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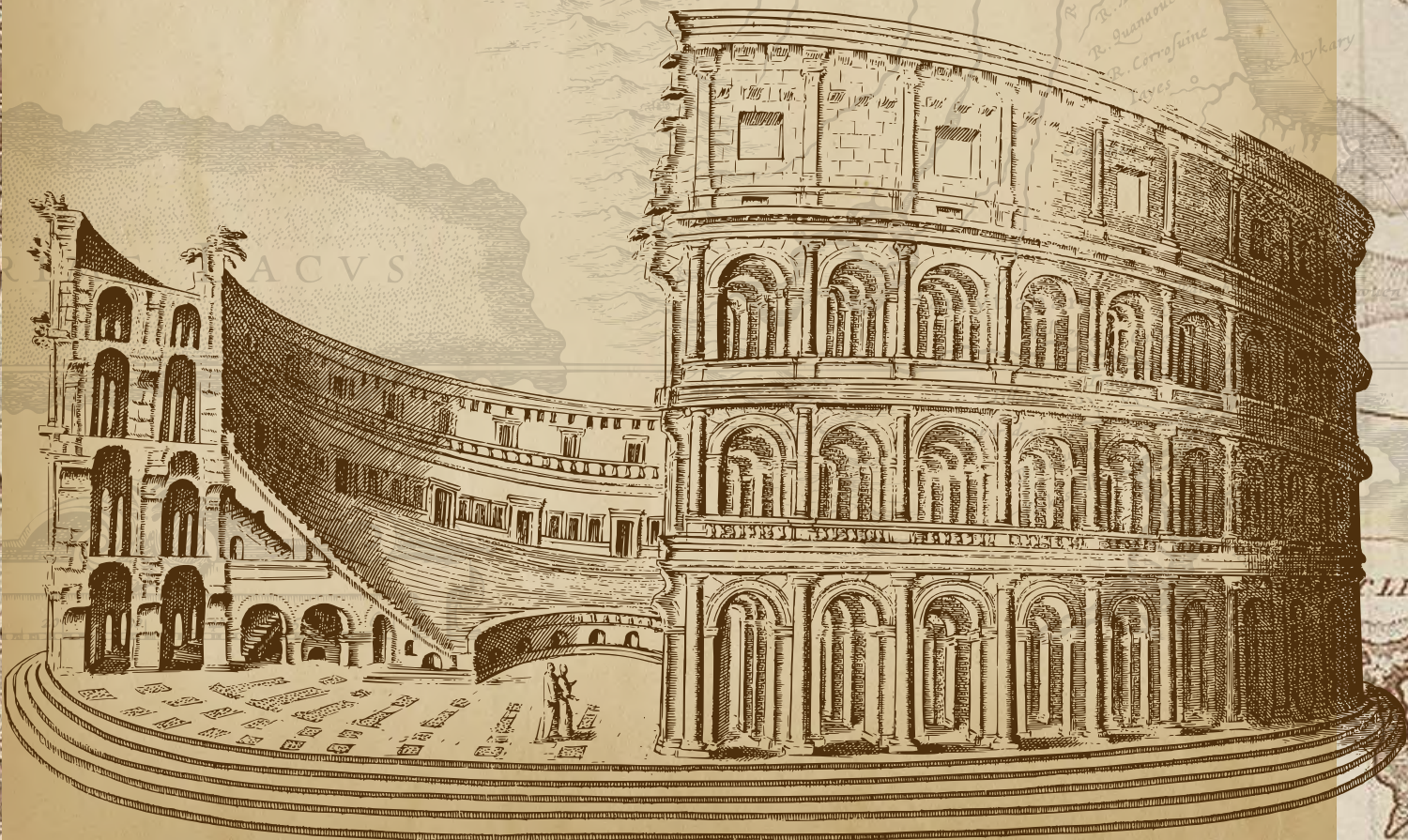
# HISTORY BUZZ

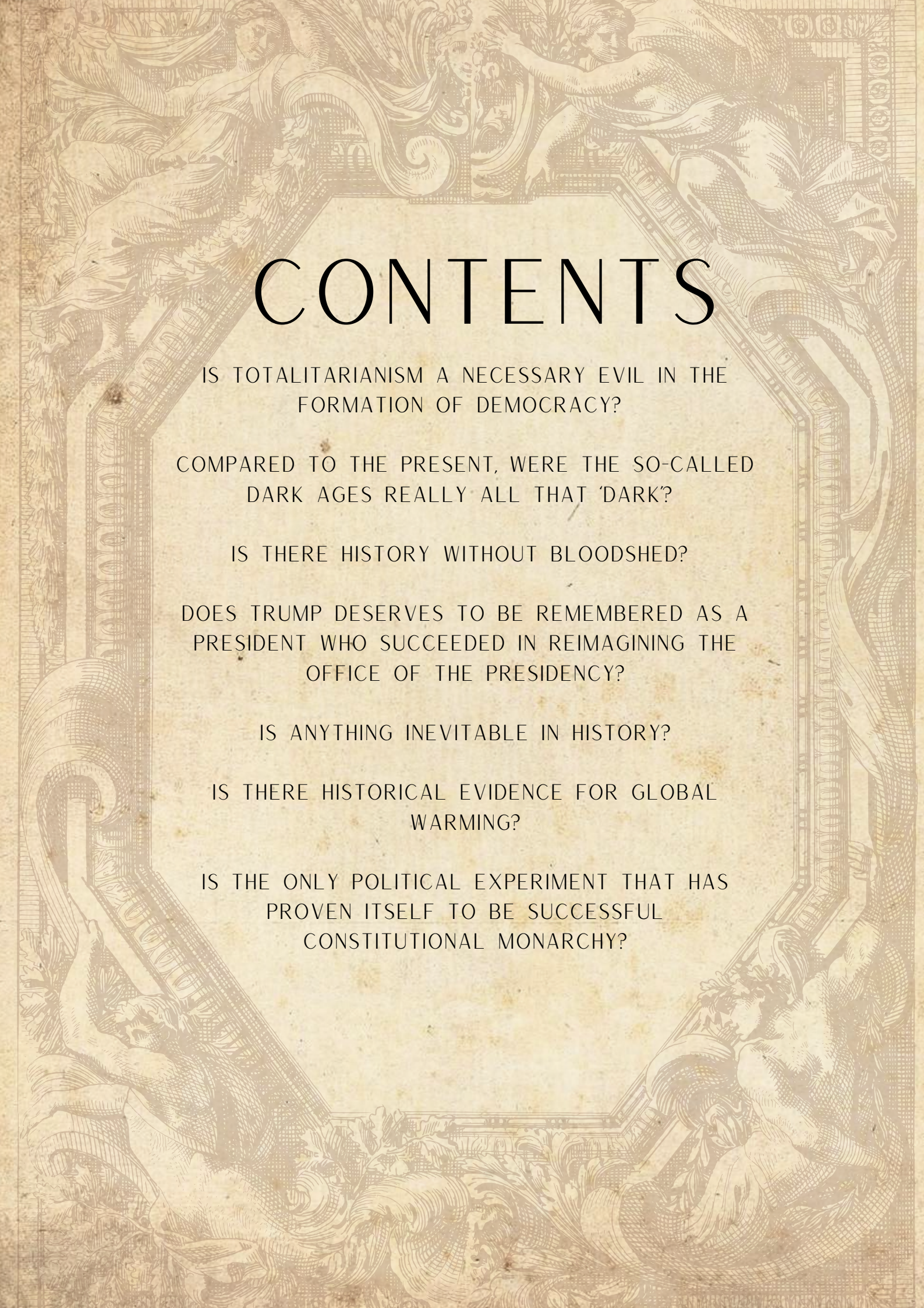


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# IS TOTALITARINISM A NECESSARY EVIL IN THE FORMATION OF DEMOCRACY ?

Totalitarianism's model was outlined by Carl Joachi Freidrich in the 1950's. It posited that those powers possessed by leaders such as Stalin, stressed the need for conformity by the Soviet Union's citizens, as well as other previous Totalitarian models, such as those of other prototypical leaders of the modern era. Yet, totalitarianism's various forms pose a significant challenge to historians, as to whether totalitarianism provides a necessary evil to form a democratic, civilised nation. Austrian writer Franz Borkenau commented on this matter in his 1938 'The Communist International' whereby his internal commentary narrates the simple matter of unity rather than division seen in German dictatorships, such as Nazi Germany.

The existence of explicit national ideology that follows the pretences of totalitarianism can be deemed a necessary act to fulfil the features of a democratic system, aiming to provide a sense of direction to its nation's citizens, with Benito Mussolini stating that, 'Everything (should be) within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state.'



The people's cooperation, thus, remains at the forefront of Totalitarianism as an ideology. Yet, this can be viewed as a means to coerce the people into state cooperation, and therefore, direct its principles away from that of a democratic nation. Hannah Arend reflects this perspective in her post-Nazi German book, 'The Origins of Totalitarianism'. Amid the Cold War, Arend's book reflects on the entirely new formation of government that is the totalitarian regime, dissecting the structure of Nazism and Stalinist Bolshevism in power, scrutinising the double-sided nature of totalitarianism and emphasising how totalitarian regimes provide, 'total domination and global rule'. The considerations of various historical governments and their impact on the ability to rule democratically is a central focus. Totalitarian laws of motion can stabilise human beings so that predetermined courses of both nature and history can run freely.

Francesco Nitti's view, 'Freedom? Many people smile at the word. Democracy? Parliaments? There are few who do not speak ill of Parliaments ...' directly mirrors, 'The Deserted Temple':

Democracy's rise and fall' and the subjugation of peoples in the name of forming a democratic society. The book highlights how the demand for constitutional reform during the early 20th century, such as that of November 1918's provisional constitution declaring Austria to be a 'democratic republic', soon transpired into the Kaiser's forced exile in Germany and an instilled transitional liberal regime. Furthermore, it explores the 1919 National Constituent Assembly of Germany, citing that the constitution would ensure, 'The Reich is a republic. All political authority is derived from the people. In many ways, the demand for constitutional reform poses a larger reform issue, the need for enhanced social responsibility through parliamentary democracy, where individuals have political authority derived from themselves rather than solely the state. Thus, pure democracy has various central benefits, amid the chaos of post-war-central Europe and a new, democratic and constitutional order was, indeed, deemed necessary.

Totalitarianism, however, when refined can have some positives, with its limitations. Statistically, post-totalitarian governments are not as contained by the rule of law as traditional democratic governments.

As the judiciary is not entirely separate from the executive, informally, some judges do still classify themselves as low-level executives, following the orders of the state rather than acting according to those above them in a social hierarchy system. In many ways, this minimises unnecessary bias and can lead to actions becoming more stately rather than conflicted through unintentional personal appointments or opinions.

However, their rulings often focus on the interests of the most powerful as opposed to performing their constitutional obligations. Yet, post-totalitarian authorities have produced an elite with a maintaining interest in political power, leading to a persistently independent and civil society in the aftermath of experiencing a totalitarian regime. Whilst the duration of a totalitarian government has various adverse impacts in terms of censorship, the aftermath -particularly in Eastern Europe and Latin America- the impacts have been heavy and far-reaching. A prime example of this is the emergence of a strict civil society to constrict democratic governments but also encourages various populist policies.

Often, totalitarian elites become stable and secure to establish a ruling class that benefits them, gradually replacing professional revolutionaries, with historian John Hall stating that, 'technocracy replaced idiocracy'. Ultimately, however, in its attack on liberal individualism, fascism proposes a social project revolutionary in its implications. The bourgeois division of life into public and private spheres was replaced by a 'totalitarian' conception of politics in several cases as a complete lived experience 'One cannot be a Fascist in politics ... and non-Fascist in school, non-Fascist in the family circle, non-Fascist in the workshop.' Mark Mazower's, 'Dark Continent' details the various instances of this cycle occurring and the impacts of a totalitarian regime on the proletariat as well as the bourgeoisie, particularly that of Mussolini's Italian parliamentary government. Early theorists such as Italian philosopher Giovanni Gentile indicated the ways by which fascism supposedly offered a new life for the people of Italy and an escape from the liberal democracy and the church, such as the process of the 1929 Lateran Pacts. However, Mussolini's deposition at the hands of King Vittorio Emanuele displayed how not even totalitarian leadership is able to indefinitely transcend all other bases of political authority and much compromise is ultimately

required to defy the key morales individuals held at the time, in particular towards the church.

Interwar thinkers such as Franz Borkenau observed how the right-wing regimes of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy differentiated from their left-wing counterparts, such as its left-wing variant of the Soviet Union that offered its systems various benefits that a natural democratic society may not have been able to: guaranteed employment, medical care and housing. Carl Friedrich And Zbigniew Brzezinski's 1957 book, 'Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy' offered further insight into totalitarianism as a model for inspection coalesced around six key areas such as that of an overarching, all-encompassing ideology, a single party state, a police force willing to use terror to enforce the will of the state and its ideological vision, a monopoly on communications to manage this society and also one on weapons within the state; and a centrally directed economy to work in the interest of the state. Such qualities of totalitarianism, as well as the ideology it pushes onto its people as a whole, do ultimately undermine the core principles of free will and the ability for people to achieve equality of outcome due to the impact its ruling classes had and still have to the present day. Much of Totalitarianism and the subsequent authoritarianism it implements still occur during the modern age, such as that of Putin's Russian authoritarianism through the dismissal of factual information and the implementation of manipulation through misinformation.

In terms of Totalitarianism providing a necessary evil in the form of democracy as a principle, this can be true. However, in practice, it is evident that the totalitarian regime's ultimate fascist, as well as authoritarian demise, illustrates how it is an unnecessary evil which contradicts its underlying principles. Most notably, Arend's work, 'The Origins of totalitarianism' displays how past totalitarian regimes such as Hitler and Stalin eradicate human freedom through the 'true central institution of totalitarian organisational power,'. Totalitarian systems' terror and logicity do equip themselves with the power to dominate human beings and their free will, inverting political life and ultimately destroying human consciousness and warping their citizen's understanding, depicting the reality that there is no justification for any totalitarian regime due to the lack of democracy it truly does instil.

**By Niav.E**

# COMPARED TO THE PRESENT, WERE THE SO-CALLED DARK AGES REALLY THAT 'DARK'?

Ruth Green once said, 'There was a time when religion ruled the world. It is known as the Dark Ages'- although the slight inaccuracy of stating it was a worldly age, the statement holds some legitimacy in the idea that religious influence on Britain was substantial. However, there is an argument for the true 'darkness' of the Dark Ages, especially compared to contemporary society. Although there were religious restrictions which negatively impacted women and religious minorities within Britain, there were positives to the sharp surge in Christianity. The Dark Ages have been defined by indispensability and brutishness however, there is reason to view this age as a time of significant growth and evolution for Britain.

The Dark Ages were approximately between the fifth and fourteenth centuries and were a period of significant cultural advances in European society, suggesting the Dark Ages were not all that 'dark'. Examples of these advancements include the creation of establishments dedicated to furthering higher education such as the University of Oxford. With the establishment of Oxford University in 1096, there was room for further growth in English society as creation is a byproduct of education. Similarly, the University of Paris proves how progression was not only in Britain but across Europe. Therefore, the development of the level of education and the opportunities to access teaching led to growth in the culture of Europe as a whole, giving reason to believe that the Dark Ages were not that 'dark,' but instead was a time of progression and education. The creation of higher education institutions supports the statement that the extension of intellectual exploration led to the spread of new knowledge, creating positive developments in European culture and societies.



Furthermore, the architecture of the newly established universities, Oxford in particular, introduced a gothic period, which showcased the intellectual and artistic achievements of the era. Abbot Suger is widely considered to be the father of gothic architecture with his work including St Denis Basilica in the mid-12th century. It was buildings such as this which inspired places such as Notre Dame in Paris and Canterbury Cathedral in Kent: iconic pieces of religious infrastructure since their installation in the Dark Ages. The Gothic genre of architecture dominated the religious structures that are considered some of the wonders of human construction today. The architecture heavily influenced other art forms, with gothic horror literature becoming popular later in history; during the 1800s modern classics such as Dracula and The Picture of Dorian Gray were penned. This demonstrates how it was not only the educational and religious reforms that were developing European culture. Therefore, the architectural reforms of the Dark Ages give significant reason to believe that the fifth to fourteenth century was not a stagnant time of depravity and ignorance, but a time of cultural developments.



Another significant development of the Dark Ages was the rise of Christianity which had a profound impact on culture, politics and social conventions throughout Europe. The Christian church became a powerful and steady institution to juxtapose the great upheaval that occurred during this period. The Church provided stability and unity in a time of great change whilst also playing a significant role in the progression of education in universities, as the Church was known for prioritising literacy. However, monks and priests were generally the only literate people in the period, which gives reason to believe that this period was, indeed, 'dark', as the rates of literacy in Britain remained low. Despite the failings of the Church's efforts, they successfully spread Christian ideals throughout Europe, which led to a greater sense of direction and unity within the people. The impacts of the Church in this period are still felt today with the significant influence that Christianity has in our modern world. Therefore, the strength of the Church in contemporary society is somewhat owed to the actions and development of the institution in the Dark Ages. Overall, the growth of Christianity and the influence of the church demonstrates that the Dark Ages was not a time of underdevelopment as the spread of Christian values did create positivity and purpose across Europe.

However, Christianity in Europe did pose challenges as it led to a large wealth gap between the peasants and the Church. Whilst Christianity dominated the lives of the common people, the members of the Clergy found themselves in significant positions of power wherein they had a large, steady source of income in their religious positions. Religious institutions became wealthy and influential given the fact that the state allocated a significant budget for religious activities. This led to a clear power imbalance within European society whilst simultaneously undermining the power of the Monarch which led to conflicts within the ruling class. During the 11th and 12th centuries, Popes attempted to challenge the authority of the monarch. This is illustrated in the Investiture Controversy between the years 1076 and 1122. This incident began as a power struggle between Pope Gregory VII and Henry IV and ended with the Concordat of Worms, requiring all bishops to swear an oath of fealty to the monarch. As this is one of numerous contradictions it demonstrates how the Church did provide a sense of direction for the common people who were riddled with confusion in a time of constant change.

However, in doing so, conflict was created between them and those who were meant to hold power. This suggests that the Church's involvement in the Dark Ages was very contradictory as it simultaneously provided purpose and unity to the people whilst taking a significant amount of money, whilst aggravating their monarchs. Therefore, the rise of Christianity gives reason to agree, to an extent, that the Dark Ages were significantly 'dark' and fitting of the name.

Another reason the Dark Ages have been rightly named is the numerous social and medical issues. Literacy rates were strikingly low, at 12.5%, and access to universities was highly limited. Therefore, for peasants, this period was not one of education but one of disease dodging and general depravity. For example, a significant lack of hygiene led to extensive skin issues as the peasants would bathe in cold water with no soap, leaving little protection against infection. Diseases such as leprosy and 'St Anthony's Fire' were rife within the peasant communities of the Dark Ages with little access to the treatments that were offered. These treatments were limited, despite the progressions in the medical fields, such as the use of leeches and early examples of painkillers containing opium and hemlock. The Dark Ages were superstitious, with the use of magic stones and charms being a highly popular method of healing. The average age of death in the Dark Ages was 33-35 years old if you survived infancy, with only 50% of infants surviving. The most famous example of a disease in this period was the Black Death which took the lives of approximately 25 million in Europe. The tragic pandemic gives significant reason to believe that the Dark Ages have been accurately named as it demonstrates the lack of hygiene and medical support there in this period, leading to the deaths of millions across the continent. Overall, the medical field and its general failures in this period give reason to agree that the Dark Ages are accurately named with the years being filled with death and depravity.

However, the works of literary and philosophical brilliance demonstrate the progressive nature of the Dark Ages. Beowulf's Anglo-Saxon epic poem was created in this age, which is considered to be a significant text in the development of classical literature, with its impacts still being felt in today's contemporary literature. The works of the Venerable Bede were also written in the Dark Ages.

and he is considered to be one of the greatest scholars of all time. Therefore, his work had a great positive impact on culture, giving reason to view the 'Dark Ages' as contradictory to its name. These examples of significant scholarly advancements in this period display how the Dark Ages did consist of positive cultural and academic developments and that the period was not as stagnant as its name suggests. However, when compared to the present, these advancements are significant yet sporadic. There were very few great literary advancements in this period compared to the constant flow of new information that we receive today. Whilst these works are highly significant, we have had countless influential authors and artists bring whole new perspectives consistently into contemporary society. Whilst the writers and artists of the Dark Ages did have great influence when compared to the modern day, the lack of variety and diversity demonstrates the elements of conventionality and sameness that ruled this period. Therefore, the Dark Ages were a time of advancements but the lack of diversity and inconsistent nature of these advancements does give reason to agree that the period was rightfully named.

There is reason to believe that the Dark Ages were not as 'dark', as their name suggests. Whilst this period did see waves of severe and detrimental disease and destruction, it also paved the way for influential and innovative artists, creatives and scholars who played large roles in shaping today's contemporary society. The developments in educational and creative fields demonstrate the progressive nature of this period which contradicts the stagnant and depressing image created by its name. The Dark Ages did, indeed, have dark times, it was a time of depravity for some due to wars and illness, however, the modern day also consists of these factors. Therefore, there is reason to agree that, compared to the present, the Dark Ages were not all that 'dark'.



**By Kathryn.K**

# IS THERE HISTORY WITHOUT BLOODSHED?

History can be defined in many different ways. It is the study of past events, which could consist of human affairs, a whole series of events connected with a particular person or thing or, as Jacob John Anderson asserts, a narration of events which have happened among mankind.' History involves everything in the past, so there must be events without bloodshed. However, history will be understood in this essay, as referring to major changes or turning points. Therefore, when looking at history in this way, it is evident that violence often occurs, resulting in bloodshed. It is my contention that these turning points in history usually involve bloodshed, but that history is not entirely shaped by violent events. Historical events such as the Second World War and the Russian Revolution provide strong arguments that suggest that major turning points in history are indeed caused and characterised by bloodshed. However, an event such as the development of Louis Pasteur's Germ Theory in 1861, presents a strong argument on the contrary.

The Second World War was a conflict that involved virtually every part of the world, from 1939 through to 1945. The Axis powers consisted of Germany, Italy and Japan and the Allies were France, Great Britain, the United States and the Soviet Union. The 40- 50 million deaths incurred in World War II make it the bloodiest conflict, as well as the largest war, in history. World War II began on September 1st 1939. Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, was determined to invade and occupy Poland. Yet even with their military support from Britain and France Hitler ignored the diplomatic efforts of the Western powers to restrain him. At 12:40 pm on August 31st, Hitler ordered hostilities against Poland to start at 4:45 am the next morning. This invasion prompted the United Kingdom and France to declare war on Germany on September 3rd. This declaration of war marked the official start of World War II. The invasion of Poland was a blatant violation of international agreements and treaties, particularly the Treaty of Versailles struck at the end of World War I. This significant event triggered a chain reaction of alliances and conflicts, leading to a global six-year clash which shaped the world, eventually leading to the Cold War and nuclear arms race.

World War II was one of the deadliest conflicts in human history, resulting in enormous amounts of bloodshed. Allied forces suffered significant military casualties. It is estimated that the Allies lost over 16 million military personnel. The Axis powers- primarily Germany, Japan, and Italy- also suffered substantially. Estimates suggest that the Axis powers lost over 5 million military personnel. The total human cost of World War II is staggering, with millions of lives lost and countless others affected by the physical and psychological scars of the conflict.

Arguably the largest atrocity committed during the conflict was the Holocaust. The Holocaust was a systematic genocide carried out by Nazi Germany and its collaborators during World War II. It resulted in the murder of approximately six million Jews, along with millions of other individuals, who were targeted based on their ethnicity, religion, political beliefs, disabilities, and a range of other factors. The Holocaust represents one of the darkest chapters in human history, marked by unimaginable suffering and cruelty. It demonstrates that bloodshed creates landmarks in history that act as turning points for humanity to learn from. It is essential that we learn from the Holocaust to ensure that such barbarous acts like this are never repeated.

The use of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a turning point in the war and caused massive casualties. They caused a significant amount of bloodshed and had a devastating impact on the populations of the two Japanese cities. The bombs were dropped by the United States in August 1945, marking the first and only use of nuclear weapons in warfare. On August 6th 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the City of Hiroshima. The explosion instantly killed an estimated 70,000 to 80,000 people. Many more died later due to injuries, radiation sickness and other long-term effects. The total death toll in Hiroshima by the end of 1945 was believed to have reached approximately 140,000. Just three days after the bombing of Hiroshima, on August 9th 1945, the US dropped another atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki. The immediate death toll was estimated to be between 35,000 and 40,000 people.



These bombings had a profound and lasting impact, not only causing immediate loss of life but also resulting in long-term health effects for survivors. The use of atomic bombs played a significant role in Japan's decision to surrender, leading to the end of World War II.

The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had immediate and lasting consequences on a global scale, shaping the course of history in the 20th century and beyond. They played a pivotal role in ending World War II but also posed complex moral questions that will continue to be relevant today.

Another pivotal event which forces us to question whether there is history without bloodshed is the Russian Revolution. The Revolution was a series of political and social upheavals that took place in Russia in 1917. These events lead to the Russian monarchy being overthrown and the establishment of the communist government under the leadership of the Bolshevik party.

Yet, when considering the revolution, it is vital that we acknowledge the two main strands: The February Revolution and the October Revolution. The February Revolution began in Petrograd on February 23rd 1917. It was initially a series of protests and strikes by workers and soldiers against the autocratic rule of Tsar Nicholas II and the hardships of World War I. These protests quickly escalated up until the abdication of the Tsar and the appointment of the Provisional Government in his place. The October Revolution, also known as the Bolshevik Revolution, occurred on October 25th 1917. This coup was staged by the Bolshevik party led by Vladimir Lenin. The Bolsheviks seized control of key government buildings in Petrograd such as the Winter Palace and took control of the government.

The Russian Revolution overall resulted in a significant amount of bloodshed and widespread violence. It is widely believed that the combined casualties, including military and civilian deaths, famine, disease and other factors,

amounted to millions. The Russian Revolution had a profound impact on Russia and the world, leading to the establishment of the Soviet Union, the spread of the communist ideology and enduring political, social and economic consequences. Therefore the violence which was necessary to change Russian society and ensued during the revolutions suggests that there is no history without bloodshed.

Nevertheless, Louis Pasteur's Germ Theory in 1861 provides a convincing piece of evidence on the contrary. It was a groundbreaking scientific hypothesis that revolutionised our understanding of the causes of infectious diseases. This theory developed in the 19th century and laid down the foundation for modern microbiology and medicine.

Louis Pasteur's Germ Theory was a historical event that occurred without bloodshed. It paved the way for the development of vaccines, the understanding of the importance of hygiene and sanitation and the practice of sterilisation in medical procedures and food processing. His work remains a founding principle in modern medicine and microbiology and it revolutionised the way we approach the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases.

To conclude, I believe that although the major turning points in history have usually involved bloodshed, there is also history without bloodshed. This view can be heavily supported by examples of scientific breakthroughs such as Louis Pasteur's Germ Theory. Scientific breakthroughs such as this, have been achieved without bloodshed and have had an immense impact throughout the world. However, the major turning points in history such as the Second World War inevitably involve vast amounts of bloodshed. While conflicts and bloodshed collectively have undoubtedly been significant in shaping history, they are not the entire story. History is also made in the form of scientific breakthroughs and gradual social changes, without bloodshed. Therefore when analysing historical events, the historian is almost required to take two approaches, one of torment and ruin and one of shifting cultural and scientific progression.



**By Arran. C**

# DOES TRUMP DESERVE TO BE REMEMBERED AS A PRESIDENT WHO SUCCEEDED IN REIMAGINING THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY?

Donald Trump was born on the 14th of June 1946 in New York, where he would grow up to be an entrepreneur, owning many businesses. In 2016 Trump won a contentious election against Hilary Clinton. Over the course of his term, Trump had many ups and downs and was unlike most presidents before him. Overall, Trump does deserve to be remembered as a president who succeeded in reimagining the office of the presidency. Within 100 days he changed multiple rules in the Oval Office and re-shaped his position and the country as a whole. Furthermore, he was impeached multiple times but was never sentenced, suggesting he was above the law. Thus, it must be said that Trump should be remembered as a president who reshaped the office. Some people would argue that Trump does not deserve to be remembered for reimagining the presidency because of his policies which broke traditions and changed multiple rules. The New York Times stated, 'In his first 100 days in power, President Trump has transformed the nation's highest office in ways both profound



and mundane, pushing traditional boundaries, ignoring longstanding protocol and discarding historical precedents as he reshapes the White House in his image'. Some of his policies were very controversial, for example, building a wall to separate the USA from Mexico. This policy was highly contested and sparked a debate on immigration, national security, and the allocation of resources. To build a wall of that size and magnitude would cost an absurd amount of money. There has never been a president who has attempted to build a wall to shut out another nation. There have been presidents who had anti-immigration policies before, yet Trump took this to new extremes. President Bill Clinton had harsh immigration laws and was scrutinised for them, however not even he attempted to lock out the people of Mexico, running a whole campaign on the pretence of harsher border control.

Yet Donald Trump deserves to be remembered as a president who reimagined the office of the presidency because of his harsh foreign policy. Trump's foreign policy was unlike any other President's. For example, Ronald Reagan was very strict and wanted to be characterised by his strong stance against communism and focus on the military, whereas Trump was solely focused on being a dominant power in the world. This was illustrated when Trump met with Vladimir Putin. It can be argued that the

leader of Russia did not invade local countries due to his fear of Trump, whilst he was in power. What is more, Trump's power on the global stage was seen when he set foot in North Korea and met Kim Jong Un in 2019. No president had ever been to North Korea before. Therefore, Trump made a huge stride towards peace. This is why Donald Trump deserves to be remembered as a president who reimagined the office since he has had a foreign policy like no one else. Trump's aggression meant that for a time he was able to stop Putin from advancing in Europe and strengthened America's relationship with North Korea.

Additionally, Trump deserves to be remembered because he was impeached twice yet never faced any criminal charges. This may give the idea that the president is above the law, unlike any other president. He has been charged with multiple felonies and has not once been convicted. Although four presidents had previously been impeached and evaded charges, Trump's ability to do this twice set the precedent that the president is above the law.

. A highly publicised example was when he allegedly kept nuclear secrets in his bathroom. This was a sizable breach of national security yet nothing happened to Trump. However, some would argue that this is not the most prominent example of a president getting away with a federal crime. Nixon and the Watergate scandal can be said to be more prodigious. The Watergate scandal was a big political mess in the 1970s. It began with the break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters, yet it was later concluded that Nixon's administration was embroiled in a plethora of dubious ordeals, such as spying on political opponents. Nixon had bugged the hotel of the opposition and had listened to everything they discussed. Nixon swiftly resigned from office when this was revealed and was faced with criminal charges. Although the acting president dropped all charges and Nixon got away, his actions are not condonable. For this reason, some people will argue that Donald Trump has not reimagined the office as the result of the Watergate scandal, already demonstrating the fact that the president is above the law.

However, the riot on Capitol Hill does suggest that no man like Trump has ever taken office. On January 6th, Trump told all his followers to 'storm Capitol Hill'. This event created chaos and eventually all of the people in the riot were forced out or arrested. This proves how Donald Trump deserves to be

remembered as a president who succeeded in reimagining the office because never has a president told their supporters to shake the bedrock of democracy due to personal grievances following an election result. Yet Trump was only able to do this because of his use of social media. Trump's use of social media, predominantly Twitter, is unrecorded for a president. Trump is the first President to successfully use social media to gain the presidency. Trump used platforms like Twitter and Instagram to contend in the race for the presidency, sharing his views with his millions of followers. This helped him massively in his campaign to win the election. No president has used social media as a marketing tool to help gain votes since most social media is fairly recent and they certainly have never used a platform as the basis to incite a riot. Trump's ability to use it to his advantage is why he deserves to be remembered as a president who succeeded in reimagining the office of the presidency as he was able to successfully adapt to the times.

Overall Donald J. Trump deserves to be remembered as a president who succeeded in reimagining the office of the presidency. Within 100 days he changed multiple rules in the Oval Office and re-shaped the presidency, he was impeached multiple times yet was never sentenced, meaning he was above the law. He instigated a riot and was the first president to use social media to help his campaign. For all of these reasons, Donald J. Trump deserves to be remembered as a president who succeeded in reimagining the office of the presidency.



**By Cormac.G**

# IS ANYTHING INEVITABLE IN HISTORY?



The question of inevitability in history has been debated and examined by historians and philosophers for centuries, despite this many offer vastly contrasting views about whether anything in history is inevitable. This is because when analysing historical events the outcome is already known, making it challenging to consider other historical avenues. Therefore, the actual event always seems more inevitable and counterfactual history becomes somewhat difficult.

Before discussing the question at hand we must consider the concept of inevitability and what it means for something to be inevitable in a historical context. According to George J. Stack, 'The connotation of this term in ordinary discourse is that such and such an occurrence or event had to happen as it did happen.' Many factors can cause and prevent a historical event from changing the outcome of history- despite this, it is very common for people to describe historical events as inevitable. Notable examples are the abdication of the Tsar in March 1917 or the surrender of Japan after the atomic bombs were dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima. The question of whether events in history are inevitable is a complex and heavily debated topic amongst historians and philosophers. While there is no real answer there are arguments for why some historians consider parts of history to be inevitable. Some argue that certain historical events are caused by a chain of cause-and-effect relationships. These deterministic forces usually include economic, social and political factors. For example, the outbreak of World War I is often seen as the result of a web of alliances, militarism, and unresolved conflicts among European powers.

Another argument is technological advancements. Technological advancements have been rapid, with computer speed and power generally doubling every one and a half to two years since the 1960s and 70s.

The rapid advancement of technology can also be seen as an inevitable force driving historical change. The development of technologies like the printing press, the steam engine, and the internet has had significant and far-reaching effects on society, often reshaping the course of history. While it may not be as advanced as technology today, the printing press is historically one of the most important inventions. In 1436 the printing press was invented by Johannes Gutenberg. This allowed for an assembly line of books to be printed by a single press, at a rate of roughly 3,600 pages per day. The invention is seminal to historical advancement as it fueled the Age of Enlightenment, allowing for new ideas to be shared, and sparking evolution such as the scientific revolution and the Renaissance.

Information could now be spread worldwide and made it affordable for those who could not buy books. The knowledge that was shared gave humans a chance to create their inventions for centuries to come. When examining history, it becomes evident that technological advancements have significantly influenced the course of human civilization. While not all historical events are entirely predetermined by technology, these rapid advancements have introduced possibilities that have made certain parts of history appear inevitable. Technology has been a driving factor for historical change throughout history, demonstrating its deep and often transformative impact on the human experience.

"The End of History and the Last Man" by Francis Fukuyama does not argue that history in the sense that all future events are predetermined but rather, the evolution of political and ideological systems has reached a point where liberal democracy represents the endpoint of historical development. Francis Fukuyama argues that liberal democracy is the end of human societal organisation because, "At the end of history, there are no serious ideological competitors left to liberal democracy". Even though

totalitarianism and communism may appear in some places, liberal democracy is the end and the centre to which humanity will return. Fukuyama is not saying that all countries will inevitably become liberal democracies but rather that liberal democracy does not face a substantial ideological alternative in the modern day. The little remaining communist nations are nearly all failed states. For instance Nicaragua, China, Zimbabwe and North Korea. Today there are very few examples of communist states. This is due to history showing communism fails and liberal democracy is eventually where all states will end. The most prominent example of a failed communist state is the Soviet Union. While it existed for over seven decades, the soviet system faced numerous problems, including economic inefficiency, political repression, and human rights abuses. It eventually collapsed in 1991 due to a combination of factors, including military overextension and loss of political legitimacy. Francis Fukuyama poses the question of what if our systems of government are as good as they can be? What if it can't get any better? What if human history has peaked and this is the inevitable end? Fukuyama argues that at the end of the 20th century, liberal democracy had won the debate fascism had been defeated in World War II and communism was about to collapse with the fall of the Soviet Union. Fukuyama believes that history will still go on in the context of events and conflict but substantial political progress has reached its end with liberal democracy.

Despite this the argument that anything in history is inevitable is weak. As a student of history, there are many events history lovers consider to be inevitable. The idea that corrupt dictators will be overthrown and democracy will always prevail reverberates throughout many departments up and down the country: Hitler could never have won the Second World War and the Soviet Union was doomed to collapse. But thinking this way is quite obstructive and possibly dangerous. For me saying anything in history is inevitable is wrong because nothing that's happened had to happen, or will happen again. That is why history is interesting because nothing is inevitable, wars, booms, busts, inventions, breakthroughs, none of these things are inevitable. Inevitably is not a trait of humans as every path we take is susceptible to deviation.



**By James.T**

# IS THERE HISTORICAL EVIDENCE FOR GLOBAL WARMING?

The statement that there is no historical evidence for global warming is inaccurate. There is significant evidence to suggest global warming is happening and getting worse each day that passes: such as ice core data and temperature records. However, many people still are sceptical about global warming and do not believe the evidence. They claim the 'evidence' for global warming is a coincidence. For example, many of us may have heard the argument that 'we are just having a cold winter this year' which fails to acknowledge the complex meteorological factors at play.

One of the most convincing pieces of evidence towards global warming is the temperature records. Over the last century, scientists have been recording temperature changes. These records show that over the last 100 years, there has been a significant increase in global temperatures. Statistics from the National Weather Service show that the average temperature in 1928 was 49 degrees Fahrenheit and in 2021 was 56.3 degrees Fahrenheit, indicating a huge increase in temperature over the last century. NASA has further maintained long-term data that show a clear increase in temperature since the 19th century.

The activity of humans is a huge contributor to climate change. Human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.



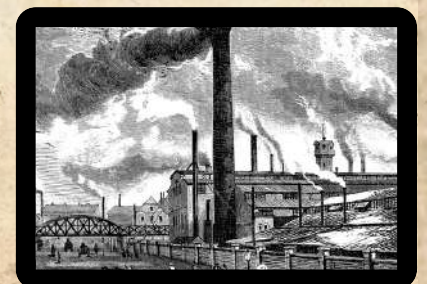
These gases act as a blanket which traps heat from the sun which has caused the earth's temperature to rise over the last century. Historical evidence shows a significant correlation between greenhouse gases and global warming. This suggests that global warming is a serious problem that this generation has to deal with, to save the planet. This information shows that there is historical evidence to suggest that global warming is happening today. Numerous scientists worldwide have concluded that global warming is a reality and that human activities are a primary cause. This is based on scientists' extensive research and a deep understanding of the Earth's climate.

Further evidence to support climate change is seen in the Ice core data. Ice core samples extracted from polar ice sheets and glaciers provide a crucial source of historical evidence to support global warming. By analysing isotopes and gas bubbles trapped in ice cores, scientists can reconstruct historical temperature changes. The data taken from ice cores show that the earth's temperature has risen significantly in recent years, with the most rapid warming happening in the last century.

Sea levels also provide historical evidence for global warming. Glaciers around the world have been shrinking, which is a clear sign that global temperatures are on the rise; the heat has been the cause of contraction. These glaciers melt into the sea which causes the sea levels to rise. The sea levels are also historical evidence for global warming as the average sea level is much higher today than it was one hundred years ago.

Furthermore, evidence for global warming historically has been reflected in changes to climate patterns. With global temperatures on the rise, there have been notable shifts in weather patterns such as the frequency and severity of heatwaves and intense storms. These changes in weather patterns align with the predictions made by scientists, proving that global warming has been and remains a real issue.

Overall, the claim that there is no historical evidence for global warming is completely incorrect. There are mountains of evidence for global warming including, temperature records, ice core data, rising sea levels, greenhouse gas emissions and climate patterns which all show that global warming is currently occurring. The scientific consensus solidifies the reality of global warming. It is very important that we take action to mitigate the potential consequences that global warming poses towards the planet. This shows that there is historical evidence for global warming and that it poses a real threat to the planet if action is not taken towards the crisis.



**By Sonny.F**

# IS THE ONLY POLITICAL EXPERIMENT THAT HAS PROVEN ITSELF TO BE SUCCESSFUL CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY?



Furthermore, the original qualms of the system are still relevant. As Aristotle outlines in his 'Politics', a fault of democracy is that its weakness allows for the emergence of aristocracies which can soon form oligarchies. Looking through a contemporary lens the suggestion may appear outlandish but the rise in plutocracies forces us to reevaluate the idea of democracy and consider where having a constitutional monarchy would be a good basis for all nations to adhere to. This is best outlined by the USA. Often seen as a beacon of freedom, US politics is dominated by the same families. Whether that be the Adamss, Kennedys, Rosseveltess or Clintons, through their constant reproduction of senators and congressmen along with their incomprehensible party donations, these families have had a chokehold on American politics for decades. Their wealth and influence allow for the allure of equality to persist when in fact leaders are bred from the same circles.

'If there were a nation of Gods, it would govern itself democratically. A government so perfect is not suited to men'. In his Social Contract Rousseau disbands with the idea that pure democracy is obtainable for man. Yet Rousseau rejects the notion that an absolute monarchy is suitable as 'a born king is a rare being'. For a country on the precipice of dismantling almost a millennia of dynastic rule, France was facing an idealistic contradiction. But in the pursuit of 'liberty' the French failed to see the benefits democracy and monarchy could have in conjunction. The unwillingness to commit to the legislated constitutional monarchy had dire consequences. The indisputable parallels seen after the fall of the Romanovs contrasted with the strength of constitutional monarchies in England or Spain make the answer almost axiomatic. The examples show that constitutional monarchies are the only successful political experiment; even more so than a country governed solely by a people.

To establish why constitutional monarchy is the only political experiment proven to be successful, we first must disband the false notion that pure democracy is the most desirable form of rule. Democracy is a concept the West takes to be infallible when it is fragile, as denoted by the fact that it has only become popular in recent centuries. Although modern scholars contend with the beginnings of democracy, many accredit its birth to Athens in 508 BC. From its inception it was problematic. Not only was a small fraction of the population eligible to vote but by the mid-450s the electorate was halved almost overnight; those without two Athenian parents could no longer vote. The failings of the Athenian government were acknowledged throughout the West. The Romans viewed the newly formed idea of 'Democratia' to be 'mob rule' with the Athenians, Plato and Aristotle famously regarding the worst forms a state could take on. Alexander the Great's conquest soon wiped out the idea of a 'people's rule' but it reemerged in the late 18th century through ancient Greek revivalists; demonstrating how easily democracy can be dissolved and has not been a constant throughout Western civilisation.



Comparatively, the problems of class-based leadership in the UK are clear but the constitutional monarchy means that hereditary-electoral politics is not commonplace. UK families such as the Benns, Pakenhams and Kinnocks hold some influence on the political stage but not on a scale comparable to those living in the USA. The reason for this is that the idea of monarchy has set a historic precedent for a ruling aristocracy. With the gradual decline in power of the monarchy, came the decline of the aristocracy. Thus some theorise that the UK's hyperawareness of the problems associated with a hereditary ruling elite has meant that families do not assume positions of political leadership; even if rules of social reproduction indicate that the ruling elite will still dominate the higher echelons of society. The problem with American politics demonstrates that without a monarchy and historical reference it becomes hard to see the issue with dynasties ruling a country.

Constitutional royals are monolithic, limited in power but a reminder of a bygone era and the inherent corrosiveness of power. For this reason, it becomes apparent that constitutional monarchy is the only political experiment to work but there is one caveat. For this to work effectively, it must have been a gradual process. The failures of the French and Russian monarchies when compared to the Spanish and British exemplify this idea. At one point in time, all four monarchies were the embodiment of decadence but their ability to survive relied upon their adaptability. The consequences of failing to do so were shown in late 18th-century France and 20th-century Russia.

Before the French Revolution, there was upheaval amongst the French workers. Although there had been discontent for many centuries, it became particularly prevalent in the 1780s thanks to the Enlightenment and poverty. The Bourbon War acted as somewhat of a catalyst. Despite France emerging victorious they were plunged into financial ruin inexorably leading to their bankruptcy. To elevate the pressure of financial ruin, huge taxes were imposed: Ranging from the Gabelle -levied on salt- to the Vingtième. In spite of many poor harvests, the destitute third estate paid these taxes whilst the first and second were exempt. In addition, the dissipation of wealth was central to the ruling classes, most famously demonstrated by Maria Antoinette. For her lavish spending she was referred to as 'madame deficit' with Rousseau's quote, 'let them eat cake' being misattributed to her from the 1850s

onwards. Her lifestyle suggested that she and her husband were happy to live in blissful ignorance whilst the population was on the verge of starvation. Louis XVI eventually had no option but to cooperate, which led to even greater strife. By attempting to create some form of democracy -by reestablishing the estates general- he demonstrated his ineptness as a ruler. Giving the third estate the same amount of power as the first and second, despite the third estate making up 98% of the population, showed that democracy could not co-exist with a powerful monarch. Upon this failure, the estate formed a national assembly, an organisation which Louis tried to stop and paid for his efforts with his life. This came after a 1791 proclamation making him a constitutional monarch. Although it cannot be said that Louis XVI was a tyrant, people feared that he planned to have all dissenters executed; allowing Robespierre to take over. Robespierre oversaw the king's execution and a reign of terror in which 40,000 innocent Frenchmen were executed within five years. The Thermidorian reaction would culminate in the formation of the Napoleonic state illustrating the importance of constitutional monarchy. An uneven power dynamic means absolute monarchy and democracy do not work simultaneously. Monarchy alone leads to the repression of a people and the rapid dismantlement of monarchy leads to the rise of a tyrant. If the monarch was a figurehead without power much turmoil could have been avoided.

Unnerving parallels were seen with the fall of the Romanovs. Before 1917, the country was in a state of poverty and upheaval. Following the 1861 emancipation of the serfs Russian citizens expected land reforms and better working conditions, instead, they were living in degradation. Whilst the average citizen worked eleven-hour shifts, 60% of whom did not have running water, Tsar Nicholas II lived a life of luxury. He was the richest man on the planet, owning a tenth of the world's surface but as he wrote in a diary entry, '[he knew] nothing of the business of ruling'. Similarly to Louis XVI, Nicholas failed to address the problems his subjects faced and his attempts to introduce democracy had adverse effects. In the 1905 October manifesto, which established a legislative Duma, Article 87 stated that Nicholas would still hold executive power. In 1917 the Tsar called for martial law after a riot erupted when he dissolved the Duma. His failings suggest that a monarch should not rule alone and should not try to arbitrate between



power and democracy. Following his forced abdication, another permeable government arose. A succession of tyrants were again able to take over; this time a red terror ensued which had a death toll double that of the reign of terror. Therefore, monarchies with unchecked power are not ideal and if they are to evolve into constitutional monarchies time is required for them to work effectively.

Spain is a perfect example of a nation where constitutional monarchy evolved and had ample opportunity to display its effectiveness. After the fall of King Alphonso XVII in 1931, a republic was established. Again from the republic, a tyrant rose. General Francis Franco ruled for four decades and decreed that the monarchy should be restored upon his death. Yet Juan Carlos de Borbon realised from the failings of his ancestors that a return to autocracy would achieve nothing. So in 1977, Borbon held the first democratic elections in decades. He established a constitution that would govern the people; since then Spain has lived in relative harmony. Although the recent rise of the right has increased scepticism, Spain has experienced the most peaceful five decades in centuries.

Spain is similar to Britain in the sense that the monarchy is partially responsible for peace. However, Britain's relationship with a constitutional monarchy is more complex and stretches back to 1215 and the Magna Carta. Although the pope declared the Charter 'null and void' after ten weeks, it is arguably the first piece of legislation to restrict a monarch's power. It took authority away from King John and stated that no one should be deprived of liberty or property without due process. Over four centuries later, in response to the arbitrary rule of King James III England passed the Bill of Rights. The bill asserted the rights of Parliament over those of the monarch. It established free elections and ensured that Parliament met regularly. Twelve years later, the Act of Settlement would reaffirm the Parliament's power, allowing them to determine the line of succession.

The lack of power exerted by Spanish and British royalty may make the post seem redundant but having a symbolic figurehead is essential. No matter how much popularity extremist parties amass, the monarch can always deny them power. The monarch is the only person able to appoint a prime minister and dismiss laws. But even if royal assent is never denied, their role is still pertinent in ensuring stability.

Only through constitutional monarchies can rulers be subject to the people yet maintain an air of superiority. When pure democracies attempt to replicate this they do so unsuccessfully. The USA worships presidents, erecting monuments in their honour and referring to them as 'Mr. President' for the duration of their life. This form of idolatry can easily fall into tyranny and lead to certain families dominating the political sphere. Yet, as Orwell once wrote, the UK's constitutional monarchy is an 'escape vowel for dangerous emotions'. It helps avoid authoritarianism and political domination as people fantasise over a ruler who in theory is powerful but in principle is powerless.

Constitutional monarchy is the only successful political experiment. Rousseau and those outside of ancient Athens were right to identify the faults of democracy. Pure democracy in the USA has led to the veneration of a ruler and a system in which families dominate seats of power for generations, creating a new form of aristocracy. But claiming that absolute monarchy is a valid alternative would be a fallacious argument. Both the fall of French and Russian imperial families prove that monarchs are often too out of touch and any concessions they make are often under the pretence that they have the final say. Therefore constitutional monarchies are desirable as they create reverent rulers who allow democracy to work optimally whilst ensuring there is never too much of a power imbalance between elected rulers and the governed.



**By Aaron.A**

# History Quiz

- 1.** Who was the first US president to be impeached?
- 2.** What year marks the beginning of the the Romanov dynasty?
- 3.** How many soldiers died in the first world war?
- 4.** What was the hottest temperatre ever recorded?
- 5.** Which country was Joseph Stalin born in?
- 6.** Who is the oldest serving US presidenr?
- 7.** What was the longest reiging royal dynsaty?
- 8.** How many years did Louis XIV rule for?
- 9.** What is the best selling book of all time?
- 10.** When did Queen Margrethe II become queen?

1) Andrew Johnson

2) 1613

3) 9.7 million

4) 56.67 degrees Celsius

5) Georgia

6) Joe Biden

7) Chola Dynasty

8) 72

9) The Bible

10) 1972

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