters such as the **Hôtel de Ville** and the Treasury, and **the royal and imperial palace of the Tuileries — torched by the retreating Communards or destroyed in cannonades. The Cartoucherie Rapp, where munitions were stored, went up in a gigantic fireworks display.**

The Grenier d'Abondance, where grain was stored against famine, and also petrol, burned with a heat like the sun.

>>> Flaubert, who spent the war mainly in Rouen, visited Paris immediately after the fall of the Commune, in the first days of June. He went to the library for research, but **he also toured the ruins with his friend Maxime Du Camp**. That's when he told Du Camp that if only his compatriots had read and understood his novel of few months earlier, *Sentimental Education*, “none of this would have happened” — a reaction that will bear thinking about.



Épisode de la Commune, place de la Concorde, 1871

1871

by Gustave Boulanger

Pg. 38

Future Wars Between Great Powers Foretold

>>> **A fair estimate of the decades to come, a twentieth century marked by murderous revenge and counter-revenge between France and Germany.**

>>> Flaubert for a weeks in February and March managed to escape Rouen, heading north to Neuville, near Dieppe, to meet with Caroline and her husband. **Then he travelled to Brussels with Alexandre Dumas *fils* to visit Princess Mathilde.**

Pg. 67

Public stupidity submerges me. Since 1870, I've become a patriot. In seeing my country croak, I realize that I loved it. Prussia can take down its rifles. **We don't need anyone else to make us die....I feel the sadness felt by Roman patricians of the IVth century.** I feel rising from the earth an irremediable Barbarity."

Pg. 43-44

The Prussian war had the effect on me of a great upheaval of nature, one of those cataclysm that arrive every six thousand years, while the insurrection of Paris is, to my eyes, something very clear, and almost simple. And then:

“I fear that the destruction of the Vendôme Column will broadcast the seed of a Third Empire!”

Another Napoléon would come to power. **That column in the Place Vendôme, encased in bronze from melted-down cannon of the Grand Army, had been erected to commemorate Napoléon I's victories.**

>>The Commune, including **Gustave Courbet**, who headed the new Federation of Artists, declared it **a monument to imperial conquest (which it certainly was) and pulled it crashing to the ground on May 16** in a ceremony that, like the killing of the generals Lecomte and Clément Thomas, would come to haunt the Communards at the moment of reckoning.

Pg. 45

Once again, we hear the note of punishment, **of retribution for the sins of the Second Empire**, even in a liberal conscience such as Sand's. There seems to have been no way to come to terms with the convulsions of war, siege, defeat, and insurrection except as some form of Flaubert's natural cataclysm, or else the language of crime and punishment.

Pg. 48

>>> **Flaubert wrote to the Princess Mathilde** of his fear of the coming reaction against the Commune.

"Whatever name it covers itself in, **this reaction will be anti-liberal**. The fear of the Social will throw us into a conservative regime of reinforced stupidity." He continued: "When I think of the gigantic stupidity of my country, I ask myself if she has been sufficiently punished."

Note that at a moment when the Left saw punishment resulting from the excesses of the opulent Second Empire, and the Right saw punishment for the impious excesses of the republic, for Flaubert what need the corrective lash **is the excess of stupidity that led France into the war, then into the illusions of the Commune, and finally to reaction**.

Pg. 50

Paris Reborn via Fire

Émile Zola's novel *La Débâcle* (The Debacle, the next to the last of his *Rougon-Macquart* series, published in 1892) recounts the war and ends with the burning of Paris, witnesses jointly by Henriette, the good-hearted Frenchwoman who will work for a better future, and her cousin the Prussian officer Otto Gunther.

"What have we done, in the name of the Lord, to be punished so?" exclaims Henriette. The Prussian officer's response: **that the punishment has been brought by the "God of armies to chastise a perverse population. Paris was burning as punishment for centuries of bad living. The long piling up of it crimes and debauches."**

And the dying Maurice — killed by his would-be brother-in-law in this fratricidal struggle — has a final vision of Paris in flames at sunrise on May 27: fire as purification, the necessary burning away of the 'unhealthy' part of the nation. ***"But this bloodbath was necessary, and it had to be of French blood, the abominable holocaust, the living sacrifice, in the midst of purifying fire."*** Henceforth, Calvary had been ascended to the most terrifying of agonies, the crucified nation was expiating its faults and was going to be reborn."

Granted, this is the vision of a feverish, dying man. Nonetheless, **the rhetoric represents a common reaction, invoking sin, expiation, purifying fire, and burnt offerings.**



Paris 1871

Pg. 51

Zola Passing through Paris

Zola, strongly anti-Communard like the rest of the bourgeoisie, reported on the Bloody Week [*la semaine sanglante*] for the Marseille newspaper *Le Sémaphore* with some compassion for the defeated. When he managed to make his way through a city largely reconquered by the Versaillais [federal government troops against the Communards], he reported in the edition of May 31:

I managed to cross Paris on foot. It is atrocious... **I want to speak only of the heaps of bodies that have been piled under the bridges.** No, never will I forget the heart wrench I felt at that pile of bleeding human flesh, heaped haphazardly along the towpaths. Heads and limbs and entangled in horrible dislocations. From the pile emerge faces fixed in convulsion.



Une rue de Paris en mai 1871

c. 1916

A Street in Paris in May 1871

by Maximilien Luce



Communards in their Coffins

1871

by Eugène Disdéri

Pg. 52

>>> **Edmond de Goncourt's Take** <<<

As Edmond de Goncourt concluded on May 31: "It is good. There has been neither conciliation nor compromise. **The solution has been brutal. It's been pure force....**The solution has restored confidence to the army, which as learned in the blood of the Communards that it was still capable of fighting. Finally, the bloodletting has bled white; and **bloodlettings like this, in killing the fighting part of the population, put off for a generation the next revolution.** Our old old society has twenty years of repose ahead of it." A chilling but honest estimate by an unapologetic reactionary.

Pg. 63

[**Victor**] **Hugo** had become a pariah to many of the French because of his sympathy for the defeated Communards, some of whom had found refuge in his house in Brussels, his temporary place of voluntary exile — he was then forced to move on to Luxembourg. His collection of poems on the war and the Commune, *L'Année terrible* (The Terrible Year), was published in April 1872, and Flaubert apparently read it right away.

It would be tempting here (but a temptation to be resisted) to quote line after line of *L'Année terrible*, if only because it seems an extraordinary way to recount the events of the Terrible Year — in thousands of *alexandrins*, rhyming verse that Hugo manages with an ease and suppleness beyond that of nearly any other French poet.

>>> **In a kind of book of hours, divided into months, he moves from the disastrous French defeat at Sedan through to the final executions of the Bloody Week [*la semaine sanglante*],** not as a partisan but nonetheless with deep sympathy for the plight and fate of the people.

One of the most celebrated pieces from the collection concerns a boy who has set fire to a library during the final days of the defense of Paris. A long sermon on the barbarity of this civilization-destroying act ends with the boy's monosyllabic reply: "*Je ne said pas lire*" (I don know how to read).

The deaths of Communards along the Mur de Fédérés on the final day of combat are rendered as a liberation from decades of oppression rather than the just punishment that most of France wanted to see.

Pg. 53-54

Guidebooks, photographs, postcards, and paintings — such as **Ernest Meissonier's rendering of the Tuileries as a kind of Roman ruin** — suggest some reaction beyond the political, beyond even a sense of tragedy: an appeal to the eternal majesty of the ruin. Paris was like Pompeii: a city that had become a ruin overnight, to be looked at with an awe that could — momentarily — stun political strife into silence.

Pg. 54-55

To blame: most of all, the rulers of the Second Empire. When history untangled the story of the burning of Paris, it would be Prussia and the "men of Badinguet" [euphemism of Napoléon III in the pejorative] who would be found to blame.

>>> **Once again, [Karl] Marx seems apropos:**

"The bourgeoisie of the whole world, which looks complacently upon the wholesale massacre after the battle, is convulsed by horror at the desecration of brick and mortar!"

**Paris Commune:
The revolt dividing France 150 years on**

bbc.com/news/world-europe-56426710

By Hugh Schofield
BBC News, Paris

March 17, 2021

Exactly 150 years after the Paris Commune, rival passions are flaring again over how to remember the city's brief and much-romanticised experiment in power to the people.

The first act of the city's famous insurrection came on 18 March 1871, when crowds stopped troops from requisitioning cannons parked on the hill of Montmartre. It was the aftermath of the siege of Paris by the Prussians, in which working folk had suffered terribly.

Over the next three months, people's committees ran the capital while the official French government fulminated in Versailles. But in May the army moved in and the Commune was crushed.

For supporters then - and since - it was a springtime of hope bloodily repressed by the forces of conservatism. **Karl Marx saw it as a prototype of his workers' revolution; Lenin was interred with a Communard flag as his shroud.**

But for the right, it was a time of chaos and class vengeance. They remembered the killings of priests and the burning of landmarks like the Hôtel de Ville. Afterwards they atoned by building the Sacré Coeur church where the cannons had been.

A century and a half on, the Commune continues to divide.

For three months from today, Paris's left-run city hall has prepared commemorations focusing on what it sees as the movement's great social advances: equality for the sexes, disempowering the Church, participative democracy.

But the right-wing opposition says that Socialist mayor and presidential hopeful Anne Hidalgo is "instrumentalising history" for political ends.

"You can summarise the Commune in one word: violence," says Rudolph Granier, a member of the centre-right Les Républicains (LR) on the city council.

"It was a populist movement. And in the current state of France and the world - when in Paris we have the yellow vests and in Washington they're storming the Capitol - I do not think we should be celebrating people who burned down our city hall."

For another LR councillor, Antoine Beauquier, "the left-wing majority is doing its usual thing of mixing up history and politics".

"Of course there was an event called the Commune which we should remember. But we should remember what it actually was - not the fantasy of the Communist Party (PC). They think every Communard was a hero. But many were also killers."

According to the right, by allowing them to run the Commune commemorations Anne Hidalgo is throwing her PC allies a bone in the hope that they'll support her in the race for the French presidency next year.

The left has retorted by accusing the right of being "sectarian" and failing to see the justice behind the Communards' cause.

"It is a sign of the times - the French right is getting more and more hardline," says Laurence Patrice, Communist deputy mayor of Paris.

"They never used to care that much about the Commune. But now with Emmanuel Macron, the French have a president who has abandoned his centrism and is in fact more and more right-wing.

"And that is forcing the traditional right into positions that are ever closer to the extreme."

In the so-called "bloody week" at the end of the Commune, thousands of supporters were summarily executed - many at the Mur des Fédérés (Wall of the Fighters) in Père Lachaise cemetery, which will be the focus of commemorations in May.

Thousands of others were imprisoned or sent into exile before being given an amnesty in 1880. An association, the Friends of the Commune, was set up then to help the returnees and exists to this day, its purpose now to keep alive the movement's ideals.



*Barricade de la rue de la Castiglione** - Paris Commune 1871

*** Named after the scantily clad Italian seductress of Napoléon III sent by Cavour**

Without knowing the Second Empire's history, the name appears innocuous

"**Most revolutionary regimes that succeed end up disappointing,**" says the British historian of France Robert Tombs.

"Here was a revolutionary movement that didn't succeed, that didn't last that long. And therefore people are free to project on to it all sorts of things that might have happened and would have been good.

>>> "**So it's become an icon of feminism, secularism, of popular democracy.** What it would actually have turned out as had it succeeded, we will never know."

Dawn of the Belle Époque

The Paris of Monet, Zola, Bernhardt, Eiffel, Debussy, Clemenceau and Their Friends

By Mary McAuliffe [Rowman & Littlefield Publishers; Lanham, MD] 2011

Pg. 03

Communards

During this terrible May week, since known as "Bloody Week," reprisals triggered reprisals as fury and despair escalated. Seething at the brutality of Thiers' troops, Communards destroyed Thiers' stunning mansion on Place St-Georges at Rue Notre-Dame-de-Lorette (9th). They then set to work on other monuments linked with the Ancien Régime and both empires, **destroying Bonaparte's massive Victory Column and the statue in the Place Vendôme**, and setting the torch to the Palais des Tuileries, the Palais Royal, the Palais de Justice, and the Hôtel de Ville.

At least twenty thousand Communards and their supporters died — a figure that dwarfs not only the Communards' own well-publicized executions, but even the grisly body count of the Reign of Terror. This, and a Paris filled with smoking ruins, was the legacy of these terrible weeks and months.

The Killer Trail
A Colonial Scandal in the Heart of Africa

By Bertrand Taithe [Oxford University Press; New York] 2009

Pg. 176-177

Marquis de Galliffet & His Aristocratic Red Heels

Eventually these unstable governments were replaced by a centre-left government led by Waldeck-Rousseau which lasted three years and was the Third Republic's longest serving government. Waldeck-Rousseau led an unlikely coalition which included France's first socialist minister and **a notorious general who was nicknamed the *red-heeled marquis*, Gaston de Galliffet.**

>>> Galliffet was a hated figure on the left and many remembered that he had been one of the most cruel participants in the massacre of Parisian insurgents in 1871.

>>> In May 1871, Galliffet was alleged to have whimsically selected people for random executions among the mass of prisoners. Yet these enemies of yesterday were all decided on the Dreyfus affair once and for all.

>>> Part Three, Pg. 243

Reprise:

>>> DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

Pg. xi

Narratives and Perceptions at Odds with Reality

**What makes scandals good material for historians is not so much their lurid
wealth of gory details than what they reveal,**

which is usually *ignored, glossed over, or hidden.*

Yet rather than any truth,

what they reveal tends to be complex and difficult to decipher

and says more about

how the media, the state, and the public perceive reality.

Andean condor birds 'flap wings just 1% of the time'

[bbc.com/news/uk-wales-53400876](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-53400876)

July 14, 2020

The world's heaviest soaring bird flaps its wings just 1% of the time during flight, researchers have found.

The Andean condor, which can weigh up to 15kg, makes use of air currents to stay airborne for hours at a time.

Flight recorders found one bird flew for five hours without flapping, covering about 172km (107 miles).

The study is part of a collaboration between Swansea University's Prof Emily Shepard and Dr Sergio Lambertucci in Argentina.

They wanted to find out more about how birds' flight efforts vary depending on environmental conditions.

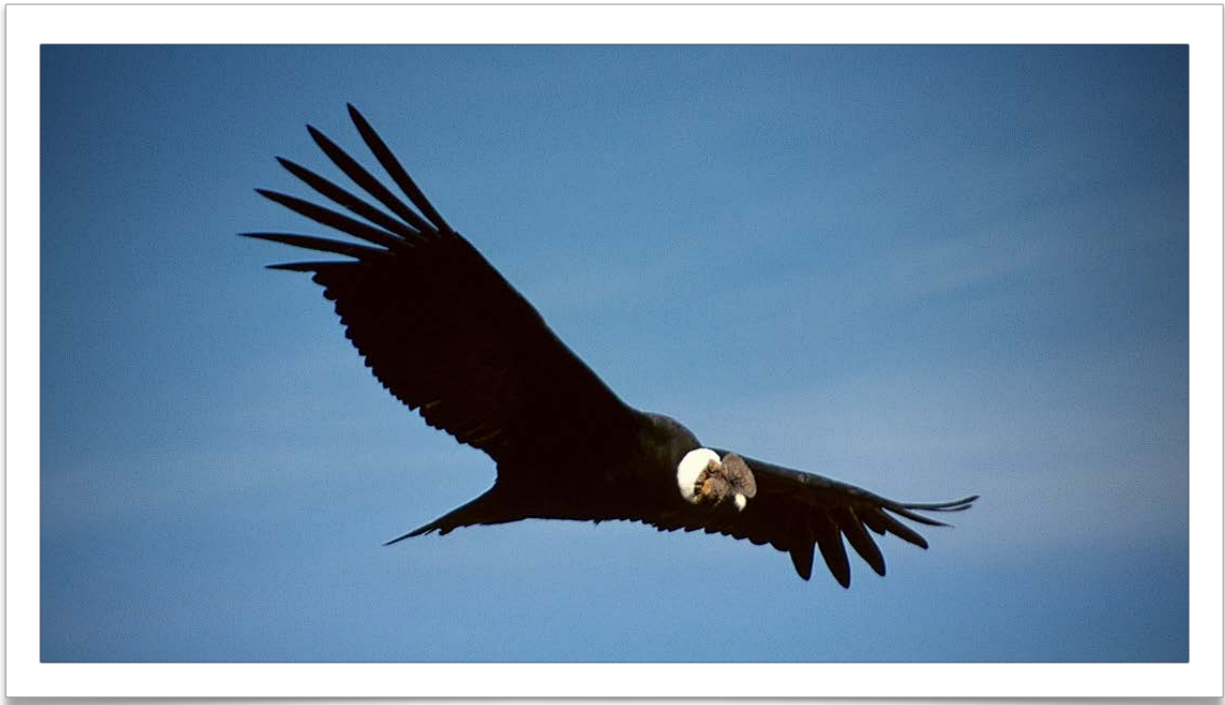
Published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, the study found 75% of the birds' flapping was associated with take-off.

Prof Shepard said the research showed "just how flexible their soaring strategies are".

"Human glider pilots can soar all day if the conditions are right, so in some senses the condor's performance may not seem surprising," she said.

"But glider pilots look at the weather and decide whether or not it is good for flying.

"Condors probably do this to a certain extent but at some point they will get hungry, and they need to fly to find food.



"They feed on carcasses, but these don't necessarily appear in places that are ideal for condors to fly to.

"So we were expecting that they might encounter some tricky conditions - or at least conditions that make them flap - in the search for food."

Dr Lambertucci said birds needed to find rising air to "avoid an unplanned landing".

"These risks are higher when moving between thermal updrafts," he said.

"Thermals can behave like lava lamps, with bubbles of air rising intermittently from the ground when the air is warm enough.

"Birds may therefore arrive in the right place for a thermal, but at the wrong time.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Condor

- Truncated -

Operation Condor (Spanish: *Operación Cóndor*, also known as *Plan Cóndor*; Portuguese: *Operação Condor*) **was a United States-backed campaign of political repression and state terror involving intelligence operations and assassination of opponents, officially and formally implemented in November 1975 by the *right-wing dictatorships* of the Southern Cone of South America.**

American political scientist J. Patrice McSherry gives a figure of at least 402 killed in operations which crossed national borders in a 2002 source, and mentions in **a 2009 source that of those who "had gone into exile" and were "kidnapped, tortured and killed in allied countries or illegally transferred to their home countries to be executed... *hundreds, or thousands, of such persons—the number still has not been finally determined—were abducted, tortured, and murdered in Condor operations.*"** Victims included dissidents and leftists, union and peasant leaders, priests and nuns, students and teachers, intellectuals and suspected guerrillas.

>>> US Supervised Integrated Continental Terror <<<

Condor's key members were the governments in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia and Brazil. Ecuador and Peru later joined the operation in more peripheral roles.

The United States government provided planning, coordinating, training on torture, technical support and supplied military aid to the Juntas during the Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, and the Reagan administrations. **Such support was frequently routed through the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).**

In December 2004, Francisco Letelier, the son of Orlando Letelier, wrote in an OpEd column in the *Los Angeles Times* that his father's assassination was part of Operation Condor, which he described as

"an intelligence-sharing network used by six South American dictators of that era to eliminate dissidents."

Michael Townley has accused Pinochet of being responsible for Letelier's death.

Townley confessed that he had hired five anti-Castro Cuban exiles to booby-trap Letelier's car.



General Augusto Pinochet

Another American Puppet

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinochet

Augusto José Ramón Pinochet Ugarte (25 November 1915 – 10 December 2006) was a Chilean general and politician who ruled as **dictator of Chile from 1973 to 1990**, first as the President of the Government Junta of Chile from 1973 to 1981, before being declared President of the Republic by the junta in 1974.

>>> **Admired Napoléon I yet functioned as modern-day Prussian Army** <<<

Jacobo Timerman has called **the Chilean army under Pinochet "the last Prussian army in the world"**, suggesting a pre-Fascist origin to the model of Pinochet's military government.

According to **Pinochet, who was aware of his ancestry**, he was taught the French language by an uncle, although he later forgot most of it. ***Pinochet admired Napoléon as the greatest among French and had a framed picture of him. Another French ruler he admired was Louis XIV.*** *

*** Why not also Napoléon III? How could Pinochet forget Louis-Napoléon, too?**
The Second Empire was roughly only hundred years past when Pinochet seized power with the junta's *coup d'état*. Furthermore, the Emperor of France was intimately familiar with warm Prussian hospitality courtesy of Bismarck.

Dictators often conveniently have selective memories when it serves them.

>>> Chile's 911 <<<

Pinochet assumed power in Chile following a *United States-backed coup d'état on 11 September 1973* that overthrew the democratically elected socialist Unidad Popular government of President Salvador Allende and ended civilian rule. The support of the United States was crucial to the coup and the consolidation of power afterward.

Augusto José Ramón Pinochet Ugarte was born in Valparaíso on November 25, 1915. **He was the son and namesake of Augusto Pinochet Vera, a descendant of an 18th-century French Breton immigrant from Lamballe***, and Avelina Ugarte Martínez, a woman whose family had been in Chile since the 17th century and was of partial Basque descent.

* Part One

Peter Winn, who writes that the role of the CIA was crucial to the consolidation of power after the coup; the CIA helped fabricate a conspiracy against the Allende government, which Pinochet was then portrayed as preventing. **He stated that the coup itself was possible only through a three-year covert operation mounted by the United States.** Winn also points out that the US imposed an "invisible blockade" that was designed to disrupt the economy under Allende, and contributed to the destabilization of the regime.

>>>> Birds of Prey: The American Eagle Flying High Above The Condor <<<<

The U.S. provided material support to the military government after the coup, *although criticizing it in public.* A document released by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in 2000, titled "CIA Activities in Chile", revealed that the CIA actively supported the military junta after the overthrow of Allende, and that it made many of Pinochet's officers into paid contacts of the CIA or U.S. military, even though some were

known to be involved in human rights abuses. **The CIA also maintained contacts in the Chilean DINA intelligence service. DINA led the multinational campaign known as Operation Condor, which amongst other activities carried out assassinations of prominent politicians in various Latin American countries, in Washington, D.C., and in Europe, and kidnapped, tortured and executed activists holding left-wing views, which culminated in the deaths of roughly 60,000 people. *The United States provided key organizational, financial and technical assistance to the operation.***

Almost immediately after the military's seizure of power, the junta banned all the leftist parties that had constituted Allende's UP coalition. All other parties were placed in "indefinite recess" and were later banned outright. **The government's violence was directed not only against dissidents but also against their families and other civilians.**

Some of the key individuals who fled because of political persecution were followed in their exile by the DINA secret police, in **the framework of Operation Condor, which linked South American military dictatorships together against political opponents.**

According to John Dinges, author of *The Condor Years (The New Press 2003)*, **documents released in 2015** revealed a CIA report dated April 28, 1978 that showed the agency by then had knowledge that **Pinochet ordered the assassination of Orlando Letelier, a leading political opponent *living in exile in the United States.***

According to Peter Kornbluh in The Pinochet File, "routine sadism was taken to extremes" in the prison camps [well, to be fair, that is French after all]. The rape of women was common, including sexual torture such as the insertion of rats into genitals and "unnatural acts involving dogs." Detainees were forcibly immersed in vats of urine and excrement, and were occasionally forced to ingest it. Beatings with gun butts, fists and chains were routine; one technique known as "the telephone" involved the torturer

slamming "his open hands hard and rhythmically against the ears of the victim," leaving the person deaf.

At Villa Grimaldi, prisoners were dragged into the parking lot and had the bones in their legs crushed as they were run over with trucks. **Some died from torture; prisoners were beaten with chains and left to die from internal injuries.**

>>> Following abuse and execution, corpses were interred in secret graves, dropped into rivers or the ocean, or just dumped on urban streets in the night.

He shut down parliament, suffocated political life, banned trade unions, and made Chile his sultanate. His government disappeared 3,000 opponents, arrested 30,000 (torturing thousands of them) ... Pinochet's name will forever be linked to the *Desaparecidos*, the Caravan of Death, and the institutionalized torture that took place in the Villa Grimaldi complex.

— *Thor Halvorssen, president of the Human Rights Foundation, National Review*

Pinochet's reputation led Peruvians in the 1990s to call Alberto Fujimori [Japanese samurai descent] “chinochet” instead of his ordinary nickname “chino” [Chinese in Spanish].

Chadian dictator Hissène Habré, a Cold War ally of the West, has been characterized as "Africa's Pinochet" for ordering the torture and mass killing of political opponents during his reign, and for the decades long campaign to see him convicted of crimes against humanity.

>>> Executions via Helicopters <<<

Images of Pinochet have been used in several internet memes with the caption **"Pinochet's Free Helicopter Rides"**, referencing death flights which saw political dissidents being thrown from helicopters over the Pacific or the Andes during Pinochet's rule [*Caravan of Death*]. Variations of the internet meme have seen increased popularity with the rise of far-right and alt-right politics.

>>> Pasteurian Bio-Weapons Production <<<

In January 2005, the Chilean Army accepted institutional responsibility for past human rights abuses. In 2006, Pinochet was indicted for kidnappings and torture at the Villa Grimaldi detention center by judge Alejandro Madrid (Guzmán's successor), as well as for the **1995 assassination of the DINA biochemist Eugenio Berríos, himself involved in the Letelier case. Berríos, who had worked with Michael Townley, had produced sarin gas, anthrax and botulism in the Bacteriological War Army Laboratory for Pinochet; these materials were used against political opponents.**

>>> Pino-caine <<<

The DINA biochemist was also alleged to have created **black cocaine, which Pinochet then sold in Europe and the United States.** The money for the drug trade was allegedly deposited into Pinochet's bank accounts. **Pinochet's son Marco Antonio, who had been accused of participating in the drug trade,** in 2006 denied claims of drug trafficking in his father's administration and said that he would sue Manuel Contreras, who had said that Pinochet sold cocaine.

In September 2005, a joint investigation by *The Guardian* and *La Tercera* revealed that the **British arms firm BAE Systems had been identified as paying more than £1m to Pinochet**, through a front company in the British Virgin Islands, which BAE has used to channel commission on arms deals. The payments began in 1997 and lasted until 2004.

Pinochet was publicly known as a man with a lack of culture. This image was reinforced by the fact that he also **portrayed himself as a common man with simple ideas**. He was also known for being reserved, sharing little about his opinions or feelings.

According to Rodríguez, **Pinochet would have been particularly impressed by his lectures on *The Art of War***. Pinochet would later succeed Rodríguez in the geopolitics and geography chair.



>>> **Related to Pinochet's and his family secret bank accounts in United States and in Caribbean islands**, this tax fraud filing for an amount of 27 million dollars shocked the conservative sectors who still supported him.

Ninety percent of these funds would have been raised between 1990 and 1998, when Pinochet was chief of the Chilean armies [retire-well], and would essentially have come from weapons traffic (**when purchasing French 'Mirage' fighter aircraft in 1994**, Dutch 'Leopard 2' tanks, Swiss 'MOWAG' armored vehicles or by illegal sales of weapons to Croatia, during the Balkans war.) His wife, Lucía Hiriart, and his son, Marco Antonio Pinochet, were also sued for complicity. For the fourth time in seven years, Pinochet was indicted by the Chilean justice.

...he was deemed fit to stand trial for **Operation Colombo, during which 119 political opponents were "disappeared" in Argentina**. The Chilean justice also lifted his immunity on the Villa Grimaldi case, a detention and torture center in the outskirts of Santiago.

Robert Paxton meanwhile **compared Pinochet's regime to that of Mobutu Sese Seko in the former Zaire (now Democratic Republic of the Congo) [also a kleptocracy], arguing that both were merely client states that lacked popular acclaim and the ability to expand**. He further argued that had Pinochet attempted to build true fascism, the regime would likely have been toppled or at least been forced to alter its relationship to the United States.

Eugenio “Hermes” Berríos

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugenio_Berríos

- Truncated -

Eugenio Berríos Sagredo (November 14, 1947 – ? 1992) was a **Chilean biochemist** who worked for the DINA intelligence agency.

Berríos was charged with carrying out *Proyecto Andrea* in which Pinochet ordered the production of sarin gas, a chemical weapon used by the DINA. Sarin gas leaves no trace and victims' deaths closely mimic heart attacks. Other biochemical weapons produced by Berríos included anthrax and botulism.

Berríos also allegedly produced cocaine for Pinochet, who then sold it to Europe and the United States. * In the late 1970s, at the height of the Beagle Crisis between Chile and Argentina, Berríos is reported **to have worked on a plan to poison the water supply of Buenos Aires**. Wanted by the Chilean authorities for involvement in the Letelier case, he escaped to Uruguay in 1991, at the beginning of the Chilean transition to democracy, and what has been identified as his corpse was found in 1995 near Montevideo.

*** It would be naïve to believe Pino-caine production either in France or the US was a surprise, if at all. It seems too convenient perhaps if they did not... *quizas*. Nefarious clandestine hands at federal levels surely possible in lieu of all the other illegal activities and characters involved. Dirty dealings.**

Questioned in March 2005 by Judge Alejandro Madrid about ex-Chilean Christian Democrat President Eduardo Frei Montalva's death, DINA agent Michael Townley acknowledged links between **Colonia Dignidad, led by ex-Nazi Paul Schäfer, and**

DINA on one hand, and the Laboratorio de Guerra Bacteriológica del Ejército (Army Biological Warfare Laboratory) on the other hand. It is suspected that the toxin that killed Frei Montalva in Santiago's Santa Maria clinic in 1982 was created there. This new laboratory in Colonia Dignidad would have been, according to him, the continuation of the laboratory that the DINA had in Via Naranja de lo Curro, where he worked with Eugenio Berríos in the clandestine unit *Quetropillán*. ***Townley would also have testified on biological experiments made upon the prisoners in Colonia Dignidad with the help of the two above-mentioned laboratories.****

**** Pasteur's insight activated since already proven with other armed forces***

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caravan_of_Death

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The **Caravan of Death** (Spanish: *Caravana de la Muerte*) was a Chilean Army death squad that, following the Chilean coup of 1973, **flew by helicopters from south to north of Chile** between September 30 and October 22, 1973. During this foray, members of the squad ordered or personally carried out **the execution of at least 75 individuals held in Army custody** in certain garrisons. According to the NGO *Memoria y Justicia*, the squad killed 97 people: 26 in the South and 71 in the North. **Augusto Pinochet was indicted in December 2002 in this case, but he died four years later without having been judged.** His trial, however, is ongoing since his and other military personnel and a former military chaplain have also been indicted in this case.

>>> AIR-IMPORTANT <<<

The group traveled from prison to prison in a [French Aérospatiale] Puma helicopter [*Félix Nadar's dream realized for vertical heavier-than-air aircraft 100 years later*] inspecting military garrisons and then ordering — or carrying out themselves — the execution of the detainees. The victims were then buried in unmarked graves.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfredo_Stroessner

- Truncated -

Paraguay was a leading participant in Operation Condor, a campaign of state terror and security operations officially implemented in 1975 which **were jointly conducted by the military governments of six South American countries (Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and Brazil)** *with the support of the United States.*

As an anti-communist, **Stroessner had the backing of the United States** for most of his time in power. His supporters packed the legislature and ran the courts, and he ruthlessly suppressed all opposition. **He kept his country in what he called a constant "state of siege" that overruled civil liberties, enforced a cult of personality, and tortured and killed political opponents.** Membership in his Colorado Party was a prerequisite for job promotion, free medical care and other services. The constitution had to be modified in 1967 and 1977 to legitimize his six consecutive elections to the presidency.

>>> A True-Blue Democracy: All Pretense, No Problem <<<

He was re-elected seven times—in 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983 and 1988. He appeared alone on the ballot in 1958. In his other elections, **he won by implausibly high margins**; only once (1968) did an opposition candidate get more than 20 percent of the vote. **He served for 35 years**, with only Fidel Castro having a longer tenure among 20th-century Latin American leaders; though Castro's tenure as *president* was shorter at 32 years (1976–2008).

The United States backed Alfredo Stroessner's anti-communist military dictatorship and played a "critical supporting role" in the domestic affairs of Stroessner's Paraguay. For instance, **U. S. Army officer Lieutenant Colonel Robert Thierry was sent to help local workmen build a detention and interrogation center named "La Technica" as part of Operation [Plan] Condor. *La Technica was also a well known torture centre.***

Stroessner's secret police, headed by Pastor Coronel, bathed their captives in tubs of human vomit and excrement and shocked them in the rectum with electric cattle prods. They dismembered the Communist party secretary, Miguel Ángel Soler, alive with a chainsaw while Stroessner listened on the phone. Stroessner demanded the tapes of detainees screaming in pain to be played to their family members.



Augusto Pinochet meets with US Secretary of State Heinz “Henry” Kissinger, 1976

That’s a bloody squeeze for the ages: *Imperator carnifex* greets *Kiss of Death*.

>>>> Hyper-Important: Old-School Despotic Rule <<<<

In a report to Kissinger, Harry Shlaudeman described Paraguay's militaristic state as a "nineteenth-century military regime that looks good on the cartoon page."

Shlaudeman's judgments adopted a tone of paternalism, but was correct in noting that Paraguay's “backwardness” was leading it toward the fate of its neighbors. Although the United States viewed conflict from a global and ideological perspective, **many decolonized nations defined national security threats in terms of neighboring nations and longstanding ethnic or regional feuds. ***

*** Same could be adamantly said in Indochina**

Corruption was rampant (Stroessner himself did not dispute charges of corruption at some levels in his government) and **Paraguay's human rights record was considered one of the poorest in South America.** During Stroessner's regime, an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 people were murdered, 400 to 500 more were "disappeared," and thousands more imprisoned and tortured.

>>> Modern Slavery and Undisguised Western Powers Greed <<<

Under Stroessner, egregious human rights violations were committed against the Aché Indian population of Paraguay's eastern districts, largely as the result of **U.S. and European corporations wanting access to the country's forests, mines and grazing lands.** The Aché Indians resided on land that was coveted and had resisted relocation attempts by the Paraguayan army. **The government retaliated with massacres and forced many Aché into slavery.** In 1974 the UN accused Paraguay of slavery and genocide. Only a few hundred Aché remained alive by the late 1970s. The Stroessner regime financed this genocide with U.S. aid.

Stroessner made many state visits, including to Japan, the United States, and France, as well as to South Africa, a country which Paraguay developed close bilateral ties with in the 1970s [apartheid government]. He also made several visits to West Germany, although over the years his relations with that country deteriorated. Since **he had always been known as pro-German**, this worsening of relations, combined with his feeling that *the U.S. had abandoned him*, was regarded as a personal blow to Stroessner.

Stroessner's parents were Hugo Strößner, who emigrated from Hof, Bavaria, Germany, and worked as an accountant for a brewery, and Heriberta Matiauda, who grew up in a wealthy Paraguayan family of Criollo Spanish descent.

>>> After Stroessner's Fall, Public Edifices Name Changes <<<

Stroessner was ousted in a coup d'état led by General Andrés Rodríguez, *his closest confidant for over three decades*. One reason for the coup was that the generals feared one of Stroessner's offspring would succeed him. **Of the two, Alfredo (aka 'Freddie'), was a cocaine addict and Gustavo, a pilot, was loathed for being homosexual.**

The eastern city of *Puerto Flor de Lis*, which had been renamed **Puerto Presidente Stroessner in his honor, in 1989 was again renamed Ciudad del Este.** Asunción's **airport had been named after him during his regime,** but was later renamed Silvio Pettirossi International Airport.

Stroessner was a philanderer who engaged in extramarital affairs before and during his presidency. According to many sources, **some of his affairs were with teenage girls as young as 13, and he may have fathered over 30 illegitimate children.***

The affairs were divulged after his downfall, further tarnishing his image.

*** As too, Napoléon III's pearls of infidelities on a long string.**

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dirty_War

- Truncated -

The **Dirty War** (Spanish: *Guerra sucia*) is the name used by the military junta or **civic-military dictatorship of Argentina** (Spanish: *dictadura cívico-militar de Argentina*) for *the period of United States-backed state terrorism in Argentina from 1976 to 1983 as a part of Operation Condor*, during which military and security forces and right-wing death squads in the form of the Argentine Anticommunist Alliance (AAA, or Triple A) hunted down any political dissidents and anyone believed to be associated with socialism, left-wing Peronism or the Montoneros movement.

Assassination occurred domestically in Argentina via **mass shootings and the throwing of live citizens from airplanes to death in the South Atlantic. Additionally, 12,000 prisoners, many of whom had not been convicted through legal processes, were detained in a network of 340 secret concentration camps located throughout Argentina.**

Triple A partnered with the army, navy and the air force to terrorize the population. Navy captains such as Adolfo Scilingo performed massive number of executions. These actions against victims called *desaparecidos* because they simply "**disappeared**" without **explanation** were confirmed via Scilingo, who has publicly confessed his participation in the Dirty War, stating that the Argentinian military "**did worse things than the Nazis**". In 1983, the National commission on Disappeared People forced Scilingo to testify where he described how "**prisoners were drugged, loaded onto military planes, and thrown, naked and semi-conscious, into the Atlantic Ocean**". A vast majority of those who were killed left with no trace or record of their disappearance.

Convicted ex-Chadian leader Hissène Habré dies at 79

[bbc.com/news/world-africa-58316923](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-58316923)

August 24, 2021

Chad's ex-ruler Hissène Habré has died at the age of 79 while serving a life sentence for crimes against humanity.

He was being treated for a coronavirus infection, reports say.

Habré was found guilty in 2016 of crimes committed while he was president from 1982 to 1990.

The conviction was the result of a landmark trial in Senegal. It was the first time an African Union-backed court had tried a former ruler for human rights abuses.

>>> Habré was accused of being behind rape, sexual slavery and ordering killings while in power. He denied any knowledge of the crimes.

A commission of inquiry formed in Chad after he was deposed in 1990 said his government carried out some 40,000 politically motivated murders and 200,000 cases of torture in the eight years he was in power.

During the trial, survivors recounted gruesome details of the torture carried out by Habré's feared secret police.

One of the most notorious detention centres in the capital N'Djamena was a converted swimming pool.

>>> Witnesses said victims endured electric shocks, near-asphyxia, cigarette burns and having gas squirted into their eyes.

In 1990, he was overthrown by rebels, eventually seeking refuge in Senegal.

Two decades later, a court in Chad sentenced him to death in absentia for crimes against humanity.

Commenting on Habré's death, Reed Brody, who had helped campaign for the ex-president to be put on trial, said he "will go down in history as one of the world's most pitiless dictators, a man who slaughtered his own people".

The trial in Senegal was the culmination of years of campaigning by his victims and their families.

After a lot of wrangling, the African Union signed a deal to set up a special tribunal to try the former leader.

Habré seized power in 1982 from Goukouni Oueddei, a former rebel comrade who had won elections.

>>> It was widely believed that he was backed by the CIA, as a bulwark against Libya's then leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

His coup came in the middle of a war with Libya over a disputed piece of land

>>> Backed by the United States and France, Habré's forces drove out the Libyans in 1983. He was also backed by the French.

Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize 2019

By David W. Blight [Simon & Schuster; New York] 2018

Pg. 132

Dark Wings of Slavery Quote: 1843

“Slavery had stretched its dark wings of death over the land, the church stood silently by — the priests prophesied falsely, and the people loved to have it so.”

Russian white supremacists are terrorists says Trump

[bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52186185](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52186185)

April 08, 2020

- Truncated -

US President Donald Trump has labelled a Russian nationalist group as a terrorist organisation.

The announcement marks the first time the US government has applied the label to a white supremacist group.

"These actions are unprecedented," said Nathan Sales, assistant secretary of State for counterterrorism on Monday.

The Russian Imperialist Movement is believed to have offered military training to neo-Nazi fighters and aided election interference in the US.

The group is also thought to have been involved in neo-Nazi bombings at several locations in Sweden in 2016 and 2017.

The designation has been seen as an unusual move, as President Trump has previously been criticised for failure to do more about the threat of white supremacy.

The Russian Imperial Movement is an ultra-nationalist paramilitary group based in St Petersburg, where it has a training camp, with alleged links to white supremacist organisations in the West.

The Fate of Africa
A history of the continent since independence

[Public Affairs; New York] 2011

By Martin Meredith

Pg. 73

Using the name *Organisation Armée Secrète* (OAS), they launched a campaign of terror targeted mainly at the Muslim population, trying to provoke FLN reprisals against the French that would lead to the intervention of the army and the collapse of de Gaulle's entire strategy. The OAS gained the support of much of the pied noir population in cities such as Algiers and Oran. For month after month, the killing and bombing continued.

In a final paroxysm of violence, the OAS took revenge on the Muslim population, bombing and murdering at random, destroying schools, libraries and hospital facilities, attacking florists' stalls and grocery shops, determined to leave behind nothing more than 'scorched earth'.

In the mass exodus that followed, more than a million *pied noirs* fled to France, many leaving with no more than what they could carry in suitcases. Farms, homes and

livelihoods were abandoned en masse. **Amid the retreat, thousands of *harkis*—Muslims who had fought on France’s side — were slaughtered by FLN groups in an orgy of revenge.**

Thus the French departed, in chaos and confusion, after years of war which had cost half a million lives. On 5 July 1962 Algeria attained its independence under the control of a revolutionary government.

Pg. 53-55

Interrogation [Torture] Centres

At their interrogation centers, the military readily restored to torture. A favorite method was the *gégène*, **a term used for the generators which delivered electric shocks.** Other methods included water torture and mock-drownings.

Despite a censorship and a shroud of secrecy surrounding that was described as a ‘peacekeeping’ operation in Algeria, the steady stream of disclosures about the use of torture caused growing public disquiet in France and raised doubts about the whole purpose of France’s mission there. A distinguished colonial expert, Robert Delavignette, wrote prophetically at the end of 1957: ‘The most serious problem is not the atrocities themselves, but that as a result of them state is engaged in a process of self-destruction. What we are witnessing in Algeria is nothing short of the disintegration of the state; it is a gangrene which threatens France itself.’

In May 1957, after the fall of Guy Mollet’s administration, France was left without a government for twenty-two days; in October and November there was no government for thirty-five days. The next administration collapsed in April 1958, leaving France once more without a government. **The vacuum of leadership, the climate of impotence, the plunge of France’s prestige around the world, all caused mounting disgust at the antics of its politicians.**

Haunted by memories of Dien Bien Phu, resentful of the humiliating retreat from Suez forced upon by them by world opinion, the military were determined not to let victory in Algeria slip from their grasp as the result of a betrayal by weak-willed politicians from Paris.

Moreover, the French had a powerful new motive to hold on to Algeria: oil. After ten years of prospecting oil had been discovered at Hassi-Messaoud deep in the sands of the Sahara, shortly after the beginning of the war. In January 1958 the first oil started to flow to France.

Pol Pot
The History of a Nightmare

By Philip Short [John Murray Publishers; London] 2004, 2005

Pg. 364-365

Nothing illustrated better the ghastliness of Pol's regime than S-21 and its associated institutions in the provinces. Not because what they were — all totalitarian regimes torture and kill its opponents — but because they represented in its purest form a doctrine of extermination.

It is not just a totalitarian phenomenon. Democratic governments had also gone down that road.

>>> The French army in Algeria set up torture centers where conscripts martyred suspected fedayeen and then killed them 'to maintain secrecy', exactly the same justification as was used in Democratic Kampuchea. *Five thousand Algerian prisoners were killed in this way in one interrogation centre alone.* In the country as a

whole, the number of such deaths probably exceeded the 15-20,000 who died in S-21. The factors that led young, Roman Catholic Frenchmen to violate every principle of justice and humanity they had learnt since childhood were not essentially different from those who conduct of S-21 guards. Both were told, in the Khmer phrase, to ‘cut off your heart’ — an injunction which, to a greater or lesser extent, applied to soldiers everywhere. Both were under pressure from peers. The French conscripts faced court-martial if they refused to carry out orders; the S-21 guards faced torture and death.

It may be argued that for Khmers it was easier: their religion cultivates indifference. However, S-21 had French carceral antecedents. *The shackles used in its cells were inherited from French colonial times.* The torture that Khmer Rouges called ‘stuffing prisoners with water’ had been **introduced to Indochina by the French army**, which called it ‘**la baignoire**’ (‘**the bathtub**’) and used in on the Viet Minh in the early 1950s. If the French connection is easy to draw — **Cambodia was, after all, a former French protectorate** — other Western countries have little cause to crow. [Think ‘Waterboarding’ of Arabs, innocent or not, by US led interrogators, using the cruel euphemism of ‘enhanced interrogation’ for torture]

At a conservative estimate, **more than half of all UN member states have, or have had in the recent past, prisons resembling S-21.**

>>> Democratic Kampuchea was not a fatal exception in an otherwise kindly world.

Ali Boumendjel:**France admits 'torture and murder' of Algerian nationalist**

[bbc.com/news/world-europe-56262963](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56262963)

March 03, 2021

France has admitted that a prominent Algerian nationalist was tortured and murdered by its army more than 60 years ago.

Ali Boumendjel was arrested during the Algerian War of Independence in 1957, and his death shortly after was covered-up as a suicide.

But, in a meeting with Boumendjel's grandchildren on Tuesday, President Emmanuel Macron reassessed the death.

"[He] did not commit suicide. He was tortured and then killed," he said.

Algeria gained independence from France in 1962 after a bloody seven-year war.

Boumendjel, a 37-year-old lawyer and nationalist, was active in the campaign against French colonial rule. He was detained during the Battle of Algiers and placed in solitary confinement by French troops.

The activist was then killed and thrown from the sixth-floor of a building in an effort to disguise his death as a suicide.

The BBC's Ahmed Rouaba says that Algerian and French organisations have been campaigning for decades for the truth about Boumendjel's death.

>>> In 2001 Gen Paul Aussaresses, who was at the time head of French intelligence in Algeria, confessed to ordering *the killing of dozens of Algerian prisoners, including Boumendjel.*

Mr Macron said the latest admission was made "in the name of France".

The rare act is one of a series of measures aimed at improving relations between France and Algeria and the way both countries remember the war that ended colonial rule.

The conflict has cast a long shadow, and it is only in recent years that Paris has begun to acknowledge some instances of torture and abuse.

There are conflicting reports about the Algerian death toll during the war. French historians estimate that up to 400,000 Algerians were killed, while the Algerian government says more than one million people died.

>>> There are also millions of people with links to Algeria living in France, and the conflict remains a deeply contentious issue that has strained relations between both nations.

On Tuesday, Mr Macron reiterated his desire to give "the families of the disappeared" the opportunity to find out the truth about the war.

"No crime, no atrocity committed by anyone during the Algerian War can be excused or concealed," the statement, released by the Élysées Palace, said.

In 2017, during his election campaign, Mr Macron described the colonisation of the North African country as a "crime against humanity". He has also expressed a desire for French-Algerian relations to be forward-looking despite historical enmities.

But the president faced a backlash earlier this year when he refused to issue an official apology for crimes committed during the conflict. He said there would be "no repentance nor apologies" rather "symbolic acts" aimed at promoting reconciliation.

He agreed to form a "truth commission" aimed at shedding light on the conflict after a government-commissioned report recommended doing so.

But the report has since been criticised by the Algerian government, which said it was "not objective" and fell "below expectations".

How a massacre of Algerians in Paris was covered up

[bbc.com/news/world-africa-58927939](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-58927939)

By Ahmed Rouaba

October 17, 2021

"It was a miracle I was not thrown into the Seine," Algerian Hocine Hakem recalled about an infamous but little-known massacre in the French capital 60 years ago.

Around 30,000 Algerians had taken to the streets of Paris in a peaceful protest against a curfew, and calling for independence nearly seven years into the war against French rule in North Africa, which had occasionally spilled onto the streets of the French capital.

>>> On 17 October 1961, the police killed at least 100 protesters, some of whom were thrown into the River Seine, making it one of the darkest pages of France's chequered colonial history.

Mr Hakem was 18 at the time and was telling his story to the L'Humanité newspaper decades after the event, which was little reported at the time. He was among about 14,000 Algerians arrested during the operation.

The government of the day censored the news, destroyed many of the archives and prevented journalists from investigating the story. Contemporary news bulletins reported three deaths, which included a French national. It was not covered in the international press.

Brigitte Laîné, who was a curator at the Parisian archives, said in 1999 that some official documents survived revealing the extent of the killings. "There were a lot of bodies. Some with the skulls crushed, others with shotguns wounds," she said.

One photo captured the chilling sentiments of the time, showing graffiti scrawled along a section of the Seine's embankment saying: "Here we drown Algerians."

This is the title of French historian Fabrice Riceputi's new book which details how one man - researcher Jean-Luc Einaudi - tirelessly sought to gather eyewitness testimony, publishing his account 30 years after the police massacre.

The precise number of those killed has never been confirmed but some historians believe that between 200 and 300 Algerians died that day.

Historians say that a total of 110 bodies washed up on the banks of the River Seine over the following days and weeks. Some were killed then dumped, while others were injured, thrown into the cold waters and left to drown.

The youngest victim was Fatima Beda. She was 15 and her body was found on 31 October in a canal near the Seine.

Anti-Arab racism

>>> **One of the earliest descriptions of the event was published in 1963 by African-American writer William Gardner Smith in his novel Stone Face** - though it is a fictionalised account, which has never been translated into French.

It shows the stark anti-Arab racism of the day.

Mr Riceputi believes the French state is still refusing to face up to this heritage.

As the 60th anniversary of the killing approached, the often testy relations between France and Algeria - which had been undergoing a slow rapprochement - have once more hit the buffers.

The spat began last month when France slashed the number of visas granted to Algerians, accusing its former colony of failing to take back those denied visas.

But it was an audience President Emmanuel Macron held with young descendants of those who had fought in the Algerian War that has prompted the most anger.

He questioned whether the Algerian nation would exist if it hadn't been for French colonisers.

It may have been meant in the spirit of debate but it has provoked a backlash from Algerians who see it as symptomatic of France's insensitivity and the cover-up of colonial crimes.

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>>> In a statement to mark the 60th anniversary of the massacre, President Macron said that crimes committed under the authority of the police chief were "inexcusable".

Yet both have fallen short of the expectations of those who have been calling for an apology and reparations - and neither acknowledged how many people died or the state's role.

French left-wing parties, who were in opposition at the time, have also come in for criticism for not condemning the massacre. They have been seen as complicit in the cover-up given that they filed a law suit against the police for opening fire on mainly French anti-war protesters, killing seven, a few months later, and yet remained silent about the massacre of Algerians.

Mr Riceputi says the racist nature of the operation cannot be ignored - every person who looked Algerian was targeted.

>>> The campaign waged against Algerians in Paris was unofficially called the "ratonnade", meaning "rat-hunting".

The search for Algerians continued for days after 17 October, with the police making arrests on public transport and during house searches.

It was reported that Moroccans had to put up the sign "Moroccan" on their doors to avoid being harassed by repeated police raids.

Portuguese, Spanish and Italian immigrant workers with curly hair and dark complexions complained about systematic stop and searches as they were mistaken for Algerians by the police.

Researchers also say that it was not only the police and security forces who took part in the operation - firefighters and vigilantes were also involved.

Thousands were illegally deported to Algeria where they were detained in internment camps despite being French citizens.

Fearsome reputation

At the time President Charles de Gaulle was in advanced negotiations with Algeria's National Liberation Front (FLN) to end the war and agree to independence. The war ended five months later and independence followed in July 1962.

But in 1961, tensions were running high and on 5 October the Parisian authorities banned all Algerians from leaving their homes between 20:00 and 05:30.

The march was called in protest at the curfew. The organisers wanted to ensure it was peaceful and people were frisked before boarding trains and buses from the run-down suburbs to go into central Paris.

>>> It has not yet been established what exact instructions were given to the security forces, but the Paris police chief at the time, Maurice Papon, had a notorious reputation.

He had served in Constantine in eastern Algeria where he supervised the repression and torture of Algerian political prisoners in 1956.

>>> He was later convicted in French courts of overseeing the deportation of 1,600 Jews to Nazi concentration camps in Germany during World War Two when he was a senior security official under the Vichy government.

It was this prosecution - that took place between 1997 and 1998 - that lifted the lid on some of the classified archives relating to the 17 October massacre, and paved the way for extensive research into the extraordinary cover-up.

Preliminary official inquiries into the events were made - and a total of 60 claims were dismissed.

>>> No-one was tried as the massacre was subject to the general amnesty granted for crimes committed during the Algerian War.

For Mr Riceputi the hope is that this 60th anniversary will help with efforts to establish the truth and determine the responsibility for one of the bloodiest police massacres in France's history.

Viewpoint:

France's President Macron doesn't get the impact of colonialism on Algeria

[bbc.com/news/world-africa-56360817](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-56360817)

March 14, 2021

In our series of letters from African journalists, Algerian-Canadian journalist Maher Mezahi reflects on the recent moves by France to repair relations with its former colony Algeria, especially concerning the bitter war of independence.

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Does French President Emmanuel Macron, really understand the legacy of colonialism?

I ask this in the wake of his recent admission - after 60 years of official denial - that the French army tortured and murdered the Algerian nationalist hero Ali Boumendjel.

This recognition came as part of a series of measures aimed *at reconciling France and Algeria after more than a century of colonisation that ended in 1962, following an eight-year war.*

The reaction to Mr Macron's statement here in Algeria was tepid.

That may be because of the mixed messages he's sent about the impact of the past.

The first time most Algerians had heard of Mr Macron was when he visited the country in February 2017 when he was running for president.

>>> In an interview he went further than any French president ever had and described colonisation as a "crime against humanity".

The courage of his remarks took most Algerians by surprise. And they had ramifications for the political fight with the right-wing candidate, Marine Le Pen

For the first time in my life, I felt there was the possibility of a French president sincerely examining French-Algerian history, thus setting a new stage for relations between the two countries.

Yet since becoming president, Mr Macron has blown hot and cold on the Algeria issue.

The admission over the death of Boumendjel elicited little reaction here because, as historians and intellectuals wrote, it seemed futile to mention certain victims and leave out countless others.

One went as far as to say that this was a "Franco-French" issue, indicating that Mr Macron's statement was not a revelation for Algerians.

Furthermore, his office has said an official apology is not in the works.

Less than a year after visiting Algeria as a candidate, Mr Macron returned as president.

Buttressed by a delegation of politicians, historians and a heavy security detail, the charismatic leader strolled through downtown Algiers.

He shook hands and took selfies with onlookers before being accosted by a young man who said: **"France must come to terms with its colonial past in Algeria"**.

After a quick exchange, Mr Macron replied: **"But you have never known colonisation!**

"Why are you bothering me with that? Your generation has to look towards the future."

After hearing those brief sentences, I quickly realised that despite his apparent progressive policies towards Algeria, ***Mr Macron had not entirely understood the issue he was trying to tackle.***

In several West African countries, he repeated the same sentiment.

"Three-quarters of your country has never known colonisation," he said in Ivory Coast.

In Burkina Faso he told students that neither they nor he were from a generation that had known colonisation.

Such observations could only be made by someone who has not lived in a post-colonial state.

Every single Algerian is directly linked to the trauma caused by French colonisation.

Our schools, streets and stadiums are named after famous revolutionary figures and dates.

Our architecture, food and language are all heavily influenced by the 132-year presence of a million European citizens.

I do not come from a revolutionary family, yet my grandfather's brother was one of thousands of Algerian victims of the Ligne Morice - a minefield laid by the French along Algeria's eastern border.

As a boy growing up in Tebessa, he fiddled with a booby trap which exploded in his face.

I think of him every time I call my father, who was named after him.

The French government did not officially share the maps of the minefields it laid out across Algeria's eastern border until 2007.

>>> Throughout the 1960s the French army tested 17 atomic bombs in the Algerian Sahara.

Tens of thousands of local inhabitants have suffered as a consequence, either birth defects or various cancers.

The French government is yet to hand over the maps revealing the location of nuclear waste.

Historian Alastair Horne's description of the Algerian war of independence always seemed the most pertinent to me.

In the preface to *A Savage War of Peace*, Horne wrote: "**Above all, the war was marked by an unholy marriage of revolutionary terror and state torture.**"

If the war itself was an unholy union then what can be said about its divorce?

Most of us young Algerians are not holding our breath for an official apology or reparations.

We are simply asking Mr Macron's government to drop its condescension and tell the truth about the crimes committed in Algeria and across the continent.

A few weeks ago, it was reported that strong winds carrying radioactive dust left over from French nuclear testing in the Sahara desert blew across the Mediterranean, contaminating the French atmosphere.

For me it was nature's way of reminding Mr Macron that the impact of colonial crimes is not contained in the history books.

The French in Algeria: Key Dates

1830: France occupies Algiers

>>> **1848:** After an uprising (**Revolutionary Year**) led by rebel leader Abd-el-Kader,
Paris declares Algeria to be an integral part of France

1940: France falls to Germany in World War Two

1942: Allied landings in Algeria

1945: Allied forces defeat Germany. Thousands are killed in pro-independence
demonstrations in Sétif

1954-62: Algerian War

1962: Algeria becomes an independent state

Reprise from Part Two:

US politician drives drunk after warning people not to drive drunk

>>> France Coordination with Right Wing Regimes <<<

>>> Investigating French military influence in Argentina, **French journalist Marie-Monique Robin found in 2003 the original document proving that a 1959 agreement between Paris and Buenos Aires initiated a "permanent French military mission" in Argentina** and reported on it (she found the document in the archives of the *Quai d'Orsay*, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs). **The mission was formed of veterans**

who had fought in the Algerian War and it was assigned to the offices of the chief of staff of the Argentine Armed Forces. It was continued until 1981, date of the election of socialist François Mitterrand.

After release of her documentary film *Escadrons de la mort, l'école française* in 2003 which explored the French connection with South American nations, Robin said in an interview with *L'Humanité* newspaper: "**French have systematized a military technique in urban environment which would be copied and pasted to Latin American dictatorships**".

>>> **She noted that the French military had systematized the methods they used to suppress the insurgency during the 1957 Battle of Algiers and exported them to the War School in Buenos Aires.**

Roger Trinquier's famous book on counter-insurgency had a very strong influence in South America. In addition, Robin said she was shocked to learn that the **DST French intelligence agency gave DINA the names of refugees who returned to Chile (Operation Retorno) from France** during their counterinsurgency. All of these Chileans have been killed: "Of course, this puts in cause [*sic* – this makes responsible] the French government, and **Giscard d'Estaing**, then President of the Republic. **I was very shocked by the duplicity of the French diplomatic position** which, on one hand, received with open arms the political refugees, and, on the other hand, collaborated with the dictatorships."

The junta, which dubbed itself National Reorganization Process, systematized the repression, in particular through the way of "forced disappearances" (*desaparecidos*), which **made it very difficult as in Augusto Pinochet's Chile to file legal suits as the bodies were never found.** This generalization of state terror tactics has been explained in part by the information received by the Argentine militaries in the infamous School of Americas and also **by French instructors from the secret services, who taught them**

"counter-insurgency" tactics first experimented during the Algerian War (1954 – 1962).

Chile's Caravan of Death: Eight guilty of murder

bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-25499373

December 23, 2013

A judge in Chile has found eight former members of the military guilty of murdering political opponents during the rule of Gen Augusto Pinochet.

The accused were part of the Caravan of Death, a military operation thought to have killed almost 100 opponents of the 1973 military coup.

They were sentenced to between three and 15 years in jail for killing 14 people in the northern city of Antofagasta shortly after the coup.

The ruling can be appealed against.

Firing squad

The Caravan of Death was a "delegation" of military men sent to Chile's provincial towns by Gen Pinochet, the leader of the 1973 coup.

Gen Pinochet said there would be no mercy for "extremists", and was reportedly annoyed by news that some commanders in provincial towns had been "soft" on political opponents.

He despatched an army unit under the command of Gen Sergio Arellano Stark to impose "uniform criteria in the administration of justice to prisoners".

The unit, which came to be known as the Caravan of Death, travelled from town to town in a [French built] Puma helicopter, armed with grenades, machine guns and knives, killing opponents of the coup.

France's Second Empire 1861 Whirl-Wings Dream Realized:



It arrived in the northern city of Antofagasta, where on 19 October 1973 it ordered that 14 political prisoners held there be taken to a ravine.

There, the men were executed by firing squad. The prisoners had been tried and convicted by military tribunals but not yet sentenced.

'Once and for all'

The Caravan of Death landed in 16 towns in the north and south of Chile and killed 97 people between 30 September and 22 October 1973, according to figures compiled by the NGO Memory and Justice.

Marcos Herrera Aracena, who worked as a military prosecutor in Antofagasta when the army unit arrived, told a court in 1999 what Gen Arellano had said about his mission.

"General Arellano informed me that what Pinochet wanted was *to bring an end to the remaining legal processes...* In other words, finish with them once and for all."

Gen Arellano was sentenced in 2008 to six years in prison for his role in the Caravan of Death, but he was spared jail when he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

According to official figures, 40,018 people were victims of human rights abuses under the dictatorship and 3,065 were killed or disappeared.

Chile ex-spymaster, Manuel Contreras, dies at 86

bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-33831527

August 08, 2015

Manuel Contreras, who headed Chile's intelligence service, DINA, during the rule of Augusto Pinochet in the 1970s and 80s, has died aged 86.

Dozens of people gathered at the military hospital in Santiago where he was being treated to celebrate.

He had been serving a sentence of more than 500 years for human rights abuses.

Victims' families say DINA was behind more than half the cases of murder, disappearance and torture under the Pinochet government.

>>> Contreras was one of the main architects of Plan Condor, a co-ordinated campaign of political repression and assassination by military governments in the southern cone of South America.

>>> It is said to have killed tens of thousands of people across the region.

The former general had been suffering from cancer and was admitted to the hospital after his health sharply declined.

One of those who gathered outside the hospital said: "I'm really happy, but it's a conflicting emotion because this murderer died of illness but he should have suffered much more, just like many comrades suffered."

A presidential decree in 2009 announced that on his death, Contreras would not receive any military honours.

Questions have been asked by left-wing parties as to why he was not deprived of his rank of general when first sentenced.

Pinochet seized power in 1973 in a military coup that toppled the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende.

Chile sentences 33 over Pinochet-era disappearances

bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-39364558

March 23, 2017

The High Court in Chile has sentenced 33 former intelligence agents for the disappearance of five political activists in 1987.

The court said that the five had been abducted and killed, and their bodies thrown into the sea.

Investigators said they were killed in revenge for the abduction of an army colonel by left-wing guerrillas.

The five are believed to have been the last people kidnapped under the rule of Gen Augusto Pinochet from 1973 to 1990.

Those sentenced are former members of the CNI intelligence service, the army's intelligence battalion and the army's flight commando.

Among them are former CNI head Gen Hugo Salas Wenzel and the CNI's ex-chief of operations, Maj Alvaro Corbalan Castilla.

The two, who are already serving sentences for human rights abuses, were given 15 years in prison each.

>>> **Thrown from a helicopter**

The remaining defendants were sentenced to jail terms ranging between five and 10 years, with one released subject to conditions.

The five disappeared activists were members of the Communist Party and its militant wing, the Manuel Rodriguez Patriot Front, which used guerrilla tactics to fight the rule of Gen Pinochet.

They were arrested in September 1987 by the secret police in retaliation for the abduction of Col Carlos Carreño by the Manuel Rodriguez Patriot Front.

Col Carreño was kidnapped on 1 September 1987 and released three months later after his family agreed to the kidnappers' demand for \$50,000 (£40,000) in food and clothing for Chile's poor.

The bodies of the five were never found but Judge Mario Carroza's investigations revealed that **they had been *thrown into the sea from a helicopter* off the coast of Valparaiso.**

It is not clear whether they were still alive but drugged at the time or if they had already been killed in detention.

More than 3,200 people were killed or disappeared during Gen Pinochet's rule, according to official figures.

Gen Pinochet came to power in a military coup in 1973, when he overthrew the socialist government of President Salvador Allende.

Outside Chile, he is remembered as a ruthless dictator whose military regime tortured and killed thousands of opponents and drove many into exile.

But inside Chile he still has a small but ardent group of right-wing supporters who regard him as a hero for "saving the country from becoming another Cuba".

He stepped down from power in 1990, two years after he lost a referendum on whether he should remain in power.

Chile 'Caravan of Death' commander Gen Arellano Stark dies

bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-35768069

March 09, 2016

The Chilean general who led an army death squad in the aftermath of the 1973 military coup has died aged 94.

Gen Sergio Arellano Stark was the commander of the infamous "Caravan of Death", responsible for the killing of at least 75 political prisoners.

The army unit took opponents of Gen Pinochet's regime from jails and executed them by firing squad.

The squad spent two months flying between Santiago and the north of Chile on the orders of Pinochet.

The country's military leader was reportedly annoyed that some commanders in provincial towns had been "soft" on political opponents.

Arellano and seven other army officials were sentenced in 2008 to six years in prison for their crimes.

But Arellano was spared jail because he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

He died peacefully in a nursing home in the early hours of Wednesday.

According to official figures, 40,018 people were victims of human rights abuses between 1973 and 1990 and 3,065 were killed or disappeared.

The democratically-elected socialist President, Salvador Allende, was killed inside the presidential palace during the coup on 11 September 1973.

Pinochet stepped down in 1990 but retained the post of commander-in-chief of the army for another eight years.

He was arrested months later during an unofficial visit to London, after an extradition request from Spain.

Pinochet was allowed to return to Chile in 2000, but in 2002 the Supreme Court ruled that he was mentally unfit to stand trial for his crimes. He died in 2006, aged 91.

Chile's Caravan of Death:

Ex-army chief Cheyre convicted for Pinochet-era crimes

bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-46160437

November 10, 2018

A Chilean court has convicted the former army commander-in-chief of complicity in the deaths of 15 people following the 1973 military coup.

General Juan Emilio Cheyre was sentenced to three years and a day under house arrest.

He is the most senior figure to be held accountable so far for abuses carried out during the regime of General Augusto Pinochet.

The killings were carried out by the notorious "**Caravan of Death**".

The Caravan of Death was a military unit sent by General Pinochet to remote Chilean areas to hunt down opposition activists.

Speaking outside the court on Friday, investigating judge Mario Carroza said the conviction of Cheyre - who was chief of the army between 2002 and 2006 - demonstrated the "egalitarian" justice system that Chile now enjoys.

The incident for which Cheyre was convicted took place in the northern city of La Serena a month after the coup in September 1973.

He was a young officer in a regiment stationed at La Serena when the Caravan of Death arrived in the city and killed 15 left-wing activists.

The same court on Friday sentenced his then superior officer, Ariosto Lapostol, to 15 years in prison for the killings.

The Caravan of Death landed by helicopter in 16 towns and cities and killed 97 people between 30 September and 22 October 1973, according to figures compiled by the NGO Memory and Justice.

Gen Pinochet said there would be no mercy for "extremists", and was reportedly annoyed by news that some commanders in provincial towns had been "soft" on political opponents.

General Pinochet had seized power from the democratically elected government of Salvador Allende.

He stepped down in 1990 but retained the post of commander-in-chief of the army for another eight years.

An estimated 3,200 people were murdered and 28,000 tortured by agents of the state during his dictatorship. More than 1,000 people are still listed as missing.

General Pinochet died in 2006, aged 91, without ever standing trial.

Coronavirus:

Chilean writer Luis Sepúlveda dies aged 70

[bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-52310439](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-52310439)

April 16, 2020

Best-selling Chilean writer Luis Sepúlveda has died of Covid-19 in Spain at the age of 70.

He spent six weeks in hospital in Oviedo after developing symptoms following a trip to a literary festival in Portugal.

Sepúlveda became internationally known after the publication of his novel *The Old Man Who Read Love Stories* in 1988.

A socialist, he was imprisoned in Chile under the military rule of Gen Augusto Pinochet before going into exile.

He was one of the many left-wing writers, activists and intellectuals targeted by the right-wing general who overthrew socialist President Salvador Allende in 1973.

Sepúlveda was jailed in 1973 for treason and spent two-and-a-half years in prison, a period he later wrote about in Madness of Pinochet and other articles.

He was freed as a result of pressure from rights group Amnesty International and lived in hiding in Chile for a year before being arrested again and sent into exile.

His award-winning *The Old Man Who Read Love Stories* is based on the time he spent living with the indigenous Shuar people in the Ecuadorean Amazon. It deals with the encroachment of developers, hunters and gold prospectors on the rainforest.

The novel was turned into a film of the same name starring Richard Dreyfuss.

Sepúlveda also directed films and wrote screenplays and children's books. Many of his readers have taken to social media to say how he inspired them through works such as *The Story of A Seagull* and *The Cat Who Taught Her To Fly*.

Adriana Rivas: Pinochet-era kidnap suspect 'eligible for extradition'

[bbc.com/news/world-australia-54728348](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-54728348)

October 29, 2020

A Chilean woman suspected of being involved in Pinochet-era kidnappings is eligible to be extradited from Australia, a court has ruled.

Adriana Rivas, 67, was arrested in Sydney in February last year.

She has denied involvement in the 1970s kidnappings of seven people which resulted in their deaths, Australian media reported.

Some 3,000 opponents of Gen Augusto Pinochet were killed in the 1970s and 1980s during his military rule.

Ms Rivas has 15 days to decide whether to appeal Thursday's decision by a magistrate in New South Wales.

Chilean authorities accuse Ms Rivas of having **participated in the disappearance of the secretary-general of the Communist Party, Víctor Díaz, and six of his supporters.**

>>> Ms Rivas had worked as a secretary for the infamous chief of Chile's secret police force, Manuel Contreras.

Contreras died in 2015 while serving a sentence of more than 500 years for human rights abuses.

Ms Rivas left Chile in 1978 before working as a nanny and cleaner in Australia.

She was arrested during a visit to Chile in 2006 but managed to return to Australia. Chile filed an extradition request to Australia in 2013.

Era of persecutions and killings

Ms Rivas worked for Contreras from 1973 to 1976 at the National Intelligence Directorate **(DINA), the secret police force founded by Gen Pinochet to hunt down his political opponents.**

More than 40,000 people were politically persecuted during the Pinochet era, which lasted from 1973 to 1990.

Dina was at the centre of Gen Pinochet's campaign to silence opposition to his rule after he seized power in a military coup in September 1973.

Its agents abducted, tortured, killed and "disappeared" thousands of people before it was replaced by the equally brutal CNI, an army intelligence battalion.

In a 2013 interview with Australian broadcaster SBS, Ms Rivas described her years at the Dina as "the best of my life".

She described how she was given an allowance for clothes and invited to fancy balls, travelled in luxury cars and stayed at upmarket hotels.

Asked about the torture carried out by Dina agents, she said that "they had to break the people - it has happened all over the world, not only in Chile".

'Eligible for surrender'

Magistrate Philip Stewart made the ruling in Sydney's Central Local Court after a month of deliberations.

"I am satisfied the respondent is eligible for surrender," he said.

Ms Rivas's lawyer, Frank Santisi, said they were yet to decide whether to appeal.

"I'm of the view that the material simply reads as a bad indictment of the country as it was back then - it does not disclose what Ms Rivas did or did not do, in my opinion," he said, according to a report by SBS.

Earlier this week, there were jubilant scenes in Chile after an overwhelming majority voted in support of rewriting its constitution, which dates to Gen Pinochet's rule.

The Pinochet File

A Declassified Dossier on Atrocity and Accountability

By Peter Kornbluh [The New Press; New York/London] 2013

Pg. ix

It is not a part of American history that we are proud of.

— Secretary of State Colin Powell

February 20, 2003

Responding to a question on the morality of the U.S. role in Chile

Pg. 02-03

Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth-century of U.S. policy toward Latin America, **presidents frequently authorized overt military efforts to remove governments deemed undesirable to U.S. economic and political interests.** After the signing of the United Nations charter in 1948, which highlighted nonintervention and respect for national sovereignty, *the White House made ever-greater use of the newly created Central Intelligence Agency to assert U.S. hegemonic designs.* Under Dwight Eisenhower, the CIA launched a setoff covert paramilitary operations to terminate the Guatemalan government of Jacobo Arbenz; both Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy gave green lights to clandestine action to undermine Fidel Castro in Cuba. *It was the Kennedy administration that first initiated covert operations in Chile — to block the election of Salvador Allende.*

Pg. x-xi

For almost three decades, **September 11 marked a day of infamy for Chileans, Latin Americans, and the world community — a day when Chilean air force jets attacked La Moneda palace in Santiago as the prelude to the vicious coup that brought Pinochet to power.** In the aftermath of “9/11,” 2001, it is more likely to be remembered on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. With that horror, the United States and Chile now share “that dreadful date,” as writer Ariel Dorfman has eloquently described it, “again a Tuesday, once again on 11th of September filled with death.”

But the histories of the United States and Chile are joined by far more than the coincidence of Osama bin Laden’s timing.” **Washington has played a pivotal role in Chile’s traumatic past.** Beginning in the early 1960’s, U.S. policy makers initiated more than a decade of efforts to control Chile’s political life, culminating in a massive covert

effort to “bring down,” as Richard Nixon and the members of his cabinet candidly discussed, the duly elected Popular Unity government of Salvador Allende. **Within hours of realizing that goal on September 11, 1973, the White House began transmitting secret messages welcoming General Pinochet to power and expressing a “desire to cooperate with the military Junta and to assist in any appropriate way.”** Until September 1976, when Pinochet sent a team of assassins to commit an act of international terrorism in Washington, D.C., *Secretary of State Henry Kissinger steadfastly maintained a posture of avid support for the Pinochet regime.*

Pg. 113

During the fighting [coup], **the military repeatedly demanded that President Allende surrender, and made a perfunctory offer to fly him and his family out of the country.**

In a now famous audiotope of General Pinochet issuing instructions on his troops via radio communications on September 11, he is heard to laugh and swear “that plane will never land.” Forecasting the savagery of his regime, Pinochet added: “Kill the bitch and you eliminate the litter.” Salvador Allende was found dead from gunshot wounds in his inner office around 2:00pm. At 2:30pm, the armed forces radio network broadcast an announcement that La Moneda had “surrendered” and that the entire country was under military control.

International reaction to the coup was immediate, widespread, and overwhelmingly condemnatory.

Pg. 115

“Our policy on Allende worked very well,” Assistant Secretary Kubisch commented to Kissinger on the day following the coup. Indeed, in September of 1973 **the Nixon administration had achieved Kissinger’s goal**, enunciated in the fall of 1970, *to create conditions which could lead to Allende’s collapse or overthrow.*

On September 16, President Nixon called Kissinger for an update; conversation was recorded by Kissinger’s secret taping system. . . . *Nixon and Kissinger commiserated over the fact that they wouldn’t get laudatory credit in the media for Allende’s demise.* “In the Eisenhower period,” Kissinger stated, referring back to the CIA’s covert overthrow of Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala, “we would be heroes.”

The two then candidly discussed the U.S. role. “Well we didn’t — as you know — our hand doesn’t show on this one though,” the president noted. **“We didn’t do it,” Kissinger responded**, referring to the issue of a direct involvement in the coup itself. **“I mean we helped them. [Omitted word] created the conditions as great as possible. “That is right,” the president agreed.**

Pg. 214

In the aftermath of September 11, the CIA Station quickly offered material assistance to the regime. But the barrage of accusations of Agency involvement in the military takeover prompted Langley [Virginia] headquarters to delay direct aid.

Pg. 210

Indeed, Washington waited two weeks until more than a dozen other nations had formally recognized the military Junta before quietly extending recognition to the Pinochet regime on September 24.

Pg. 213

Once in power, the Chilean military went on a buying binge, reaching agreement with the U.S. to expedite delivery of arms ordered *before the coup* and on more than \$ 100 million in new weapons and spare parts.

Pg. 114

The Nixon White House sought, supported, and embraced the coup, but the political risks of direct engagement simply outweighed any actual necessity for its success. **The Chilean military, however, had no doubts about the U.S. position...** The CIA and other sectors of the U.S. government, moreover, were directly involved in operations **designed to create a “coup climate” in which *the overthrow of Chilean democracy should and would take place.***

Pg. xi

If U.S. policy has had a major influence on events in Chile, those events have returned to influence the political discourse of the United States — and indeed the world.

>>> The country that [Nobel laureate] Chilean poet Pablo Neruda described as a “long petal of sea, wine and snow” holds a special place in the hearts and minds of the international community.

Since the early 1960s, Chile became a designated “showcase” for the Alliance for Progress — a U.S. effort to stave off revolutionary movements in Latin America by bolstering centrist, middle-class, Christian Democratic political parties. But with the election of Salvador Allende on September 4, 1970, **Chile became the first Latin American nation to democratically elect a socialist president.** The *Via Chilena* — a peaceful road to socialist reform— captured the imagination of progressive forces around the globe, **while provoking the consternation of imperial-minded U.S. policy makers.**

“We set the limits of diversity,” Kissinger was heard to tell his staff as the United States initiated a series of covert operations against Allende, which “at a minimum will either insure his failure,” according to a secret Kissinger proposal to Nixon, “and at a maximum might lead to situations where his collapse or overthrow later may be more feasible.”

Pg. 332-333

Top-secret CIA reports would casually describe Operation Condor as “a cooperative effort by the intelligence/security services of several South American countries to combat terrorism and subversion.” **In fact, in the mid-1970s Condor became the most sinister state-sponsored terrorist network in the Western Hemisphere, if not the world.**

Two months after taking power, **Pinochet dispatched his renowned enforcer, Gen. Sergio Arellano Stark, on a ‘special mission’ to Argentina.**

Pg. 356

Assistant Secretary for Latin America Harry Shlaudeman informed **Kissinger of the existence of Operation Condor and its mission:**

There is extensive cooperation between the security/intelligence operations of six governments: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. Their intelligence services **hold formal meetings to plan “Operation Condor.”** It will include extensive FBI-type exchanges of **information on *shady characters***. There are plans for a special communications network. These details are still secret, but broad security cooperation is not. (Doc 14)

Pg. 359

In the rank of Condor nations, Chile was “Condor one” — the operational command center of these plots. Therefore, issuing the diplomatic démarche to General Pinochet appeared to be the most immediate action to counter Condor. Chile was so important, in fact, that Kissinger also instructed Ambassador David Popper to “discuss [with CIA Station Chief Stuart Burton] the possibility of a parallel approach by him” to his counterpart in the Chilean secret police, DINA.

Pg. 358

While US officials took steps to abort this highly suspicious mission, the declassified record does not indicate that **they linked the murky actions of the Chilean secret police trying to gain illicit entry into the United States with CIA intelligence on planned Condor assassination operations.** There appear to be no requests from Kissinger's office to the CIA to investigate; no instructions from CIA headquarters to the Santiago Station to obtain an explanation; and no State Department queries to the embassy about what operations Pinochet's regime might be planning in the United States.

Pg. 345

Those covert operations, the CIA quickly learned, would include assassination missions against militants and civilians living in France and Portugal. **Paris, where the majority of Latin American refugees from the Southern Cone military regimes raised in the mid-1970s, would be Condor's main stalking ground.**

Pg. 231

The 'Chile syndrome' — supplementing the Vietnam syndrome of national reticence to U.S. military intervention in distant lands —reflected growing public demand that the U.S. foreign policy return to the moral precepts of American society. "The issue [of Chile] arose in America at the worst possible time," Kissinger would complain in his memoirs. **'In the aftermath of Vietnam and during Watergate, the idea that we could prevail through righteousness *rather than power* — had an inevitable attraction.'**

Senator [Edward] Kennedy must be credited with being the most outspoken congressional critic of Pinochet and U.S. assistance to his regime. Soon after the coup, Kennedy condemned the continued silence off the government of **the United States which as not issued a single public expression of remorse over the military coup which toppled a democratically elected government, or over the deaths, beatings, brutality and repression which have occurred in that land.**

Pg. 239

“Pinochet is so narrow-minded and convinced of his righteousness that it takes sledgehammer blows to all his attention to some unpleasant facts of life,” Boyatt noted. “Pinochet’s anti-communism is evangelical and self-righteous,” Ambassador David Popper reiterated in an biographic, “about-the-man” cable intended to introduce Kissinger to the psychology of the individual he would face. “The traditional norms of diplomatic phraseology can be lost on the president. He needs direct treatment, and clear and specific statements. **If we deal in platitudes Pinochet will never understand what is bothering us or react to our recommendations.”**

Pg. 241

Kissinger’s public account is in sharp contrast with he text of the secret memorandum of conversation with Pinochet that reveals who effort at “moral persuasion,” no mention of democracy, and only minimal concern expressed on human rights. As the declassified transcript indicates, Kissinger’s intent was to brief Pinochet in advance on the speech and let him know that it was intended to appease to the U.S. Congress rather than directed at Chile. “I can do no less without producing a reaction in the U.S. which would lead to

legislative restrictions,” **Kissinger told Pinochet after outlining several points in the speech.** (Doc 14) But he stressed: *“The speech is not aimed at Chile. I wanted to tell you about this.* My evaluation is that **you are a victim [what?!]** of all left-wing groups around the world and that your greatest sin is that you overthrew a government which was going communist.” (Emphasis added.)

Pg. xi-xii

The sharp contrast between the peaceful nature of Allende’s program for change, and the violent coup that left him dead and Chile’s long-standing democratic institutions destroyed, truly shocked the world. The Pinochet’s dictatorial bent, and abysmal human rights record quickly became a universal political and humanitarian issue. Revelations of CIA involvement in Allende’s overthrow, and **Washington’s unabashed embrace of the Junta** raised Chile’s worldwide profile even further, to a point where the U.S. policy makers could no longer ignore the condemnation. **“Chile has taken on Spain’s image in the 1940s as a symbol of right-wing tyranny [Francisco Franco — supported by fascists Mussolini and Hitler in 1930s Civil War],”** an aide reported to Kissinger in **one secret briefing paper.**

Pg. 342

In November 1975, when both **Contreras and Pinochet traveled to Madrid to attend the funeral of Spanish dictator Francisco Franco,** Contreras met personally with Delle Chiaie and received a full briefing on the Italian organization’s capabilities to conduct spying, sabotage, and terrorist operations on both the European and Latin American continents....To seal this collaboration, Contreras arranged for Delle Chiaie to have a private meeting with General Pinochet.

Pg. 06

Indeed, the ten-year history of U.S. overt and covert actions and investments in Chile did far more than simply set a precedent for President Nixon's decision to foment a coup against Allende; it created what Ambassador Korry called a 'fiduciary responsibility' — ***an imperial sense of obligation and entitlement — to overturn the democratic decision of the Chilean electorate.***

Pg. 163-165

Pinochet set in motion a series of massacres the came to known as “the Caravan of Death.” He dispatched General Sergio Arellano Stark, a coup leader and chief enforcer of the new regime, to “expedite” justice in the cases of political prisoners — regional representatives of the Popular Unity government, mayors, police chiefs, prominent trade unionists, and civic leaders— in the northern provinces. Between October 16 and October 129, **Stark and a death squad of five officers traveled to the provincial centers of La Serena, Copiapo, Antofagasta, and Calama in a Puma helicopter. During each stop, Stark identified prisoners, most of who had turned themselves in after an official summons. They were removed from their cells, taken away, brutalized, bayoneted and shot....Over four days, the Caravan left a death trail of sixty-eight individuals.**

U.S. intelligence knew of these massacres, but reported on them only in vague and incomplete terms.

As an act of official savagery, these mass executions clearly **defined the character of the regime Augusto Pinochet intended to establish.** The Caravan of Death reflected a

decision at the highest level of the Junta to take vengeance on even nonviolent, civilian supporters of democratic governance.

Pg. 172

“One of Pinochet’s major sources of power is **the National Directorate of Intelligence (DINA)**, an internal organization whose principal mission is internal security but which is extending its influence to ever-growing areas of activity,” the U.S. embassy called the State Department in mid-1975. **“DINA reports directly to Pinochet and is ultimately controlled by him alone.”**

Pg. 166-167

By the time it was officially constituted, DINA had been operating as a brutal secret police agency for more than six months. Its origins dated back to a “DINA Commission” created after the coup and led by Lt. Col. Juan Manuel Contreras Sepúlveda, a mid-level army administrator with close personal ties to General Pinochet.

From the start, DINA became notorious for its brutality, even among other violent intelligence units in the Chilean armed forces. Agents not only coordinated and conducted interrogations, but also carried out systemic clandestine raids and arrests, while building a network of secret detention and torture centers to extract information from supporters of the former Allende government, terminate and disappear them.

Pg. 171

In some camps, routine **sadism** was taken to extremes. [Examples given are too graphic for our purpose]

Few prisoners who were severely tortured lived to provide evidence of these atrocities. DINA agents murdered hundreds of victims. Many of them remain desaparecidos — disappeared. Approximately 1,100 Chileans — and one U.S. citizen— vanished during the seventeen-year Pinochet dictatorship— the majority at the hands of DINA. Some were killed and buried in secret graves; others airlifted in a helicopter and thrown into the ocean by DINA agents “after first cutting their stomach open with a knife to keep the bodies from floating,” states the Rettig Commission report.

DINA’s involvement in secret detention, torture, and disappearances drew strong and continuous condemnation from around the world... **Contreras, rather than Pinochet, became a lightning rod for criticism.**

Pg. 178-179

>>> **Coco’s Mist No. 5: If Smells Could Kill** <<<

From the laboratory basement of his DINA-owned mansion in the Lo Curro district of Santiago, Townley [right-wing American assassin] with tremendous terrorist potential: the creation of a biological weapon of mass destruction. Code-Name “ANDREA,” the project reflected the Pinochet regime’s desire to possess a secret weapon that could be used in the event of war against Chile’s neighbors, Peru or Argentina. Townley, and a team of chemists, developed, manufactured, and stored a nerve gas [technical name]... commonly known as **Sarin**.

Townley himself considered the possibility that Sarin could be utilized in a terrorist mission. In preparation for the assassination of Orlando Letelier, **he took a small quantity of the nerve gas, put it into a Chanel No. 5 perfume bottle and transported it aboard a LAN-Chile flight to the United States.** As Townley would later admit, he considered the possibility that a female DINA agent could get close enough to Letelier to deploy the gas, or that he could toss the Chanel bottle into Letelier’s car at a stop sign or red light.



The number five was Coco Chanel's favorite number

Pg. 163

“I was elected [Junta president] because I am the oldest,” as Pinochet told the press shortly after the coup. But, “after awhile, Admiral Merino will be, then General Leigh, and so on. **I am not an ambitious man,” he added. “I would not want to seem to be a usurper of power.”**

In fact, Pinochet moved methodically to distinguish himself from the rest of the Junta and **usurp power the coup plotters had intended to share**. His dual role as army commander in chief and head of the Junta afforded him a base of institutional support and concentration of force that he wielded to an autocratic advantage. **With the army behind him, Pinochet soon discarded the rotation concept.**

Both the U.S. intelligence community and the State Department appeared to **underestimate Pinochet’s individual ruthlessness**. A secret post-coup Defense Intelligence Agency Biographic Data report characterized the Chilean general as:

Quiet, mild-mannered; very businesslike. Very honest, hard working, dedicated. A devoted, tolerant husband and father; lives very modestly. Drinks scotch and Pisco sours; smokes cigarettes; likes parties. (Doc 3)

Pg. 223

Polite Lunch with a Sadistic Serial Murderer

On August 25, Contreras again with General Walters — this time at Langley headquarters for lunch. **“The luncheon will be essentially for protocol purposes,”** a memo to DCI William Colby stated. “Private discussions will be held between the DDCI and Colonel Contreras after lunch when Colonel Contreras will explain recent measures taken by the Chilean Government to improve its image on the civil rights issue [deleted].” (Doc 10)

Before the meeting, CIA and State Department officials met to discuss “Colonel Contreras’s Current Visit to the U.S.” They agreed on a set of talking points — “Chile and Human Rights” — for Gen. Walters to invoke during the meeting. **But there is no evidence that Walters used them and all information regarding why Walters would meet with Contreras in Washington twice in the space of seven weeks remains classified.**

Pg. 236

In his closed meetings with Chilean officials, **Kissinger** seemed to spend more time disparaging his staff’s concerns for human rights **than criticizing the regime for its atrocities.**

>>> “I hold the strong view that human rights are not appropriate in a foreign policy context.” Washington, Kissinger stated, “did not intend to harass Chile on this matter.”

A growing number of mid-level State Department officials recognized **the folly of Kissinger’s attitude towards Pinochet’s atrocities.** Washington’s embrace of the regime had not only failed to ease repression in Chile; it was costly to U.S. national interests, creating divisions with Western allies, jeopardizing Congressional cooperation on other foreign assistance programs, and damaging America’s moral leadership in the Third World. Befriending Pinochet had become a major liability.

Pg. 226-227

New York Times Front-Page Bombshell News

In early September, after lunch with Seymour Hersh **at Jean-Pierre's a swanky French restaurant in downtown Washington D.C.**, he quietly provided a copy of the Harrington letter to the intrepid New York Times investigative reporter. The leak set in motion the biggest scandal on covert operations ever to hit the intelligence community.

On September 8, 1974, the New York Times published Hersh's front-page story, **CIA Chief Tells House of 8 million campaign against Allende in '70-'73**. The article detailed both the Chile operations and their coverup by Nixon administration officials. Gerald Ford, who had assumed the presidency only six weeks earlier, read the article and discussed it with Kissinger the following morning. "I saw the Chile story," Ford said. "Are there any repercussions?" According to a secret-sensitive memorandum of conversation, Kissinger responded: "Not really."

In fact, the story and a series of follow-ups written by Hersh, had significant repercussions— for the Ford administration, Kissinger, the CIA, and the conduct of covert operations abroad. Hersh's revelations on Chile, coupled with further disclosures of CIA involvement in assassination plots against foreign leaders, and "Operation Chaos," a domestic spying and disruption program against antiwar groups, set off a major political scandal. The scandal, in turn, led to the first major congressional inquiry into abuses of executive branch power, the misconduct of the intelligence community and the presidential use of clandestine warfare as a foreign policy weapon. **Following the scandals of Watergate and the collapse of Saigon, as Kissinger would concede in his memoir, *Years of Renewal*, the Hersh articles "had the effect of a burning match in a gasoline depot."**

Pg. 170

Colonia Dignidad—one of the most secret facilities used by DINA outside of Santiago, Colonia Dignidad was cult like German enclave started **by ex-Luftwaffe officials from Nazi Germany [think of Hermann Goering- Hitler’s second in command]**, located in the Parral province in southern Chile.

Pg. 300

In early January 1985 he had been part of a seven-man Chilean army unit patrolling the perimeter of Colonia Dignidad, described in secret State Department records as **“a secretive German immigrant settlement reportedly with neo-Nazi tendencies” located in the Andean foothills** in the southeastern part of the country. The colony collaborated closely with the Pinochet regime and was used as a secret torture/detention center; “Daniel” cited **visits by the head of DINA, Manuel Contreras and Pinochet himself to its massive 37,000-acre [14,973 hectares] wilderness enclave.**

Pg. 96

Drawing on an informant who attended a dinner party with Pinochet on August 5, the Station reported to headquarters that the general was a **“mild, friendly, narrow-gauged military man who [is] totally immersed in a new field of security, public order and political events and who clearly enjoyed feeling of being important.”** His wife, according to this intelligence report, was turning against the Allende government, and his son was married to a member of the National Party who hoped to “push Pinochet to effect [a] coup. **But, the informant noted, other plotters assessed Pinochet as a person “who would not lead any coup.”**

In various intelligence reports, **Chilean military officers cast Pinochet as uncommitted and therefore unreliable — “Pinochet would favor but would want to close eyes to events” one asset told the CIA in Santiago.** One September 27, 1972, however, a CIA informant inside Pinochet’s camp reported that the general was “harboring second thoughts” about the necessity of overthrowing Allende. Pinochet now believed “that Allende must be forced to step down or be eliminated;” these were, in his words, the “only alternatives.”

Pg. 467

While in London, he granted an interview with journalist Jon Lee Anderson for an unprecedented profile in *The New Yorker*. The profile, published four days before the general’s arrest, ironically represented **the beginning of a major public relations push by the former dictator to improve his international image and obtain “history’s blessing.”** *It included a photo of a seemingly venerable, civilian-suited older man — “he looks like someone’s genteel grandfather,”* reported Anderson — taken on September 25 in London’s five-star Park Lane Hotel. The article implied that Pinochet would seek medical assistance there.

Adriana Rivas: Pinochet-era suspect loses extradition appeal

[bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-57594594](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-57594594)

June 24, 2021

A woman suspected of involvement in the kidnapping of seven people during the rule of General Augusto Pinochet in Chile is one step closer to facing charges, after a court in Australia quashed her appeal against extradition.

Adriana Rivas, 68, has been living in Australia for more than four decades but is accused of working for Chile's secret police in the 1970s.

She was arrested in Sydney in 2019.

Ms Rivas could still appeal against this decision.

Chilean authorities accuse Ms Rivas of having participated in the disappearance of the secretary-general of Chile's Communist Party, Víctor Díaz, and six of his supporters in 1976. The seven are presumed dead.

She is facing charges of aggravated kidnapping. Chile has filed an extradition request to Australia, which she has been fighting.

Who is Adriana Rivas?

Ms Rivas was a secretary for the infamous chief of Chile's secret police force, Manuel Contreras, from 1973 to 1976. Contreras died in 2015 while serving a sentence of more than 500 years for human rights abuses.

Ms Rivas worked at the National Intelligence Directorate (Dina), the secret police force founded by Gen Pinochet to hunt down his political opponents.

The Dina was at the centre of Gen Pinochet's campaign to silence opposition to his rule after he seized power in a military coup in September 1973.

Its agents abducted, tortured, and killed thousands of people before the agency was replaced by the equally brutal CNI, an army intelligence battalion.

>>> More than 40,000 people were politically persecuted and of those, more than 3,000 died or disappeared during the Pinochet era, which lasted from 1973 to 1990.

What has she said?

Ms Rivas has denied involvement in the kidnappings, but in a 2013 interview with Australian broadcaster SBS **she described her years at the Dina as "the best of my life"**.

She told SBS how she was given an allowance for clothes, invited to glamorous events, travelled in luxury cars and stayed at upmarket hotels.

Asked about the torture carried out by Dina agents, she said that "they had to break the people - it has happened all over the world, not only in Chile".

While Ms Rivas has denied taking part in any torture sessions, witnesses alleged in interviews given to documentary **filmmaker Lissette Orozco that she was one of Dina's "most brutal torturers"** who allegedly played a key role in the elite Lautaro Brigade, which was tasked with killing the leadership of Chile's underground Communist Party.

>>> Ms Orozco, who is Ms Rivas' niece, spent five years making a documentary about her aunt, which was screened at the 2017 Berlin film festival.

But as she found out more about Ms Rivas's involvement in the secret police, the film became a journey which shows the filmmaker increasingly confronting her aunt in conversations via Skype as well as talking to those fighting for justice for Dina's victims.

What will happen next?

During her appeal, which was rejected on Thursday, Ms Rivas questioned the authenticity of documents which alleged she had been a Dina agent.

Ms Rivas can take her fight against extradition all the way to the High Court of Australia, a process which could prove lengthy.

George Orwell: Notes on Nationalism (1945)

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Notes_on_Nationalism

- Truncated -

>>> **Orwell discusses nationalism and argues that it causes people to disregard common sense and to become more ignorant towards facts**. Orwell shows his concern for the social state of Europe and the rest of the world because of the increasing influence of nationalistic sentiment in a large number of countries.

Orwell argues that nationalism largely influences the thoughts and actions of people, even in such everyday tasks as decision-making and reasoning.

Orwell additionally argues that his definition of "nationalism" is not equal to the notion, held by himself and most other people, of "patriotism": "Patriotism is of its nature defensive... **Nationalism, on the other hand, is inseparable from the desire for power.**"

One of the themes that Orwell discusses is the effect of nationalistic sentiment on human thinking. **Nationalism causes dishonesty within people*** because, he argues, every nationalist, having chosen one side, persuades himself that his side is the strongest, regardless of the arguments against the faction. From that sense of superiority, people then argue for and defend their faction; the slightest slur or criticism from another faction causes them to retort or be violent, since they realise they are serving a larger entity, which provides them with this sense of security, and so they have the obligation to defend it.

Additionally, they may also become *ignorant to the point of self-deception*.* Orwell argues: "The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, but he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them.

>>> **Such people become susceptible to bias by acknowledging only information that they judge as true**, as emotions hinder them in properly addressing facts. *People believe in what they approve in their own minds as true, to the point that they deem it as an absolute truth*: "More probably they feel that their own version was what happened in the sight of God, and that one is justified in rearranging the records accordingly.

Indifference to reality refers to "the power of not seeing resemblances between similar sets of facts" and is a feature of all nationalists, according to Orwell. He describes how nationalism clouds people from perceiving facts of the real world.*

The use of torture, hostages, forced labour, mass deportations, imprisonment without trial, forgery, assassination, the bombing of civilians all prove to be irrelevant towards the notion of "good or bad", and there is no outrage from within the public, as the atrocities are committed by "our side". **Some nationalists even go into the trouble of defending such actions and search for arguments to support their case.**

*** We must apply these *Graves* insights to our better understanding of Bordeaux.**

Who truly was the most dishonest president?

[bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56246507](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-56246507)

March 06, 2021

By Jude Sheerin

Former President Donald Trump was often accused of having a complete disregard for the truth. Yet some of his predecessors' falsehoods ranged from the bizarre to the horrifying. So how does Trump truly compare?

When Saddam Hussein invaded the oil-rich emirate of Kuwait in August 1990, President George HW Bush snarled: "This will not stand."

But as US troops were scrambled to the Gulf, the American public was dubious about the justification for military action.

The Kuwaiti government-in-exile promptly hired a US public relations firm, Hill & Knowlton, whose Washington DC office was run by Bush's former chief of staff.

>>> The PR firm coached a purported witness, introduced as a 15-year-old girl called "Nayirah", to tearfully tell US congressmen in October 1990 that Iraqi soldiers had entered a hospital in Kuwait, removed babies from incubators and left them to die on the cold floor.

Nayirah, reporters were assured, was using an assumed name for fear of reprisals against her family back home.

>>> Only after the war would it emerge she was *the daughter of Kuwait's ambassador to the US*. And her story was completely baseless, as John MacArthur details in his book, *Second Front, Censorship and Propaganda in the 1991 Gulf War*.

Bush is recorded as having publicly touted this tall tale at least six times as he blew the bugle of war.

"Babies pulled from incubators and scattered like firewood across the floor," the president said on one occasion during a speech to US troops in Saudi Arabia.

MacArthur writes that the hoax helped rally the American people behind calls for military action.

In January 1991, Bush's war resolution narrowly passed the Senate. Six senators cited the incubators story as justification for authorising the conflict, notes MacArthur.

Operation Desert Storm launched days later.

The irony is that it seems babies actually did perish after being removed from incubators during Gulf War One. Only it reportedly happened in a massive US-led allied air raid.

On the first night of bombing, as electricity failed amid the explosions, panicking mothers took their newborns from the machines at a paediatric hospital in Baghdad and sheltered in a cold basement where more than 40 of the infants died, according to a contemporary New York Times report.

They were among thousands of civilians estimated killed in the 42-day conflict.

While it has never been established that Bush knew the incubators story he repeatedly told was unfounded, the White House is generally expected to verify claims made by the president - especially one so horrifying.

>>> American journalists failed to debunk the Nayirah testimony until after the war. *The controversy was omitted from a recent admiring biography of Bush, and from glowing coverage of his presidency when he died in 2018.*

Allegations of presidential dishonesty, however, greatly exercised media fact-checkers during the tenure of Mr Trump.

The Washington Post maintains a database of Trump statements - over 30,000 of them - that it claims are false or misleading.

Many of these utterances, such as about golf or his wealth or whether it snowed at one of his rallies, sound relatively trifling.

Others, such as claims he deliberately misled the American people about the severity of coronavirus, or his unfounded assertions that the 2020 White House election was rigged, would be much more damaging.

Benjamin Ginsberg, author of **The American Lie: Government by the People and Other Political Fables**, says that when it comes to presidential falsehoods, some are much more consequential than others.

He cites deceptive statements by Bush's son, President George W Bush, as he sold a sequel war on Iraq to the US public.

These included downplaying intelligence doubts that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction, and implying he might even have a nuclear weapon, and asserting he was an ally of al-Qaeda.

Prof Ginsberg says "whoppers" that lead to military action are the most harmful of all, and that Trump is not as blame-worthy as some of his predecessors in this respect.

The political science lecturer at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore adds: "The problem is the American presidential selection process is fundamentally flawed and produces monsters.

>>> "It requires years of campaigning, and only the most arrogant, ambitious and narcissistic individuals would possibly be willing to do such a thing."

Once upon a time Americans placed an almost childlike trust in their commanders-in-chief.

They were venerated as demigods.

When did it change?

Many historians date this rupture to Lyndon Baines Johnson, though he was far from the first president to deceive.

JFK's brother, Robert Kennedy, once said of LBJ: "He just lies continually about everything. He lies even when he doesn't have to lie."

Johnson's falsehoods on the Vietnam War included using an August 1964 naval attack that never happened in the Gulf of Tonkin to dramatically escalate the conflict.

"We are not about to send American boys nine or 10 thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves," he told voters two months later in Akron, Ohio.

After being elected, LBJ quietly sent the first US combat forces to the jungles and rice paddies of the war zone, eventually deploying more than half a million troops.

Johnson's constant dissembling about this foreign policy disaster envenomed American political life and led journalists to coin a euphemistic term about his administration: the credibility gap.

His successor, Richard Nixon, ran for office pledging to bring an "honourable" end to the carnage in Vietnam, before expanding the conflict by secretly carpet-bombing neutral Cambodia.

Yet it was another cover-up - the Watergate scandal, a botched burglary by his henchmen to wiretap their political opponents - that destroyed Nixon's presidency.

American children were once taught to tell the truth with the aid of a morality tale on presidential honesty that was itself untrue.

"I can't tell a lie, Pa," is the well-known line from the story about the young George Washington confessing to his father that he had split his cherry tree with a hatchet.

It was entirely invented by the president's first biographer.

The father of the nation [George Washington] was in fact not above the odd fib himself.

In 1788, he attempted to rewrite history by claiming *he had been the strategic visionary* behind the victory over the British at Yorktown seven years earlier during the Revolutionary War.

>>> *But it was actually his French allies who masterminded the decisive battle in Virginia.*

Washington had been stubbornly arguing instead for an attack on New York City, as Ron Chernow notes in his 2010 biography of the first US commander-in-chief.

Here was the original sin, if you will, of presidential duplicity.

Some lies told by occupants of the White House have been utterly bizarre.

Thomas Jefferson told a European naturalist who had disparaged the New World's fauna that woolly mammoths roamed the unexplored American West.

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan claimed he had filmed the atrocities of the Nazi death camps while serving as a US Army Signal Corps photographer in Europe.

He told this story to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir at the White House.

Reagan never left America during World War Two. Few remember this mind-boggling lie.

Many of Trump's comments in the Washington Post catalogue will no doubt prove equally forgettable.

However, one historian argues that the recent tenant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, **by the sheer volume of his mendacity**, has destroyed the very idea of shared truth in American politics.

"We've tolerated presidential lies ever since the beginning of the republic," says Professor Eric Alterman, author of **Lying In State: Why Presidents Lie - And Why Trump Is Worse**.

"But Donald Trump is the Frankenstein's monster of a political system that has not merely tolerated lies from our leaders, but has come to demand them."

Prof Alterman says the Capitol rioters, radicalised by conspiracy theories about stolen elections and satanic cabals, underscore the extent to which Trump inspired the "creation of an entire world of unreality".

A useful civics lesson on how a president who has been caught dissimulating reacts away from the cameras may be found in William Jefferson Clinton.

In January 1998 he indignantly denied to reporters having had any sexual relations with a White House intern, Monica Lewinsky.

But an investigation into whether he had lied under oath heard graphic evidence of their frolics, including that the president used a cigar with her as a sex toy after inviting the 22-year-old into the Oval Office.

Instead of feeling shame for deceiving the nation, Clinton privately expressed relief, according to John F Harris' biography, *The Survivor*.

Even as he prepared to go on television in August 1998 and express contrition, the president told a close friend: "The lie saved me."

Clinton reasoned that the drip-drip of prurient allegations had allowed the American people to gradually come to terms with his antics, ultimately sparing his political neck.

It's all a rueful reminder of the blessing carved into the mantel of the White House State Dining Room:

"May none but Honest and Wise Men ever rule under This Roof."

When presidents misspeak

- "If you like your healthcare plan, you'll keep your healthcare plan, period" - Barack Obama in 2013, rated Lie of the Year by PolitiFact.
- "We've removed an ally of al-Qaeda and... no terrorist network will gain weapons of destruction from the Iraqi regime because the regime is no more" - George W Bush in 2003.
- "A few months ago I told the American people I did not trade arms for hostages. My heart and my best intentions still tell me that's true, but the facts and the evidence tell me it is not" - Ronald Reagan in 1987 on the Iran-Contra scandal.
- "No-one in the White House staff, no-one in this Administration, presently employed, was involved in this very bizarre incident" - Richard Nixon in 1972 on Watergate.
- Dwight Eisenhower approved statements claiming an American U-2 spy plane shot down by the Soviets in 1960 was just a weather research aircraft, later acknowledging this was a lie and his "greatest regret"
- "The world will note that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a military base" - Harry Truman in 1945, but the target was actually a city and most of the 140,000 or so people who died were civilians.

- "Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars" - Franklin Delano Roosevelt to voters in 1940, even as he flexed his political muscles to confront Nazi Germany.
- Mexico "has invaded our territory and shed American blood upon the American soil" - James Polk in his 1846 war message to Congress, about an attack he had provoked in what was actually disputed territory.

Churchill and Empire
A Portrait of an Imperialist

By Lawrence James [Pegasus Books; New York] 2014

Pg. 85

Crimean War Pretense

In 1854 the people had been **persuaded that the nation was fighting Russia as champion of a bullied and cowering Turkey, which was *in fact well able to look after itself.***

Bismarck - A Life

By Jonathan Steinberg [Oxford University Press; Oxford UK] 2011

Pg. 244-245

The Austrians had been out flanked on the Italian front by Bismarck's alliance with Italy and in Germany by his alliance with the people. **To the west Napoléon III could not make up his mind** nor assure unity among his advisers about what to do: to join Prussia and Italy? To extract German territory on the Rhine from the Prussians as compensation for neutrality? To back Austria to maintain the balance of power? *Bismarck played him like a big fish on a line, hauling him in, letting him out.* Yes, he would surrender territory, but the King? That was the difficulty and so on. **In the end, on 26 May 1866, Napoléon III — caught between greed and fear — called a conference in the name of France, Britain, and Russia to meet in Paris to mediate between the two German powers.**

...The Prussian government had accepted the invitation to Napoléon's conference in Paris, because Bismarck dared not to annoy the Emperor.

...The conference option fell through [Austrian territories in Italy were non-negotiable].

>>> On 2 June **1866**, King William I made one of his most important decisions. He decreed that the General Staff Chief **Helmuth von Moltke be officially in command of the Prussian army** with the right to issue orders in the name of the King.

>>> DOUBLE HYPER-IMPORTANT <<<

This broke the tradition of Frederick the Great that the King had to command his army in war and its preparations in peace. The years of preparation and attention to small things would pay off.

The History of Modern France
From the Revolution to the War with Terror

By Jonathan Fenby [Simon & Schuster; New York] 2015

Pg. 144

>>> **Failed Italian Policy: Nice-ly Done** <<<<

At the end of 1858, the emperor [Napoléon III] took a carriage ride in the Vosges Mountains with Count Camillo Benso di **Cavour**, prime minister of the Kingdom of Sardinia, as the region of Piedmont was known. ***Cavour was in France secretly on a false passport. Driving through the woods, they agreed to provoke a war in Italy in which Austria would appear the aggressor.*** France would intervene, and, after victory, Italy would be split into three kingdoms and the Turin-based régime represented by Cavour holding the upper hand. France would get Nice and Savoy. ***Far from uniting Italy, the emperor aimed to keep it divided, with France as the dominant power.***

>>> **Napoléon did not inform his government [shady by nature], but Cavour was spotted and news leaked out, causing he French ruler to delay.** He sent his cousin [Prince Napoléon/ Plon-Plon] to Russia to get the Tsar to agree not to support Austria in the event of a war in return for support from Paris for the revision of the Black Sea clauses of the treaty ending the Crimean war.

He then planted an anonymous article in the official newspaper denouncing Austrian rule in Italy while saying publically that he wished to avoid military conflict and proposing his favourite device of a European congress on the issue. Vienna turned this down and invaded the North Italian kingdom.

France went to war, *the emperor taking personal field command*....French army won victories... to the surprise of the Piedmontese, Napoléon then called off the war and engaged in negotiations with the Austrians...Napoléon's success vitiated, however, **when** he tripped himself up in attempting *a double game* on the papal lands...

>>>...Though France got Savoy and Nice in June 1860, *Garibaldi outflanked him with his campaign to liberate the south of the country.*

>>> When Italy voted overwhelmingly for national union, *Napoléon decided he had done enough meddling in its affairs and withdrew.*

...Nor was he able to do anything about Poland...

Napoléon III And His Carnival Empire

By John Bierman [St. Martin's Press; New York] 1988

Pg. 200-201

Italian Campaign: Lemonade out of Lemons

Well aware that the **French people** were far from happy with the ambiguous outcome of the campaign [Piedmont], he decided to deflect their discontent by staging an even bigger reception for the Army of Italy than he had done for the returning Crimean warriors.



Napoléon III at the Battle of Solferino

1863

by Ernest Meissonier

Musée d'Orsay

The War that Ended Peace

By Margaret MacMillan [Allen Lane - Penguin Books Canada; Toronto] 2013

Pg. 221

Emperor Franz Joseph

Franz Joseph found modern art puzzling but his sense of duty took him to public art exhibitions and the opening of important new buildings buildings, especially if they were under royal patronage. His taste in music ran to military marches or Strauss waltzes and, while he liked the theater and from time to time the prettier actress, he preferred the old favorites. He did not like unpunctuality, loud laughter or people who talked too much.

He had a sense of humor, of a rather basic sort. He had climbed the Great Pyramid in Egypt, he wrote to his wife, Empress Elisabeth, with the help of Bedouin guides; **“As they mostly wear only a shirt, when they are climbing they leave a lot exposed, and that must be the reason why English women so happily and frequently like to scale the pyramids.”**

Pg. 223

Maximilian Lost in Mexico

His personal life was complicated and often sad. **His brother Maximilian, had been executed in Mexico [Manet’s famous renditions] after a failed attempt to establish a kingdom there [Second Empire - Empress Eugénie’s influential hand on Napoléon III’s head since Mexico was conquered as Spanish territory and she was was of Spanish nobility]**, and the widow had gone mad. His only son, Rudolf, a troubled and unhappy young man, had committed suicide with his teenage mistress at his hunting edge of Mayerling. The authorities covered up the scandal but that did not stop rumors, many of them wild conspiracy theories, floating about. Franz Joseph carried on, as he always

did, but wrote to the actress Katharina Schratt, who was perhaps his closest friend in the world, that “things can never be the same.” To add to his burdens, the heir was likely to be his nephew **Franz Ferdinand, whom he did not particularly care for.**

Pg. 229-230

Franz Ferdinand's Bloodlust Character

It had not been expected that he would be the heir to the throne but **the execution of his uncle Maximilian of Mexico**, the suicide of his cousin Rudolf, and his own father's death from typhoid which he got from drinking the water from the River Jordan in the Holy Land, left him in 1896 at the age of thirty three as the next acceptable heir. (Franz Joseph youngest brother, Ludwig Victor, was still alive but surrounded by far too much scandal.) Franz Ferdinand himself had been seriously ill with tuberculosis shortly before his father's death; he was dismayed to see people paying court to his younger brother. He had recovered after a sea voyage and was to remain in good health until 1914.

Franz Ferdinand was a tall, handsome man with large expressive eyes and a loud domineering voice. If his mustache was not quite a match for Wilhelm's it nevertheless twirled smartly into sharp points....He was unforgiving with subordinates for even the smallest of mistakes. **Among others, he hated Jews, Freemasons and anyone who criticized or challenged the Catholic Church to which he was passionately devoted.** He loathed Hungarians (“traitors”) and Serbs (“pigs”). They should, he said frequently should be crushed.

There was something excessive about both his pleasures and hatreds. When he hunted he preferred to have the game, great quantities of it driven towards him as he shot until his guns turned red hot. It was said that he once suddenly demanded that a herd of deer be rounded up and shot all 200 of them as well as one of the beaters by mistake.

The War that Ended Peace

By Margaret MacMillan [Allen Lane - Penguin Books Canada; Toronto] 2013

Pg. 320

Supplies could go in opposite directions from the men who needed them or sit for weeks or months on railway sidings while men or whole units could wander about trying to find where they were meant to be.

>>> In 1859 Napoléon III sent a large force by train to Italy to fight Austria: the men arrived without blankets, food or ammunition.

“We have sent an army of 120,000 men into Italy,” he said, “before having stocked up any supplies there.” It was, he admitted, **“the opposite of what we should have done.”**

The Sleepwalkers

How Europe Went to War in 1914

By Christopher Clark [Harper Collins; New York] 2013

Pg. 65

Habsburg Empire's Headache at Solferino

Two military disasters defined the trajectory of the Habsburg Empire in the last half-century of its existence.

>>> At Solferino in 1859, French and Piedmontese forces prevailed over an army of 100,000 Austrian troops, opening the way to the creation of a new Italian nation-state.

At Königratz in 1866, the Prussians destroyed an Austrian army of 240,000, ejecting the empire from the emergent nation-state.

The cumulative impact of these shocks transformed the inner life of the Austrian lands.

Bismarck - A Life

By Jonathan Steinberg [Oxford University Press; Oxford UK] 2011

Pg. 244

An Austrian diplomat commented bitterly on **Bismarck's tactics**:

We appeal to the noble sentiments: patriotism, honor, principles of law, energy, courage, decision, sense of independence, etc. **He reckons on the lower motivations of human nature: avarice, cowardice, confusion, indolence, indecision and narrow-mindedness.**

Pg. 152

Solferino

On the wider European scene, the rumble of war between France and Austria grew louder. During April 1859 the Austrians marched blindly **into the trap that Napoléon III and Cavour had set for them.**

Under the rule of such **an incompetent, absolute monarch**, Austria declared war on Piedmont on 29 April [1859], **an act of aggression which triggered the Franco-Piedmontese treaty of alliance.**

The new military leadership moved too slowly and got caught in heavy rain in the Po Valley. The French army, though much smaller in numbers, had access to railroads and

for their forces into place earlier than the Austrians expected. **Giuseppe Garibaldi** had also organized his nationalist guerrillas into a force called the ‘Hunters of the Alps’, a fast unit which harassed Austrian flanks. Napoléon III had to work quickly because he could not be sure that the Austrians — as the leading German power — would not mobilize Prussia and the Bund on its side.

...Two big and very bloody battles followed: the Battle of Magenta on 4 June and from 21 to 24 June the Battle of Solferino at which the Franco-Piedmontese Army under Napoléon III defeated an Austria force under the Emperor Franz Joseph himself. **The battle left so many dead and wounded that it moved the Swiss observer Henri Dunant to found the Red Cross.**

>>> **Napoléon III was now in a hurry, because *he had lost control of his Italian policy*...**He needed to exit the war and quickly [Prussia may mobilize with Austria, he worried]....**Cavour resigned as Piedmontese Prime Minister in disgust at Napoléon’s betrayal [yet kept his gorgeous cousin Virginie, La Castiglione, in Paris close to the emperor]** and in Italy the nationalist forces of various kinds had no intention of letting the Great Powers dictate to them the nature of their glorious revolution. France had originally planned to take from Austria and give to Piedmont the two northern Italian provinces awarded to Austria in 1815 [post - Napoléon I’s defeat at Waterloo]...**As a result of fighting the French and Piedmontese had taken Lombardy, but Venetia remained firmly in Austrian hands.**

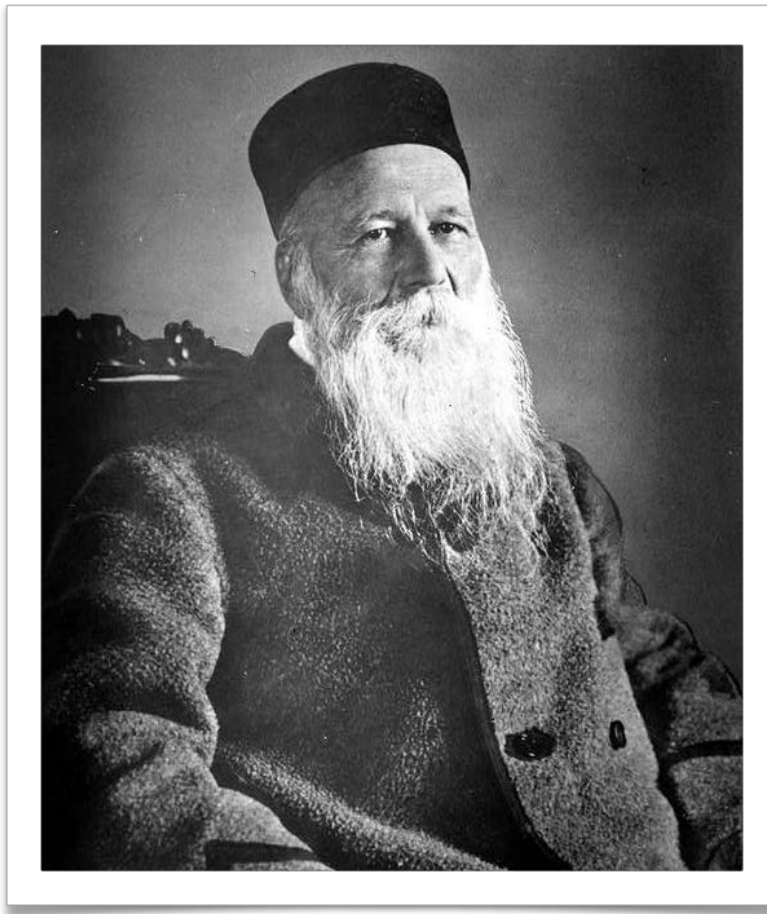
Bismarck had from the beginning argued that Prussia must stay neutral in the Austro-French war. **‘We are not rich enough to use up our strength in wars that do not earn us anything,’ he argued.**

The Battle of Solferino on 24 June **1859**, part of the **Second Italian War of Independence**. The battle ended with Italo-French capture of the *Rocca*, the fortress then in Austrian hands (Mantua, Lombardy, northern Italy).

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Red_Cross_and_Red_Crescent_Movement

- Truncated -

A devout Reformed Christian, **the Swiss businessman Jean-Henri Dunant**, in **June 1859**, traveled to Italy to meet French emperor Napoléon III *with the intention of discussing difficulties in conducting business in Algeria, at that time occupied by France*.



Jean-Henri Dunant (1828–1910), Swiss philanthropist and co-founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross; Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1901

He arrived in the small town of Solferino on **the evening of 24 June after the Battle of Solferino, an engagement in the Austro-Sardinian War. In a single day, about 40,000 soldiers on both sides died or were left wounded on the field.** Jean-Henri Dunant was shocked by the terrible aftermath of the battle, the suffering of the wounded soldiers, and the near-total lack of medical attendance and basic care.

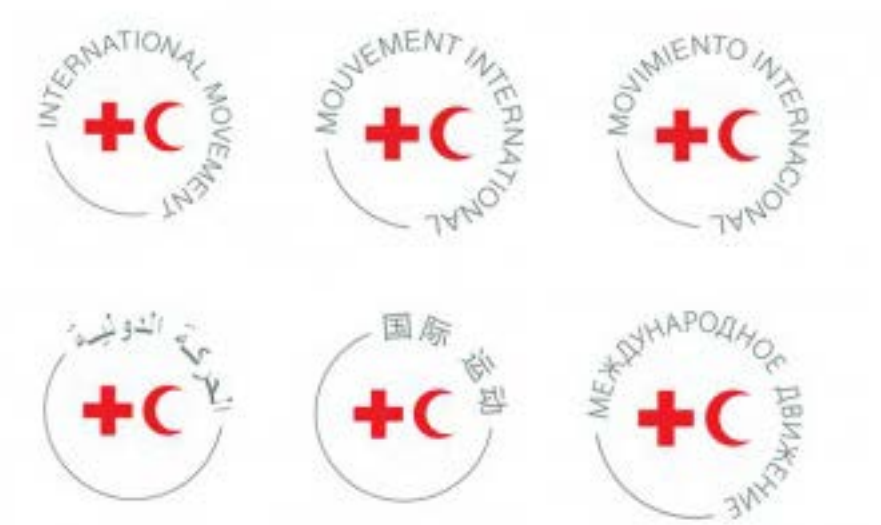
He completely abandoned the original intent of his trip and for several days he devoted himself to helping with the treatment and care for the wounded. **He took point in organizing an overwhelming level of relief assistance with the local villagers to aid without discrimination.**

>>> **Back in his home in Geneva, he decided to write a book entitled *A Memory of Solferino* which he published using his own money in 1862.** He sent copies of the book to leading political and military figures throughout Europe, and people he thought could help him make a change. In addition to penning a vivid description of his experiences in Solferino in 1859, he explicitly advocated the formation of national voluntary relief organizations to help nurse wounded soldiers in the case of war, an idea that was inspired by Christian teaching regarding social responsibility, as well as his experience after the battlefield of Solferino. In addition, he called for the development of an international treaty to guarantee the protection of medics and field hospitals for soldiers wounded on the battlefield.

On 22 August 1864, the conference adopted the first Geneva Convention "for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field".

Today:

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is an international humanitarian movement with approximately 97 million volunteers, members and staff worldwide which was founded to protect human life and health, to ensure respect for all human beings, and to prevent and alleviate human suffering.



International Red Cross hack exposes half a million vulnerable people

[bbc.com/news/world-60060047](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-60060047)

January 20, 2022

Hackers targeting the International Red Cross (ICRC) have stolen the personal details of more than half a million "highly vulnerable" people.

The humanitarian organisation, which works with victims of war, the missing and detainees around the world, said it had been the victim of a "sophisticated cyber-attack".

It is unclear who carried out the attack.

But the ICRC pleaded with whoever had taken the data not to leak or share it.

It said confidential information about 515,000 people - many of them vulnerable victims of war - had been taken. **The data came from more than 60 Red Cross and Red Crescent national societies around the world.**

>>> **The Geneva-based body [Dunant's home town]** said the hackers had targeted an external company in Switzerland that the ICRC used to store data.

There is no sign the data has yet been leaked, but the ICRC has had to shut down the system it uses to reunite families separated by war.

ICRC Director-General Robert Mardini said the hack put vulnerable people at greater risk.

"An attack on the data of people who are missing makes the anguish and suffering for families even more difficult to endure," Mr Mardini said.

"We are all appalled and perplexed that this humanitarian information would be targeted and compromised."

And he called on those responsible to "do the right thing - do not share, sell, leak or otherwise use this data".

Napoléon III And His Carnival Empire

By John Bierman [St. Martin's Press; New York] 1988

Pg. 200-201

Wave after wave the proud regiments passed, calling forth **the acclaim of a populace intoxicated with *second-hand glory***, an acclaim which included and embraced the *vivandières* and *cantinières*- those leathery female camp followers, fulfilling the functions of nurse, water carrier, cook and prostitute, without whom no French Army of the period ever took the field.

At the head of his troops, mounted on a splendid English charger, rode the emperor, rouged and dyed to conceal the physical and mental toll which age, loose living, and the campaign itself exacted. To the crowd he appeared, as ever, **a heroic figure on horseback, and when he reined in at the Place Vendôme to take the salute and a palace servant brought the little Prince Impérial to sit on the bow of his father's saddle, the populace went wild.**

Dressed in the scarlet uniform of the Impérial Guard, the three-year old Lou-Lou saluted solemnly, then tore his Legion of Honor and sash from his breast and threw it to the passing Zouaves, who proudly pinned it to their battle-rent colors. Did he do it on the instructions of his father, or was the act of spontaneous? No matter which, it was a gesture worthy of his great uncle [Napoléon I]- a gesture old soldiers would remember on their death beds, the theatrical apogée of a *carnival Empire*.



*The Empress Eugénie holding Louis-Napoléon,
the Prince Impérial, on her Knees*

by Franz Xaver Winterhalter, **1857**



1814 *Campagne de France*

Napoléon and his staff returning from Soissons after the Battle of Laon

by Ernest Meissonier 1864 Musée d'Orsay

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Laon

The Battle of Laon (9–10 March 1814) was the victory of Blücher's Prussian army over Napoléon's French army near Laon. This setback did not by itself spell the end for Napoléon. Just a few days later, the French crushed an isolated enemy corps at Reims. Blücher's Army of Silesia remained inactive for a week after the victory. Nevertheless, the Allied stand had prevented Napoléon from driving them further north. **The Allies were still in a position to advance on Paris, which they did at the end of March.**

Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize 2019

By David W. Blight [Simon & Schuster; New York] 2018

Pg. 287

Strike the First Blow for Liberty

To Douglass, though, history was both warning and inspiration. He also use the model of the West Indian emancipation to remind audiences that Jamaican slaves had rebelled many times on their road to a parliamentary edict of their freedom. **He reminded his black audience in upstate New York of McCune Smith's overt plea in 1856 that they [blacks] not wait for liberty to be given, as in the British Empire, and instead celebrate their own heroes such as Denmark Vesey and Nat Turner.** As he so often did in the 1850s, Douglass quoted the passage from Byron's *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, **"Who would be free, themselves must strike the first blow."**

Pg. 293

Kansas on My Mind

The Radical Abolition Party lasted a mere five years. **At the 1855 gathering**, McCune Smith chaired the proceedings, which Douglass especially celebrated as something to which black people could "every proudly refer." ...**Most important, the convention's delegates from ten states and Canada passed a resolution affirming the use of violence to overthrow slavery.** Brown was exhilarated by the convention. According to Douglass, Brown presented the case for his own decision and that of his song to go to Kansas and fight for the free-state cause.

Pg. 294

Brown's Bleeding Kansas

No one who knew John Brown ever doubted his bravery, his passion, or that he believed he was living and dying as an agent in God's plan. **He went to Kansas in the fall of 1855 to make war on slavery.** As Douglass published and promoted Bondage and Freedom that autumn, Brown, accompanied by his teenage son Oliver and son-in-law, Henry Thompson, traveled west to eastern Kansas primarily by walking, but also with a horse and a wagon full of weapons. There, with parts of his extended family, including women and children, living in tents and shanties, the fifty-five year old, soon called Captain Brown, led a band of warriors among the free-state forces in what soon became "Bleeding Kansas."

Kansas was a brutal physical and political environment. **Members of Brown's clan suffered frostbite and near starvation during the winter of 1855-1856, and by that spring, the numerous murders and depredations by proslavery "border ruffians" from Missouri signaled the wider bloodshed to follow.**

Pg. 299

Preparing for Harper's Ferry

On April 4 Brown once again arrived in Rochester, where he spent a night with Douglass. Accompanied by the former fugitive slave Jermain Loguenm and still preparing and recruiting for his convention in Chatham the next month, **he then traveled to St. Catherines, Canada, to visit and try to enlist Harriet Tubman in his cause. The legendary Tubman, with her years of experience rescuing slaves in Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware, now lived in St. Catherines.** Although she encouraged and advised Brown and left the Old Man in awe, she never made any promises to join him. If he could muster enough men, money, and guns, **Brown had planned to launch his raid in 1858** soon after the Chatham gathering.

Pg. 311

John Brown's Bastille Bomb Drop

He has dropped an *idea*, equal to a thousand bombshells into the very Bastille of slavery...

Pg. 274-275

From 1854 to the Civil War, Douglass found much to attack in Republican ideology. At times he condemned “free soilism” and the Slave Power with almost the same ire. “Free soilism is lame, halt, and blind,” wrote **Douglass in 1855**, “**while it battles against the spread of slavery, and admits its right to exist anywhere....To Douglass in 1855-56, the Republican vision seemed a hollow promise leaving millions doomed to bondage.**

But by August Douglass did an about-face, shocking some of his friends, and **enthusiastically endorsed for president the Republican John C. Frémont, famous western explorer and former California senator** [City of Fremont at southern San Francisco Bay, with many high-tech companies now; Frémont was of French ancestry].

[Confederate General] **Victor Girardey**

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_Girardey

- Truncated -

Victor Jean Baptiste Girardey (June 26, 1837 – August 16, **1864**) was a Confederate States Army officer during the American Civil War. He was promoted from Captain to temporary Brigadier General less than a month before his death in battle.

...**born** on June 26, 1837 **at Lauw, France; and emigrated to Georgia with his family in 1842.** Orphaned by the age of 16, **he completed his education in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he married a Louisiana woman of French descent, Clotilde LeSueur.**

...was appointed aide-de-camp to **[Confederate] Brigadier General Albert G. Blanchard** [lived and buried in New Orleans].

During the Battle of the Crater, Girardey distinguished himself by his performance in organizing and timing Mahone's counterattack after the Union Army's mine exploded under the Confederate line. He led two brigades from behind the Confederate line in order to fill the gap in the line caused by the mine explosion.

On August 3, **1864**, Girardey was promoted several grades from Captain to temporary Brigadier General, to rank from July 30, 1864. **Historian Mark Boatner says that General Lee made the promotion in the field.**

[Confederate General] **Pierre Gustave Toutant-Beauregard**

>>> First to open fire with cannons at Fort Sumter to start Civil War <<<

On first meeting, most people were struck by [Beauregard's] "foreign" appearance [native son of Louisiana]. His skin was smooth and olive-complexioned. His eyes, half-lidded, were dark, with a trace of Gallic melancholy about them. His hair was black (though by 1860 he maintained this hue with dye).



P.G.T. Beauregard **1861**

by George Healy

>>> He was strikingly handsome and *enjoyed the attentions of women*, but probably not excessively or illicitly.

He sported a dark mustache and goatee, and *he rather resemble Napoléon III, then ruler of France*—although he often saw himself in the mold of *the more celebrated Napoléon Bonaparte*.

David Detzer, Allegiance



*Première distribution des décorations de la Légion d'honneur dans l'église des Invalides,
le 14 juillet 1804* 1812

by Jean-Baptiste Debret

Mystery of Napoléon's missing general solved in Russian discovery

[bbc.com/news/world-europe-50329041](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-50329041)

November 07, 2019

Napoléon's favourite general has been formally identified after DNA tests on a one-legged skeleton found under a dance floor in western Russia.

Analysis confirmed that the bones belonged to Charles-Étienne Gudin de La Sablonnière, French archaeologists say.

Gudin, aged 44, was hit by a cannonball near the city of Smolensk during the French invasion of Russia in 1812.

He had to have his leg amputated and died three days later from gangrene. **His heart was taken back to France.**

What did French archaeologists say?

The search for Gudin's remains began in May and was led by Pierre Malinowski, a historian with support from the Kremlin.

This week he said that DNA tests from the remains found in Russia matched those of Pierre-César Gudin de La Sablonnière, Charles-Étienne Gudin's brother and also a Napoleonic general.

"The DNA fits 100%," Mr Malinowski told France's France Bleu broadcaster.

"There is no longer any doubt."

At the time of his death on 22 August 1812, the French army removed Gudin's heart and buried it in a chapel in Paris' Père Lachaise cemetery.

Researchers used the memoirs of Louis-Nicolas Davout, another French general of the Napoleonic era, who organised Gudin's funeral and described the location. They then followed another witness account, which directed them to the coffin.

Who was General Gudin?

An aristocrat by birth, Gudin was a veteran of both the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars.

He attended the same military school as Napoléon Bonaparte, and is believed to have been one of the French emperor's favourite generals.

>>> A bust of his likeness resides in the Palace of Versailles, his name is inscribed on the Arc de Triomphe monument in Paris and *he also has a street in the French capital named after him.*

What about Napoleon's invasion of Russia?

The military campaign ended in a disastrous retreat from Moscow in 1812.

Napoléon's Grande Armée (Great Army) of 400,000 men was thought to be unbeatable and he himself had anticipated a rapid victory.

But having initially captured Moscow after the Russian army withdrew during a harsh winter, the emperor then realised he too had to turn back.

In a letter in which he vowed to blow up the Kremlin, Napoléon exposed his frustration at the campaign, with his army ravaged by disease, cold and hunger: **"My cavalry is in tatters, a lot of horses are dying."**

Soldiers killed in Napoléon's 1812 retreat buried [209 years later]

[bbc.com/news/world-europe-56052504](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56052504)

February 13, 2021

The bodies of French and Russian soldiers who died during Napoléon's retreat from Moscow have been laid to rest at a ceremony in western Russia.

Along with the 120 soldiers, three women and three teenage boys were also buried.

The remains were discovered two years ago by a team of French and Russian archaeologists.

Napoléon's disastrous retreat from Moscow, in 1812, marked the end of his invasion of Russia.

His vast army had made rapid advances, capturing Moscow, but never secured a decisive victory. He retreated and his forces were ravaged by cold, hunger, and guerrilla attacks from Russian forces.

The remains were buried in freezing conditions at a monastery in the town of Vyazma.

All are thought to have been killed during the Battle of Vyazma, which happened at the start of Napoléon's retreat.

The three women are thought to have provided food and first aid for the troops, while the boys served as drummers.

The romanticized gold standard as the modern empire builder;
an emperor too often idealized and emulated generations later after he capitulated.

A narcissistic war-monger that expounded Liberty, reinstated African slavery;
insatiable imperial greed and subjugation overriding Equality and Fraternity.
Millions of lives, French and otherwise, uprooted and lost for his personal glory.



Napoléon Bonaparte 1813

by Jacques-Louis David

Napoléon's gravity-defying 325km road

[bbc.com/travel/article/20220120-napoleons-gravity-defying-325km-road](https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20220120-napoleons-gravity-defying-325km-road)

By John Silcox

January 21, 2022

The Route Napoléon gives visitors the chance to put themselves in the boots of the emperor, deep dive into Gallic culture and unlock the beauty of unspoiled natural landscapes.

Things weren't looking good for Napoléon Bonaparte in early 1815. The former emperor of France had been in exile on the small Mediterranean island of Elba for nearly a year, he was separated from his young family and his finances were dwindling. There were also rumours about his impending banishment to an even more remote island in the middle of the Atlantic.

Instead of waiting for fate, the Corsican took matters into his own hands: escaping by boat and travelling to France. He landed at Golfe-Juan on the Côte d'Azur on February 28 with 700 loyal men and started marching towards Paris over difficult terrain to avoid arrest. Despite being declared an enemy of the state and having a price on his head, he reached his destination in less than two and a half weeks. Not only that but by the time he got to the French capital, he had raised an army and retaken control of the country – against all odds.

This return is remembered as one of the greatest comebacks of all time and the path Bonaparte took through the Alpes to Grenoble – before continuing on to Paris – has also gained a certain notoriety. Known as the Route Napoléon, this 200-mile (325km) road attracts visitors from all over the world who come here to follow the emperor's footsteps and retrace a journey that changed the course of European history forever.

A national treasure

"The Route Napoléon is a French national treasure," explained Jérôme Viaud, the mayor of Grasse, a town best known for its perfume industry as well as being one of the main stop-offs on the Bonaparte's journey. "It stretches from the Mediterranean Sea all the way up to the Alpes mountains, boasting an incredible diversity of landscapes, architecture, culture and history. There's no better way to get a snapshot of our fascinating but complex country, and I invite visitors to come experience it for themselves."

Viaud is also president of the A.N.E.R.N (Action Nationale des Elus pour la Route Napoléon), an association dedicated to linking the 42 villages, towns and cities crossed by this famous road. Among the list are several highlights such as Valluris, a seaside resort loved by jetsetters and artists such as Pablo Picasso; Cannes, the French Riviera town that hosts the famous international film festival; Castellane, the drop-off point for the [Gorges du Verdon canyon](#); the commune of Sisteron, with its medieval jewel of a citadel; Gap, once voted the sportiest city in France; and Grenoble, the capital of the French Alpes.

"The aim of the association is to link all these places through the mediums of history and storytelling," Viaud said. "Rather than taking the motorway, we want to encourage visitors to go deeper into the French and European past by following this slower road and discovering these wonderful places. The best bit is you don't have to follow it step-by-step; we suggest people to drop in and out as they desire – taking the opportunity to get lost in some of these wonderful surroundings."

Far from waning, Viaud believes the appeal of the emperor is as strong as it ever was. In a recent survey carried out by his association, 74% of tourists they spoke to >>> placed Bonaparte as *the most important figure in French history*.

"The image of the emperor is still very good in France today," he added. "He remains a very popular character and inspires interest, as well as respect. **When I speak to people, they are very much in awe of Napoléon, his personality, his power and what he represents in terms of order, which is something society is perhaps lacking today.**"

"For me, Napoléon is fascinating because he went against the grain and achieved things that others thought were impossible – like his comeback. His political influence is still felt all throughout the French system, whether it's the decentralisation of power to the academic and merits systems. He even set the foundations for the modern Route Nationale highway network, which is still in place today – so it's only fitting we should celebrate this road named after him."

Global significance >>> Reinstating Slavery & Misogynist <<<

>>> Despite being a very controversial and problematic figure (by, for example, *re-instating slavery and having misogynistic views*), Bonaparte has had an enduring charisma that influenced the world. His journey back to power not only changed France but it also sent shock waves much further afield.

"Napoléon's return had a global impact," said Kate Astbury, a professor of French studies at the University of Warwick who has deeply investigated the effects of his rule on society and culture. **"The war against him stretched all over becoming more than just a battle between Britain and France. Other European nations were brought in, and it also *has a very direct effect on places like the Caribbean, which becomes a hotbed of action during this era.*"**

Bonaparte's mind-bending comeback also stirred up questions of sovereignty – otherwise known as the authority to govern. Other European rulers were particularly worried when the people of France welcomed him home. ***He didn't have royal blood nor any real***

legitimacy for his background in a time where monarchs were believed to get their power from God.

"In Britain, the caricaturists love his return, too, as he is making fool of the old monarchs," Astbury explained. "Secretly, many people are delighted he is back breaking the boring old status quo. Then when he is finally defeated at Waterloo, a few months after his escape, crowds flocked to see exhibitions of his possessions and were fascinated by what he represented. He quickly becomes a bit of a cult figure."

Natural Beauty

Today, the modern N85 road (the official name of the Route Napoléon) doesn't quite follow the exact path Bonaparte took in 1815. Back when the emperor made his journey, there wasn't a single tarmac route to follow, but rather a succession of tracks and pathways, as well as some cross-country excursions in some parts.

To get closer to what Bonaparte experienced himself, the best way is to set off by foot. There are quite literally thousands of pathways and hikes to follow that take walkers through quaint villages, ancient farmland, impressive geological formations and Unesco-protected natural parks and forests. The general climate is also very mild, which makes hiking very pleasant at most times of the year.

"The South-East of France is a wonderfully diverse and interesting part of the world to explore by foot," explained Andrea Bacher, a mountain guide who specialises in the Verdon Gorges canyon and the region of Castellane. "I've been working here for more than 30 years, and I still discover something new each time I head out. The natural landscape is especially rich, and because a lot of this terrain is difficult to access, many things haven't really changed in thousands of years."

The Gorges du Verdon canyon is a particularly popular destination for hikers, climbers, water sports enthusiasts and nature lovers. It's an awe-inspiring rift through a high plateau which slices down to a bright turquoise river, offering up a glimpse of how the region's

current geology came to be. It is also a haven for wildlife, boasting many endemic plant species and a wide range of wild animal species – many that are rare.

"A lot of visitors are very excited when they see the spectacular wildlife – especially the vultures," explained Bacher. "These birds were reintroduced to the area back in the 1990s and their numbers have grown rapidly. It's quite a sight when they soar overhead, their gigantic bodies cast quite a shadow, and because of their shape and plumage, people often mistake them for eagles – which we also have living in the region and are a star attraction."

Eagles are also a link back to Bonaparte, as it was this bird that he chose to represent his empire, taking cues from the Romans. Golden standards (flag poles mounted by a statue) depicting the French Imperial Eagle were handed out to his regiments for battle. Sadly, the popularity of these animals and their habitat in the summer months is linked to conflict today. However, Bacher says that inconsiderate visitors are leading locals to reconsider mass tourism and find more sustainable approaches to business.

"Since the pandemic, we are experiencing problems during the peak of the season," she said. "The number of visitors, especially French nationals, has greatly risen during the middle of summer, and the infrastructure here is struggling to cope. Large camping cars blocking up the narrow village roads are a real problem, as is illegal parking, camping and littering. We would recommend people to come out of season if they can – things are cheaper, less busy and altogether better for the ecosystem. Coming by public transport would also be good."

A driver's heaven

Motoring enthusiasts will nevertheless argue that driving remains the best way to experience the Route Napoléon, with the modern stretch of tarmac – rather than the road's imperial history – being the major attraction.

"It truly has to be the greatest driving road in France," explained Richard Pardon, a UK-based automotive photographer who specialises in high-performance vehicles. "From dramatic corners carved into the cliffside, to open sweeping sections that run through a forest, the Route Napoléon has it all. It's a bucket list drive with 180-degree switchbacks, hairpins, tunnels, bridges and quaint villages ideal for a lunch stop, that offer views out onto deep gorges filled with gleaming water."

Pardon first visited Route Napoléon in 2015 and was blown away by the gravity-defying road he discovered. He has since made frequent trips down to the South of France to capture dramatic driving pictures for magazines and luxury car manufacturers.

"I've shot here five times now, but it still never gets old," he said. "The landscape changes from North to South, each vista as beautiful as the rest. Whereas most mountain passes are usually tight and technical, the Route Napoléon flows. It showcases the characteristics of a car, all whilst taking in the stunning scenic views. That's not to say a local in a Fiat Panda won't put your Lamborghini to shame around one of the narrow twisty sections."

As a photographer, Pardon usually looks for scenic roads, bathed in good light and with good sightlines, that are quiet enough to work on safely. For him, the Route Napoléon has everything and can showcase a variation of landscape in a short distance, which helps convey the sense of journey through pictures. The good weather also makes it a year-round destination.

"There's a particular stretch of road just off Route Napoléon that runs to a small ski resort, and in the summer months, it's almost deserted with long sweeping switchbacks that rise up and over the mountain until you reach a forest. It's ideal for car-to-car photography, so much so that the iconic Aston Martin DB5 versus Ferrari 355 James Bond car chase in *GoldenEye* was filmed here."

Interestingly, James Bond's creator Ian Fleming was fascinated by the French emperor and frequently referenced Bonaparte and his rival, British general Arthur Wellesley, in his

work. Most Bond baddies in fact all suffer from a Napoleonic complex – otherwise known as a desire to rule the world.

Regardless of whether you consider the French ruler a hero or a villain, it's easy to understand why retracing this stretch of road is incredibly revealing about Bonaparte and those who followed him. And whether you come down for the history, the culture, the nature or the tarmac: it's all worth the visit. Just try not to get any ideas about global domination...

Napoléon's incendiary legacy divides France 200 years on

[bbc.com/news/world-europe-56977769](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56977769)

By Lucy Williamson

BBC Paris correspondent

May 05, 2021

On a busy street in the centre of Montauban in southern France, with roadworks blasting the pavement nearby, **there is a spot earmarked for a new statue of France's last national dictator.**

Once Europe's biggest problem, Napoléon Bonaparte is still posing a dilemma for France, 200 years after his death in exile on the Atlantic island of St Helena.

Napoleon was a brilliant military general, who saved the French Revolution and laid the foundations of the modern French state. He also gave Montauban its own county in 1808, despite being less than an hour's drive from Toulouse.

>>> But is that enough to offset his dictatorship and aggression, and his decision to reinstate slavery after it had been abolished in France?

"As with any historical figure, some parts are darker than others," said deputy mayor Philippe Bécade. "If you take just one element, it's very easy to condemn anyone. Today we're in a dictatorship of the politically correct, and I'm among those who want to fight it."

So how do you commemorate Napoléon in the 21st Century?

In a light-filled barn two hours' drive away, Emmanuel Michel unveils the emperor's head and tell-tale hat, half-emerged from a lump of red clay.

The face is pensive, the eyes downcast.

Divisions over how France should remember Napoléon have grown since the bicentenary of his birth 50 years ago, with *much of the debate now focusing on his reintroduction of slavery to islands in the Caribbean and Indian Ocean.*

>>> "Napoléon was a military pragmatist," says Prof Malick Ghachem, a historian with France's Foundation for the Memory of Slavery.

"For him, as for many others, having a massive slave empire in the Caribbean was good for the greater glory of France and the French economy. But does it make sense to centre this debate on the figure of Napoléon himself? If you think he's the person calling the shots and shaping the course of events that doesn't necessarily change how you interpret French history".

On the 200th anniversary of Napoléon's coronation as emperor in 2005, both the French president and prime minister at the time found themselves out of the country. Cabinet colleagues, including then-interior minister Nicolas Sarkozy, decided against joining any commemorations.

Stand too close to Napoléon, many politicians have judged, and there is a risk you will get burned.

Not so President Emmanuel Macron, who will on Wednesday lay a wreath at Napoléon's tomb after giving a speech about his legacy.

It won't be a "blissful hagiography, or a denial, or a repentance", says the Elysée Palace, but will suggest that France took the best from the emperor's legacy and separated it from the worst.

>>> Power of nostalgia

But politicians like Alexis Corbière, from the far-left party France Insoumise, believe the state - and especially the president - should not be commemorating the anniversary at all.

"He's making political use of history, and that poses a problem for me," Mr Corbière told the BBC. **"It's worrying in the current French climate, when there is widespread doubt about democracy, and *when some French people perhaps even hope for an authoritarian strongman.*"**

The original authoritarian strongman of the early 1800s is still etched into the memory of France's European neighbours, according to Renaud Blanloeil, who runs a group that organises reconstructions of Napoleonic battles in full costume.

"We don't have any enemies locally to fight against," he told me. "So we invite friends from European countries."

"When we go to Spain," he continued, "we're the enemy. We keep our head down there, because it's still a very fragile topic, just like when British people come to re-enact in France and sometimes walk on eggshells when they're here."

He says that 500km (311 miles) away in Italy the reaction is completely different.

"We're welcomed as heroes because the French army rescued them from Austria. Once, after a battle, we walked down the streets in Milan and people sitting at the cafés stood up to applaud us, shouting 'Vive La France!' I'd never seen anything like it."

>>> A name that resonates

At home and abroad, Napoléon is not a name that is easy to live up to, or live down. One reason, perhaps, why so few people in France have been given it.

Napoléon Nguyen is one of the exceptions.

A reserve officer with the French air force, Napoléon was named after the French emperor, as a tribute to the country that accepted his parents as refugees after the Vietnam War.

"It was disturbing to learn about Napoléon in school," he told me. "I was quite a shy kid, but it was important to learn where this name came from. I think he did a lot more good things for France than bad. And I feel lucky not to have been named another controversial character, like Attila for example."

One of his air force colleagues told him that it was a dream to be named after Napoléon.

"I don't want to say it too loudly," Napoléon admitted, "but I'm actually much more passionate about the Battle of Britain."

>>> Napoléon Bonaparte was a man who knew the power of public image.

One of his favourite portraits shows him leading his army across the Alps on a magnificent horse. He was actually riding a mule.

Two centuries later his image here is more balanced, more controversial. But his relationship to France was always complex: a man who died in exile, after the shame of military defeat, and was laid to rest in honour under a golden dome.



c. 1858



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