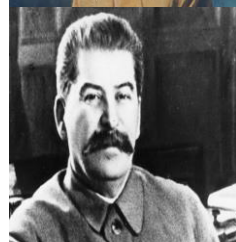
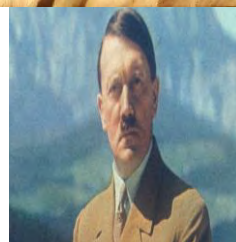




The Archive

Issue 6



Dear Readers,

This, the sixth issue of *The Archive*, hopes to provide an engaging collection of articles for all readers to enjoy. Budding historians from different years of the school have written a fine range of articles, exploring both their respective curricula in greater depth, as well as completely new and unfamiliar topics of interest.

Our edition this term contains articles investigating all kinds of political, social and economic phenomena. The 20th century has seemed, rightfully so, a period of great popularity, with articles on *A New America*, *The Anschluss*, *Lenin* and *Palestine*. The reader is also invited to investigate new realms, by taking a look at pieces on topics varying from *Political Assassinations* to *Foot Binding*.

Lest we forget, *Mr Donald Trump* also makes an appearance, as well as *Theresa May*, and the final article is a nostalgic look back at the *Upper Sixth's* visit to *Manchester*; something the younger years have to look forward to in the future!

Mr P.G. Neal deserves a whole-hearted vote of thanks for his continued enthusiasm and support throughout the entire process of producing this magazine. We are also grateful to Dr Byrne, who has taken on the esteemed role of proof-reader, and to Miss Titmuss, who has made the publication of *The Archive* possible.

Isabel Beardwood, Ruhi Kaur, Sophie Cliff and Alex Guanaria

Editors

Why did the Conservatives fail to win a majority?

When Theresa May announced her intention to hold a snap election on 18 April, it seemed as though she would lead her party into a historic landslide victory. However, as the results trickled in on 9 June, it became clear that a massive political upset had occurred. The Tories had lost 13 seats, losing their majority and requiring support from the DUP. Meanwhile Labour had gained 30 seats, and increased their vote share by almost 10%, with Corbyn as leader. The cause of May's electoral failure can be put down to five key reasons, in my opinion.

1 May's Mediocre Manifesto:

May's manifesto completely failed to offer a positive vision for the future, presenting a fairly bleak vision for a post EU Britain. It offered a significant departure from previous manifestos, offering a more communitarian approach, which alienated core voters. The social care policy was perhaps the greatest failure, and quickly became labelled as the 'dementia tax' by opponents; a message the Conservatives failed to counter. Policies on energy and free school meals were also widely criticised for not being effective or well explained. When May became leader, she promised to fight for the 'just about managing', yet the manifesto didn't really seem to tackle any deep-seated issues in society, such as falling real wage growth and the housing crisis. This gave the impression that May talked much but didn't really solve important issues. The failure to present a new vision for Britain dampened the campaign significantly.



2 TV Debates:

Whether or not TV debates are effective is another question. The decision for May to avoid the debates arguably led to her downfall. The public largely supported the debates, and she was strongly criticised by major party leaders for her failure to turn up. It led to accusations that she was running scared, or taking the electorate for granted by assuming a landslide victory, leading to a loss of support from swing voters.

3 The 'Nasty Party':

When the focus of the election began to shift away from Brexit, there was a failure to control the narrative. May suffered a huge blunder when she promised a free vote on fox hunting, along with when she emphasised her personal support to repeal the Hunting Act of 2004. The Tories had worked for 20 years to de-toxify the party and remove its nasty image. Yet this allowed the idea of the Tories being the 'nasty party' to resurface, destroying their chances in key marginal seats, and cutting off potential gains in Northern seats that had voted "leave", as they no longer saw the Conservatives as representative of their beliefs.

4 Campaigning:

The Conservatives ran a closed campaign during the election, consisting of small rallies of well below a hundred people, compared to Corbyn, who attracted 10,000s to his popular rallies. May's type of campaigning seemed to fail to reach out to the electorate. Furthermore, the negative American-style attacks against Corbyn were received poorly by the public, which was taken by many as a sign that May had no positive vision for the future of Britain and could only attack her opponents. With the resurgence of the youth vote, many were more focussed on their futures than those Corbyn spoke to 30 years ago.



5 Calling the election:

Perhaps the greatest cause of May's loss of a majority was her decision to call the election in the first place. While the Conservatives were massively ahead in the polls when the election was called, 2015 and 2017 have both shown the polls to be unreliable. It seems ridiculous to base calling an election on polls alone, especially at a serious time close to the all-important Brexit negotiations. Also, there was no real need to call an election; the Conservatives had a majority, and any election was going to be a real risk, despite the polls' indications. With no election, May would be going into the Brexit negotiations now with a stronger hand.

Alex Guanaria

A New America

“Carbon is transformed into diamond

Russia into new America

A new one, not the old America”

Alexander Block, July 1919

After the Wall Street Crash of 1929, many Americans were left with nothing and looked to Communism and the USSR for a New America. This led to the migration of many Americans to the Soviet Union in search of a better life. On 4 February 1931, the New York Times said, “the greatest wave of immigration in modern history” had been forecast by Walter Duranty. The celebrated Moscow-based reporter claimed, “The Soviet Union will witness in the next few years an immigration flood comparable to the influx into the United States in the decades before the World War... It is only the beginning of this movement, and the first swallows of the coming migration are scarce - but it has begun and will have to be reckoned with in the future”. In 1931, an English translation of *New Russia's Pirner: The Story of a Five-Year Plan* had become an unlikely popular phenomenon. An American best seller for seven months and one of the best-selling non-fiction titles of the previous decade, it showed that the American public had been completely captivated by Communism. By October 1931, the heralded migration came to its height, with the American newspaper, the “Moscow News”, celebrating its first birthday as a monthly publication.

Gorky Park:

On 7 May 1932, the Americans marched for the May Day parade to celebrate workers' rights, which had materialized from strikes in the USA at the beginning of the 19th century. Those who did not yet understand Russian clustered around those who could translate. Language did not matter. “We were united by bonds closer than those of speech”, one of the marchers told a reporter.



This was followed by Moscow News evolving into the Moscow Daily News, which started publishing propaganda that encouraged Americans to form baseball teams. The Soviet Supreme Council of Physical Culture announced its decision to introduce baseball into the Soviet Union as a national sport, after the declaration of the Foreign Workers Club (a factory baseball team in Moscow). This decision led to the OGPU (the successors of Lenin's Cheka) organizing two baseball teams to compete in the Russian baseball league.

‘Fordizatsia’:

It wasn’t just people and individual workers who fled the United States, but entire companies also, including Ford. In 1931, this American motor company built factories in Stalingrad, Moscow and Novgorod, leading to the first thirty cars being paraded through Russia’s capital. Due to the inexperience of the drivers, a result of cars in America being too expensive to afford, Russian peasants were forced to march through the snow, clearing a path for the American convoy.

Dreams start to falter:

It turned out that a man named Victor Herman was a natural aviator, having graduated from the Moscow Aviation Academy in September 1934, and having set the world free fall record for jumping from a plane. Following this feat, the Red Army started to question how an American had been allowed to jump from a Soviet plane, with a Soviet pilot, onto Soviet soil. To answer this conundrum, an official asked Herman to write “USSR” on a form, to state his nationality. In a moment of youthful invincibility however, he chose to write “USA” instead. This sealed Herman’s fate, as he was consequently sentenced to 10 years hard labor in a Siberian gulag. Herman eventually escaped the Soviet Union and returned to the States in the 1970s.

Gulags and Gold:

This story is one of many, as Americans disappointed by this Soviet experiment, keen to leave the Soviet Union, found their passports confiscated by the Russian state. This was only the beginning of the immigrants’ hardships. It continued with Stalin’s Far North Construction Trust being established in 1932, marking the beginning of the Soviet gold rush. This



was followed by the gradual disappearance of Americans and Russians perceived to pose threats to the Soviet state. Stalin’s paranoia increased significantly throughout the 1930s, resulting in the execution of Berzin, founder of Dalstroi (the Far North Construction Trust). This led to the killing of most of his company’s administrators also.

Those imprisoned in the Kolyma River Valley, working in the gold mines, came under further persecution by the replacements, Pavlov and Garanin, who, after every shift, ordered those who had not fulfilled their daily quota to come forward. Garanin would then walk down the line and personally shoot each of them with a revolver, while guards took it in turns to reload his revolver. Garanin then established a new gulag, Sepantinnaya, a programme used to execute the weakest of those working in gulags. This extrapolation of ‘survival of the fittest’ eventually led to more efficient Soviet production, with 8000 kilograms of chemically pure gold being produced annually by the end of the 1930s. The American embassy, although aware that hundreds of thousands of its people were being

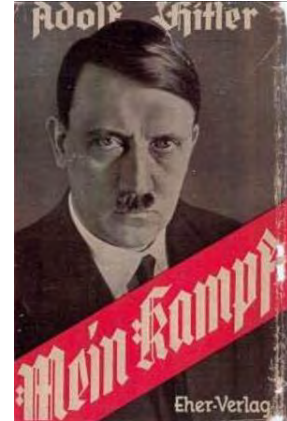
imprisoned and executed, never batted an eyelid. The American government has not until recently recognized the immorality of their past, which consequently left many dead.

Euan Dawson

The Withering of Austria: Anschluss

The Anschluss of March 1938 was a masterstroke on behalf of Hitler in confirming his position as undisputed controller of the German Reich and exclusive dictator of Nazi foreign policy. Without a single shot being fired, 7 million more subjects had been placed under the control of his regime. In the process, the much-despised terms of the Treaty of Versailles and the Treaty of St. Germain had been overturned. The spoils of the Anschluss were to prove key on the road to Munich, and then war.

Answering the Austrian question was one that proved to cause Hitler far greater grief in its initial stages than planned. The infamous Nazi party presence in Austria in the early 1930s was a growing cause of concern within Austria, and for those, particularly Mussolini, who viewed the preservation of an independent Austria as vital. The Austrian Nazis had carried out many terrorist attacks in the country (funded by the German regime), demanding a reunited Germany and Austria, and the appointment of Hitler as the head of state in Austria. On 25 July 1934, an adjutant of Hitler reported he was “most excited” at the news that had broken from Vienna that afternoon. Austrian Chancellor and dictator Engelbert Dollfuss had been murdered. 154 Austrian Nazis had seized the Austrian Chancellery, posing as army officers, and the local radio station was also taken over. Despite Hitler’s delight at the apparent beginnings of Anschluss, something that he had openly desired and pushed for, disaster ensued for the new Nazi government in Germany.



Kurt von Schuschnigg had gained control of the Austrian government buildings. However simultaneously, Mussolini, who had been promised by Hitler that Austria would not be a target of German expansion, mobilized four military divisions to defend Austria. Fearing what he termed “a new Sarajevo!” Hitler publicly condemned the actions of the Nazi revolutionaries; at the time Germany was too weak to support the putsch attempt with military might.



In the years preceding the 1938 Anschluss, the Austrian government had agreed to a wide range of concessions (with Germany). Schuschnigg, who had deposed the 1934 Nazi putsch, had asserted himself as head of the Austrian government. He noted that in order to survive as executive ruler of a sovereign Austria, he must appease Hitler. In July 1936, the Austro-German treaty was signed, its clauses misleading and at times ignored by Germany. Hitler had dictated peaceful and non-interventionist policies in return for the release of notable Nazi political prisoners, and the integration of Nazis into the Austrian government. The effect of this treaty also released Austria from the protection of Italy, which, being a historic protector of Austria and key in preventing the 1934 putsch, was drawing ever closer to Nazi Germany. The signing of the Austro-German treaty and the warming of German-Italian relations in the years that followed removed the main international objector to the Anschluss - Italy.

The legitimacy of the Austrian government began to dwindle in 1937, with almost daily bombings and violence from Nazi thugs. The plans for an attempted assassination of Schuschnigg and a Nazi revolt in the spring of 1938 were uncovered, alongside directives from Rudolph Hess detailing plans for German military intervention in order to prevent unrest. In light of this news, Schuschnigg was invited to meet with Hitler on 12 February, under the dishonest assurances that the agreements of the Austro-German treaty would be adhered to. The chipping away at Austrian independence and placement of key Nazis in the Austrian regime, in combination with the alliance with Italy, were clear moves by Hitler to weaken the bargaining position of Austria.

The meeting between the two state leaders was later described by Schuschnigg in his accounts as entirely “unilateral” and the Austrian leader was effectively coerced into capitulation and the signing away of his nation's fate. During the meeting, Hitler dismissed Austria’s collective history as “just one uninterrupted act of high treason”. The hapless position of Austria was compared with Germany’s possession of a mighty military and deadly Luftwaffe. An ultimatum was given, involving the overturning of the ban on the Austrian Nazi Party, all jailed Nazis being released and, crucially, the lawyer, Dr. Seyss-Inquart to be made Minister of the Interior, giving him absolute control over state policing. The War Minister and Minister of Finance were to be replaced by Nazi officials.



The weeks that followed the ultimatum were defined by chaos across Austria, especially within the capital of Vienna. With Nazi control over the police, violence spiraled out of control and the presence of Nazi propaganda erupted. Schuschnigg thus desperately called for a plebiscite on the support for Austrian independence, and wrote to Mussolini informing him of the situation, with his plans to hold the vote alongside a plea for Italian intervention. The requests fell upon deaf ears.

11 March saw Schuschnigg woken by reports of the closing of the Austrian-Germany border, with troops preparing to attack. The Austrian Chancellor thus made the decision not to offer resistance to Hitler if it meant blood would be spilled. The stubborn chancellor broadcast across Austria his farewell speech. It detailed the ultimatum to turn Austria over to a “person designated by the German government”, or else face German occupation. German justification for the invasion was sent via telegram by Seyss-Inquart, who was appointed the new Chancellor, agreeing to German intervention in restoring order within Austria. 13 March marked the formal signing of the law marking a complete annexation of Austria.

Hitler’s personal drive to enforce a tough policy towards Austria, and overall desire to strive for an unconditional Anschluss, empowered his nation only further. He assumed complete control of foreign policy, and after the success of the Anschluss, his generals provided little challenge to his future policy decisions. Confident in the knowledge he was immune to international retaliation, Hitler turned his attention towards Czechoslovakia, a nation over which he now possessed ultimate military and strategic superiority. The Anschluss marked a clear point of no return among international relations; it demonstrated the drive of Hitler himself to expand the Reich’s borders, as well as the falsities of his promises for peace.

Rob Clark

Lenin

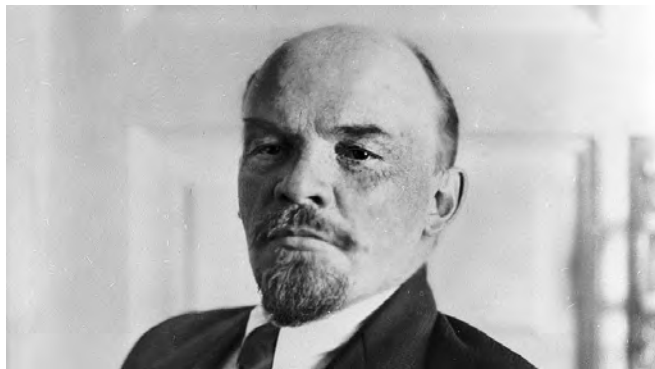
The figurehead of early Communist power in Russia:

The Bolshevik Party came to power in Russia in 1918, following the deposition of the autocratic imperial state led by Tsar Nicolas II. The revolution itself sent huge shockwaves around the world.

Communism was of little significance to the West until the Bolshevik Party, led by Vladimir Lenin, took charge of the biggest country in Europe. This newly formed Russian party promoted communist expansionism and directly opposed capitalism - an ideology ingrained within Western culture. This resulted in a widespread fear that had never before been experienced.

Early life and influences:

Lenin was the “brainchild” of the revolution: born in 1870, he grew up in eastern and southern Russia, witnessing first-hand the failings of imperial Russia. Throughout his late teenage years, Lenin was an avid reader of political works and indulged himself by studying the works of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. The works of these two revolutionary communists heavily influenced Lenin, who sympathised with the basic ideologies of



communism. At university, he joined several socialist revolutionary circles and shared his Marxist views with his peers. He was later expelled from Kazan Imperial University, due to his involvement in revolutionary groups, which had been banned by law. This was only the first of Lenin's encounters with the law; in 1897 he was exiled to Siberia for 3 years, after being charged for sedition. Whilst in exile, Lenin wrote a book entitled, 'The Development of Capitalism in Russia', which served to express his opposition to capitalism and revisionist Marxism, instead, championing extreme Marxism.

Pre-revolution work:

After his 3 years of exile, Lenin travelled to Munich and began to raise funds for a revolutionary newspaper, called “Iskra” (“The Spark”). He gathered a group of Russian revolutionaries to help him write it, but Lenin operated on an *ad-lib* basis, often moving around to different places, taking the newspaper with him. He then moved to London and met another soon-to-be figurehead of early Communism in Russia: Leon Trotsky. At the same time, controversy was becoming increasingly apparent concerning the Iskra paper; disagreements regarding Marxist policy had arisen between Lenin's supporters, nicknamed the Bolsheviks (Majoritarians), and his opposition, the Mensheviks (Minoritarians).

Revolutionary success:

The revolution of 1905 had already exposed civil unrest in Russia, of which Lenin had been a key stimulator. The First World War then changed everything; the early unrest had paved the way for the revolution of 1917, which had been triggered by a lack of food during the war. Lenin rallied the workers and promised them, “Peace, Land and Bread”. By February 1917, he had a vast amount of support; then in October of the same year, Bolshevik forces managed to storm the Winter Palace in Petrograd and declare themselves the new government of Russia.

Lenin quickly pulled Russia out of the First World War, by signing the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Despite its incredibly harsh terms, Lenin deemed it necessary to agree to Germany's terms, rather than face military conquest. Russia still lost vast quantities of land in the West but had been at last excluded from the fighting. He then began to progress with his three promises to the people, by introducing the first land law, the 'Decree on Land', which took land away from the autocracy and the Orthodox Church and redistributed it to the peasants. This was in line with Marxist ideals, which involved peasants and the working class taking a leading role in society, ahead of the petite bourgeoisie.

Soon afterwards the Russian Civil War took place between the Bolshevik 'Reds' and the 'Whites'. Compared to the 'Whites', the 'Reds' were vastly outnumbered and further disadvantaged by their lack of modern equipment. In spite of this, they managed to hold off the 'Whites' for two years. This was mainly due to the excellent military leadership of Trotsky. In the end, the Red Army triumphed and cemented themselves as the rightful leaders of Russia; capitalist opposition fell for many reasons, such as their lack of organisation and high rates of desertion. The Civil War had been very beneficial in terms of increasing Lenin's popularity, whilst he began to determine the communist future of Russia.

Leadership struggles:

After obtaining full control of Russia, Lenin became progressively ill from 1921 to 1923. As a result, he was increasingly forced to take a backseat in political proceedings. It was at this time that Stalin embarked on his rise to power. Stalin, a manipulative and pragmatic politician, turned Lenin against



his faithful compatriot, Trotsky. This led to the re-arrangement of major political systems in Russia, thus guaranteeing that Lenin's heir-presumptive would no longer succeed the former Bolshevik leader. Stalin also began to promote his own set of Marxist ideas, which directly conflicted with Lenin's personal policies. Stalin maintained public relations with Lenin until the latter's death on 24 January 1924. Lenin's death resulted in Stalin's appointment as the Premier of the USSR, despite it being common knowledge that this would not have been Lenin's wish.

Alas in 53 years, Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, also known as 'Lenin', had managed to mastermind the revolution in Russia, whilst simultaneously destabilising the apparent balance of power in Europe at the time. Lenin heralded left wing experimentation, which continued globally for 70 years after his death. His life can indisputably be described as influential, affecting millions worldwide. Undoubtedly a master tactician, Lenin proved to be the cherry on top of the communist cake.

James Clinton-Hunt

Political Assassinations Across the Ages

The politically motivated killing of high profile figures has certainly been evident throughout history, often epitomising desperate power struggles between ambitious individuals. Political assassination is such an engaging aspect of the past to investigate, due to its targets varying from royalty to dictators to tyrants, and the effects on international relations proving to be exceptional.

One of the earliest instances of political assassination was that of Julius Caesar. By 49BC, this genre of murder was distinguished in terms of seeking political influence, in particular in the Roman states. Caesar himself had ousted the previous political leader so as to gain for himself the dictatorial powers of Rome. It almost seemed inevitable at the time that Caesar himself was going to be assassinated, or at least ousted from his own position. The fascinating aspect of his death was that it was centred on the betrayal of his closest friends, who feared that their own positions as senate members were under threat with Caesar in power. The plot was to kill him at a senate meeting, in an attempt to be inconspicuous. Each of the senate members wanted a part in the murder, explaining why Caesar suffered from 35 stab wounds. He was succeeded by his grandnephew, Octavius, but, soon after, civil war broke out. This civil war appeared to sanction the murder of political opponents in Rome, shaping the future of Roman history thereafter.



During the Middle Ages, circa 1154AD – 1485AD, there was more of a stigma attached to political assassinations. This meant that only the King was truly justified in instructing this specific act of murder to be carried out. One victim of assassination was Thomas Becket, who had held an established and prominent position in the church. He then began to excommunicate his religious and ideological opponents. Upon hearing about this, King Henry II of England famously said, "Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?". This was interpreted as a death sentence for the Archbishop; four knights soon then killed the priest in the cloisters of Canterbury cathedral, with vicious stab wounds. It was evident that this murder was less influenced by the direct confrontation of power between two individuals, rather stimulated by the opposing ideologies of King and Church. Following his death, Becket rather ironically received more credibility for his role in the Church than if he would have stayed alive. He was named a Martyr for the Church and he was canonised; his memory has been conserved in history. Today, his place of death is also a key site for religious pilgrimages.

Flash-forward to more modern times and disputably the most influential murder in history: the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Herzegovina and Bosnia had been annexed under the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1908, much to the disapproval of Serbian nationalists. These individuals then took it upon themselves to liberate Serbia as an independent nation. The original plot had been to throw a bomb and then shoot the Archduke; however this plot spectacularly failed. It was only then unfortunate for Ferdinand that his car was suddenly turned around and he went home on an unplanned route. By nothing but chance, this route met with one of the plotters, who shot the Archduke dead. Thus although eventually a coincidence, this infamous political assassination proved to be the trigger for the beginning of the First World War, one of the bloodiest conflicts in history.

The intrigue of history has hence largely been shaped by political assassinations. The Russian Royal Family, Trotsky, the 'Princes in the Tower', Ghandi and J.F. Kennedy, to name but a few, have all been victims of this crime, thus emphasising what a role tactical murder has always had in society. All of these events too have shaped international relations dramatically. Alas, a political assassination can always provide much food for thought for the historian.

Isabel Beardwood

The Origins of Foot Binding

Foot binding was a traditional Chinese custom, involving young girls' feet being tightly bound and thus broken. Girls aging from four to six years old underwent this procedure as part of a ceremony, said to ward off bad luck. At these vulnerable ages, it was argued that the girls were old enough to withstand the pain of the process, but their feet were still small enough for the procedure to prove effective.

The practice involved the toes being bent beneath the sole of the foot; long ribbons were then used to wrap the foot all the way to the ankle, hence breaking the foot when it grew 'too large'. Feet would remain bound for the entirety of a girl's life, and the consequent adaptations developed by women, for whom it was unnatural to walk around with hoof-shaped feet, were muscular hips, thighs and buttocks. These physical attributes were deemed attractive by many a Chinese man at the time.



Not only were bound feet recognized as a symbol of beauty in traditional Chinese culture, but they also displayed a woman's status. Whilst wealthy women, who didn't need to use their feet for work, would have them bound, a minority of poorer women, with lower social standings, were exempted from the practice. Women working in fishing boats, for example, never had their feet bound, for it was mandatory for them to have normal-shaped feet, so as to balance themselves properly on the boats.

There are several references in early Chinese history to foot binding, and one possible origin of the custom dates back to the Shang dynasty. Conflicting records suggest that the Shang dynasty, of the Chinese Yellow River Valley, ruled either from 1766 to 1122 BC or from 1556 to 1046 BC. One ruler of this time, King Zhou, was said to have a preferred consort, Daji, who happened to have clubfoot. It was rumored that this disability developed a sense of insecurity within Daji, who thus used her favour with the King to persuade him to make foot binding compulsory for all girls present in court. This projected her not now as the interloper, but as the official standard with which physical beauty must thereafter comply.

In addition, the Southern Qi dynasty, the second southern dynasty in China, has also been linked to this unpleasant custom. The violent Emperor Xiao Baojuan, who ruled from 483 to 501 AD, had a courtesan, named Pan Yu'er. The Emperor's infatuation with Pan herself was only exacerbated further by the fact that she possessed the most delicate and dainty feet, and Xiao adored to watch her dance on his floor, which was adorned with golden lotus flower decorations. Xiao would complement Pan on how a "lotus sprang from her every step"; this proved later to be a reference to Buddhist legend. Although Pan did not ever actually have her feet bound, the term 'lotus feet', as inspired by this tale, was later adopted to describe the excruciatingly painful and abhorrent custom, which would soon become commonplace.



The period of the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms, dating back to the 10th and 11th centuries, is documented as the one in which the custom of foot binding erupted. Emperor Li Yu ruled in Southern China from 961 to 978 AD, and he had made a six-foot tall statue of a golden lotus, embellished with pearls and stones. A concubine of his, Yao Niamh, was asked by the Emperor to bind her feet with white silk, to form the shape of a crescent moon. She was then ordered to perform a ballet dance on the top of the statue, balancing on the points of her feet. This impressive feat gained the admiration of the Emperor; however it too stimulated fellow concubines to imitate Yao, keen to gain Li

Yu's approval also. After it had spread through the royal court, upper-class women began embracing

this practice and foot binding circulated to nearly every social class across China soon after.

Only in the late 19th century, during the Qing Dynasty, did opposition against foot binding establish itself with prominence. Westerners were descending on China, and the wives of Christian missionaries began to vehemently criticize foot binding through both the written and spoken word. This, along with the influence of Chinese intellectuals, who were starting to recognize how the traditional atrocity was not incredibly fitting with the progressive world that was developing outside of China, contributed to the dissolution of this increasingly unfashionable custom. Nonetheless, despite this move away from foot binding inevitably proving to be a relief for women in society, it was overwhelmingly, as opposed to wholly, positive. For a small minority of women, the sudden discrimination against bound feet proved to be devastating: wives were abandoned by their husbands, who could now not face the shame of being married to a woman with bound feet (regardless of the custom's seeming necessity only several years beforehand). A small number of Chinese women living in urbanized areas were also hunted down, their bindings cut off and their feet left bent and bare; the humiliation was exceptional, for never before had a woman with bound feet dared to expose her naked feet to her own husband, let alone anybody else.

Mao Zedong's seizure of power in 1949 corresponded with foot binding as a custom being practically invisible, with only a minute number of cases still existing in several regressive rural areas. Nevertheless even today, in the 21st century, a few elderly Chinese women still live with the remnants of previously bound feet: a tragic reminder of how physical beauty took such precedence in the traditional patriarchal society that young girls felt obliged to endure such an obscenity.

Sophie Cliff

“The President will see you now”

Just five months after President Trump's inauguration, and only around 35% of ordinary Americans approve of his performance. Yet in the corporate world, he is praised rather than reviled. The promise of insider deals and de-regulation beckons CEOs, MDs and shareholders to Trump's new alt-right cause. The Commander-in-Chief has met with leaders of Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, Ford and a variety of other global corporations, he says, to try and gain better a deal for average Americans. Yet if Trump's cabinet is anything to go by, his 'deal' may sour. His Secretary to the Treasury, Stephen Mnuchin, is a renowned asset stripper who, during the 2008 financial crisis, was responsible for the loss of tens of thousands of American homes. Betsy DeVos, his education secretary, has opposed state school education and even failed to gain majority support in her senate confirmation, with the Vice President providing the tie-breaking vote. Not to be beaten, Rex Tillerson, Trump's secretary of State, was previously CEO of ExxonMobil and has close ties with the Russian government, a relationship that has been very beneficial to the oil magnate. The summary of this closeness to corporations is that Trump is betraying the very populist wave that swept him to victory. With such low approval ratings, many Americans obviously feel betrayed by Trump's choices for cabinet and the very way he chose them: a press circus at his Bedminster golf club.



Yet, the President's administration has been controversial since its inception, with nepotism, conflicts of interest and the blatant ignoring of conventions regarding tax returns. The fact that the President routinely uses his own private resorts and clubs to host foreign delegations creates further questions regarding conflicts of interest and security. Is it acceptable for the executive to meet with foreign diplomats in such an area that could financially benefit the former property mogul? (His Mar-a-Lago estate is a favourite.) Should Trump be given free rein in appointing his family to positions of influence? (Think Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner.) Does the fact that he has passed his business interests on to his sons, rather than placing them in a blind fund, create a conflict of interest?



These questions have received a variety of answers; staunch Trump supporters state that the President is simply maintaining family business interests, yet the line is becoming increasingly blurred between what is considered Trump's business interests and Trump's Presidency. In February, clothing company Nordstrom dropped Ivanka Trump's range of clothing. Trump immediately took to twitter to express his displeasure; this creates an obvious conflict of interest. The power of the Presidency was brought to bear against a company whose only transgression was to remove Ivanka from favour. Convention states that no public office may be used for private gain, yet Trump's complete rejection of convention has begun to undermine one of the most respected offices in the world. However, he and his aides still seem engrossed in a fantasy that the President is infallible. Sean Spicer, his press secretary, even stated, "By law, he can't have conflicts". This refers to the fact that the President is exempt from the main federal law regarding conflict of interest; however Spicer fails to account for the various ethics laws that do apply to the President. The Head of the Office of Government Ethics, Walter Shaub, issued scathing remarks regarding the President's ethical deficit. Trump's decision to turn his business over to his sons provided the brightest flashpoint; Shaub declared, "Stepping back from running his business is meaningless from a conflict of interest perspective". Hence the most qualified individual in the US government regarding ethics believes that Trump's continuing

influence in his family business creates a conflict of interest. Shaub's remarks have brought little change however, and House Republicans, eager to please the President, even questioned Shaub on his statement.



Trump may not have broken any laws regarding conflict of interest; nevertheless he has sullied the office of President by using the position for his own personal ends. His 'Drain the Swamp' rhetoric may have struck a chord with the heartlands of the USA, but Trump remains an elitist politician, decorating the highest tiers of government with the wealthy, rather than the experienced. The concern that Trump will continue to flout the checks and balances placed upon his office should worry the average American, otherwise

very quickly policy may no longer be decided in Congress or the White House, but behind the gold inlaid, but closed doors of Trump's estates. For in a democracy, should legislation have the approval of the people, or those who most often hear the words, "the President will see you now"?

Sam Barnes

Upper Sixth Visit to Manchester

On 23 March 2017, the Upper Sixth History students visited Manchester, to bring the *Protest, Agitation and Parliamentary Reform in Britain* topic of our A-Level course to life; and it certainly did just that. With the threat of the French Revolution coursework deadline hanging over the group, it was a subdued start to the day, but this was quickly livened up with our first stop. This was the former house of the Pankhurst family: the leaders of the Women's Social and Political Union and key players in the fight for votes for women when Christabel and Emmeline Pankhurst were leading the Suffragettes.

The group's level of violence sparked many a debate in the classroom as to whether it constituted something resembling terrorism. Many a similar question was thus asked on our day out in Manchester: there were contrasting interpretations from those who answered.



The quaint little house brought home the severity of economic problems the family must have endured after the death of Christabel's husband. After photos had been taken, although obscured slightly by the scaffolding adorning much of the front of the house, they were uploaded onto Twitter and we moved on. We had a short pit stop at Caffè Nero (other shops are available), before meeting up in the Art Gallery with our fabulous guide, ready for our walking tour of Manchester. In the gallery, we also had the opportunity to cast votes for a future statue (from a shortlist of six), celebrating the Pankhurst family's influence on history and their Manchester connection – the one I voted for did not win!



Our walking tour began in the Central Reference Library, the site of the Peterloo Massacre of August 1819. We then visited the Radisson Hotel, former Free Trade Hall, where Henry 'Orator' Hunt, a radical, addressed the crowd at Peterloo. It was also the hotel where Zlatan Ibrahimović spent last summer after he had joined Manchester United! It was an excellent experience, one that I doubt I will ever have again, as the hotel prices were somewhat eye-watering!

However, the highlight of the trip for me came afterwards, when we arrived at Manchester Town Hall, a building where many a historical drama has been filmed. It also emphasized the importance of the cotton trade, which was crucial in terms of Manchester becoming the heart of industrialization during the 19th century. In front of the Town Hall were statues of Prince Albert and William Gladstone, two famous political figures; just across the road was a statue of Abraham Lincoln, who Manchester traders had supported during the American Civil War.

Next on the itinerary was the John Rylands Library in Deansgate, where we saw the Gospel of John papyrus, one of only a few original biblical fragments that still exists in the world today. Our walking tour ended at the People's History Museum, which had been built around social history, therefore dovetailing beautifully with our course. It offered the students the opportunity to view and read extracts of primary sources – a great experience.

After a long day, and facing horrendous rush hour traffic, we then headed home. It was a wonderful day out, which was wholly necessary in order to refresh ourselves and bring our course to life, in anticipation of the long process of revision ahead.

Adrian Waddlelove



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