

# The Archive



Dear Readers,

We sincerely hope that you enjoy, this, the seventh issue of The Archive and that it reflects the hard work that has gone into all the articles from everyone who has contributed. As editors, we've really enjoyed putting together this compilation of the best that our school's historians and political commentators have to offer. It is undoubtedly of great value that so many students are willing to go above and beyond their specifications in order to get a better understanding of areas of history and politics that interest them.

This issue promises to impress with its wide range of topics covered by students from different year groups. On the history side our articles span from ancient warfare all the way to the civil rights movement and the Vietnam war. On the other hand, politics students have covered a wide range of topics as well such as the life of Jeremy Corbyn, the UK electoral system and of course Donald Trump, with a cogent analysis of why he has come to power.

As editors we obviously owe a great debt of thanks to all the excellent students who have contributed. However, over and above this, we must thank Mr P.G. Neal for being the impetus without which this paper would not be possible. Finally, we must also thank Dr Byrne for her valuable help and advice as proof-reader, and to Mrs O Donnell who has aided us greatly in formatting and distributing the paper.

Anomi Fernando and Jack Walker

Editors

## "Let Slip The Dogs Of War" - Animals In Ancient Warfare

### Hugo Thompson, 4 Fox

A wide variety of animals were used in ancient warfare, from tiny bees to huge elephants. These animals were used in four main ways: as a weapon to intimidate or eliminate an opposing force, as messenger animals, as a tool to give an army a tactical advantage, and finally as beasts of burden. This article looks at some of most unusual uses of animals in ancient warfare.

Although the title of this article is a quotation from by Mark Antony from Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar, setting fierce dogs on your enemies was a war tactic first practised by the Mycenaean Greeks in the Bronze Age. Elephants were also used in warfare, most famously by the Carthaginian Empire. However, even scorpions, snakes, and bees were used to intimidate and eliminate the enemy. They were fired out of ballistae and onagers (types of catapult) and used very effectively by a number of generals, most notably, Hannibal Barca of Carthage (247- 181 BC). After leaving Carthage, Hannibal became the military advisor for the Bithynian fleet. When the Lydians attacked Bithynia, Hannibal ordered his marines to search for snakes, scorpions and bee hives. The animals were placed into amphorae (or jars) and loaded into the fleet's ballistae. When the Lydians came within range, the Bithynians opened fire and resulting in Lydian ships which were crawling with poisonous animals and angry bees. The Lydian marines, trained in fighting other humans, were terrified and most of them were routed almost instantly. Even their general was killed by this unorthodox weapon of war.

Pigeons were used in both World Wars to carry messages across long distances but the idea of doing so comes from ancient times. Julius Caesar used pigeons during the Gallic wars, at the battle of Gervorgia and Aleisa in 52BC to get messages to Rome about his loss and victory respectively.

In his *Stratagems in War*, Macedonian author Polyaeus, describes how the Persians used cats to gain a tactical advantage in the battle of Pelusium (525 BC). After a long siege, the Egyptian defending armies were holding out against the Persian invaders. Their missile infantry made it hard for the Persians to reach the walls alive. Just before the Persians gave up the siege and tried to make their way into Egypt by another route, they decided to take a different approach. Namely, using cats as shields. Cats were symbols of the two most important Egyptian goddesses, Isis and Baset so the missile infantry could no longer fire at the advancing Persians for fear of hitting a cat. There is debate among scholars whether the Persians painted pictures of cats on their shields, held cats above their heads, set cats loose on the battlefield or even nailed cats to their shields. Whichever it was, the cat strategy led to victory for the Persians. This is the first ever account of psychological warfare.

Horses were the major beasts of burden in ancient warfare, however, camels were also ridden into combat. This was because they had an advantage over horses in melee and as a cataphract (very heavy shock cavalry used for disrupting infantry formations). The camel riders were higher up than someone riding a horse, allowing them to do more damage on a charge versus an infantry unit. According to the Greek historian, Herodotus, in *The History of Herodotus* (440 BC), horses were scared of camels. This is evidenced by his account of an engagement between the king of Persia, Cyrus and the Lydian king, Croesus. Croesus had stronger cavalry than the Persians and more of it so Cyrus ordered some of his men to ride the camels that had been carrying the baggage and set these men against the enemy's cavalry. His camels won the engagement because a lot of the horses fled; in fact Herodotus says "the horse has a natural dread of the camel and cannot abide either the sight or smell of that animal". In addition, camels have an advantage on desert terrain because they are adapted to walking and running on sand. Camels were first used by the Bactrians and Seleucids in the Middle East but the idea spread all across the ancient world.

To conclude, many unusual animals were used in ancient warfare, yet many of them proved to be surprisingly effective.



Camel cataphract (camelry)

[https://store.steampowered.com/app/267630/Total War ROME II Beasts of War Unit Pack/](https://store.steampowered.com/app/267630/Total_War_ROME_II_Beasts_of_War_Unit_Pack/)

Bastet



[http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Cats in ancient Egypt](http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Cats_in_ancient_Egypt)



## The Atomic Bomb in WW2 – Oliver Whittlestone, 5 Grosvenor

World War 2 began on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 and was still being fought in 1945. Millions had died, and cities had been flattened in the conflict. Finally, on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1945 Germany surrendered. Hitler was dead, the Third Reich crushed and the Nazi commanders captured. But still, no end was in sight in the war in the Pacific. The Germans' powerful ally, Japan, had yet to surrender and seemed unlikely to do so until every one of its soldiers had been killed. However, for the Allies, launching an invasion would mean continuing the seemingly endless war and sacrificing thousands more troops.

Unbeknown to most, a secret project in America was underway. Working with the United Kingdom and Canada, the Manhattan project was developing the atomic bomb, the first of its kind. The bomb dropped on Hiroshima used a gun method design where a sub-critical mass of uranium-235 would be propelled down a tube by four cordite powder bags. This uranium would come in contact with another mass of uranium, setting off a chain reaction. The 64kg of uranium (enriched to 80%) had the explosive capacity of 18 kilotons of TNT. This bomb was named Little Boy.

After successful tests, Little Boy was finally ready to be loaded into the bomb bay of Enola Gay. This plane took off from the Northern Mariana Islands on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1945 with just one target, the city of Hiroshima. At 8:15, the bomb was dropped and fell for about 44.4 seconds before detonating at the determined altitude of 600 metres. Anyone near the blast centre was instantly incinerated with only their shadows surviving, etched into the ground. This amounted to between 60,000 and 80,000 deaths. All structures were destroyed in a 1.6km radius of the detonation site and fires were sparked in an area of 11km<sup>2</sup> which burnt for 3 days. An estimated 12km<sup>2</sup> of the city was destroyed by the huge shockwave that was sent out, with Enola Gay feeling its force 18.5km away.

Although many survived the initial explosion, lots died later in life due to exposure to the radiation caused by the bomb. Also significant were the people who suffered life changing injuries and deformities which have been passed down in generations. Around 6,000 people died from radiation poisoning, with the overall casualties of Little Boy reaching an estimated 135,000.

Three days later on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1945, another atomic bomb was dropped on Japan. This bomb was called Fat Man and was dropped on the town of Nagasaki. About 39,000 people were killed by the initial blast, with the total number of casualties reaching 64,000. This number could have been much higher, if not for the valley shape which prevented further loss of life by limiting the area of devastation. The destruction caused by these two bombs finally forced Japan to surrender on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945.

Visiting Hiroshima in the 21<sup>st</sup> century shows us how life has moved on. Nowadays, only the atomic bomb dome remains





standing as modern infrastructure has hidden Hiroshima's dark and tragic past. A memorial has been built to remember the date that changed the world. Relics from 1945 remain such as a watch that stopped at 8:15 and a bike, melted by the flames.

Today there is still a debate over whether the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and then later Nagasaki was necessary. Many argue that large numbers of people would have died if an invasion on Japan had been launched and that the war would not have ended as swiftly as it did, because the dropping of the atomic

bombs.

With atomic and hydrogen bombs today that are over 3000 times as powerful as those dropped in 1945, a nuclear war could bring about the end of the world. Thankfully, the deterrent created by the sheer power of these weapons has prevented any further nuclear wars.



***The photos included in this article were taken by Oliver on his holiday to Japan***

## The influence of religion in starting the Vietnam War.

Four decades on since the end of the Vietnam War historians continue to question how the war escalated to a global scale. There are many reasons that sparked the longest war the United States ever involved itself in. What one may find interesting was that one of the most significant reasons for the war to start was not related to communism, but instead religion.

It is important to explore the background of Vietnam before investigating the War itself. Previously, Vietnam was three separate countries: Dai Viet, Champa and Chenla. Dai Viet was predominantly Confucian and Mahayana Buddhists, Champa followed Hinduism and the majority of people in Chenla were Muslims. When Emperor Gia Long unified the country in 1802, the country was renamed Vietnam. In 1858, Napoleon III invaded Vietnam, building on the years of French Jesuit missions bringing Catholicism to Vietnam. In the same period, interactions with the Siamese Empire (now Thailand) brought Theravada Buddhism to the country. Minor religious groups were also formed, like Taoism, Caodaism, and Hoahaoism.

The French left Vietnam in 1954 after almost 100 years of struggle and the severe loss at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, and because of the Geneva Convention, Vietnam was divided into two parts. The Northern half became the communist Democratic Republic of Vietnam, backed by the USSR and China, and the South became the Republic of Vietnam, with the support of the US. The Ngo family established a regime in the South, consisting of:



From left to right: Nhu, Archbishop Thuc and President Diem  
<http://www.phattuvietnam.net/phatgiaovietnam/lich-su-phat-giao-vietnam/index.3.html>

- Ngo Dinh Diem – the President
- Ngo Dinh Nhu – advisor and *de facto* Interior and Defence Minister, Diem's younger brother
- Tran Le Xuan – advisor and religious councillor, Nhu's wife
- Ngo Dinh Thuc - Archbishop of Hue and advisor, Diem's elder brother

The family was Catholic, and became less and less lenient towards people of other religious backgrounds as they intensified their control of the country. However, their rule was seen to have an unshakeable foundation. In 1957, Ngo Dinh Diem travelled to the US and gained the support of President

Dwight D. Eisenhower. With South Vietnam backed by the US and North Vietnam pledging allegiance to the USSR and China, Vietnam and former French Indochina became a hotly contested ideological battleground.

Now confident, the Ngo administration enforced strict sanctions on communists. This prompted North Vietnam to intervene by forming a faction in the South called the National Liberation Front, more commonly known as Viet Cong, in Dec 1960. The aim of this North Vietnam-backed organisation was to call for the South Vietnamese

population, namely poor farmers who stood to gain little from President Ngo's policies, to rise up and overthrow President Ngo in a communist revolution and unify the country under communist rule. However, the political strength of President Ngo and his regime impeded efforts by the Viet Cong to commit insurgency and disrupt South Vietnam.

70% of the religious Vietnamese population is not Catholic or Christian. This meant any actions that were based on religion would be extremely controversial, and one of the first locations in Vietnam that would see conflict was the former Imperial capital of Hue. Hue was the Ngo family's homestead, and the President's brother, Ngo Dinh Thuc, was the Archbishop of Hue as ordained by the Vatican. The family's religious bias and reformation campaigns, describable as Puritanical, resulted in a lot of unpopularity and resentment towards the Ngo regime.

In April of 1963, President Ngo enforced a ban on the display of religious flags and banners. This action was cunningly timed. It happened right after the government-sponsored 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of Archbishop Ngo Dinh Thuc, when papal flags were flown, and right before the Vesak Day, the most important celebration in the Buddhist calendar, commemorating the birthday of the Gautama Buddha. Buddhists ignored the ban and on 8<sup>th</sup> May continued to unfurl their flags and banners to protest against the ban. President Ngo did not revoke the ban and instead ordered the police to fire upon the crowd, killing nine people.

The violence did not deter the Buddhists. 10,000 turned out the next day to march in protest and the Buddhist community demanded many things through a manifesto. Diem did not agree to the demands for total freedom of religious expression, no legal discrimination with Catholics, indemnifying of the victims and punishment of the murderers. Neither sides backed down, with the Buddhists continuing to protest in Hue, and the government continuing to oppress the demonstrators.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, the police poured chemicals onto praying protesters in Hue, prompting The Venerable Thich Quang Duc to cremate himself alive in the middle of Saigon on 11<sup>th</sup> June. The photo of the self-immolation sparked widespread indignation worldwide. President John F. Kennedy reportedly exclaimed "No news picture in history has generated so much emotion around the world" and his administration's support for President Ngo was largely withdrawn. The communists exploited the situation, given that tension was mounting, to arrange a meeting with Buddhists and pledged North Vietnamese support. The communists also jumped behind the Buddhists, using such atrocities committed by the Ngo regime for their own propaganda and populist appeals. They, however, did not act directly, only basking in the glory of such achievements by the determined Buddhist activists.

The final three months of the Ngo regime was of turmoil and trouble. Ngo Dinh Nhu destroyed any hopes of reconciliation between the government and the Buddhist community when he ordered police and army to storm pagodas around the country. This lost them even more popular support, especially in the capital city of Saigon. To show support for the monks, President Ngo's Foreign Minister shaved his head and scholars at the University of Saigon held mass demonstrations. Despite this, the government continued its campaign of attempting to dissolve any opposition to the Ngo regime.



Kennedy played his cards well in response to this. He realised the danger of supporting the massively unpopular Ngo regime, and with the world sympathetically leaning towards the Buddhist community, now unofficially communist, he was wise to want out. He and his administration, in Cable 243, instructed Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge to make it clear to Diem that the US would withdraw support unless Nhu was removed from governmental affairs and the Ngo family's campaign of terror and religious oppression was ended. This Cable provoked a military coup on the Ngo family, led by the Army General Duong Van Minh. The President Diem and his brother Nhu were captured on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and killed shortly afterwards.

The US installed a military junta in place of the imperialistic Ngo regime, with General Duong at the helm. He lasted only 89 days before he was again overthrown by General Nguyen Khanh. General Nguyen lasted 390 days until 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1965. Under pressure from the US to loosen his military dictatorship upon the country, he then nominated numerous different Heads of State, none of whom gained the acceptance of both Buddhists and Catholics.

It was only in 1967 when a general election was held that a stable government was formed with a democratically elected President as Head of State (Nguyen Van Thieu). Conclusively, there were at least 7 different Heads of State within the three years of political instability that was the breeding ground for communist insurgency. With President Ngo and his family gone for good and South Vietnam in what can only be described as political turmoil, the Viet Cong were able to ramp up their guerrilla operations in South Vietnam. They were also the ones falsely alleged to be behind the Buddhist uprising. By the inauguration of Nguyen Van Thieu, the Viet Cong militants had already infiltrated deep into South Vietnam's rainforests and countryside and gained the support of the farmers areas such as the Mekong Delta.

Therefore, it was deemed that the Viet Cong posed an imminent threat to Saigon. American forces saw the need to, and were forced to, deal with this threat on behalf of the South Vietnamese. The first American troops landed in March 1965, marking the start of the Vietnam War as the western world knows it.

At the height of the deployment of American forces in Vietnam, the US had more than 500,000 men on the ground as well as an entire Air Force dedicated to relentless attacks on North Vietnam. However, they still failed to defeat the communists, and after eight long years of stalemate and struggle, they withdrew in 1973 and "Vietnamized" the war, a suicidal mistake.



The self-immolation of The Venerable Thich Quang Duc -<https://www.walmart.com/ip/Buddhist-Crisis-1963-Nbuddhist-Monk-Thich-Quang-Duc-1897-1963-Committing-Self-Immolation-Intersection-Saigon-South-Vietnam-Protest-Anti-Buddhist-Meas/895776967>



US Marines dropped off deep in enemy territory in Vietnam  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/vietnam-101-a-short-introduction-2361342>

The fledgling South Vietnamese forces were nowhere near ready to fight the North Vietnamese forces, yet all responsibilities were transferred to them with too short a notice and little preparation and training. For the first time during the War, communist forces outnumbered the capitalists, and the former made great progress in moving South in 1974 and early 1975. The war ended with the fall of Saigon on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1975. The city of Saigon was wiped off the map in 1976 and replaced by the much larger Ho Chi Minh City most know of today. The Pearl of the Far East had been lost.

The US lost more than 58,000 men in Vietnam, yet this made up less than 2% of the total number of casualties throughout the war. The country, with its beauty of lush rainforests and rural fields, was ravaged by the effects of the conflict. Its people suffered as a direct result of the war, and also due to the communist rule that continues to exist today.

In conclusion, I believe that had the Catholic President Ngo and his administration relented to Buddhist demands, the Ngo regime would not have lost control and there would have been no opportunity for communist insurgents to intensify operations. The US would not have felt the need to intervene and the Vietnam War would not have intensified to the level it did. What started off as a religious altercation ended in a war on a global scale. This is a classic case of and exponential intensification in the scope and scale of violence. It is important that we should learn from this grievous case to prevent the similar trends from happening today around the world with Rohingya minorities and Palestine for example.

# The Siege of Alesia; a Mélange of Ingenuity and Barbarism

Joe Nixon, U6 Fox

Caesar's battle for Alesia was the most critical and significant episode of the Gallic wars. Wars which would have far-reaching ramifications for both the Gallic tribes and the Roman Empire. However, the unique nature of this heroic saga should individually also be acknowledged. Firstly, for its epitome of Sun Tzu's future publication 'The Art of War'. Secondly, for its ability to micro-cosmically present the nature of brutal attritional warfare (or what Caesar might have called *laboriosus bellica*).

The theatre for this war would be the now quaint pastoral idyll of Alise-Sainte-Reine but this description is quite the antithesis of the area in 52 BCE. Caesar had been expanding outwards in an attempt to encompass what is now eastern France. During this exercise in power, the Romans had been met with Gallic resistance at every point. These sporadic and spatial wars would lead to the emergence of unified Gallic tribes and their leader in Vercingetorix, whose epic name truly is as fitting for classical warfare as it sounds. After numerous brawls from now northern Italy to the Alps, Vercingetorix and his 90,000 warriors were becoming more and more suffocated by Caesar's tightening grip of the Gaul; and thus, fell back to the fortification of Alesia. Shortly after this, Caesar and his army would arrive. An army smaller than the Gauls' at 50,000, but highly disciplined, and operating under Caesar's mentality of 'I came, I saw, I conquered' (Appian c. 95-165). Caesar realised the fortification was 'impregnable' and that an offensive attack would be no less than self-slaughter, albeit not by siege (War History, 2017).



<http://www.ancientpages.com/2017/02/01/siege-of-alesia-last-decisive-battle-that-ended-gallic-independence-in-france-and-belgium/>

Caesar understood that he was now in deep-seated enemy territory, and that Gallic reinforcements would inevitably arrive to relieve the vice Caesar now had on Vercingetorix and his troops. So what did Caesar do? Utilising the Roman avant-garde civil engineering skills, Caesar built a wall (circumvallation) around his

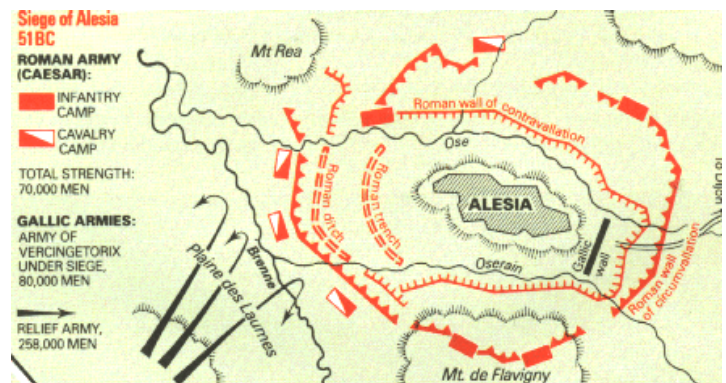
Gallic enemies in Alesia, whilst pleasantly including layers of pits before the wall equipped with lethal tools of impalement; thus creating

what would certainly appear to be a no man's land. Vercingetorix was agile in his response to this; sending his cavalry to disrupt the constructional quagmire developing around him. This would lead to a battle between the Roman wall and Alesia's walls. However, the Gallic cavalry would show little resistance to Caesar's elite German warriors, whose might and valour would leave the Gauls retreating to the walls of Alesia. The scene of this butchery and bloodshed was enough to panic Vercingetorix into closing the city gates, therefore leaving his cavalry clawing the walls at the edge of Germanic blades in a diabolic fashion. That same night Vercingetorix would send out 12,000 cavalry covertly passed Roman lines with the intention of building 'a relief army...so massive, so overwhelming that it would

smash clear through Caesar's lines' (Sadler, 2016). By Caesar's reports this army was an enormous and imposing 8,000 cavalry and 240,000 infantry. If this seems like an impossibly large number, that's because it is, and therefore we must take Caesar's ego into account and adopt a tinge of scepticism. Nevertheless this was still a mighty Gallic army.

Knowing a relief army was on course and that the Gauls statistically wielded the title of the hegemonic power in the situation, Caesar did what Caesar knew best and built another wall around the outer side of the existing Roman wall, thus encircling his army, and ironically besieging himself between the 80,000 Gauls within Alesia and the nearly quarter of a million outside. By this time in the battle, the supplies within Alesia's walls were diminishing. Vercingetorix accordingly, sent all women and children (citizens of the city) out. Once the citizens reached Caesar's wall they were told they not could pass, and to supplement this suffering, when they returned to Alesia, Vercingetorix kept his gates closed. Therefore in a rather barbaric fashion by the hands of the ascetic Caesar and the graceless Vercingetorix the citizens were left in a metaphorical *infernium* to be paradoxically starved by the very death that they were trying to escape.

By now the much needed Gallic relief army had arrived. The army had noticed a weak point in the by no means impenetrable Roman walls at the high ground of Mont Rea. The outer relief army decided that the prime time to attack the Roman walls would be during the day, so Vercingetorix would be able to launch a simultaneous attack on the inner Roman wall, thus leaving the Romans stretched or 'sandwiched' by fighting on two fronts.



[http://www.greatmilitarybattles.com/html/battle\\_of\\_alisia.html](http://www.greatmilitarybattles.com/html/battle_of_alisia.html)

This would act as the formula for one of the most savage and ferocious battles in the world of history. The battle was a true test for Caesar and his men, as his walls were left crippled by the continuous attrition of the Gauls on both sides. Seeing this, the aplomb Caesar entered the battle himself and redirected his cavalry around the wall and so ambushing the Gallic infantry, which was critical in relieving the pressure from the Roman front-line that was as 'taut as a bowstring' (Sadler, 2016). Seeing the Roman cavalry hacking at their only exit injected fear like no other into the Gauls, resulting in what can only be described as a bloodbath at the hands of Romans. The next day, a defeated Vercingetorix would surrender to the Romans, where he would be later be strangled to death as a punishment for his defiance to the empire. Although one of Caesar's most significant and epic tales, it simply reinforced his ready growing legacy. 'Danger knows full well that Caesar is more dangerous than he' (Shakespeare, 1599).

#### References:

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- War History, 2017; <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/guest-bloggers/battle-alisia-roman-siege-completed-julius-caesars-conquest-gaul.html>
- John Sadler, 2016; 'Caesar's Greatest Victory'
- Shakespeare, 1599; 'Julius Caesar'



## The Case for Reform in UK General Elections

Jack Walker, U6 Walsh

With the Brexit process, as well as international scandals involving Trump or Russia overwhelming British media in recent periods, this undoubtedly means that other issues must fall by the wayside. Personally, I believe that one of these such issues which has been unjustly overshadowed, is the need for reform of our First Past the Post (FPTP) system, used in general elections. Although the AV referendum was held on this issue in 2011, the debate over this issue still ought to continue for three key reasons. Firstly, the referendum had a ludicrously low turnout of only 42% thereby weakening its democratic legitimacy. Secondly, the public dissatisfaction with Nick Clegg and the Liberal Democrats, following the controversial raising of tuition fees by the coalition to £9,000 a year, doomed the chances of AV by association with them. Finally, and most importantly, the FPTP system is still inherently unfair. As the Electoral Reform Society puts it, "The way we elect our MPs is bad for voters, bad for governance and bad for democracy."

FPTP, as a majoritarian system, means that the candidate with the greatest number of votes in a constituency is elected as MP. This means that all the other votes which do not end up electing the MP are wasted and so huge amounts of people in a constituency are bound to feel, and indeed be, unrepresented. It is estimated that half of all votes cast in the 2015 election did not end up electing an MP and so did not matter. The person who epitomizes all the problems of the FPTP system has to be Alasdair McDonnell MP. This former leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party holds the record for the lowest proportion of the vote help by a successful MP. Just 24.5% of his Belfast South constituency voted for him in 2015 yet he was still able to become the MP for that area, because he had more votes than any other candidate. Whilst this admittedly may be an extreme example, the fact that we have an electoral system that can produce a result that ignores more than 75% of the voters shows that something is deeply wrong. This problem of wasted votes is especially significant in safe seats as it means that just because of the postcode lottery, voters whose ideas do not line up with the majority of the people in their constituency may as well not be able to vote, as the result of that particular seat is never going to be close enough for their votes to matter.

Even though these problems are symptomatic of FPTP, many still argue that it is the best option for an electoral system since it gives a strong MP-constituency link and most of the time results in strong government with a majority of seats in parliament rather than coalitions, typical of proportional systems. The MP-constituency link is important since it allows people within any area to know they have someone elected by their local area whose job it is to represent the constituency in Westminster. Also, the typical strong majority is important as it allows the government to pass their manifesto pledges easily, since they have been voted for in general election. Clearly, these factors are significant and ought to be preserved through the electoral system used. However, the facts of the matter are, even though FPTP does achieve these goals it does not change the fact that it is intrinsically unfair. Also, it is a myth that these criteria cannot be achieved through use of a more proportional and fair system instead. The Additional Member System (AMS) is an electoral system which has one vote for constituency representatives and another vote for "additional members" to make parliament more proportional and is currently used in elections for the Scottish Parliament and Welsh and London Assemblies. The AMS system works by having one vote for a local representative under FPTP as before which decides a fixed portion of all MPs i.e. enough for every constituency to have an MP linked to it.

However, there is also a second vote for a party rather than a candidate. This vote is used on a national level to decide the remaining MPs from party lists via the D'Hondt method, to make parliament as close to proportional and representative as possible.

The reason why the introduction of a semi-proportional system like this in the UK would be an improvement is because it would give the benefits of both non-proportional and proportional systems. Namely, the strong constituency link would be unchanged and all the second votes would definitely factor in deciding some form of representative. This means that even if a voter feels like their first vote is redundant, such as in a safe constituency, they will still be able to have at least some say in the people that represent them overall through the second national vote. Furthermore, in recent history the trend of FPTP producing strong governments has undoubtedly waned, given that it has produced a succession of governments with either small or indeed non-existent majorities since Gordon Brown (who himself never won a general election). AMS would also avoid the problems of unstable coalitions as has been seen in countries like Italy, since the two major parties would most likely continue to dominate, meaning multi-party coalitions wouldn't be necessary.

Therefore, as other political issues take the forefront, the FPTP system continues to do a disservice to the British people under the pretence of being a necessary evil, when AMS seems able to keep the benefits of FPTP while allowing every person who has the right to vote, the right to feel that their vote matters. A more proportional system is something that is unlikely to happen, given that the two major parties would never advocate for a system that could damage their own electoral success. Still, this does not justify the unrepresentative state of the House of Commons in terms of MPs from minor parties and differing viewpoints who are deeply needed, perhaps now more so than ever.

By Jack Walker

<https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/uk/2019/02/labour-cannot-ride-brexit-wave-socialism-it-must-fight-nationalist-right>



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/34232173/jeremy-corbyn-what-you-need-to-know-about-labours-new-leader>

## **Jeremy Corbyn: A profile**

James Clinton – Hunt, U6Walsh

The leader of the Labour party of whom everyone has now heard about has led an extremely interesting life. As well as having three wives and winning parliament's best beard award five times, Jeremy Bernard Corbyn has been a political activist his whole life, engaging in numerous causes in which he believes in. In this article I intend to briefly outline the profile of a man who has brought socialism back into the British political scene in epic style.

Corbyn was raised in Shropshire along with his three brothers in a very middle-class family. His mother was a maths teacher and his father an electrical engineer. His parents met in a fashion Jeremy would be proud of: campaigning for peace in Spain in the 1930s. During his school years Corbyn became interested in left wing politics, becoming involved with his local Labour party and the Wrekin constituency Young Socialists. He also campaigned against nuclear weapons with the CND in 1966, joining the movement. Corbyn left school at 18 achieving two E grades at A level standard.

Corbyn was heavily involved with Trade Unions in the 1970s, working for several and studying a course on Trade Unions at North London Polytechnic, briefly before he left the course after engaging with his professors in several lengthy arguments over the curriculum. He became his local labour party's organiser and was responsible for the 1979 election campaign in Hornsey. Corbyn was nominated to be the Labour candidate in the North Islington constituency, winning the seat in 1983. He was a back bencher and used parliament as an opportunity to champion his numerous causes, including protests about Apartheid which caused his arrest in 1984. Due to his status as a socialist, Corbyn was never included in the cabinet of 'New Labour' - which was more central under Blair who strongly opposed Corbyn's running for leadership in 2015, saying that if appointed as leader Labour would "face rout and possible annihilation". Corbyn has held his seat in parliament for 34 years now, but it was only when he won the Labour leadership election in 2015 that he entered the cabinet for the first time. After 13 years of New Labour government, and the following 5 years of centre right Tory rule, there had been little exposure for the left wing of the political spectrum.

Though, this all changed when Corbyn was pressured into running for the Labour leadership. As an outsider Corbyn's odds were 200/1. However, his seemingly genuine attitude and enthusiastic speeches led to a huge wave of support for Corbyn, who pushed forward more traditional Labour policies such as nationalisation. A platform for the left wing began to generate huge support, and Corbyn won the Labour leadership by a large margin of 170,000 votes.

After surviving another leadership vote - following his losing a vote of no confidence - Corbyn began to organise the party and act as leader. The Labour party was still in disarray however, and when Theresa May called a snap election in June 2017 it seemed likely that Labour and Corbyn would be swept away, being heavily behind in the polls. What happened next was a remarkable turnaround which has to be credited to Mr Corbyn: leading a fantastic campaign appealing to the youth, formulating a manifesto promising the abolition of tuition fees and a seemingly genuine promise to work "for the many not the few". Corbyn and Labour won 262 seats, whilst the Conservatives lost 13 seats, leading to a 'hung parliament'. Not bad for someone who was supposed to lead the party into annihilation.

He now has a seemingly cult-like following: his name chanted at festivals, football games and Labour conferences. The unlikely catalyst of a Labour resurgence has undergone a lot of political activism in his time, proving himself to be a pacifist (voting against Iraq war in 2003) and a man of principle, having defied the party whip over 500 times. As an ideologist believing in socialist principles, Corbyn has brought the left wing back from the dead. The only question is whether it will triumph over the pragmatism of the Tory party under Theresa May. Much remains to be seen from the next election, the timing of which proves uncertain.



**Parliament is not a fashion show" – Jeremy Corbyn**

<https://labourlist.org/2015/08/corbyn-takes-on-thatcher-over-homelessness-in-unearthed-commons-footage/>



<https://medium.com/@twlildun/the-right-side-of-history-de2228da346f>



## The Story of Emmett Till

When discussing Black civil rights, many people may think of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. However this movement, consisting of all Afro-American's, centred around the racism they encountered. As a result, it arguably led to the publicity that they needed to shed more light on the issue of racial segregation.

Emmett Till was one of these Afro-Americans. He was a 14-year-old boy, who grew up in a working-class neighbourhood in the north side of Chicago. In August 1955, upon visiting relatives in Mississippi, he entered a store named 'Byrant's'. Following this, Carolyn Byrant, (the white owner of the shop) accused Emmett of flirting with her, wolf whistling and grabbing her, whilst being sexually crude.



Innocent victim...Emmett Till age 14

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmett\\_Till](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmett_Till)

Due to these allegations, Byrant's husband, Roy, and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, took Till from his relatives. They then proceeded to lynch, beat, shoot and string barbed wire around Emmett Till's neck, finally deserting his lifeless body in the Tallahatchie River.



Emmett Till's mother at his funeral

After seeing his mutilated body, Emmett's mother decided to have an open-casket funeral, in order to show the world what these men had done to her beloved son. JET - an African-American magazine - published the photo of Emmett's remains, which quickly surfaced throughout mainstream media, broadcasting the story.

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/how-emmett-till-changed-the-world>

Perhaps the most disturbing part of Emmett's story, only became known

in 2007 during an interview with Carolyn Byrant and Timothy Tyson (a Duke University Professor). In his book, "The Blood of Emmett Till", Tyson wrote that Carolyn Byrant admitted her allegations were untrue, saying "nothing that boy did could ever justify what happened to him".

Milam and Byrant were placed on trial and put in front of an all white jury, who came to the conclusion that they were 'not guilty'. This infuriated the Afro-American community, who were outraged at the Jury's conclusion. However, the brutality towards Emmett Till was not forgotten; The murder galvanised the civil rights movement, with the savagery of these racists acts shocking the world. It helped to shed light on the brutality of 'Jim Crow' segregation in the South, and gave the stimulus that the civil rights movement needed.

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<https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwi38rq1zqbaAhWEPxQKHeTwC8AQjRx6BAgAEAU&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.thedailybeast.com%2Fhow-emmett-till-changed-the-world&psig=AOvVaw2g17BNKC-zdKCWUHjcSC-F&ust=1523137154350679>

# Why Trump? Why now?



**Trump Rally in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.**

<https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2017/04/election-2016-trump-fewer-donors-provided-more-of-the-cash/>

Democracy in America is thought to be protected by one of the most admired constitutions in the Western world. Therefore, it is assumed that even if a demagogue with dubious democratic credentials such as Donald Trump is elected, the US should, in theory, outlast any damage done. However, can a good enough constitution entirely

Take for example the Weimar constitution written to govern Germany post -WW1; a document constructed to be at its time one of the most democratic governmental systems in Europe. Yet by the late 1930s, Germany still fell to Hitler and fascism. Additionally, it is interesting to consider in these cases (if a constitution is not all it takes for a healthy democracy), what exactly makes for an unhealthy one? For example, in Germany's case it was the election of a leader spouting a populist agenda with controversial views. Similarly, this is seen in the rise of fascism of Italy and the idealization of Fidel Castro in communist Cuba. From this evidence, it is difficult to see how Donald Trump is worlds away from these figures. For example, his weak political resume as well as his lack of professionalism in insulting his opponents - calling to "lock her up" (Hillary Clinton) - show a clear disregard for the democratic understanding of free and fair elections and respecting political competition. Moreover, if Trump's election is a sign of an unhealthy democracy in America, why Trump and why now?

The explanation as to why no leader similar to Trump has been elected in America before is not due to a lack of contenders or even lack of public support. Trump's ascension to power began on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2015 as he announced in his own Trump Tower his intention to run for president. At which time he was still perceived as a long shot candidate who thought his wealth and celebrity status would fuel a

presidential campaign for office. The doubts over Trump's legitimacy in his candidacy were not misplaced, as he was most well known as a business man and reality TV star. His most recent dealings with the political sphere were his views as a "birther", backing the campaign questioning whether Barack Obama had been born in the United States. This showed his extremist views toward the right of the political spectrum - a worrying attribute of a potential world leader. Even as Trump surged in the polls for Republican candidacy, people doubted him: Nate Silver wrote an article entitled "Dear Media: stop freaking out about Donald Trump's poll numbers". Trump was able to do this because of two reasons: Firstly, the dramatic increase of availability of outside funding allowed under the supreme court in 2010. (Citizens Utd v FEC). Secondly, the diminishing power of traditional democratic 'gatekeepers', due to the dramatic expansion of alternative media. Despite the fact that, until the South Carolina primaries, Trump did not have an endorsement from a single sitting Republican Governor, Senator or Congressperson, Trump still gained victory on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Whilst this was partly due to his celebrity status, his use of media as substitute for party endorsement and traditional campaign spending proved to be a more significant influence towards his victory. Trump did this by attracting free mainstream coverage as a result of creating controversy (arguably something he does best). News outlets such as NBC, CNN and MSNBC mentioned Trump twice as often as they did Clinton, gaining him \$2bn in free media coverage during the primary season. So, when the time for the general election came, all attempts to prevent Trump's candidacy - including the #neverTrump campaign backed by Republican party figures - had failed.

However, Trump was (and is) no ordinary candidate; before 2016, no other presidential candidate had succeeded without first having held an elected office or cabinet post. Yet Trump gained further momentum with his controversial extremist views on immigrants, Muslims and praises for dictator figures such as Vladimir Putin. The chants "Drain the swamp" and "build a wall" echoing from his campaign rallies shook the mainstream media and American politics. While this behavior was unusual, it was not strictly anti-

democratic. Trump took the step into that sphere through his criticism of his opponents. For months Trump's campaign website read "Help me stop crooked Hillary from rigging this election!". During the final presidential debate, Trump refused to say whether he would accept the results of the election if he were defeated. Seeing a realistic presidential candidate openly

disrespect the democratic system, Trump's use of Twitter has been a defining characteristic of not only his presidential campaign but his time so far in office.



<https://www.complex.com/life/2016/12/twitter-harassment-donald-trump>

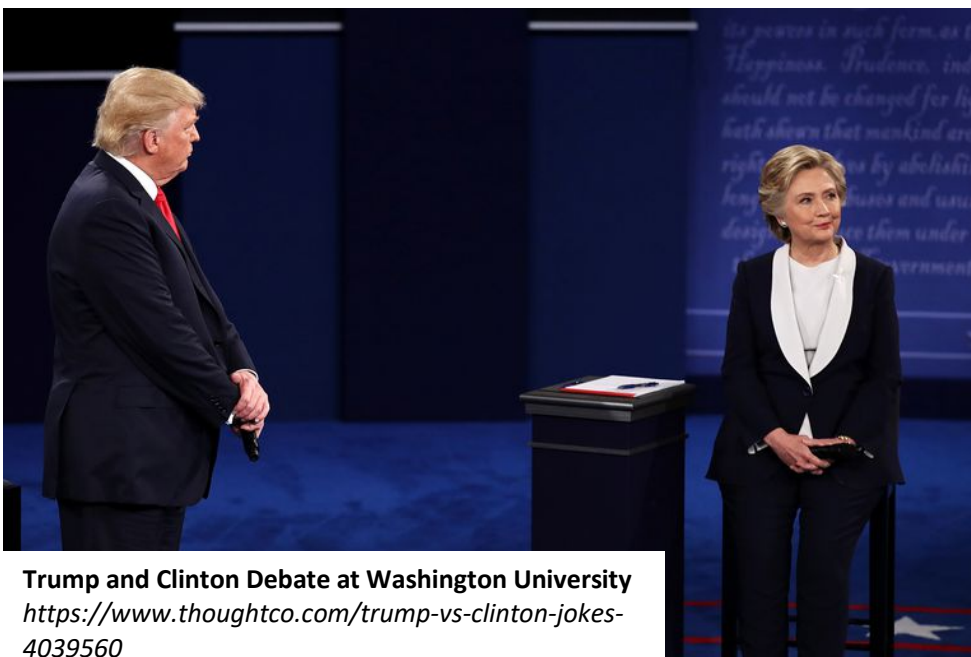


for the Western world. Historian Douglas Brinkley reflected that no major presidential candidate has cast such doubt on the system since 1860.

Another way in which Trump displayed signs of an anti-democratic leader is through his acceptance and encouragement of violence. Even during his presidential campaign, Trump told his supporters "If you see someone getting ready to throw a tomato....Just knock the hell out of them. I promise you I will pay the legal fees" (2016 Iowa). This, including his recent threats to the Iranian president over Twitter and countless Twitter encounters with Kim Jong Un, shows his clear readiness to use violence or bullying tactics; Does this make him a dangerous unknown quantity on the political world stage?

That being said, how and why was he then able to gain office at this time in democratic history? Part of the reason Trump was able to

gain power was the lack of high profile Republicans willing to go against their party in the name of democracy to support Clinton. In a similar situation, for example, the French conservative candidate Francois Fillon called for his partisans to vote for the center left



**Trump and Clinton Debate at Washington University**  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/trump-vs-clinton-jokes-4039560>

candidate Macron to keep the far-right candidate Le pen from power. However, the only Republican figures who endorsed Clinton were retired politicians with nothing to lose and no ambition of future election. Due to the closeness of the 2016 election, high profile endorsements for Clinton by current political delegates could have made the small difference which may have kept Trump out of office. However, they did not; on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, Donald Trump won the American general election.

Overall it is clear that Trump was no master mind. He used populist tactics, and gained attention through his controversial views and effectively empty promises to "make America great again". However,

perhaps the worst and most stark fact of his election is that America delivered it. Countless Americans respect Trump for his 'businessman status'. The recent 'Adventures in Trumpland' - a documentary by former Labour MP, Ed Balls - showcased countless pro-Trump Americans who hung off his every word. Trump's usage of social media as a tool to spread his own version of the truth has created the era of "FAKENEWS", in which any media outlet or person giving opinions and evidence against Donald Trump is (in pro-Trump Americans' opinions) lying or wrong. Even after interviews with school shootings victims' families aiming to promote gun control, Republicans and Trump supporters claimed the children and parents were scripted, or actors used by the left-wing media as scare tactics. It is this use of alternative media and American stubborn defiance of anything other than Donald Trump's word that has propelled a demagogue into the American Whitehouse. America bought into his promises, and so the future of American democracy appears uncertain. As Hillary Clinton reflected in the title of her book "What Happened", the election of Donald Trump was unpredictable. In many ways amongst Democrats, it was felt Hillary was robbed. It has been endlessly disputed as to the cause of such a historical event. Hillary reflects in the book and in interviews his intimidating, aggressive nature toward her was unlike any previous Democratic opposition. The dominant body language of Trump towards Clinton can be seen in many of the tv debates during the campaign season. Clinton describes these experiences as uncomfortable, not only as a professional, but also as a woman. Trump's further conduct toward women with the famous recording leaked of him announcing to "grab 'em by the p\*\*\*y" further shows his backward political and cultural views. However, no matter his professional conduct and methods of campaigning, Trump, despite his persona, could arguably be all talk and no walk. Although his introduction of controversial immigration reforms (which he later reversed due to criticism of separating children and parents) and actions toward rolling back legislation such as Obamacare, Trump is yet to seriously threaten American democracy. Therefore, the question of why Trump and why now becomes a lesser issue. The election of Trump and the marginal nature of it is an accurate (if sad) reflection of the divided nature of America and the state of its politics. Therefore, Trump's election is in many ways unsurprising due to the narrative that conspired throughout the campaign season. It is this acceptance of Trump's authority in the Whitehouse which leaves the question of how dangerous he can be to American and world democracy.

In Summary it is evident that the American system of government is designed to defend itself and outlive figures such as Trump. Therefore, despite Trump appearing to have all the answers, and Americans voting for him because they were fooled into believing that he could make them the world super power they once were, Trump is an anomaly in Western politics. Although his election is clearly a sign of public disillusionment, it does not yet threaten the health of democracy in America.



<https://www.vanityfair.com/news/2018/09/facing-2018-midterm-wipeout-trump-alternate-reality-comes-crashing-down>

# SUFFRAGETTES VS SUFFRAGISTS

On Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of January in Room 45, Erin Heath, Imogen Brander and Lily Hodge completed a talk on the Suffragettes. Lily and Erin have now decided to put their presentation into words and explain the differences between the Suffragettes and the Suffragists.



**Dame Millicent Fawcett Parliament Square Statue**  
<https://secretldn.com/millicent-fawcett-statue-parliament/>

The Suffragettes were a group of women who fought for the right to vote in public elections. The Suffragette movement was founded by Emmeline Pankhurst in 1903 and gave hope to hundreds of women. The Suffragettes were a smaller organisation, with 2,000 members in 1914. In 1914 Emmeline was arrested running through a line of police in an attempt to reach Buckingham Palace and present a petition to the King. The Suffragettes were known to bomb letterboxes, smash windows, cut telephone wires, set fire to derelict buildings, pour acid on to golf course greens and slash paintings in art galleries to make their voice heard. It was reported that on some occasions, they attacked and assaulted leading liberals including the Prime Minister.

## SUFFRAGISTS

The Suffragists were peaceful campaigners for the women's vote. They allowed men to join and were a bigger, more national organisation, than the Suffragettes. However, their campaigns were often ignored, with the Suffragettes gaining more publicity. The most famous Suffragist was Dame Millicent Fawcett, who now has a statue in parliament square. One of her more famous quotes was 'courage calls to courage everywhere'.