

OLD JOURNAL

2023 EDITION



HEAD OF DEPARTMENT'S NOTE

We are delighted to bring another edition of the 'Old Journal'. Over the past years, the History Magazine has been a medium to showcase the varied perspectives of students on history. The students through their contributions bring forth their ideas, stories, and understanding of the past. This issue has led students to delve deeper in the narratives of the past and the current world around them.

My congratulations to Prisha Singh, President of History Society and Mokshini Jasol President, INTACH Society who have worked very hard and succeeded in bringing out another impressive edition.

I add my thanks to our Officiating Principal, Mrs. Supreet Bakshi for her support and constant guidance.

I do hope you enjoy reading it.

With all good wishes and warm regards,

NEENA RATHORE
HEAD OF HISTORY DEPARTMENT



EDITOR'S DESK



History is a cluster of facts. Yet it is melancholic and sentimental. It is intense but also extremely tragically soft and delicate. It is to us, in its simplest form, as dear as are lilies and trees and bright burning stars. Therefore, it is our greatest and dearest pleasure to present to the world, however limited, the 2023 edition of the annual history magazine - *Old Journal*.

The theme of the magazine was subjected to great speculations and debates. It made the result even sweeter. We chose the theme of this edition to be Alternative History. History, we feel, sometimes lingers softly, like a bittersweet aftertaste. To think that perhaps the speck of dust dancing on my fingertips was once a part of the most magnificent of palaces or to imagine that this very ground we stand upon has cradled hundreds before me creates a void unlike ever felt before. This fragility of time, ironically archaic, makes the theme of this year ever so fascinating - the question of " What if? "

It has been our delight to be the editors for this year's Old Journal. We are deeply thankful to our Officiating Principal, Mrs. Supreet Bakshi, for her guidance and dedication. We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the Head of the History Department, Mrs. Neena Rathore. We hope you, dear readers, find joy, as you flip through this journal and read all that it has to offer.

Happy Reading!

MOKSHINI JASOL
PRISHA SINGH
CLASS XII

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The Renaissance of Myth

When Mythology Meets Humanity

There is and has always been a strict line confining gods to their realms and humans to theirs, if you believe in the unbelievable that is. But what if these age-old legends were more than just stories? What if they played an active role in shaping human history, altering the course of events, and influencing the development of societies? A world where the gods of old and mythical beings exert their influence on the affairs of mortals, where their interactions forge a rich tapestry of history that weaves through the ages.


In this reimagined narrative, the resurgence of mythological beings is a cornerstone of the historical landscape. Throughout different eras, key gods and creatures step beyond their mythic confines to guide and shape human affairs. Take Artemis, for instance, who, in this alternative history, played a pivotal role in feminist movements, supporting communities unheard of and joining military conquests. Her strength and determination inspiring women and young girls across the world to fight for their rights, and her brilliant archery techniques being put to use for the Olympics. Her calmness radiating off onto diplomats and countries, therefore stopping many wars from taking place. Gender roles shifting under the guidance of goddesses from various mythologies including Greek and Hindu, who advocate equality and empowerment, reshaping family dynamics and social structures.



But it is not just the social life that experiences this divine intervention. Mythological figures also leave their mark on culture, art, and architecture. Temples dedicated to these deities become centres of worship and enlightenment, their designs mirroring the sacred realms they represent. The Renaissance period witnessed an explosion of artistic creativity, as painters and sculptors drew inspiration from interactions with mythological creatures.

Architectural marvels rose, each work reflecting divinity.

The myth-powered Renaissance isn't limited to the realm of culture; it extends to technology, science and politics. Giant statues come to life, powered by the ingenuity bestowed by the divine. Even the pursuit of knowledge takes on a new dimension, with scientists integrating mythical concepts into their theories, attempting to unlock the secrets of the gods themselves. These godly envoys negotiate treaties and pacts, ensuring that harmony prevails even in times of strife. The world becomes a grand stage where gods and creatures alike perform a delicate dance of diplomacy and power. Yet, this mythological renaissance raises an ethical dilemma regarding the balance between divine intervention and human agency. As gods guide the destinies of mortals, questions arise about the role of free will in shaping individual lives. Are our choices truly our own, or are they predetermined by the whims of divine beings? Are we just entertainment? Made to make the gods... 'Gods'? A debate, in this alternative reality, shall continue until the last breath of humanity.



Vaanya Shekhar

Class X

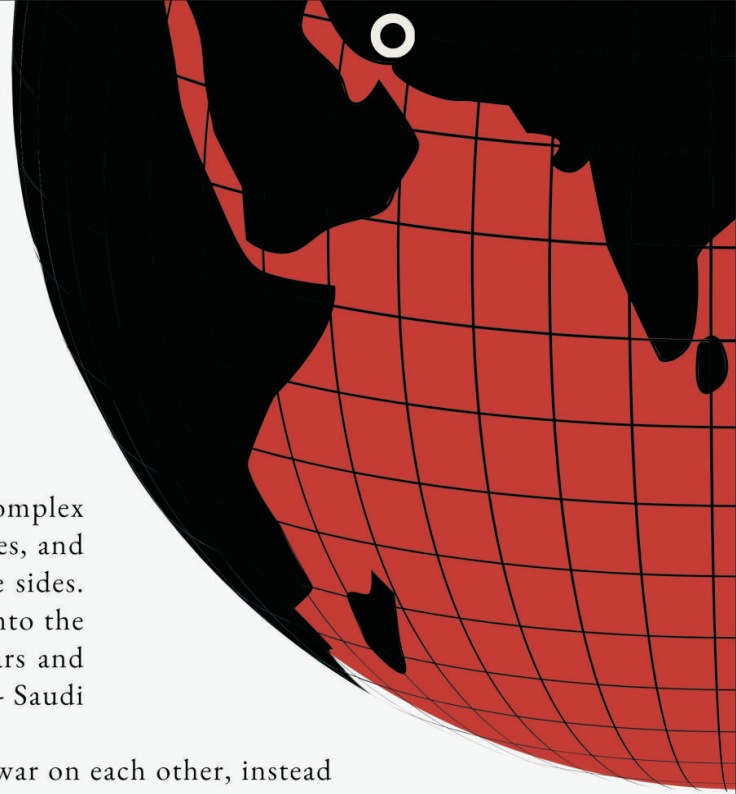
S/2556

MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East has always been one of the most complex regions in the world. Currently there are 4 failing states, and two major powers constantly clashing on the opposite sides. The region has been seeing conflicts going back well into the 20th Century. However, among all uprisings, civil wars and insurgencies, two countries always seem to be involved- Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The Saudis and Iranians have never formally declared war on each other, instead they fight each other by supporting opposite sides in other countries and incite conflicts. This is known as Proxy Warfare, a war instigated by a major power which itself never gets involved, to exert their influence over the region and its politics. The war in Iraq, Syrian civil war, Yemen civil war, all are direct results of these major powers fueling the bitterness on opposite sides. This has had devastating effects on the region. Countries, especially poor ones who hold barely any political control, cannot function with larger countries pulling strings within their borders. Both the Saudis and the Iranians see this situation as a threat, as well as an opportunity. The Saudi-Iranian rivalry has become a fight over influence, and the whole region is a battlefield. This is why the rivalry is being called a Cold War. In the early 1900s, the Arabian Peninsula was a patchwork of tribes under control of the Ottoman Empire. After the First World War, when the Ottoman Empire crumbled to dust, these tribes started clashing with each other for power and territory. A tribe named Al-Saud emerged as the dominant force, conquering most of the peninsula. In 1932, they were recognised as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. 6 years later, Saudi's massive oil reserves were discovered, and in an instant, the Saudi monarchy was rich.

The money helped modernise the desert nation, and at the same time, helped forge an alliance with the USA. On the other hand, another oil rich country was emerging, but not without problems. Since the 18th century, Iran had been invaded multiple times. In 1953, the US staged a coup, removing the popular Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddegh. In his stead, monarch Reza Shah took over, bringing aggressive reforms to Iran to secularise, and westernise the country. However he harboured and terrorised the populations with his secret police, the Savak. By the 1970s, both Saudi and Iran had oil based economies and had governments heavily backed by the US, but the feelings among the people of each country were very different. Ultimately, the Shah of Iran, even though powerful, did not have the same control, legitimacy and affection towards his people that the Saudis felt towards their monarch. Ayatollah Khomeini emerged as the next top power. It was then the Saudi-Iran rivalry began.





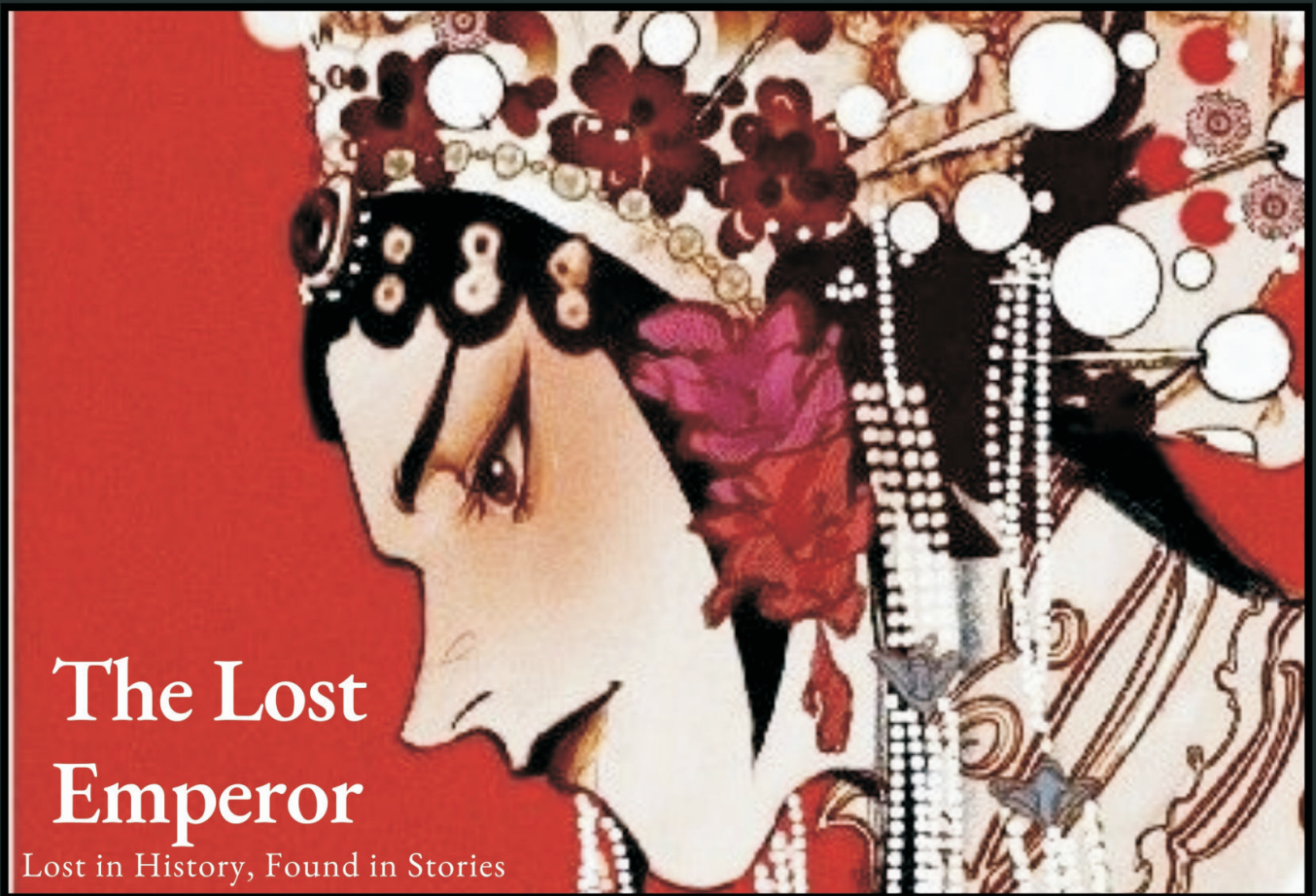
COLD WAR

Ayatollah Khomeini preached against Western-backed secular monarchies, and advocated for a muslim government. In 1979, he led a revolution just to establish that. This Iranian Revolution terrified the Saudi government. They feared that Khomeini would inspire their populations to rise up against them. There came a religious threat too. Saudi Arabia was dominated by Sunni sect of Islam, while Khomeini and Iran were mostly Shia. This also became one of the beginning points of violence between the two sects. The Shia-Sunni split is not the reason for the conflict, yet indeed is an important division. After the revolution, Saudi fears came true when Iran began 'exporting its revolution'. In the 1980s, Iran started helping groups, mostly Shia, trying to overthrow governments in Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. They bolstered their alliance with the US and formed the Gulf Cooperation Council, with other gulf monarchies. The stage was set. War in the gulf. Iraq invaded Iran in seven areas. The rise of Iran as a regional power was a threat to other countries as well.

In September 1980, Iraq, under dictator Saddam Hussein, invaded Iran, in high hopes of stopping the Iranian revolution, gaining power, and annexing some of Iran's oil reserves. But they couldn't get much out of it. The war bogged down into stalemate, complete with trench warfare, chemical weapons and heavy civilian casualties. When Iran started winning, Saudi panicked and came to Iraq's aid, providing money, weapons and logistical aid. So it became critical to Saudi Arabia to build Iraq, and it built it up into a wall to contain the Irani torrent that they have unleashed. The Saudi help allowed Iraq to fight the wars till 1988. Iranians largely blamed Saudi for the war and the feud escalated even further. Fast forward 15 years, Iraq again became the scene of a proxy war.

In 2003, the US invaded Iraq and overthrew Saddam Hussien. It's a cold war that has become highly unpredictable and as the region is destabilising further, it is only left for speculation how far these countries would go.

Shubhi Gattani
Class XI
K/2809



In Chinese history, there is a well-known and significant queen who ruled as a sovereign in her own right. Her name was Wu Zetian (624–705 AD), and she is considered the only female emperor in History of China. Wu Zetian received criticism, was subjected to unfavourable press, and even had her reputation damaged. After her death, male historians frequently emphasised her ambition and assertiveness to downplay her accomplishments and leadership. Her ascent to power as an emperor and subsequently as an emperor who had violated traditional gender roles and customs in Chinese culture, which was one of the reasons historians chose to represent her in this way. Her actions were perceived as challenging the status quo in a patriarchal culture, endangering the energy form that was dominated by males. Since female monarchs have been rare throughout history, male historians may have had preconceived notions against them. They might have been impacted by cultural norms and biases against powerful women in their writing.

“She killed her sister, butchered her elder brothers, murdered the ruler, poisoned her mother,” the chronicles say. But is the empress unfairly maligned? When male rulers commit genocide or murder their menage we have overlooked their brutality and focused on their achievement as rulers of their monarch but why is Wu Zetian only known for her “evil tyrant” rather than her achievement as the ruler. Wu Zetian restructured the administration, cut back on expenditures, and streamlined bureaucracy when she was in charge. She helped spread modern agricultural concepts, decreased taxes for rural peasants, and let individuals from all socioeconomic strata to sit for civil service examinations. It's a sad fact of life that women leaders receive much more criticism than men do in this patriarchal society. Female politicians must contend with ongoing monitoring of everything from their speech patterns to their wardrobe choices in addition to the typical problems of the political realm. This pattern is not new historically. Since ancient times, women have been criticised—often to the point of demonisation. The most influential women in history are much too frequently depicted in textbooks as ruthless, murderous monsters rather than as multifaceted individuals. We as the new generation of this society are responsible of the way we look at these powerful women and their accomplishments thus it's our responsibility to change the course of the way they have been perceived and rewrite their story.

TEA PARTY

The “Boston tea party” sounds imbecilic right? But it is actually one of the defining events of American History which also led to the American Revolution. This event was much like the “The Quit India Movement” for the Americans. It showed the British that Americans would not take taxation and tyranny sitting down. After seven years of war, the British Empire was falling into financial distress. The British had won the war but in the process, they lost ample of their treasure and blood in the process. At this point, they thought of doing the thing they were best at, imposing heavy taxes on North American Colonies. Though when the British Prime Minister had proposed the ‘Tea Act’ he had The East India Company in mind and not the North American Colonies.

When the British were informed about this, instead of reforming the tax policies, they responded to it by passing the Coercive Act which shut down Boston’s port and modified the Charter of Massachusetts effectively shutting down the colony’s legislative assembly—and sent British troops under General Thomas Gage to occupy Boston. The Acts not only took away home rule from Massachusetts, it forced all Americans to board British troops in unoccupied buildings. Britain hoped that the Punitive Acts would stifle New England’s rebellion and prevent the colonies from unifying, but this was not the case.

The British obviously felt that these taxations were fair since much of their debt was earned fighting on the colonies’ behalf but the colonies disagreed and were furious at taxation without having any representation in the British Parliament and felt that it was wrong of the British to tax them for revenue gain. The ‘Tea Act’ allowed the company to sell tea duty free to the colonies but still tax them when the tea reached the colonial ports. As the British allowed shipment of thousands of pounds of tea to its North American colonies, the colonial tea merchant protested. The Sons of Liberty, a secret society formed by radical colonists spearheaded the opposition to the ‘Tea Act’. On December 16, 1773 at Griffin’s Wharf, a large group of men allegedly members of the Sons of Liberty disguised themselves as Native Americans and boarded the ships: Beaver, Dartmouth and Eleanor, and proceeded to dump 342 crates of tea into the Boston Harbour.

This act destroyed almost 10 Thousand Pounds Sterling worth of tea which is worth 1.7 Million Dollars today. When this news spread, colonies like New York and Philadelphia also refused to accept tea.

Jayanandini Sodha
Class XI
K/2429





WOMEN IN THE SOVIET SKIES- A DILEMMA IN WORLD WAR II

The Night Witches were aware that they were altering the course of history as they sped through the cover of darkness. They avoided the gleaming metal bullets, cold, and pervasive patriarchy that prevailed in 1942. The Soviet Union bore the brunt of the Eastern Front during WW II, enduring a persistent onslaught from the strong Nazi war machine. Among the turmoil and destruction, a group of brave women known as the "Night Witches" arose as a vital force. These daring aviators took to the skies courageously, flying wooden biplanes under the cover of darkness and contributing significantly to the Soviet victory. The 588th Night Bomber Regiment was made up of these female aviators. The Night Witches' accomplishments were remarkable. During the war, they flew over 23,000 flights and dropped over 3,000 tonnes of bombs on enemy sites, causing significant damage to German troops and equipment. Pilots in the unit flew Po-2 biplanes, which were slow and out of date training aircrafts. Despite their flaws, the Night Witches transformed these biplanes into stealthy weapons of destruction. They took advantage of minimal noise from their planes and flew at low altitudes under cover of darkness, making them impossible to detect by enemy radar. These techniques earned them the moniker "Night Witches" from German soldiers who feared their quick and covert attacks. Women were not the Soviets' primary choice in war on military bases. The prevailing patriarchy and the misogyny prevented them from doing so. Gender roles were rigid, and no one cared to deviate from them. However, under tremendous pressure from the German military, a staunch Russian ally, they were compelled to admit women aviators, or simply women in the armed services; and this proved to be the best strategy they could have designed. In June of the same year, Adolf Hitler announced Operation Barbarossa, a huge invasion of the Soviet Union. Stalin issued orders to deploy three all-female air force units on October 8, 1941. Marina Raskova, known as the "Soviet Amelia Earhart" and the Soviet Union's first female navigator, founded and directed the squadron. They gained multiple accolades, including the renowned Hero of the Soviet Union title for many of their pilots. Marina sought permission from the Soviet leader, Joseph Stalin, to allow her to organise an all-female battalion for the war. Stalin approved, and they were on the path towards establishing history.

Adolf Hitler is undeniably one such figure, known for his magnetic charm that propelled him from obscurity to become the architect of unspeakable horrors. However, what if this charismatic force had been absent? What if Hitler's attempts to sway the masses were met with indifference, leading to a drastically different world?

Hitler's charismatic speeches stirred fervour and ignited a sense of belonging among his supporters. His ability to captivate audiences allowed him to rise within the ranks of the Nazi Party and ultimately seize control of Germany. However, in this alternate timeline, Hitler's oratory fails to resonate. His impassioned rhetoric falls on deaf ears, and his public persona lacks the allure that once drew followers like moths to a flame. Hitler's aspirations to lead are met with challenges and obstacles that prove insurmountable without his charismatic aura. His attempts to rally supporters and gain political traction falter, and he remains a fringe figure within the political landscape. The absence of his magnetic influence results in a lack of cohesive direction, leaving his ambitions unfulfilled.

With Hitler's charisma diminished, other political figures and ideologies seized the spotlight. Alternative movements, previously overshadowed by Hitler's rise, gained prominence. This altered universe witnesses the rise of diverse leaders and parties, each offering their vision for the future. The absence of Hitler's charismatic drive reverberates onto the world stage. Without his influence, the trajectory of World War II takes an unanticipated turn. The outbreak, course, and outcomes of the war diverge significantly from our reality. New alliances are formed, and different nations assume pivotal roles, reshaping the geopolitical map in profound ways.

Without Hitler's reign of terror, the humanitarian landscape shifts dramatically because no such mass genocide as the holocaust occurs.

Humanity is more stable, however because of the absence of such violence, humanity remains naive and vulnerable, unaware of the fact that such great evil can take place and such a great number of people may agree with it.

"Since Auschwitz we know what man is capable of. And since Hiroshima we know what is at stake."

-Viktor Frank

HITLER DID NOT HAVE A DIME BUT ALWAYS HAD A VISION; WHICH IS (UN)FORTUNATELY, NOT ENOUGH.

Vaanya Shekhar
Class X
S/2556





AL NAKBA

The Nakba, meaning "catastrophe" in Arabic, refers to the displacement and dispossession of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. This pivotal event in the Middle East's history continues to shape the region today.

The Arab Israeli War was launched by the Arab countries of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon & Syria as a response to the Deir Yassin massacre by the Israelis in a Palestinian majority area. This Nakba has led to a series of various wars between the 2 nations and their allies. The conflict continues today with the recent Hamas attack reigniting a topic of passionate debate. But what if the Nakba had never happened? What if a different course of history had unfolded in the region?

Common view is that without the Nakba, the demographics of present-day Israel and Palestine would look significantly different. A sizable Palestinian Arab population would coexist with Jewish communities within the borders of a single state. The challenge would be to establish a harmonious and equal coexistence between these two communities.

In this alternative scenario, without the Nakba, we would witness a dramatically different geopolitical landscape in the Middle East. First and foremost, Israel and Palestine might have coexisted as two separate states side by side, without the deep-seated conflicts and suffering that have defined their history.

The absence of the Nakba could have prevented decades of conflict, leading to a more stable Middle East. Regional relationships, especially those between Israel and its neighbouring Arab states, might have taken a different path, potentially fostering regional peace. A combined Israeli-Palestinian state might have also advanced faster in terms of economic development, leveraging the strengths of both communities. Shared resources, knowledge, and technological advancements could have contributed to a thriving economy in the region. In a single, multi-ethnic state, cultural exchange would have been inevitable. Jewish and Arab traditions, art, and cuisine could have flourished side by side, enriching the tapestry of both societies.

While the common view of a world without a Nakba leading to a more peaceful scenario is utopian. The decision of partition in the first place was resented by the Palestinian Arabs and Arab nations in general and religious hostilities always existed among the two societies. The absence of a Nakba might have reduced the intensity of the wars and global involvement but would have not brought absolute peace and stability to the region.

In reality, the Nakba is a tragic historical fact with profound implications. Imagining an alternate history where it never occurred is a thought-provoking exercise, but it is important to acknowledge the complexities and challenges that would have arisen in such a scenario. While we cannot rewrite history, we can learn from it and work towards a more peaceful and just future for all in the region.

Faeza Yousuf
Class XII
K/2216

THE UNBROKEN LEGACY: PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ALTERNATE UNIVERSE

Siddhi Deshmukh

Class XII

P/2472

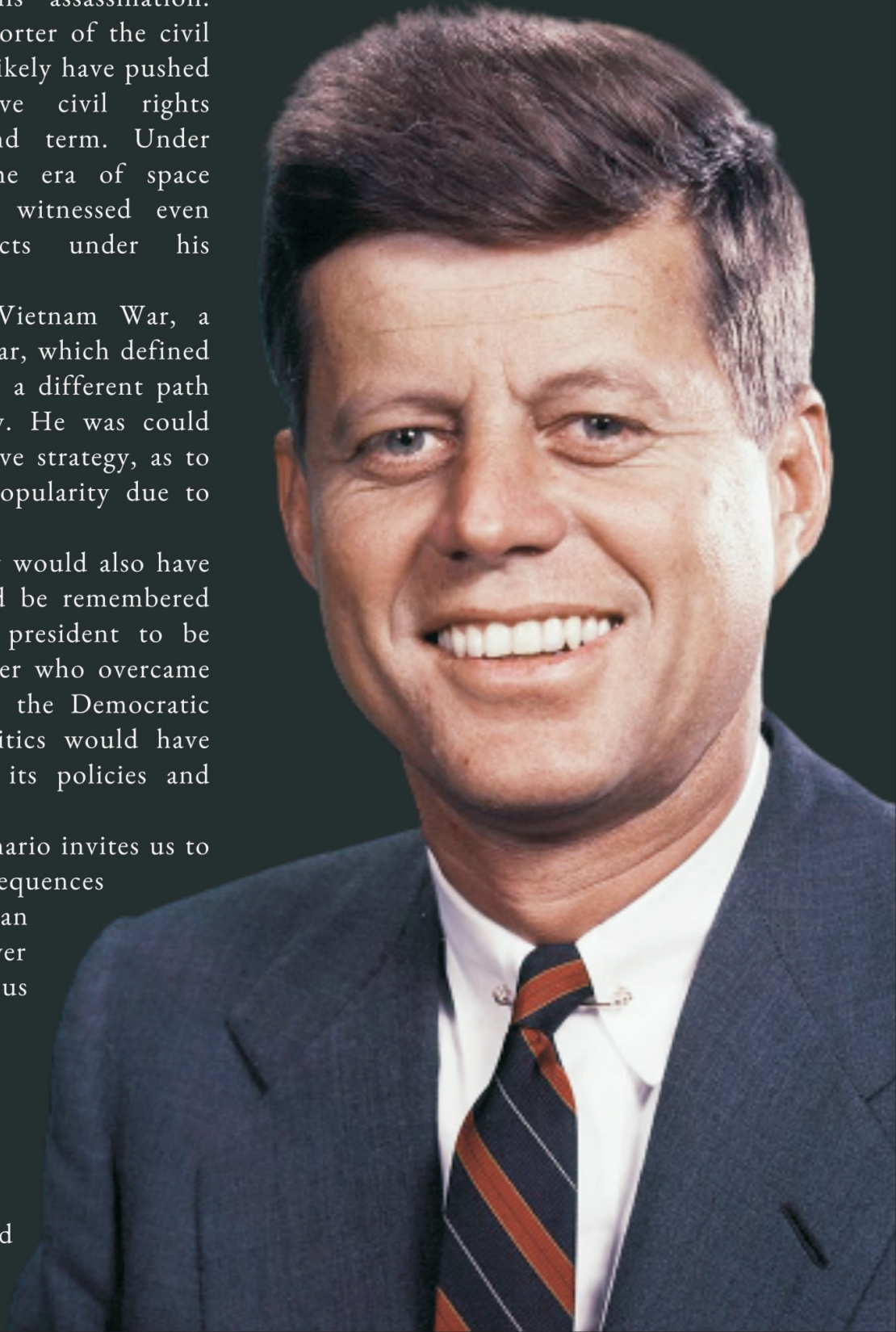
On the afternoon of Friday, November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy rode on a motorcycle through the streets of Dallas, Texas. On that day, the streets did not reverberate with the fatal shot from Lee Harvey Oswald's gun, and President Kennedy's body did not slump lifeless over the vehicle. In this alternate universe, Kennedy did not become the fourth U.S. President to be assassinated.

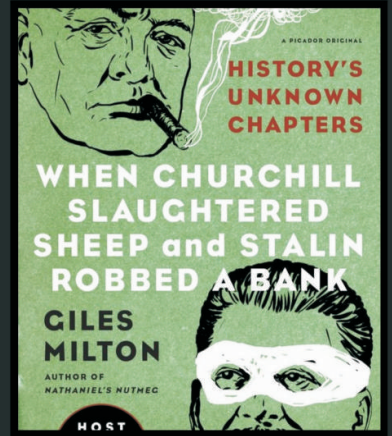
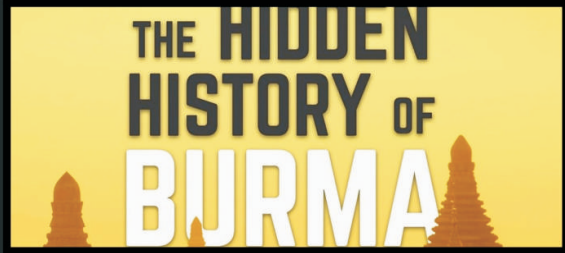
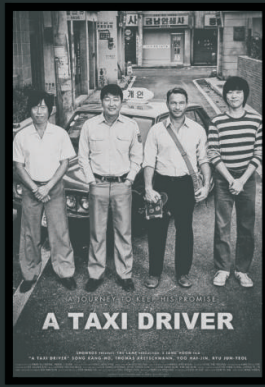
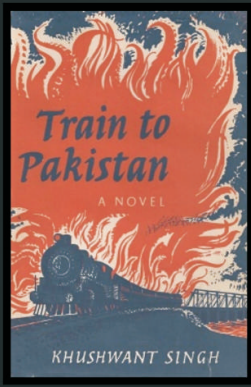
In this hypothetical scenario, Kennedy's presidency endured, unmarred by the haunting memory of his assassination. Kennedy, a staunch supporter of the civil rights movement, would likely have pushed for more comprehensive civil rights legislation in his second term. Under Kennedy's leadership, the era of space exploration might have witnessed even more ambitious projects under his leadership.

Most importantly, the Vietnam War, a byproduct of the Cold War, which defined the 1960s, may have seen a different path under President Kennedy. He could have pursued an alternative strategy, as to prevent his growing unpopularity due to the war.

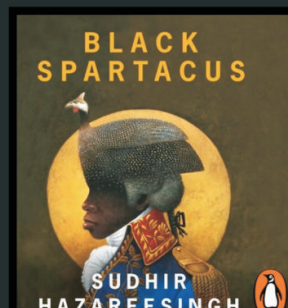
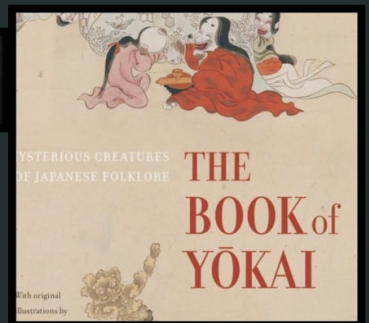
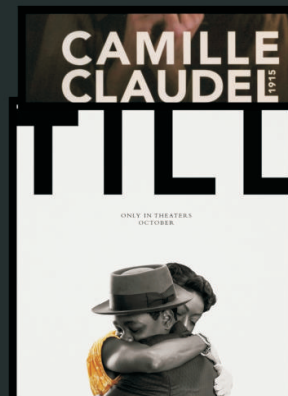
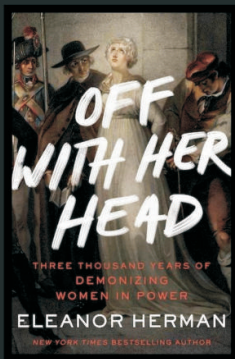
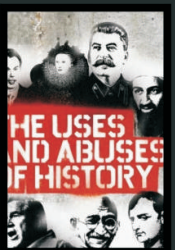
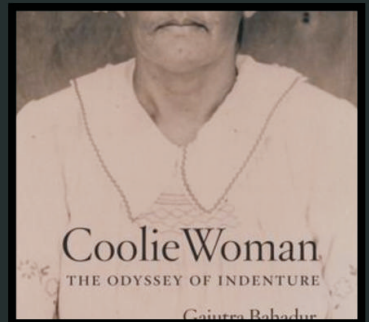
Kennedy's personal legacy would also have been different. He would be remembered not as the fourth U.S. president to be assassinated but as a leader who overcame adversity. His impact on the Democratic Party and American politics would have been profound, guiding its policies and priorities.

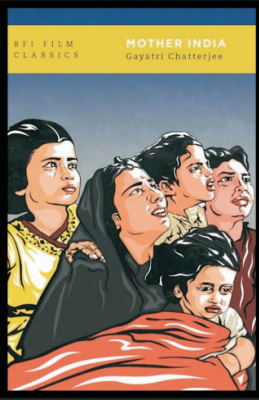
This alternate history scenario invites us to ponder the profound consequences that one moment in time can have. Although we can never rewrite history, it reminds us of the fragility and unpredictability of the past, and the enduring legacy of leaders like John F. Kennedy, whose influence continues to shape the United States and the world.





SAVE FOR LATER

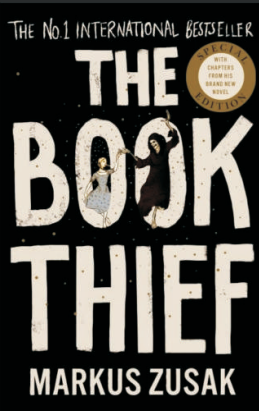




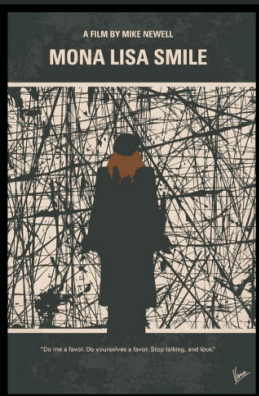
It is the story of a poverty-stricken village woman named Radha (Nargis), who in the absence of her husband, struggles to raise her sons and survive against a cunning money-lender amidst many troubles.



A devastating meditation on the human cost of war, this animated tale follows Seita, a teenager charged with the care of his younger sister, Setsuko, after an American firebombing during World War II separates the two children from their parents.



The Book Thief is a historical fiction novel by the Australian author Markus Zusak, set in Nazi Germany during World War II. The novel follows the adventures of a young girl, Liesel Meminger. Narrated by Death, the novel presents the lives and viewpoints of the many victims of the ongoing war. Themes throughout the story include death, literature, and love.



Katherine Watson (Julia Roberts) is a recent UCLA graduate hired to teach art history at the prestigious all-female Wellesley College, in 1953. Determined to confront the outdated mores of society and the institution that embraces them, Katherine inspires her traditional students including Betty (Kirsten Dunst) and Joan (Julia Stiles) to challenge the lives they are expected to lead.



INSPIRATIONS AND REFERENCES

SUFI



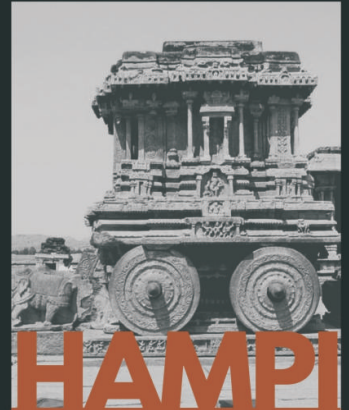
SACRED SPIRIT FESTIVAL
(MUSIC FESTIVAL)
MEHRANGARH FORT , JODHPUR

FOLKLORE



KERALA FOLKLORE THEATRE AND MUSEUM,
KERALA

HAMPI, KARNATAKA
(HISTORICAL SITE/CITY)



HAMPI

DID YOU KNOW?

HAMPI WAS ONCE THE CAPITAL OF THE VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE, AND IT IS HOME TO A NUMBER OF FASCINATING RUINS AND MONUMENTS THAT DATE BACK TO THE 14TH CENTURY.



VIKRAMSILA UNIVERSITY, BIHAR

VIKRAMSILA



INTACH SOCIETY

SANJHI ART

The traditional art of stenciling from Mathura, Krishna's hometown, Sanjhi art goes beyond aesthetic appeal and is known for its inherent spiritual implications. It features intricate picture motifs, and exquisite designs which are cut into paper.

This art form depicts various Krishna Lila scenes and it gained recognition in the 15th and 16th century by the Vaishnava temples though it was traditionally used or making rangolis dedicated to Lord Krishna by Brahmin priests. It holds huge significance in Hindu mythology, as it is believed that this artform was used by Radha to paint the walls of her home to gain the attention of Lord Krishna.

This art form is performed in many Indian temples today. Sanjhi art also served as the inspiration for the pictograms used during the 2010 Commonwealth Games.

TISHA KUMAR
C/3013

HISTORY OF PAPER

We all have heard about paper crafts thousands of time. Paper crafts symbolizes the past which was filled with culture. Paper is a thin nonwoven material traditionally made from a combination of milled plant and textile fibres. Almost 2000 years ago, Ts'ai Lun also known as Cai Lun who was a Chinese eunuch court official of the EASTERN HAN DYNASTY is said to discover paper and paper making process in 105 AD. The creative act of cutting designs into paper dates to the 6th century, though it was typically reserved for ceremonial or honorific use rather than a leisure activity.

RIDDHI GARG
M-2624



Mayo College Girls' School

Printed and Published by

Mayo College Girls' School

Mayo Link Road, Ajmer, (Raj) 305008 Ph. : +91-0145-2636000

E-mail : office@mcgs.ac.in Website : www.mcgs.ac.in