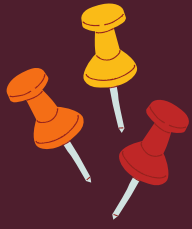
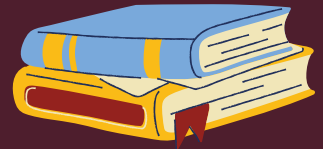


FEATURED

- DICTATORIAL CIRCUS
- THE SPY PRINCESS
- CATWALK- FASHION FROM THE PAST



THE BULLETIN



FROM THE EDITORS' DESK



Dear Readers,

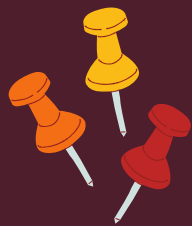
This was a really enjoyable issue to write. We are enthusiastic about history, so a history-themed issue was perfect for all of us. You may notice this issue is longer than the rest, and that's because in our passion we *may* have gone overboard and overdone it. We've covered a variety of historical events and history-related entertainment, such as buffoonish dictators, an Indian princess-turned-spy, the Great Depression, and more. This issue might be our favourite so far and we hope it's yours too, as we hone our writing and editing skills. Don't let the idea of "history" dissuade you from the edutainment waiting for you between these pdf pages.

Don't forget to reach out to us if you have any suggestions or feedback! Happy reading!

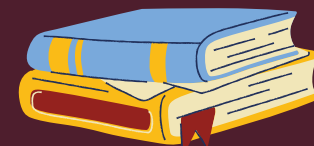
~ Editor - Sarina Chadha
Assistant Editor - Muktee Tolani

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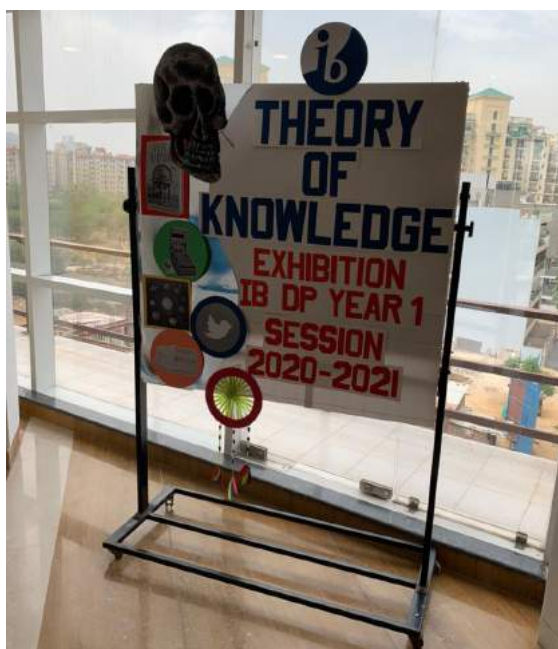
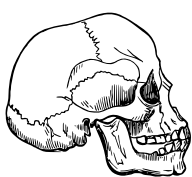


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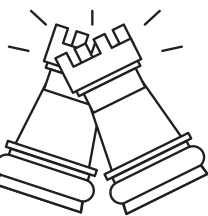
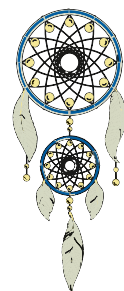
THE 'TOK' EXHIBITION

On the 26th of March, IBDP year 1 shared what they learnt in their Theory of Knowledge [TOK] classes with the rest of the school through the means of an exhibition. Each student explored a knowledge question with the help of 3 different, yet intriguing objects. These ranged from Nike shoes, to history books and dreamcatchers, and even a skull!



Students presented confidently to teachers on a variety of topics they mulled over, such as the inevitability of bias in education, science (that's what the skull was for!), and technology.

After everyone was done presenting, they engaged in discussion with the teachers who had several queries and points to add. The overwhelming support made all the preparations done in the previous months worth it.





HUMOR- THE H IN HISTORY



DICTATORIAL CIRCUS



by Sarina Chadha

Many of us find history 'boring' and 'dull', but history also has its fair share of comedic characters. In this article I'll be talking about a few infamous dictators with wild policies and wilder behaviour.



MUAMMAR GADDAFI



The self proclaimed 'Libyan Arab Jamahiriya' Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's policies include forcing all Libyans to raise chickens in their house to promote self-sufficiency. As anyone but Gaddafi could've anticipated, most citizens slaughtered and ate the chickens. Primary and secondary school children were forced to study Gaddafi's manifesto, the Green Book, while children aged 9 to 18 had Jamahiriya

studies, where they studied Gaddafi's government. Other subjects weren't safe either; in Geography, they denied the current national borders. In a way, all parts of the curriculum were about Gaddafi's book, which has been highly criticized for just being a terrible book that didn't do what it set out to do; create a unique political philosophy. From 1977 to 2011, to celebrate his rather disappointing book, he changed the Libyan flag to a rather disappointing block of green. As he grew older, his buffoonery escalated to weird fashion, which includes rather ridiculous wizard-like robes, an outfit with faces of fellow Arab nationalists, sofa cosplays (my fellow editor disagrees and says he was likelier trying to cosplay a curtain), some of which he wore at international summits. Gaddafi had a crush on Condoleezza Rice and when his Bab al Azizia palace was raided, they found a scrapbook dedicated to his dear "Leezza". Gaddafi was even the subject of Sacha Baron Cohen's hit film, *The Dictator* - a crass and darkly comedic political satire about a foolish dictator unable to understand normal lifestyles. Fittingly enough, Gaddafi died hiding in a sewer-pipe.



Caption: Gaddafi Drip.



HUMOR- THE H IN HISTORY



[CONTINUED]



2

SAPARMURAT NIYAZOV

Saparmurat Niyasov is an... interesting man, who just happened to be a dictator. After naming himself Leader of All Ethnic Turkmen and declaring himself president of Turkmenistan for life after the fall of the USSR, Niyazov set out to create a new image by building a huge gold statue of himself that rotated so that it would always face the sun, smack in the middle of the capital. Giving Bokassa a run for his money, Niyazov named landmarks, streets and other public entities after himself. He banned, amongst other things, lip syncing, dogs in the capital city, news reporters and anchors wearing makeup on-screen, opera, ballet, and circuses. It became law to have his face on clocks and watches. He also decreed that men should not wear their hair long or have beards.



On the bright side, he didn't make it a law to chew on bones, merely encouraged it in order to "strengthen teeth and reduce the rate at which they fell", as he had seen dogs do. He also renamed the month of April and his country's word for 'bread' to 'Gurbansoltan'- his mother's name. His successor made rap videos that contained propaganda messages to the people.

3

ADOLF HITLER

The man who needs no introduction. One thing that has consistently amazed me is the existence of neo-Nazis, people who follow the ideals of a man like Hitler. According to his own book "Mein Kampf", a pity-grabbing title that translates to "My Struggle", we read about how Hitler brought his struggles upon himself by being a stubborn child who skipped classes to spite his father, which meant he never got the proper qualifications for a job. He claims that came up with his now-famous nationalistic beliefs - and never properly revised them - when he wasn't even a teen. His get-rich-quick scheme, apart from corruption, was to force the government to buy his book to give as state wedding gifts to newlyweds, allowing him to get rich off the royalties.





HUMOR- THE H IN HISTORY

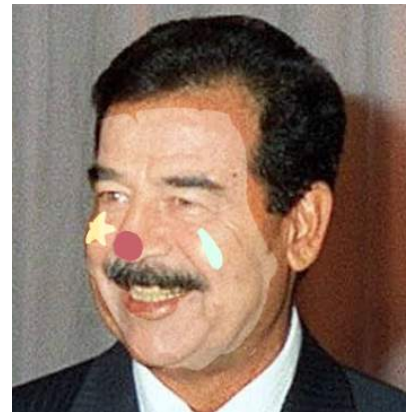


[CONTINUED]



4 SADDAM HUSSEIN

I'm sure all of us have heard of the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. For his sixtieth birthday, Hussein commissioned a calligrapher to do something considered haram in every single sect of Islam - write the Quran in his own blood. He had his blood removed regularly over a two-year period so it could be written - 27 liters of it. It would take at least nine years to safely donate that much blood, but Hussein didn't care. As a punishment for killing several people at a dinner party, Saddam Hussein burnt his son's (who was much crueler than his father) entire exotic car collection. Now that's a way to make a statement. Talking of making statements - all his speeches were printed in large letters so that he would not have to show any imperfections by wearing glasses in front of his audience.



In his paranoia he slept just four to five hours a night, in secret locations, and his more than twenty palaces functioned as though he were there even when he was not by cooking three elaborate meals a day.

5 JOSEPH STALIN

Stalin was short. Not short by any means back then, just a little below average - he was around 5'6 (166 cm) - but wanted to hide it. I suppose it happens when 5'8 world leaders are constantly calling you "little squirt". Whatever the case, he wore shoes with heels and positioned himself in photos to look taller. All the furniture in his house was a tad smaller just to suit him; his pool was 4 feet at its deepest. All so that he would look relatively bigger to his furniture as he lived his daily life in ease. His glorious mustache also served the dual purpose of hiding pockmarks he got when younger from chicken pox. In propaganda, he was always depicted as a large, towering man so you'd be forgiven for thinking he was much taller. Interestingly, Stalin wasn't even Russian, he was Georgian, but spent the rest of his life trying to hide that, too. Another thing he liked to hide was people who fell out of favour in photographs. The photo would edit them out and they'd be unpersoned. During his rule there were several silly laws in place like making coming late to work by more than 20 minutes illegal. Another thing he tried and gave up on was the five day working week calendar, where a week was five days and every day was a work day, with people having rest days spread throughout the week - some on Mondays, others on Tuesdays, etc. This didn't work out and the calendar is now a forgotten piece of history. Similar to Idi Amin, Stalin never lost a billiards game after coming to power. I wonder why?





HUMOR- THE H IN HISTORY



[CONTINUED]



Many of these men were intelligent or capable. They had to be, so that they could grasp power and abuse it the way they did. However, with this article, we hope to show you that these dictators aren't perfect, and indeed that we should not respect people like them. They used their power not only to do horrendous things, but live rich and luxurious lifestyles or dwell in their hypocrisy, doing inane and idiosyncratic activities in their free time while their citizens died. Hitler, Gaddafi, and Hussein had two things in common: dictatorship, and golden guns. The next time you meet a neo-Nazi, tell them that Hitler requested his doctor to give him chamomile enemata. I bet they didn't know that when they began worshipping him. These dictators are not clowns. They are the entire circus.



Caption: Erasure of a disliked government official

DID YOU KNOW



Stalin's practice of having people he had killed edited out of pictures acted as inspiration for George Orwell when he was writing 1984.



UNTOLD PASTS



The Spy Princess



by Muktee Tolani & Tia Manchanda



Caption: Instances from Noor's life

At the dawn of World War II, Winston Churchill ordered his new spy agency to train female agents for covert operations to build a resistance network in Europe. This is because women were considered inconspicuous and less risky than male agents, since during this period, the Nazis didn't consider women to be capable of such work and it was easier for women to move around than men. In fact, it was observed that in the field, women could go unnoticed as couriers delivering vital messages since they were rarely stopped at checkpoints. Later, many of these espionage agents were caught, interrogated and tortured and some even gave their life for the allies. Amongst these brave souls was the Indian princess Noor Inayat Khan; a spy whose valiant efforts and contributions to the War played a key role in its outcome. She remained in near anonymity for decades, and her efforts were only recently acknowledged when she was honored with the prestigious Blue Plaque in the UK (a London scheme where a plaque of a notable figure is fitted near a building in which the person worked or lived).

Noor Inayat Khan was born on 1st January 1914 to Inayat Khan - an Indian musician and Sufi preacher - and Ameena Begum - an American mother in Moscow. She was a descendant of the 'Tiger of Mysore', Tipu Sultan.

Inayat Khan's pro-India views gathered negative attention in Moscow, causing the Inayat family to flee to England shortly after World War I broke out. However, after his death in 1927, the responsibility of the entire family was left to a 13-year-old Noor and her mother. In 1940, when France was under Nazi Germany, Noor moved to Britain with her family. Here, she was educated and she studied music and child psychology at Sorbonne. Later, she started to write poetry and children's stories, and made regular appearances on local radio shows.



UNTOLD PASTS



(Continued)



Aligning with her father's view on life, Noor was a pacifist and therefore believed in non-violence and oneness of all religions. Even so, she had always hoped to put help in the War, because the man she loved was a Jew. She also hoped that her contribution in the war would help bridge the gap created between Indians and the English after the end of colonial rule in India.

In the same year, she joined the Women Auxiliary Air force and trained as a wireless operator in Edinburgh for six months. She became a radio operator and was the first woman wireless operator to be sent Nazi-occupied France. She went undercover with the codename Madeleine to establish critical links, build a resistance network and send crucial information back to London. It must be noted that Britain was desperate to send agents to France at the time, since an increasing number of British spies were being arrested and without any wireless operators, it had become impossible for the spies that hadn't been arrested to communicate back to Britain. Even after knowing the risks associated with the job - in 1943 a wireless operator's life expectancy was 6 weeks - , Noor readily agreed to take it up, even though no superior except Vera Atkins believed in her. When the situation escalated and she was asked to return, she bravely refused and continued with her job. Noor's established links were the only source of information between Paris and London during this period of time, since other wireless operators around Paris had been seized by the Nazis. She helped transmit messages to and fro London, helped injured spies receive treatment in hiding, as well as helped spies return to London, all while managing to build Nazi resistance in France, and her contribution played a very important role in the War.

In October that year, Noor was betrayed by a contact and was arrested by Gestapo. Against security regulations, Noor had kept copies of her signals. This helped them break her code and stratagem London into sending new agents, trapping them and arresting them on their arrival. Hans Kieffer, the former head of the Sicherheitsdienst (SS counter-intelligence) branch in Paris, said after the war that Noor gave Gestapo not a single piece of information, not even her name - merely lies.

Even as she was arrested, Noor did not give up hope. She bravely tried to escape twice under the Gestapo's watch, and was considered to be one of the most dangerous prisoners under their custody at the time, so much so that Noor's investigator in Paris quoted that he admired her courage, bravery and kindness. Shortly after, she was sent to Pforzheim prison in November 1943 as she refused to sign a declaration saying she would never attempt to escape again, and was kept in chains and solitary confinement. Classified as highly dangerous, she was tortured brutally - many prisoners recall hearing her crying every night, but she remained strong and refused to give out any information.



UNTOLD PASTS



(Continued)



Finally, in September 1944, Noor was transferred to Dachau concentration camp where she was shot on 13 September with three other agents. Even with her dying breath, Noor did not break. A brutalized Noor screamed *liberté* before being shot, French for freedom. Neither threats nor torture could shatter her courage, and no chains could take away her freedom to resist. The courageous Noor Khaan Inayat was posthumously awarded the George Cross in 1949.

Her contributions to the war remained niche, until she was recognized by the British government for her contributions. 'A Call to Spy' was released on Amazon Prime Video, where she is played by Radhika Apte. The legend of the Spy Princess continues to inspire many young girls around the world to this date, and is living proof that Britain and India can be united despite their rocky past.



Caption: A still of Radhika Apte as Noor Inayat Khan in the film 'A Call to Spy'



UNTOLD PASTS



ACCIDENTAL INVENTIONS



by Lini Dhingra & Swaraj Tolani

Most people know about penicillin and what it's used for, it's an antibody that's obtained from penicillium moulds, hence the name 'mould juice'. It's used to cure infections caused by bacteria. Most people also know that Alexander Fleming, the man who discovered penicillin, did it on accident. While Fleming was away a green mould called *Penicillium notatum* had contaminated petri dishes in his lab and it was killing bacteria that he was growing, so he started to experiment with these 'green moulds' to see how many other bacteria it could kill. The answer turned out to be "a lot" and now it is one of the main components in many antibiotics. Although this is common knowledge, here are some inventions people don't know were accidentally discovered.

1

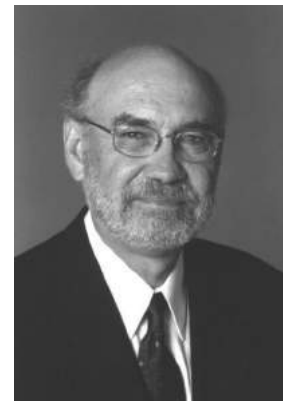
POST-IT NOTES



Post-it notes, a common stationery item. These sticky notes are loved by the entire world, but little did we know Spencer Silver came upon these by accident. Spencer Silver, a 3M scientist, was working to create a strong adhesive, but instead developed a material that was light enough to stick and peel apart. Silver felt he had created something unique, but didn't know what they could be used for and worked for years, talking to people, trying to figure out what his product's use could be until an employee at 3M got frustrated with his scrap paper bookmarks that constantly fell out. He thought Silver's invention would be perfect for this purpose and then also realised that the bookmarks would work better as notes. A team of employees modified the product to make the adhesive attach to a piece of paper and voila! The post-it note was born.



Post-it notes



Spencer Silver



UNTOLD PASTS



[CONTINUED]



2 MICROWAVE OVEN



The microwave oven has become one of the most important kitchen appliances. Even as daily users though, we barely know anything about how the microwave was made. This wonder-machine was accidentally invented by Percy Spencer. Spencer was working near magnetrons that produced microwaves and noticed a peanut butter candy bar in his pocket had begun to melt. Shortly after, the microwave oven was created. Where would we be without this invention? Imagine the world without microwave ovens (or don't, it's horrifying). Today, research into microwave technology is being used to start research in radar and magnetron technologies. Many wavelengths of microwaves are being used to track weather updates and rain structures through satellites.



Microwave oven



Percy Spencer



UNTOLD PASTS



[CONTINUED]



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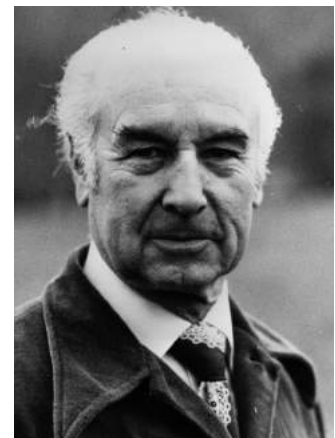
LSD



To top it all off, one of the most well-known and widely-used hallucinogen's discovery was actually an accident. LSD or lysergic acid diethylamide is one of the most famous psychedelics and incredibly harmful. This accidental discovery is memorialized through a day for celebration known as "bicycle day", 19th April. It all began when scientists were trying to experiment with lysergic acid. However, it would decompose too quickly, and so Albert Hoffman, a scientist working at a Swiss pharmaceutical firm Sandoz, researched it in his efforts to stabilize this chemical. During these efforts he created what we all know as LSD. Although it was seemingly useless, one day Hoffman was conducting an experiment and inhaled its fumes. He began to experience hallucinations, seeing patterns one normally would in a kaleidoscope, and went home. He decided to take 0.25 mg of LSD the next day, which was probably something he'd go on to regret. He couldn't do anything and called for his assistant. And since there were no cars available due to the world war, he had to go home using a bicycle, and so bicycle day came into fruition - a celebration of the first acid trip. Hoffman never took LSD after that but continued to study it and its properties. However, due to misuse, it was banned.



LSD



Albert Hoffman



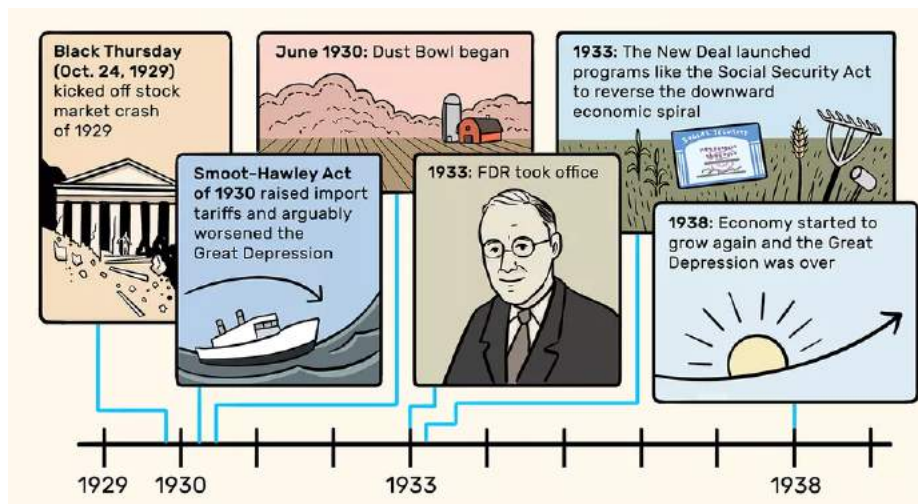
HISTORICAL ECONOMICS



THE GREAT DEPRESSION



by Sarina Chadha



Caption: The Great Depression Timeline

We are living in the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, but that is not what I want to focus on. I want to focus on the Great Depression, and what exactly made it the monolith event of economic crises when we look back today. It lasted for nearly four years, from August 1929 to March 1933.

Contrary to popular belief, the stock market crash wasn't the sole cause of the Great Depression - there were several other causes, too. This was, of course, before the Depression went into full swing and prices plunged again, with the stocks only retaining 20% of their original value from 1929. However, the stock market crash began in September, happened in October, with the general consensus being 29th October, Black Tuesday. Being the alert reader that you are, hanging on to my every word, you may have said "wait a second, but the Great Depression began in August 1929!". And that is true. The Great Depression was a symptom of what had happened before - but it probably did speed up things. By 1929, production had already declined and unemployment had already risen, which my sharp reader can point to as the cause of recession. Wages were low and the agriculture sector was suffering from success, with overproduction causing lower prices meaning farmers unable to pay off debt for their machinery ended up having their farms foreclosed.

The roaring '20s were years of expansion for the stock market, with wild speculation and margin buying - that is, stocks were being bought through loans which were going to be repaid with the profits they made through reselling. Their prices were incredibly inflated and when prices finally began falling, they fell hard. Stockholders began panicking as prices started falling, and rushed to sell off whatever stock they had. This turned into a vicious cycle of further panicking and selling and stock prices went into a downward spiral.



HISTORICAL ECONOMICS



[CONTINUED]



Consumers and businesses began spending less as their confidence in the economy dropped, so workers were let loose, leading to even less purchase as consumers without jobs couldn't afford goods.

Another problem was the liquidity of banks. Most banks at the time were local, as the President didn't believe in a centralised banking system. And many banks had also bought into stock shares with deposited money in an attempt to multiply it. So when the crash happened, they lost a lot of borrowed money and when people began mass-withdrawing in cash in their panic, banks could not provide all the money to everyone. Even financially healthy banks will experience a liquidity crunch when banking panic occurs, and it ended up with credit freezing up. There were four extended banking panics like this, which merely served to exacerbate the situation. By the end of 1931, 2294 banks had failed. This, as my reader needn't be told, decreased consumer spending and business investment, as fewer banks had less money to lend, which made the recession worse.

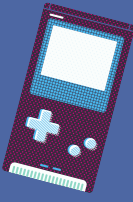
Some believe that the Federal Reserve, in all its glory, increased interest rates, which causes less lending, and reduced money supply, all in the interests of maintaining the gold standard at the cost of worsening the situation.

Talking of the gold standard, it is one of the reasons why the Great Depression spread from America to other countries. Due to the recession, Americans bought fewer imported goods, while their falling prices meant cheaper exports. This meant that essentially, gold from other countries went to America, and this could devalue the currencies of countries with depleted gold reserves. Foreign central banks responded by increasing interest rates, causing, as the Federal Reserve did, increased unemployment and lower output and prices. Another reason is that American banks, thanks to higher interest rates, were not lending internationally as much. However, countries that had already borrowed money like Germany - to pay off the treaty of Versailles, borrowed from American banks and gave it to Britain and France, who gave it back to America -, Argentina, and Brazil, whose economies had already been troubled beforehand. These factors caused recession in other countries too, and world trade was falling. Smoot and Hawley, in particular, came up with the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act (1930), a horrible monstrosity of an Act that imposed tariffs averaging 20% on a range of agricultural and industrial products. Europe responded with also raising its own tariffs. This was not in anyone's best interests as more international trade would've been ideal. Why? Because now that international trade was falling, so did global output.

The reasons for recovery are as foggy as the causes of the Great Depression, but we all as a race learnt our lesson then, didn't we, as we abandoned the gold standard and progressed into Keynesian economics? Of course we wouldn't experience a similar crash also caused by the stock market crashing and credit freezing up, would we? Economists have studied the Great Depression so much, there's no way we'd go through something similar again... after all, we study history to avoid repeating past mistakes. There's no way something similarly called the Great Depression would've ever happened in 2008, ever.



ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



GOLDEN KAMUY REVIEW



By Sarina Chadha

“He was known to keep snow in his mouth while sniping to prevent his breath in the cold air from giving away his position.” This line applies to two characters; one, the talented prolific Finnish sniper, Simo Häyhä, known as “The White Death”. The other is Ogata Hyakunosuke, a talented and prolific Japanese sniper - who also happens to be fictional.

Do niche historical references make you happy? Do you enjoy accurately researched geography, weapons, animals, cooking, and more? Are well-written characters your bread and butter - or maybe you prefer a riveting story with villains as loveable and sympathetic as heroes? Look no further than the award-winning Golden Kamuy, a story stuffed to the brim with interesting historical characters, from a trans woman inspired by a serial killer to a brutal lieutenant with charisma comparable to dictators and a head injury just like Phineas Gage’s.



Caption: Yoshitake Shiraishi and his namesake, Yoshie Shiratori

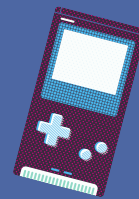
Set in the 1900s right after the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905, we follow Sugimoto the Immortal, Asirpa, a young Ainu girl, and the Escape King Shiraishi Yoshitake (inspired by the real-life escape king Yoshie Shiratori) on a quest for gold. The story goes that there was an Ainu man who hid a lot of gold before being sent to prison for murder. This man inked the code to the gold on the skins of 24 prisoners, who later escaped and are scattered around Hokkaido. The twist? The code can only be read when the prisoner is skinned like a hunter would skin a bear, so that the skin can be “spread out” and read.

Asirpa and co. aren’t the only ones looking for the gold. A colourful cast of characters are distributed across other factions, such as the 7th Division from the army and the former vice-commander of the Shinsengumi (a real-life ruthless government militia) Hijikata Toshizou with his rag-tag band of fighters, are also in the race. They each have their own motives that I can honestly understand and sympathize with. There are other smaller factions as well. When it is advantageous, a faction will work with another despite their differences, leading to an ever-changing dynamic where someone is an enemy for a moment and a friend for the next that leaves the reader eager for more.

It is hard to argue that Asirpa and Sugimoto are the main characters, because the other characters are just as deeply intertwined not only in the ongoing story, but also in the mysteries surrounding the imprisoned Ainu man who created the code in the first place. The story focuses just as much on them as it does on Asirpa and Sugimoto; entire chapters are dedicated to the eccentric Tsurumi and his incredibly loyal men, or the gun-slinging sword-slashing escapades of the swashbuckler Hijikata.



ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



[CONTINUED] 



Caption: Tsurumi's charisma compared to Hitler.

I would like to focus on some villains, because they are incredibly well-written, and a villain can make or break a series. I believe that villains are the most interesting characters in most stories.

Tsurumi is incredibly charismatic and manipulative, described as “the most handsome character” by the author himself. In fact, all of Tsurumi’s subordinates are deeply enthralled by him with a love bordering on worship. After suffering a head injury in the war, he is left with a shattered skull, cerebrospinal fluid leak, and a dramatically changed personality. While still manipulative

and charismatic, he is now dramatic, theatrical, unpredictable, and erratic. Bitterness about his soldiers' treated manifests in his psychotic and violent tendencies; he once used his head injury as an excuse to bite off a superior’s finger in a sudden fit of rage. It doesn’t matter whether it’s his subordinate or enemy; do something he doesn’t like, and he’ll personally threaten you and inflict injury on you. But all this is hidden under a sophisticated and sympathetic facade, and he is arguably the most cunning character of all.

Ogata, on the other hand, is cold as ice. No matter how much pressure he is under, he keeps his nerves; he would rather run than throw himself into a disadvantageous fight. Ruthless, analytical, and coldblooded, he backstabs as easily as you or I breathe. However, even though he is emotionless and indifferent, he is a prideful and condescending man. He makes snarky remarks on those he thinks are incompetent. Believing that everyone must be a remorseless murderer like him, when Ogata meets people who don’t follow that worldview he experiences a cognitive dissonance so powerful that he tries to manipulate them into murdering someone, just to resolve his dissonance. He’ll go so far so prove his worldview right, that he tries to goad someone into murdering him...

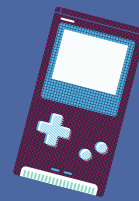
There are many more characters I’d love to cover, but they’re all so well-written that I’d need a thousand more words to just cover them (and I’m running out of words). Plus, I don’t want to cover the plot itself, because going in blind is the best gift you can give yourself. The beauty of Golden Kamuy is how fantastically the author merges the real world of the 1900s with the completely fictional quest for gold, and how he takes inspiration from real life people and events to continue the story.



Caption: Wildcat Sniper, Ogata



ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



[CONTINUED]



I would recommend reading Golden Kamuy online - you can find translations easily, and most of them come with helpful notes at the end explaining the historical references. If not, you can always watch it, but between the awful CGI bears and low-budget animation for the first two seasons, the manga is a clear win. The anime is a great experience if you look past the animation, but if you're a sucker for details or history then I'd recommend the manga.

Godzilla (1954), does it stand the test of time?



By Arhaan Ashraf

With the release of the blockbuster "Godzilla vs Kong" looming over us, I'd like to revisit the roots of one of the most iconic movie monsters of all time, Godzilla, by looking at his debut film, released in 1954 and directed by Ishiro Honda. The runtime of the film clocks in at 1 hour 38 minutes.

At a surface level, you can tell the movie is grounded in realism as opposed to the more over the top, monster vs monster films that would proceed it. The military response against Godzilla is realistic in the film, instead of the approach taken by the military in other films in the genre, which is that of throwing planes and tanks at the monster with no real rhyme, reason, or strategy. The technique of suitmation, used to bring Godzilla to life with late actor Haruo Nakajima donning the Godzilla suit is still great to look at to this day and emphasises the weight of the monster, lending realism to it.

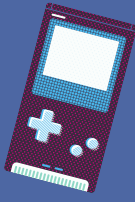
The special effects by Eiji Tsuburaya bring exciting action to the film, using miniature sets destroyed by the suit actor to put the destruction caused by Godzilla onto the big screen, and helping pioneer the technique of suitmation that would become synonymous with Japanese monster movies and help the movie greatly in its production and execution.



Caption: Godzilla (1954)



ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



(Continued)



This is without even mentioning the soundtrack by Akira Ifukube, whose theme for Godzilla found use in the newest film featuring the monster, “Godzilla: King Of The Monsters”. Apart from the now-iconic theme for Godzilla, he even created his iconic roar. He composed the other tracks in the film, the standout, in my opinion, being “Prayer For Peace”, a song that is chilling in the context of the film.

The most compelling human character of the film, the scientist Daisuke Serizawa, while simple, is well executed and the film provides a satisfactory yet tragic ending to his story. A criticism of the film lies in its simplistic characters, but in my opinion, it plays to the advantage of the film, suiting the runtime and satisfying with the characters. The film is a true masterpiece, and one of the most influential films in the genre, further enhanced by the anti-nuclear message that it carries. The film is darker and gloomier as compared to the more modern films. Godzilla serves as a metaphor for the atomic bomb, causing death and destruction in his wake. The scenes of destruction in Tokyo mirror the aftermath of the bombing of Hiroshima. The film tackles the ethical problem of destructive weapons with the Oxygen Destroyer, a fictional weapon which is the creation of the aforementioned Daisuke Serizawa. It is a weapon so powerful that he has kept it shrouded in secrecy.

The movie was made in Japan, the only country to experience a nuclear attack, and the filmmakers of Japan at that time are the most suitable ones to truly display the terror of the atomic bomb. The film achieves what it sets out to do. It showcases the anxieties of the people of post-war Japan in relations to atomic power and brings them to life in the form of a giant monster. Godzilla is more than a monster movie. It thrills with its action set pieces and delivers even in terms of the human drama, which is often a weak point in movies of the genre. It is safe to say that the film stands the test of time, as a thrilling watch with an anti-nuclear message, and as the debut film of one of the most iconic movie monsters of all time.

DID YOU KNOW



Godzilla was originally going to be a giant, mutated octopus. Ultimately, producer Tomoyuki Tanaka (smartly) decided to go with a more dinosaur-like design instead.



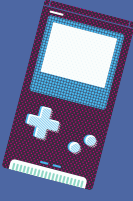
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Hades Review

By Sarina Chadha



What better way to talk about history than to discuss an award-winning game based around ancient myths? If you've ever wondered what it would be like to have daddy issues on a Godly scale, wished to romance mythical beings that mortals would usually fear, wanted to hack and slash your way out of Hell like a reverse and more violent rendition of Inferno, or pondered what fish you'd reel in if you fished in the waters that flow through the Underworld, then this game is for you.

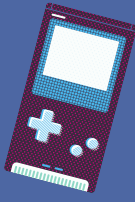
Hades is a roguelike roleplaying fishing game - and if you rightly associate "roleplaying" with "story", you might be confused. After all, roguelike games aren't exactly known for having stories; you finish a run, and you restart and try to get further. SuperGiant games, however, achieved just that. With wonderful dialogues, voice acting, gorgeous art, impeccable music, and an addictive and rewarding playstyle, Hades deserves all the praise and awards it has received.

You're Zagreus, the oddly British-sounding demigod son of the titular character, Hades. The goal is to get out of Hell and find your mother, Persephone, and unlock your backstory to find out why exactly your family was fractured the way it was. More importantly, you get a fishing rod sometime in the story and your quest is to fish in every single viable area, be it flowing rivers of molten lava, the pure ponds of Elysium, or the inky black abyss of Chaos itself, until you collect every type of fish you can possibly catch.

Hades plays simply. Each run, you collect currency that carries over every run, that you can spend on several upgrades: some simply cosmetic, others that'll make you stronger for your next runs. You clear out one room, then progress to another, and each room has a reward for you.



ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



(Continued)



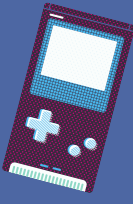
There are four stages and four bosses, after which there's a rest room for you to stock up and get everything in order before moving on. You unlock weapons that in themselves have different subclasses or "aspects" to unlock, and each weapon and sub-weapon changes the game wildly. I love the spear's secret aspect.

Just to cover each weapon, the first one you get is a sword, which does decent damage but is pretty average in every aspect. Then you get the spear, which is both close and far range but takes a while to attack. There's also the shield (which I despise), but you can block attacks with it, helping you survive easily in survival rooms by huddling in a corner and keeping your defense up (as all shield players should). I don't really use the bow but maybe you will. Then there are the fists - mostly close-range weapons, but they do small damage fast (which comes in useful, as I'll explain later). My favourite is the gun, the last unlock, and also the one I've cleared most times with. Similar to the fist, it does small damage really fast, but it's far range. You can test out all of them on the training dummy Skelly, a sweet lad who you kill over and over and who respawns over and over for you to murder at your pleasure.

The real game-changers are the Boons you get per run. Boons do not carry over per run, but each boon modifies your weapon or other stats so that each run is unique. Boons are essentially gifts from the Gods, and you'll speak to each God before taking their Boon. There's voice acting for every single line, and Dionysus is a fan favourite for his voice. Each Boon is unique in its effects and has different rarities. Some Boons work better for some weapons than others - for example, Lightning Strike causes chain lightning for each attack which lands, causing damage to foes nearby. Obviously this works better with faster weapons like the guns or fists than slower weapons like the shield or spear. Artemis' Boons are a God-send (quite literally) for my bullet-pumping brethren, but I'm sure those slow shield users could appreciate the speed Boons Hermes grants, because that shield is really slow. Daedalus' Hammers are rarer drops unique for each weapon you choose which completely change how they work; your special for the gun can go from lobbing one bomb in an arc to launching five rockets with their area of effect covering the entire room you're in.



ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



(Continued)



You can gift Nectar and the rarer Ambrosia to all the Gods and some NPCs. Each God and NPC will give you a keepsake in return, which you can equip during runs - with the exception of Hades, who doesn't really like you. If you keep gifting some of them, you'll get secret gifts! There are two NPCs you can romance; the literal God of death, Thanatos (a tsundere), and Fury Megaera, who has a smoker voice and a whip she'll use on you without hesitation. Optionally, you can be greedy and go with the best choice, both.

After every run, you'll speak to NPCs. Each NPC has a sort of storyline that you can continue after you die each run and respawn, such as Orpheus the bard whose story includes reuniting him with his muse, Eurydice, rewarding you with one of the game's best songs, their duet. Talking of Orpheus and Eurydice, the music is award-winning, possibly the most famous aspect of the game. I'd suggest you give it a whirl just to listen to its awe inspiring tracks, which you can't really place into any particular genre. If you're interested in just the story, there's an optional toggle that makes you stronger each death so that you can clear Hades easier. I wouldn't recommend it, but it makes the game accessible to anyone interested.

On the other side of the spectrum, is the game too easy? You killed the final boss within moments without even moving because your Boons make them take damage whenever they deal damage, and you have enough lives to last you the entire fight? (Yes, it's possible.) Then go ahead and sign the Pact of Punishment, which has a list of optional self-inflicted punishments to ramp up the difficulty of each run. Why would you do this? Because each boss drops their unique reward only once for each weapon on the easy difficulty and ramping it up is the only way to get them to drop their unique reward again.

Overall, I give Hades a "What, is that for me, why Zag, I mean you really shouldn't have, you know I can't get enough of this stuff, right?" on the addictivity scale. Try it out. Support SuperGiant. The love they poured into this game shows, and there's a lot more content than I can possibly cover in an article. They're also continually updating and patching it, adding new content and rebalancing weapons and so changing the ways you can play it.

DID YOU KNOW



Hades is sometimes referred to as the 'god of the dead' and as 'god of the Underworld'. They can be interchangeable. The Underworld isn't some sort of 'hell', it's actually where the souls of the dead go to live after a person has died.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

~Ethan Aaron



CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

From the Chef

These are in my opinion the best chocolate chip cookies you can make. Inspired by the Levain Bakery in NYC, they are insanely chewy and decadent. Be sure to try it out!

Ingredients



- Cake flour - 1.5 cups (230g)
- All purpose flour- 2 cups (275g)
- Kosher Salt- 1.5 tsp (5g)
- Corn starch- 2tsp (8g)
- Baking soda- 1/2 tsp (6g)
- Unsalted butter- 1.25 cups (280g)
- Brown sugar- 1.25 cups (285g)
- White granulated sugar- 1/2 cup (115g)
- 2 eggs
- 3 egg yolks
- Walnuts- 2 cups (165g) [optional]
- Chopped chocolate (450g)



Credits: Ethan Aaron

Method



1. Melt butter in a saucepan and let it cool. Chop the chocolate.
2. Whisk together both flours, corn starch, salt & baking soda in a medium-sized bowl.
3. In a stand mixer with the whisk attachment, combine both sugars on medium speed.
4. Slowly stream in butter until the mixture is creamy.
5. Add 2 eggs, then 3 egg yolks, one at a time until each is incorporated.
6. Switch to paddle attachment then mix in dry ingredient mixture.
7. Combine chocolate (and walnuts) using a rubber spatula.
8. Put cookie dough in a bowl and cover, refrigerate for at least 45 minutes.
9. Divide into 6 oz balls & arrange onto baking sheets.
10. Refrigerate baking sheets with cookie dough for 25 mins.
11. Bake at 425°F (220°C) for 10-13 mins, or 395°F (200°C) for 12-14 minutes. Brown outside, slightly underdone inside. Serve.



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CATWALK



Fashion from the past

by Catalina Palacio

You may think that nowadays, we have this new, totally different style of fashion and combination of outfits than we did before. To some extent, this is true. Fashion has been evolving throughout time just like everything else, but there are some things that have been brought from the past that we still wear and style with our everyday outfits. So, my friends, today I will be talking about three fashion objects that were created and fashioned long ago, but that we still use today!



Corsets

If you've been following the fashion of 2020 and 2021, you may have noticed that a lot of people are starting to wear corsets. I think we all know to some extent that corsets were used in the past by women to make their waist look slimmer, and that they were worn underneath the actual outfit.

They were originally invented in the 1500s in Italy, first worn by the Maecenas. It would be worn with a big fluffy skirt that we all have seen in movies, worn by princesses or any important female character. But today, things have changed! Corsets are worn by any woman, or man, with the same purpose, only now the corset is totally visible and it can be worn with anything.

Many people now style it with jeans, mini-skirts, shorts etc. So as we can see, the use of the corset has evolved, leaving a hint of the past with it.





CATWALK



(Continued)

Chokers

I think that we all own or at least owned a choker. Chokers became very popular during 2016-2017, and a lot of girls used to wear them everywhere. Well, again, chokers are nothing new, in fact, they were invented in 1798, during the French Revolution, and they were worn by female expatriates to show their condolences towards the people that had lost their lives to the guillotine. At the time, they were red, which symbolized the blood. Since then, a lot of royal families started wearing chokers, and finally, nowadays they're still a trend. Now there are all kinds of chokers, whether they're plastic, made out of lace, satin, or any other fabric. They can be also accessorized with different jewels, which make them even more special.



DID YOU KNOW

Historically, purple clothes were only worn by magistrates, emperors and other aristocracy in Rome, Italy, because of how expensive the dye was.



CATWALK



(Continued)

Boot-cut jeans



Boot-cut jeans or wide flared jeans are something that have been in fashion for a long time, and even today they're still trending. We could say that it's one of those fashion items that are never going to get demoded. They were invented in the 1960s, as part of the counter-culture movement, and were worn by both men and women, specifically in the "hippie" area. Today, we still wear them, but it's mostly women that do. They can be styled with anything, t-shirts, tops, crop-tops, shirts, boots, heels etc. and honestly, they always look good. So if you still don't have your own pair of boot-cut jeans, now would be the time to get them!



DID YOU KNOW

In the 1860s, dresses became so wide that women would frequently get stuck in doorways. The "crinoline period" ran from 1850 to 1870, and involved layering several (increasingly ornate) skirts over a large wooden hoop to create truly massive outfits. As well as obstructing doors, crinoline-clad women frequently set themselves on fire by brushing against candles, so the trend didn't last that long.

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