



Colonel George C. Marshal, aide-de-camp of General John Pershing, 1919 – Author. U.S. Army Signal Corps,, public domain, Wikimedia

***Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine,
but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos.***

— George Marshall

The way of killing men and beasts is the same.

I've seen it: truckfuls of chopped-up

men who will not be saved.

— Tadeusz Różewicz

A year went by and Tomás kept his distance, not once engaging in intimate conversation outside of class. One day in early spring, just as the flowers were beginning to bud, Tomás eyes never left me throughout the day. When I came out of the dressing room, he invited me for coffee. We walked down to my favorite café overlooking the lake, the crisp breeze blowing my scarf behind me. A flotilla of sailboats was passing by obscured by a pale mist, the sun striking their sails from behind, the canvas glowing against the dark shape of the mountain beyond.

“You’ll be going back to Paris when you finish your degree?”

“I have many memories of Paris. But I have a different life now. I don’t want to be drawn back to those memories.”

He didn’t ask about the memories, just sat silently while I talked, gazing at me with his deeply set eyes, elongated and heavy-lidded, a man from the great reaches of Asia, a Gypsy mixed with the blood of a Tartar from the steppes of the silk route.

“I’ve been thinking of going to America when I finish school. I want to experience life outside of France, outside of Switzerland. I like living in Lausanne, meeting students from England, Germany, Argentina, and Persia. The only negative thing about Lausanne is that Benito Mussolini went to school here. But as much as I love Lausanne, it’s not powerful like New York. Do you know the work of a young Spanish dancer, Antonio Gades? He’s inventing new forms of dance within flamenco.

“I saw him dance last year in Sevilla. Gades is unique. I foresee great things of this man. His guitarist told me his father left home when Antonio was just an infant to fight against Franco left his family to struggle

on their own. At eleven, Antonio had to leave school to work as a messenger boy and began dancing for a few pesetas in a bar. By the time he was fourteen, he was determined to get ahead in life. He tried everything — cycling, boxing, bullfighting, and dancing. One night in a bar, Cristina Lopez was knocked out by his dancing. When he told her, he wanted to duel with the bulls, she said, ‘Maybe you’ll be a great torero, but I know you can be a great dancer. But if a bull gores you, you’ll be neither a dancer nor a torero.’ He joined Cristina’s troupe, which was the most famous in Spain. She was his mentor. He was her muse. She formed him. By the time he was sixteen, Antonio had become her leading dancer. Gades is deeply political. Because of the dictatorship, he had to leave Spain. His Spanish choreography has been influenced by ballet and modern dance.”

“I read in *Danse*, “I said, “Gades makes a contrast between classical dancers who require good looks and an athletic physique, and the flamenco dancers of his company who place their emphasis on individuality — the expression of their deepest emotions. Gades says, “The fat ones dance, the bold ones, the handsome ones, the old ones — all have the right to dance. Everyone has the right to dance.”

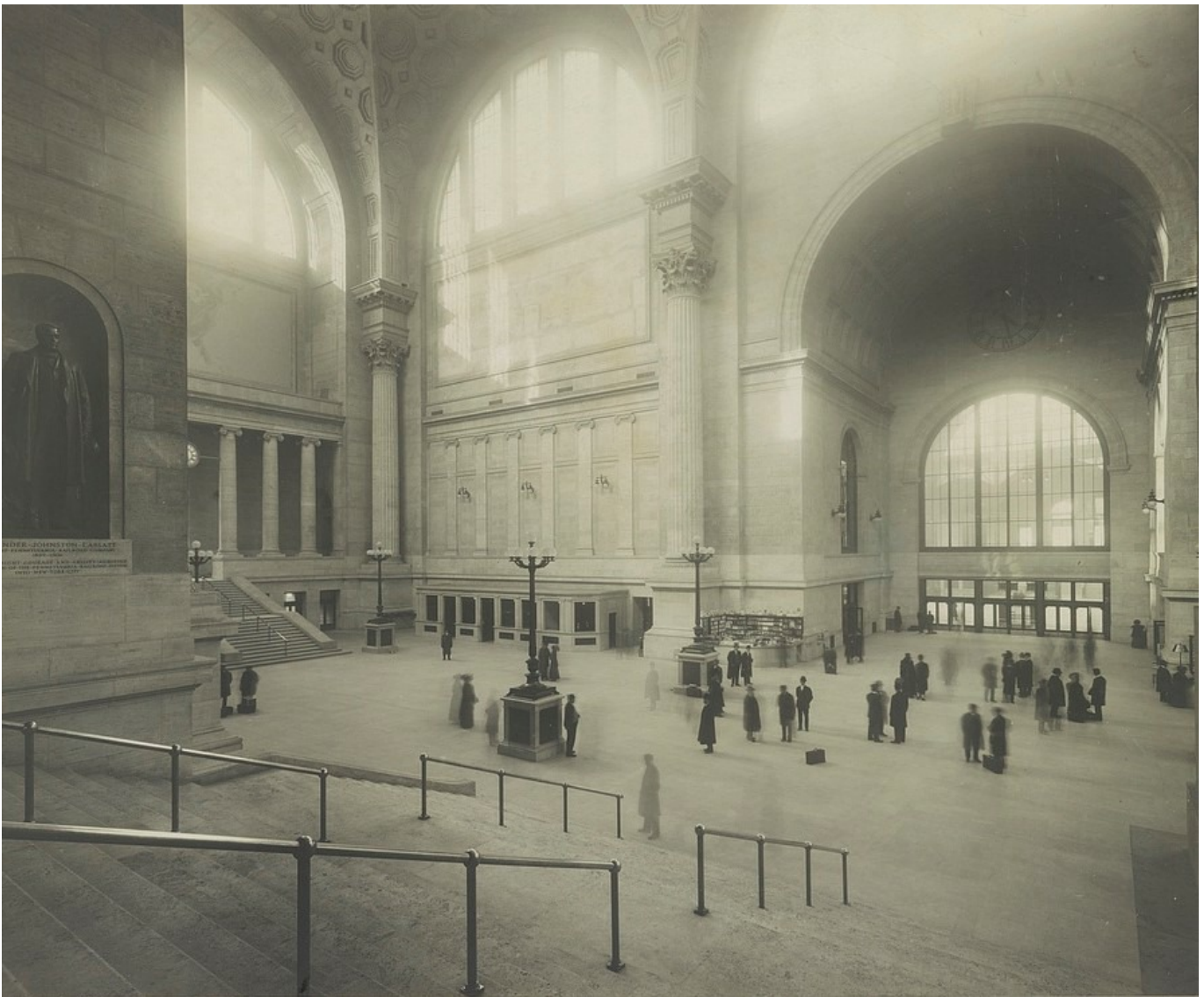
“That’s what makes flamenco so unique,” Tomás said, “the expression of one’s deepest emotions. Gades has an instinct for psychological drama. With his elegant physique and ferocious intensity, he may become Spain’s greatest dancer.”

“I need to be in a more inventive atmosphere,” I said. “I want to work in New York. That’s where the action is. It’s the city where George Balanchine transformed ballet. His *Serenade* is divine with only seventeen dancers. That was all Balanchine had in 1934 — seventeen dancers — flying across the stage to the music of Tchaikovsky’s 1880s *Serenade for Strings in C*, forming complex ensembles, instantly splitting apart in an infinite number of forms, in Karinska’s costumes, lighter than air, a froth of arms and legs in billowing ‘powder puff’ tutus in pastel blue chiffon, seventeen women leaping and pirouetting in convoluted evolving geometric patterns — a Kaleidoscope of dance! Balanchine’s sense of fluid geometry is a gift I’d love to master. While I love classical ballet, I’m also working on modern and jazz. I want to be stimulated by choreographers who are searching for new forms of expression like George Balanchine and Jerome Robbins, Anthony Tudor and Antonio Gades.”

“Have you been to New York?” Thomas said.

“No, I haven’t.

“Last year,” Tomás said. “I toured the United States with Mercedes León and Albano de Zuniga. Americans are peculiar people. They are obsessed with conformity and have little sense of beauty. They adorn their highways with advertising billboards in the midst of scenic beauty and put up shiny metal buildings in the middle of virgin fields. If a dollar can be made by destroying a treasure of architecture, they have no use for masterpieces. They regularly destroy great works of art. Developers in New York City are planning to demolish McKim, Mead & White’s Pennsylvania Station, an architectural jewel from the Beaux-Arts era of steel construction. When I walked into the main waiting room of Pennsylvania Station, inspired by the Roman Baths of Caracalla, I was astounded by the scale, as large as the nave of St. Peter’s in Rome with Corinthian columns supporting an arched coffered ceiling a hundred feet high with dazzling shafts of light streaming through Palladian clearstory windows, the walls adorned with shadows as the sun moves overhead.



Pennsylvania Station waiting room, 1911 – U.S. Library of Congress, Public domain, Wikimedia



Pennsylvania Station waiting room, 1962 – Author, Cervin Robinson, HABS photographer, U.S. Library of Congress, Wikimedia

“The enormous train sheds constructed of soaring iron girders, a filament of x-bracing supporting an arched roof of glass and steel, remind me of Victor Baltard’s Les Halles in Paris, a comparable masterpiece of glass and steel. It makes my heart bleed. Pennsylvania Station, the American cathedral of trains, will be sacrificed to the god Mammon — a dreadful crime against art.”



Pennsylvania Station concourse, 1962 – Author, Cervin Robinson, HABS photographer, U.S. Library of Congress, Wikimedia

“Despite their compulsion to destroy the old in favor of something new, I found the energy in New York formidable. But as powerful as the energy was in America, I didn’t feel comfortable. The American mind has been distorted by the cold war. Both the Russians and the Americans suffer from paranoia. The United States is dedicated to suppressing communism in every corner of the world. In turn, that threat only increases the Soviet paranoia. Two counter poised ideologies are struggling to dominate the world. We’re living in a time when two paranoiacs have their finger on the ballistic missile button ready to annihilate the planet in a

thermonuclear holocaust. Fifty million deaths in World War Two were not enough. They want to do it all over again.”

“Do you know,” I said, where the term ‘Cold War’ originated?”

“No.”

“The phrase, *‘la guerre froide,’* was a term used to describe the war of nerves that Hitler carried on against the French in the late 1930s. Today we have a war of nerves between the USSR and the U.S. The survival of the planet lies in the hands of two hostile nuclear powers.”

“That’s why,” Tomás said. “I support Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein’s manifesto. The demand for immediate nuclear disarmament has been signed by nuclear physicists who say we’re risking total extinction of the planet. I’ve been following Dorothy Day’s work with the Catholic Workers Movement in the states. Day has condemned America for creating the nuclear holocaust of Hiroshima.”

“Didn’t Day found the Catholic Worker’s Movement during the Great Depression?”



Dorothy Day, 1934. “We need to change the [system](#). We need to overthrow, not the [government](#), as the authorities are always accusing the Communists 'of conspiring to teach us to do, but this rotten, decadent, putrid industrial capitalist system which breeds such suffering in the whited sepulcher of New York.” Dorothy Day, American journalist, social activist, suffragist, pacifist, Catholic Worker Movement activist, co-founder of the [Catholic Worker](#) newspaper in 1933 – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia

“Although I’m angry with the Catholic hierarchy for supporting Franco, Dorothy Day is my kind of Catholic. Arrested a dozen times for opposing war, demonstrating for women’s suffrage, and aiding the poor, Dorothy Day is one of the purest examples of Catholicism in America. When the grave diggers went on strike against the cemeteries of the Archdiocese of New York and Cardinal Francis Spellman branded the workers “Communist inspired,” the employees of the *Catholic Worker* joined the striker’s picket lines. Day wrote to the cardinal, upholding the right of workers to unionize and denounced his suppression of poor working men. Similar to the anarchist Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, Day believes that instead of private ownership, wealth should be held by worker’s cooperatives. I’m fond of Day because although a Catholic, she condemns Caudillo Francisco Franco’s repression of the Spanish Republicans, even though they are critical of the Church.



Dorothy Day, 1916, American journalist, social activist, suffragist, pacifist, Catholic Worker Movement activist, co-founder of the *Catholic Worker* newspaper in 1933. An avid reader as an adolescent, Dorothy Day acquired a love for the poor and the workers of the world: “I was converted to the idea of the Messianic mission of the proletariat.” – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia.

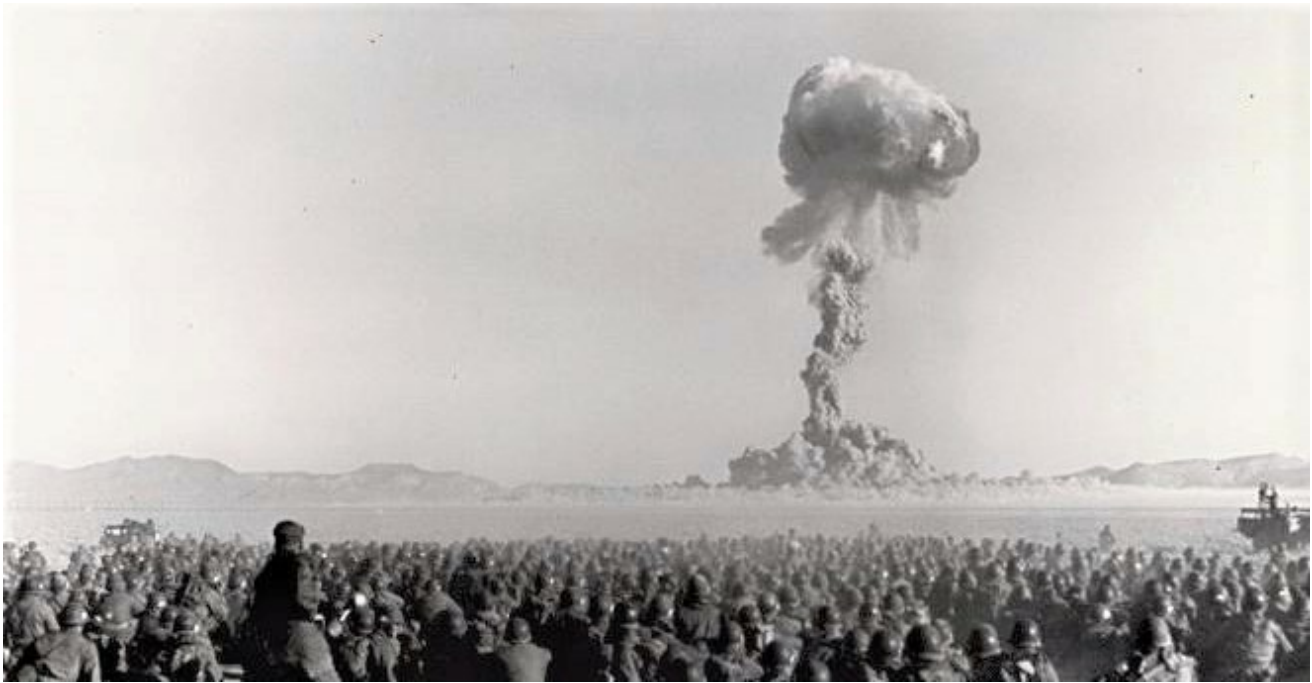
“The Americans and the Soviets, Tomás continued, “are not listening to Dorothy Day, Bertrand Russell, and Albert Einstein. They are competing to see who can make the most nuclear bombs. Hundreds of millions of citizens believe that salvation lies in putting nuclear bombs on intercontinental missiles ready to fly over the North Pole at any moment. What if a leader erroneously believes there’s an attack and launches a total nuclear war? There will be nothing left but a poisonous irradiated planet. It will be like living on Venus. Nothing will live. All life will cease.”



U.S. Air Force LGM-25C *Titan II* ICBM undergoes a test launch from an underground silo. *Titan II*'s liquid rocket engines are ignited while still in the silo, resulting in flames exiting the exhaust ducts – Author, USAF, Public domain, Wikimedia



Titan II Intercontinental ballistic missile, ICBM, with a 9 Mt W53 warhead, one of the most powerful U.S. nuclear weapons during the Cold War – Author, U.S. Department of Defense, Public domain, Wikimedia



During the Korean War, Operation Buster-Jangle, Exercise Desert Rock I, was the first U.S. nuclear field exercise conducted on land to prepare troops for operations during a nuclear detonation – Author, U.S. Department of Defense, Public domain, Wikimedia



Carbonised child, Nagasaki, 10 August 1945 - Yosuke Yamahata



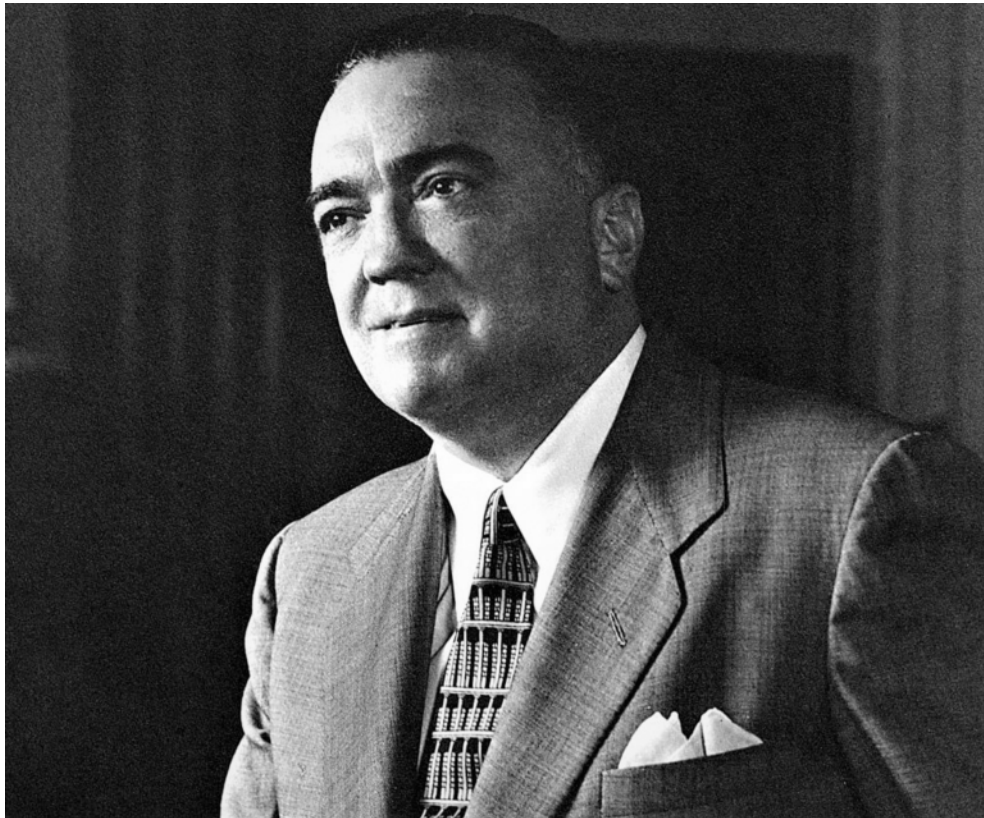
Sumiteru Taniguchi, photographed by the team of Lt. Daniel A. McGovern and Lt. Herbert Sussan after the nuclear devastation of Nagasaki, Japan – Author, U.S. Marine Corps, Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum exhibit, Public domain, Wikimedia

“*L’Express* reported,” I said, “people in the U.S. are building bomb shelters in their basements. But if they blow up the world and incinerate all the creatures on earth, what’s the use of bomb shelters? There’ll be nothing living above ground.”



Boeing B-47B Stratojet, rocket-assisted take off, 1954 – Author, USAF, Public domain, Wikimedia

“It is hard to understand,” Tomás said, “why the Americans are so prone to paranoia. They’ve not experienced the destruction of the war as Europeans have. Paranoia is the enemy of justice. The FBI under J. Edgar Hoover has used innuendo and anonymous documents to have thousands fired from their jobs. Hoover uses the red scare to hire more investigators, year by year cementing his power. Hoover charges that there are 54,000 communists in the States, and ten times as many fellow-travelers. Once branded as a communist, people can’t find work. The FBI, working hand in hand with Senator McCarthy’s red baiting, has created a nightmare of fear in the American people. McCarthy has accused George Marshall of instigating ‘a conspiracy so immense that it dwarfs anything in the history of man.’”



J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation,
1959 – Unknown author, FBI Photo, Public domain, Wikimedia

“My sister was a great admirer of George Marshall.”

“Everyone,” Tomás said, “who fought against Hitler honored Marshall. As Secretary of State, his Marshall Plan did much to rebuild a continent destroyed by war. In contrast to the Marshall Plan, France, and Great Britain persecuted the Germans after the First World War with the venomous conditions of the Versailles Treaty. Marshall understood that the harsh conditions of the Versailles Treaty were responsible for producing another war.”

“That was the same view that Yvonne had. She wrote a paper on John Maynard Keynes’ criticism of the Versailles Treaty. Instead of punishing the enemy, he offered financial support to the defeated countries. Marshall proposed rebuilding the bombed out German cities with the European Recovery Program. His offer even included the countries occupied by the Soviet army. But the Soviets couldn’t allow their satellites to accept American aid. Instead of helping the conquered countries to rebuild, Stalin was plundering them. The Soviet Plan was the Marshall Plan in reverse. In my view, the Marshall Plan was the only honorable thing for the Americans to do. Especially when the firebombing of Dresden created a firestorm that incinerated the beautiful German city called ‘Florence on the Elbe.’ On the first night of the bombing, Dresden was crowded with as many as 200,000 German wounded and refugees. The American and English bombs burned 25,000 German civilians alive.



Renowned for its stunning baroque and rococo architecture, called “Florence on the Elbe”, Dresden was firebombed on the nights of 13-14 February 1945. 773 RAF Lancaster bombers dropped thousands of tons of incendiary high explosive bombs, destroying 90 percent of the city, killing 25,000 inhabitants – Richard Peter, Deutsche Fotothek

“The Allied bombers didn’t bomb the industrial plants on the fringe of the city but concentrated on the ancient center of Dresden. Its architectural monuments and churches built through the centuries were destroyed by fire. Have you read about the firebombing of Dresden?”



Dresden, Alstadt, in the late 19th century – Author, Detroit Publishing Co., Public domain, U.S. Library of Congress, Wikimedia



St. Sophie Church, Dresden, Saxony, Germany, 1895 – Author, Detroit Publishing Co. Public domain, U.S. Library of Congress, Wikimedia



B-17 Flying Fortresses over Germany – Author, USAF, Public domain, Wikimedia



Bodies awaiting cremation after the Allied bombing of Dresden, February, 1945 – Author, Hahn, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia



Civilian casualties, bombing of Dresden, 1945 – Author, Richard Peter, Deutsche Fotothek, Wikimedia

“I don’t know the details.”

“The survivors of Dresden were scarred for life by seeing other human beings being burning alive. They saw adults cremated, shrunk to the size of children, pieces of bodies exploded in pieces, people running on fire, whole families clinging together burnt to death, fire raging throughout the city creating a driving wind which drew in greater and greater quantities of oxygen, increasing the winds that even at a great distance from the flames, ignited buildings and people. The scalding wind of the firestorm pushed people back into the burning houses, people carrying their children screaming and waving their arms, then fainting from lack of oxygen, falling to the ground and burning to a cinder. After the fire storm of Dresden finally burned out, they discovered there were too many corpses to bury. Photos document the enormous piles of thousands of cadavers awaiting cremation. German troops burned the bodies with flamethrowers.”

Tomás paused then pursed his full lips and said, “Hamburg was burned too. The Brits dropped even more bombs than the Americans, payback for Hitler’s relentless bombing of London. The bombing of the civilians in Dresden and Hamburg is the result of the idea of ‘total war.’ Spain experienced it at Guernica. I think the Marshall Plan was one way that America could pay respect to those who burned to death in Dresden, Hamburg, and Berlin. But as great a leader as George Marshall was, in my eyes he made one bad decision.”

“What was that?” I asked.

“Katyn,” Tomás replied. “Along with Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, and Beria, Marshall was aware that it was covered up by the Soviets.”

“What was covered up?”

“The massacre of the Poles in Katyn Forest.”

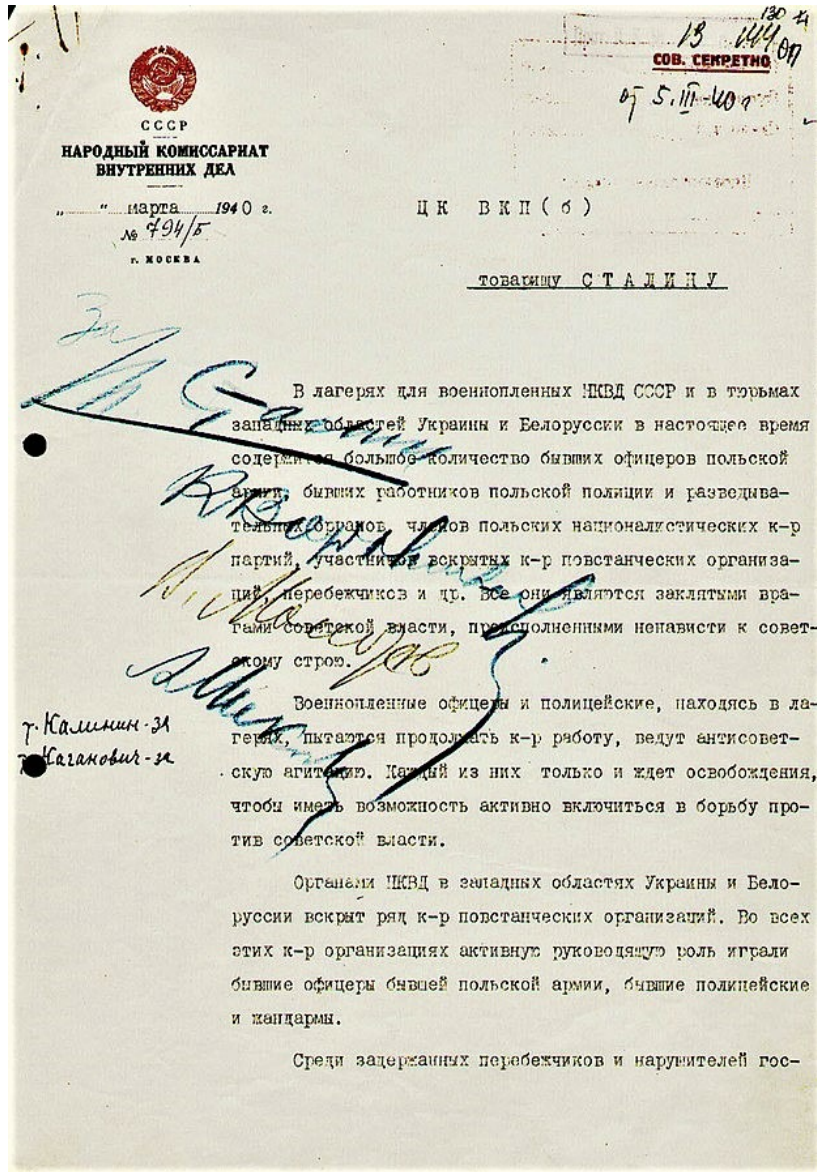
“I haven’t heard of Katyn Forest,” I said.

“There’s a reason you’ve not heard of it, because the guilty ones have hidden the truth. Cover-ups invariably happen after genocide. In 1939, Germany signed a secret pact with the Soviets, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, in which Germany and Russia agreed to partition Poland. The Pact was part of Germany’s program of *Lebensraum*. It was Hitler’s declared law of nature which asserted that people of superior races had the right to gain ‘living room’ by displacing people of inferior races, in this case the Poles. Immediately after Hitler’s brutal attack on Poland, the Red Army invaded from the East, capturing great numbers of Polish troops and police officers and imprisoning them in camps run by the NKVD, the Soviet secret police run by Lavrentiy Beria.



Polish prisoners of war captured by the Red Army after the Soviet invasion of Poland
– Author, unknown TASS war correspondent, Public domain, Wikimedia

“Stalin approved the execution of the Poles by Beria’s NKVD. He wanted to be sure that Poland would never rise again by killing the elite of Poland. In the camps, Poles were interrogated by NKVD officers to determine who would live and who would die. They killed not only the military officers, but the intellectuals, legislators, landowners, lawyers, journalists, teachers, and priests.”



Memo from NKVD chief Lavrentiy Beria proposing to Joseph Stalin the execution of Polish officers and intelligentsia in prisoner of war camps – Author, Lavrentiy Beria, Public domain, Wikimedia. People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs: The accepted proposal of **Lavrentiy Beria** to execute former Polish army and police officers in NKVD prisoner of war camps and prisons. March 1940. TOP SECRET From the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to comrade STALIN. In the NKVD POW camps and in the prisons of the western oblasts of Ukraine and Belorussia there is currently a large number of former officers of the Polish army, former Polish police officers and employees of intelligence agencies, members of Polish nationalist, counterrevolutionary parties, participants in underground rebel organizations, defectors and so on. All of them are implacable enemies of Soviet power and full of hatred for the Soviet system. POW officers and policemen located in the camps are attempting to continue counterrevolutionary work and are leading anti-Soviet agitation. Each of them is simply waiting to be freed so they can have the opportunity to actively join the fight against Soviet power. NKVD agents in the western oblasts of Ukraine and Belorussia have uncovered a number of counterrevolutionary organizations. In each of these organizations, the former officers of the former Polish army and former Polish police officers played an active leadership role. Signatures in favor: Stalin, Voroshilov, Molotov, Mikoyan.



Polish hostages being blindfolded before mass execution by German troops, Palmiry, Poland, 1940
– Unknown author, Polish Resistance intelligence service, Public domain, Wikimedia

“You’re saying, that in one blow, Stalin obliterated the leaders, clergy, and intellectuals of Poland?”

“As efficiently as the Germans. Soviet Major General Vasily Blokin, a longtime member of the Cheka state security police working under NKVD Chief Lavrentiy Beria, personally killed 7,000 Poles. At work, Blokin wore a leather butcher’s apron and long leather gloves to avoid staining his uniform and killed with the German Walther pistol carried by German intelligence officers so that if the Polish cadavers were ever found the Soviets could deny responsibility. Besides killing thousands of the Polish intelligentsia, Blokin personally executed many of the old guard Bolsheviks condemned to death during Stalin’s purge of the party. By killing his victims one by one in a hidden room, the Chekist believed secrecy could be maintained. The killing started at night in a padded, soundproof room with Blokin killing one victim every few minutes without pause until dawn, the bodies removed by trucks to open trenches which were dug for that night’s victims and covered before dawn. Blokin took pride in his work. His notes describe the details — 28 days to kill 7,000 Poles one by one.”

“Did Blokin ever suffer any retribution for killing thousands of Poles?”



Communist-party photograph of Major-General Vassily Blokhin – Unknown author, KGB photo archives, Public domain, Wikimedia. By his own account, General Blokhin worked without pause each night, executing an average of one prisoner every three minutes, executing 7,000 over 28 days, the most organized mass murder by a single individual in recorded history.

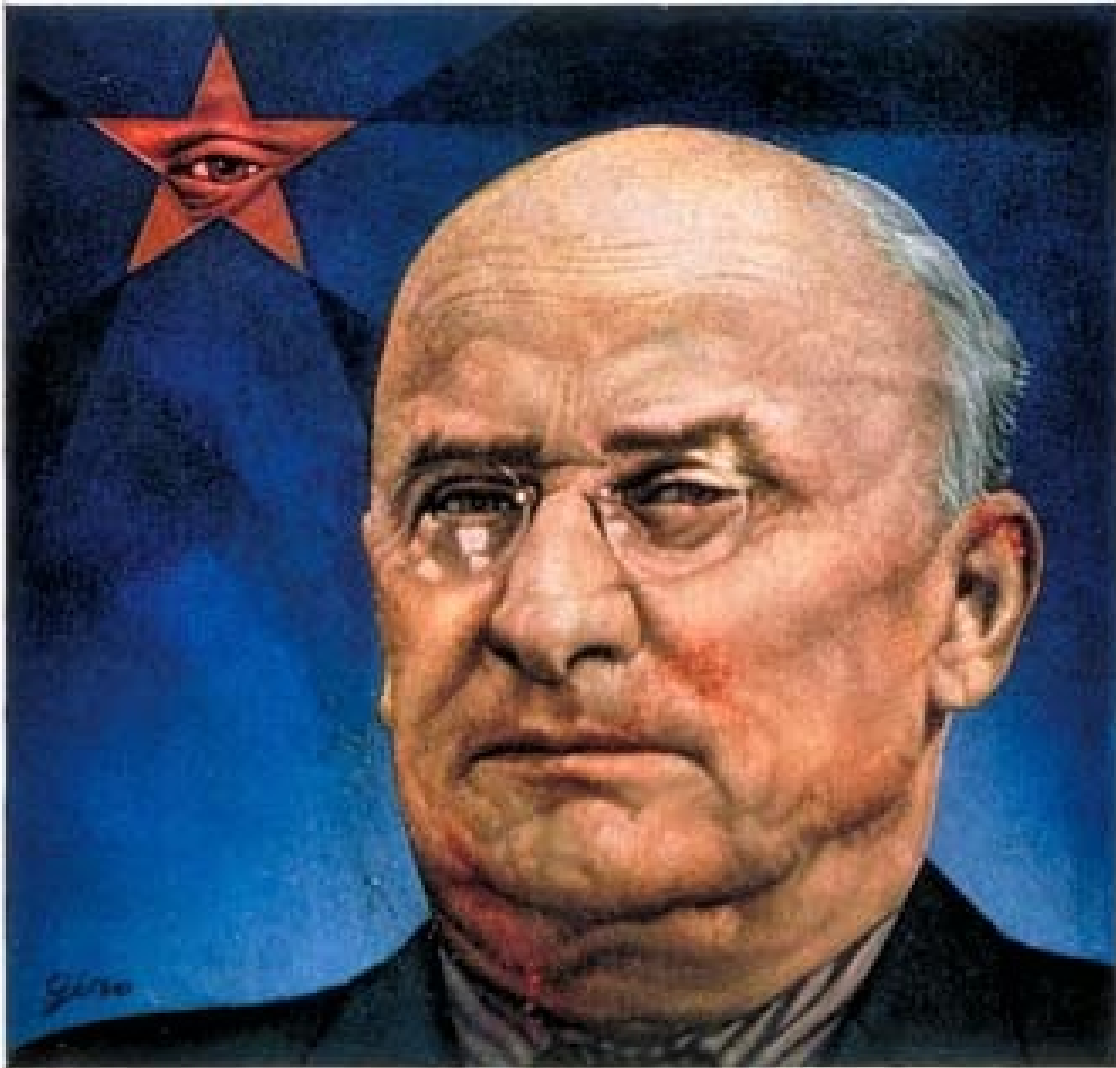
“Not at the time. Stalin loved Blokin’s dedication and efficiency. The executioner was untouchable as long as long as Stalin and his boss, Lavrentiy Beria was alive.”



One of the mass graves at Katyn Forest, 1943 – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia. At the end of 1942 and early 1943, the German military exhumed a ditch 28 meters in length and 16 meters in width in which the corpses of 3,000 Polish officers were piled twelve deep. Goebbels wrote in his diary, “We are now using the discovery of 12,000 Polish officers killed by the GPU, for anti-Bolshevik propaganda on a grand style.”

TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



BERIA

"Enemy of the people."

Lavrentiy Beria, Cover of Time Magazine, 20 July 1953 – Author, TIME, inc., Public domain, Wikimedia



Lavrentiy Beria with Stalin's daughter Svetlana Alliluyeva on his lap with Joseph Stalin in the background – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia

“I’ve heard terrible things about Beria — a ruthless demon like Reinhard Heydrich, the Butcher of Prague, who Hitler revered as the man with an iron heart.”

“Lavrentiy Beria,” Tomás said, “was the most powerful of Joseph Stalin’s secret police commanders. Besides organizing the Katyn Forest massacre, he was the Soviet Marshal for partisan intelligence and sabotage, administrator of the gulag labor camps, and *sharanshkas*, the detention facilities for scientists and engineers. After the war, Beria oversaw the Soviet takeover of the Eastern European governments, ruthlessly repressing all dissent, so successful in his work that Stalin gave him absolute power over a crash program to develop the Soviet atomic bomb within five years. But when Major General Vasily Blokin’s NKVD boss Beria fell from power, and Nikita Khrushchev dictated the anti-Stalinist program, Blokin was stripped of his rank of general, became an alcoholic and went insane.”

“A man like that,” I said, “if you even can call him a man, was insane from the beginning. How did the world find out about the massacre of the Poles in the Forest of Katyn?”

“It took a while for the West to learn of Katyn Forest because American and British soldiers had never entered Eastern Europe. But when the German’s launched Barbarossa, the invasion of Russia in 1941, Stalin ordered an amnesty for Polish prisoners who would volunteer to fight the Germans. A Polish General asked the Soviets where were the missing Polish prisoners of war that had been captured? The Soviets said they had been killed by the Germans in Operation Barbarossa. A couple of years later, a peasant hearing about the missing Poles reported to the Germans that he had seen at Smolensk men herded into prison vehicles and other trucks with men carrying picks and shovels headed into the Katyn forest. On the Hill of the Goats, the Germans uncovered mass graves with thousands of men in military uniform, hand tied behind their backs and shot in the back of the head.”

“What proof,” I said, “did the Poles have that the executions were the work of the Russians instead of the Germans?”

“The German army brought in foreign observers, including two American POWs to witness the excavation of mass grave where three or four thousand cadavers lie rotting. One of the POWs who’d seen the grave signed a testimony that the Soviets were responsible for the massacre when they invaded Poland in 1939. In 1944, Roosevelt directed his emissary to the Balkans, Navy Lieutenant Commander George Earle, to file a report on the Katyn massacre.”



1943 exhumation of mass grave of Polish officers killed by NKVD by order of Beria and Stalin in [Katyn](#) Forest, 1940, Germans showing the grave to an international commission of POW officers from Great Britain, Canada, and U.S.- Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia

“What did the Commander discover?”

“Earle found damning evidence that the Soviet Union was responsible. Roosevelt discussed the report with George Marshall and they decided that even though the Earle Report established beyond a shadow of doubt that the Soviets were responsible for the mass killings, it couldn’t be published.”

“That’s hard to believe.”

“But true. They squashed the Earle Report. Even today twenty four years after the massacre of the Poles, the Soviets insist that the bodies in the mass graves were slaughtered by the Nazis. Now that the Polish government is a puppet of the Soviet Union, they’ve buried the crime in silence. There’ll never be an open inquiry as long as the communists hold power in Poland. While it may take decades, archives in Eastern Europe and Russia will one day be opened and the truth will emerge. But will the truth bring justice for the Polish dead?”

“I don’t understand why Roosevelt and Marshall wouldn’t publish the truth about the massacre?”

“It was Realpolitik. Machiavelli said a ruler must conduct affairs of state upon considerations of expediency rather than upon ideological or ethical principles. In that moment, the U.S. was allied with the USSR. Churchill said, ‘We should none of us ever speak a word about it.’”

“Otto von Bismarck,” I said, “the first Chancellor of the German Empire was a master of Realpolitik when he forged Prussia into a great military power in the 19th century.



Surrender of [Napoleon III](#) to Otto von Bismarck, 1 September 1870 – Lithograph by von Breidenbach & Co, Public domain



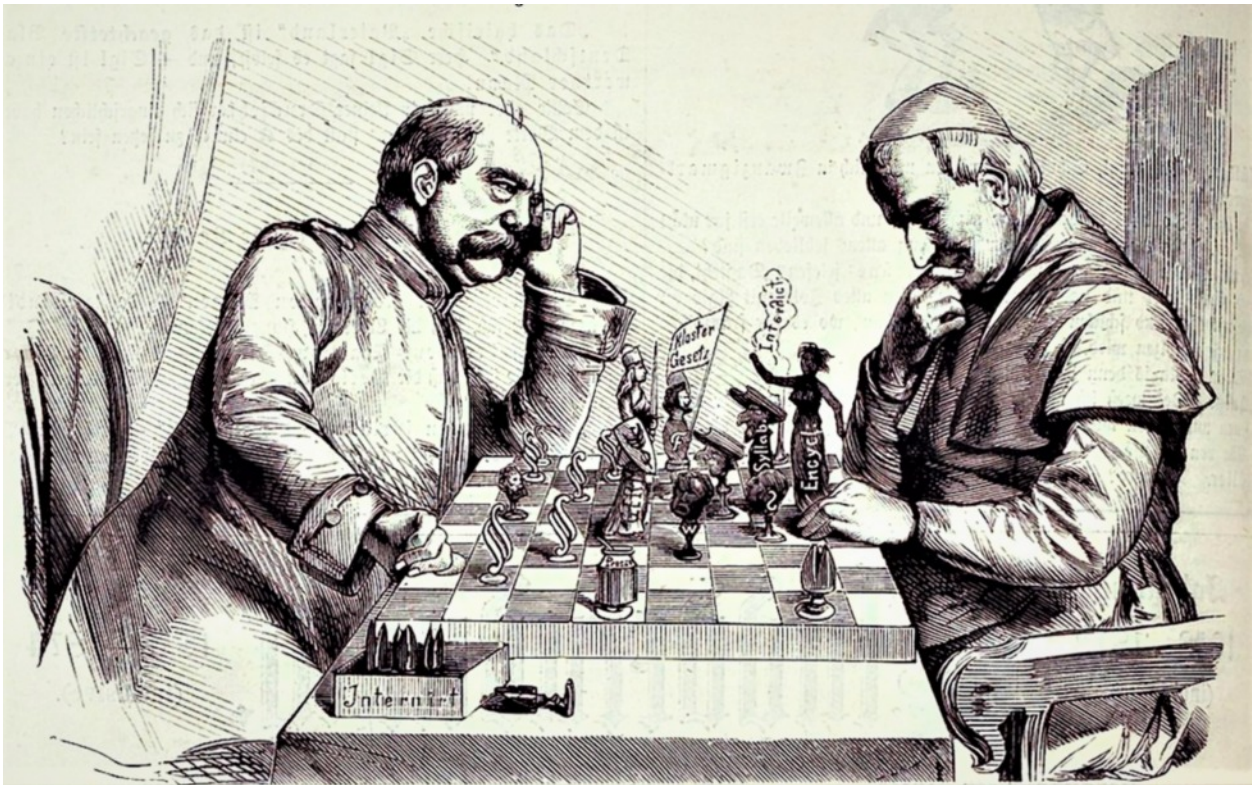
Revolutionaries in Berlin waving revolutionary flags, March 1848 – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia



Battle at the barricades at Rue Soufflot on 24 June 1848 – Painting by Horace Vernet, Public domain, Wikimedia



Portrait of Otto Eduard Leopold von Bismarck, 1890 – Painting by Franz von Lenbach, Walter Art Museum, Public domain



German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck plays chess with the Pope, 1875 – Caricature by Wilhelm Scholtz, Public domain, Wikimedia



The Battle of Königgrätz, 3rd July, 1866 – Painting by Georg Bleibtreu, Deutsches Historisches Museum, Public domain, Wikimedia. The German journalist and liberal activist Ludwig von Rochau, who first defined Realpolitik in his essay, the *Principles of Realpolitik*, said that the great achievement of the Enlightenment was to show that might is not necessarily right. In the aftermath, von Rochau realized that the authoritarian repression of the liberal revolutions against the monarchies during 1848 and the restoration of power by Otto von Bismarck and King Frederick William IV of Prussia in Berlin, revealed that the democratic liberals too quickly believed that the law of the strong had vanished because it had been exposed as being unjust. Revolution brings the counter-revolution of the powerful.



The proclamation of Wilhelm I as German emperor in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. Bismarck is wearing a white uniform – Painting by Anton von Werner, Bismarck Museum, Friedrichsruh, Germany, Public domain, Wikimedia



Bismarck monument in Berlin – Author, Bernt Rostad, Wikimedia

“Bismarck said, ‘The great questions of the time will not be resolved by speeches and majority decisions — that was the great mistake of 1848 and 1849 — but by iron and blood.’ Realpolitik means to achieve your goal with whatever means possible. Bismarck was fond of quoting Virgil’s *Aeneid* — ‘*Flectere si nequeo superos, acheronta movebo.*’ ‘If I cannot move the Gods, I will turn to the Devil.’ I believe Bismarck prepared the weltanschauung of the German nation for the rise of Hitler.”

“A good example,” Tomás said, “of Realpolitik was Stalin’s decision to allow the Orthodox Church to be reestablished during the war after he’d crushed it in the 1930s. Even though he despised the Russian Orthodox Church, Stalin reversed course for pragmatic reasons — to motivate the Russian people to fight to the death against the Nazi invaders. Hitler employed the same pragmatic expediency by praising the German Christian heritage when he had nothing but contempt for the ‘meekness of Christianity.’ While he concealed it during his rise to power, Hitler’s ultimate goal was to destroy Christianity in Germany.”

“I understand,” I said. “Roosevelt and Marshall decided they didn’t have a choice. They ignored the truth of the massacre because they didn’t want to disturb the status quo with Stalin. The alliance over rode the moral issue. The United States needed the Soviets to defeat the Nazis on the Eastern Front.”



George C. Marshall, U.S. Secretary of State, 1947 to 1949 – Author, U.S. Department of State, Public domain, Wikimedia

“Despite George Marshall’s accommodation of Stalin,” Tomás said, “in suppressing the truth of the massacre of Katyn Forest, I admire Marshall for the European Recovery Program. The United States has sent billions of dollars to rebuild a continent devastated by the bombing and burning of our cities.

“The billions invested by the Americans have rebuilt Europe’s transport system, modernized industry, and agriculture, removed trade barriers, and raised productivity. It’s allowed Europe to rise out of the ashes with new hope. It’s a step that one day could lead to an integrated Europe. And this is a man McCarthy accused of treason.”

“Democracies,” I said, “have employed Realpolitik too. At this very moment, the United States is supporting dictators and human rights violators in Africa, Asia, and South America.”

“In conquest and war,” Tomás said, “the truth is concealed. When you study history, you’ll discover that every nation has committed atrocities they wish to hide. That includes the United States which hasn’t faced up to their genocide against the indigenous people of North America.”

“Your people suffered genocide. Gitanos were sent to the Nazi death camps.”

“Hitler believed us to be an inferior race,” Tomás said. “Twenty thousand Gitanos died at Auschwitz. A half million Gitanos living in Eastern Europe were virtually exterminated. The murder of the Romani people by the Nazis is known in the Romani language as the *Porajmos* — *The Devouring*, or *pharrajimos* which means in the Romani language, the ‘cutting up,’ or ‘destruction.’ Balkan Romani use the word *Samudaripen* which means mass killing. Before the turn of the 19th century, the German Imperial Police set up photographic and fingerprint files to keep watch over Gitanos who were spies and criminals. Gitanos were forbidden to enter public parks or swimming pools.



Deportation of Sinti and Roma, Asperg, Germany, May 1940 – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia



German troops round up Romani in Asperg, Germany, May 1940 – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia

“Through the centuries, the Romani tribes had suffered persecution for being misfits, deviants, and criminals. Both the Imperial and Weimar governments had established anti-Romani policies to force the Roma to give up their nomadic ways and live in restricted ghettos. Prussia required Roma to carry identity cards and one state passed the 'Law for the Fight against the Gypsy Menace' allowing for the indiscriminate arrest of Gypsies.”

“The real death of democracy in Germany,” I said, “was when the Reichstag adopted the Enabling Act in March, 1933. An amendment to the Weimar Constitution, *Gesetz zur Behebung der Not von Volk und Reich* — Law to Remedy the Distress of People and Reich, approved by President Paul von Hindenburg, gave Chancellor Adolf Hitler the power to enact laws without the participation of the Reichstag. The Reichstag Fire Decree and the Enabling Act abolished most civil liberties and transformed Hitler's government into a legal dictatorship.”

“In July of that same year,” Tomás said, “the Reichstag passed the ‘Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases’ authorizing the forced sterilization of people with physical and mental disabilities, Gitanos and Afro-Germans. This was the beginning of the *Porajmos*. At the Nuremberg rally of the Nazi Party

in September 1935, a special convocation of the Reichstag established the Nuremberg Laws, the Reich Citizenship Law and the ‘Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honor’ which prohibited Jews to marry or have sexual relations with Aryans. Concerned about racial contamination from Czech and Romanian Roma, Nazi raceologists, expanded the Blood and Honor law to prohibit Gitanos from having sexual relations with Germans. ‘Racial infamy’ was a criminal offense.”



Members of the SA, *Sturmabteilung*, holding placards in front of Israel’s Department Store, Berlin, April 1, 1933, “Germans defend yourselves! Don’t buy from Jews.” – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia

“The Citizenship Law,” I said, “stripped German Jews of their citizenship, barred them from the professions and military service. Only people of German blood could be citizens. Jews were not to be defined as members of a religious community but by race defined by blood. Since many Jews were integrated into society and not strictly observant or had intermarried and converted to Christianity even celebrating Christmas with Germans, Jews weren’t easily identifiable. The Reich tracked family genealogies by leasing the rapid card sorting technology of the American corporation, IBM — identifying a Jew as anyone who had two or more Jewish ancestors. The Nazis law branded as Jews even Protestant ministers and Roman Catholic priests and nuns who had distant Jewish ancestors.”

“The Nuremberg laws,” Tomás said, “were expanded to include all the tribes of Gitanos. Like the Jews, the Romani lost their right to vote. Dr. Robert Ritter, a psychiatrist with a doctorate from the University of Heidelberg, was made head of the Reich’s ‘Eugenic and Population Biological Research Station.’”



A Nazi 1941 law ordered Jews to wear the yellow star to identify them. – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia



Chart to describe Nuremberg Laws of 15 September 1935 – United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection, Wikimedia.



A *Lebensborn* birth house in Nazi Germany dedicated to raising the birth rate of "Aryan" children from the extramarital relations of "racially pure and healthy parents," 1943 – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia



Nazi psychologist Dr. Robert Ritter interviews Romani woman – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia

“Eugenics,” I said, “became a powerful current of pseudo-science after Madison Grant published, *The Passing of the Great Race*, during the First World War. Eugenics was based on the belief that the genes of human beings can be improved by selective breeding. Sterilization of humans with undesirable traits, caught fire in the United States before it spread to Germany.”

“I didn’t realize that eugenics became popular in the U.S.”

“In fact,” I said, “the modern idea of selective breeding first picked up momentum in Victorian England when sociologist and anthropologist, Sir Francis Galton, published *Hereditary Genius* in 1869, the first scientific attempt to explain genius and greatness. Galton applied Charles Darwin’s theory on the natural selection of plants and animals, to humans. He named it ‘eugenics.’ But the concept goes back two thousand years to the Greek philosopher Plato who suggested selective breeding in order to produce superior human beings for the ruling class. Sir Galton was the first to apply statistical methods to the study of human intelligence. In the early 20th century, eugenics rapidly gained popularity around the globe drawing support from American philanthropic groups like the Carnegie Institution, the Harriman Foundation, and respected scientists from Stanford, Yale, Harvard, and Princeton.

THE PASSING OF THE GREAT RACE

OR

THE RACIAL BASIS OF EUROPEAN HISTORY

BY

MADISON GRANT

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NEW YORK

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

1916

Title page, *The Passing of the Great Race* by Madison Grant
– Author, Charles Scribner's Sons, Wikimedia

“In 1927, the Rockefeller Foundation helped found the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Anthropology in Berlin to study human genetics. At the University of Munich and later at the Rockefeller-funded Wilhelm Institute, Ernst Rüdin, a psychiatrist and eugenicist, one of the fathers of psychiatric genetics, promoted an agenda of mass sterilization and clinical killing of adults and children. He warned that the Nordic race, the creators of culture, would be doomed by hereditary defectives unless they were eliminated. Rüdin believed that preserving the life of the mentally ill, drug addicts, alcoholics, and epileptics was against the law of natural selection. It was a contradiction of nature. Medicine had a moral imperative to cleanse the genetic pool.”



Ernst Rüdin wearing a Swastika pin – Author, Munchen Lehman, 1944 copyright, fair use, Wikimedia. Speaking about euthanasia in 1942, Rüdin supported “eliminating young children of clearly inferior quality.” Joining the Nazi party in 1937, Hitler awarded him in 1939 with the Goethe medal for art and science,” honoring him as the ‘pioneer of the racial-hygienic measures of the Third Reich.’ Although considered a Nazi criminal, Rüdin was spared the Nuremberg trials by a need to restore confidence in the German medical profession, his connections to American researchers, and a justification of his sterilization beliefs by citing eugenic sterilization laws in California and other states. In reality, Rüdin was more responsible for the Nazi euthanasia policies than the physician, Karl Brandt, who was sentenced to death.

“Rüdin’s imperative,” Tomás said, clenching his fist, “came up with a scientific justification for killing the Gitanos. Rüdin was Lucifer in the flesh. How did eugenics get started in the U.S.?”

“One reason was money,” I replied, “In last week’s lecture on race and genetics, Professor Blumenthal told us that the first sterilization law in California was passed in 1909 to authorize tubal ligations and vasectomies of patients in institutions for the mentally retarded and sex offenders. The fewer the patients, the less tax money was needed to care for them. A second law passed in 1913, authorized sterilization of those afflicted with hereditary disease or incurable mania or dementia. A third law in 1917 granted the authority to the Sonoma State Home to perform sterilizations on anyone living in the home. By 1933, California had sterilized more people than all of the other states combined.”

“What was the reason for this perversion of justice?”

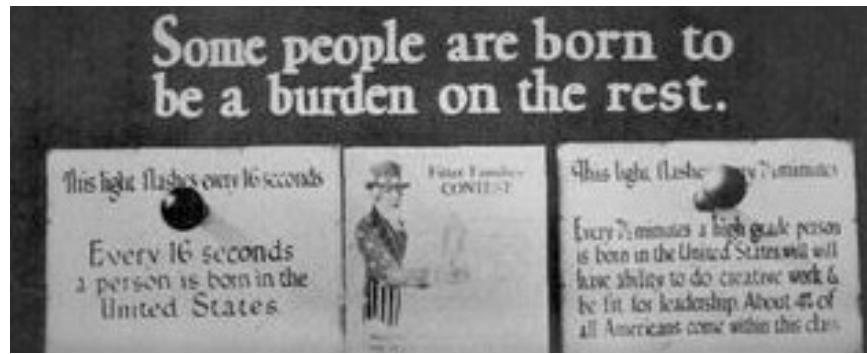


Schloss Hartheim Euthanasia Center where 18,000 patients deemed “incurably sick” were killed – Author, Dralon, Wikimedia

“Professor Blumenthal told us that the sterilizations were driven by fears of overpopulation, welfare dependency, and sexual behavior. Mexicans and African Americans were sterilized at a higher rate than the general population — Mexicans because they were diseased, African Americans because they were oversexed. To protect women, African Americans had to be controlled. A *Fortune Magazine* survey in 1937 showed that for the good of the public, 66% of Americans favored compulsory sterilization. Blumenthal showed us statistics, thousands of patients were sterilized not only at Sonoma State Home, but state hospitals in San Bernardino, Norwalk, Camarillo, Stockton, Mendocino, and Napa.”

“I can see,” Tomás said, “how the Nazi sterilization decrees were inspired by California laws.”

“Eugenics was a powerful movement,” I said. “Even the U.S. Supreme Court endorsed eugenics when it upheld a Virginia statute that provided for the eugenic sterilization for people considered genetically unfit. Blumenthal quoted Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes decision in the 1927 case of *Buck v. Bell*. ““Three generations of imbeciles are enough.””



U.S. Eugenics advocacy poster from the Philadelphia Sesqui-Centennial Exhibition, 1926 – Author, American Philosophical Society, fair use, Wikimedia

“Are you kidding?”

“Justice Holmes said, ‘It is better for all the world, if instead of waiting to execute degenerate offspring for crime, or let them starve for their imbecility, society can prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind. The principle that sustains compulsory vaccination is broad enough to sanction cutting the Fallopian tubes.’” Pope Pius XI challenged the decision, condemning the sterilization laws as a crime against human life. What did Dr. Ritter’s eugenic research determine about the Gitanos?”



German anthropologist Eva Justin checking the facial characteristics of a Romani woman as part of her anthropometric *scientific racial studies*, 1938 – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia

“After studying thousands of Roma for two years, Ritter concluded that the *Zigeuner* — that’s German for untouchable — were not Aryan but primitive nomads of an alien race who were incapable of successful social adaptation. One of his staff, Eva Justin, studied *Zigeunermischlinge*, mixed race Roma and Sinti children for her PhD dissertation in anthropology, ‘The Life History of Alien-raised Gypsy Children and Their Descendants.’ Dr. Robert Ritter’s work was intended to establish a ‘scientific basis’ to justify the extermination of the German Gypsy population. After Eva Justin had finished her studies on the children, they were sent to Auschwitz and put to death in the gas chambers.



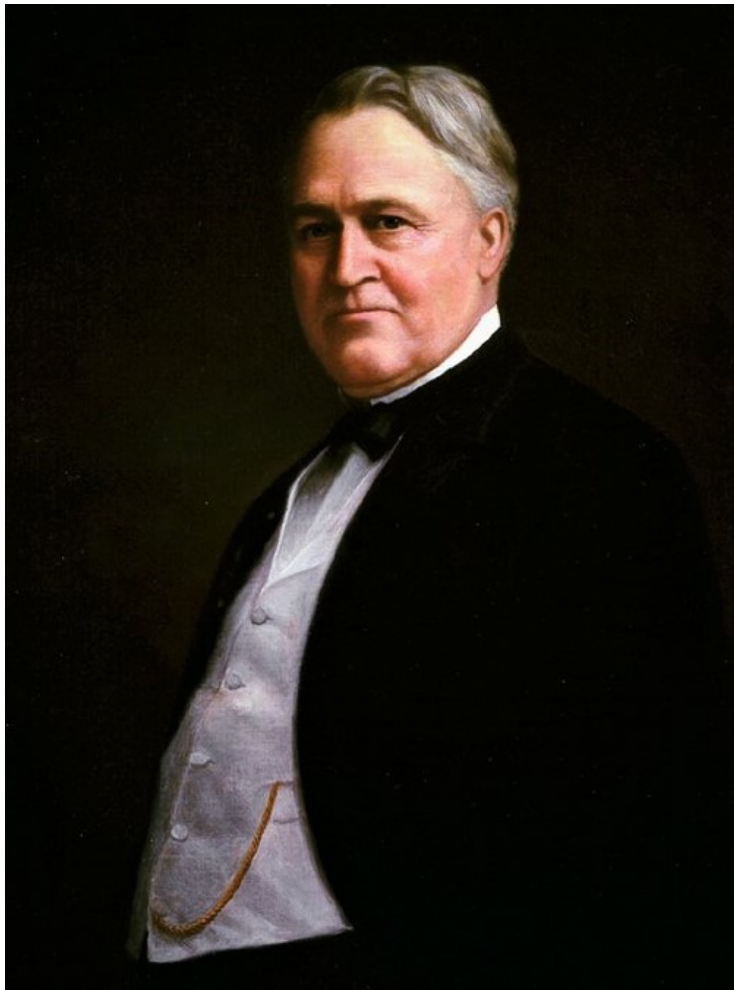
Romani children at the St. Josefspflege orphanage in [Mulfingen](#), Germany, 1943. Thirty-nine Romani children were separated from their parents as part of German anthropologist Eva Justin’s research at the Institute for the Study of Racial Hygiene for her doctoral dissertation, published by the Mathematics-Science Faculty of Berlin University, 1944. An assistant to Nazi psychologist Robert Ritter, Eva Justin hoped that her “study will serve as a basis for future race laws regulating such unworthy primitive elements.” After her study, the children were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp where most were put to death in the gas chamber – Unknown author, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Fair use, Wikimedia.

“To the Nazis,” I said, “the Gypsies were like Jews — racial inferiors who threatened to dilute the biological purity of the superior Aryan race.”

“The mass deportations of Gitanos,” Tomás said, “began in 1942 when Heinrich Himmler signed the order to send the Roma to Auschwitz. On Heydrich Reinhardt’s watch, tens of thousands of Roma and Jews were killed in the extermination camps. At Auschwitz, the Gitanos worked in the Thyssen factory where thousands died of typhus and noma due to malnutrition and filthy living conditions. One Jewish survivor of Auschwitz recalled the day the camp guards brought in a group of Romani veterans of the First World War. Some of them were decorated soldiers who were wearing the Knight’s Cross. That didn’t matter. They gassed the Gitano veterans who had risked their lives fighting for their nation.

“During the war, many Spanish Republican refugees were sent to the camps by the Vichy police. The Gitanos who’d fled Spain were sent to Mauthausen and Auschwitz where they were worked to death on a starvation diet. My uncle Pepe died at Auschwitz.

“Like Hitler, Franco persecuted the artists and intellectuals. Many of the prisoners at Mauthausen were members of the intelligentsia from all the countries of Europe. The only intellectuals who survived were those who were fortunate enough to get to other countries. So you can understand my anger when I see the House Un-American Activities Committee accusing artists of not being patriotic, composers like Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copeland, film makers, Charlie Chaplin, Joseph Losey, and Orson Welles, entertainers, Lena Horn, Paul Robeson, Pete Segar, and writers, Dorothy Parker, Dalton Trumbo, Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Thomas Mann, and Arthur Miller. The list goes on and on. I get flaming angry when I see freedom of expression being crushed.”



Democratic Senator, North Carolina, Lee Slater Overman led the first congressional investigation of American communism in 1919 – Unknown author, public domain, Wikimedia

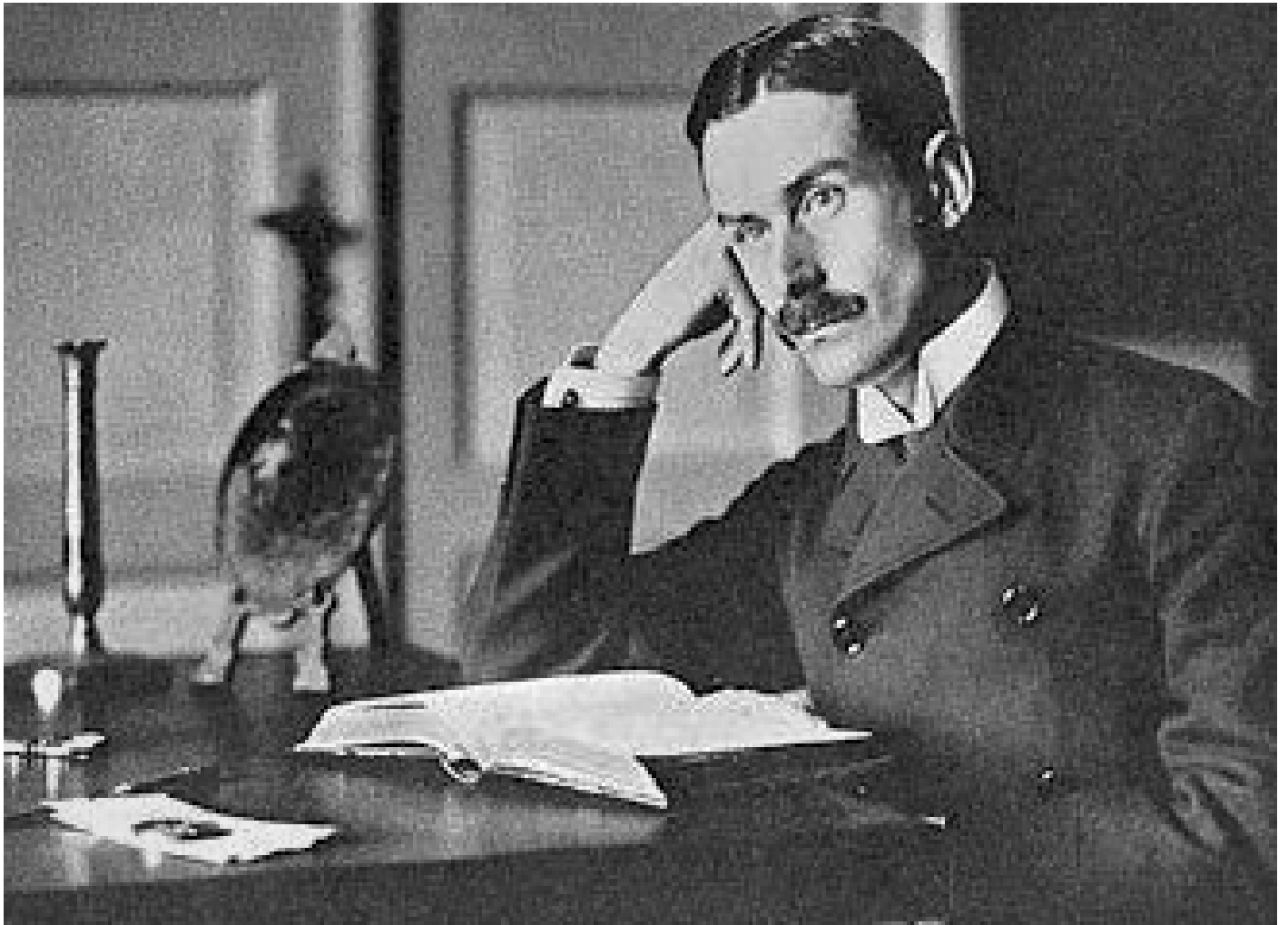


Martin Dies Jr., Democrat, Texas, chairman of the House of Un-American Activities Committee, HUAC, proofs his letter replying to President Roosevelt's attack on the committee, October 26, 1938 – Author, White House photographers, Harris & Ewing, Public domain, Wikimedia. Michigan Governor Frank Murphy lost his re-election bid in 1938 due to an accusation of being a “communist dupe” during testimony before the HUAC. The Labor Department, the WPA Federal theatre Project and Writers’ Project, and the National Labor Relations Board were accused of harboring communists. The Martin Dies led Committee named Clark Gable, Robert Taylor, James Cagney and ten-year-old Shirley Temple on a list of Hollywood actors who had sent greetings to the Communist French newspaper, *Ce Soir*. After the 1929 Wall Street Crash, Representative Martin Dies Jr. said that the “large alien population is the basic cause of unemployment.” After labor unions began to flourish during Roosevelt’s second term, Dies turned against the New Deal, publishing a book, *The Trojan Horse in America*, to expose a communist conspiracy.

“I admire,” Tomás said, “the German Nobel laureate, Thomas Mann. When the House Committee, was hunting for communist influence in the movie industry, he spoke against spiritual intolerance and political persecutions in the name of a trumped-up state of emergency. Mann knew from firsthand experience that a state of emergency was how fascism took power in Germany. In one of his novels, when speaking of the Germans during the 1930’s, Mann invented a quote from Goethe, which many, including the prosecutor at the Nuremburg Trials, believed was actually a quote from Goethe.”

“What was the quote?”

“Mann said, the Germans ‘abandon themselves credulously to every fanatic scoundrel who speaks to their baser qualities, confirms them in their vices and teaches them that nationality means barbarism and isolation.’



Thomas Mann at the age of thirty, 1905 – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia

“After, supporting German nationalism during World War One, Mann went through a transformation when Hitler came to power. The Nazi regime opened his eyes to the dangers of radical nationalism. But Mann remained in his heart a German in the Goethe mold. Upon arriving in the U.S. in 1938 after his escape from Germany, he said, ‘Where I am, there is Germany.’ Have you read his novel *The Magic Mountain*?”

“It’s on my list,” I said. “I’d love to read it if I can find time between my classes and homework.”

“It’s one of the most intriguing books I’ve read,” Tomás continued, “even more interesting than *Buddenbrooks*. Mann creates a microcosm of prewar Europe in a tuberculosis sanitarium in the Alps of Switzerland, each of the characters reflecting some aspect of the ideologies being debated in the period between the two world wars. My favorite chapter is the one called *Snow*. In a brilliant passage, Hans Castorp willfully chooses to get lost in a snowstorm in the mountains and barely survives. Surrounded by people suffering and dying from tuberculosis, Hans realizes that one must go through the experience of sickness and death to arrive

at a higher sanity. Like the later existentialists, Thomas Mann believes that by facing death one learns about life.”

“Sartre said,” I replied, “One lives one’s death, one dies one’s life.”



Thomas Mann’s novel, *Der Zauberberg*, *The Magic Mountain* – Author H. P. Haack, Fair use, Wikimedia

“In Paris,” Tomás said, “I saw Arthur Miller’s play, *The Crucible*. I remember his words, ‘Until an hour before the Devil fell, God thought him beautiful in Heaven.’ A few months later in Jerez de la Frontera, I saw a French film *Les Sorcières de Salem*, with Spanish subtitles, *Las Brujas de Salem* — *The Witches of Salem*, based on Miller’s play with Simone Signoret and Yves Montand, and Jean-Paul Sartre writing the script.



Wedding of Marilyn Monroe and Arthur Miller, 1961 – Author, Macfadden Publications, TV-Radio Mirror, Public domain, Wikimedia

“Set in a Puritan community of Salem, Massachusetts in the 17th century, Abigail, the seventeen-year-old servant is let go by Elizabeth for having an affair with her husband John. Certain that John loves her, Abigail resolves to have him for herself. Using the conjuring talents of her uncle’s Barbados slave, Tituba, Abigail brings her girlfriends to the woods to conjure up love-spells over the fire. Claiming to be possessed by the devil, the girls spread rumors and accuse the outcasts of Salem of witchcraft. As hysteria spreads throughout the town, the sensual and charismatic Abigail, possessed by her desire for John, accuses John’s wife of being a witch. Only John, Elizabeth, and Abigail know the truth — Abigail intends to dance with John on Elizabeth’s grave.

ARTHUR
MILLER

THE CRUCIBLE



Cover of Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible* –
Source, Google Images, Fair use, Wikimedia

“Miller,” Tomás said, “used the trial in *The Crucible* to compare the persecution of witches in the 17th century to the persecution of people in the 20th century — people accused without proof and by false testimony. The hanging of witches in *The Crucible* is an allegory for McCarthyism and a few years later, Miller himself was indicted for contempt of Congress for refusing to give testimony against others before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. When the HUAC witch hunters were searching for communists, I was disappointed to hear that film director Elia Kazan had named members of the Communist Party. His testimony destroyed his friendship with Arthur Miller.”



Eva Marie Saint as Edie Doyle and Marlon Brando as Terry Malloy in Elia Kazan's film *On the Waterfront*, screenplay by Budd Schulberg, 1954 – Columbia Pictures, public domain, Wikimedia

“I agree,” I said, “Elia Kazan made a bad decision to testify. But great artists sometimes make bad decisions. And great artists who make bad decisions can make a transcendental film. *On the Waterfront* is one of the most convincing films ever made on corruption.



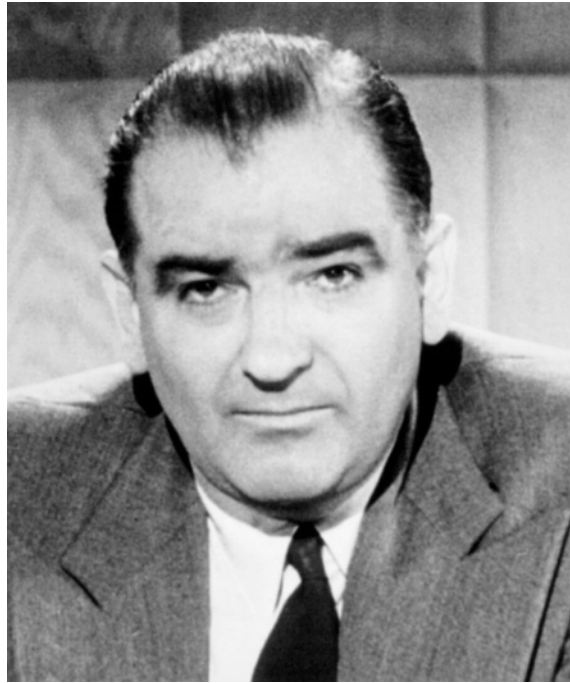
Eva Marie Saint as Edie Doyle and Karl Malden as Father Barry in Elia Kazan's *On the Waterfront*, a drama about corruption and racketeering amongst longshoremen on the mob controlled Hoboken, New Jersey waterfront. Nominated for twelve Academy Awards, *On the Waterfront* won eight Oscars – Best Motion Picture for producer Sam Spiegel, Best Actor for Marlon Brando, Best Supporting actress for Eva Marie Saint, Best Director for Elia Kazan, Best Screenplay for Budd Schulberg, Best Cinematography for Boris Kaufman, Best Art Direction for Richard Day, and Best Editing for Gene Milford – Author, Columbia Pictures, public domain, Wikimedia.

“Everything about the film is great,” I said, “Budd Schulberg’s script, Kazan’s direction, the acting, cinematography, art direction, editing, and music. Eugene Lourié, the art director who designed Jean Renoir’s *Rules of the Game* and *The Grand Illusion*, quoted director Luis Buñuel: ‘collaboration on a film should be anonymous like the building of medieval cathedrals. The artisans, stonemasons, sculptors, painters, and architects didn’t sign their work. Only the cathedral counted.’ All the different *métiers* of *On the Waterfront*, coalesced to make a perfect whole. Over and beyond Schulberg’s powerful script and Kazan’s direction, it was the casting that made it a classic. Marlon Brando’s naturalist acting in the role of the ex-boxer makes it one of my favorite American films. But the best part for me was the vulnerability and sensuality of Eva Marie Saint.”



Alfred Hitchcock’s film *North by Northwest* starring Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint, James Mason, Martin Landau, screenplay by Ernest Lehman, and music score by Bernard Herrmann – Author, MGM, Public domain, Wikimedia

“Eva Marie Saint. . .” Tomás murmured. “What a delicate beauty. You’re right about *On the Waterfront*. It is a powerful film about corruption. But it doesn’t alter the fact that Kazan allowed himself to be a tool in the hands of the McCarthy inquisition. The great tragedy is that a majority of Americans supported the witch hunt. They threw due process of law out the window. That is how a democracy becomes a police state. Oscar Wilde said, ‘America is the only country that went from barbarism to decadence without civilization in between.’



Senator Joseph McCarthy, 1954 – Author, United Press, Public domain, Library of Congress, Wikimedia

“Truman was right when he said McCarthy was ‘the best asset the Kremlin has.’ But when Truman introduced the loyalty oath for federal employees, he gave McCarthy the tool to persecute those who are powerless to protect themselves. Homosexuals have been targeted as subversive, branded as sexual perverts. Teachers live in fear of constant surveillance.



Joseph Welch, left, Chief Senate Counsel representing the United States Army, partner at Hale and Dorr, with U. S. Senator Joe McCarthy of Wisconsin, right, at the Senate Subcommittee on Investigations' McCarthy-Army hearings, June 9, 1954 – Author, U.S. Senate, Public domain, Wikimedia

“Eisenhower campaigned alongside McCarthy in the presidential campaign and refused to defend Marshall's policies, the very man who had helped Eisenhower’s career. That is what running for office does to men, leading them to support the hysteria of the moment. Eisenhower was a great leader in the invasion of Normandy. Without his leadership, and the Russians determination on the Eastern Front, the Nazis might have conquered Europe. But as President, he lacked courage to unconditionally oppose McCarthy.

“Although Eisenhower and Truman had once been friends, when Eisenhower failed to denounce Joseph McCarthy during the presidential campaign, Truman felt betrayed. While supporting Adlai Stevenson during the election, Truman accused Eisenhower of ignoring ‘anti-Semitism, anti-Catholicism, and anti-foreignism in the Republican Party. That finished their former friendship. Truman was right to castigate Eisenhower. The president remained silent while artists were accused of not being loyal Americans. The American writer, Ray Bradbury who wrote *Fahrenheit 451* about a dictatorship burning books, said, ‘When the wind is right, a faint odor of kerosene is exhaled from Senator McCarthy.’ I regret that the Hollywood film community lacked the guts to speak out against the attacks of Un-American Activities Committee.”

“You’re right,” I said, “if you are speaking about the studios of Hollywood. They were cowards dedicated to the bottom line of money. But many individuals went out on a limb to fight McCarthy.”

“How was that?”

“A group of 500 Hollywood characters signed the Committee for the First Amendment’s petition to protest McCarthy’s attempt to smear the motion picture industry. Lauren Bacall, Humphrey Bogart, John Huston, Danny Kaye, Gene Kelly, and Ira Gershwin flew to Washington to oppose McCarthy’s inquisition. Besides actors Bacall and Bogart, there were a number of uninvited Hollywood personalities who made the trip to testify in Washington, John Garfield, Edward G. Robinson, Henry Fonda, William Wyler, Billy Wilder, Groucho Marx, Lucille Ball, Frank Sinatra, and Lena Horne. They testified that it was a violation of the basic principles of American democracy to investigate an individual’s political beliefs. But, you’re correct about the studio moguls. The businessmen were intimidated by McCarthy and laid low. Twentieth Century Fox put John Garfield’s career on hold when they heard the committee was investigating him for being a communist. With his reputation tarnished by being forced to testify, the studios put him on the blacklist. Many believe the realization that his career was finished brought on the sudden heart attack which ended Garfield’s life when he was only thirty-nine.”



John Garfield, Warner Bros. publicity still, 1939 – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia. Born to Russian Jewish immigrants, Jacob Julius Garfinkle grew up in poverty in the Yiddish Theater District on the lower East Side. A truant and young gang leader, he discovered his talent for acting in the American Laboratory Theatre, which followed the Konstantin Stanislavski acting system, eventually becoming known as “Method Acting.” He worked on his dialogue until it became as natural as language of the street, developing a powerful sexual persona like the Method actors who followed in Garfield’s footsteps, Marlon Brando, Montgomery Clift, and James Dean. Involved in liberal causes, Garfield supported the Committee for the First Amendment that opposed congressional investigation of communist activity in the film industry and refused to name Communist Party members when called to testify in 1951 before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, a stance that led the Hollywood studio executives to blacklist Garfield. His friends believed that his health damaged from scarlet fever in childhood and the heartbreak of losing his film career led to his heart attack and early death at the age of 39.



Lauren Bacall, and Humphrey Bogart in *To Have and Have Not* – Time, Inc. *Life* magazine, Public domain, Wikimedia



Lauren Bacall and Vice President Harry Truman at the National Press Club, February 1945 – *Life Magazine*, Public domain, Wikimedia

“It’s encouraging to hear,” Tomás said, “actors and directors had the guts to defend civil liberties at the risk of their careers. It takes a lot of courage to risk one’s livelihood in speaking out. Artists must be fierce in defending their freedom to be an artist. Fortunately, Bacall and Bogart were untouchable in that moment, but the less famous suffered in spades.”



Dalton Trumbo mugshot, Ashland penitentiary, 9 June, 1950 – Author, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Public domain, Wikimedia. Trumbo's anti-war novel *Johnny Got His Gun* won the National Book Award for the Most Original Book of 1939. In 1946, the publisher of *The Hollywood Reporter* named Dalton Trumbo and others as sympathizers of the Communist party. The following year, HUAC summoned Trumbo to testify on whether communists had planted propaganda in U.S. films, but he refused to give information on grounds of the First Amendment and was convicted for contempt of Congress. After losing his appeal to the Supreme Court, Trumbo served eleven months in the Ashland federal penitentiary. Blacklisted by the Hollywood studios, he could no longer write in Hollywood and upon release from prison, moved to Mexico City where he wrote 30 screenplays under a pseudonym, including *The Brave One*, *Roman Holiday*, with Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck, and *Spartacus*, starring Kirk Douglas and directed by Stanley Kubrick.



Screenwriter and novelist Dalton Trumbo with his wife Cleo at House Un-American Activities Committee hearings, 1947 – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia.



Cartoon by Herblock, *Washington Post*, 1950 – Fair use, Library of Congress, Wikimedia



Film poster for *Spartacus*, directed by Stanley Kubrick, starring Kirk Douglas, Laurence Olivier, Peter Ustinov, John Gavin, Jean Simmons, Charles Laughton, and Tony Curtis – Poster art work by Reynold Brown, Universal Studios, Public domain, Wikimedia. *Spartacus* won Peter Ustinov an Academy Award for best supporting actor, and Oscars for best art direction for Alexander Golitzen, best costume design for Arlington Valles and Bill Thomas, best color cinematography for Russell Metty, and attained the greatest box office receipts in the history of Universal Studios.

The novel upon which the film was based was written by Howard Fast after he had been imprisoned in 1950 for contempt of Congress for an earlier association with the American Communist Party. The novel and the film reflects 1950's American history, McCarthyism, the HUAC hearings, and the civil rights movement. A protest against America's history of slavery, the film opens with a voice-over: *First among cities and home of the Gods is Golden Rome. Yet even at the zenith of her pride and power, the Republic lay fatally stricken with the disease called human slavery.*



Gladiadores después del combate, Gladiators after the fight – Painting by José Moreno Carbonero, 1882, Museo del Prado, Public domain, Wikimedia. Gladiators were originally conquered warriors, slaves, or condemned prisoners used in staged combat at the funerals of wealthy nobles. The Christian writer Tertullian of Berber origin said the Romans believed that the blood of humans helped purify the deceased person, a form of substitution for earlier human sacrifice. During the reign of Julius Caesar and after, the popular games became a way for politicians to win the favor of the masses before crowds of 50,000 in the Colosseum, the gladiators winning fame and glory among the lower classes, becoming sex symbols for women, their portraits posted in public places like popular athletes today. Because they were valuable performers, some survived many combats, but most only lived into their mid-20s. A group of Germanic prisoners refused to die in a bloody spectacle for the Roman masses, resisting their sordid dishonor by committing suicide, strangling each other in their cells. Christian Tertullian called the combat murder – morally and spiritually wrong, a form of pagan human sacrifice, which diminished in popularity during the Christian era. Not long after the decline of gladiator combat, Alaric's Visigoths sacked and burned the Eternal City of Rome.



Pollice Verso – Painting Jean-Léon Gérôme, 1872, Phoenix Art Museum, Public domain, Wikimedia

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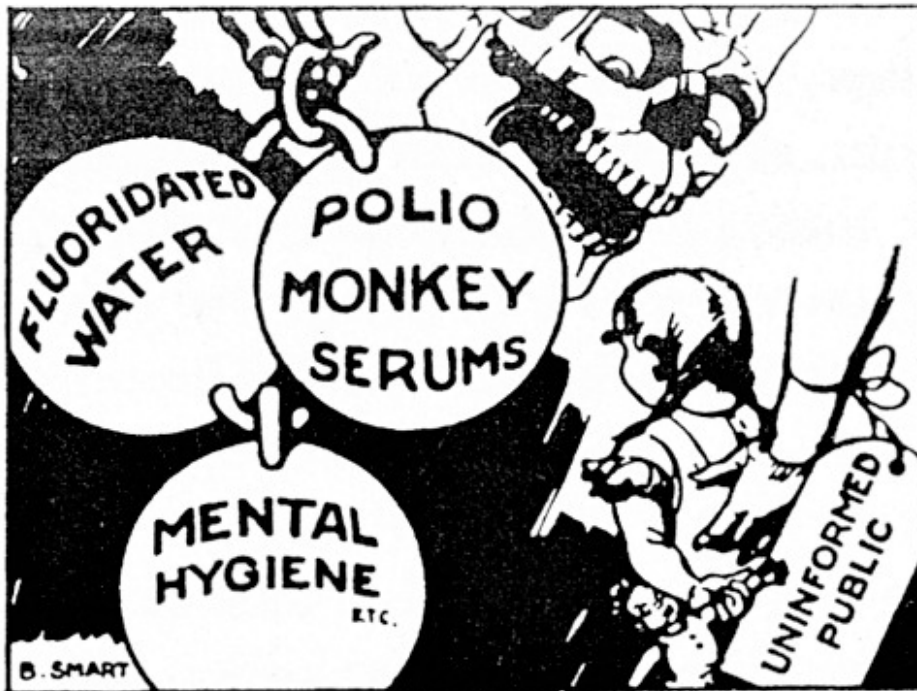
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Rabbi Spitz in the American Hebrew, March 1, 1946: "American Jews must come to grips with our contemporary anti Semites; we must fill our insane asylums with anti-Semitic lunatics."

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KEEP AMERICA COMMITTEE
Box 3094, Los Angeles 54, Calif. H. W. Courtola, Secy.

May 16, 1955

“There was,” I said, “a brave senator who spoke out strongly against McCarthy’s witch hunt.”

“Who was that?”

“Margaret Chase Smith, Republican senator for Maine. She delivered her ‘Declaration of Conscience’ speech on the Senate floor in 1950 to condemn ‘McCarthyism,’ saying that those who promote a forum of hate are debasing the Senate. ‘While she was proud to be a Republican,’ Smith said, ‘she didn’t want Republicans to be the four horsemen of calumny — fear, ignorance, and bigotry. Those who shout loudest about Americanism, and make unprincipled character assassinations were the ones who’ve abandoned the principles of Americanism — the right to criticize, the right to protest, and hold unpopular beliefs.’ Smith believed that no one should be in danger of losing their way of making a living because they happen to be associated with someone with unpopular beliefs.”

“During McCarthy’s reign of terror,” Tomás said, “that was a pretty brave position for a politician.”

“Smith took many stands as a Senator that ran counter to the Republican Party, but McCarthy retaliated by removing her from the Subcommittee on Investigations, handing the post to Senator Richard Nixon of California. But she had the last word by voting for the Senate’s censure of McCarthy in 1954.”



Eleanor Roosevelt and Margaret Chase Smith appear as the first-ever women panelists on *Face the Nation*, Washington D.C., 1956 – Unknown author, U.S. National Archives, Wikimedia

McCarthy had a powerful run,” I said, “until he hit a brick wall in 1954.”

“What was the brick wall?”

“Edward R. Murrow.”



Broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow. Screenshot from film, *Challenge of Ideas* – Author, unknown, Public domain, Wikimedia

“Murrow was a senator?”

“No, Murrow was a journalist for CBS during the 1930s. He became prominent during Adolf Hitler’s annexation of Austria in 1938. With his partner William Shirer, they covered Hitler’s Anschluss from Vienna. Professor Loukas told us how Murrow and William Shirer organized a European reaction to the German takeover of Austria, assembling correspondents in a single broadcast that reported simultaneously from five European capitals — Vienna, Paris, Berlin, Rome, and London.”

“That must have been amazing in 1938. How did they do it?”

“I’m not savvy enough to know the technical details, but they used live reports transmitted by shortwave radio. Somehow it succeeded even though each of the broadcasters often couldn’t hear the others speaking. CBS adopted Murrow’s unique broadcast as a pattern for the *World News Roundup* on CBS Radio Network. Later in the year, Morrow and Shirer covered the crisis of the Sudetenland, the German speaking area of Czechoslovakia that Hitler gobbled up after the notorious Munich Agreement. You wouldn’t have heard Murrow’s broadcast in Spain.”

“While I’ve not heard of Murrow, I’m familiar with the Sudeten Crisis. Hitler became the advocate of the three million ethnic Germans living in Czechoslovakia after the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian Empire following WWI. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain met with Adolf Hitler in Berchtesgaden and



CBS war correspondent William L. Shirer in Compiegne, France, reporting on the signing of the armistice between Germany and France, June 22, 1940, the capitulation of France to Hitler’s invasion. The building enshrines the railroad car in which Marshal Foch accepted the German request for an armistice that ended WWI, November 11, 1918. Hitler ordered the railcar removed from the building for the signing of the armistice in 1940 – Author, Kriegsberichter Jager Oberkommando der Wehrmacht, Public domain, Wikimedia

agreed to the Nazi takeover of the Sudetenland. Not a single Czechoslovakian representative was at the meeting. French Prime Minister Édouard Daladier rubber stamped Chamberlain's appeasement. The Nazis walked into the Sudetenland without firing a shot.”



Adolf Hitler greets British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, 15 September 1938 – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia



Neville Chamberlain, Edouard Daldier, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Graf Ciano before the signing of the Munich Agreement which gave Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland to Germany despite the will of the Czechoslovakian people – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia



Ethnic Germans in Saaz, Sudetenland greeting German soldiers, 9 October 1938 – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia



Protest of Czechoslovakians in [Prague](#) against German aggression, 22 September 1938 – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia



Adolf Hitler welcomed by a crowd of ethnic Germans in [Cheb](#), Sudetenland, October 1938 – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia



The Third Reich Wehrmacht occupying the Sudetenland resulted in 170,000 Czech-speaking citizens to flee or be expelled – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia



Ethnic Germans cheering the arrival of German armored cars in the city of Aussig in the Sudeten, Czechoslovakia, October 1938 – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia



Hitler visiting Prague Castle after the establishment of a German protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, 15 March 1939 – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia



Ethnic Germans greeting Hitler with the Nazi salute as he enters Eger on the border of the formerly Czechoslovak Sudetenland, 3 October 1938 – Unknown author, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia



Czech refugees expelled from the Sudetenland at the Refugees Office, 13 October 1938 – Unknown author, Czech Archives, Wikimedia

“Hitler,” I said, “gave a speech in Berlin declaring that the Sudeten land was ‘the last territorial demand I have to make in Europe.’ He told Prime Minister Chamberlain, ‘there will be no further territorial problems for Germany in Europe.’ The capitulation of France and the United Kingdom to Hitler’s demands was the end of the nation of Czechoslovakia. That’s the systemic poison of authoritarian rulers — lie and lie, and lie some more. People accept the lies because of their fear of the iron fist behind the lies. That brings me back to Edward R. Murrow. He’d covered the lies of Hitler and Goebbels. He’d been in Vienna when Hitler convinced France and England that he’d take no more territory. He’d seen how accusations, manipulation of the truth, slander, calumny, and disruption had brought Hitler to power. He’d witnessed in person what a demagogue had wreaked upon Europe. Senator McCarthy had torn America apart. He had to be stopped.”

“How could Murrow attack a man that had such a huge following among Americans? The fear of communism was a national fetish in the United States.”

“You could also give credit to the new medium of television. On *See it Now*, Murrow ran film clips of McCarthy accusing the Democratic Party of twenty years of treason and calling the American Civil Liberties Union a front for the Communist Party. After illustrating McCarthy’s tactics, Murrow delivered his judgment — ‘The line between investigation and persecution is a fine line and McCarthy had stepped

over that line.' Murrow said, 'We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. Accusation isn't proof. Conviction depends upon evidence and due process of law.' Murrow concluded, 'We can't defend freedom in the world by deserting it at home. McCarthy has created alarm amid our allies, and given comfort to our enemies. But, whose fault was it? McCarthy didn't create the climate of fear. He just exploited it.' Murrow ended his broadcast, 'Cassius was right: "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves.'



Harry S. Truman and Edward R. Murrow, 1951 – Unknown author, University of Maryland Library, Public domain, Wikimedia. "What sets me apart from Sen. McCarthy." Ed Murrow said, "is my devotion to the principles upon which this nation rests—justice, freedom, and fairness."

"What was the reaction?"

"CBS received an avalanche of telegrams, letters, and phone calls, 15 to 1 in favor of Murrow's condemnation of McCarthy. The senator hit back, accusing Murrow of being the leader of a pack of jackals at the throat of anyone who dared to expose communists and traitors. A week later, Murrow followed up with another exposure of the senator's tactics. It was the beginning of the end. McCarthy had made a fatal error by accusing the military of hiding communists and the U.S. Army responded, accusing McCarthy and his chief counsel, Roy Cohn of improper conduct in pressuring the army for favorable treatment for David

Schine, a close friend of Cohn. Schine had published an anti-communist tract called 'Definition of Communism,' which he had placed in all the rooms of his family's hotel chain. Introduced to the wealthy Harvard grad, anti-communist crusader Cohn recruited the young man for McCarthy's staff as an unpaid 'chief consultant.'

"How do you know so much about the McCarthy hearings?"

"Abraxas Loukas was teaching at Princeton during the hearings. Although McCarthy isn't relevant to a class in diplomatic history, Loukas likes to go on about it. He says he wants us to understand how it is to live America.



David Schine, 1954 – unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia

"When Schine was drafted into the army, Cohn began to intercede for his friend, requesting the army give Schine an officer's commission, an easy life, and no foreign assignments. This was Cohn's and McCarthy's undoing for the previous year, McCarthy's committee had begun investigating the communist infiltration of the Army Signal Corps. In turn, the U.S. Army brought an accusation against McCarthy's committee, which convinced the Senate that the charges should be investigated. ABC decided to carry gavel to gavel television coverage of the hearings. Twenty million Americans got a good look at McCarthy."

“I’ve heard that the Army-McCarthy hearings finally toppled the senator off his pulpit.”

“Although the attack dog was ultimately acquitted of misconduct on the Cohn-Schine accusation, it provided the nation with newspaper and television coverage that became increasingly damaging for the demagogue. At the end of 1954, the Senate voted overwhelmingly to censure McCarthy. While he wasn’t expelled from office, his career as a public leader was ruined. His colleagues avoided him and his persistent anti-communist speeches reached the ears of a nearly vacant Senate chamber.”

“After having an enormous following, that must have killed his ego. “

“President Eisenhower despised McCarthy but kept his cards held closely, not opposing the demagogue openly, but working steadily against him behind the scenes. Finally freed of the McCarthy threat. Eisenhower said, ‘McCarthyism is now ‘McCarthywasm.’ I suspect Eisenhower’s handling of a crazy powerful man was one of the reasons he was able to lead such a diverse bunch of egos during the invasion of Normandy.



General Dwight D. Eisenhower gives the order of the Day – “Full victory-nothing less”, speaking with paratroopers of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the 101st Airborne Division before they board their airplanes for the first assault on German occupied France – Author, U.S. Army, Memoir of 1st Leut Wallace Strobel, at center wearing number 23, Public domain, Wikimedia

“The censure killed the senator. Always a heavy drinker, he turned increasingly to the medication of alcohol and died of hepatitis three years later at the age of 48. The man who replaced him in the Senate, Democrat William Proxmire, called McCarthy a ‘disgrace to Wisconsin, to the Senate, and to America.’”

“McCarthy’s most vicious attack dog,” Tomás said, “was Roy Cohn, the chief counsel to the House Investigation Committee.”



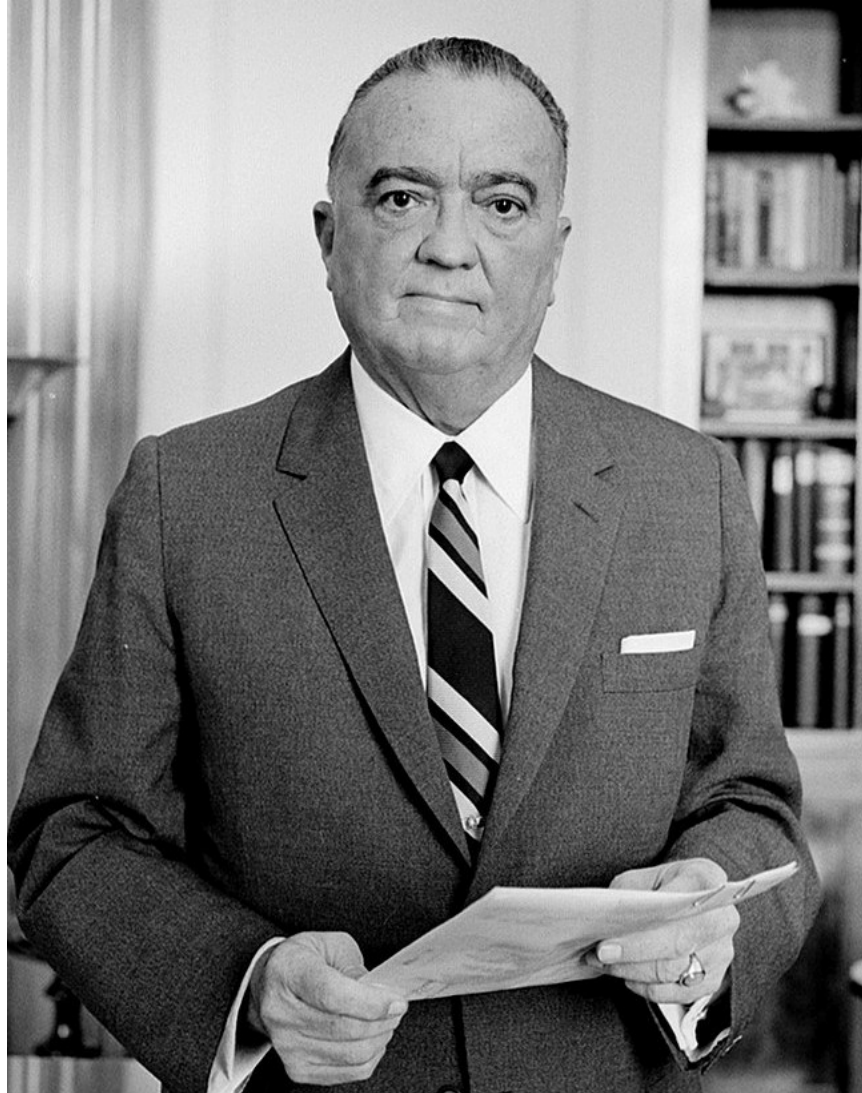
Senator Joseph McCarthy and his chief counsel Roy Cohn during the Senate Subcommittee Army-McCarthy hearings of 1954 - U.S. Library of Congress, Wikimedia. An informal advisor to Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, Roy Cohn defended Donald Trump against the Justice Department’s charge that he violated the Fair Housing Act in the operation of 39 buildings. While representing Rupert Murdoch in the 1970s, Cohn introduced the media baron to Donald Trump, establishing a mutual patronage that flourishes today.

“Roy Cohn,” I grimaced, “what an unsavory character. Cohn had a big reputation for successfully prosecuting Communist Party officials for subversion as the assistant U.S. attorney in the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg who were accused of passing stolen nuclear secrets from the Manhattan Project to the Soviets. Cohn’s aggressive examination of Ethel’s brother, David Greenglass, produced the testimony that was key to the Rosenberg’s conviction and execution for espionage even though the evidence against Ethel Rosenberg was not substantial.



Julius and Ethel Rosenberg leaving the U.S. Court House after being found guilty by jury for spying on behalf of the **Soviet Union** – Author, Roger Higgins, *New York World-Telegram and the Sun*, Public domain, Library of Congress, Wikimedia. The Rosenbergs were convicted and sentenced to death for providing top-secret information about **radar**, **jet propulsion** engines, and **nuclear weapons**. After an investigation by the *National Guardian* and the formation of the National Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case, some came to believe the Rosenbergs were innocent or had been given too harsh a sentence. A movement arose to prevent the Rosenberg's execution. In Western Europe, there were demonstrations and newspaper editorials against the executions. Jean-Paul Sartre accused the United States of being a country sick with fear – “You are afraid of the shadow of your own bomb.” After the verdict, there were widespread protests and claims of anti-Semitism, inspiring artists and intellectuals to speak out — Albert Einstein and writers Jean Cocteau, Nelson Algren, Bertolt Brecht, Dashiell Hammet, German director Fritz Lang, Mexican artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, and Pablo Picasso wrote in the communist French newspaper *L'Humanité*, “The hours count. The minutes count. Do not let this crime against humanity take place.” **Pope Pius XII** appealed to President Eisenhower to spare the couple, but the president refused. After all appeals failed, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were electrocuted at the Sing Sing prison in New York on June 19, 1953, before sunset and the Jewish Sabbath. Julius died from the first electric shock. After three electric shocks, Ethel's heart was still beating. After two more shocks, smoke rose from her head and Ethel was pronounced dead.

“Later, her brother confessed that he’d lied in his testimony to save his own skin, but that delayed confession didn’t help Ethel who’d been put to death. Impressed by Cohn’s anti-communist zeal and mean-spirited aggressiveness, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover recommended Cohn to Senator McCarthy who hired him as his chief counsel and assault dog in his investigations of Reds hiding in the government.



J. Edgar Hoover, head of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1961 – Author, *U.S. News & World Report*, Public domain, U.S. Library of Congress, Wikimedia

“Cohn’s modus operandi was — ‘Go after a man’s weakness, and never, ever, threaten unless you’re going to follow through, because if you don’t, the next time you won’t be taken seriously.’ Cohn’s take no prisoners attack helped him represent not only McCarthy, but to gain the confidence of clients low and high — Mafiosi chieftains, the Bonanno family, Tony Salerno, Paul Castellano, John Gotti, and the Catholic Archdiocese of New York.”



Roy Marcus Cohn – Author, Herman Miller, *World Telegram & Sun*, U.S. Library of Congress, Wikimedia. Attorney Roy Cohn became well known as a U.S. Department of Justice prosecutor at the espionage trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Cohn’s direct questioning of Ethel’s brother, David Greenglass provided testimony that resulted in the conviction of Rosenbergs for spying for the Soviet Union, and their death by execution. As Senator McCarthy’s chief counsel, Cohn became an integral part of McCarthy’s claim of the U.S. government being infiltrated by communists. Cohn represented Australian press baron Rupert Murdoch, the future owner of Fox News, in getting a White House meeting with President Ronald Reagan regarding Murdoch’s support for Thatcher-Reagan policies against the Soviets during the escalating tensions with the Soviet Union over the deployment of U.S. cruise missiles in the early 1980s. To meet a U.S. requirement that TV stations must be owned by Americans, Murdoch became a naturalized citizen of the United States, and benefited from the Reagan administration relaxation of ownerships for media which allowed Murdoch to buy TV stations which he formed into the Fox Broadcasting Company. In the mid-1970s, Cohn introduced Donald Trump to Rupert Murdoch, a relationship which has continued to this day. Roy Cohn, who was a mentor to Donald Trump during his early real estate career, maintained an aggressive modus operandi: “Never say you’re wrong, always claim victory, get in people’s face, repeat; if they accuse you of something, throw it back at them, double down, triple down.”

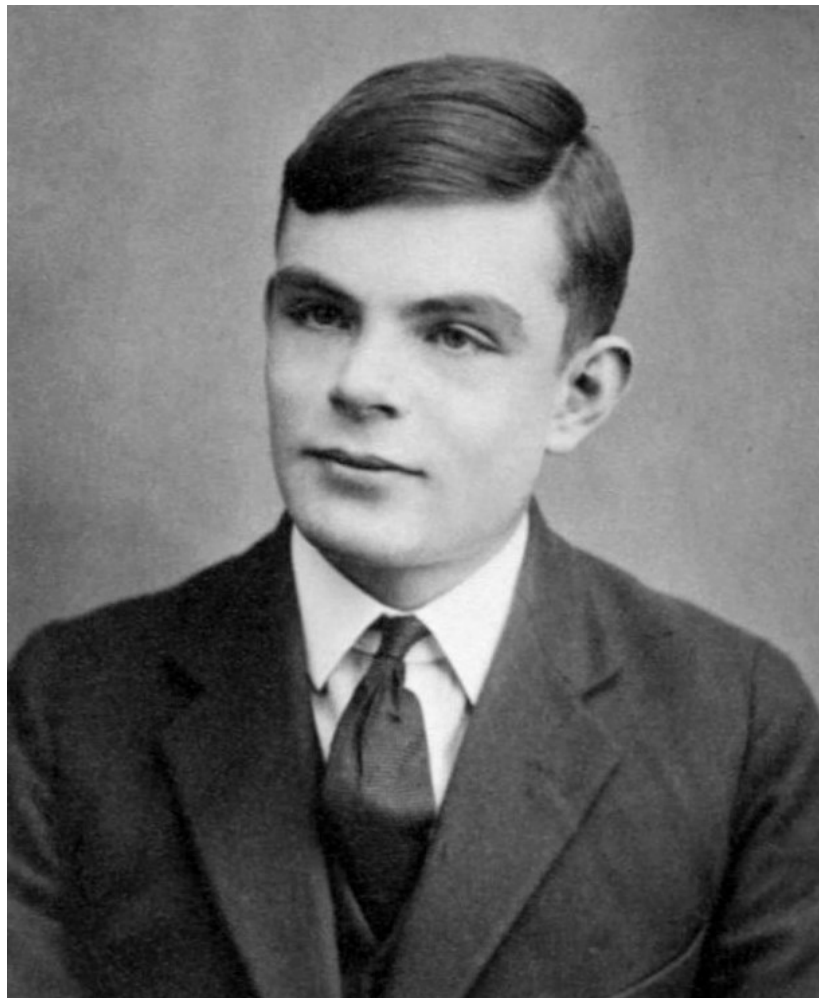
“There were reports,” Tomás said, “published in *Le Monde* coming out of the U.S. Embassy in Paris that Cohn showed up on a moment’s notice with his wealthy sidekick, David Schine, to investigate the embassy for communist operatives. McCarthy had given the press a list of pro-communist authors and the State Department caved in and ordered its overseas libraries to eliminate all books by controversial writers and communists — some libraries even burning the books. But all Cohn did was hang out at a four-star hotel on the taxpayer’s franc while making hysterical charges about how homosexuals were passing on U.S. government secrets in exchange for keeping their sexual preferences a secret.

“The odd thing is that Cohn and Schine are thought to be in a homosexual relationship themselves. Self-hate and the denial of self-hate must be difficult to bear. How does one live with such a divided psyche? Howling jackals are powerful when people are full of fear. They convinced Eisenhower to sign an executive order banning homosexuals from working at any job in the federal government.”

“Britain experienced the same scare about homosexuals working for the government. Have you heard of Alan Turing?” I asked.

“No.”

“Alan Turing was one of the developers of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence. A Cambridge graduate in probability and Quantum mechanics with a PhD from Princeton in logic and number theory, Turing foresaw the future of artificial intelligence.



Passport photo of Alan Turing at age 16 – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia. A mathematician, computer scientist, cryptanalyst, theoretical biologist, and philosopher, Turing made early contributions to theoretical computer science and computation with the Turing machine. Turing is considered one of the fathers of theoretical computer science and artificial intelligence.

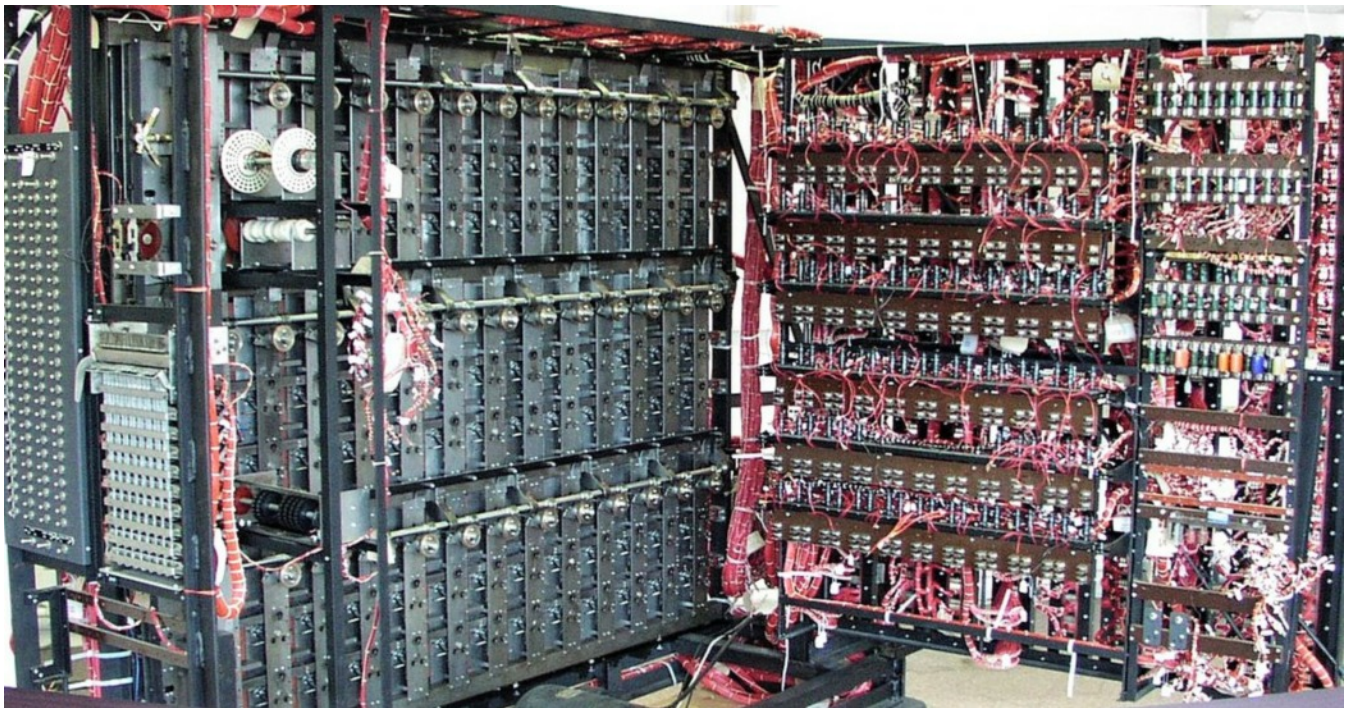
“Turing determined that a machine would be capable of performing any conceivable mathematical computation if it were represented as an algorithm. A brilliant mathematician, Turing understood Einstein’s proofs of relativity and wrote papers on the applications of probability to cryptology. Turing had the idea that from a contradiction, you could deduce everything.”

“He sounds like a man who was far ahead of his time.”

“He certainly saved a lot of lives. When war broke out, Turing began working as a cryptanalyst with the British military intelligence team at Bletchley Park. Considered a genius by his coworkers, he helped develop Ultra which was responsible for decrypting the Nazi’s Enigma Machine. General Eisenhower credited the Allied victory over the Nazi in large part to the Ultra’s ability to decode the enemy’s secret messages.

“Exactly what was the Enigma machine?” Tomás said.

“It was an electro-mechanical machine which produces a polyalphabetic cipher for coding secret messages. When the Germans’ first produced the Enigma machine during the twenties it was considered unbreakable by the German Army, Navy, Air force, Nazi Party, Abwehr, and Gestapo who used the encrypting device. Polish mathematicians first started breaking the code during the thirties with the help of a German spy and some brilliant work. Right before the war, the German military made improvements to the code machine



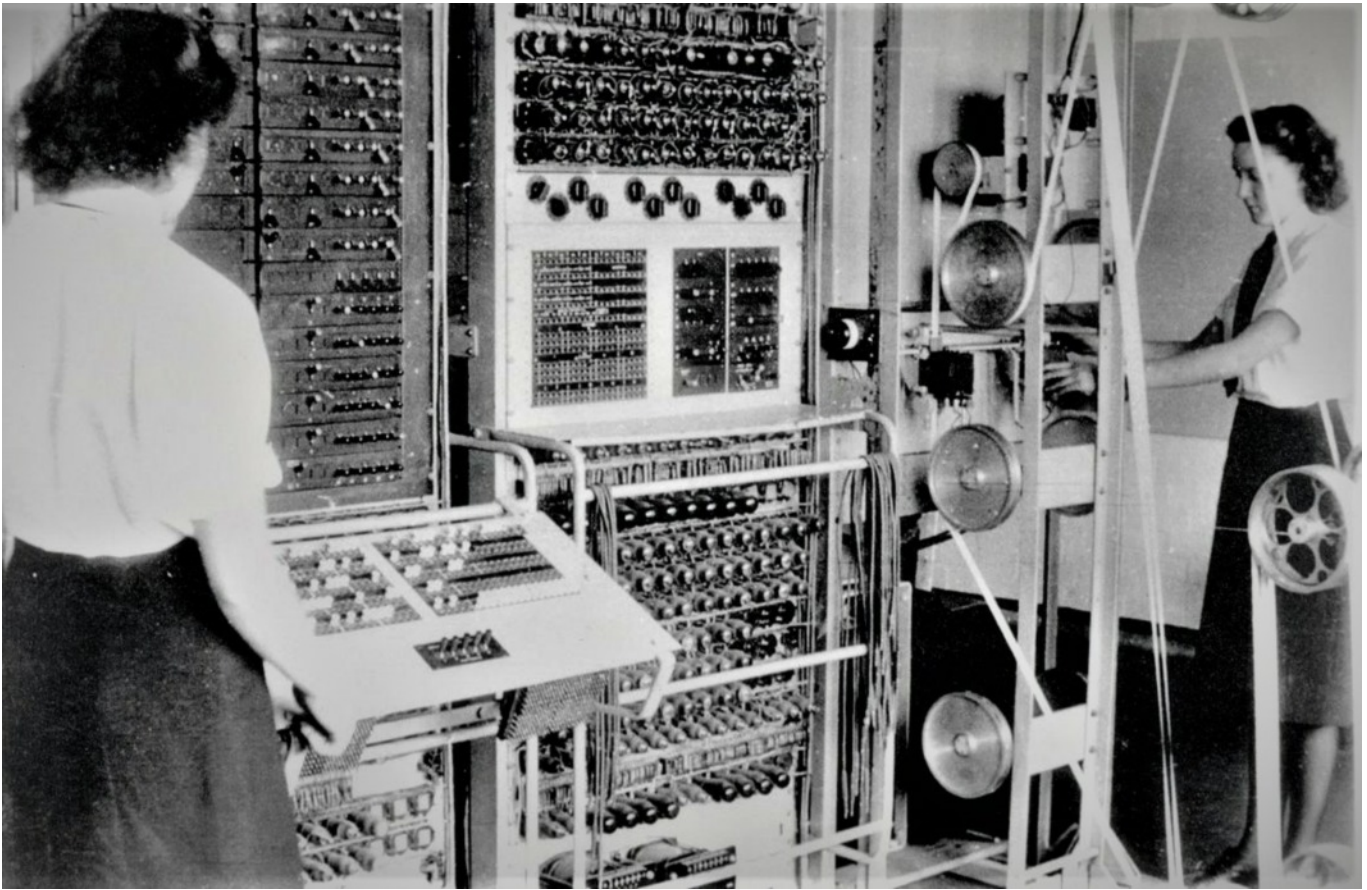
A working replica for a Turing electromechanical decoding bombe at the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park – Author, Tom Yates and Volunteers at the Bombe Rebuild Project, Wikimedia

that made it undecipherable without a huge advance in decrypting equipment. Not having the resources to continue, the Polish Cipher Bureau turned over their specially constructed Enigma machines and their prior work on decrypting ciphers to British Intelligence. The Poles had done some brilliant work. It gave Alan Turing and his associates at Bletchley Park a foundation for breaking the latest generation of German ciphers. One day, Turing realized that a naval message would have a repeating predictable phrase, like *Wetter fuer die nacht*, ‘weather of the night.’ That repeating phrase gave a beginning point for decoding billions of possible Enigma settings. In laboratory Hut 8, Turing and his associates built a huge machine with scores of electrically powered rotating drums which replicated the wheels of the Enigma Machine performing billions of computations in a search for logical consistency and capable of doing it quickly enough before the Germans changed the settings of the Enigma Machine.”

“What kind of man was Turing?”



Cottage at [Bletchley Park](#), formerly a tack and feed house where Alan Turing worked in 1939 and 1940 developing the electromechanical machine Bombe that broke the German naval Enigma military code – Author, Matt Whitby, Public domain, Wikimedia



A Colossus Mark 2 code breaking computer being operated by Dorothy Du Boisson, left, and Elsie Booker, right, 1943 – Unknown author, United Kingdom National Archives, Wikimedia

“A determined one. Even though a bit eccentric, he delighted in conversation and was considered witty by his associates. Turing pushed himself, a marathon athlete who sometimes ran from his lab forty miles to London for meetings. When suffering from hay fever, he wore a gas mask when biking to the laboratory. He soon realized that to decode hundreds of thousands of enemy communications, Britain would need a vast number of helpers. But when he requested more support from the government, his pleas were ignored. The rejection didn’t stop Turing. He got his group in Hut 8 to write directly to Winston Churchill explaining how small their need was in relation to the total war effort, and how their interception of enemy messages would save lives and win the war. Churchill immediately ordered the secret service to move heaven and earth to give Bletchley Park cryptanalysts everything they needed. By the end of the war, there were as many as 12,000 staff and 200 hundred machines decoding the Nazi communications. 8,000 of the decoders were women, many from the upper class who wanted to do something patriotic for their country. During the Battle of Britain, there was a great effort to learn which city would be the next one to be bombed in the Blitz.”

“Those 8,000 women,” Tomás said, “discovered a lot of Nazi secrets.”

“The women in the Ultra group,” I laughed, “knew what Hermann Goering was having for dinner.

“Why haven’t I heard of Ultra?”

“You’ve not heard of it because Ultra is still known by very few people. By order of Churchill it was top secret. Many who worked in classified intelligence were aware of Ultra, but after the defeat of the Nazis, the Official Secrets Acts forbid Turing to discuss the breaking of the Enigma code. The imposed secrecy is the reason that the enormous contribution of Turing isn’t known to the outside world.”

“How did you find out about Ultra?”

“In my World War Two history class, Colin Holmes, a visiting professor from Cambridge gave a series of lectures on British intelligence. Holmes, who has such a droll sense of humor, was my history advisor and we often took tea together. Because of what I’d picked up from Emile Charreau about the importance of intelligence, I wanted to learn all I could from Holmes. Using my charm and a dozen cups of tea. I literally got him drunk on tea and finally induced him to tell me about wartime intelligence. He rewarded me with the story of how Ultra enabled the British to sink the German battleship *Bismarck*.”

“I recently finished,” Tomás said, “C.S. Forester’s novel, *Last Nine Days of the Bismarck*. Being interested in the Napoleonic Wars, I read as many of the *Horatio Hornblower* sagas as I could find. Forester is the best naval writer I’ve read, but my favorite is *The African Queen*. I like the way he mixes action with philosophy. The drama of the *Bismarck* was one of the great stories of World War Two.”



Bismarck after the Battle of the Denmark Strait, 24 May 1941 – Author, Langemann, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia

“I’d like to hear the story,” I said.

“*Bismarck*,” Tomás began, “was the largest German battleship built at that time, named in honor of the Iron Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, the Prussian strategist who in 1871 unified 39 independent states into the German Empire.”

“The man” I said, “who was famous for saying, ‘All treaties between great states cease to be binding when they come in conflict with the struggle for existence.’”



Map of German Reich 1871–1918 – Author, [Deutsches Reich1.png](#), [kgberger](#), Wikimedia

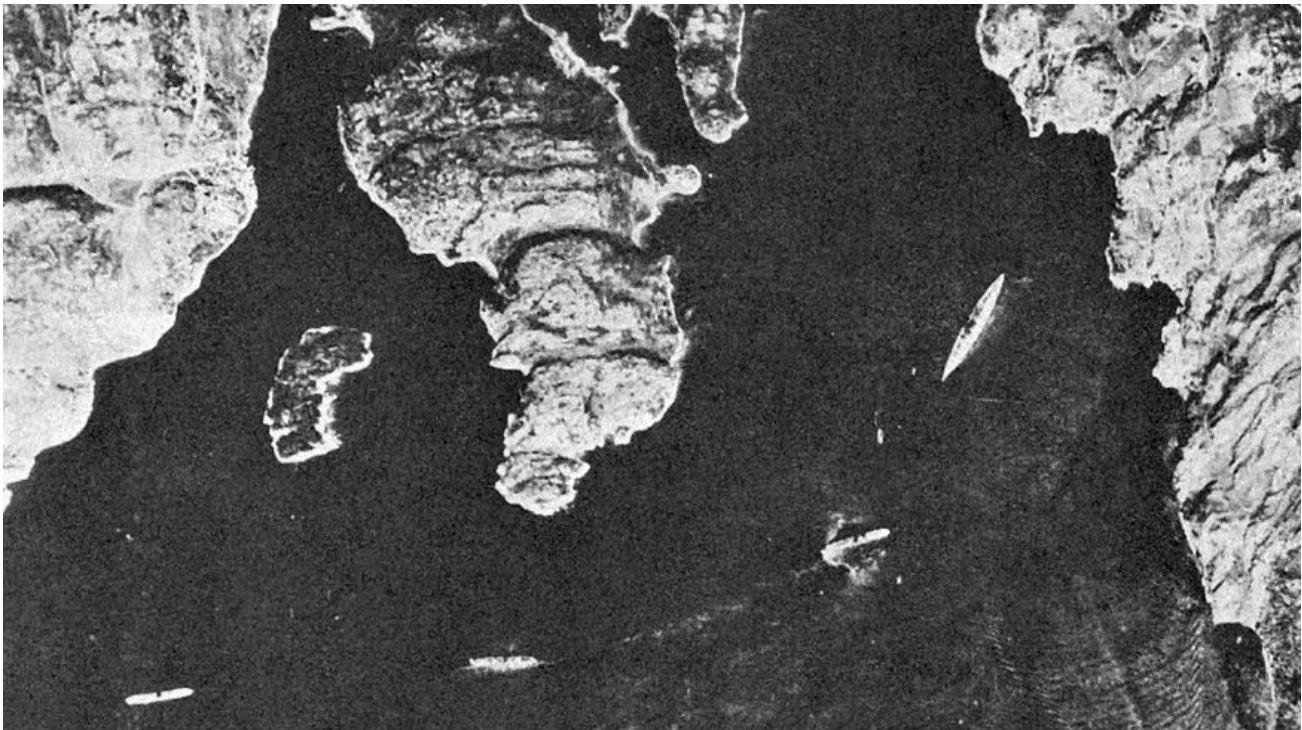
“Otto von Bismarck,” Tomás said, “ruled through a disciplined bureaucracy with power held by the Prussian Junker elite and the landed nobility. Although the Reichstag was elected by universal male suffrage, it had little control of policy. Bismarck became the hero of German nationalism and as you pointed out, a harbinger of the Third Reich.”

“I know how the Brits were able to break the codes and track the *Bismarck*, but how could they destroy such a formidable ship?”

“Hitler was so pleased with the Third Reich’s state of the art warship that he delivered a speech christening *Bismarck* when it was launched in Hamburg. Its twelve inches of steel plate armor, eight 15-inch guns on four turrets, thirty medium guns, a dozen anti-aircraft guns, advanced radar and four reconnaissance planes launched by catapult, made *Bismarck* the greatest naval threat in the war.”

“At Bletchley,” I said, “decrypted messages revealed that *Bismarck* was headed into the North Atlantic to intercept Allied convoys bringing supplies from the United States.”

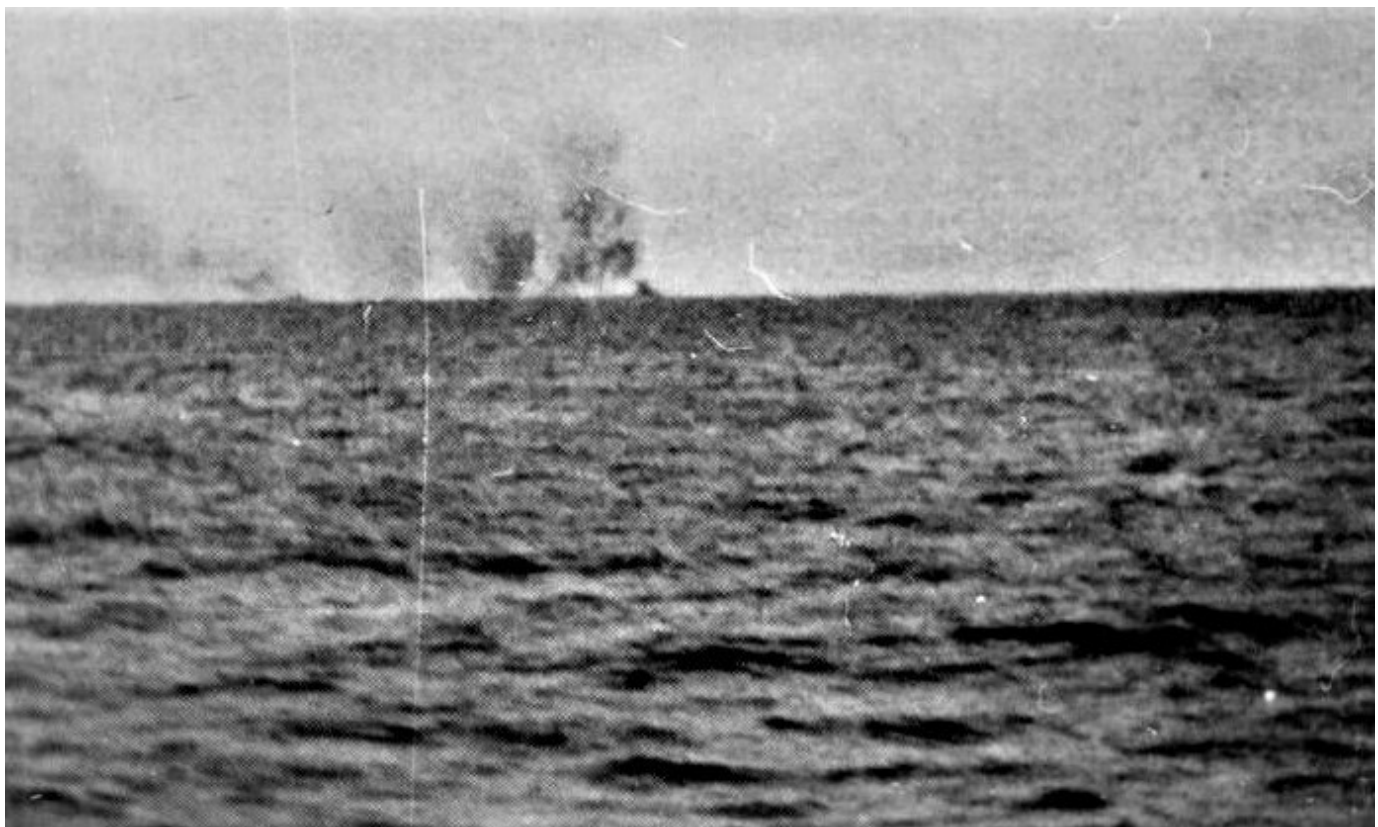
“After reading C. S. Forester,” Tomás said, “I looked into the last voyage of the *Bismarck*. Although protected by Luftwaffe fighters, a daredevil British pilot flew his Spitfire over a fjord in Norway at 26,000 ft. and photographed the ship.



Aerial reconnaissance photograph by Flying Officer Michael Suckling, 21 May 1941 in Norway – Author, United Kingdom Navy, Public domain, Wikimedia. Battleship Bismarck anchored at right in Norwegian fjord



HMS Hood in action against the *Bismarck* and cruiser *Prinz Eugen*, 24 May 1941, the last photo taken of HMS Hood before sinking, shot from HMS *Prince of Wales* – Unknown author, Imperial War Museums, Wikimedia



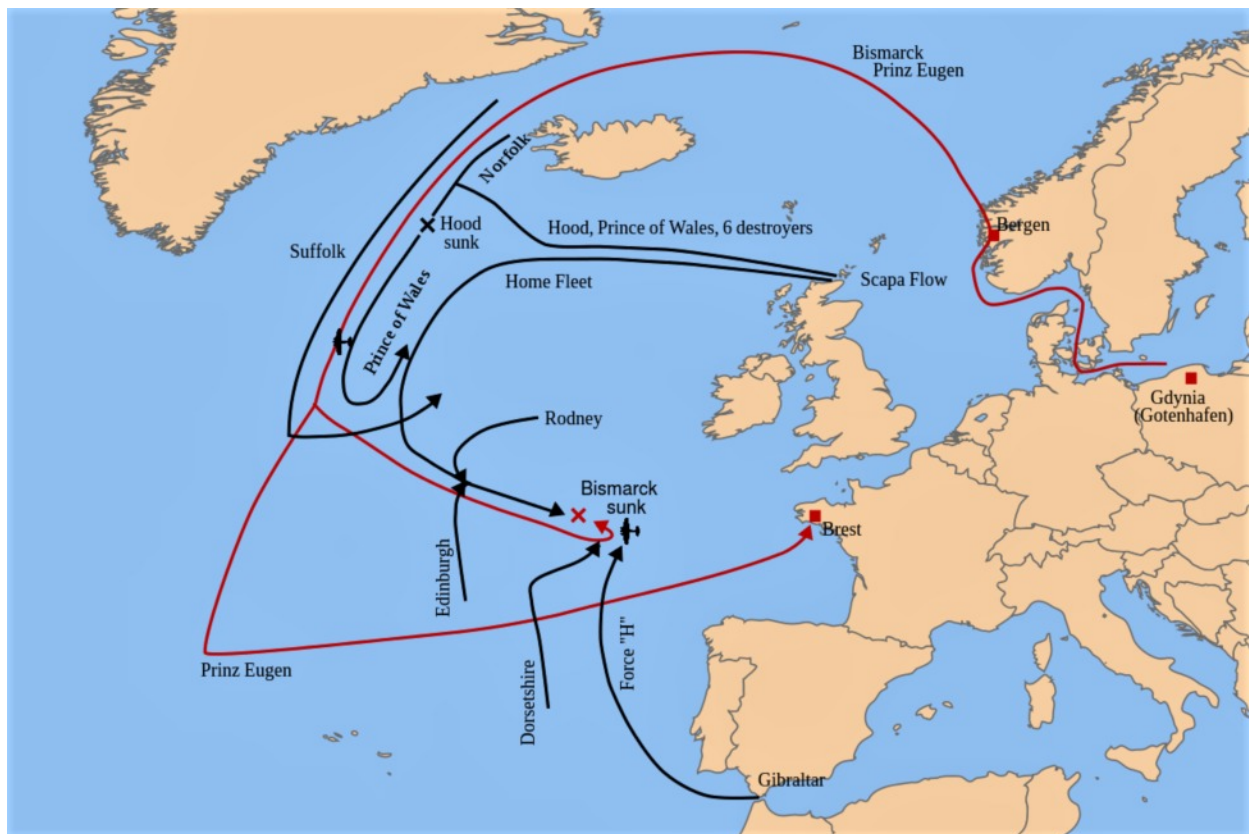
Battleship HMS *Hood* hit by a shell from the *Bismarck*, detonating one hundred tons of cordite explosives, ripping the ship in two and sinking within minutes with no survivors, 24 May 1941 – Author, Langmann, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia

“The battle cruiser HMS *Hood* and battleship HMS *Prince of Wales* and six destroyers were sent into the strait to engage her. During the Battle of Denmark Strait, *Bismarck*’s salvos hit the deck of the *Hood* penetrating her deck with armor-piercing shells, blowing up the ammunition magazine in the hold detonating one hundred tons of cordite explosives and breaking the ship in two. Water pouring into the ripped hull sank the mighty *Hood* in only a few minutes, taking 1,500 men to their death.”

“After the devastating loss of the *Hood*,” I said, “Bletchley Park was put on an around the clock basis to search for radio messages to the German ship which they imagined was between Iceland and Greenland headed back to its base in Norway. It was an eighteen year old debutante who decrypted a message to *Bismarck* from a German Kriegsmarine commander.”

“An eighteen-year-old debutante was decrypting messages?”

“Quite true. A number of debutantes worked at Bletchley. Born into an upper class London family, Jane Hughes had trained from childhood at Sadler’s Wells Ballet to be a ballerina. When Dame Ninette de Valois told Jane that she’d grown too tall to be a ballerina, her dream was shattered.



Map of the Operation *Rheinübung* and Royal Navy operations against the German battleship *Bismarck*, with approximate movements of ship groups and places of aerial attacks – Author, Map Rheinuebung it.svg, Citypeek revision, Wikimedia



Ballet dancer and choreographer Ninette de Valois, circa early 1920s – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia. Dame Ninette de Valois, born Edris Stannus in Ireland, 1898, studied under Edouard Espinosa, Nicholas Legat, and Enrico Cecchetti, joining Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes in 1923 where she created roles in *Les biches* and *Le Train Bleu*. While with the Ballets Russes, de Valois learned from Diaghilev how to run a ballet company and mentored Alicia Markova who became one of the greatest dancers of the era. Irish poet W.B. Yeats, co-founder of the Abbey Theatre, encouraged de Valois in 1927 to establish the Abbey Theatre School of Ballet in Dublin. In the following year, De Valois acquired the Sadler's Wells Theatre and in 1931, formed the ballet company Vic-Wells Ballet with principal dancers Alicia Markova and Anton Dolin with Frederick Ashton as founding choreographer, the company eventually becoming the Sadler's Wells Ballet School and the Royal Ballet of the United Kingdom. Ninette de Valois is regarded as the godmother of English and Irish ballet.

“After studying German in Zurich, her mother brought Jane home to come out as a debutante, a role she despised. When a friend told her about Bletchley, she joined up which included signing the obligatory Official Secrets Act which meant she was forbidden to ever talk about it. Billeted with a local family, for dinner the debutante had a choice between bread and potatoes or bread and potatoes. Working conditions were terrible, the ladies stuffed into a room with leaky windows, a smelly open stove and a single naked light bulb overhead. Jane came across a message with the word *Brest* which she knew was a port in France. When she translated the full message, it revealed that *Bismarck* was heading to France for repairs at the German naval base in Brest.”



Admiral [Karl Dönitz](#) inspecting the [Saint-Nazaire submarine base](#) in France, June 1941 – Author, [Lothar-Günther Bunchheim](#), German Federal Archives, Wikimedia

“By the time *Bismarck*,” Tomás said, “was spotted by American reconnaissance planes, she was only a day away from the protection of German U-boats and Luftwaffe fighters a few hundred miles off the coast of Brittany. British warships weren’t close enough to intercept.

The only hope for interception was the aircraft carrier *Ark Royal* whose commander sent out Swordfish biplane bombers, open cockpit biplanes designed back in the early 1930s, armed with torpedoes with magnetic detonators.



Swordfish torpedo bombers on the after deck of HMS *Victorious*, 24 May 1941. The following day, nine Swordfish from *Victorious* attacked the *Bismarck* – Author, Royal Navy, Imperial War Museum, Public domain, Wikimedia



A Swordfish torpedo bomber taking off from the aircraft carrier HMS *Ark Royal* – Author, U.S. Navy, Public domain, Wikimedia



Fairey Swordfish Mk I Naval torpedo aircraft armed with a torpedo – Royal Navy, Imperial War Museum, Public domain, Wikimedia



Women repairing a wing of a Fairey Swordfish aircraft – Author, United Kingdom, Imperial War Museum, Public domain, Wikimedia



A Fairey Swordfish from the aircraft carrier HMS *Ark Royal* returns to ship after a torpedo attack on the battleship *Bismarck* – Author, Lt S.J. Beadell, United Kingdom Government, Public domain, Wikimedia

“The airmen mistook the British cruiser *Sheffield* for the *Bismarck* and attacked, its torpedos either exploding prematurely or missing before the *Ark Royal* warned them that the *Sheffield* was close, and the over zealous pilots recognized their error. A second squadron of Swordfish was sent with more reliable armaments.



HMS *Ark Royal* aircraft carrier with a flight of Swordfish overhead – Courtesy of Donald M. McPherson, Author, United Kingdom Government, Public domain, Wikimedia. War brings rapid development in technology. In 1941, the combatants were still flying aircraft from the World War I era. Within four years, the Germans were flying jet fighters.



Battleship *Bismarck* firing her main battery, Operation Rheinübung – Author, Langemann, German Federal Archives, Wikimedia

“A single torpedo struck the *Bismarck* below the water line, jamming the rudder so that it could only steam in a continuous circle. Realizing that with a jammed rudder, the *Bismarck* couldn’t escape to France, the Captain Lutjens signaled, ‘Ship unmaneuverable. We shall fight to the last shell. Long live the Fuhrer.’



HMS *Rodney* firing on *Bismarck*, which can be seen burning in the distance
– Author, Royal Navy, Imperial War Museum, Public domain, Wikimedia

“The lucky torpedo strike,” Tomás said, “by the obsolete Swordfish gave the battleships *King George V* and *Rodney* and two cruisers time to catch up and pound the German ship with their enormous guns, but the ship was built so stout that some of *King George V*’s 14-inch shells just bounced off *Bismarck*’s belt armor, and despite the close-range shelling and widespread fires, the *Bismarck* didn’t sink. Nearly out of fuel and fearful of U-boat attacks, the British battleships left for home, while the heavy cruiser HMS *Dorsetshire* fired torpedoes and scored three hits. The Admiral gave the command to scuttle the *Bismarck* by blowing up the engine room and sending the mighty ship to its grave off the coast of Brittany. Hearing reports of a U-boat in the vicinity, the *Dorsetshire* aborted the rescue and fled for home. Over two thousand died including Admiral Lütjens. Only 110 Germans survived and one cat.”



Survivors from the *Bismarck* are pulled aboard HMS *Dorsetshire*, 27 May 1941.
Royal Navy photographer, Imperial War Museum, Public domain, Wikimedia

“If Jane signed the Secrets Act, how do you know she was the one who discovered the location of *Bismarck*?”

“During the time,” I said, “Holmes was researching Ultra at Bletchley Park, he fortuitously met Mrs. Jane Fawcett at a meeting of the Victorian Society founded by poet John Betjeman to save the Italian Gothic St. Pancras train station which the British Railways planned to tear down. Having seen her name on Bletchley documents, Holmes persuaded her to tell him about the hunt for the *Bismarck*.”

“How did Holmes find out about Ultra in the first place?”

“Holmes worked in intelligence during the war with a top security clearance and was aware that the Royal Navy knew where German submarines were located in the Atlantic. Holmes had gone to Cambridge with Turing and saw him often at Manchester University where Turing was working on the Manchester Computer. While he was at Manchester, Turing developed the test which became the standard for determining if a machine could be called ‘intelligent.’

“What was the test?”

“Turing ruled that if someone asked questions of a computer and couldn’t determine through the conversations whether it was a machine or a human being replying, then the machine could be said to ‘think.’ Holmes and Turing often met at an underground gay club and little by little, details of the work at Bletchley Park were discussed. A scholar of intelligence work, Holmes took detailed notes of Turing’s work even though they couldn’t be published due to their top-secret status. Holmes says that someday the breaking of the Enigma Code will come out and his notes will be valuable to historians. He managed to interview some of the Polish crypto intelligence officers who made early breakthroughs on the Enigma machine. Holmes told of many things that Ultra intelligence discovered.”

“What kind of secrets was Ultra able to discover?”

“For example,” I replied, “The Brits learned the astounding news that the Germans had cancelled the invasion of the British Isles. You must remember, the year I was born, 1941 and the following year, was the darkest time of the war, the moment Churchill called the ‘hinge of fate.’ On all fronts, Britain was facing disaster. Rommel’s Afrika Korps had defeated the Brits in North Africa. Egypt was on the threshold of being overwhelmed, and German U-boat wolf packs were devastating Allied shipping in the Battle of the Atlantic.

“The HMS *Repulse* and *Prince of Wales* had been sunk and the stronghold of Tobruk was lost, a series of disasters which culminated in members of Parliament screaming for Churchill’s resignation. You have to give Churchill credit for pushing the all-out effort to decode Germany’s Enigma machine. The success of Turing’s Ultra Team in decoding the Enigma Machine proved to be a pivotal moment in turning the fortunes of war from failure to victory. By decoding Italian secret messages, the British were able to defeat a much larger Italian army in Libya. Churchill’s greatest fear was the German submarines would make it impossible to get supplies from America. But once Ultra began decrypting the Enigma signals to the U-boats, supply and troop convoys were able to avoid the Nazi wolf packs and the Allies’ anti-submarine ships and aircraft began destroying German submarines. Ultra-intelligence was responsible for sinking a vast number of German warships in the Battle of the Atlantic, prevented Rommel from reaching Cairo, and helped sink four Japanese aircraft carriers in the overwhelming U.S. Naval victory at Midway. Holmes told us that one of the key feats of the U.S. cryptographers using the ‘Magic’ apparatus was the interception of Japanese flight plans that ended up with P-38 Lightning fighters shooting down the bomber carrying the commander-in-chief of the Japanese Navy, sending Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto to his death.”

“That was quite a coup. Yamamoto was the man responsible for the surprise bombing of Pearl Harbor. How did they pull it off?”

“With the help of a few Japanese-Americans,” I replied. “Professor Holmes said that in 1942, one hundred thousand Japanese American citizens were incarcerated by presidential decree in concentration camps like Manzanar, California.



San Francisco Examiner headlines of Japanese Relocation – Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, U.S. National Archives, Wikimedia



Japanese American Grocer. Sign reading "I am an American" placed in the window of a store, at 13th and Franklin streets, 8 December, 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor – Author, Dorothea Lange, Public domain, Wikimedia. The store was closed following orders to persons of Japanese descent to evacuate from certain West Coast areas. Dorothea Lange's photograph was taken in March 1942, just prior to the owner's internment. A University of California graduate, he was housed in the War Relocation Authority centers for the duration of the war.



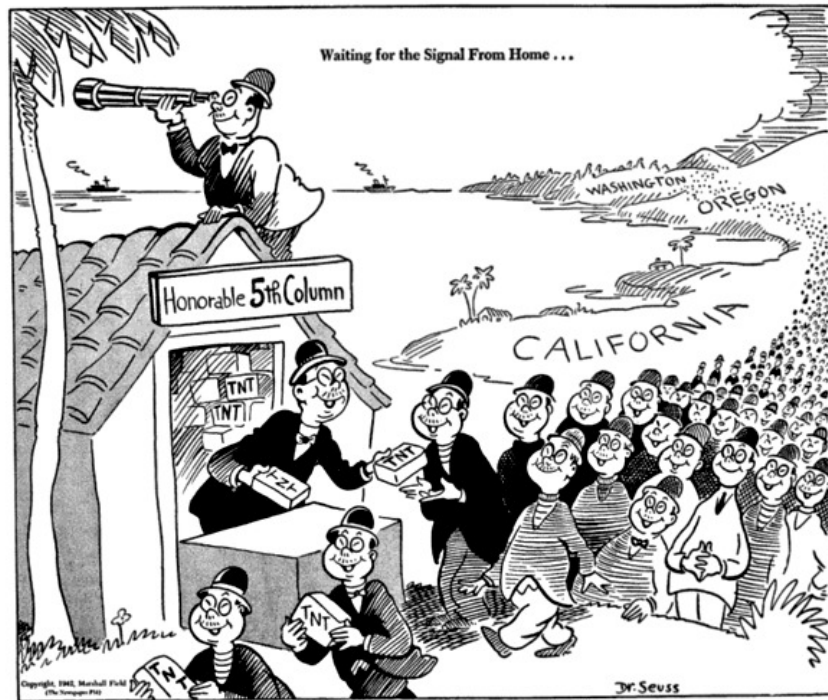
A young evacuee of Japanese ancestry waits with the family baggage before leaving by bus for an assembly center in the spring of 1942 – Unknown author, War Relocation Authority, U.S. National Archives, Wikimedia



Internment orders for Japanese Americans, 1942 –Author, War Relocation Authority, Public domain, Wikimedia. Earl Warren, the Attorney General of California and future Chief Justice of the United States worked to persuade the U.S. government to remove all people of Japanese ethnicity from the West Coast. Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, commander of the Western Defense Command, said, “I don’t want any of them here. They are a dangerous element. There is no way to determine their loyalty. . . It makes no difference whether he is an American citizen, he is still a Japanese. American citizenship does not necessarily determine loyalty. . . We must worry about the Japanese all the time until he is wiped off the map.”



Photograph of Members of the Mochida Family Awaiting Evacuation – Author, Dorothea Lange, Department of the Interior, War Relocation authority, U.S. National Archives, Public domain, Wikimedia. Mochida operated a nursery and greenhouses raising snapdragons and sweet peas.



Editorial cartoon in the New York newspaper *PM*, by children's author Dr. Seuss, Theodore Seuss Geisel, with caption "Waiting for the Signal From Home," depicting Japanese Americans preparing to conduct sabotage against the United States, 13 February 1942 – Author, Dr. Seuss, Public domain, Wikimedia. Pressured by the Japanese American Citizens League in 1980, President Jimmy Carter opened an investigation into the concentration camps, which found no Japanese disloyalty at the time, but determined that the imprisonment was a result of war hysteria and racism, and recommended that the U.S. pay reparations to the internees. President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 apologizing for the internment and awarded \$1.6 billion dollars in reparations to the 82,000 Japanese Americans who had been incarcerated and their heirs.



Baggage of Japanese-Americans evacuated from West coast under United States Army war emergency order, Los Angeles, May 1942 – Author, Russell Lee, Farm Security Administration, Public domain, Wikimedia



Barracks of Manzanar Internment Center, Sierra Nevada Mountains beyond, Owens Valley, California, 2 July, 1942 – Author, Dorothea Lange, U.S. National Archives, Wikimedia. Uninsulated barracks in the desert were ferociously hot in summer, freezing in winter.



Japanese American Internment Center at [Tanforan](#) race track, San Bruno, 29 April 1942 – Author Dorothea Lange, U.S. National Archives, public domain, Wikimedia. Bused to the interment center, Japanese await registration, newly constructed barracks in the background.



Barracks at the Manzanar Internment Center, Owens Valley, California, 30 June 1942 – Author, Dorothea Lange, U.S. National Archives, public domain, Wikimedia. Only cloth curtains divided the compartments of individual families. The lack of privacy was one of the most painful privations of the camp.

“The government,” I said, “gave the Nisei one week to dispose of what they owned. Carrying only what they could in their arms, they were bused to camps in California, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, and Arkansas where they were surrounded up barbed wire, watchtowers, search lights, and military police, living in primitive tarpaper barracks that lacked adequate heating and insulation from the cold, dust, and heat.



Dust storm at the Manzanar War Relocation Center – Unknown author, Department of the Interior. War Relocation Authority, U.S. National Archives, Wikimedia



Manzanar Relocation Center, Manzanar, California. Grandfather and grandson of Japanese ancestry at this War Relocation Authority center – Author, Dorothea Lange, War Relocation Authority, U.S. National Archives, Wikimedia



Japanese Americans interred in the Manzanar Camp tend their gardens, Mount Williamson in the west, 1943 – Author, Ansel Andams, U.S. Library of Congress, public domain, Wikimedia



Lily Namimoto teaching second grade class at the Rohwer Relocation Center, McGehee, Arkansas, 22 November 1942 – Author, Tom Parker, Department of the Interior. War Relocation Authority, U.S. National Archives, public domain, Wikimedia



Manzanar National Historic Site, replica watch tower – Author, Gann Matsuda, Wikimedia



Shrine at the cemetery of the Manzanar Japanese internment camp, Owens Valley, California, Sierra Nevada Mountains beyond – Author, Daniel Mayer, Wikimedia. Inscription on the monument 慰霊塔, in English, *Monument to console the souls of the dead.*



Jerome Relocation Center, Denson, Arkansas – Author, Tom Parker, War Relocation Authority, U.S. National Archives, Wikimedia

“The indignity,” I said, “of forcing men and women to share communal latrines and showers without privacy stalls was difficult for modest Japanese to bear. All across America, the Nisei were torn from their homes. While the towns of Clovis, New Mexico and Winslow, Arizona removed their Japanese Americans, in the cowboy town of Gallup, New Mexico, two Italian Americans, Sheriff Dominic ‘Micky’ Mollica, and VFW Commander Guido Zecca refused to send *Nikkei Amerikajin* to the camps. In the Korean War, fighting with the 7th Infantry Regiment, one of the spared Nisei of Gallup, Hiroshi Miyamura held off a fanatical Chinese mass attack near the 38th Parallel in Korea, providing machine gun fire while his squad retreated. After running out of bullets, Miyamoto killed 50 of the enemy in hand to hand combat before being severely wounded by a grenade and captured.”

“Incredible story.”

“It’s true. The story is documented on his Medal of Honor citation. Growing up in a town of Italians, Irish, Greeks, Finns, Russians, Slavs, Mexicans, Zunis, and Navajos, Miyamura was a super-American. After miraculously surviving a POW camp for two years, Miyamura was given a hero’s welcome home in 1953, and awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Eisenhower.”

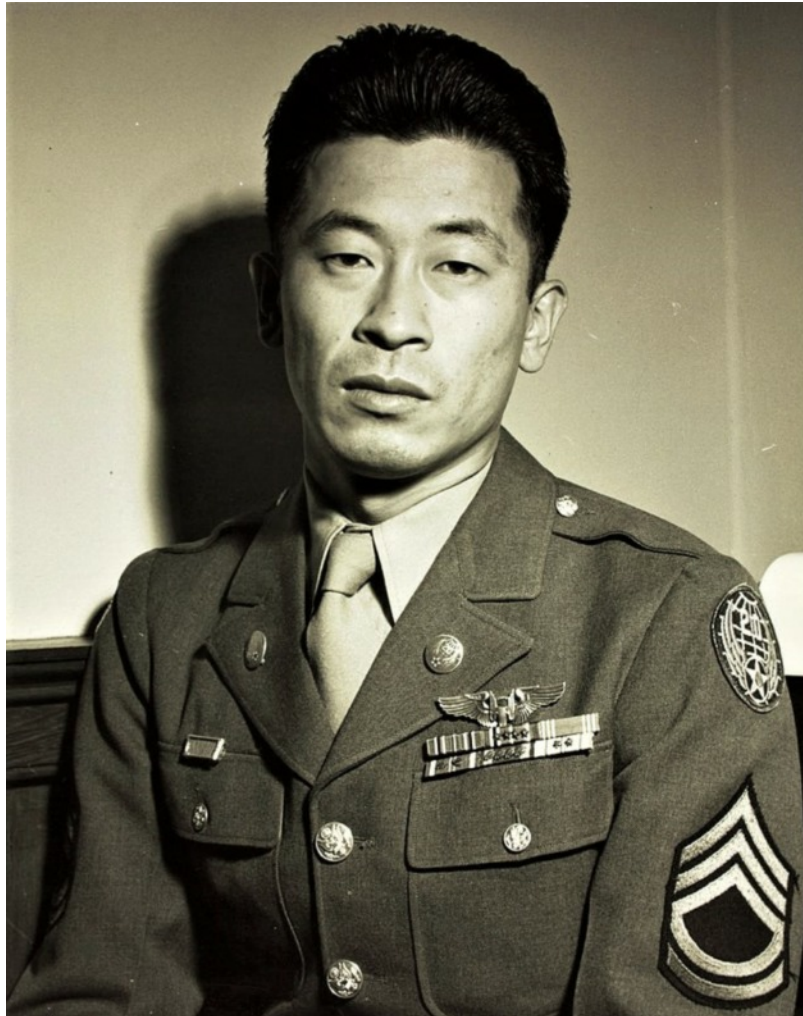


U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Hiroshi Miyamura, Medal of Honor recipient for combat actions near Taejon-ni, South Korea, 24 April 1951 – Unknown author, U.S. Army, U.S. National Archives, Public domain, Wikimedia

“With the Nisei in internment camps,” Tomás said, “how could they help in the Pacific?”

“There were a few exceptions. One of the most notable was, Ben Kuroki, son of an American Japanese farmer from Gothenburg, Nebraska. Ben’s father who’d emigrated from Japan in 1917 to start a potato farm, encouraged his sons to join the army and fight for their country. When the recruiters in Grand Island, Nebraska refused to enlist Ben and his brother because they were Japanese-Americans, they drove 150 miles to North Platte where they signed up with a recruiter who didn’t ask too many questions for he was paid \$2 for each recruit signed up. At any rate, Ben was in the army before they could haul him off to an internment camp. Being of Japanese descent, the army wouldn’t let him serve overseas, so Ben petitioned his commander

to serve as a clerk at an Air Force base in England. The need for aerial gunners was so great that Kuroki was allowed to volunteer for gunnery school and two weeks later found himself as a gunner on a B-24 Liberator, the main heavy bomber of the Air Force. While his fellow Nisei were locked up in the camps, Ben was flying bombing raids over Europe and North Africa. After surviving a crash in Morocco, he flew bombing runs over Romania to destroy the oil refineries which supplied much of the Third Reich's oil. After he was wounded by anti-aircraft flack, the army realizing that they need more fighters like Ben, ordered him to visit the Nisei internment camps to enlist soldiers for the army."



Technical Sergeant Ben Kuroki wearing Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with oak leaf clusters for World War II service – Author, San Diego Air and Space Museum's Library and Archives, Wikimedia. Kuroki accomplished 58 combat missions, serving primarily as the top turret gunner aboard B-24 Liberators, the only Japanese American to participate in combat operations in the Pacific Theater.

“That must have been a strain on Kuroki,” Tomás said. “The army put him into the position of recruiting Nisei who’d been unjustly incarcerated, to fight for a country that had incarcerated them.”

“Kuroki’s example was a turning point. The government that had incarcerated the Nisei, began using Japanese Americans to translate intercepted enemy messages, one of their code interceptions resulting in one of the great moral successes of the war.”

“The Nisei helped in the killing of Yamamoto.” Tomás said.”



Captain Isoroku Yamamoto, Japanese Naval Attache to the U.S. with U.S. Secretary of the Navy Curtis D. Wilbur, 1925-28 – Author, U.S. Navy, Public domain, Wikimedia

“Right, but the main champion was the ‘Magic’ apparatus. Holmes said that a message encoded in the Japanese Naval Cipher was picked up by ‘Magic’ and deciphered by Navy cryptographers, one of whom was the future Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. A Nisei working with naval intelligence, Harold Fudemma, translated the orders alerting Japanese units that Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto and his staff were flying to inspect bases in the Solomon Islands and informed his superior, the deputy commander of the Fifth Air Force Brigadier General Whitehead. Fearing that the message was a Japanese trap, Whitehead called Fudenna on the phone, telling him to verify the accuracy of his translation. Before he gave the order to attack, he must be certain there’s no indication of a trap. Fudenna checked his translation and confirmed it was accurate — Yamamoto and his command staff were going to inspect the base in southern Bougainville, flying two medium

bombers, Mitsubishi Bettys, escorted by six Mitsubishi Zero fighters, departing Rabaul at 06:00 and arriving at Balalae at 08:00 Tokyo time. The general told Fudenna if there is an error in your translation and the mission fails, I'm holding you personally accountable.



Mitsubishi Betty G4M1 bombers – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia. Designed for high speed and long range, to reduce weight and increase range, the Mitsubishi chief designer Kiro Honjo did not use self-sealing fuel tanks and armor plating to protect the crew, leaving the craft vulnerable to cannon fire of the P-38s during 'Operation Vengeance.'



A6M3 Zero fighters from the aircraft carrier *Zuikaku* preparing for a mission at Rabaul – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia. When introduced early in the war, the Zero was the most effective carrier-based fighter in the world, noted for its extremely long range and superior maneuverability in dogfights, achieving a kill ratio of 12 to 1. By mid-1942, improved Allied fighters began to equal its performance.



Mitsubishi Zero A6M2 fighter preparing to take off from the aircraft carrier *Shokaku* to attack Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941 – Unknown author, U.S. Navy, U.S. National Archives, Wikimedia

“Holmes said that some historians say that the Navy passed the intercept on to Franklin D. Roosevelt who ordered the Secretary of the Navy to ‘Get Yamamoto.’ The admiral had been the commander of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Now was the time for Roosevelt’s revenge. However, Holmes doubts the story because the Navy had to act too quickly if they were going to get to Bougainville in time. Holmes believes that the Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox let commanding Admiral Chester Nimitz make the decision. Eighteen P-38s were assigned to the raid, called ‘Operation Vengeance.’ Four fighters were designated as the ‘killers’ and the other P-38s would climb to 18,000 feet to provide top cover to combat the escorting Mitsubishi Zero fighters. Admiral Nimitz was making sure Yamamoto didn’t have a chance.”

“The Solomon Islands, were loaded with Japanese. I would think that Japanese radar would pick them up.”

“You’ve hit upon the problem,” I said, “Japanese radar. To avoid detection, Admiral William Halsey sent the P-38 squadron from Guadalcanal to Bougainville Island on a circuitous route which meant 600 miles in and 400 miles out.



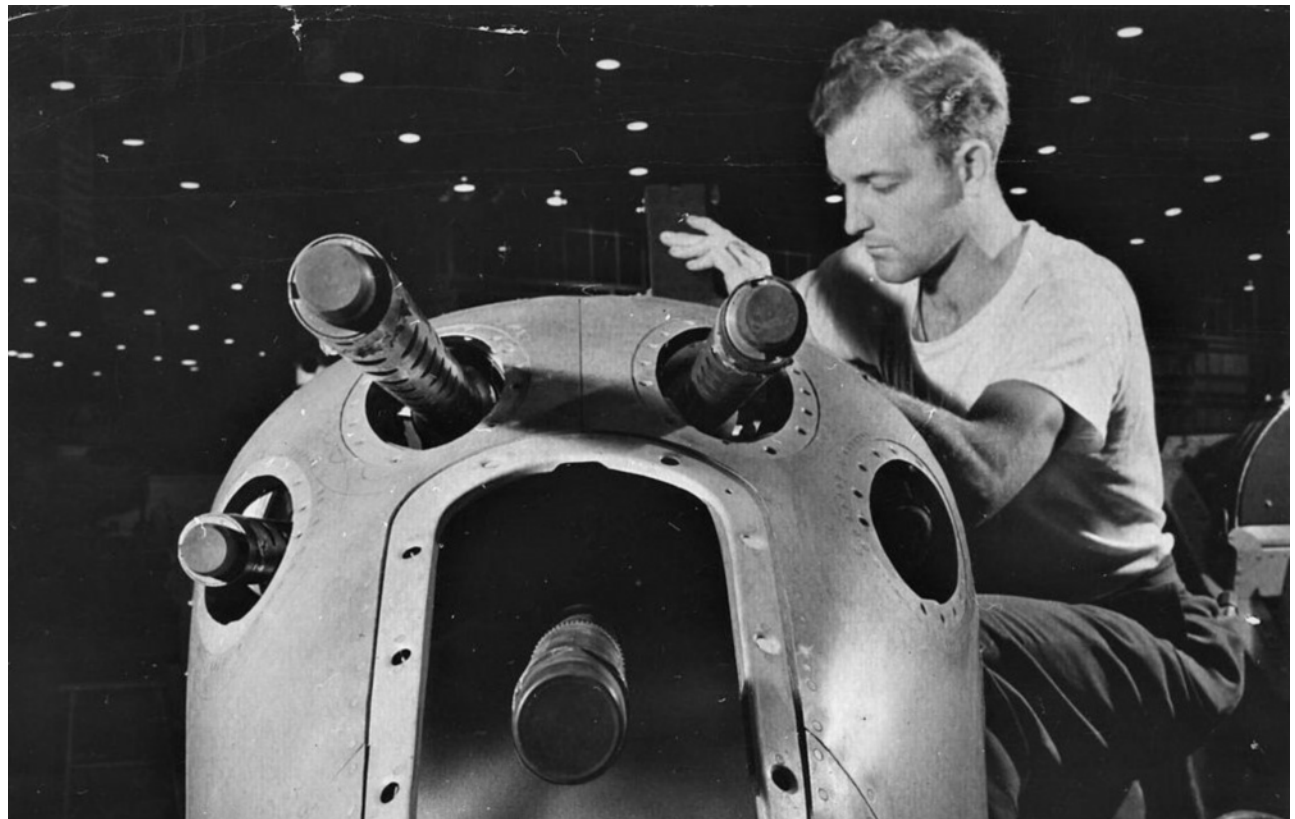
Lockheed P-38L fighter, 1944 – U.S. Air Force, Public domain, Wikimedia



Women Airforce Service Pilot Ruth Daley boards a Lockheed P-38 Lightning fighter – U.S. Air Force, Public domain, Wikimedia. To free male pilots for combat roles in World War II, women became pilots who tested aircraft and trained pilots. Flying for the Women Airforce Service Pilots, WASP, they flew over 60 million miles, transporting every type of military aircraft, towing targets for live anti-aircraft gun exercises, and simulating strafing missions. Thirty-eight WASP women pilots lost their lives.



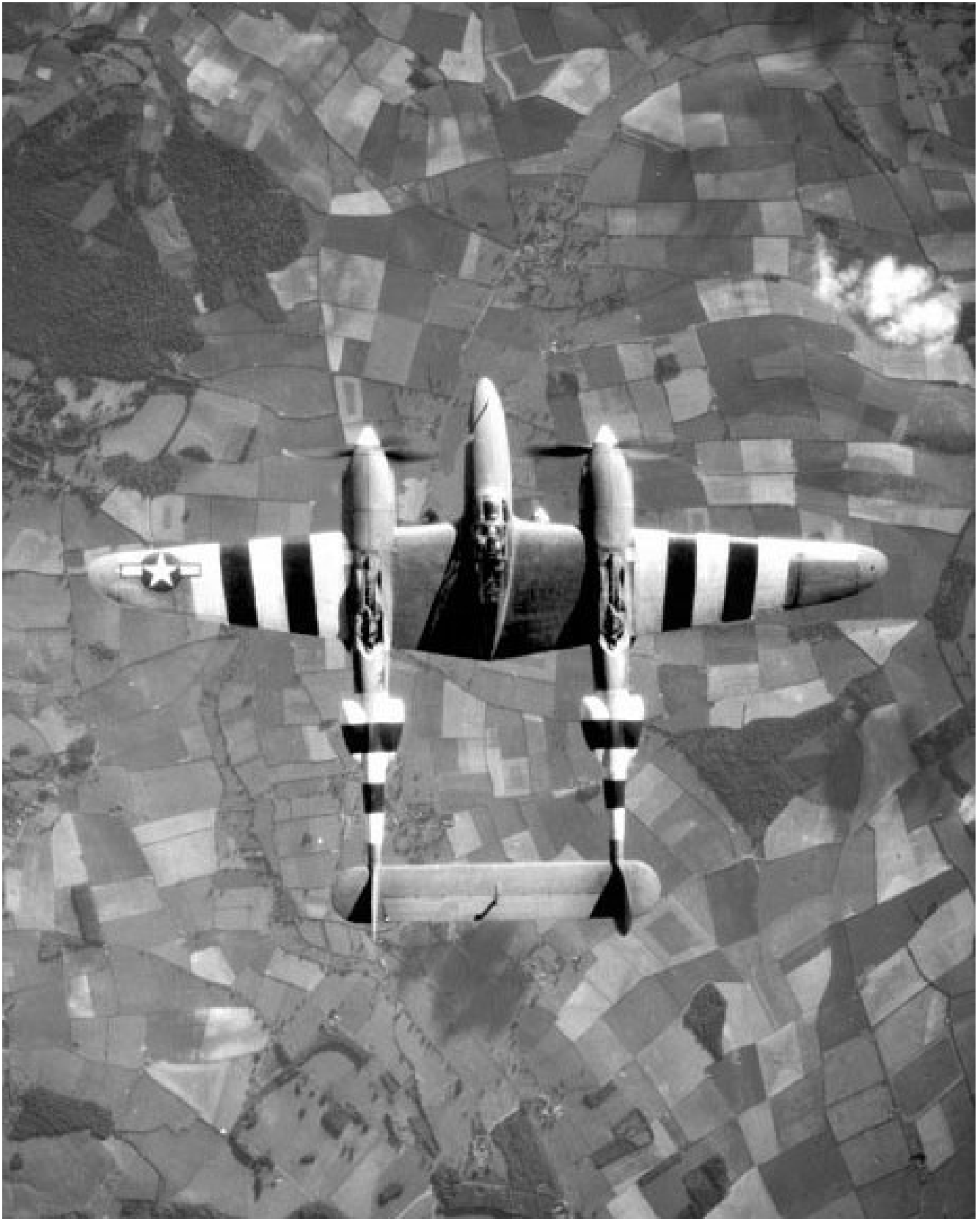
Members of Women Airforce Service Pilots, WASPs, trained to ferry the four engine B-17 Flying Fortress bomber, leaving their ship, 'Pistol Packin' Mama.' Left to right, Frances Green, Margaret Kirchner, Ann Waldner, and Blanche Osborn – Author, U.S. Air Force, Public domain, Wikimedia



An armorer installs a machine gun in the nose of a Lockheed P-38 Lightning fighter – Unknown author, U.S. National Archives, Wikimedia



Lockheed P-38G Lightning cockpit – Author. U.S. Air Force, Public domain, Wikimedia



Reconnaissance P-38 with bold black and white invasion stripes during the Normandy Campaign, 1944 – Author, U.S. Air Force, Public domain, Wikimedia. In addition to being a general fighter, the P-38 was used as a bomber, a night fighter, and when equipped with drop tanks, a long-range escort fighter or bomber-pathfinder guiding streams of bombers to their target, and for aerial reconnaissance, capturing 90 percent of the aerial film shot over Europe.



Lockheed P-38 Lightning fighter-bomber capable of carrying 2,000 pound bomb pay loads – Author, U.S. Air Force, Public domain, Wikimedia

“The distance of 1,000 miles was so great for a fighter that only a P-38 fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks could make it that far. To avoid radar, they flew under radio silence and ‘wave hopped’ which meant flying only 20 to 50 feet above the sea. One big air current fluctuation and you were dead. Although it was the longest fighter-intercept mission of the war, Major Mitchell’s squadron intercepted Yamamoto at the precisely calculated moment and both bombers were shot down.

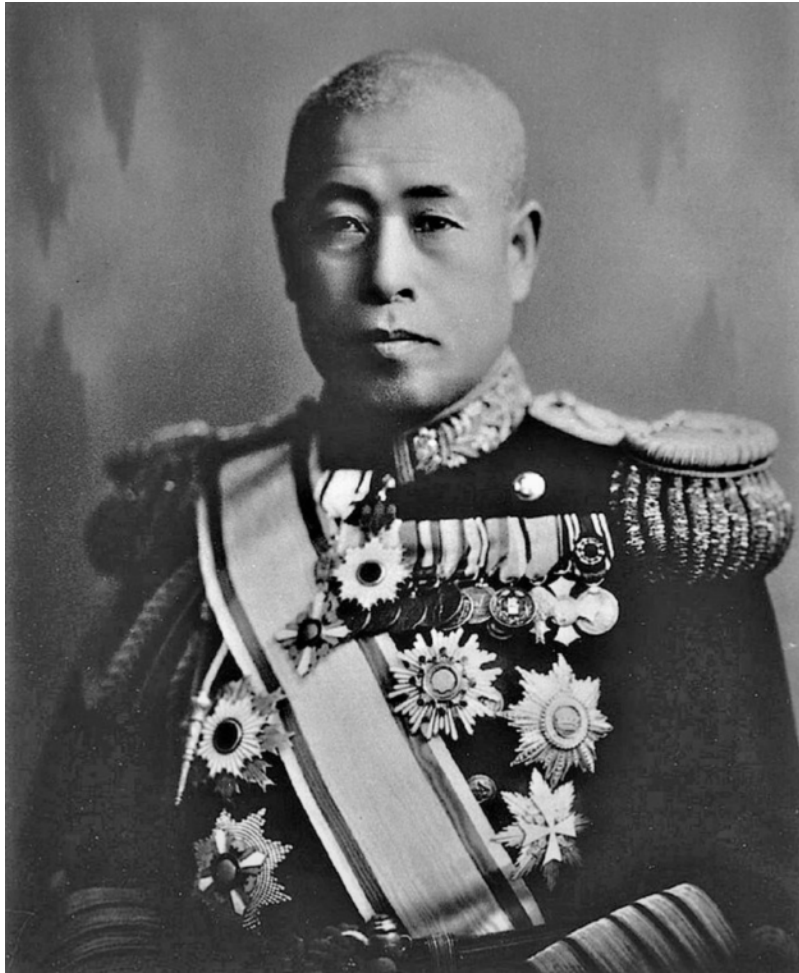
“The Japanese search and rescue found Yamamoto’s body in the jungle still sitting in his chair, thrown clear of the plane’s wreckage, his white-gloved hand grasping his katana sword. He was struck by two 20 mm bullets, one of which entered through the jaw and exited above his right eye, the violence of his death concealed from the Japanese public. General MacArthur called the killing of Yamamoto, one of the most significant actions of the War in the Pacific. The death of Yamamoto was a huge morale builder for the U.S. and a crushing blow for the Japanese.”



Admiral Yamamoto, a few hours before his death, saluting Japanese naval pilots at Rabaul, April 18, 1943 – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia



State Funeral for Marshal-Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto of the Imperial Japanese Navy, 5 June 1943 – Unknown author, Public domain, Wikimedia. Yamamoto's ashes were placed alongside Admiral Tōgō Heihachirō, hero of the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905, in the village cemetery at Tama facing the Imperial Palace



Portrait of Isoroku Yamamoto – Unknown author, National Diet Library of Japan, Public domain, Wikimedia

“Didn’t it reveal to the Japanese,” Tomás observed, “that the Americans had broken the code?”

“You would have thought the Japanese would have come to that conclusion. The Navy invented a story that civilian watchers in the Solomons had observed Yamamoto boarding a bomber. But that was a pretty flimsy story because how would they know exactly where Yamamoto was headed? It’s incredible that the Japanese bought the story. I would conclude that the hubris of superiority was as powerful in the Japanese command as in the Nazi command which failed to realize that the Enigma Machine codes had been broken by Turing’s team at Bletchley Park. In winning the war, not only breaking the codes was of critical importance, but how to conceal from the enemy that the codes had been broken.”

“Sun Tzu believed,” Tomás said, “war is a matter of deception. He said the supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy with the minimum of force. The civilian warriors of Ultra who decoded Nazi messages, never picked up a gun, but looked what they accomplished.”

“Deception based on Ultra discoveries,” I said, “was successful in fooling the Germans into believing that the D-Day landings would be in the Pas de Calais instead of Normandy. Ultra even discovered that Hitler was failing to listen to his field marshals, ordering General Paulus’ Sixth Army encircled by a vast Soviet Army to not surrender but die fighting to the last man at Stalingrad. Since no Prussian or German field marshal had ever surrendered, Hitler expected Paulus to commit suicide rather than surrender to the Russians. Ultra was a godsend for it ferreted out German spies and fooled Abwehr intelligence in trusting Britain’s M15 double agents in Germany.”

“It is amazing what the public doesn’t know,” Tomás said. “Without Ultra, we might be struggling for survival in a concentration camp instead of having coffee by Lac Léman. Accurate intelligence is critical for successful warfare. It’s an advantage we didn’t have in our fight against Franco.”

“But Turing’s success,” I said, “in decoding the Enigma Machine is not the end of the story. After the war, the Red Scare created a panic in Great Britain over homosexuals who could be blackmailed into spying for the Soviets. Holmes had attended Cambridge with Turing and they frequently shared a pint when Turing was working at Bletchley Park. Turing told Holmes that he’d never gotten over the death of his close friend Christopher when they were at Sherbourne School. The trauma of losing Christopher to tuberculosis destroyed Turing’s faith in God. When he was working on the development of the computer at Manchester University, he picked up a 19 year old worker and invited him to lunch. When Turing’s house was burglarized, the young man admitted he knew the burglar. During the investigation of the burglary, in a moment of naïve judgment, Turing admitted to the police his relations with the boy and was charged with ‘gross indecency’ for homosexuality — a crime in Britain. It’s astonishing how brilliant men can make rash judgments. I wonder if naivety and genius aren’t intimately related. Despite Alan Turing’s work in developing artificial intelligence and helping the Allies defeat the Nazi submarine fleet, this great scientist was convicted for homosexuality. To avoid prison, Turing chose the alternative — injections over a period of a year of stilboestrol, a synthetic oestrogen that feminized his body — chemical castration by altering his hormones. It left him impotent.”

“Madre de Dios!”

“Due to his conviction for homosexuality, Turing’s security clearance was stripped from him and he was barred from his cryptographic consultancy for the government’s intelligence agency. Turing was a handsome man with an uncommonly beautiful expression, a gentle femininity that drew people to him. For a man who

had a strong sexuality, it was a shock to not be able to make love. He continued working on mathematical biology and the chemical basis of morphogenesis, but two years after his conviction, at the age of 41, Turing died after eating an apple laced with cyanide.”

“Lost his manhood,” Tomás cried. “Devastating.”

“His death could have been brought about by changes in his body and mind, but we’ll never know. He didn’t leave a suicide note. His friends said he was in good spirits, excited with his new projects in mathematical biology. Turing was taking the conviction philosophically. They saw no motive for suicide. Turing had experimented with cyanide, so it could have been a careless accident. Holmes said that a high-ranking intelligence officer had implied there was another possibility. Turing knew the secrets of Ultra. Once he’d been revealed as a homosexual, he was a security threat. Turing could be blackmailed.”

“You mean, he might have been assassinated?”

I nodded my head. Tomás was silent for a moment, a profound sadness passing over his face. Finally, he said, “What a tragedy, Britain, the country whose freedom Turing had worked so hard to preserve, at least indirectly, was guilty of killing him. I’m astounded by how much injustice and sheer unreason there is in the world. Turing had an inalienable right to be who he was. The government denied him that right.”

“After the war,” I said, “there was a strong disapproval of homosexuality. In 1952, the American Psychiatric Association declared homosexuality a ‘sociopathic personality disorder.’”

“That’s the kind of bigotry I’m talking about in America, Tomás said. “The witch hunt of the House Committee Un-American Activities became a reign of terror — any pronouncements of the committee got you instantaneously blacklisted. It’s like Robespierre’s Reign of Terror. ‘The Incorruptible One’ *purified* the French revolution. In Russia, it’s called a ‘purge.’ You’ve no chance to clear your name. There’s no due process of law. You can’t confront your accusers. You’re guilty by the fact of being called out, regardless that there’s no hard evidence against you. Fear ruins people’s lives. Overnight you lose your job. Your friends abandon you.”

“You certainly have strong views on the United States,” I said.

“I hold the American people responsible for supporting McCarthy’s hallucinations. Senator McCarthy didn’t create the climate of fear. The fear is in the American psyche. As Murrow said, McCarthy succeeded in

exploiting that fear. During the war between the Catholics and the Protestants, Michel de Montaigne said:

‘There is no passion as contagious as that of fear.’”

Listening to Tomás’ grave voice, I suddenly felt a rapport which I hadn’t known since Gio went back to New York.

“In his essay on the education of children,” I said, “Montaigne was able to maintain a balanced view of life even in the midst of a savage religious war. ‘Seeing our civil wars,’ Montaigne said, ‘who does not exclaim that the system is topsy-turvy and judgment is at hand, not reflecting that many worse things have happened and that 10,000 parts of the world to our one are having a jolly time.’”

In a daring moment, I put my hand on his. “I’m having a dress rehearsal tomorrow morning. I’d love for you to come.”

Tomás gazed across the darkening lake for a moment considering my invitation. Then he turned to me, his hand rising to my face, his fingers grazing my cheek, his dark eyes caressing mine, his voice but a murmur, “Yes, I’ll come.”

In the south, shadows were descending the mountain onto the glassy surface of the lake, a magenta stain spreading over darkly gleaming water.



Raising a flag over the Reichstag, 2 May 1945 – Author, Yevgeny Khaldei, Mil.ru., Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, Wikimedia

***Ideas are more powerful than guns. We would not let our
enemies have guns, why should we let them have ideas?***

— Joseph Stalin