

# COMMITTING Excerpts

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## Preface

My high school teacher, Mr. Hummel, brought us to the section of the Civics course he taught labeled New Deal, with the statement that we would be meeting no person in the times (late fifties, Western Pennsylvania), who would have a middle view of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. They loved him; they hated him. That was it. No exceptions.

These letters to the White House in FDR's time may clarify:

“Dear Mr. President, the man you sent found our house all right, and we went down to the bank with him, and the mortgage can go on for a while longer...I never heard of a President like you.”

“Dear Mr. President, I'm proud of our United States and every time, I hear the 'Star Spangled Banner', I feel a lump in my throat. There ain't no other nation in the world that have sense enough to think of WPA (*the Works Progress Administration*) and all the other A's (*the other new Agencies*).”

“Dear Mr President, if you could get around the country as I have and seen the distress forced upon the American people, you would throw your damn NRA and AAA and every other G- damned A, into the sea, before you and your crooked crowd are taken out...You are not for the poor, nor the middle class, but for the rich, monopolies, Jewry, and perhaps Communism.”

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...Alfred Landon, Republican for President, just two years, after fighting FDR in the 1936 election, said of FDR, his opposition candidate, who he asked Americans to throw out of office: “He saved the country”. Can you imagine a Republican or Democrat of the twenty-first century times, enunciating that!? And after a defeat?

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...Adults in my youth of high school Civics, would often point to things along the hills and vales of the countryside --- embankments on roads, bridges, Boy Scout Camps, dams, a forest --- and say 'The CCC built that' or 'My uncles helped build that, in the WPA'. The unnoticed landmarks took a special remembrance from me when I passed by next time, simply because the people that pointed them out, did so with some sort of reverence. It was a similar experience with the World War II Vet Scout leaders, speaking of their times, the darkness of war service and the thankfulness of survival..

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...That period of history, their period of history, the 1930's and 1940's, so near back then, but so far away, took on a special hue of color, for many of us in our youthful listening's, in people's living rooms and around campfires. Those times, before 1945, had been different, frightening. Had they been exhilarating? We could never really tell. All Americans had said 'So-long', to a certain universe, by the end of the New Deal and World War II. In our acrylic new universe of the 1950's, of drive-in movies, teen bopping, and automobiles that had fins, we could never actually hope to really fathom where they had been.

## Prologue

A Broadway play came out in 1949, four years after the final end of World War II, (five years after freeing some Japanese Americans from their internment camps),and mostly a decade before bus, school, and lunch counter matters in Alabama and Mississippi. The musical play was '*South Pacific*', and it was in the style of the American that sang, joked, and chased women, right in the midst of heavy tasks of saving the world and dodging bullets.

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It was just the entertainment you would expect someone to come up with, after the War was over. But right in the middle of this story, which creators Rodgers (music) and Hammerstein (lyrics) assembled, was a major sub-plot, quite ahead of the times, and then again, somewhat in anticipation of these particular times. That plot dealt with the South Pacific skin color of a Frenchman's children by a deceased local mother, and the American nurse's discovery and response to that, in a family to which she was to become in turn, mother. She originally ran from the whole scene.

The play featured a song with the lyrics:

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“You have to be carefully taught, to hate and fear.  
You’ve got to be taught from year to year, it’s got to be drummed  
in your dear little ear...be afraid of people whose eyes are oddly made,  
whose skin is a dif’rent shade...

You’ve got to be taught  
before its too late, before you are six or seven or eight,  
to hate all the people your relatives hate,  
You’ve got to be carefully taught.”

In 1949, you did not inject such messages into happy American victory sagas. There were a lot of complaints about that song. The composers left it in. The nurse, the couple, the family of oddly eyes and dif’rent shade of skin, in this South Pacific story, were all reconciled in love, on ‘Some enchanted Evening’. Happy ending.

## 1.Laughing at Fate

They say that in smiling and laughing, and smoking his cigarettes through that long, high-brow, holder contraption, that it did not seem like he was taking seriously the situation they were all in. Unemployment had gone from 4 million to 8 million 1929 to 1933. 26,000 businesses had closed 1930; 32,000 in 1932! New housing dropped 95% over those years. By the time FDR would take office, half the mortgages in the country were in trouble.

The International Apples Association, with a surplus --- as nothing seemed to have its market anymore --- convinced people 1932, to buy a carton of apples, and sell them. So for two years, the Great Depression featured the unemployed trying their luck with this direct selling, outdoors... on city street corners. It became a photographic benchmark of the era...

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Once I built a railroad, made it run...  
Once I built a tower right up to the sun...  
Once in khaki suit, ah gee, we looked swell,  
full of that Yankee Doodly Dum...

Oh say, don’t you remember? They called me Al...

I'm your pal...  
Brother can you spare me a dime?'

Franklin Roosevelt had also asked for a campaign song, and accepted this one:

"So long said times  
Go along, bad times...

Happy days are here again  
The skies above are clear again,  
So let's sing a song of cheer again,  
Happy days are here again."

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...President Hoover, always imaginative and practical (but not able to come up with anything meaningfully helpful in this period of time 1930 – 1933), had suggested that the long wait until FDR assumed office in March, be dealt with, by President Hoover appointing FDR his Secretary of State, for the three months after the November election, which Hoover had lost to FDR.

It seemed the practical business mind of the failed leader --- who they used to call for earlier career feats 'Superman' --- himself, had an inkling that FDR was going to be the problem solver. Hoover might have well, he may have thought, take a little credit, for getting on with all that. FDR, surprised as everyone, at the offer, declined. Hoover had to vacate first...

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...Days of precise schedules in Peabody's Groton included athletics and a classical education. The athletic Franklin thrived in the regime. At Harvard he became editor of the Crimson. His one comment on his education was, "I took economics courses for four years, and everything I was taught was wrong." It is not known whether his opposition in his early government elected service years, were ever aware of that notion of his... or not. Mother moved to Boston to be close to her son. And mother Sara took Franklin to Germany to receive an audience with Kaiser Wilhelm II (before World War I, obviously, in another irony of this upbringing close to German affinity for this old Dutch family, as it was for the cousin Teddy Roosevelt's family)...

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...Franklin studied law at Columbia, did not complete, but practiced with a New York firm, until a Democrat Party leader, in New York, told him on a weekend at Hyde Park, that one person would not running for Legislature, and that *'The boys'* were willing to support Franklin. Franklin was very interested, but said he would have to ask his mother. The politician pointed to the other visitors at Hyde Park that day, "Frank, the men that are looking out the window...would *not* like to hear that you have to ask your mother."

The real reason that Franklin paused was that mother Sara had been topping up expenses that he and Eleanor were running up, and he figured that politics would cost. Franklin accepted, and, sure enough, they immediately asked for a Party donation...

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...Hyde Park estate would from that day, became a political location for the Democratic Party for almost half a century. Even Huey Long would visit, as we will see. Franklin, as a youth had always addressed everyone working at the Hyde Park estate, by their first name. He took that habit on the road, visiting farmers and teamsters in his area of New York, stopping his car to talk to almost everyone.

Barging into a tavern, one day, to meet the folks therein, he learned that he had accidentally crossed the state line into Connecticut, where they would not be voting for a New York legislator. He bought them all drinks anyway, and passed out his campaign buttons, and moved on (back across the state line). Franklin won, and he and Eleanor rented a house in New York capital Albany, at three times the rent, he earned a year as a state Congressman...

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...Franklin started in the New York state legislature with support for a bill to limit the workday for women and children. Woodrow Wilson would win the Presidency against Republican Teddy Roosevelt, two years later, when Teddy's Bull Moose Party split the Republicans, and Democrat Franklin Roosevelt was given the Assistant Secretary of Navy position (which cousin Teddy once held, long ago). In a time before the U.S. entry into World War I, this Assistant Navy Secretary got scolded by the Wilson administration for making a statement admitting that 13 of the battleships which the U.S. claimed as part of its naval force, had no sailor staffing whatsoever. Franklin made a visit to the U.K., where the Lord of the Admiralty was one young Winston Churchill. Churchill

refused to see this U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Winston was angry that the U.S. was not in the war against Germany...

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...The family independence of husband, and of wife, started early between the two Roosevelt cousins, Franklin complaining about a new article that gleaned some comments about Eleanor's pride in her thrifty management of their Washington quarters. But then the article noted, that in her thrift focus, Eleanor also had ten servants, which the press found amusing, and Franklin did not. About that time, Franklin took up with Lucy Mercer, hired as an assistant by Eleanor, and stayed in Washington for a summer, when the couple normally had gone to the Campobello Maine home, which mother Sara had bought for them. Lucy would soon leave this awkward affair with a public official, and marry a wealthy businessman...

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...In was at Campobello in 1921, that Franklin after swimming, would find that his legs were weak the next day, and paralyzed within a week. He had recently lost the Vice Presidency, in a campaign where Al Smith of New York lost the Presidency for the Democrats, to Republican Warren Harding. On losing in the big ticket in politics, Franklin went to work with a Wall Street firm of a friend. Al Smith went on to get the Governorship of New York.

Franklin now had to learn to walk on crutches. He designed his own wheelchair, which he could slide on to without help, and to which he added an ashtray. Franklin was determined to still be in control. Nancy Cook and Marion Dickerman showed up at Hyde Park to become close to Eleanor, and Franklin had a cottage built for the three of them...

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...The Democrats called Warm Springs. Franklin would not take the call. John Raskob, lead conservative of the Democrats had already learned why. It was the same reason Franklin was afraid to go into politics back at the beginning, when he had to consult with his mother. His finances were stretched. Raskob got someone to get through, "Damn Warm Springs. We'll take care if it for you." Raskob then handed the phone to Al Smith, who told Franklin to take the nomination. Franklin did not affirm. So Al Smith asked him if he were nominated, would he refuse. Franklin said nothing.

Al Smith said, Fine, and hung up. They nominated Franklin the next day. So twice, the rich kid, short of money, avoided politics, because it could only cost more. And twice, the Democratic Party found a way to force Franklin to run in politics. Al Smith lost the Presidency to Herbert Hoover. But Franklin won as Governor New York. They used automobiles for the tour, so Franklin would not have to stand...

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...As Governor of New York, Franklin started 'fireside chats' on the radio, in the late 1920's, as so many in New York now had home radios. A bodyguard of Eleanor became very close to her, so Franklin arranged a bedroom for him in the Governor's mansion in Albany, and Eleanor gave Missy LeHand the larger bedroom by Franklin, in a continuation of the practices of this particular family's unallied approach to its time's morays for marriage...

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...Senator Huey Long of Louisiana, used his outlandish techniques of persuasion on Southern groups, to support Roosevelt. (Satisfied he had had his way on that subject, Huey went to work on conservative Arkansas Democrats who could not believe a woman, Hattie Caraway, who had sat in for her deceased husband, in the balance of his Senate term, actually wanted to be reelected as Senator, herself. Huey convinced again. Hattie because the first woman Senator in U.S. history.)

And the new President FDR, would pick a woman as Secretary of Labor, the first lady to ever serve on the Cabinet of a President of the United States. (FDR did not stop at that landmark, but as a Democrat, would put three Republicans and a Catholic on the Cabinet, as well.)

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...Franklin, afraid his crippled status would harm him, stayed away from the Democrat Convention of 1932, then, finally, took a plane to Chicago, where James took his father on arm, to get him without crutches, to the podium. Winning the Democratic nomination, FDR carried 42 states against Herbert Hoover, in the coming election. He went sailing with the press taking pictures, showing his remarkable strength and ability (sitting) in a sailing craft. He would do this in the future, to convince the public he had no real disability. With son James, he walked to the podium to deliver his Inaugural Address.

That Inaugural Ball was actually the first since President Taft. Presidents Wilson, Harding, Coolidge did not have them...

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...In the campaign, FDR had indicated the way he wanted to go, with an economy that was very sick. He had stated an administration should play a major part in “the soberer, less dramatic business of administering resources and plants already in hand, to reestablish for markets for our surplus production of meeting the problem of under-consumption...” Now, in his Inaugural Speech, he gave people a slogan, that they would hold on to for a coming half century, “This great nation will endure as it had endured, will revive and will prosper...The only thing we *have to fear, is fear itself*, nameless unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyses needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.”

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...The proof of the power of this phrase, and the Inaugural Address, is in what happened next. One fifth of all the banks in the U.S. had now failed before Inauguration Day. In Chicago, communities had often put their deposits in ethnic banks. First Italian Bank, Slovak Papanek-Kovac State Bank, Czech Novak & Stieskal State Bank, Lithuanian Universal State Bank, all went out of their way to emphasize they were connected to an ethnic group. Blacks like to bank at Binga Street Bank, because that was one place where the tellers were black. *All* of these banks had gone out of business in the first years of the 1930's. All deposits were lost. Ten to twenty thousand banks a year had closed, for the past few years...

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...In 100 days after the Inaugural Speech, FDR and his team had enacted most all the legislation, and created all the Alphabet Agencies which would be forever connected with the name ‘New Deal’. Most important was the first act, the Emergency Bank Act. The Inauguration was March 4 (in those times before the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution). On March 9, Congress passed the Bank Act. That was amazing for speed, but more important, most people agree, was that FDR went on radio, March 5, the day after the Inauguration, and told the nation, he was closing all banks for four days. Then he extended the time five days until March 15, went again on radio in his first official Fireside Chat to the whole nation, and simply told everyone that the banks would open now, and that their money was safer in the banks, than ‘under the mattress’.

And they believed him!! No one had known, on March 5, that the banks were going to be closed, so the whole nation was without cash. Grocers took checks. Radio City Music Hall in New York took checks for tickets. Some communities 'printed money' (old Colonies' style) for the 10 days, and some individuals created their own money, for the period. When the banks opened, of course there should have been a run. (In fact 8 out of 10, were rated 'sound' by the Federal Government, although you wonder how they would do that in 10 days. 1000 that did not get the rating eventually were permanently closed.) There was no run. Everyone bought the Fireside Chat!

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...Any other President in any other times, would have been impeached, immediately, for such a stunt. But it worked, humor commentator Will Rogers elucidating the miracle, "the President explained the banking situation so well, that even bankers understood it". The bank closing Fireside Chat had been 15 minutes long. A Federal Deposit Insurance scheme enacted, soon insured all bank accounts by the Federal government, up to \$500. Most important for future soundness (until one un-enlightened 21<sup>st</sup> century Congress abrogated it) was passing of the Glass-Steagall Act, which asked deposit holding commercial banks, *not* to speculate, and to ask investment banks who did speculate, to hold private funds, not public deposits of average citizens...

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...FDR appointed Democratic Party contributor, Joseph Kennedy, father of John and Robert and Ted, as the first Commissioner of the SEC. Kennedy money had been helpful to the Democratic win in the election of 1932, which put FDR in power. People thought Kennedy wanted to go into politics, but Joseph issued a statement to clarify, "I have no political ambition for myself, or for my children." This statement would be looked at again, in a future time. Since Joseph Kennedy was known for some of the questionable market activities that led to the need for the SEC law, in the first place, FDR was questioned 'Why in the world him?', and his response was, "Maybe it takes a thief to catch a thief."

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...One other thing that the new Presidential incumbent did, that could only encourage his popularity and help insure Congress would continue to follow him, was to bring the proposal for the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the Constitution. That

Amendment abrogated the Eighteenth Amendment, and that Amendment had prohibited alcohol manufacture and sales.

Since states ratification (three quarters) was required, Franklin asked the brewery industry to produce a light alcohol (3.2%) for the near term. (Alcohol consumption in the U.S. would now actually drop, with the demise of the beloved illegal speakeasy. Some states would hold out for the dear old Eighteenth. They prohibited '*Vertical drinking*'. You could not drink standing, like at a bar. You had to sit down to order a beer.)

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...FDR's problem had been that there were Federal bank notes, which promised redemption in gold. Foreign banks were in desperation with the way the U.S. economy had gone in 1931 and 1932, and now demanded alarming gold redemptions. FDR's confiscation, paying \$20.67 an ounce (current market price), and later pegging at \$35.00 an ounce, was the greatest tax on the rich that any President had attempted. But in the new atmosphere, where the powerful could see the benefit from the desperation with banks, finally coming to an end, FDR got away with this with them, again without impeachment...

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...FDR quickly asked the commission to continue in his administration, and so Pecora continued to question the bankers of the yesteryear boom times about their activities. Carter Glass of the Glass-Steagall Bill, somewhere along the line, called the Commission a circus, and the boss of Ringling Brothers Circus, which was visiting New York, sent twenty-one inch tall Miss Lya Graf, to the hearings. She ended up with her photo around the country, when she asked Jack Morgan, son of J.P. Morgan, if she could sit on his lap, before he started to testify.

Unfortunately, Lya, on earning her money with Ringling Brothers, decided to return home to the Germany of the second major influencing person of this era, one who, like FDR, also took power in early 1933, Adolph Hitler. Hitler would now be in power, until the last weeks that FDR would be in power. Hitler's new Germany sent Lya to Auschwitz on her return, as an unnecessary person, where she died in a gas chamber. It was an early 1930's story, a personal story which reached beyond a time when American citizens were worried about their American economy, toward a time, when things even more horrible than a bad economy, would come to a world, which had let slip by, the dire situation Lya Graf faced, on returning to her particular European country, in the 1930's world of struggling economies...

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The Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) was instituted in the first 100 days, to reduce supply. The New Dealer associated with this Agency would be Henry Wallace, who would eventually become an FDR Vice President. The AAA paid farmers some \$100 million to reduce production... by one third. Ten million acres of cotton were plowed under. (Some farmers noticed their horses bulked when taken to the work; the horses knew they were not normally supposed to do that.) Six million piglets were killed.

The payments to the farmers were to be covered by a tax on agriculture produce. The food, particularly meat, taken, was distributed, mostly to urban poor. Then, a Farm Resettlement Administration, and later Farm Security Administration, started to resettle tenant farmers, but in fact few resettlements could be carried out, and it was in some cases too late, as farmers, who had been holding on with very low incomes, since 1930, had to let go. That Farm Security Agency at least maintained cleanliness in the migrant camps, on which the displaced farmers were dependent for years...

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...In the High Prairie, tractor tech indeed enabled vast acreage to be broken for grain furrows, which then could not hold against years of drought, and 800 million tons of soil would end up being thrown into the air, by 'dusters', and taken permanently far away in the early 1930's, as far as Washington and New York, and ships at sea, which all experienced black dust rain. FDR gave a Fireside Chat, saying that, "No blistering sun, no cracked earth, no burning wind, no grasshoppers are a permanent match for the indomitable American farmer." But in this case, the burning wind would be a match. It is an amazing ecological story, and one that is worth remembering in any time. Whole regions of towns and roads disappeared, under rolling dunes of earth.

A sign greeting New Dealer administration officials in Texas read, 'You gave us beer, now give us rain'. The New Deal offered \$16 for any remaining cattle that could stand up, and gave the meat to the cities' food relief programs. And TNT shells were fired at passing clouds (with no success.) As the dark soil rained down on the cities of the East, one proposal came for shipping junk cars to the High Prairies area to weight down the soil. FDR himself proposed planting rows of trees, a program which was tried in some areas. 6000 trees a day, were planted while the program went on, with the CCC, which we will come to, doing some of the work, and 40 million saplings were eventually planted...

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...There was no great success here, because Mother Nature, not economic factors, was the obstacle, but from proposing shipping trains of junk cars to weight the soil, to studying the Gobi Desert for tree survival ideas, the whole exercise shows good-hearted, hands-on sincerity, of the New Dealers, in trying to solve problems for average citizens who faced total desperation in their lives, in these times. In spite of that commitment, thousands of families (*all* considered for some reason to be *from Oklahoma*, by citizens further west), nevertheless had no alternative but to leave, to that west, with everything they had remaining in their cars... and to face signs put up by those locals, further west: '*No Okies here*'...

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...People with homes and farms were losing them, and that batch of Agencies was quickly, very quickly, thrown together to assist those owners. But the major problem was still there, that millions who had jobs in industry, had lost them. The Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) was formed in 1933 to *directly* give jobs, to the age group 17 to 35, as the mortgage Agencies with the farmers and

the city homeowners, directly gave new mortgages. Youths were given jobs in what became 2900 camps throughout the country, to plant trees, improve streams, build bridges and lookout towers, build erosion and flood control projects, etc.

Three million men were employed over the next nine years. They were paid \$30 a month, of which \$25 was *sent directly* to their families. Some \$3 billion in infra projects were completed. 200,000 African Americans were among workers (although segregated), as were Native Americans. Secretary of Labor Francis Perkins had to make an effort to get blacks on the employment CCC roles, in some Southern states. And many businesses complained that the CCC was taking away cheap labor opportunities they had as employers, and putting un-useful ideas in their heads. FDR liked to visit the CCC camps...

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...Much of the PWA and CWA work was eventually absorbed by the Works Public Administration (WPA) in 1935, which picked up the budget and planning from the 100-day initiated PWA. WPA ended up building or improving 500,000 miles of roads, 19,000 miles of water mains, 1000 airports and 1000 libraries, 36,000 schools. The construction of the PWA and WPA included the Triborough Bridge and Lincoln Tunnel in New York, Grand Coulee Dam in Washington State, the Key West Highway in Florida, the L.A. Aqueduct, the Bay Bridge in San Francisco, Boulder Dam on the Colorado River, the Washington Mall, and some 29,000 low cost houses. Harold Ickes was FDR's chief for the PWA and WPA.

It is no wonder every family of the post 1945 era, had some stories to tell about their involvement in the CCC or the PWA, or the CWA, or the WPA. A generation with *30% unemployment* in 1933, had been put to work. New Dealer Harry Hopkins had put it, "Give a man a dole, and it will save his body, but destroy his spirit. Give him a job, and you save both body and spirit."

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...One part of the WPA funding went to the arts, writing, the stage, art, and music. One young wannabe author, was given a contract by the WPA, to take a census of stray dogs, in Monterey California. That writer, John Steinbeck, also took notes on what was happening in California in the 1930's, and wrote (among other books from this future well-known author of Americana), 'The Grapes of Wrath', the story of the displaced dust bowl farmers making their way, away from the hell their farm country had become in the early 1930's, to scrape together new beginnings in California...

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...So most of these new Agencies had to do with jobs, but there was a category of Americans who were not surviving, because they were beyond their useful years. The Social Security Act was signed in 1935, and piloted by Labor Secretary Francis Perkins, who sent people to local chambers of commerce across the country to document the numbers of aged people who could not work. It was financed by a tax on the employer and employee. Teachers, nurses, farm employees, and domestics were not included in the first Bill, but later legislation quickly expanded rolls. The first Social Security check 00-000-01 was paid to a retired Vermont school teacher, for \$22.54 in 1940...

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...The other thing about the NIRA was its Agency head. While Rexford Tugwell and Harold Ickes, and Harry Hopkins, would become visible policy makers in the CWA, PWA, WPA construction projects, and Francis Perkins with the Social Security Project, the head for the National Recovery Administration was a boisterous, hard drinking general, Hugh Johnson. Johnson implemented 'codes' for all different industries, which did have a good effect for wages, hours, child labor, and general conduct toward employees, particularly in the textile industry, where women and children had no one to speak for them, locally, for a long time. But the codes were not practical, and could not be enforced. Johnson held parades featuring workers and the *NIRA Blue eagle*, which would appear on industries after they received their operational code.

General Hugh Johnson went on to devise codes for the dog food industry, pig nose-ring manufacturing industry, women's shoulder-pad manufacturing industry, burlesque strip tease industry, macaroni production industry, chicken slaughter industry (as we shall see), and thousands more. By the time the Supreme Court ruled the NIRA unconstitutional in 1935, this Agency was already shelved as impractical for American industry, and FDR fired Johnson from his think tank. But the standardization of children protection, and hours of employ, and minimum wage, had become national *as a result* of NIRA's work...

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...Henry Ford had always refused the code and refused the Blue eagle, "Hell, that Roosevelt buzzard...I wouldn't put it (*the Blue eagle*) on a car. Ford

refused the code, but did go along with the minimum wage and hours. And Ford, in fact, did go on, to accept an eagle, the 'German Eagle', for his factories in Germany in their participation in the National Socialist plans of the 1930's. The German Consul in Cleveland, Ohio, granted it for Adolf Hitler's Nazi government, to Ford in 1938...

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...All of these Agencies have been criticized as socialist interference, and in normal times, that would be correct. But in 1933, farmers were going militant, unemployment was reaching one third. One fifth of farms and over a million town and city homes, were being lost through foreclosure. And from 1933 to 1937, the U.S. economy grew at 8% a year, a growth record, coming out of a disaster, with growth increase numbers that would not be matched until the twenty first century China economy came along.

At the time, the defense of all this came from New Dealer Rexford Tugwell, "The gig is up. The cat is out of the bag. There is no invisible hand (*the Adam Smith Wealth of Nations thesis of 1776, which is still used today, and was quoted from time to time by a later Tugwell type economy planner, Alan Greenspan*). There never was. If the Depression had not taught us that, we are incapable of education." Well, neither Rexford Tugwell, nor Adam Smith (nor Alan Greenspan) seem to have the last word on that. Right into modern times, the debate about government hands-off and government management...continues... as it should...

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...FDR had not forsaken the world of practical balanced budgets. He tried to pay for the farm product costs with a sales tax. He cut Federal employee and Vet benefits, and the latter brought the second Veteran Bonus Army to Washington. President Herbert Hoover had sent General MacArthur to attack the one, which came in his administration. This time, they encamped on a piece of land that in fact would not too long in the future, need to be the site of the new Pentagon Building, and the administration *provided* food, a concert, tents, and talked to them.

In fact First Lady Eleanor spent time with them. One of the Vets summed up, "Hoover sent the army; Roosevelt sent his wife". In fact the original demand that the World War I bonus to be paid in (ironically) 1945, was rejected by Roosevelt, as a budget matter, as it had been by Hoover, but Congress 1936 would override the veto. What Roosevelt did on the spot in 1933, was to offer

them jobs in the CCC, or a free ride home. The Vet Army all took one or the other of the two options...

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...For the Democrats, 1936 was the year, in which African Americans and minority groups started to consider the Democratic Party theirs. African Americans who had always voted Republican, the Party of Lincoln, were specifically told, "Abraham Lincoln is not a candidate in the present campaign." A South Carolina Senator did walk out, when the Convention had a black minister call the morning invocation prayer. Walt Disney studios had put out the "Three Little Pigs" movie in 1933, and its theme "Whose afraid of the Big Bad Wolf" seemed to fit the times, for many. It became a Democratic Convention theme. The mood of the middle class was, that they were somehow all beating the bad times.

It was in the midst of the Democratic Convention, when the thing FDR most feared, happened again. One brace on his legs gave way, and Franklin went sprawling out across the floor, on his face, as he was in the process of greeting a crowd. Visibly unable to get himself up, "Clean me up", was his only comment to the shocked Secret Service people standing over him. It didn't seem to matter. FDR took every state, in the coming election, but Maine and Vermont. In his Inaugural speech, he *acknowledged the partialness* of the New Deal success with the economy, "I see one third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished..."

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...FDR had gone to the public to win, twice now, but in the states, 'boss politics' still ruled. It was the Democratic bosses, like Jakob Raskob, who had given FDR his start from New York, with the phone call to Warm Springs. In the thirties, some bosses, like Huey Long, who we visit shortly, learned to broadcast their value to the people, like Roosevelt was showing, on the radio. Boss Crump in Memphis, Tennessee built schools, hospitals, and taxed the unwilling utility companies and railroads. Crump also saw appreciative receivers of his state contracts, buy *all their insurance* from E.H. Crump and Co Insurance.

When a railroad failed on a promise, Crump went personally to tear up a mainline section, then placed a police detail there, to keep it that way, until the obligation to the state was met. When one of his men, who was copying down tombstone names to put on the election rosters (to vote for Crump of course), could not make out the name on one stone, Crump chastised, "We got to have

the name right. This has to be an honest election.” Crump helped the New Deal fight the utility companies in his area, who were trying to defeat the objectives of the TVA power Agency with the Tennessee River. The utility company lobbyists worked very hard against that with Congress...

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...It was not the case that no one was criticizing the New Deal. Reverend Charles Coughlin, a Catholic priest, broadcasted a syndicated program from Wisconsin, that claimed FDR was a Socialist or Communist, while he praised the work of Mussolini in Italy and Hitler in Germany. In the 1936 election Coughlin called FDR the anti-God. His radio broadcasts and newspaper continued until World War II. Up to 10% of Americans listened to many of Reverend Coughlin's shows: "The Bible commands increase and multiply, but Mr. Roosevelt says to destroy and devastate. Therefore I call him the anti-God!" Coughlin would support Huey Long's 'Share the Wealth' movement.

Dr. Robert Townsend from Long Beach, California, used his radio message to attack Roosevelt, and to give his own counter proposal. Dr. Townsend wanted to give \$200 a month to senior citizens. The money had to be spent within the month, each month. That would create consumer demand. The payments were to be paid for by a sales tax.

These opponents were not conservatives, which shows how radical thinking was becoming by the early 1930's, and gives some insight to why the New Dealers, and union leaders like John Lewis, to whom we come shortly, thought they had to move boldly, and also quickly, in the directions they did...

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...Huey built roads and bridges in his state, and developed a philosophy that was more radical than the New Deal would be, when it arrived, while fighting Standard Oil for a higher percentage of revenue for the state. Huey Long gained some national recognition, when met the Consul from the Third Reich Germany, who had sailed a ship into New Orleans harbor in 1935. Huey met him in his pajamas, on a Sunday morning, saying afterward, that the only problem he saw with that, was that his voter base at home may leave him on learning that he slept in pajamas. (The Consul did complain officially that the pajamas were an insult to the Reich, and Huey did respond by going to the Consulate's ship in pin-stripes.)

That was the second time, Huey's attire crossed into politics. Before the 1932 election, he had come with delegation from the South, to Hyde Park wearing a

very loud suit. FDR's mother, Sara, mistress of Hyde Park asked, a bit too audibly, "Who is that awful man with Franklin?" Huey at the end of the meeting mentioned to his staff, a bit too audibly, "I feel sorry for him. Roosevelt's got more sons o'bitches in his family, than I do in mine.")

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...Supporting FDR, Huey again gained national recognition in the first FDR administration, for a recipe controversy over Louisiana 'Potlicker' (which used the juice left from cooking vegetables) to dunk 'Cornpone'(which in turn is cornmeal patties). Governor Long published his approach to 'Potlicker', and the Editor of the Atlanta Constitution wrote an article, pointing out that the Governor did not understand this dish, because he was not 'crumbling' the cornpone. The Governor wrote back to the lady, who he called 'Editor of the Potlicker and Cornpone Department', describing her as an honest person, but obviously 'ignorant of the finer arts of the subject.'

The editor lady wrote back again, that obviously the Governor actually crumbled the cornpone in private... when no one was looking. Then, they tried to get Emily Post involved. Emily had become in the 1920's the country's best known writer on etiquette, publishing several books on the subject. Emily declined to arbitrate on crumbling cornpone, but the White House got involved. FDR, who had been a part-time citizen of the South in his Warm Springs involvement, volunteered that the dunking v crumbling matter could be taken up in the next Democratic Convention...

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## 2. Defeats, Victories, Clouds

It was the year before the 1936 election that the Supreme Court entered the political arguments about the New Deal. Two Jewish immigrants to New York City operated a chicken slaughter house in Brooklyn. As we saw, the National Industrial Recovery Act laws of General Hugh Johnson had codes for everything. The chicken slaughterhouse code featured a ruling that the vendor needed to take the first chicken that showed up at the edge of the cage, to present to whatever present buyer was there. The immigrants, the Schechter brothers, said they didn't know anything about 'codes', and their operation was fined for some twenty violations, including the health of the chickens. Their lawyer went to court, and the case ended up with the Supreme Court, which finally had an opportunity to bring its opinions to bear on the now three year old New Deal.

This 'Sick Chicken' case was used to find the NIRA, which created the industrial codes, unconstitutional. It was a bad Agency, whose work was being wound down, through general complaints of the small business community. The Four Horsemen, who had kept the segregation practices safe from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments of the Constitution, Sutherland, van Devanter, McReynolds, and Butler, got the support of two other Justices to say that the Schechter's were innocent, because the NIRA was unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court went on, to strike down the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, that was giving the farm price support, as well as the Coal Mining Act, the Federal Farm Bankruptcy Act, and a New York law based on the NIRA guidelines which had provided a minimum wage for women and children. The Four Horsemen would often have one car pick them up and drive them to the Court, so they could coordinate, before the day's proceedings...

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...FDR's response was, "Does this mean that the United States government has no control over an economic problem?" J.P. Morgan from his grave, may have jibed back at FDR, "Of course not...unless I am visiting the White House, when that event is taking place." Justice Cardozo in his dissents to these Supreme Court rulings also chimed in, "The Supreme Court was stripping Congress of authority given to it by the Constitution." The issue to those on FDR's side, was, once again in U.S. history, whether the Supreme Court could overrule Congress in commercial matters.

This argument had been in operation since the Court overruled the railroad regulation attempts on the 1800's Congresses. It is an argument that would continue, into the twenty-first century for this Republic, as it should. Of course, the situation for the average citizen inside the Great Depression presented its own point of view, with no little poignancy. And of course, FDR's approach to this issue would turn out to be radical...

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...So, FDR thought he could get Congress to propose that there should be an additional Justice appointed for every Justice sitting, who was over 70 years of age. This was obviously in response to the Supreme Court's disallowing the New Deal's programs. FDR said he wanted to "save our National Constitution from the hardening of the judicial arteries." Congress and the public were not happy about this. The bill got nowhere.

But then, soon enough, the Supreme Court reversed its denial of state laws for women and children workers. The TVA was brought to them to declare it unconstitutional. They did not. Likewise, with the Social Security Act, they refused to declare it unconstitutional, when the case was brought. Then, the Supreme Court okay'd the farm mortgage assistance. In fact, although the Four Horsemen were there for these decisions, the Court would see retirements and deaths, in the coming years, to the point where FDR would be appointing seven of the nine, by 1941...

\*\*

...FDR did not really break with the philosophy of all the Presidents before. Like them, he wanted a balanced budget. He had run up debt in his first administration, Keynesian style, with public projects giving direct employment. But by 1937 employment had increased every year for five years, and unemployment was down to 5 million, from 11.7 million when he took office.

His Alphabet Agencies projects had much to do with that, and Congress had actually passed the Vet bonuses, over FDR's veto, in the year after the Bonus Army came and went in Washington. It was not clear where the *real economy* actually was. But the New Dealers decided *it was time* to start cutting expenditures. They did, and manufacturing over the 1937 year fell dramatically. The DJIA which been at 34, in 1933, and had risen to 190 in 1937, dropped to 115. Employment fell.

This is the place where the argument starts, as to whether FDR did not do enough, to allow industry to take over the economy. The New Deal in the years 1933 to 1936 had brought employment back. The über-control of the NIRA had been pushed back in 1935, as impractical, about the same time that the Supreme Court ruled that Agency unconstitutional...

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FDR did not --- at this very crucial moment in his New Deal run --- reach out a hand to business, nor did they to reach him, as his lessening popularity over the Supreme Court Justice count, and his attempts to interfere in state politics in anticipation of the midterm elections of 1938, gave Republicans *the thought* that they could replace him, in 1940 elections.

When Franklin was five years old, mother Sara took him to visit Cousin Teddy Roosevelt. Teddy, already a political man, made a strange statement to the young Franklin, for some reason, "I hope you will never be President", and then immediately asked Franklin what powers he would want as President. The five year old answered, "Plenty". President Teddy had dealt with Congress through constant long, thought-out, messages. President FDR would write very terse ones to them. He knew the public was with him, most of the time. Congress (with its majorities in the hands of his Democratic Party) had to follow, in FDR's opinion...

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...The Fireside Chats on radio had done that. He knew he could generate letters and telegrams toward Congress with his radio talks. Radio was still new enough, that people would be moved by the President coming into their living rooms...directly. FDR in arguing with Congressmen and Senators at the White House, would sometimes simply look at the microphone in his office, that would be used in the Fireside Chats. The visitors would understand the message. This was a bit high-handed, and the man confined to the wheelchair, powerless in every day activity, had become accustomed to power with his public. Naturally, this made some legislators unhappy...

\*\*

...Lewis got that going inside the *American Federation of Labor*, AFL, but was soon expelled, as his focus was to unionize 400,000 steelworkers across the nation, with *no thought to skilled labor*. Lewis wanted everyone, women, blacks, minorities, labor in general to be in a union organization. The result was the *Congress of Industrial Organizations*, in 1938. As unions were supported by new Federal laws of the New Deal, industry had also decided, along the way, to organize a little better on strike breaking. People like Pearl Berghoff, organized small armed armies to break strikes, and Pinkerton Security picked up major contracts to infiltrate spies into union meetings.

So, in 1936, strikers started the *sit-down* strike, where they went to work, and didn't work. When GM was faced with such a strike in the winter of 1936 by 140,000 workers, they turned off the heat and electricity, and prevented food from being sent in. That plant was in Michigan, and the Governor, Frank Murphy planned to call in the National Guard, but John Lewis visited him first.

Lewis told him that he was personally going to the plant, open a window, and stand to be shot at first. Then Lewis told Governor Murphy, that as he dropped, the Governor's long gone grandfather would be saying to the Governor, "Frank, are you sure you are doing the right thing?" Lewis knew the Governor's grandfather, Irish, had been hung by the British in one of the Irish rebellions. The Governor decided not to call in the National Guard. GM after 44 days of the sit-down, negotiated...

\*\*

...One aspect of the slow recovery of business 1933 to 1937, then the drop in 1937, then the slow recovery again, was that the unionization was putting slightly better incomes into the pockets of those families that did have jobs. Lewis settled with the steel industry for an average \$369 a year. John Lewis always claimed that his work in getting new wages, and new safety, was the real bastion for his country, *against* Socialism and Communism...

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...Unionization by the CIO, without reference to skill, helped blacks and minorities. FDR appointed the first black judge to a Federal Court, but wife Eleanor was real the leader here. She went to a NAACP convention, and when visiting a Birmingham, Alabama conference that was segregated, placed her chair between the two groups in the congregation, not on one side or the other.

In 1939, famous black concert singer Marion Anderson, was denied use of the 'Daughters of the American Revolution' owned Convention Centre in Washington D.C. Eleanor went to Franklin, and Franklin arranged for the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Mall to be the site of what became a famous outdoor concert. Being outdoor, it was free, which attracted a tremendous crowd...

\*\*

...All entertainment in the 1930's trended toward the less costly. One third of movie houses closed between 1930 and 1933, because people did not have the 25 cents. Theatres dropped the prices, and offered double features and cartoons. (Color was experimented with in Hollywood, but was another cost feature.) Garden Clubs appeared everywhere, as this was practical low cost enjoyment, which produced vegetables or flowers. Sears catalogue sold a 'canned garden', where you laid out a white paper on the patch of ground, then cut holes and planted seeds, by numbers...

\*\*

...It was said that 'Crime doesn't pay, except at the box office', as a result of the success of counter-culture crime figure movie scripts, played by James Cagney and Edward G Robinson. A Swede, Warner Orland developed a series of crime-solving movies featuring a Californian Chinese character, Charlie Chan. The public did not find it strange that a Swede was creating a Chinese character, through sixteen movies. Ginger Rodgers and Fred Astaire created a dance duo for musical movies, the Marx Brothers brought slap-stick comedy. Mae West re-introduced breast culture, something the twenties, had put aside, and Jean Harlow brought the bleach blond tradition to the movie screen.

It was in this decade that the very first Dracula and Frankenstein movies came out. And at the end of the decade, in 1939, the Wizard of Oz debuted, a film partly in color. And 1939 was the year of the movie 'Gone with the Wind', produced for \$3.8 million, with a box office take of \$380 million...

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...As usual, there was close watch on Hollywood productions. In 1934, Catholic bishops formed to create the National League of Decency, to campaign against scripts with gangster victories and Mae West innuendo's, long kisses, double beds, the words 'damn' and 'hell', and nude babies. The 'kid star' movies of Shirley Temple and Mickey Rooney passed. Movie titles like

'Infidelity' were changed to 'Fidelity' and 'Good Girls Go to Paris, Too' was changed to 'Good Girls Go to Paris'...

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...Dance marathons were back again, for the same reasons. Couples could earn \$20 to \$30 a week, keeping each other from falling down, while they got up to eight free meals a day. The record was made by a sister of the era's famous stripper, Gipsy Rose Lee, at 3600 hours (with 10 minute breaks each hour). It is one sports record from the 1930's, that has never been broken. Both sisters had marathon energy...

\*\*

..Entertainment at home had more options now. Home radios increased from 14 to 44 million in the decade. The record industry declined from \$44 million in sales to \$5 million by 1933, as you had to buy the vinyl disks. Victor Company came out with the 78 rpm long playing record for long listening, but a radio gave you music free. Jazz merged into 'Swing' with Count Basie, Benny Goodman, Duke Ellington, Dorsey Brothers big bands, coming on the radio with regular programs. Soft voice crooning, which Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra perfected, came from the necessity of the microphone tech. You *had to* sing softly, and *directly*, into the mike, or else you would get distortion. Billy Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald were discovered in this time...

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...The most popular radio program was Amos and Andy, two whites creating a story line for two black characters. Again, no one commented that there would be anything unusual about this, except the NAACP. Amos and Andy was a nightly show, and became so popular, that movie houses stopped their movies, to air the show at night, and department stores aired the show. Edgar Bergen, ventriloquist, had basically a stage show, with his puppet, Charlie McCarthy, that you would think would stay on stage. But Bergen made such a personality out of Charlie's wit, that he ended up on radio, which didn't really need ventriloquism. Puppet 'Charlie', famous, was to go on to shake hands with many of the era, from the King of Sweden, to Winston Churchill...

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...It was Halloween, 1938, when writer and producers Orson Welles took the English author, H.G. Wells book, 'War of Worlds', and made it into a radio show. Although he warned the audience at the intro, that it was fiction, and the

show had regular commercial breaks, it was a real enough presentation of an invasion of New Jersey and New York by Martians, that people across the country ran out in the street screaming. This is the one time in radio/(television) history that the interaction went in this manner, with a fiction story.

When the news came by radio, in the middle of a future night to New York City, telling of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, in an early Honolulu morning Hawaii time, December 7, 1941, one New York commentator said, “That is just another crazy Orson Welles show.”

\*\*

...Blondie and Dagwood joined newspaper cartoons. Designed in 1930 with Dagwood rich and Blondie a flapper, creator Chic Young soon saw those times were gone forever, and quickly had Dagwood lose his money, and Blondie stay with him anyway...becoming an average housewife... coping. The luxury of the ‘Dagwood sandwich’, however, stayed with the comic strip, as the family became middle class. The thirties saw the arrival of Dick Tracy, Buck Rogers, Flash Gordon, and Little Orphan Annie, to the comic pages.

Santa Clause got his profile for their times through Coca Cola designing one Santa, merry and fat, for a seasonal ad. Other designers picked up on that, and Santa still looks like that, today. Walt Disney found that his Mouse endeared people, when they saw him on the screen. The Disney Company started putting Mickey’s image on many different things, and people bought...

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...Burma Shave, shaving cream, went to the new state highways, with a series of signboards that eventually spelled out a message. You do not get much depth of literary delivery, when only one part of each sentence shows up (at originally 100 paces distance) as you drive: “He had the ring ----- She had the flat ----- But she felt his chin ----- And that was that ----- Burma Shave”. That particular message of love lost --- because he didn’t shave properly --- was one of hundreds the company put up, on what would become, by 1938, 700 messages to drivers on roads on 40,000 signs. The 100 pace distance between each sign with its part of the story had to be increased, when cars and roads permitted faster passage. Some of the signs would bring social CSR messages: “Past Schoolhouses ---- Take it Slow ---- Let the Little Shavers ---- Grow ---- Burma Shave.”

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...‘Product placement’ within stores, developed as marketing science. Safeway copied the Kroger’s big suburban parking lot model, as did Big Bear in California. A & P opened self-service meat counters. In 1938, Fred Lazarus of Federated Department Stores, convinced FDR to make Thanksgiving *official*, and place it on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of November. Why? To create a marked time of Christmas gift buying; to create ‘Black Friday’...

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...With the larger stores you drove to, there would be no more talking to the clerk behind the counter about this or that product. So, you read the labels, and labelling suddenly became more important. Kallet and Schlink wrote ‘100,000,000 Guinea Pigs’, in 1933, bringing a new chapter to consumer awareness, with some cynicism. The book advocated that the correct label for ‘pineapple pie’ should say, “cornstarch-filled, glucose-sweetened pie made with sub-standard canned pineapple, artificial lemon flavor, and artificial coal tar color.”

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...Generally, in the thirties, a civil service employee earned \$1,200 a year, a coal miner \$ 723 a year. Eggs cost 28 cents a dozen, a diner dinner 75 cents, gasoline 18 cents a gallon, autos \$585, six room houses \$2,800, a Westchester, New York mansion, \$17,000, airfare New York to Chicago \$86, and a lady’s dress \$1.95.

For those ladies’ dresses, small waists and emphasized busts replaced the reverse fashion of the 1920’s. But knees disappeared, as skirts became longer. For saving money, an ever present topic, wraparound dresses, one size fits all, came out. You could wear the inside out, when the outside was dirty or worn: Buy 2 wraparounds for 98 cents. Everyone started wearing blue jeans, which was earlier a farm or factory work clothing...

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...In sport, baseball attendance was down, and stars Joe DiMaggio, Dizzy Dean, and Lou Gehrig held their fans and salaries, but most players worked for a lot less. When radio came, the team owners feared it, as taking away ticket purchasers. Sport radio was born, by having the game re-enacted in a studio, with telephones keeping the announcer going, as spotters at the games called in the action...somewhat delayed of course...

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...The Olympics would give a glimpse of a world that was going wrong, partly because of wrongs that were going unaddressed. The Olympics location was Nazi Germany's Berlin. Jewish participants were banned, and the U.S. simply complied. Jesse Owens took gold four times in track events. He was black. Later, much was made of an African American's victory in a homeland of racist theories, but Jesse, in Berlin, stayed in the same accommodation as his fellow whites from the U.S., whereas when he got home, he had to ride a freight elevator to get into the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, in New York, for his honor ceremony...

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...What Americans might have pondered at the time, as well, as the importance to their future of the visits of American corporate representatives, to Hitler's box at the Olympics. Hitler had order GM (Opel Germany) and Ford to retool from passenger to war vehicles the year before 1936. The American corporations complied without discussion, in Germany, or, at home. (Senator Nye in a future Congressional committee after World War II, would ask, "Do you mean to say that through all of the negotiations you hadn't the ghost of an idea that Germany was buying for military purposes??")

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...The other monument of the decade was the Mount Rushmore. South Dakota historian, Doane Robinson had wanted a four face sculpture, to promote Dakota tourism: Lewis and Clark explorers, Buffalo Bill Cody, and Red Cloud. His sculpture contractor, Gutzon Borglum, thought the choices should be American Presidents, to get better support for the project. Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Teddy Roosevelt as we see them, were finished by 1939, but funding ran out, and they were stopped with only the heads completed. They remain that way today...

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...J Edgar Hoover had made his reputation in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, through investigative systems to counter the size of the country. In the 1930's, he would create a 3 million fingerprint data base. He also created a military atmosphere of discipline for FBI agents. As a man who wanted nothing to do with women, one of his agents was forced to resign for deliberately singing about women, outside the FBI headquarters in Washington DC, at lunch break. When Machine Gun Kelly's group was busted, Hoover's

agents heard them shout, “G-men, Don’t shoot.” Taken into custody, the perpetrators were asked what ‘G men’ meant, and the FBI started referring to themselves, thusly. And Hollywood made a ‘G-men’ movie with James Cagney...

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...All World’s Fair have future themes. In 1939, this was General Motors’ ‘World of Tomorrow’ pavilion. It showed the ‘*Future world of 1960*’, to visitors who sat on moving chairs that took them between exhibits with loudspeakers. The pavilion showed a future, where highways would have cars all automatically controlled, without driver input, dams that would end all world floods, a cure for cancer, lotions that would give women perfect skin at seventy-five years of age... all that was coming...by 1960...

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...Teddy Roosevelt had his ‘Great White Fleet’ concept of showing the Euro powers that peace was the only way, as the U.S. had arrived as a military power. This was in 1907 - 1908, so military might meant *navy*, as it had for two hundred years of world history. Some of the White Fleet ships were very old, and some had to be fitted with wooden artillery, painted, to look good. Of course, in the American way, the might the fleet was packing to deliver to the world, was 15,000 pounds of chocolate bonbons, 60 grand pianos, and for some reason, 60 barber chairs.

Japan asked to be included as a stop, and the fleet arrived in Tokyo harbor in October 1908, where Japanese school children sang Yankee Doodle Dandy, and waved American flags. An arch set up as part of the ceremony caught fire, and seeing the Japanese flag at the top, about to be burned, three U.S. sailors quickly climbed the other side of the burning arch, and retrieved the Rising Sun flag, to safety, and to the cheers of all...

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...During the 1908 visit, a young Navy Ensign Halsey (to whom we will come later) participated in showing the Japanese naval delegation, including an Admiral Togo, who spoke English, the triple blanket toss tradition of the U.S. Navy. An older Admiral Halsey would comment in a distant year, “If we had known, we would not have caught him... on the third toss.” 1908 was the year that the American fleet *picked its main base* of operation for the Pacific Ocean: Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii...

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...‘Warships’ meant *battleships*. No one thought the *aircraft carrier* was important enough to sign a treaty about. *General Billy Mitchel*, World War I flying hero, proved in 1925, that aircraft could sink big ships, but then got into such a fight with his bosses on just that subject, that he was court-marshalled and ended up *Colonel Billy Mitchell*...

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...The U.S. took more notice of this, than it did of the real colonial empire Euro’s actions in the early twentieth century, U.S. Secretary of State Stimson, stating that a position should be taken against the Japan aggression in Manchuria. But his President, Herbert Hoover, countered, “You will have us in a war with Japan!”

Hoover, from his businessman career, knew more about China and Japan, than probably anyone in the State Department, and his inkling was definitely correct, but the suspicion, looking back at this period, is that any stance against aggression early, may have stopped the events, that would rather directly lead to a War much greater than ‘The Great War’, that they all asserted had ended such atrocities of mutual history.

That exchange happened between Stimson and President Hoover in 1931 – 1932. In the 1930’s in contravention to the disarmament agreements of all powers, Hitler’s Reich was now building war implements. Of all countries, that international diplomacy may have been putting pressure on, not to do that, you would think Germany would be at the top of the list. And it cannot be said it was a secret. As mentioned, Ford and General Motors German plants switched to military vehicle production in the mid-1930’s...

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...General Motors Opel began making the JU 88 Junker aircraft that would be used by 1940 against London, in the Battle of Britain. Standard Oil joined with AG Farben to develop synthetic rubber, for military use, in the 1930’s. IBM and founder Thomas Watson, developed with Germany’s Delmag company, a punch card tech, which enabled a total census, which in turn, assisted the Reich to find out the identity and location of all Jewish citizens. (Watson also accepted the German Eagle, in 1937.)

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...The first event was not from Germany or Japan. It was from Italy, where Dictator Mussolini had taken over, with the political philosophy that he called Fascism. Italy had occupied Somalia as a colony. Now Italy attacked Ethiopia, who like Italy, was a member of the League of Nations. France now perhaps unwittingly gave a signal to the world that aggression was okay, even for a League nation against another, as they actually signed a treaty with Italy, *endorsing* the action. Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie, said to the League of Nations, "It is us today; it will be you, tomorrow." Nobody thought that made any sense.

Britain's Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain also gave approval to Italy, while Winston Churchill, stated his objection to that British and French government policy, "They are feeding the crocodiles." Japan, who resigned from the League in 1933, was careful to also okay with Italy, Mussolini's aggression. It was 1935...

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...Now, in 1937, Japan created an incident at Marco Polo Bridge, and began their eight year war against China. The bombing of Shanghai, and Rape of Nanjing would follow in 1937. Proud of their merciless treatment of the Chinese, the Japanese soldiers would actually take pictures to send home, having them developed in Chinese shops. The shopkeepers would get copies of those pictures quickly off to Chinese families overseas, particularly in the U.S. Some of those pictures would become famous as part of World War II collections, as mothers in Nanjing would see their children beheaded by Japanese soldiers, randomly. But none of the pictures would get active discussion in the U.S. ...in 1937...

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...Russia now also moved in a manner that *should have been* remembered at the end of the coming War, by immediately taking over Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania. Finland fought back, and asked the U.S. for a loan of arms. The U.S. said no, and it still took 27 Soviet divisions to subdue Finland. Finland was the only country that had paid its World War I debts to the U.S. The Allies still owed the U.S. \$22 billion from World War I. It would never be repaid...

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...A passenger ship was sunk by U-boot submarines, and Hitler correctly remembered that that was exactly got the U.S. into World War I against Germany, and instructed no passenger sinking's. The U.S. of course was now

called on by Britain and the French government in exile for help, and some U.S. Congressmen correctly remembered that the last time, World War I, that the U.S. was never paid back its war armament loans, and was even dubbed 'Uncle Shylock' at the Great War Versailles peace conference...

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...So where was the U.S. during all this 1938 to 1940 activity? The U.S. army in 1939 had some 5 divisions of 80,000 men. It was the sixteenth largest army in the world. (Germany had 110 divisions of some 2 million.) General Douglas MacArthur and General George Patton had seen action in World War I, (the two of them standing together in one front line conversation, equally showing no notice, in a location, where enemy bullets were in fact ricocheting around, until Patton winced.)

Those two soon-to-be famous generals had been educated for war, at a West Point that had no courses in tanks, air offense, barb wire, pill box attacks, or anything that Hitler was throwing at the Allies. Eisenhower had earlier run a tank training school, by Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, for 10,000 men, with no tanks, and no manuals, putting 30 caliber machine guns on truck beds, and pretending.

Major Eisenhower had served in the 1930's under General MacArthur, in the Philippines, in the exercise to train a Philippine army, and the two had discussed the theories of *amphibious landings*. The two had agreed in their discussions, that such amphibious assaults on beaches would best be avoided, as unlikely successful attack methods. And these very two military men would both --- within ten years of that conversation --- be leading the largest amphibious landings in the history of warfare... and amphibious landings would, it turns out, be successful methods of attack...

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...The Neutrality Acts of 1936 and 1937 reaffirmed the U.S. position. 'Belligerents' under the act included the aggressor and also *those aggressed against*. Civil wars were exempted, so when Franco began his Fascist Party war in Spain, American corporations, Ford, Standard Oil, General Motors, were able to extend credit to him, of \$100 million in support through to 1939, when, with the additional assistance of Italy and Germany, Franco crushed the opposition, and established his Fascist government in Spain. Meanwhile nothing, under Nye's Neutralist Acts, would be done for Ethiopia 1935, the Rhineland occupation by Hitler 1936, China 1937, Czechoslovakia 1938, Poland 1939. 'All belligerents' meant *both* sides.

There was no Neutrality Act of 1940, because Hitler was occupying France, and starting to bomb London. In 1937, FDR asked for ‘quarantine’ of aggressors, at the time when he wrote to Hitler and Mussolini, and said to Americans, “Let no one imagine that America will escape, that America will expect mercy, that this Western Hemisphere will *not* be attacked.” The President had made up his mind in 1937 about the ways things would go, but Congress would be passing Neutrality Acts through 1939. In 1939, FDR took a stand against the Neutrality Act of 1939, but it passed...

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...What FDR did, was to avoid labeling the Japanese attack on China, a ‘war’, so that supplies could be sent to Chiang Kai-Shek’s defense against Japan in western China to which he had been driven. The supplies were delivered through Burma roads from the west, in 1938. Japan had accidentally bombed the USS Panay in the Yangzi River, but quickly gave \$2 million in reparations and apologies, so there was no incident to justify helping China, but FDR could help Chiang Kai-Shek, because of U.S. sympathy for China, after the *photos* of the Rape of Nanjing.

Bernard Baruch had his own sympathy matter to motivate, after the Germany ‘Kristallnacht’ (Breaking Glass) when Jewish businesses and synagogues were destroyed by Hitler’s Reich inside Germany, and citizenship was taken from Jews. Jews could leave their country, but could not take their bank accounts. Congress did respond to this, by allowing German Jews visiting the U.S., to extend their visa’s. Baruch and others evidently did not know exactly what was going on inside the concentration camps. Some in Congress called Baruch a Jewish alarmist, for his pleas for arms to Britain...

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...Churchill knew he had to wait a while, because there was a Presidential election in November 1940. FDR was considering not running. The Republicans remained isolationist, even as the bombs fell on Britain. FDR sent notice to his Democratic Convention that he was not seeking reelection. The Convention went into an uproar, and in the end, convinced FDR to run. He won, and Churchill already knew Baruch was talking of ‘lending’ Britain arms.

Because of the ongoing the Battle of Britain in late 1940, Congress was willing to listen after the election, and FDR called for aircraft, truck, and artillery production. The CCC had years ago, raided the army depots for shovels and trucks and all the things produced for the War to End all Wars, for their dam,

embankment, highway, and forest projects. Now the nation was thinking about military arms to use for a real war. By May 1941, FDR was able to get a \$37 billion defense budget. Many in Washington obviously thought something was coming their way...

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...But Churchill could not wait for that, with the German siege. 1.2 million tons of their supply ships had been reduced to 750,000 tons in months by the German U-Boot submarines. Churchill had written a 4000 word appeal to FDR. FDR quickly got 50 old naval ships 'lent' to Britain in return for the British bases in Newfoundland, and the Bahamas. FDR would say to Congress that this was like *lending a garden hose to a neighbor* whose house was burning. London was burning, but armaments lent in war, are generally, not returned, and that would certainly be the case, this time....

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...By March of 1941, Britain had won its airborne Battle of Britain, and FDR and Congress had agreed on the Lend-Lease Act, which would ship all manner of goods to the U.K., and shortly to Russia. Britain had brought some 1400 Spitfire and Hurricane planes to the air to meet Herman Goering's air force of 2600 Messerschmitt's. But the British had radar to tell them where to head, so over two months, by October 1940, Goering had only 1700 planes left, and Hitler called off the attack. He needed the planes for Russia...

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...FDR had made a speech in December 1940, about *arsenal of democracy*, "We must be the great arsenal of democracy...we must apply ourselves to our task with the same resolution, the same sense of urgency, the same spirit of patriotism and sacrifice as we would show *were we at war*..." We do not know whether he felt the U.S. production from this point on, was actually because the U.S. *was* eventually going to be *at war*, or whether he actually thought the U.S. could remain the arsenal and remain out of the war. In any case, expenditure started that would reach \$50 billion, by the time it was all over in 1945.

In July 1941, Churchill secretly made his way to Newfoundland, and FDR went on a cruise for a week on the Presidential yacht, but immediately transferred to a naval ship that would take him to Churchill, while the Presidential yacht cruised back and forth, off Massachusetts. Both chiefs would have been a priority of the U-boats, if it had been known by Germany, they were to meet.

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...As a part of that, the U.S. started to take actions of intelligence to help the British, moving the U.S. away from a Neutrality Act position. A U.S. destroyer in late 1941 reported a U-Boot surfacing to the British. British planes attacked the U-Boot, and missed. The U-Boot then torpedoed the U.S. destroyer, and missed. The U.S. destroyer then dropped depth charges on the U-Boot, and missed. Everyone went home that day, but the U.S. had a pretext of being fired upon, and used that, to start escorting cargo ships to Britain.

Stalin, like FDR, had been calculating where Hitler's war was really going to end up, and had almost 360 divisions of men, if not equipment, ready by 1941. In October, Hitler's forces were within forty miles of Moscow, but the Russian winter came early. Russia had lost 1800 aircraft the first day, 800, the second. But it was the end of the Germany victories in this War, victories that had been proceeding since 1936, when Hitler re-took the Rhineland, without a shot...

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...In South America, in 1941, the U.S. saw Germany trying to win allies. So, in a more natural of peacetime style of American offensive, FDR sent a goodwill tour of movie stars Douglas Fairbanks and Dorothy Lamour, and the Italian-American opponent of Mussolini, orchestra director Oscar Toscanini, to tour South America. Meanwhile, Disney studios had a South American parrot, José, outwit Donald Duck. For all of this, so far, the U.S. was not in World War II. It was mid-1941.

### **3. December 1941**

You wonder what FDR and members of Congress thought the U.S.' role in what had become an immense World War, would be, in the early winter of 1941, as news came in about Germany's army in Russia. The answer to that, was coming --- in the planning rooms of the Japanese navy --- but Japan's government had not finally decided to execute that planning, in October of 1941. The world still had a few options, particularly since Britain had won the Battle of Britain over London.

In the Philippines, General MacArthur had been training a Philippine army. With Korea and Formosa, having both been Japanese colonies for a long time, and with the Manchuria part of China, becoming a colony, in 1931, and then with Japan, 1937, declaring intention to take over all China, it was natural for

anyone in the Philippines to have some concern about Japanese imperialism, particularly after the barbarism of the attack on China, against Chinese civilians.

MacArthur had B-17 bombers stationed by Manila, and had stated to Washington, after 1937, that they could bomb Tokyo, then continue to land in the Russian city of Vladivostok, in their range. The President of the Philippines --- not so sure of MacArthur's defense plan for the Philippines --- had flown to Tokyo, to suggest the Philippines would not necessarily defend itself, but could 'cooperate' with Japan. Japan was evidently not responsive; they knew the country was still a U.S. colony. (President Quezon later, when the war began, said he only realized at that point, that his gardener was actually a Japanese major, his masseur, a Japanese colonel.) Quezon would flee to the U.S. during the War, and die there...

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...As to awareness of America's future involvement, Major Eisenhower, when he heard of Hitler's assault on Poland in September of 1939, ran to General MacArthur's residence in the Manila Hotel, and stated that event alone, meant a world war that would involve the U.S., insisting to return to the U.S. His request was granted. (Otherwise, both most important generals of the coming War, would both have been pinned down in Manila, in December 1941.)

\*\*

...Hostilities between the U.S. and Japan began, when Japan took control of eastern Burma, and closed the Burma supply road. The U.S. was supporting Chiang Kai-Shek with supplies over that road. FDR responded by stopping aviation fuel to Japan. Japan needed the fuel for its bombing runs on China cities. Japan made a deal with German-occupied France, the Vichy government, to take over their colonies in Indo-China (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia), and set up air bases there. FDR then embargoed American steel as well as the aviation fuel, and gave a further loan to China...

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Japan sent Admiral Nomura to Washington, for what turned out to be fifty meetings with American officials, particularly Cordell Hull, who had been Secretary of State, for FDR, throughout the period from 1933 onward. The Japanese let it be known that they would have to get their fuel in Indonesia, if the U.S. did not relent, and in 1941 made a point of the U.S. allowing belligerent Britain to receive planes built in the U.S. In the background of the talking, the fact remained that the Japanese were fighting Chiang Kai-Shek's

China government inside China, while the U.S. was giving arms and money to Chiang. Hull's negotiation focused on Japan's withdrawal from China.

But MacArthur and President Quezon, in the Philippines, were uneasy about the negotiation, whichever way it went, as the Philippine islands were close to a Japanese war machine, that was in full action. Hull was a bit of a racist, and not the best character to handle this matter. (In the efforts to get Jews out of Eastern Europe, as Hitler's governments took control, Hull's State Department was slow and sometimes an obstacle.)

\*\*

...In the midst of this, the U.S. cryptographers broke the MAGIC code of the Japanese diplomats. FDR now knew that the Japanese were in Bangkok negotiating Thai neutrality, for an attack on Malaya. And he knew that the diplomats in Washington, talking to Hull, were given a deadline of November 25, 1941, to complete *an agreement*. America proposed a three month period of limited trade, but Chiang Kai-Shek was informed of this, and protested, naturally enough. At this particular time, Admiral Nagumo was sent with six new carriers to the Kurils Islands... to wait. If they were ordered to move out, they would cross the whole North Pacific, away from shipping lanes, eastward to Hawaii...

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...November 28, 1941, Washington notified the military in Pearl Harbor, that hostilities may commence with Japan. General Short thought this could mean sabotage by the 160,000 Japanese residents, so he had all his airplanes regrouped wing to wing. This would make it easier to destroy them from the air, but the General did not think of that. Likewise having eight battleships lined up in a row, made aerial assault easier. (A problem here, was that the U.S. military just did not ever think *Air Craft Carrier!* in any of their planning or their exercise war games. No one in the U.S. military seemed to have a thought about the importance of aircraft carriers in the outcome of this war. No aircraft carriers were being used in the war that was going on in Europe.)

\*\*

...Cordell Hull, State Department, then saw the MAGIC intercept indicating that the Japanese were proposing a ceasefire in China. The Washington Japanese ambassadors of course did not know Hull knew this. Nevertheless, Hull kept this information to himself, and instead of going that direction, issued *an ultimatum* to the Ambassadors for Japan to leave China. That was it, for Prime Minister Tojo, back in Tokyo...

\*\*

...Washington now thought something would happen, but what? FDR on December 3rd ordered the Philippines to send some ships toward the China coast. Would the Japanese fire? A few years earlier they had apologized and paid reparations when the USS Panay was sunk in the Yangzi River. The Japanese ignored the U.S. ship. December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Dutch government in Indonesia, reported Japanese planes surveying. The MAGIC code communications to the Japanese Consul in Honolulu indicated interest in weather reports, whether there were torpedo net protection on battleships?, were there anti-aircraft positions?, but these reports had gone on since September, and looked routine, for a nation at war.

An early December Japanese communication comment about ‘*opportunity for surprise attack*’ concerning Hawaii, *should* have caught someone’s interest, but did not. Equally curious, the British, who were given the MAGIC code break, were monitoring Japanese communication, but did not seem aware that the attack was coming through peninsular Malaya, which would mean their Singapore guns should be repositioned. And did the British intercepts of Japanese say anything about Hawaii, when Hong Kong and Malaya were mentioned?

\*\*

...Bletchley Park, the head of British decryption, had the total attention of the British government, at war for over a year now. The total British information was never released, and Churchill in December 1941, anxious for the U.S. to enter the war against Germany, would never want the U.S. to know they had a hint. When he was immediately told by FDR of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Churchill said, “Well, that simplifies things. God be with you.”

You wonder what FDR thought about that response. Churchill had already told his people in one memorable speech, ‘long ago’ in 1940, after the Battle for Britain began, “We shall go on to the end, we shall fight on the seas and oceans...until in God’s good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps for the to the rescue and liberation of the old.”

\*\*

...Crews on some ships pulled out World War I ammunition, and found the belts fell apart. Other crews rushed to the ammunition cases, to find they needed officers on Sunday leave, to unlock them. One seaman at an air station found a

Zero gunning for him, as he ran and zig-zag-ed successfully, to the cheers of everyone else, who had stopped their own running, to watch him.

All the battleships were put out of commission, but six of them would be repaired and would serve in the Pacific. The Arizona would immediately sink, with over 1100 crewman drown. Admiral Nagumo would actually call off the third wave of planes. The aircraft carriers were not there! In that sense, the mission was totally unsuccessful, and wherever those American carriers were, it was best to get out of Hawaii waters.

A news correspondent in a Honolulu hotel with his wife, when they heard the bombs, reminded her that she had asked him, what it sounded like in the London bombing, when he was covering that story. He said, "It sounded just like this". Then they both went back to sleep. Another commentator noted, "The mainland newspapers will exaggerate this."

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...But by evening, that day, everyone was on war footing. A warehouse sentry gave the manual-required response to an intruder who refused to answer the protocol 'challenge' properly, three times, and fired. It was one of his cargo mules. Ensign John Kennedy watched a Redskins game in Washington, heard the news on his car radio on the way home --- they decided not to interrupt the game --- and called in for duty in the navy...

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...FDR had gone immediately to Congress, and made his speech, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941, is a day that will live in infamy." He stated that war had begun already on that Sunday, and Congress agreed. Colonel Eisenhower in Texas had been called by General George Marshall already on the Sunday, and instructed to get to Washington. Some reservists, who had joined the army, for Saturday drilling, and pocket money, were surprised to see their units immediately called up for active duty...

\*\*

...America was finally in the war, Britain and Russia and Australia, its only allies this time. E. B. Whyte creator of Charlotte's Web and Stuart Little children's books, had a comment about his countrymen, back in 1940: "One man told me that he thought the Nazi ideal was sounder than our constitutional system 'because have you ever noticed what fine alert young faces the young German soldiers have in newsreels?'. Another individual would prefer to

remain in the role of an innocent bystander, which he said was the duty of any intelligent man...Such remarks I heard are fearfully disturbing in the cumulative effect. They are more destructive than dive bombers or mine fields, not merely to one's immediate position, but to one's main defenses."

\*\*

...Hitler declared war on the U.S. as soon as the U.S. declared on Japan. Hermann Goering said that the U.S. could not build an airplane. As U.S. airplanes would eventually be the end of the Reich, Goering maybe should have said 'tank', for indeed U.S. tanks never did match the German ones, and had to meet the German models in pairs or more (which they well did, because of enormous U.S. production.)

\*\*

...Admiral Yamamoto, who was in charge of the Pacific War was more incisive. He told his government *not* to do the Pearl Harbor thing. He told them war would go very well for Japan...for about six months, then it would fall apart. Yamamoto's difference from Goering was that Yamamoto was a Harvard graduate, who had hitch-hiked across the U.S. as a youth. Then he had been assigned to the diplomatic office in Washington. He could --- quite precisely it turns out --- predict how the war with the U.S. would pan out, because he knew the manufacturing basis of the war Japan had gotten itself into, and (in Yamamoto's time) the U.S. had incredible manufacturing power...

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...Eisenhower set up office outside London, with his British driver, Kay Summersby and dog Telek, both of which would be with him throughout the war. (MacArthur would take his wife with him.) Eisenhower was soon in North Africa, where he needed to convince the French generals in Algeria, not to fight his forces, since they were technically working for the Vichy German-controlled France. His opponent through to the battles after D Day, would be Field Marshall Kesselring, whose first comment was why the heck the Allies had not thought to land in Tunisia! Sure enough, Eisenhower's commanders found that the tanks they unloaded, could not get through the train tunnels to get East toward Montgomery and Patton who were pushing the German/Italian forces west through Libya...

\*\*

...The delays and problems with the North Africa campaign are said to have made the Cross-Channel attack on Europe, impossible, in the coming 1943. The bigger question was why the American forces even agreed to join that particular fight, in French and British colonial areas. Through the war, and in the case of France, after the war, American forces seem directed to old colonial locations.

When the Americans did finally get into battle at Kasserine Pass in Tunisia, they were badly defeated by the Germans. America lost almost all its tanks, nearly 300 of them, but in the story of this war, they could produce more. And aircraft production allowed 1000 air sorties a day, which turned things quickly...

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In Africa, in Casablanca in January 1943, Churchill and FDR again met, and Charles de Gaulle was recognized as the Free French leader of France in exile. It was at Casablanca, where FDR used the term '*Unconditional surrender*', which General Grant had accidentally coined in the middle of the Civil War, long ago. The Americans did not think much about it, but that term would sometimes be seen as an obstacle, with those who in the coming year would oppose Hitler, and again later, with Japan, with those who would oppose their military leadership.

In a Cairo Conference with FDR, in November 1943, Churchill again proposed more amphibious attacks in the Med, namely Rhodes. Finally, General Marshall got angry, and said no more of this, for American troops. The Americans were in the war was *to go across the English Channel* and attack Europe and Germany. FDR had supported Churchill's lead, up to that particular meeting...

\*\*

...The American code breakers knew the Japanese fleet was headed for Coral Sea, and in the battle there, Japan lost one carrier and saw one out of action, for the next battle, for which American code breakers again knew the Japanese navy destination: Midway. This time a catapult on one of Japanese Admiral Nagumo's ships failed, and the survey plane headed in the particular direction of the U.S. carriers could not get off, leaving them to find Nagumo's fleet, *before* he found them...

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...Japanese soldiers fought at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, to the loss of 23,000 of the 40,000 soldiers stationed there. Admiral Nimitz would proceed against islands in the Central Pacific, north of MacArthur's area, ultimately ending at Saipan. At the first small island of Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands in 1943, with over 3000 Japanese defenders, only one Japanese officer and 16 men surrendered, while the marines suffered over 3000 casualties, of which 800 were deaths.

Both Nimitz in the Central Pacific and MacArthur in the South Pacific, quickly learned to take the opposite tack to the European front strategy of going off on unimportant tangents like North Africa and Italy, and decided to *entirely skip* Japanese strongholds. Rabaul, in New Guinea, was built up to block MacArthur's advance. 100,000 Japanese soldiers daily stood ready to block MacArthur's progress, for two years. MacArthur went on past. Admiral Nimitz did the same with Truk, in the Central Pacific, bombing for days, then never landing a troop, while his attack force moved past westward...

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...Intelligence from code breaking of enemy communications was working, but the rest of military intel was imprecise. When the navy wanted to plan for the attack on Guadalcanal, intel used an old Jack London story, a missionary picture, and stories from Australian seaman, who had visited in past years. Air intelligence carefully recorded the number of latrine facilities --- knowing the Japanese army had very specific regulations for the number of latrines for a number of troops --- in their efforts to discern how many soldiers were in a location. When the navy dropped the marines at Guadalcanal, it quickly left, with the priority of protecting its carriers first in open seas. The marines were mostly on their own, and it was 1943 before the Japanese gave up their bases there...

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...The U.S. started building a great number of supply ships. Kaiser Industries came up with an assembly line system, which eventually got the building time on a supply ship down to 4 days each. A. O. Higgins, at the same time in New Orleans, was building enormous numbers of PT boats for the Pacific and landing craft for amphibious landings.

American women were now producing goods, and that was the way America won this war. As larger numbers of the girls made the workforce, the government asked for an image, something like Betty Crocker was for thoughts of an earlier time, when women were more likely found in a kitchen. “Rosie the Riveter’ was one result. The original was a Geraldine Page, riveting at a Michigan plant. Artist Normal Rockwell was asked to do one Rosie for his Saturday Evening Post covers. Rockwell’s Rosie was taking a sandwich break, with her feet propped up on Hitler’s Mein Kampf book. 40% of aircraft manufacturing work, and 34% of ammunition line production, was now done by the ladies...

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..America would produce 300,000 military planes, 86,000 tanks, 71,000 navy ships, fifty million tons of freighter ships, and 100,000 trucks and jeeps. Ford made B-24’s, GM, B-25’s, Chrysler, B-26’s. None of them made cars during the war, only military vehicles. All this cost money, and the national debt was increasing. So the tax office had composer Irving Berlin write a song, “I said to my old Uncle Sam Old Man Taxes, here I am. And he was glad to see me, Mister Small Fry, Yes indeed, lower brackets, that’s my speed...but he was glad to see me...See those bombers in the sky. Rockefeller helped to build them, and so did I...a thousand planes to bomb Berlin.

For the soldier, one year of war had become two, and two years at war are long years. One sergeant commented, “You can find soldiers carrying letters so rubbed, worn, and crumpled...that they can only be read from memory. But we hold on to them.” Censors of course read everything, and took out info about locations, numbers of troops. One censor who knew a soldier, who was writing three times a day, complained to him about having to read, so often about his family, dog, butcher, home town...

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One soldier, in the Pacific, wrote that the only thing worse than combat was sentry duty: “After a while you find yourself talking to yourself. Then you find yourself talking to lizards; and then you find the lizards talking to you; and pretty soon, you find yourself listening.”

Native Americans served in all services during the war, but the unique participation was from the Navaho tribe code-talkers. In World War I, it was discovered that the American Comanche and Choctaws could use their language as a code, which the Germans could not decipher. So Hitler sent agents to America in the peace years to learn Native American languages. This was not successful, but the U.S. military learned about Hitler's effort, so did not use Native American code in Europe, until D-Day, when the Comanche Americans employed their code with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on Utah Beach, and at headquarters. In the Pacific, it was different, and the Navaho used their code-talk system from the beginning, as it was correctly assumed the Japanese were not prepared for that...

\*\*

...33,000 Japanese joined the army. In the Pacific, they translated. Many were in the Japanese-American 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, in Europe. The 442<sup>nd</sup>, all Japanese American Nissei, became the most decorated unit *in military history*: 3600 Purple Hearts, 500 Oak Leaf Clusters, 810 Bronze Stars, 342 Silver Stars, 47 Distinguished Service Crosses, 17 Legions of Merit. There were zero desertions in the unit. Casualties in Germany eventually reached *300% of the original unit size!* Japanese-American Daniel Inouye, who lost an arm fighting in Germany, would go on to become the first Japanese-American U.S. Senator...

\*\*

...While American soldiers were dying, and tons of equipment had been sent for the war in North Africa, and Sicily/Italy, General Marshall had been calling for a Cross-Channel attack on Europe. Stalin, fighting alone on the continent complained at the conferences, as well, although this foolishness on the part of the British and Americans would benefit him, and make possible a Cold War, as soon as World War II was over. In May 1943, Churchill and staff arrived in New York on the Queen Mary. (The Queen Mary was at the time actually a British prison ship. 5000 German and Italian prisoners of war made the trip with Winston, to New York, and back to Britain.)

\*\*

..FDR may have come to realize that Churchill's concept was that 'Britain' *was* the British Empire, from Egypt to Malaya. In fact this War was bringing that to an end, although the comments from Churchill, indicated he could not accept that. FDR's total of reality may have come from a visit to British Gambia in

1944, “The natives are 5000 years behind us. The British have been here for 200 years! For every dollar they put in, they took out ten!” One other result for FDR, was to insist that the Philippines, America’s colony get immediate independence after the War...

\*\*

...The Allies, U.S. and Britain, were going everywhere, but Germany, while Germany continued to produce implements of war. Berlin was 580 miles from London, a little further than Boston to Washington D.C. (Tokyo on the other hand, was 3900 miles from Honolulu.) General Marshall had called for the Cross-Channel attack in 1942! Landing craft the army needed was produced (and used in the Pacific) immediately. Instead *two years* were spent, fighting Germany everywhere, but in Germany.

The myth of aerial bombing comes in here, as it would again, in the Japan islands part of the War. It was thought that aerial bombing could end production. But it didn’t. One reason was that the bombs could not hit the targets. A young newscaster, Walter Cronkite, had his radio report held up, because *that* was almost about to be reported... once...

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...The public was always told that bombing was precise. Actually 90% missed the targets of the day. Bombs in Germany destroyed 3,600,000 civilian buildings, but military equipment production continued. There was no preparation for an easy Cross-Channel attack through reduction of production. When the Battle of the Bulge, came Hitler had 2000 tanks to put into one battle. By 1944, Germany could still produce over 300 U-boats. In fact, those two years of Mediterranean assaults *gave Germany* the time to fortify the French coast.

The bomber myth had a special meaning with the B-17. The Boeing manual showed how, as a ‘flying fortress’, it could defend itself against fighters with its many gun turrets. But a fighter pilot could quickly figure how to maneuver, and the B-17 gunners could only move their turrets around, not their planes. The U.S. had no long distance fighters, in part because of the B-17 myth, until later in the war, when the P-51 was put in production. The long distance missions over the Schweinfurt ball bearing plants and the Ploesti oilfields, with no fighters that could accompany the distance, saw some 60 B-17’s of 200 or so, in the missions, shot down...

\*\*

...What the Germans were not watching was that the tides were only in favor of landing in these few days; it would be two weeks until they would be right again. Rommel had said earlier that when the attack came, the first twenty-four hours would determine the victor: "It would be the *longest day*." It ended up him, the German General, who gave an alternate name to D-Day, a name which the victors would be using for the next half century...

\*\*

...Then Eisenhower made the mistake which would assist in the development of the coming Cold War. He insisted on proceeding on a *broad front* across France, rather than having British General Montgomery dash to Berlin, which was only three days in front of him. Eisenhower's generals all disagreed with him, but he had command.

The delay gave the Germans the opportunity to blow up the Rhine bridges, but more important, gave Stalin opportunity for the plan he was now pursuing to take control of Eastern Europe, and also Germany and Berlin. No one on the Allied side was calculating fuel movement, which could have been helped if the Belgian port of Antwerp had been a priority. Patton was soon to see his army stopped because of lack of fuel. Patten called Eisenhower's insistence on a broad front the *worst mistake of the war*, and Patton probably was right...

\*\*

...Stalin had been furious that the other Allies, had not brought a Cross-Channel attack in 1942 or 1943. Russia alone fought the Germans out of Russia. But by the end of 1944, Stalin saw the opportunity that the situation of his Allies' dithering, obviously presented him. He took over the Balkans Yugoslavia and Poland, arresting any leaders that believed they would stand in elections.

Churchill finally saw the mistake they had made, but now FDR and Eisenhower did not want to disturb the progress of the Red Army toward Berlin. Churchill (and Patton) both yelled for advances to meet the Soviet Army in eastern Germany, but Eisenhower had insisted on the slow broad front advance. Stalin soon had Hungary and Czechoslovakia under control, and was going to be the only army to reach Berlin...

\*\*

...If Stalin thought Eisenhower was deliberately letting the Soviet army do the heavy lifting, he was probably right, but Stalin now made sure the countries his army moved through, would be a part of his new Soviet Empire. That situation

of 1945 would be the status quo through the coming quarter century, until 1989. It would start the Cold War, the minute World War II was over...

\*\*

...At the Yalta Conference in February 1945, the Allies seemed willing to ignore what Stalin was doing in Eastern Europe. FDR wanted Russia's commitment to enter the war against Japan, a war that was still going on. FDR would be dead within the month, in April; Hitler would suicide a few weeks later, in May. FDR and Hitler's long terms in office covered roughly the same period of time. May 7, Victory in Europe Day (VE Day), Germany would surrender...

\*\*

...Two remembered quotes of the first days after FDR's death, brought the next President, Vice President Harry Truman into the White House. One is Harry's statement to reporters, when he got the news of FDR's death, "I don't know if you fellas ever had a load of hay fall on you, but when they told me what happened yesterday, I felt like the moon, the stars and all the planets had fallen on me." A certain percentage of Americans new what that metaphor was all about, and everyone knew the new occupant of the White House was not your Hyde Park type.

Harry and Bess Truman moved in with a truck; Eleanor Roosevelt moved out with twenty trucks. The other remembered quote of the time, is Harry rushing to the White House from Congress, on notice on the day that FDR was dead, and saying to Eleanor, "Is there anything I can do for you", only to hear in response, "Is there anything we can do for you, for you are the one in trouble now."

\*\*

...FDR had died in his Warm Springs, Georgia resort. He and Eleanor had worked a lifetime of interest in things for the average citizen, from the time Eleanor had visited the Bonus Army camp, in FDR's first year. Coming together for meetings that dealt with people and situations, with which she dealt, they sort of lived alone, dined separately... in the White House.

FDR had left half his estate to Missy Lehand, but Missy had collapsed on the job in the White House, and died of cancer. FDR wore a black armband for some time. In his final days, in Warm Springs, Lucy Mercer, who had been his assistant before Missy, her wealthy husband having died, came to join FDR at

Warm Springs with a portrait artist. The artist was painting FDR, on the day he died...

\*\*

...Other than the Warm Springs visits, and his sailing days, with a terrified Secret Service trying to keep up, in a following boat, FDR had wheeled his wheelchair into the West Wing of the White House, for all his life, after taking office back in 1933, when an economic emergency they all thought was the cataclysm of the century for America, was gripping the country. But in fact, 1933 to 1945, it would turn out that this particular President, would never know a month office, that was *not* a cataclysmic emergency, and FDR would *not* see the end of World War II. He would lie in state, when the battle for Berlin was going on, and the U.S. naval war was still 2000 miles from Tokyo...

\*\*

...Vice President Truman had met FDR twice. Raised in Independence Missouri, to a farm life where he rode a four-horse plow to turn over five acres of soil for planting, in a ten hour day, while he claimed he read every single book in the local library, when World War I came, Harry Truman memorized the eye chart, knowing his eyes would fail the test, if he didn't cheat. On the line with his artillery battery (part of General MacArthur's division) in World War I, Captain Harry showed his bravery and leadership, swearing at his unit as they fled from the first German barrage... until they returned to their guns...

\*\*

...Harry, likewise, in World War I, was the only U.S. President to see the trench lines of death. Keeping a diary all his life, he had recorded in that war experience, a covered-over trench where forty dead French troops had been placed a year earlier, their bayonets protruding out of the ground. German reconnaissance pilots had crashed behind Harry's troops position, and the French and Americans took their boots and coats from them. Harry's diary recorded, "I heard a Frenchman remark that the Germans were in the war for territory, England for the sea, the French for patriotism, and the Americans for souvenirs. Yesterday made me think he was about right." Harry took a section of the cloth from the plane wing, and kept it all his life...

\*\*

..Reviewed by General Pershing at the end of World War I, Harry's unit was flown home by dirigible. Returning to Independence, he joined with Eddie Jacobson, who he had met in the army, to open a haberdashery, one of several

business ventures that did not pan out. Asked to join the Ku Klux Klan by friends, he went for an interview, where he refused the clans' instruction not to hire Catholics in business, and *was rejected* by the Klan...

\*\*

...Tom Pendergast's city boss purposes in Kansas City, Missouri, made it a crime syndicate center, and Pendergast would eventually go to jail. Harry at the time wrote in his diary, "Am I a fool or an ethical giant? I don't know...Am I just a crook to compromise just to get the job done? You judge." (Later in his political life, some in Congress would.) When he heard that one of his corrupt boss associates died, Harry commented, "I suspect his rotten paying, would have bankrupted the government of Hell, by now."

\*\*

...Picking up on his old county 'judge' mission to get roads built and repaired cheaply, as a Senator during World War II, Truman headed a committee, which became known as the Truman Committee, to look closely at military contracts. The committee is thought to have saved some \$15 billion in costs through the War, in contractor payments. Finding the Martin Company B-26's were crashing, Harry talked to Glenn Martin, who said, Yes the wings were too short, but he had the contract signed. Truman convinced him he was not going to get paid, until the design was changed. Finding a steel company with bad product, and test reports, the Committee called in the test expert, and asked about the 'F' on the report, as an evaluation 'Fine'. The expert finally admitted the 'F' meant 'Fake'...

\*\*

...The War in the Pacific had been one of crossing great distances with the awareness that anywhere the Japanese forces were met, they would fight to the last few people, as they had at the island of Tarawa. So, in a total reverse of the wasteful battle and landing policies of the European War, MacArthur in the South Pacific, and Nimitz in the Central Pacific skipped Japanese frontline positions. MacArthur jumped over major Japanese supply and defense centers, four times. His determination to free the Philippines, made that a priority, when in fact, that destination may also have been skipped, Saipan and Iwo Jima being the two strategic positions, to get close to Tokyo. (Some Philippino's over the years, had slipped 'I shall return' scrawling's here and there, on the occupied islands, for the Japanese administration to come across, from time to time.)

\*\*

...In the Pacific, the naval war was still a thousand miles from Tokyo. Saipan became Nimitz's objective in June of 1944, because having a base there, would be the first location from which large range bombers could reach Japan. After bombing Truk, a major stronghold, but then again, never landing troops, bypassing it, Nimitz's forces finally reached Saipan. Japan still had 3 carriers to use at that point. The Japanese again fought fiercely, finally throwing their local families over cliffs, before they suicide'd themselves. Unlike the 50,000 German soldier surrender at the Battle of Falaise in Normandy, in 1944, there were not be any standard surrenders of thousands of Japanese troops *at any point* in the Pacific War, which is a significant part of the reason for the story of the A bomb that was maturing...

\*\*

...The U.S. had 32 carriers at Leyte. The carrier equation that Admiral Nagumo had been figuring in his risky attempt to get to Pearl Harbor in December 1941 (where he missed getting the three Pacific carriers that the U.S. did have in action), had in fact been the equation that was the deciding thing in the Pacific War. Admiral Nagumo had been correct in seeing the carrier balance as the main item, but their macro-calculations were all wrong, as Admiral Yamamoto had pointed out to all of them, before the whole thing started, because their action at Pearl Harbor had foolishly brought into the war, the only manufacturing base in the world, that could produce great numbers of carriers...

\*\*

...Leyte Bay gives the history books the famous picture of MacArthur and his generals wading through sea water, to reach the Philippines beach. The 'I have returned' look on MacArthur's face was actually directed at the 'beach master' behind the cameraman, who had positioned his landing craft, of all the landing crafts, out in the water. But MacArthur liked the result so much, when he saw it, he had the shot re-taken from different angles....

\*\*

...When Harry Truman was becoming known as the Senator investigating war contractor costs, his Committee came across a group of items that totaled over \$2 billion, which involved money going to an Oak Ridge Tennessee project, and one at Hanford, Washington. This looked very suspicious, as there was no war plan going on at either place. But Harry got a phone call, telling him that that budget had to do with a secret weapon, and that he should pull back his inquiries....

\*\*

...Physicist Leo Szilard, Hungarian, had met Albert Einstein, when Szilard was teaching at a Berlin institution, in the late 1920's. They worked in Germany on developing a refrigerator with no moving parts, together. Szilard had put together a concept of nuclear fission, which he later concluded, after moving to the U.S., and joining with colleagues at Columbia University in Manhattan, he would work with uranium.

With Einstein in the U.S., Szilard composed a letter for Einstein to deliver to FDR, in 1939, through a Lehman Brothers businessman, about a bomb that could be created from fission. The businessman had the wits to tell FDR about Robert Livingston's failure to convince Napoleon to build steamships --- an anecdote that probably got remembered just in time, later --- but when FDR saw the estimated development bill, his interest stopped. The U.S. had just gotten out of the 1937 reversal of his economic success story...

\*\*

...The amazing statistics, of Japanese soldiers being willing to die, rather than surrender, had been the whole story of the War of the Pacific. The April to June 1945, Battle of Okinawa had seen 14,000 American soldiers die, while 77,000 Japanese died or committed suicide. Now, with the next island in this war, being mainland Japan, captured soldiers were telling that 2.5 million civilians were being trained to guard the coastline against an amphibious landing. They were being armed with bamboo spears, taught to strap explosives and dive under tanks and trucks as there was no more artillery production. Women were given carpenter tools as weapons and taught to kill one American each. A militia of 28 million, and several thousand suicide kamikaze planes, were being trained, to stand behind this sacrifice of housewives on the beaches...

\*\*

...Leaflets had been dropped on Japan since August 6, telling them a monster bomb was to be used, and that they should evacuate their cities, and tell their leaders to surrender, "We are in possession of the most destructive explosive ever devised by man...Before using this bomb to destroy every resource of the military by which they are prolong this useless war, we ask that you *now petition the Emperor*, to end the war....We urge that you accept these consequences and begin the work of building a new, better, and peace-loving Japan....Evacuate your cities."

FDR had said ‘*Unconditional surrender*’ way back at the Casablanca Allies meeting. Himmler in the Reich had used that as propaganda against those, like Rommel or Rundstedt, who wanted to explore peace. Likewise, the Japanese military used ‘Unconditional surrender’ to tell their people that their Emperor would be taken away from them, even though General MacArthur had already worked out an entirely different program to that, and the Imperial Palace was never bombed. Russia, as was decided at Potsdam, now told Japan it was entering the War against them...

\*\*

...John Steinbeck, as a journalist in the British air fields of the U.S. bomber runs against Germany, had related one story of the daily life of pilots, there, “a small grey Scottie...comes to sit on a little mound...Suddenly the dog raises his head...the field chief with a pair of glasses, ‘Can’t see anything yet’, The main group comes over the field and each ship peels to circle for landing. The little dog seems hardly to touch the ground. He streaks across the field toward the landed ship... Only one ship is missing, and she landed further south.”

\*\*

...War correspondent Ernie Pyle, who had been there through the War in Europe, was there the day after D-Day, on the beach at Normandy, and left us one unique observation from the moment, “There were socks and shoe polish, sewing kits, diaries, Bibles, hand grenades...latest letters from home...I picked up a pocket Bible with a soldier’s name on it...I carried it half a mile or so, then put it down again on the beach. I don’t know why I picked it up, or why I put it down.”

\*\*

...Pulitzer Prize winning Karl Shapiro wrote a poem, *Elegy for a Dead Soldier*, from his experience,

“A white sheet on the tailgate of a truck becomes an alter... A tattooed arm lifted to take the blood of someone else, sealed in a tin. I stood during the last delirium that stays the intelligence a tiny moment more...So we disbanded, angrier and unchanged, sick with the utter silence of dispraise.

The time to mourn is short, that best becomes the military dead. We lift and fold the flag, lay bare the coffin with its written tag, and march away...

You who read, remember this stranger died in pain; and passing here, if you can lift your eyes *upon a peace kept by human creed*, know that one soldier has not died in vain.”

\*\*

...Stillwell, as a result of obvious corruption and incompetence of Chiang's operation, did finally convince FDR to give him command of the China forces, but Chiang threatened the whole operation, and had Stillwell recalled. FDR had seen Chiang's style before Saipan was taken, when FDR wanted U.S. long range bombers to base in Chengdu to strike Tokyo. Chiang refused, demanding \$800,000. FDR threatened to stop the Lend Lease that was being flown over the 'Hump', but both then compromised.

FDR later, in acquiescing to Stillwell's dismissal, probably made the decision that eventually lost China, some six years later. Harry Truman, with a chance in years to view more history of the matter, than FDR, said, of Chiang and wife, "They stole \$750 million of the 35 billion we sent them. They stole it and invested it in Sao Paolo and right here in New York." Chiang's wife, Mei Ling would eventually retire to New York, where she would live to the age of 105, in 1995, the last survivor of all those who influenced War World Two of her times, and the last survivor of all those who influenced China history of her times.

## 4. Committing Hot, Committing Cold

George Kennan was assigned by Secretary State, James Byrnes, to Stalin's Moscow, to coordinate U.S. communication. In February of 1946, some six months after V – J Day, that ended World War II, Kennan sent a soon-famous 8000 word telegram to Washington. It brought to mind, Winston Churchill's 4000 word missive to FDR to assist Britain, when Winston's country stood alone before the U.S. entered World War II. Kennan's message was that cooperation, for that matter, co-existence, was a dream. Stalin's Soviet Union wanted to conquer. They would only understand, in diplomacy, force.

\*\*

...Averell Harriman, Ambassador to Moscow, backed Kennan. FDR had supported Stalin, as an Allied leader whose troops were on the same side against the Germans. FDR died before the end of the War in Europe, before Stalin's game plan for Eastern Europe was enacted. Truman, as soon as he took office, realized a stand needed to be taken, and bluntly told Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov to stick by the agreements made back at the Yalta Conference, that is, free the countries he liberated! "Please convey this to Marshall Stalin!!" (Molotov had been sent to negotiate the alliance treaty with Hitler at the beginning of the war in 1939, then sent to Roosevelt, to make Russia America's ally, not Hitler's, in 1942, for which talks he carried a gun. Molotov later complained about Truman, "I have never been talked to like that".)

\*\*

...By 1947, George Kennan was speaking of the U.S. to be prepared for nuclear and biological war against Soviet plans. Back when Churchill had made his 'Iron Curtain' speech, some had criticized it, as being unfair to an old War ally. Americans since 1940, had only seen Stalin portrayed at the great Ally of the U.S., whose nation and soldiers were suffering. Now, times had changed.

Britain called on U.S. taxpayers, in 1947, again, as Churchill correctly realized that Russia wanted to take over Turkey and Greece, sending guerilla troops in. Truman's response was more comprehensive. He announced what became the *Truman Doctrine*, "I believe it must be the policy of the United States to support free people, who are resisting attempted subjugation, by armed minorities or by outside pressures."

\*\*

...Then, in 1950, with the encouragement of Stalin, North Korea's Kim Il Sung, who had fought with the Soviets at Stalingrad against the German onslaught, attacked southward, with Russian tanks, and 90,000 troops. Russia had blocked any elections to take place north of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. General MacArthur, in Tokyo, still overall chief in Japan, called Truman and asked him to act, sending in an army from his occupational forces in Japan. Truman did, without asking Congress. MacArthur did another of his unusual maneuvers, ignoring the North Korean army that was already south of Seoul, except for air bombardment, and going north, behind them, to the port of Inchon to risk a surprise landing, which succeeded within months of moving the North Korean forces back north of the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.

Now Truman, who had been careful to call this not a 'war', but a 'police action', took to the United Nations, the decision whether to cross the 38<sup>th</sup>

parallel ,or not. John Foster Dulles argued for taking the war into North Korea, saying the South would be unstable if the north were not invaded. The U.N. decided to do just that, and many nations sent some troops to South Korea. Dean Acheson had replaced the retired George Marshall as Secretary of State. Everyone wanted to move the war across the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel...

\*\*

...General MacArthur, had taken over administration of Japan, by first inviting the Emperor for talks, and assuring him that the occupying forces would recognize his position in Japanese society...if he went on radio and told Japan he was not really a god, which Emperor Hirohito did. Thereafter, the two met twice a year. MacArthur, assessing the situation in Japan, asked the State Department for 3.5 million tons of food. The State Department told him it would take time to assess the request. MacArthur communicated back, "Give me food, or give me bullets." He got his food. MacArthur gave the farmers land reform, wrote the country a draft Constitution, started women's colleges.

Now, at age 70, MacArthur was conducting war again for South Korea. He had never had respect for civilian authority, yelling at FDR, at one point in the 1930's, before World War II, that he wanted the soldier to know that the military budget was too small, so that in dying, they would curse FDR, not curse MacArthur, their commanding general...

\*\*

...Truman fired his general, and replaced him with General Ridgeway, who eventually drove the North Koreans and Chinese out of the South, the second time, and brought the war back to the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel, where it sleeps today. MacArthur's excuse for all this, which in his style, he sent *directly* to Congress, was, "There is no substitute for victory." (MacArthur's opponent, Peng de Huai, Mao's general in this war, also did a 'MacArthur' on *his* chief, complaining bitterly to Mao about poor equipment for his men, and, although Peng was himself a veteran of Mao's Long March of the 1930's, soldier Peng found eventually himself beaten and paraded as a traitor, in the future Cultural Revolution.)

Soldier MacArthur, fired, returned to stand before a joint session of Congress, to give his 'Old soldiers never die, they just fade away' refrain speech, and then, himself... did just that...

\*\*

...Harry Truman had become President, because he was FDR's Vice-President. In 1948, it was necessary to run on his own, and he did that old style, with a train. American Presidents (when they did bother to campaign for themselves) had done that for over a century. Truman's opponent was Thomas Dewey, who had run against FDR, in his last election. Dewey had a look and persona, which Teddy Roosevelt's daughter summed up, as 'the little man on the wedding cake', and his speeches seemed to match that, "Agriculture is important. Our rivers are full of fish. You cannot have freedom without liberty. Our future is ahead."

\*\*

...At one early back of the train speech, someone listening to him talk about the Republicans (he carefully never mentioned Dewey), yelled "Give em Hell, Harry." Truman responded, "I don't give them hell, I tell them the truth, and they think it is hell." After that, every stop, someone would yell, 'Give em Hell Harry.' All the polls said Dewey would win, and Truman would show the press the front page of the Chicago Tribune, saying '*Dewey Defeats Truman*' from the back platform of his election train, the day after the November 1948 election. But Harry had won...

\*\*

...In the war, 3600 Red Cross stations worked for years to collect blood, no one taking pay for any of the work. The Boy Scouts had been asked to collect materials for factory production, collecting 150,000 tons of waste paper, among scrap metal, tires, and other recyclable items. 'Uncle Sam Needs your Discarded Nylon Stockings' one of the many posters to ask public support read.

1.5 million citizens were day and night plane spotters on the roofs of coastal cities. Of course over the war years, there were, thankfully, zero sightings, quite a different story for every other country involved. Americans on the coastal cities were asked to put up blackout curtains on their windows. In fact, German U-Boats were using city lights to sight coastal U.S. shipping, and sinking boats, in sight of people on the coast. Garden Magazine showed how blackout curtains could fit into home décor.

And citizens were expected to buy war bonds. Three quarters of the Yale graduating class volunteered for military service in 1942. Grace Hopper, Vassar professor, joined the Navy Waves, and helped develop a 'language' for the new computer science, COBOL. She became an Admiral...

\*\*

...Gasoline during the war, came by rationing. An 'A' card got you three gallons a week. Food was also rationed with stamps, but the government ran out of gummed sheets, so retailers ended up keeping baskets of stamps. Charles Birdseye developed frozen vegetables, to meet the situation where tin was needed by the military, so there was a shortage of tin cans for vegetable processing. To increase food production, the 'Bracero' program was initiated, to allow Mexican labor to come into the needs of the crop harvest cycle. When the war time organization and control of food stocks was lifted, some inflation did hit consumers. The New York Daily wrote, "Prices Soar, Consumers Sore, Steers Jump over the Moon."

\*\*

...The cartoon characters joined the war. Little Orphan Annie, Terry and the Pirates, and the Disney characters all showed up in war-support cartoons. Superman did *not* join the military. He ended up using his X-ray vision to accidentally read the eye chart in the next room, and failing his eye test, was put to work to push the Red Cross effort and war bond sales. A shortage of men for baseball, started the women's leagues: the 'Racine Belles', Wisconsin, 'Rockford Peaches', Illinois 'Milwaukee Chicks', Fort Wayne Daisies', Indiana, The leagues played until 1954...

\*\*

...Autos could now again be purchased, but there would be a shortage for years, so there would quickly develop a black market. Some dealers would bet you that you could not hit something, a hundred yards off. You lose, pay the \$500 bet loss, and get the car. One Oklahoma dealer sold cars plus a hound dog, for an extra \$500. After the transaction, contracted hound dog would walk back to his car salesman owner.

TV had arrived in New York, but sets cost \$350. Then a \$100 set came out, but had a 3 inch screen, and viewing only grew out to the North East from New York City in these years. Fashion got back in play, and from Paris, immediately in 1945, with Christian Dior designs for lower hem lines on legs, and baggy middles. 600 office girls in New York wrote a protest, "It hides everything you want to show, and shows everything you want to hide." But the spike heel and 'naked' sandal were also part of the post-War innovations for the girls...

\*\*

...President Truman, partly in response to the McCarthy accusations against government asked the Justice Department to draw up a list of 'totalitarian, fascist, socialist, or generally subversive organizations in America. The Department came up with the Communist Party and the KKK, of course. They also came up with the "Chopin (*Polish composer of 1800's*) Cultural Centre, the Cervantes (*Spanish author of Don Quixote*) Fraternal Organization, the Committee for the Negro in Arts, the Committee for the Protection of the Bill of Rights, the League of Women Writers, the Nature Friends of America, the Washington Bookshop Association, and the Yugoslav Seamen's' Club. The times were becoming ones of suspicion...

\*\*

...FDR, at beginning of World War II, had ordered racial discrimination to stop in production factories taking U.S. orders, but the military remained segregated through the War. Truman finally ordered the peacetime military to desegregate. Truman was then the first President to directly address the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). "When I say Americans, I mean all Americans...We cannot wait another decade or another generation to remedy..." He was the first President to allow himself to be seen championing Civil Rights (in spite of the fact the he used the 'N-word' all his life.)

When he heard that a Native American John Rice, killed in the Korea War, was denied burial in, of all place names, Sioux City, Iowa, Truman was furious, and had him buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Truman also asked for compensation for Japanese Americans, as well as an end to rail passenger segregation and the poll tax, to which John Connally of Texas accused him of 'lynching the Constitution'. These proposals would not go anywhere in Harry's time in office...

\*\*

...When First Lady Bess Truman moved into the White House after a decade and a half of the Roosevelt's, she saw the evidence for prodigious tasks being carried out by large numbers of people, but no attention had been given to upkeep of the building. In fact, drapes were rotting. The servants in these White House years, were the government's cost. The food bill was always on the President, personally. The Roosevelt's had spent \$7000 a month. Bess Truman cut that to \$2000.

But rotting drapes was not the only problem. The Truman's brought daughter Margaret's grand piano to the second floor personal quarters. It actually crashed through its floor one day. On subsequent inspection, the Truman's

were told not to use the bathroom by their bedroom. The White House structure, almost two hundred years old, was not sound. So, the Truman's moved out, to Blair House, where Harry had been before as Vice President, and the White House was completely gutted on the inside, and rebuilt.

Harry added a portico porch on the second floor. Many objected to the change. It was on the south side. Andrew Jackson had added a portico to the north side in his administration. While staying at Blair House, during the construction, Truman survived an assassination attack by Puerto Ricans seeking to end Puerto Rico's Territory status with the U.S...

\*\*

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\*\*

...Dwight David Eisenhower was one of seven sons of a family that had migrated to Kansas from Pennsylvania, where an inheritance had been lost in his father's generation, and Eisenhower had to look to his own resources to get a college education, hoisting ice slabs in an ice creamery as a youth, for spending money. He applied to Annapolis and West Point, and got a Kansas Senator known through a friend to put in a word, lying about his age by a year, in case only Annapolis, not West Point, was available, as at 20, he was one year too old for Annapolis.

This President would continue to be called General Eisenhower in his life, not Admiral Eisenhower, because West Point, not Annapolis responded. He graduated West Point in the class of 1915, which is said to be 'the class the stars fell on', because, of the 115 graduates, 60 would become generals. Assigned to an administrative job, as the Great War (World War I) came by in 1917 and finished in 1918, Eisenhower commented, "I suppose we will spend the rest of our lives explaining why we didn't get into this War." It was after all, the 'War to End all Wars', so there would be no chance, in the future, to make a mark in a military career, even if you were a West Point graduate...

\*\*

...On Inauguration Day, the victorious Eisenhower refused the normal courtesy to come into the White House to have coffee with the departing President. He was still angry over the Democratic Party threat to release his letters to Chief of Staff, General George Marshall, where Eisenhower requested to divorce Mamie, and marry Kay Summersby, his companion, through World War II. (Marshall had said he would dismiss him, if he did that. Truman had destroyed the letters from the file, as a favor, but Eisenhower did not know that.)

Later, Eisenhower would complain to Truman that in the election, the Democrats had from time to time, also claimed Mamie was alcoholic, that he was Jewish, that he was a Catholic, baptized in Europe by the Pope, and that his friendship with Russian Marshall Zhukov, his counterpart in the War in Europe, had led him to Communism. Truman listened, and said, "If that's all it is, then you can figure you're lucky."

\*\*

...Eisenhower set a special image as President, playing 800 rounds of golf, during his years, the public used to seeing him on greens. He carried a putter to the West Wing in the morning. (In his next election, someone would create a bumper sticker, "Ben Hogan for President: if we are going to have a golfer, let's have a good one.") Truman had fed squirrels in his time in the White House. Now the local squirrel population dug up Eisenhower's putting green, and the President ordered them shot. But the Secret Service stepped into this threat to Presidential prerogatives, and moved the squirrels to Rock Creek Park.

Eisenhower picked corporate executives for his Cabinet, and one union leader, leading to the comment of one, "nine businessmen and a plumber." Charles Wilson, head of Defense, was General Motors chief before, and brought a saying to this era, which is still quoted --- sometimes --- "What is good for the country is good for General Motors, and vice versa." This President thought that the country was ready for auto-pilot run, and history for eight years, seemed to accommodate that...

\*\*

...John Foster Dulles believed in interference, not example. And for the Soviet Union: the policy of 'massive retaliation.' Children in school in Dulles time, went through drills to crouch under their desks (which was somehow going to protect them from a nuclear bomb generated by the enemy in the operation of '*massive retaliation*'). In the twenty-first century America, and Russia, and China, *still*, in some ways, live under John Foster Dulles' plan...

\*\*

...The next year the action would be in Central America. John and Allen as senior partners in New York law firm Sullivan and Cromwell, had earlier negotiated a cheap land deal with a corrupt dictator in Guatemala, for the firm's client, United Fruit, to take a large piece of agricultural land in the country. Then, an elected President, Jacobo Guzman, came to power, and told United Fruit, that he was going to take back part of the land, some 100,000 acres, not yet planted, in protest against the corruption, in which United Fruit had participated to get it.

John Foster Dulles, who preached interference of the U.S. in the world, to protect democracy, and his brother, CIA director, now took the U.S. government to overthrow an elected government, to protect a corrupt dictator's deal. They used the U.S. for this, because their old client, United Fruit, asked. It was a businessman's government; the President was on the golf course; the Press would be told that Guzman was a Soviet enthusiast. The Dulles brothers first discussion was about assassinating Guzman, but that would make him a martyr if the truth were learned. The State Department expert reported to Washington, "I am definitely convinced if the President (*Guzman*) is not a Communist, he will do until one comes along."

\*\*

...So, the CIA received \$3million in taxpayer's money, and an uprising occurred overthrowing the elected President and putting a military junta in power. United Fruit's bribed deal for the land, stood. (Kermit Roosevelt had said No to this one, so someone else was sent to Guatemala. A CIA operative, E Howard Hunt, involved himself in the general planning. E Howard Hunt would eventually co-write a book, 'The Craft of Intelligence'. The co-author was Allen Dulles.)

Eisenhower approved the operation, after sending his brother Milton to investigate Guatemala on a trip to Latin America, in which he never actually visited Guatemala. On the subject of Soviet involvement, Milton reported to Eisenhower, "Guatemala has a very small minority of Communists, but not as many as San Francisco."

\*\*

...Truman had okayed the development of the H bomb, the Hydrogen bomb, when it was learned that the Soviets had the A bomb. George Kennan had at that time resigned his position. The U.S. direction was no longer

‘containment’. The H bomb was tested in the Bikini Islands in 1954. (The test was without adequate warning to islanders or Japanese fishing boats in area. Meanwhile the Soviets the same year put 54,000 of their own troops under an A bomb test...to study the effects. And the U.S would explode 200 more bombs in the Pacific and Nevada over the decade of preparation for massive retaliation)....

\*\*

...In 1945, working with an American Intelligence unit of the OSS, the predecessor to the CIA, Ho Chi Minh arrived in Hanoi, Vietnam. Ho proclaimed, “We hold these truths to be self-evident...” quoting from Thomas Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence. His troops played the Star Spangled Banner, and American planes flew over in commemoration of the day. That is not ‘if-history’. It actually happened. But the French were watching, and as soon as De Gaulle was installed in Paris, the French army attacked, to re-establish their colonial empire....

\*\*

...Britain and France decided to go to war, and teamed with Israel to do this. The U.S. and the Soviets joined on this one, to demand the war halt, for which Nasser thanked Eisenhower and the United States. Eisenhower came off the golf course, this one time, on foreign policy that had been driven by John Foster Dulles for most of his years. This particular crises involved territory, where he had once been a general, and involved his old co-allies Britain and France.

Eisenhower was obviously shocked and surprised. His intelligence input from the Dulles Brothers State Department and CIA, gave this Chief Executive no indication that Britain, France, and Israel were on their way to war. The assumption has always been that the intelligence agencies just never guessed anything was up. They knew Eisenhower would object. He did...

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...Eisenhower had appointed Earl Warren as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Earl Warren had been the California Governor, who had sent the Japanese Americans to camps during World War II. It is thought that Earl did some self-searching between that World War II event, and Brown v. the Board of Education.

Chief Justice Warren wanted the decision, in *Brown v. the Board of Education*, to rule that *separate but equal*, which had been the law (in contravention to the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment) since *Plessy v Ferguson* of 1896, be overturned. Two Justices were willing to talk, but one Justice Vinson would not. Then he died, and Justice Felix Frankfurter commented, “This is the first indication I have seen for the existence of God.” Chief Justice Warren got his *unanimous* decision, the press on the Supreme Court announcement in 1954, expecting to also hear a well-thought out dissent, were surprised to see there was *no dissent*. The unanimous ruling was, “We have concluded that in the field of public education, the doctrine of public education, the doctrine of ‘separate but equal’ has no place.”

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...In 1956, the Supreme Court ruled separate but equal unconstitutional for *all* segregation situations, and Eisenhower signed the first Civil Rights bill since the end of the Civil War, in the Grant administration. The South was now on national television, regularly, with the bus boycott, and the Little Rock high school story of 1957. Rosa Parks, in 1996, also from President Clinton, would receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, for her gutsy determination for her Republic.

In 1960, some Greensboro North Carolina freshmen from an African American college went to a white lunch counter in a Woolworth department store. They were not served. They sat there all day, and when they saw the enthusiasm others expressed on hearing what they did, they went back the next day to the lunch counter and did the same. Within weeks, the lunch counter sit-ins were happening in fifteen cities.

## 5. War -Time'

After World War II, 16 million in military service, were returned to peace time status. Government control over sale of automobiles and food ended. The Boy Scouts were no longer tasked with collecting scrap iron. But one thing stayed. It was what they called '*War Time*'. The clocks were set forward in the Spring and backward in the Fall, to allow more 'daylight hours' in the summer evening. We still have 'War Time'. But we call it 'Daylight Savings Time'...

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...In 1957, the Soviet Union launched a rocket with a grapefruit sized satellite the sole function of which was to send a 'beep' signal, so everyone knew the satellite was in orbit around the world. Everyone was, in particular, to include the U.S. Rocket technology was equally under development in America, with Werner von Braun's team of German scientists who had developed the V-2 rockets for Hitler. Von Braun, who was actually a member of the German SS, who visited concentration camps to select slave labor, at the end of the war, had asked, "We have never stopped believing in interplanetary travel...to whom should be entrusting our heritage? We despise the French; we are mortally afraid of the Soviets; we do not think the British can afford us. So that leaves the Americans."

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...Von Braun's brother was sent off to find the Allies. He found them in Bavaria: "My name is Magnus von Braun. My brother invented the V-2; we want to surrender." Von Braun and his team were brought to the U.S. under an operation named 'Paperclip', and stationed in Huntsville, Alabama. By 1957, rocket development was well under way, but the budget was going to building B-36 bombers to carry nuclear bombs. Now, Eisenhower was trumped by the Soviets on getting to space, like he had been beaten on the race to Berlin, long ago...

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...It was decided a satellite equal to the Russian Sputnik, could be put up in a few months. It would be sent up, on the Redstone rocket which von Braun had been developing. But the rocket crashed in take-off, the satellite rolling away on the ground...beeping. The press were quick to call America's competition with Sputnik, 'Flop-nik', or 'Kaput-nik', or 'Stay-put-nik'. Khrushchev, whose own scientists told him their feat could be equaled by (the other German scientists) in America, said their Sputnik was lonely, waiting for the Americans.

In a few months, January 1958, the U.S. also had a beeping satellite in space. Von Braun now tried to popularize his enthusiasm for space travel, writing fiction, and eventually doing technical work for Walt Disney to have programs appear on Disney's TV show. As soon as the one satellite was up, discussion began for a space agency. Eisenhower signed for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, which took up the work that had been done since the start of the rocket experimentation...

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...Castro refrained from calling his government Socialist until 1960, after which the Soviet money was too useful, to take any middle course. Harry Truman, in retirement, made a comment on the situation, "I'd have picked up the phone and called him (Castro) direct in Havana...Fidel, it looks like you had a pretty good revolution down there, and it's been a long time in coming. Now you're going to need some help, and there are only two places you can go to get it..." Truman thought there was another way to approach the Cuban revolution...

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...And Truman also, in retirement, offered a comment about why Presidents were possibly not able *to lead* at this point in history, "Those fellows in the CIA don't just make reports own wars. They go make their own, and there's nobody to keep track of what they're up to." It is doubtful anyone in these years, when Allen Dulles and E. Howard Hunt were working out a philosophy about covert espionage, (that would become a book after the Bay of Pigs Invasion) knew or cared about this retired President's thoughts...

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...But Khrushchev actually agreed with Malenkov, who he was happy to replace as chief in the Soviet Union. He wanted the USSR to spend less on defense, and more on consumer goods. Khrushchev debated Vice President Nixon at the American consumer exhibition at the Moscow Exhibition in 1959, visited Eisenhower in the U.S. for thirteen days (angry that they would not let him go to Disneyland), and invited Eisenhower to visit Russia. We cannot know how sold Eisenhower was on the John Foster Dulles and General Hap Arnold 'massive retaliation' approach to the Soviet Union, but Eisenhower seemed to be welcoming Khrushchev's approach.

But there was to be a problem in this 'thaw' experiment, and it came, interestingly enough from the CIA. In 1956, the CIA completed development of the U 2 reconnaissance plane that could fly at 64,000 feet. It began flying over Russia. America denied the incursions were happening. The Russian protested. But the U 2 was causing more problems for American Cold War plans than for Russia. Its pictures showed there was *no 'bomber gap'*, that is, the U.S. was far ahead of Russia in bombers, not the other way around, as the Washington lobbyists claimed on behalf of American manufacturers...

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...The U.S. had stopped the U-2 flights in 1959 --- they were proving 'no bomber gap'--- but then resumed the flights in April 1960, in the *month before*

the next summit of Eisenhower and Khrushchev. Eisenhower, on being informed, demanded they stop until the summit in Moscow was over. The CIA gave him reasons why they *must* recommence at that time. And they did.

The summit was to be on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Pilot Francis Gary Powers' U 2 plane was shot down May 1<sup>st</sup>. The CIA claimed no knowledge of the high altitude missiles the Soviets obviously now had. Pilot Powers parachuted, and was put on display by the Kremlin (and given a three year jail term). Khrushchev had no choice but to withdraw his accommodation. The summit was over in one meeting, with Khrushchev demanding apologies. The Cold War was saved. No one has ever investigated the chronology of events...

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...Eisenhower was faced with the same 'guns or butter' thoughts of Khrushchev in the Kremlin, as Eisenhower had a pet infrastructure project, the Interstate Highway system, which needed to buy land and build roads. (The Interstate cost \$101 billion over ten years, building 41,000 miles of roads. Eisenhower correctly said this should be a revenue project with tolls, but Congress, anxious to spend and please, made it free.) Eisenhower's years did show a surplus, but money that may have gone into additional infrastructure or education, or paying down the national debt, went instead to an arms buildup.

Eisenhower began to work out his ideas on what exactly had happened in his watch in the last years. He started by passing on budget thoughts, "That jet plane that roars over your head costs three-quarters of a million dollars. That is more than a man making \$10,000 a year, is going to make in his lifetime. We are in an arms race. Where will it lead us?" And he asked his times to think, "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed." And also, "We cannot mortgage the assets of our grandchildren, without risking the loss of their political and spiritual heritage."

Then, finally, but only at the last minute (in his farewell speech), he said it, "We have been *compelled to create* a permanent armament industry of vast proportion...In the councils of government of government, we must guard against the acquisition of influence, whether sought or unsought by the *military-industrial complex*"...

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...Eisenhower coined a phrase there, we still use today. Had he become aware, that the people he was listening to, may not have the best plan for America after

all? Was he trying to send a message to Khrushchev (who refused to meet him again) that he realized something was wrong, on Eisenhower's side of the Cold War? Did the coming fiasco with the Bay of Pigs, indicate that Eisenhower had more hesitancy than Kennedy, for an attack on Cuba? Again, nobody asked. And after the Bay of Pigs fiasco, no one could be honest...

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...And ads, like shows, were live. Betty Furness became a household name selling Westinghouse refrigerators, but she had to do each ad live, at the breaks, at the set, for Studio One dramas. Asked to do her ads for the 1952 Republican Convention, she had to do the refrigerator ad, at the Convention, twenty times a day. A half century after the start of the movie industry, no one thought to use film, until the end of the decade! Television came from radio networks, and radio was a live act! 'Marlboro Man' was invented by Phillip Morris, to get men to smoke a filtered cigarette. Marlboro as a filter smoke had been designed for women and sold to women. How to get men to buy a lady's smoke? Someone came up with the macho Westerner, to do the trick...

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...In Memphis, Tennessee, Sam Phillips' Sun Recordings gave African American artists the recordings, that the regular segregated industry would not. He would eventually also record Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, speaking of a 'rockabilly' type of country music. Phillips partner, Dewey Phillips, was a local radio man, who asked listeners to blow their horns in Memphis, if they liked something they heard (to the consternation of the police department). Elvis's first recording played on his station indicated the artist had something.

Born in the Tennessee hills, in a 'shotgun shack' (you could fire a shotgun in the front entrance and it would clear the back door, that is to say, it was a small accommodation), Elvis came to the nation on the Steve Allen Show, where his comedian host thought it interesting if the new entertainer, sang, 'You Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog'... to a hound dog... which Elvis did. The other migrant from the hills shotgun shack, Elvis' father, turned out to be one of the best talent managers of the times. In 1959, Berry Gordy in Detroit started Motown records to focus on black artists...

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...For women's advice in syndicated newspapers, twins Ester and Pauline Friedman ended up 'Abigail Van Buren' ('Dear Abby'), for the San Francisco Chronicle, and 'Ann Landers' for the Chicago Sun Times. Their independent work over the coming decades made both their names --- both their pseudo names, anyway --- household words among a generation of women. Ann Landers' advice on love and marriage did not prevent her from a normal course of love and marriage, for herself, as she eventually divorced a husband of thirty-six years, who had been, himself, in the 1950's, founder of the Budget Rental Car company...

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...The cartoon characters of the 1940's, continued, with Beetle Bailey, Peanuts, Pogo, joining them. Mad Magazine made its debut. Grandma Moses (Anna Mary Robertson) and Norman Rockwell kept painting down home, rural, rustic American scenes. They were the rear guard of a perception America used to love, a perception that would fade in a new world of television, manufacturing suburbia, the Organization Man (a book by William Whyte) , and the Kinsey Report (a book on new sexual mores of Americans, by Alfred Kinsey... zoologist)

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...America's auto industry entered space long before Sputnik, with rocket tails to car designs. Supposedly inspired by World War II's p-38 fighter, through the fifties all American manufacturers designed cars with tail fins, the most outlandish being the Cadillac Eldorado. The automobile reached its domination in this period, as trolleys and other mass transport were abandoned, for the idea that everyone had a car, and gasoline was 15 cents a gallon. A car by 1959 cost about \$1800. The New Jersey and Pennsylvania Turnpikes opened, and Eisenhower's Interstate Highway program commenced.

Kaiser, Hudson, Packard, Crosley automobile manufacturers did not succeed. The Big Three changed from V-6 to V-8 engines. The G.M. Corvette and Ford Thunderbird appeared. Volkswagen showed up from Germany, but had a difficult start, as the original marketing man, had to sell his sample car, to pay hotel bills from traveling to meet dealers, until Advertising Agency Doyle Dane Bernbach decided the only thing to make it saleable, would be unusual ads. The Volkswagen did not even have a gas gauge, as a convenience, but it was a strong car. Station wagons, ancestor of the SUV, became popular...

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...The First McDonalds was a diner, but the McDonald's saw that 85% of their sales were hamburgers, so they changed the menu to focus, and added fries and milkshakes. Ray Kroc, who had developed a milkshake machine, with the idea to sell them across the country, bought a franchise right from them. Ray standardized everything: burger 1.6 ounces, 3 5/8<sup>th</sup> diameter, fat content 17 – 20%. He opened his first store in Chicago, and ran into trouble. He tried to sell 50% of his franchise company to banks for \$25,000. There were no takers, but then business picked up, and by 1960, he had over 200 franchises...

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...One entertainment milestone was the 'Pluto Platter'. This was a plastic dish that could be thrown between players. It was brought out by the Wham O Company, which also introduced the Hula Hoop. The Pluto Platter was successful, but everyone kept calling it by the name of the bakery, whose pie pans had started up the sport. This had long been the Frisbee Baking company of Connecticut. So, in the end the Wham O company changed the name of the game object. Alfred Butts had invented the game 'Lexico', but it was not a seller. He changed the name to 'Criss-Cross', but no one wanted to play that game either. He joined with a partner, and changed the name to Scrabble, and that finally took off in 1952...

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...And, from a customer whose wife was Emma (E.) and papa was Elbert (E.), "Dear Sears, Well now when one of the parcels comes in, it just says E. Hennigson. Now that's all right...but my papa Elbert Hennigson gets mail from the same post office and he lives 2½ miles out in the country. Then my papa gets it and carries it and opens it and finds out that Ma never sent for... and that's all right, but you see my papa comes down the next day, and leaves it in the mailbox for the mail man to pick up, and that's all right, but you see the parcel has to wait all this time to get back to the post office, and that's all right, then it comes back the next day about noon just after I come back from lunch, there for it had to wait till I go at home at night, before my wife actually gets the parcel. That's all right but..."

Sears would get letters from wives looking for missing husbands, "He is sure to order something from you..."

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...The response to the first Fireside Chats were sometimes euphoric. “In another twenty days we’ll be out of the Depression”, an Iowa man declared, simply because people believed in their country, and thought that it could be fixed, with the right leadership. Then, results, good, bad, mixed, came almost immediately. Harold Ickes approved grants in eight states, under the Federal Emergency Relief Act, within the *first day* of operation. And the CCC and PWA were hiring, while the Home Owners Loan Corporation was giving new mortgages.

It does sound like too much government spending, or like socialism, but it was in the context of desperation, met with hands-on quick action, that the public could observe in action in their own counties, that made the New Deal a savior for democracy and capitalism... in its time. “He gave me a job, He saved my home”, from one thankful supporter in the next 1936 election, does sound a little like what goes on in totalitarian regimes, but Americans like to give credit to good leadership, as much as any citizen of any country...

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...The other thing about the New Deal was the sincerity. The Dust bowl problem of the panhandles of two states, was not going to be an election matter, for any Party consideration. But the FDR boys insisted on coming up with every solution, just because there were Americans, there in those panhandles, in serious trouble. And here you can criticize centralized planning --- as we traditionally and culturally do criticize central planning --- but it is hard to believe that either the Great Depression, at the level in which it was, four years running by 1933, or World War II, could have been met without some national central planning.

Blasting the skies with TNT, planting 40 million trees, sending researchers to the Gobi desert in China, trying to buy worthless farms that had become sand dunes, to give people money to move on...it all really didn’t work for the drought-bound Dust bowl area. But the American people saw their Federal government bring heart to try, and that seemed to make a big difference at the time. In 1938, FDR visited the Texas panhandle part of the dust bowl problem area. For the first time in a long while, it rained. It rained on FDR’s open car. It rained on FDR. He didn’t mind. Those who came, and also got wet, didn’t mind...

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...The 1936 Democratic Convention was in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the birthplace of the Republic. FDR gave a speech there where he stated that “This generation of Americans has a *rendezvous with destiny*”. He also said, “There

is a mysterious cycle in human events. To some generations much is given. Of other generations much is expected.” He went on to speak of other lands that have grown too weary to carry on the fight for freedom, and that those lands now begin to know that America is “waging a *great and successful war*...a war for democracy”. He closed in saying that he was enlisted for the duration of *the war*.

What war was that? It was 1936. Hitler’s takeover of Czechoslovakia was 1938, and that was with the blessings (of the then) British government. You could see the term being used as war against the economic Depression, although they thought at that time, that they had fairly successfully beaten that, with jumps in GNP and employment (at that time before 1937), but why say ‘rendezvous with destiny?’ We will come back to this...

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...That commitment in the Eisenhower years was basically handled by the Dulles brothers, one who headed the CIA and one who was Secretary of State. Stalin gave them their start. George Kennan, after World War II in Moscow, concluded that there could be no compromises with Stalin. But when the Malenkov and Khrushchev years arrived, Kennan, himself, came to a different conclusion, one about the people who had taken control on his side, “Were the Soviet Union to sink tomorrow under the waters of the ocean, the American military-industrial establishment would have to go on, substantially unchanged, until some other adversary *could be invented*.” That is a substantial change of opinion from someone history calls an original ‘Cold warrior’...

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...In his first détente meeting with Khrushchev, the one in the U.S., Eisenhower said to him, “My military leaders come to me, and say, Mr. President, we need such and such a sum for such and such a program. If we don’t get the funds we’ll fall behind the Soviet Union.” Khrushchev responded, “It’s the same with me.”

That was the first summit. The second one would be sabotaged by an insistent CIA U-2 flight, after the Soviets had perfected high altitude missiles. Khrushchev had said, when ending the Paris meeting at its inception, that he would meet again, next time, in 1961, which *he knew* would be a new President. But the installation of U.S nuclear missiles in Turkey, going on in 1960, would insure there would be no meaningful summit then. In fact, there was almost war, with the next President...

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...Where America definitely 'went alone', with the CIA ousting of Nicaragua's President Guzman and Iran's Mossadeq, the worst use of 'commitment' was obvious. In early 1953, Eisenhower argued with British Prime Minister Anthony Eden, that Mossadeq represented democracy, and "I would like to give him \$10 million." Eden positioned himself against Eisenhower, for old Empire (and new oil company objectives), as Churchill had with FDR. And the two Dulles' in the State Department and CIA, supported Prime Minister Eden's position. Prime Minister Mossadeq, a boisterous leader, fiercely guarding the interests of his country, who Eisenhower thought could be made a friend, was run through the Dulles family machine..

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...Patton didn't shut up, and people have talked (and recently written) about whether the OSS had anything to do with the details around the car accident that took his life. More questions on all of that were, of course, very unfortunately ahead in the next section of this Republic's history. The Cold War would continue to properly secure itself...

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...No one would have brought up questions like those brought up concerning General Patton's death, in Patton's times, or in Eisenhower's more extended times. And those 'times', that type of American *mindset*, seemed to go on down the road, right at the end of those Eisenhower extended times. America was soon different, right after the end of the Eisenhower Presidency. Every chronicler notices it. No one really knows why. With OSS/CIA debating who to murder, and J Edgar Hoover's FBI planning to whom to listen in on, much had changed. There had been a World War II. But then 'War Time' now continued.

A war like World War II, and a Cold War to immediately follow, certainly had an effect. It was a different world, soon a technical world. When a farmer brought a cow to Eisenhower's headquarters in France as the Allies moved toward Germany, his staff thanked the farmer, and stared at the animal. Eisenhower looked around at his staff, and decided to give them all an instruction on how to milk a cow. There would be no more Presidents who could do this. Times and people would be different...

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...The other thing coming, quickly, and in a rather unfortunate way a coming war, would be a concentration on Asia. General MacArthur (raised in Manila), and General Joe Stillwell (who spoke Mandarin), and Life Magazine owner Henry Luce (raised in Shanghai), were all constant complainers that too much attention was being spent on Europe, and that was not where the future was. Absolutely no one in this time period could understand why, they were on and on about that subject of China and Asia. Churchill had been upset at FDR's insistence to invite Chiang Kai-Shek to the Cairo wartime summit...

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...When Eisenhower invited Khrushchev to the U.S., for the first summit, the itinerary included of course Camp David, where U.S. Presidents would be inviting other heads of state, from then on. In the Russian language at the time, there is no boy scout 'camp', summer 'camp', *type of 'camp'*. 'Camp' meant Gulag, concentration camp. Khrushchev's translators went into panic. Why was the American President taking the Soviet Premier to a 'camp', and how were they going to explain this to Khrushchev. Someone eventually sorted out the 'camp' problem. Camp David had only been named by Eisenhower. FDR built it by Frederick, Maryland, outside Washington D.C., as a retreat. The main house was modeled on FDR's Warm Springs lodge...

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...But mysticism had nothing to do with it. Except for the fact, that Hitler and FDR, in the early 1930's, both had a strong interest in, and quickly sent state missions to find: *Shangri-La*.

Hitler from the beginning wanted to create a killing machine that would more or less take over the world. FDR was facing national bankruptcy for his Republic and its citizens. Certainly neither would have interest or time to divert attention to finding Shangri-La, in the Himalayas. That makes no sense at all.

Hitler's expeditions were headed by SS commander Ernest Schaeffer. The interest in Shambala (Shangri-La) and Agharta, as crossover portals to the dimensions beyond, has come up in our spiritual traditions, from 500 BCE times forward (Laozi, Buddha, Hinduism, Essenes, Sufi's). The Thule organization in Germany merged its interest in the cross-over portal location, in the Himalayas, with Nazi Party interests, before Hitler came to power. An office of Traditions of the Ancestors (Ahnenerbe) made the interest, official, by 1935.

Of course, the Nazi's were only interested in power (and anti-gravity weapon applicable knowledge), and it was said that the Tibetans who knew of matter of Shambala and Agharta, would not cooperate. The Nazi's did encourage Tibetans to come to Berlin, and Allied forces did come across a hundred dead Nazi uniformed persons in one location in Berlin, that seemed of Tibetan heritage, all of whom evidently committed suicide. Hitler seemed to place some importance to all this. The head of the Ahnenerbe gave the opening speech at the 1936 Olympics...

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...Wallace was considered too mystical and impractical. He never came up with a special genetic grain for the dust bowl, but as son of the founder of the 'Wallace Farmer', he was devoted to the subject of better farm products...and was successful. His Pioneer Hi-Bred company produced a hybrid corn, and Hy-Line Poultry, eventually bought by DuPont, created a chicken breeding process, that genetically produced hens which are responsible for 40% of today's hens. (And that innovation, was in the 1930's.) If anyone should be sent to the Gobi area to examine grain hybrids, it should have been Henry Wallace.

But the suspicion in picking Nicholas Roerich to lead that expedition, is that Shangri-La (Shambala) was actually the important secondary mission of FDR and Wallace, although after the 1944 election problem when Wallace was labelled a kook, all correspondence on the FDR side would have been destroyed...

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...It is possible that both sides, Hitler's and FDR's, encountered silence, as the response to their intrusion and insistences. But then again, whatever Shambala and Agharta are, are whoever they were, who told the visitors from Germany, and from America, that they had some connection to Shambala / Agharta, those Tibetans were made aware that far down below and away from the Himalayas, world history and humanity was desperately asking for whatever spiritual influence their connection had... to make a choice.

What we do know, is that, as FDR wheeled his chair through second and final crisis, World War II, that his long term in service was asked to address, *his crowd* would win. In the middle of that War, the Jefferson Memorial --- of "We hold these truths to be self-evident" of the founding fathers cornerstone Era Spirit for their Republic --- and also the Pentagon --- the building that would conduct and win that War against a force that hated all Republics --- would both be completed (in the same year: 1943).

That greatest conflict of history would come to a close, with democracy and freedom and Wallace and FDR's American Republic, in good shape. That should have been reason enough, for one of that War's generals, later as President, to eventually put a spiritual wish, 'In God We Trust', on the nation's currency.