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# January'20

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# Travel Column: The Way Of The Arctic Samurai

by *Britball*

There's few things you hate more than traveling and those conspicuous consumers that do it. In that I differ from you, so I have taken it upon myself to write a travel column for those who hate travel. Yes, on my tablet.

One last time down the slopes and get the last bus out of here? Or be on the safe side and get the one before last instead? It was my first time skiing on a mountain and it was going very well. With most of the other patrons being Japanese school kids with numbers 1 to 150 written on their jackets confined to the small green section, the red slopes were all for me and I was really getting the hang of it. Descending between the pine trees I was going fast and still felt in control.

This is Japan, I thought. Trains run on time, I should have no worries catching the last train and doing one more run, so I did. And indeed, trains run on time. Buses in Japan are still mortal, and subject to traffic, snowy conditions (and on Hokkaido, it snows!) and the bus was delayed, making sure I was two minutes too late for my connecting train off the island. And trains do run in time. My last train had escaped me, like a Snorlax from a regular Pokeball.

My first thought was a meal, and in Asia this can be a scary experience. My own dish was fine, but my neighbour's meal was a still very much alive squid and reaching



out for everyone nearby, trying to avenge itself. Pouring soy sauce over it only enraged it further.

After the meal I was still stuck in the Southernmost city of Hokkaido, Hakodate, with no way to the hotel on the mainland I booked and the temperature at -15 and descending. I decided to book whatever is cheapest and walk there right away. On arrival, I found that the conditions inside were not much different though. There was no snow inside, but only thin walls to separate me from the near-arctic temperatures outside, nor was there any form of heating to relieve the cold.

This is how polar samurai are initiated. With several duvets, I built a small blanket fort as my own accommodation within the accommodation. Within this, I spent the night, filling it with little clouds with every breath.

The next morning the only thing on my mind was getting warm, but I wouldn't give in to the owner's audacity of charging extra for the showers, so I just got up, packed up, brushed my teeth and marched double pace to the train station, got a bento and got on the first train.

All that remains now of these two days is a story, photos of snowy castles and the memory. Don't let discomfort or fear discourage you from going out and seeing the world, which is especially beautiful in the harshest conditions.







**Datapagan and a Cybervegan #2:  
Bernd's Pharmacopeia**

*by Americanball*

## **Preface**

This will be a short article covering my experience with various nootropics including techniques and tips for consumption. The author has decided to take this series in another direction and instead cover both techniques and only a survey of the character of the experience of each drug. Drug experiences are largely subjective and, as a more analytically minded individual, my time is better spent documenting the medicinal properties and technical processes behind these substances than writing trip reports.

The first article in this series covered ayahuasca: the brewing process, tips to prepare for the experience, and some of the author's personal experiences.

In the next article we will cover one method for growing *Psilocybe cubensis* mushrooms, some ancillary details and sources to learn more about growing mushrooms, and a handful of the author's trip reports consuming mushrooms and psilohuasca. Perhaps after this, with a similar year long gap between this article and the last, we may cover the process of growing psychedelic cacti and extracting and consuming mescaline and/or the details of extracting and smoking DMT.

## **Intro**

Many look to drugs as performance enhancers, whether for sports, academics, or work. This article will document a number of possible use cases for different nootropic drugs.



While the nootropic community recommends stacks, the author found that combining too many things has adverse and counterproductive effects. I'll expand on those where necessary. At the same time, some drugs (like ayahuasca and psilohuasca) only work through a synergistic effect. I'll note those as well where relevant - the nootropics listed generally only require neurotransmitter supplementation.

You can find similar rating scales on the internet, for example a much more thorough and detailed list linked here: <https://www.gwern.net/Nootropics>

This article represents the author's own experiences. The reader should be able to use these to make their choice of nootropic stacks. See the end of this article for a glossary of terms. Throughout the article items found in the glossary have been italicized, except for terms appearing in drug ratings.

## **Methods**

### **Legality and Source**

Please note that these substances are not legal in all jurisdictions, every nation has a different set of laws and you should look them up before purchase and consumption.

The source I use for most nootropics is [nootropicsdepot.com](http://nootropicsdepot.com), you can use the code REDDITS to get 10 percent off your purchase. This is likely most useful for US-based buyers. Note I am unaffiliated with this site though I would lean toward endorsing them, as an American this

works for me and I know a Swede who has successfully ordered substances that are otherwise controlled in his country. I do not order controlled substances through them, I use other sites or DNM for that.

Modafinil and Armodafinil can be purchased through clearnet sources that ultimately source from India, where the Adrafinil is legal. You can find sources through other clearnet communities dealing in nootropics, I prefer [https:// www.buymoda.org/](https://www.buymoda.org/)

### **Pressing Powder Into Capsules**

As I consume many of these substances frequently, I've had to adopt cost saving measures.

One of these is buying my nootropics as powders and capping them myself. You can buy a capsule making machine that can make 100 capsules at a time. Essentially it is a machine in which you load the two ends of the capsule into separate plates, pour powder over the long end pill plate, and scrape the powder until full. Press or tamp the powder with the handled plate with pegged teeth (tamper) and pour/scrape again until the desired fullness has been reached. Please pay attention to capsule sizes, I use size 0, size 00 is the next step up. A capsule making machine is a good investment and used throughout this series.

### **Dosing**

I use a milligram (at minimum 1/100g) scale to measure my doses. You will need to do independent research on the exact dosages as I do not list them here.

## Example Substance Class

### Example Chemical, Molecule, or Substance

Trials: Number of times consumed by the author

Rating: Rating on a ten point scale

RoA: Route of administration, intake method

## Choline Sources

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### Alpha-GPC

Trials: N > 100

Rating: 7 / 10

RoA: Pill (Oral)

Alpha-GPC is a form of choline that is extremely bioavailable and can easily cross the blood-brain barrier. It is used to provide extra choline when using cholinergic drugs, such as those in the racetam family below. They also prevent racetam headaches, and are primarily why the author supplements with them. Some take Alpha GPC alone to enhance performance but I have not really noticed much improvement using them alone.

There are two versions of Alpha-GPC to be aware of, 50% and 99%. Vendors now sell 50% as the the molecule is extremely hygroscopic and will liquify when exposed to ambient moisture in the air. The 50% mixture while less potent doesn't liquify as quickly. I find this the hardest powder to turn into capsules, as one must be quick and deliberate as the powder gets sticky quickly and typically requires cleaning between presses. I recommend shaking any container the capsules come in to eliminate chunks, and making sure to screw the cap on after pouring onto your plate.

**Choline Bitartrate**

Trials: N > 10

Rating: 1/10

RoA: Pill (Oral)

Least effective choline source. This choline source doesn't increase CNS choline levels and so is nearly useless as a nootropic choline supplement. Easy to cap.

**Citicoline or****CDP-Choline**

Trials: N = 5

Rating: 6/10

RoA: Pill (Oral)

Trade name Cognizin. Not as effective a choline source as Alpha-GPC but is thought to be a salt of choline and another nootropic supplement, so may be an intriguing alternative. Eventually converting to uridine, this is thought to be a dopamine supplement as well as an acetylcholine, whereas Alpha-GPC is merely an acetylcholine supplement.

**DMAE L-Bitartrate**

Trials: N = 5

Rating: 4/10

RoA: Pill (Oral)

Hard to say if this one is an effective choline source.



## 'Afinils

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### **Adrafinil**

Trials: N > 10

Rating: 5 / 10

RoA: Pill (Oral)

### **Armodafinil**

Trials: N > 50

Rating: 7/10

RoA: Pill (Oral)

### **Modafinil**

Trials: N > 50

Rating: 6 / 10

RoA: Pill (Oral)

Feels dirty, known to be hard on the liver as it is merely a prodrug for Modafinil. All 'afinils may cause a change in body and/or urine odor, making it more sulfurous. Even so, Adrafinil is an effective stimulant.

'Afinils are known as eugeroics, which means they promote wakefulness. These two are schedule IV in the USA.

They are the *racemic* mixture when sold as Modafinil. A racemic mixture contains a 1:1 ratio of the L- and R-*enantiomer* of a substance. For reference, adderall is also a racemic mixture of amphetamine and dextroamphetamine.

Both Modafinil and Armodafinil are atypical stimulants. They aren't as psychoactive and euphoric as amphetamines, but cause a subtle and lengthy stimulation. You may still find yourself grinding your teeth at high doses.

Be warned that when taking Modafinil you may experience biphasic stimulation as the L-*enantiomer* is metabolized quicker than the R-*enantiomer*. The half lives are 5 hours and possibly 10-16 hours respectively. If you intend to take Modafinil, be aware of this and refrain from redosing.

For that reason, I prefer Armodafinil as the plateau is more predictable.

Recommended doses for those using it for nootropic purposes are either 1/2 of a 200mg pill in the form of Modafinil, and 1/4 to 1/3 of a 150mg pill in the form of Armodafinil.



For a stimulant and wakefulness promoter, either take a single pill whole or take 1/2 and take the first upon waking and the second twelve hours later.

Note that Armodafinil and Phenylpiracetam (the other major drug recommended in this article) should not be combined. While Armodafinil does not present a strong tolerance I've found that taking it multiple days in a row is somewhat destructive to the body. I tend to notice issues with my skin that resolve upon cessation of the drug. I've noticed heart palpitations and angina when taken with other stimulants. It generally leads to a haggard and older appearance, and I have found I feel a kind of pressure on the internal organs. This is often due to it being coupled with not sleeping for quite a long time as well as polydrug use.

Both drugs have been used by pilots as an alternative to amphetamines. I feel this nootropic is hard on health, and I have upped my dosage after prolonged use with a period of bodily adaptation.

## 'Racetams

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### **Piracetam**

Trials: N ~ 10

Rating: 4 / 10

RoA: Pill (Oral)

Quintessential member of the racetam family of drugs. They are used to treat those with memory disorders. Experienced agitation while on this racetam, without any of the benefits.

### **Aniracetam**

Trials: N > 10

Rating: 5 / 10

RoA: Pill (Oral)

This is a fat soluble version of Piracetam. Didn't work out too well from what I could tell, but both Aniracetam and Piracetam should be supplemented over time.

### **Noopept**

Trials: N = 1

Rating: 4 / 10

RoA: Sublingual

Didn't notice much of an effect, but noopept is meant to be a powerful memory enhancer. Not a racetam, but chemically similar. The author needs to do more experimentation with this compound.

### **Phenylpiracetam**

Trials: N > 100

Rating: 8 / 10

RoA: Pill (Oral)

This is the second of the two nootropics I've found to be helpful and most recommend. Phenylpiracetam is thought to be a dopamine and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor as well as a strong hypermnesia. This means that it is both a strong stimulant as well as a memory enhancer.

Also known as carphedon and phenotropil, Phenylpiracetam as well as the rest of the racetam family of drugs is known and used more in the former Soviet Union. Phenotropil in particular was once included in Cosmonaut's emergency pack, and is noted for its ability to increase stamina and enhance resistance to cold conditions. It may be a vasodilator, and induces higher perceived bodily heat.

Many use it as a pre-workout. It should be known that this substance induces a tolerance, and should only be dosed twice or three times a week, allowing for tolerance breaks.

I personally have noticed the warmth, and also a physical stimulation that can result in thorough and complete cleaning of my house, or swiftly walking double the amount I had intended. Often after taking Phenylpiracetam I'll feel sore the next day if I used it while performing physical activity due to excess activity. It is known to increase operant behavior in rats at 350%, which ultimately means it increases capacity or motivation to do somewhat strenuous or repetitive work quite a bit. This may be a result of a synergy between its stimulant and hypermnesic effects.

While I've noticed the physical effects, I use it more often for intellectual labor. In social situations it can increase confidence if there is some intent, but I feel it also induces an autistic or OCD state in more open social situations such as shopping for groceries. Applied to intellectual work, I notice a potent enhancement of shortterm memory and creativity, as well as the ability to concentrate and maintain focus for 10-12h at a time (a bit less than Armodafinil, but with significantly more cognitive enhancement). All in all in technical work it is excellent for learning and studying and can lead to overengineering.

**Pramiracetam**

Trials: N ~ 10

Rating: 3/10

RoA: Pill (Oral)

Nasty taste, acidic, never noticed anything special about this racetam.



## Other Nootropics and Stimulants

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### **L-Theanine**

Trials: N > 10

Rating: 4 / 10

RoA: Gum (Oral)

Supposedly you add this in a 2:3 ratio to Caffeine:L-Theanine and it takes the jittery edge off of caffeine and leaves a clean, lucid stimulation. It may be a slight sedative on its own, as you might expect.

### **Nicotine**

Trials: N > 10

Rating: 5 / 10

RoA: Gum (Oral)

Nicotine is a known nootropic, one of the few proven to boost IQ in studies. That said, I don't find the effect all that noticeable, and usually it leads to anxiety when overdone. 2mg Nicolette gum can help, usually it is a boost on top of something else.

### **PRL-8-53**

Trials: N = 2

Rating: 6 / 10

RoA: Sublingual

Supposed to be a memory enhancer, definitely felt like it was sucking me into memories and had an almost psychedelic or dreamlike effect. Enhanced creativity due to heightened short-term memory, some say their ability to remember digit and word strings is greatly enhanced. Some say that it can strip the enamel from your teeth.

### **Ritalin**

Trials: N = 4

Rating: 5 / 10

RoA: Pill (Oral)

As an adult not diagnosed with ADHD, the author found Ritalin to be too stimulating, but that may be due to combining it with caffeine and one of these nootropic stimulants. Lead to grinding and gnashing of teeth and the need to take a walk before I started to freak out at work, but otherwise had an extremely productive day.

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## Glossary

*Blood-brain barrier:* an endothelial (small layer of cells) barrier that allows selective transportation of molecules between the blood and brain

*Chirality:* asymmetry that results in the mirror images of a molecule or shape not to be superimposable

*Conformation:* isomers that may be converted by rotation, in practice the electrical/physical properties of a molecule prevent it from freely taking on its different conformations

*Enantiomer:* one of a pair of chiral molecules that are mirror images of another

*Hygroscopic:* attracting water

*Hypermnestic:* memory enhancer  
*Isomer:* differing forms and arrangements of the same molecular formula

*Nootropic:* also known as smart drugs, these are substances that are supposed to be cognitive and executive functioning enhancers

*Operant Conditioning:* associative learning that strengthens behavior, consequential learning, learning through reinforcement and punishments

*Plateau:* the phase of a drug experience that lasts longest, and is most steady, before the body metabolizes the drug

*Prodrug*: a substance that is metabolized by the body into the active form of the drug, examples include Adrafinil and Psilocybin

*Psilocybe cubensis*: species name for the most common strain of psychedelic mushroom

*Racemic*: containing a proportional mixture of the *enantiomers* of a chiral molecule

*RoA*: route of administration

*Stack*: a combination of drugs and nootropics taken to achieve a certain effect

*Stereochemistry*: the subdiscipline of chemistry that concerns itself with the spatial arrangement of the atomic constituents in molecules

*Sublingual*: underneath the tongue or held in the mouth, typically held underneath the tongue





# How To Topple A Government in Your Pajamas

by *Brazilball*

Wearing his pajamas and red silk robe, general Olímpio Mourão Filho, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, headed to the telephone number and shot a number of calls. It was 05:00, 31st of March, 1964. The coup d'état against Brazilian President João Goulart had begun. The state of Minas Gerais rose in revolt, though outside of it little happened until the night.

Brigade general Antônio Carlos Muricy's "Tiradentes Detachment" invaded Rio *state* from the north, towards Guanabara state/Rio *city*.<sup>1</sup> After midnight São Paulo's IInd Army joined the rebellion and invaded from the west. The legalist 1st Army<sup>2</sup> moved troops in response, they met in the hinterland and almost engaged. Meanwhile Guanabara more or less remained under governmental control.

That Guanabara was the target, the revolt began in Minas and São Paulo converged with it need explanation. Why not Brasília? The federal administrative machinery, including the Ministry of War, was in Guanabara. That garrison was massive. So why didn't it just rise up? Goulart coup-proofed by stacking the upper ranks with

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1. Rio de Janeiro *state* was ruled from Niterói and encompassed everything but Rio *city*, which was the Federal District and later, until 1975, the state of Guanabara.

2. Of which the 4th Infantry Division was a part of.

reliable commanders, and Rio as the most valuable city and garrison was where they were concentrated.

Instead, a large state had to rise in rebellion and invade Rio de Janeiro. Part of its 1st Army will move to fight back, but far from central oversight, its oppositionist medium ranks will refuse to fight. That leaves two, Minas Gerais and São Paulo. Which of them? Both. The governors were already oppositionist and expected a coup d'état would give them better odds in the 1965 presidential election. Guanabara's governor, also oppositionist, took only a defensive stance.

But São Paulo, though an economic powerhouse, was worse as the launch pad. The governor was politically erratic and did not want a repeat of 1932 - his state alone in civil war with the whole country. And the IInd Army's Amauri Kruehl, anticommunist and aware of the conspiracy, was still part of Goulart's coup-proofing and his friend.

On the other hand, Minas had the highest political-military cohesion. Its geography allowed offensives into Guanabara and Brasília and defensible mountain terrain. Mourão was in Juiz de Fora, less than 150 km from Rio - São Paulo is at over double the distance.

The government knew he was up to no good. That was why he was in Minas Gerais, a low priority state, continental and far from the border, serving just as a source of resources. The garrison was underequipped and very understrength, 4 or 5 thousand men, many of which only served a few months. Rio and Guanabara had over

30 thousand men - 1st Infantry Division, Armored Division, Aeroterrestrial Division Core, School-Unit Group and more-, the Santa Cruz airbase and two battalions of marines.<sup>3</sup>

The circle was squared by turning the governor's *Polícia Militar*<sup>4</sup> or *Força Pública* into a battlefield force<sup>5</sup> and negotiating a corridor through the sea with neighboring Espírito Santo, which would be defended by the remilitarized *PMMG* and through which foreign armament could flow in.

Minas and São Paulo mobilized for war, enlisting volunteers, controlling fuel, communications and roads and sweeping up leftists and unionists. The armies of both sides were not motorized and mostly had to requisition civilian buses to move. Their armament was American WWII vintage.

Coupist forces were still weaker than what general Âncora's legalist 1st Army threw at them. How did they win? As Muricy realized, through politics: at the opening stage of an internal conflict officers picked their sides and it was defection season.

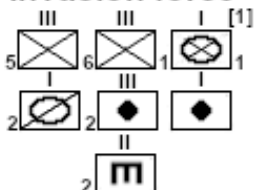
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3. Firepower was concentrated in Rio as the former capital, and the south, facing other Platine armies.

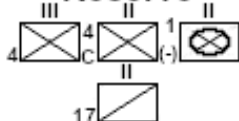
4. Not military police/provosts. In the federal Army those are the *Polícia do Exército* (Army Police).

5. Those were always state equivalents to the federal army but with centralization specialized into their gendarmerie role. Remilitarization took years, initially to defend the governor from a federal intervention.

## IInd Army Invasion force

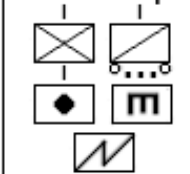


## Reserve



## AMAN forces

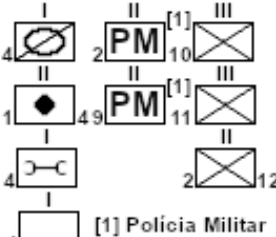
### Cadet Corps



C SV  
(guards)

## The Tiradentes Detachment

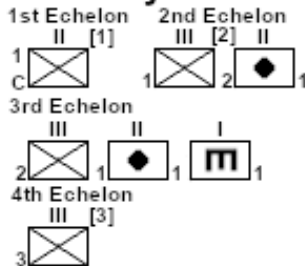
### Detachment



[1] Light tanks. Considered infantry.



## Cunha Melo and Kerensky's forces

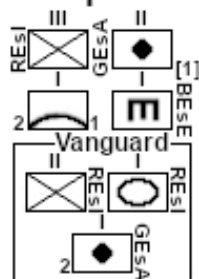


[1] C = Caçadores

[2] Probably one of the two battalions left in quarters

[3] Unclear, at least one battalion underway

## School-Unit Group forces



[1] Engineer School-Battalion

Rio de Janeiro  
Guanabara





Luiz de Fora



istry  
War



### Minas theater

The battlefield was mountainous, full of bottlenecks and river lines. It is clear Brigade general Cunha Melo's legalists will win. The rebels are outnumbered - 2,714 men and 193 vehicles against perhaps 5,000 legalists. Not to mention that Mourão had used everything he had while Âncora had entire Great Units (Armored, Aeroterrestrial, School) unused.

The 1st is the strongest Infantry Division. The 4th moves against it with ammunition for a few hours of combat and young soldiers with a few months of training, save for the 11th Infantry which is thus its best regiment. The police battalions? Light infantry only fit for urban combat. And what of the 4 Gloster Meteors earmarked for the theater? The weather and terrain are bad, legalist pilots are few, but the long column of rebel vehicles on the road will run away if fired at from the air.

Legalist echelons faced Muricy in three moments. The first was at the Minas/Rio border on the Paraibuna river, good defensive terrain, where crucially the rebels were on a bridgehead in the Rio bank. A company of the 1st Caçadores Battalion faced them off at 18:00. Muricy prepared an offensive for daybreak: the 10th Infantry Regiment would charge, while the 11th Infantry reinforced by light tanks would swing around in the rear, coming from the east, and get south of the Paraíba river in from where it could attack the 1st Caçadores from behind.

Kerensky, the legalist commander, stalled through negotiations but had to retreat under threat of artillery, the defection of 2 of his 5 frontline platoons at midnight and his remaining officers wanting to defect.

The next was the 1st Infantry, which agreed to defect on the way and did so by daybreak, with the rebels pressing forward. Of its accompanying howitzer batteries, the 6th escaped and the 4th defected. Remnants of the 1st Caçadores were assimilated in Serraria.

And last was the 2nd Infantry<sup>6</sup>. It missed the opportunities for a defense on the Paraíba river, which was crossed unguarded at 10:30, or on the bottleneck south of Areal, instead entrenching north of that town. That was still good defensive terrain.

Muricy guarded his western flank, facing two battalions of unknown (to him) allegiance, with the 2nd Police and an antitank company. Against Cunha Melo, the 1st Infantry's defection had changed the balance of power. He considered he was now of equal or greater strength but still not ready for a regular open field battle.

By noon he prepared an attack with the 11th Infantry and his group of howitzers. They'd get ahead of the column in a wider formation and charge enemy lines ASAP, even with a disorganized attack. The point was to strike fast to take advantage of the enemy not having much time to entrench. In the process they'd also get defections. One source on the legalist perspective believed the 1st Group's 18 howitzers would've been brutal on a rebel attack; whether it'd succeed is not known. And now, on a cliffhanger...

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6. The 3rd Infantry's situation isn't clear but at the very least they were en route to the front.

### **São Paulo theater**

Krueger went rogue at midnight, ordering an attack force eastward led by the 2nd Infantry Division's general Bandeira. BG Anfriso's School-Unit Group (GUEs) marched west to defend Guanabara. Right in the middle lies Resende and the Agulhas Negras Military Academy. Its BG Médiçi, who'd been outside the conspiracy but immediately sympathized with the rebellion, had to do something to gain credibility.

At 09:30, 1st of April the bulk of his cadets moved east of Resende and occupied the Dutra (RioSP) highway before Barra Mansa to fend off the GUEs while the IInd Army approached. The nearby 1st Armored Infantry Battalion sided with Médiçi but was tied down in neighboring Volta Redonda suppressing labor unrest.

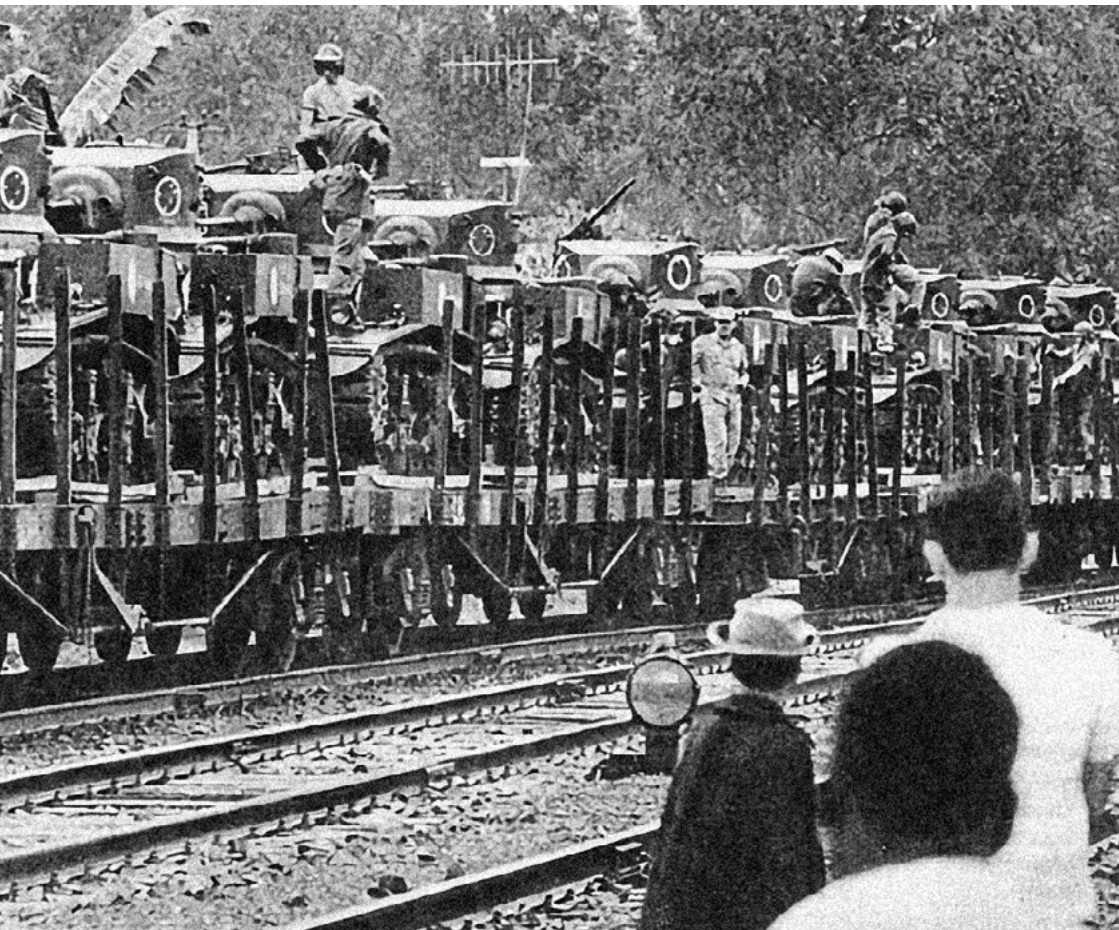
The 5th Infantry had arrived at 11:30, and other elements of the IInd Army followed. On the other side, at 13:00 came the GUEs vanguard. More was coming in the road. The GUEs served to show officers what proper units should look like, and thus had the highest standard of training and equipment. It was the elite.

In between were Médiçi's cadets. A motorized cavalry squadron would fight a delaying action and retreat to the infantry. An engineer platoon would detonate the highway bridges. The forces were at most a few km away. It was a war zone.

In conventional military logic, the cadets were doomed. They were 250 infantry and 80 cavalry, well-motivated but

clueless, against 800 elite infantrymen. Two other batteries of the GEsA came with 35,000 shells, while Médict's had 250, no radios and no training on the vertical fire they'd have to use on the hilly terrain.

This is why Kruel had suggested Médict he'd mount a defense with his most forward regiments plus the 1st Armored Infantry and the Academy's Command and Service Battalion, which had a company of guards. He refused. The cadets had to be at the front, but not to fight: they were a human shield that nobody would want to shoot at. It was psychological.



*1st Company of the 1st Light  
Tank Battalion moves by rail  
towards the front*



Cpt Ustra's AA battery was on its way to reinforce the GUEs.<sup>7</sup> And on its way. And at 20:00 it was still on its way, because he sabotaged transit. They'd arranged his battery's equipment with the politically reliable personnel of another, underequipped, battery, and an older captain that would obviously overthrow him midway. Through protest he managed to get his own soldiers and corporals back, and with them maintained control and delayed movement. This is an example of the chaotic struggle that took place within units, and a demonstration of the degree of legalist morale.

The Artillery School Group's 1st and 3rd batteries arrived at 14:00. Notably they, like the 2nd/1st Howitzer Group, had been kept isolated and uninformed by command. Only now they learned, dumbfounded at the very idea, that they'd fight cadets. The two batteries got on the road at full speed to defect. Thus they turned their backs to the 2nd battery and infantry battalion, with which they didn't coordinate, but those didn't mow them down as they could have - they hadn't the slightest loyalty to the government, either. Likewise a mortar platoon, ordered to point at cadet positions, refused the order.

### **Legalist defeat**

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7. The pieces were meant for point defense, taking hours to deploy; asphalt would ruin the tractors' treads. Not that it stopped command from using it to guard a column on the highway.

Coupists in the Navy immobilized the “people’s admiral” Aragão’s marines. Hence Âncora told the President his remaining muscle in Rio, the Army Police and Guards Battalions, couldn’t ensure his safety in the city. Rio’s garrison was still in quarters, under legalist control but perhaps neutral. Attempts to persuade units failed, and forceful takeovers were deemed too risky. The rebellion consisted only of governor Carlos Lacerda, his police, the military schools in Urca and the Copacabana Fort.

Notably there was ambiguity in Âncora’s behavior, who on the 31st allowed general Castelo Branco, head of the conspiracy, to leave the Ministry of War despite the heavy presence of tanks and Army Police, and allegedly<sup>8</sup> threatened to throw the same tanks against the marines if they, as Aragão wanted, attacked Lacerda. The attack didn’t come because Goulart never ordered it.

But at 12:30 Goulart left for the airport to take off for Brasília after continually hearing bad news, from Krue’s and other’s betrayals to the fact that America would recognize a parallel government. Not quite to his knowledge, it was also ready to provide logistical support to the coupists and a naval taskforce had already set sail.<sup>9</sup>

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8. According to the state’s Security Secretary.

9. A land intervention would require 60 thousand men (there were 16 in Vietnam at the time) and would be the most extreme option. The brass did, however, question the point of even a taskforce for gunboat diplomacy.

In the hinterland there was no combat because Âncora decided to negotiate with Kruel at the Academy. After the President fled, the legalist apparatus in Rio was hollow. Goulart had ordered him not to shed blood, and Costa e Silva, one of the leading coupist generals in Rio, phoned him from his hideout to make the suggestion. At 15:00 a ceasefire entered effect. In Areal Cunha Melo negotiated his retreat with Muricy and posed no further resistance.

In Resende the old, asthmatic, exhausted Âncora was embarrassed at the full honors with which he was received, saying a loser was entitled to none. To Médici, “*there are no losers except the fatherland’s enemies*”. Enemy or not, he was vanquished. To a legalist general, he said there wasn’t even a government to fight for anymore. There was, but he got a point across. He surrendered the 1st Army to Kruel, who arrived at 18:00.

Defeat was negotiated at the frontline. Within Rio there’s no watershed moment at which the government loses. But it did in the afternoon onwards. Coupist generals left their hideouts and assumed the empty edifice of power. The Tiradentes Detachment marched in at the beginning of the 2nd of April.

### **A counterfactual**

As long as Goulart broke with the left, Kruel offered to destroy Mourão. >Could he? There were officers ready to imprison him if he didn’t join the coup and Mourão believed his legacy as the conspiracy’s ringleader in São Paulo back in 1963 would prevent the 1st Army from fighting him.



On the other hand if Goulart really broke with the “popular forces” and shifted his support base to the center and the military the game would change, so who knows.<sup>10</sup> But that’d make him a figurehead President.

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10. The choice was also presented by former President Kubitschek and his own Minister of War, who resigned in the morning with the refusal.





*Afternoon, April 1st, Guanabara.  
Tanks defending the now empty  
Presidential residence join up  
with the pro-coup crowd gathered  
in the governor's palace.*

## Conclusion

This concludes how the coup d'état conquered Rio de Janeiro. There is more to it - Goulart's brief stay in Brasília, which was also invaded by the IInd Army and 4th Infantry Division, the IVth Army's sideshow in the northeast and the large southern theater, where the legalists even achieved a handful of victories and Goulart lasted into morning on the 2nd. After flying to his estates his final destination was exile in Uruguay. That can be the subject of another article, together with several other topics.

The "field battles" that took place had no shots fired. The entire coup cost only 7 lives, none of them in the field. Legalist forces, stronger on paper, simply melted away in contact. How did that happen?

Firstly, Goulart was apathetic the whole time. Why didn't he green light the Air Force to bomb Muricy, or the marines to attack Guanabara's governor? Then when any resistance would mean bloodshed, he preferred exile. Secondly, the swiftness of "battle" resolution lies in the mood in the officer corps. The majority were always careerists who didn't pick a side, but both the opposition's efforts and the government's mistakes burned Goulart's image in the class. In the end nobody would fight for him, nor did he want to be fought for.





*Rome, 4 November 1932*

Few days before Armistice Day, a cloudy but warm November. As you pass by the Via Nazionale, you notice increased pedestrian commotion along the street. Intrigued, you stop, from the glimpses of the conversations you pick up that there is some kind of official event involving Duce somewhere up this street. Sounds of brass instrument orchestra fill up the air from afar. You decide to go to the epicenter of the noise, to see what all the fuss is about.

Once reaching the place where the crowd is concentrated, you are instantly struck by an unusual view - instead of the classicist portico of Palazzo delle Esposizioni, with its reliefs and colonnades, stands a raw red cuboid decorated with four giant lead fasces. Their metallic cylinders shine brightly as the clouds obscure and reveal the sunlight, resembling riveted aircraft hulls rather than bundles of sticks. You also notice enormous red Xs flanking both sides of the facade. Above the main entrance, illuminated letters announce:

*Exhibition of the Fascist Revolution*

The guard of honor is standing in the shadows of the giant fasces. Those are the *Camicie Nere* veterans, Italo Balbo among them, they salute at Mussolini who walks down the long stairs. Duce salutes them back, waves to the enthusiastic crowd, enters the car, and drives away. That's kinda disappointing, you think. As the orchestra plays the last notes of the *Giovanezza*, the anthem of the Fascist Party, and the unofficial anthem of Italy, the excited crowd starts pouring into the building.

Passing under the lead fasces, through the red triumphant arch, whose interior is made of tin just like the fasces, you see a red X again - it is placed on the top of the inner entrance. This bold modernist letter is more than just a symbol of 10 years of the Fascist regime. In the context of this marble-white classicist palace, so transformed by the authors of the exposition ("brutally disfigured in bolshevik fashion" as one of the nearby spectators exclaimed), the red X seems to cross out the past, establish a caesura between the ages. Inside, vis-à-vis the entrance, you are greeted by an oath written on the wall. You pass by a group of *Balilas* saluting and reciting it in their childish unison:

*In the name of God and Italy, I swear to follow the orders of the Duce and to serve the cause of the Fascist revolution with all my might and, if necessary, with my blood*

You leave your coat in your dressing room, pick up a guide, and follow the procession of the other visitors into the exhibition. You are straight away stunned by the blaze of electric lights, red, white, green - matte and reflective surfaces alike flash into your eyes. Photographs and giant typography of newspaper headlines are screaming into your face about the assassination in Sarajevo. With just a few steps into the room, you are drawn into the whirlwind of great European and world history. But Italy, steered by cowards and opportunists isn't sure what to do. From the first pages of his daily newspaper, *Popolo D'Italia*, Mussolini launches vigorous tirades, in favor of involvement in the war.

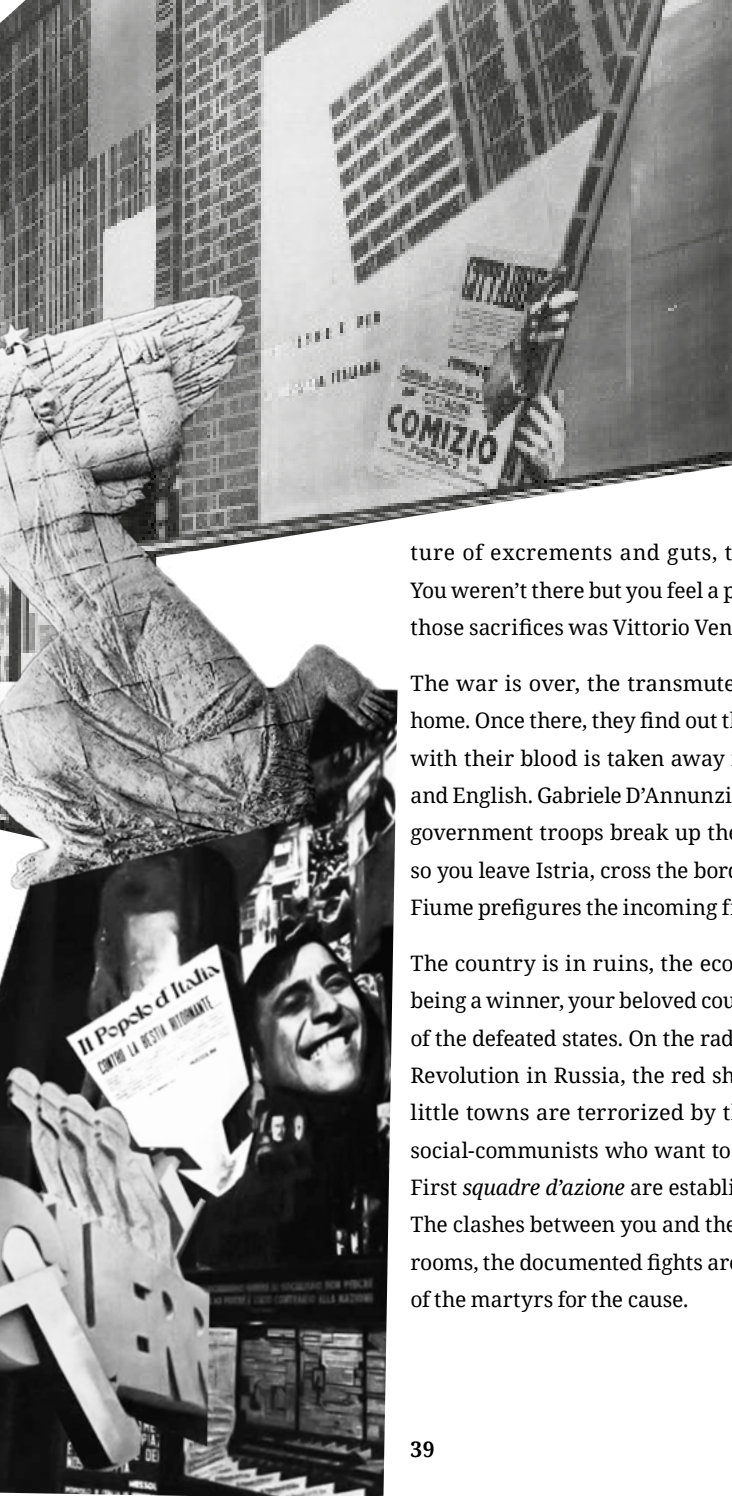


The crowd is pushing you forward and you cannot assimilate all the information that is bombarding you from all sides. You notice that none of the subsequent rooms, 1914, 1915, 1919, has a single straight wall, the corners are all broken, angles are freely retracting and appearing elsewhere, the diagonal lines create the illusion of constant motion as if you were inside the belly of a whale. It reminds you of that German film about Dr. Caligari.

You go on, continue marching forward as the Great War is unfolding amongst the trenches and narrow mountain trails, it is here that friendships are formed between people who soon will be the avant-garde of the fascist movement. Many of the faces are familiar, their older versions stood the honor guard before the entrance. Despite the humiliation in the battle of Caporetto, the Italian people are united (perhaps for the first time in history) in the fight against their eternal enemy - each day new ranks of young volunteers march to the front to fight the Austrians. The pictures on the wall are on a 1:1 scale, the boundaries between you and the scenery become increasingly blurred.

Together with the futurists, nationalists, national-syndicalists, with the bikes on your backs, you draw cannons to the tops of the mountains from which you shoot at the Austrians. With a knife in your teeth and a bunch of grenades, you swim across the freezing Piave to pass the intel, most of your comrades drown. The artillery barrages, the nights spent in no-mans-land, charges under the heavy machine-gun fire, the brutal close combat - this is your ritual initiation, it has rebuilt you all, some into a bloody pulp, a mix-





ture of excrements and guts, the rest into the new men. You weren't there but you feel a part of it. The culmination of those sacrifices was Vittorio Veneto, the triumph of all of us.

The war is over, the transmuted people are coming back home. Once there, they find out that Victory so dearly bought with their blood is taken away in Versailles by the French and English. Gabriele D'Annunzio takes control of Fiume, but government troops break up the Carnaro Regency quickly, so you leave Istria, cross the border and return back to Italy. Fiume prefigures the incoming fratricidal struggle.

The country is in ruins, the economy is in shreds, despite being a winner, your beloved country looks worse than some of the defeated states. On the radio you can hear news about Revolution in Russia, the red shadows cast over Romagna, little towns are terrorized by the units of anarchists and social-communists who want to introduce their laws there. First *squadre d'azione* are established, blackshirts assemble. The clashes between you and the reds are filling up the next rooms, the documented fights are interspersed with pictures of the martyrs for the cause.



The year 1921 and the culmination of violence: Giovanni Berta is stabbed by the anarchists and thrown into the Arno river. The bridge, the symbol of his martyrdom is recreated on the wall like Christ's tools of Passion. There are other knives, ready to stab you in the back, hanging from the other wall. The outcome of the struggle isn't clear, at times one side gets the upper hand, sometimes the other. This is the second stage of initiation, with the veterans of street fights and demonstrations joining the *trincerocrazia*.

In the next room, designed by Terragni (as you read in the guide) hundreds of other black shirts join you from the walls, the drummer beats the marching rhythm, thousands of arms rise in roman salute, all under the providential profile of the Duce. There is a sense of all the struggle culminating into something, tension is palpable. In the next hall - a giant dagger, wide as a Roman gladius, pierces the Gordian knot of Italian politics, breaking the chains bounding Italy. During the congress in Naples Mussolini announces to the 60 000 gathered black shirts that the only way to break the spiral of violence and prevent the possible civil war is for fascists to assume power. It is time to march on Rome! You march under the wings of an enormous Aquilla with Italian tricolor in the claws. Movement is going to become the state.







le parti, e sopra  
tutte che hanno  
il minimo - il  
il più bel  
stanno  
: forse  
l'ultima

**ADUNATE**

**INDAGAMENTO  
DELLE FORZE  
GIOVANILI**

# MARCIA SU ROMA

Mostra

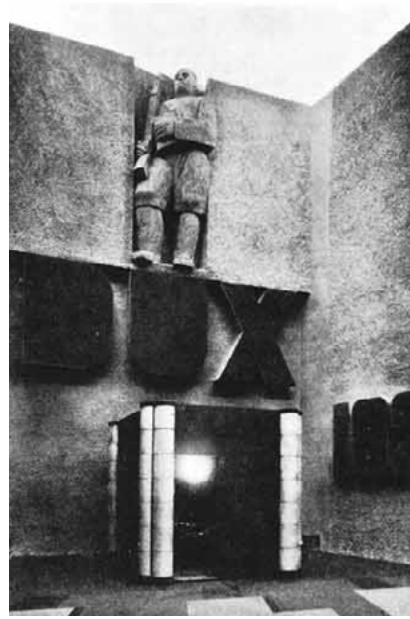
The chaos of previous rooms gives way to the mysterious metaphysical order of Di Chirico's paintings. Gigantic stone figures ("sironesque", as you hear some smartass talking, who is that Sironi?) rise up the Roman vexillum. In front, you can see the words Duce greeted the king with after reaching Rome:

*Your Majesty, I bring you the Italy of Vittorio Veneto.*

Nested inside the commemorative brick arch of triumph there is a marble fascio littorio, with DUX inscribed on the ax head. It seems as if the triumph of Vittorio Veneto was just a prefiguration of the March on Rome and the future victories of Fascism. Or was it the Victory of Fascism that allowed Vittorio Veneto to happen? Nevertheless, it is a testimony to the lucky star of Duce which is now going to shine also over Italy. In a brief moment of lucidity you notice that while previously you have been circling in a maze of rooms, this hall brings you into a new world, a world where chaos is replaced by a timeless order. You are reaching the final destination, the next rooms lie on the main axis of the building.

First of the core rooms is a hall dedicated to the Duce and Duce only, His large statue holding a rifle and a book dominates the whole space. It looks severe and cyclopean like the Lion Gate of the Mycean citadel. A kaleidoscope of photographs and typography from previous rooms, gives place to the austere but monumental space, with no need for captions or commentaries.





In the middle, like a tabernacle, lies enclosed replica of Mussolini's Milan office of Popolo d'Italia. Above the entrance to the next hall, you can see another great X, embedded within the wall like a dagger- it is not a number anymore, it feels more like an echo of the word DUX repeated simultaneously by the thousand voices.

You pass underneath this gigantic X to find yourself in a long gallery of fasces, fasces repeated dozens of times surround you on the floor, ceiling, walls, the banners of black shirt units salute you and you salute them back. You got to know the bearers of those standards in the previous rooms, you feel in the communion with them. Next is a hagiographic room with Duce souvenirs and relics such as His bloodied shirt, the last step before you enter the final inner sacrum...





LA FORTINA  
ORTALE



You find yourself in a dark cave of undefined shape.

Towering over the whole room, stands a rectangular cross (a dagger?), red electric lights shimmering on its polished tin body. Text on its vertical bar says: For the Immortal Homeland. Hundreds of glowing inscriptions surround the cross-dagger circularly, filling up the dark void with bold white *PRESENTE!*'s.

Crafted by Adalberto Libera, this altar is static but alike a giant rock amidst the confluence of powerful rivers, it emanates with a strange immobile energy. Each *PRESENTE!* is a commemoration of a fallen comrade, they stretch out to you invitingly. They don't make a sound but shout nonetheless, like a roar of the ocean, and you feel carried away by the waves, as one with the current. For some reason you suddenly recall flowers piercing the layer of snow in the first days of spring, greedily extending their heads towards the sun, a long time ago.

A storm begins as you leave the exposition, you see two men dressed in English fashion, with their grotesque mustaches, striped pants, tailcoats, silly hats. They unfold umbrellas, desperately trying to protect their greasy bodies underneath, they chit-chat about the stock-market fluctuations, golf fields at the outskirts of Rome. The contrast between them and silent, immobile figures of the blackshirt standing in rain under the giant fasces hits your hard.

You enter the cascades of water without hesitation, one day, one day soon, your black ocean will flush the city, flush the world, and carry away all its pettiness.









# **Gretan Paradise**

*by Cabbageball*

*Let's try to imagine a world without fossil fuels. A world in which no viable fossils can be found, either by being buried too deep in the earth for humans to find, or by another mysterious cause.*

*What are the consequences? Where is the divergence?*

Scenario: No peat, no coal, no gas and no petroleum oil.

### **Furnaces, Wood Wars and initial alternatives**

The majority of EIA (early iron age) furnaces were built using bricks or clay rolls (with the exception of the Barongo furnaces that were termite slab-made). The general change of the building material can be associated with efficiency of the furnaces in terms of the effect of air in smelting the metal, possibly because expansion and contraction due to heating and cooling loosens the fireclay cement between the bricks and clay rolls, which in turn allows air to be drawn in and gas to escape at low levels (cf. Tylecote et al. 1971).

The furnaces in the EIA period were completely bowl furnaces, although it is difficult to completely verify this position on account of the fragmentary nature of the furnace remains (Sutton, 1985). Some of the EIA furnaces have been referred to as shaft-bowl furnaces (Schmidt & Avery, 1983). Generally speaking, the bowl and shaft-bowl furnaces had slag-pit provision wherein liquid slag accumulated at the bottom of the furnace.

The steel production would have been made possible with the Cementation process. High enough temperatures could

have been reached using EIA (Early Iron Age) furnaces such as those found in Tanzania.

Deforestation would become a problem faster and there would be much lower energy reserves for each country (even for medieval needs).

Till XVIII century charcoal used to be a more viable fuel in industry, but as wood grew scarce coke became more attractive<sup>1</sup>. This is where our divergence should probably begin.

Fuelwood would become a precious material in the early industrial era. Woodcutter guilds and unions would become the aristocracy of labor instead of the miners. Strict legislation and severe punishments will have to be enacted to protect forests from wood theft and fires. The British would quickly exhaust their forest reserves, leading to struggle against European powers for the control of various wood trading routes. Historically dependence on Baltic wood was a serious source of concern for the British politicians and merchants. We can expect old buildings and ancient creations to be used as fuel, like ancient sculptures turned into canons in the times of war.

Alternative to wood? Without peat, dry dung seems like a good solution - it is still widely used in the Indian subcontinent. A cheap replacement, though it will negatively affect the soil and food production in the long term.

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1. [www.researchgate.net/publication/4851861\\_Coal\\_and\\_the\\_Industrial\\_Revolution\\_1700\\_1869](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/4851861_Coal_and_the_Industrial_Revolution_1700_1869)





### **'Early Modern' Inventions**

The possibility of reaching high temperatures and manufacturing chemicals and lead chambers to replace glass vessels should enable the development of chemistry in the same way until the 20th century. Modern cement should be created because it would be necessary. Electrochemistry and optics will be developed as the experiments and theories made thereof are not affected by fossil fuel (of the early modern era).

As charcoal burns longer the steam engines fireboxes would have to be bigger, making locomotives slower and even more expensive to create. We do not deny their creation but question their development.

The printing machine and the telegraph can be created in the same way and will enable transmission of data with the same relative speeds (even though transporting will be slower since fuel engine transport vehicles would not be possible).

Gas lighting can become possible and widespread, but the gas would not be extracted from coal burning. Cities would use wood and distill the gas, which would create a greater demand for wood.

Mining development will be slowed as the growing need for thousands of tons of coal would not exist. The surrounding vegetation, wildlife and groundwaters would remain undamaged (although deforestation and possible usage of dung would still cause problems).

The dynamo could still be made and the alternating current dynamo too. The lack of fossils will make the need greater and the discovery may happen faster. Accelerating a research that may be slowed due to communication/transport hindrances. Wireless telegraphy should be developed as a result. It would come handy and would allow for data to be transferred faster.

Before steam engines' prevalent usage, factories would be at water powering sites and water transportation. We can expect roughly the same to happen. Manufacturers would want to harness readily available power and the immediate candidates would be water and air. The lack of coal and the soaring price of wood would have to trigger new inventions. Developing solar energy earlier is very possible, as well as using geothermal energy and biofuels (biodiesel, an alcohol based fuel or an advanced extraction of gas from dung and waste or any sort of fat/oil using Transesterification).

### **'Late Modern' age**

The lack of oil and gas drilling would keep a lot of the wildlife and animals that were affected by the activities safe. Marine wildlife included. Light pollution might still be because of solar power and wood cutting. In this world dung usage would damage the flora in different (perhaps lesser) ways.

An automobile will be powered by the dung of the very horse it wishes to replace. Houses could no longer use wood and be "modernized" to brick houses. Wooden ships



would be replaced by iron and steel ships a lot sooner (but there would be less ships to begin with). Locomotives may burn dung (or another biofuel) to compensate for the lack of wood. Factories can also utilize Newcomen atmospheric engines (which would become Watt steam engines or another variation) that used steam for mechanical work.

The innovations and substitutions should allow for sustainable forests. Although the scale of industrialization will be much smaller. Before a grid can be established, battery cells will be sold and power factories, that is only if the manpower isn't cheaper than the cells. Dung-based engines to charge batteries will concentrate the feces away from centra of cities, possibly creating a feces slum.

Warfare would remain more primitive due to factories' limitations to contribute to the war effort. Chemical warfare and flamethrowers can still be developed and manufactured.

Selenium based solar panels may be used, because although their efficiency is very low they would be very cheap. Allowing usage for many people alongside wind power, that would come into usage by way of turbines.

More areas could industrialize and we can expect each type of energy production to be refined.

Different countries may focus on different energy methods, have their own stigmas and preferences. The countries may develop accordingly instead of following the same industrialization and energy model.

Plastic (polyethylene and other polymers) can be made from ethylene found in plants and other natural sources, it is very likely the usage of wood would encourage scientists to use plants and develop such materials. There wouldn't be asphalt as there is no petroleum, so driveways will only be able to use "bioasphalt" (sugar, rice, corn, starch alternatives) or remain antiquated. Wax and grease would remain natural.

Horses-drawn carts would be prevalent since the horses' dung can be used as fuel. Automobiles will not be able to become common due to transportive energy problems and vehicles may be powered by wood gas.

Most of the population would still be peasant in industrialized countries and not workers. Barons who hold forests, animals and open windy plains and/or rivers would become richer (initially at least).

There can be manually operated generators in which ex-woodcutters (who would be coal miners) would work instead. Allowing them to generate energy again and fill the same social role.

Nuclear Energy utilization should become the driving force of the electrical grid and the biggest provider of energy in this world. It would be the "divine energy" and solve most of the problems of the partial industrialization.

Electric grids will eventually be set and allow all factories commoners to use the benefits of electricity. The benefit of nuclear energy would be too great compared with the alternatives. Nuclear energy ought to be used for nationwide technological progress.

## **‘Information Age’**

Few countries will attain nuclear energy power plants and these will create a lot of nuclear waste. It is likely the waste will not be handled properly at first, and a lot of areas will become accidentally irradiated.

Slowly more countries will develop this technology and the potential for bombs will not go unseen. The devastation of the bombs will allow the nuclear countries to potentially become superpowers (were they not already before) and will make any country unable to have a modern electrical grid without the assumption it will arm itself with nukes.

There will be a greater technological gap, and most countries will have a majority rural population.

The gap will only grow because when countries are “allowed” to have nuclear power plants, the more advanced countries will be near modern. Ballistics could not rely on petroleum and would rely on hydrogen/lithium/methane. It would affect global trade and the speed of mass production of rockets.

Rockets will be developed, the space exploration will be sought after when nuclear power is common enough or when liquid hydrogen is usable. Funnily enough the first satellites may be launched from the ground in a period in which electric aircraft is trying futilely to propel them into orbit.

Electric cars, trains and aircraft will be invented (although aircrafts will be limited in duration) and a “1st world citizen” would enjoy the fruits of electricity and live in relative comfort.

It is possible a thing such as the Internet will never be widespread or used except the academia and the military. The reason is the culture of isolationism derived from technologies, the inability to launch satellites and the existence of a cellular network which would exist for many decades prior. Transmitting audio and messages via radio waves may become popular and region/country contained. There would be a monopoly on “air waves” and image transmission will allow for “BBS” to exist. Radio protocols would not necessitate an internet.

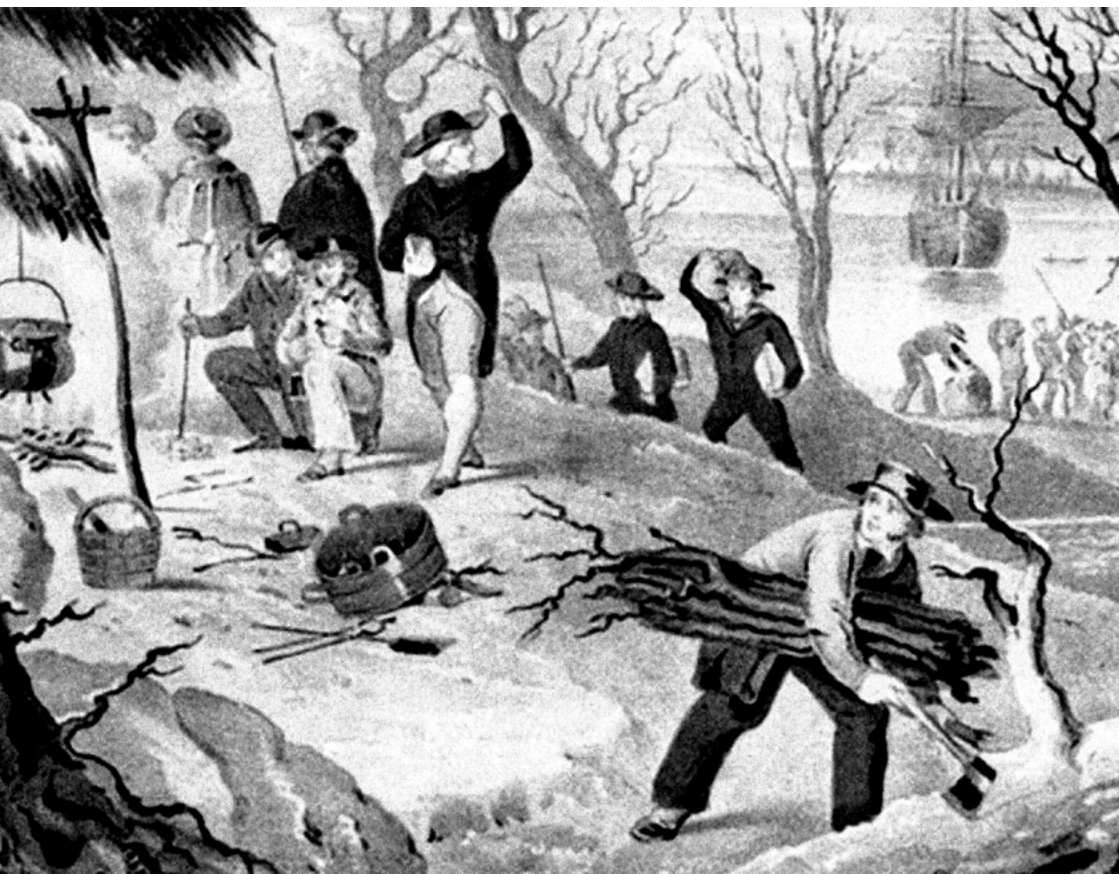
Many areas would be deforested, emissions from burning dung and wood would have a significant impact and carelessly thrown radioactive waste (or nuclear plants strategically bombed) would ruin entire landscapes. Lost forests would let floods flow where none were. The amount of CO<sub>2</sub> (and other toxins) will be even higher due to fewer trees and pollution (Greta sees carbon dioxide so she knows).

The only natural fuel resources that could enrich a country would be dense forests, strong rivers and uranium.

Human population will remain mostly rural or “uneducated” with global scale productions being rare. The existence of “21st century” states alongside late-medieval ones would be witnessed in all continents. Fast paced modernization for millions (as in our timeline) will be near impossible without nuclear energy or massive deforestation. Tribal societies would preserve longer and may be entirely ignored by modern powers.

So this is the Gretan Paradise as I see it.





# pottery corner

Tempered, as they do with steel,  
Tarnished and taught to kneel  
Enwrapped as it were in a numbing cloud:  
Son of a craven crowd.

So dark were the eyes that took hold of me  
So tender her flesh before me was lain  
A mere spark she was, a wave in the sea,  
But her lips tasted like October rain.

My searing, unfulfilled need  
I offer in a pray'r to thee;  
If I am thy greatest seed,  
Why hast thou forsaken me?

*Poleball*

There once was a pole,  
Who lived in a hole.  
And into that hole,  
Came another pole.

Together they made,  
A game of the blade.  
With monsters galore,  
And not a bad lore.

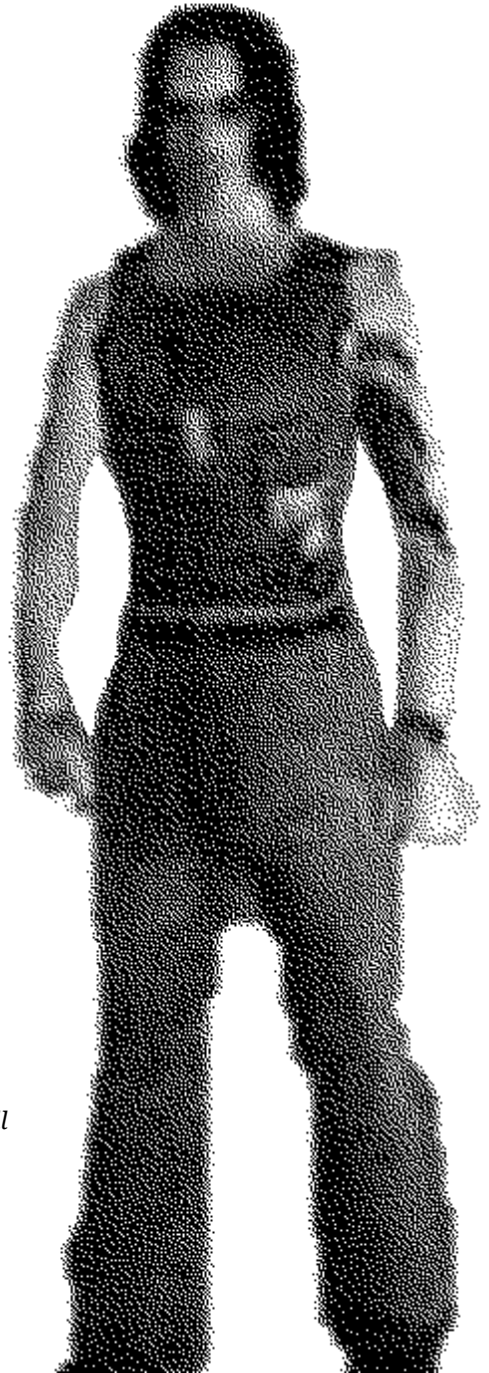
They made it twice,  
Added tricks of the dice.  
They made it thrice,  
And raised the price.

He concoted a sale,  
So clever the pole.  
He hired a female,  
A female xoxol.

They said it was punk,  
Cyber of much fun.  
No cyber, just junk,  
It was nowhere near done.

All money they stole,  
Xoxolette rekt the console.  
Businessman won again,  
So shrewd is his brain.

*Onionball*





### **Permanence of the Record**

The following is a transcript of the remains of an inscription found on a stela 3km southwards from the ruins of the palace of king Perothet II:

*These declarations thus shall not be erased, it shall not be washed out, it shall not be abraded, it shall not be encumbered with detritus, [it] shall not be --- If it should disappear, if it should wear away, if it ---, if the stela upon which --- should fall, I will come restore it again anew, and if it --- again, I shall --- in --- in which --- It shall --- eternally.*

The rest of the inscription is illegible, and the upper half the stela is missing.

*Argentineball*





## Classical Chinese Poetry from AI era

I'm sure Bernd heard of GPT-3, the latest breakthrough in natural language processing. Chinks used it to write classical Chinese poetry, and here's one example:

海上飞燕飞上海  
城外环山环外城  
江中落叶落中江  
山前雾气雾前山

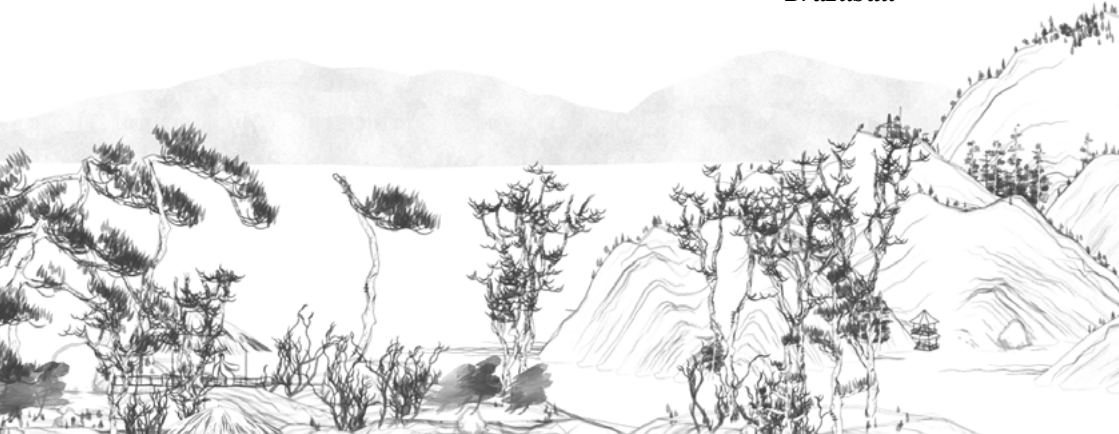
You don't need to understand anything of Chinese to observe that this follows a very clear structure: 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1. That is, the first and the last character on each line are the same, as well as the second and the second-to-last, and so on. It's very stupid, but I'll try to translate it anyway:

*Over the sea flies the sparrow flies over the sea  
Encircling the city there are mountains are encircling the city  
In the river falls a leaf falls in the river  
In front of the mountain floats fog floats in front of the mountain*

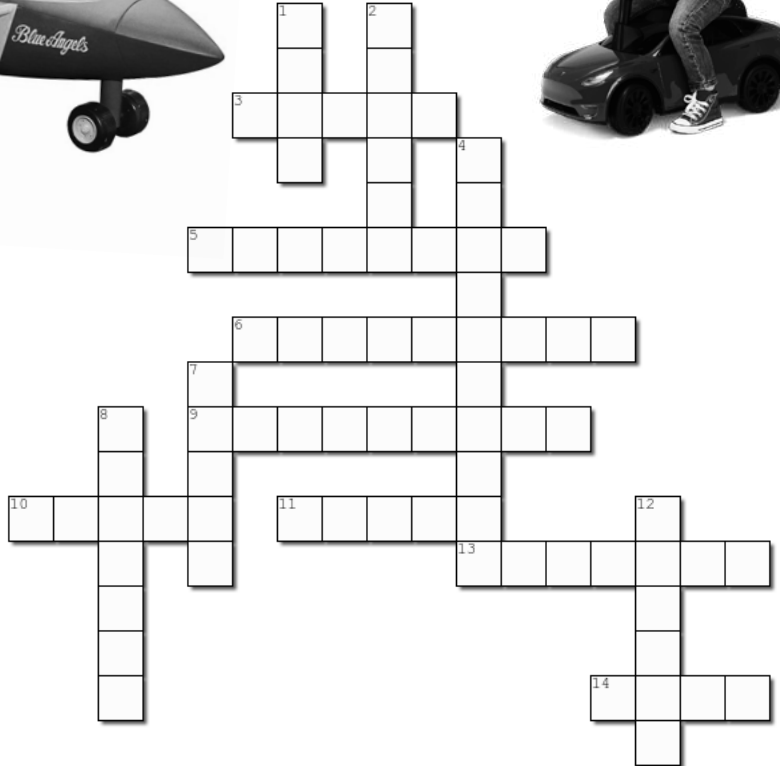
(Doesn't sound THAT bad in Chinese, I'm just bad at this game)

I don't know about you, but the idea of feeling anything because of a poem that was written by a machine is really weird to me.

*Brazilball*



# Train Your Brain!

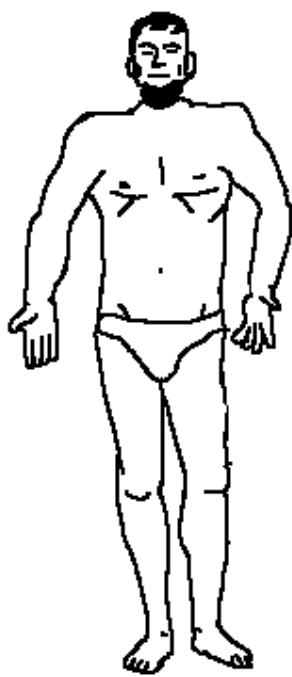


Across:

3. If Russia is in decline, why \_\_\_\_?
5. Movement of Marinetti.
6. State inherent to the Bernd condition.
9. Russian humorist of Armenian origin.
10. Involuntary celibate.
11. MAP vegetable
13. Legbear
14. Half-asian, half-white

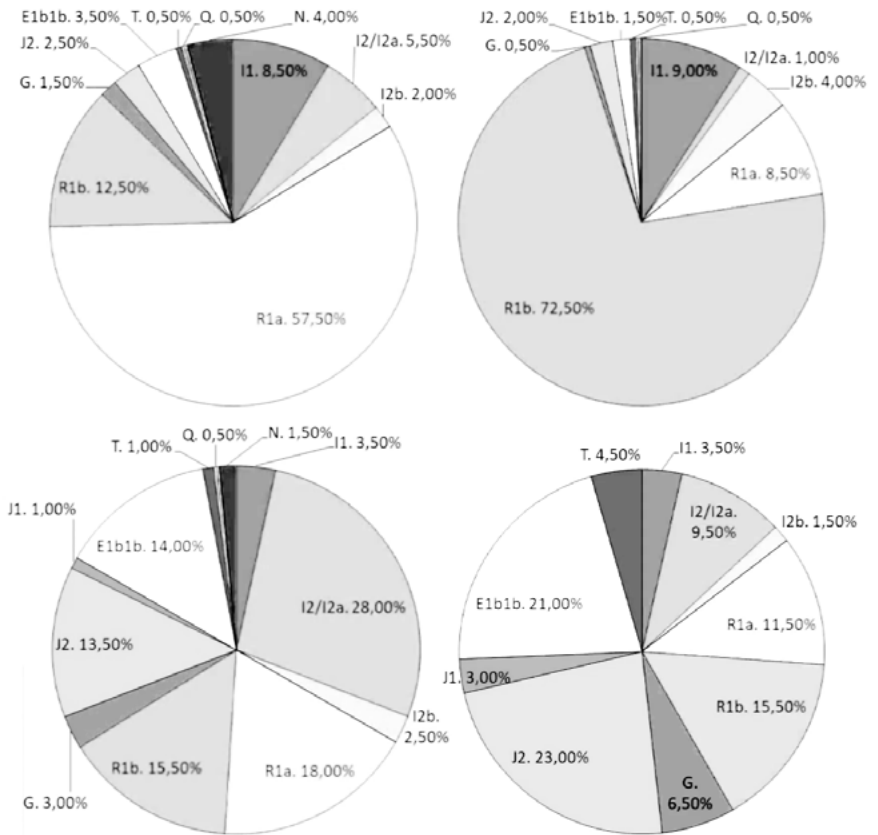
Down:

1. *Dybbuk* dwelling in Montreal gay saunas.
2. Patriotic american dish.
4. The act of consuming alcoholic beverage.
7. Finnish inventor and iconic actor.
8. Flows from fountains in mythical Aurlado.
12. Legendary *Daco-Roma* warrior, *the Huffer*.



**Spede lost his socks!**  
Cut out the best fitting ones and  
put them back on his feet.

**99,999%**



**Guess the countries based on the haplogroup graphs.**

**Protips below:**

**Mesolithic Europeans**

- I1 : pre-Germanic(Nordic)
- I2b: pre-Celto-Germanic
- I2a1: Sardinian, Iberian
- I2a2: Dinaric, Danubian

**Neolithic Immigrants**

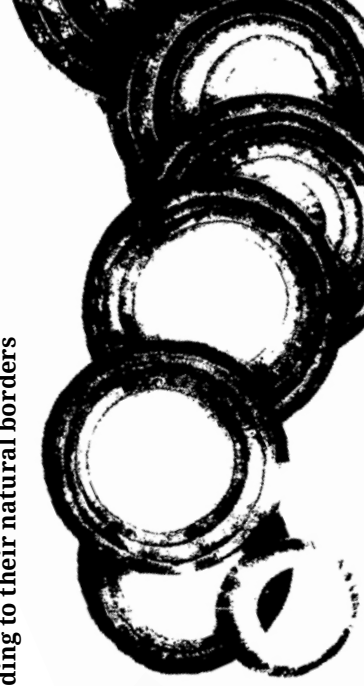
- N1c1: Uralo-Finnic, Baltic, Siberian
- G2a: Caucasian, Greco-Anatolian
- E1b1b: North African, Near Eastern, Balkanic
- T: Middle Eastern, East African

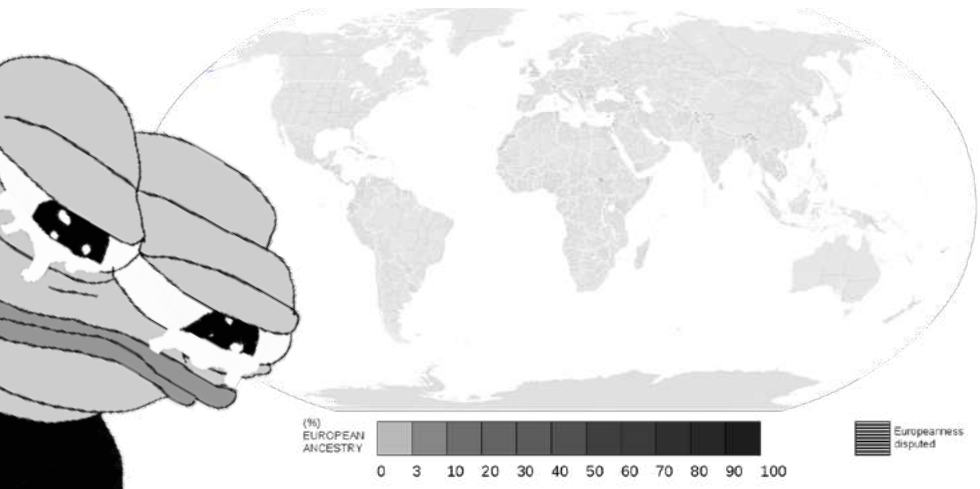
**Bronze Age immigrants**

- R1a: Balto-Slavic, Germanic, Indo-Iranian
- R1b: Italo-Celtic, Germanic, Hittite, Armenian, Tocharian
- J1, Caucasian, Mesopotamian, Semitic
- J2: Greco-Anatolian, Mesopotamian, Caucasian



Color the countries according to their natural borders





**Apu lost all his colors!**

Help him repaint the map of European Ancestry.



**Look at this graph.**

Where does **Hans Bauer** find himself in?

And **Pekka Korhonen**?





Connect the dots.

# bookworm's hole



## **Nash Gold, *ONE LIFE IN RUSSIA*, 2020, self-published**

Born in the wrong country, in the wrong time, in the wrong body.

This book is an autobiographic account of the life and times of Naash van Goud (formerly Nikita Sadkov) and his struggle to survive on post-Soviet Russia.

It is a subjective and extremely vivid description of the strange and mysterious society - a society that suffered under slavery and had to cope with it. Evolution or devolution? What emerged out of the long history of oppression, was a place where the frontier between victim and oppressor is blurred and unclear.

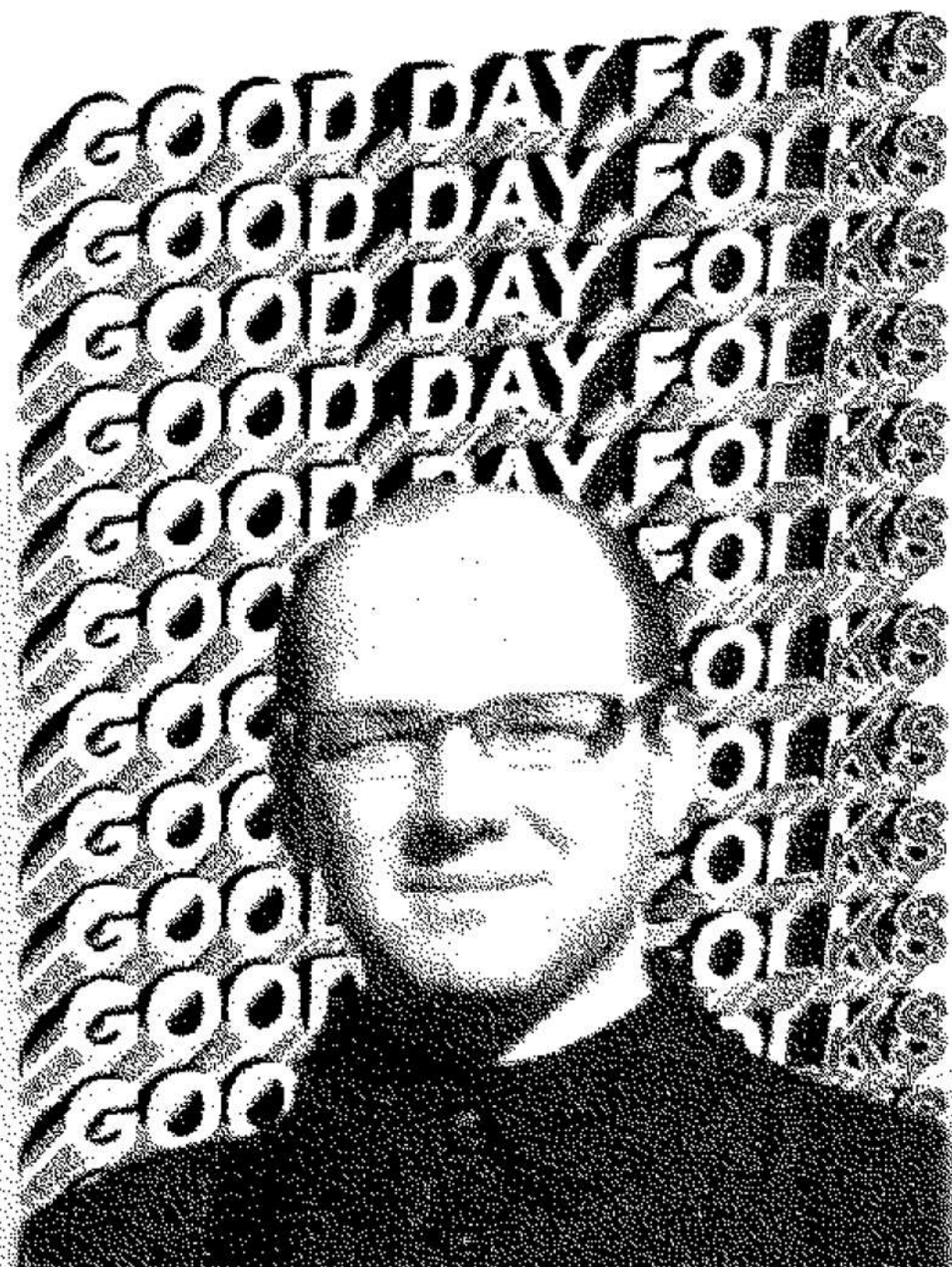
But worry not, it is not just Eastern European suffering-porn, the prose juxtaposes the absurd cruelty of the world with sardonic aphorisms and morbid humor of the author, making the reading very entertaining. It is ultimately a positive story about the spirit prevailing over the matter, about an Odyssey of a man driven by a singular idea. So fasten on your seatbelts and be ready for a psychedelic drive inside the Russian psyche.

accessible digitally on:

[www.scribd.com/document/489211596/One-Life-in-Russia](http://www.scribd.com/document/489211596/One-Life-in-Russia)

[lj.rossia.org/users/nashgold/107991.html](http://lj.rossia.org/users/nashgold/107991.html)





# All in a night's work

*by Cataloniaball*





You are a thief, and you are good at it. You specialize in robbing the rich - “Nothing noble about it,” you laugh. “The poor folk don’t have any money!” Tonight you are prowling through an especially wealthy part of town. You don’t often get in here; the neighborhood gates are usually well defended. But you saw your chance tonight when a watch-man found the bottle of whiskey you left for him. You slipped by as soon as he had drunk himself to sleep. It’s a lovely night for a thief; the moonlight shines almost as bright as day. As you glide from shadow to shadow, you jump into the backyard of the first house you see.

The picturesque house compensates being small with being about two-floors high, the city is so cramped with people that even the rich build tall instead of ample. Shiny floral and geometric patterns encrust the walls of the little mansion rather tastefully, even those of the tower. You have not seen this style anywhere else in the city so you deduce that the owner must be a foreigner, from the far east, where artists have to circumvent certain taboos. Shining on top of the tower you see a heavy golden bell. Could it be that he’s so important he has his own personal alarm to call the city guards in case of emergency?

Pulling yourself out of the quasi-hypnosis the moon reflection on the bell put you under, you look around. You see a small tranquil pond, only disturbed by the swimming of the kois and the falling leaves of the nearby tree. You spot the first catch: two submerged golden coins (2£), “not much but I need to start somewhere” while pondering if by stealing the coins you are also stealing the wishes.

The yellow-leaved tree looks old but still strong, exuding the proud but contained aura of a seasoned warrior. You reckon you could climb it to access the roof in search of an entryway but the owner must have trusted his guards because right there - above a bed of lilies and roses, in the wall - a poorly defended window is staring back at you. You would love to spend a long time contemplating life and death in such a place but you know mixing business with pleasure is never a good idea. Just as you are making your way to the window you spot a rock in the middle of the garden. It doesn't follow any artistic canon or serves any function. In fact you could say it hinders both purposes; it's ugly and it's in the way. Could it be that the chunk of granite hides something? You decide to lift it and, to your surprise, you see a skeleton hand with a jewel encrusted ring sticking out. A political rival, most likely. You take the ring, it will prove useful to blackmail the owner of the house and it's quite valuable on its own (150£). You put the stone back and silently rush to the window.

You examine the window's locking mechanism. Not very complicated but still hard to reach. You take your trusty opening tool made from an old hanger, introducing it skillfully through a crevice in such a way that it is able to engage the window's latch. The window now does not fight your pushing, giving you free access to the kitchen. Inside you see the usual: casseroles and pans, a table with a silver candle holder on it and the dimly lit embers of the fireplace keeping warm what you think are the leftovers of the residents' dinner, apart from the usual furniture

full of uninteresting or useless things and a door. You are curious and kind of hungry so you approach the pot to take a quick bite, stealing with an empty stomach only gives you trouble. Just as you are going to open the lid, you feel heat emanating from the utensil. Just as you predicted, being hungry almost led to your hand getting burned. You take one napkin from a nearby drawer and carefully open the lid, revealing a bubbling elixir made out of meat and vegetables. Employing a wooden spoon, you lift some to your nose. The scent sings through the heat like a rich and fatty soprano. You blow it gently and put it in your mouth. Nice but no more, a good thief only needs the bare minimum. You check the pans and pots. Cast iron and copper can be valuable but they are too bulky and you are concerned they might make noise while stalking through the house. Still, you might take them while leaving. You think the same about the candle holder. It's not even made of actual silver... But on the other hand it could be helpful once you venture into the more "obscure" parts of the house. You take it, light the candles with an ember from the fireplace and move on further into the house.

You find yourself in a landing. Two doors, one to your right, one in front of you. Some stairs too, further to the right. You take the shortest route: the door in front of you.

A pantry. You see the usual, shelves with various jars containing what you think are spices, some barrels and plenty of unused furniture covered in cobwebs. Frankly, the furniture is not worth being explored, the dust and the webs tell you a story of neglect that doesn't seem to

translate into anything of worth for you. You move your attention to the spices. The owner is a foreigner after all so you figure he may have some imported stuff. You start with the ones that have a name on it. Nothing too weird: various amounts of cinnamon, pepper, sage... Relatively expensive (10£). You proceed to check the unnamed ones. You smell the first one; it stings your senses. Definitely cayenne, exotic stuff and worth more on it's own than all the condiments you already have combined (15£). Searching another container you find a couple of coins (2£), probably money that someone from the service forgot a long time ago. The last one is weird, it has a mark on it and an odd smell much like the cayenne that, instead of making you feel heat, makes you feel cold. You taste it to try to pinpoint what it is exactly. Much to your surprise it tastes terrible! "There is no way this is put in food" you think, while recovering from the heatenings. After some minutes spent recollecting you recall that time when the brothel wench applied similar stuff to your bruises after the guard beat you up. That was a long time ago, you weren't even trained in the art of thieving at the time. You take it, suspecting some alchemist or apothecary would be willing to buy it (30£). All the inspecting and thinking have made you oblivious to the lurking threat silently approaching you. It stretches its thin, long legs, advancing relentlessly to you... And suddenly it attacks! You are surprised for a fraction of a second but you soon recover from the shock and squish it. "What's an inoffensive little spider going to do after all? Enter a nostril and fill your head with cobwebs?" you say to yourself in order to relax. Just when you are

leaving you hit your foot against something. At first it looks like the barrels next to the shelf are the responsible for the obstruction but after some careful examination you realize there's something under them... Turns out there's a trapdoor! You move the barrels as carefully as you can, check the trap door for hidden booby traps and move deeper into the house.

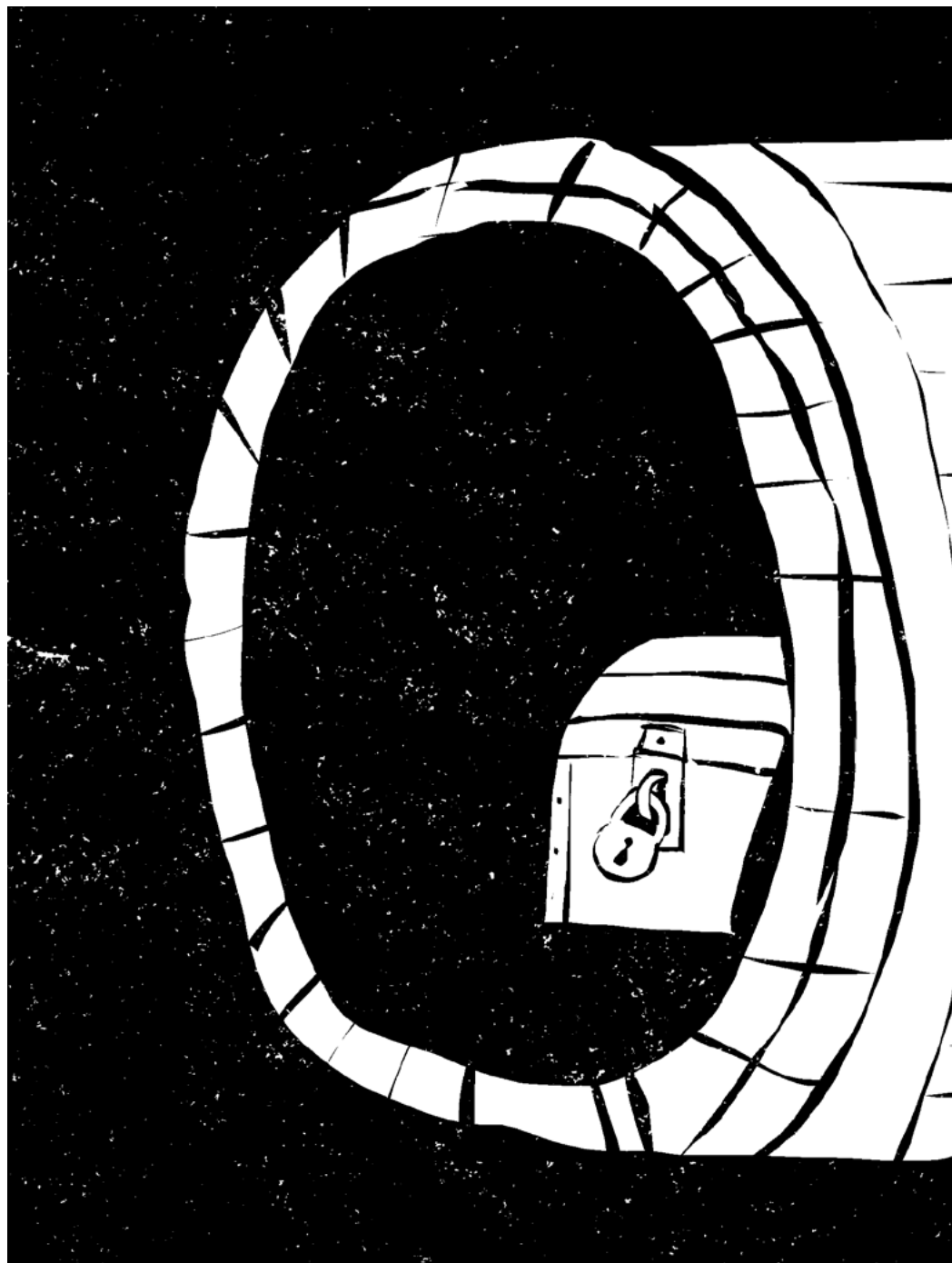
You find yourself in an even more dusty and forgotten place. The room is long and made of stone. A darkness permeates everything, not even the effort of putting up some sconces was made. And the smell. Yep, it's a cellar. A rack full of bottles to your right and casks to your left. The bottom of the room is full of what you think is the furniture that didn't fit in the pantry. You check the bottles, if rich people have something in common is that they like expensive wine. Everything is pretty average except a couple of bottles that are valuable (50£). You find a third bottle with a faded label. Sommeliers and thieves have more in common than usually thought, and your nose has already recovered from smelling the abrasive substances of the pantry, so you open the bottle and give it a go. You don't know what it is but the smell tells you it can easily be in the hundreds (200£). "What an excellent choice, sir. Will not forget to make a toast in your honor after selling it." You now check the barrels. Bought in bulk from the government, the same stuff the inns of the city sell. Not bad by any means but not worth stealing in your situation. Something strange catches your eye. Your "work" has made you explore a lot of the different businesses the



city has to offer and absolutely all of them sell wine from barrels stamped with the royal insignia. All the barrels in the cellar have it too, all except one. You don't know what it could be: a personal batch of wine? Or is it clandestine spirits? Regenerative concoction or medicinal lime juice? You knock on the barrel a couple of times, to see if the sound is unusual. Sounds empty but that doesn't mean it doesn't have liquid in it. You decide to pull the cork, ready to jump out of the way of anything coming out. To your surprise the top comes out with the cork, revealing nothing but emptiness. Well, lack of liquid would be more correct, because inside there's a chest sideways. You pull it out and see what's the situation. A normal chest with a normal lock. You don't know if the owner is dumb, trusts his hiding spot too much or is used to the less thief-prone environment of his native land. You've heard that any thief they catch in there runs the risk of having a hand chopped off. You shrug it off and take a better look of the lock. Looks like a warded chest lock. You use a small lock-pick to see if there's some moving pieces, it could have some pin or lever. You find nothing so it's definitely a warded lock. Not as easy as the window but still very standard and simple. You pull out your trusty set of skeleton keys. You try one, another, and finally the third one proves to be the correct. Click, the chest is open. A pile of papers, a conspicuous bag and some money (250£). The pile of papers has a bunch of old love letters (probably related to the metaphorical and literal skeletons of the owner), some titles and deeds that could be either useless or priceless and what seems to be education and work

related certificates. You know, been granted immunity because you have some official paper saying you are an ambassador doesn't sound bad at all so you take them to check if there's something useful after you finish your business there. The bag looks like every other leather bag you have seen but its insides, oh its insides. They are full of gems! Wait a sec, something is not right. They are not gems but finely cut crystal or, in other words, they are worth nothing (10£). Why is this worthless bauble more protected than the wine or the other valuable stuff you have found around. Why is that someone who is supposed to be a rich man living in a dangerous city cares so little about security. Unless... You move on, not knowing what to expect beyond the unexpected. You go back to the landing, this time entering the door that was to the right of the kitchen.

Follow the adventures of Garbernd in the next issue!





# Thailand: Glubbian Analysis

*by Sloveneball*



2020 has been quite a busy year for happenings. Globally, the events have all been overshadowed by the pandemic; while it has also been a year of escalating internal tension in the United States and Europe with the mass-scale protests (and widespread hysteria) leading to a controversial presidential election in America, and the divorce of United Kingdom from the European Union right on the eve of the pandemic reaching Europe, which in turn revealed the true nature of relationship between core EU and the periphery - a dependence of the core on imported cheap workforce from the periphery. In Asia, the summer of 2020 also brought much suspense on the Himalayan border between China and India, bringing brutal melée clashes and swift army movements in harsh high altitude terrain.

But there have also been other happenings that took place on a more local scale. In the Southern Caucasus region, the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia for the fate of Artsakh has perhaps given us a sneak peek at military technology to be used in the next big global conflict: instrumental to the conflict was Azeri swarming of the Armenian positions by loitering munitions, the suicide drones being a major technological upgrade from aerial and rocket bombardment that fulfilled a similar role in

breaking trench warfare tactics after WW1. And, nonetheless, US was not the only scene of mass-scale protests: similarly extensive (and seemingly also less performative and more serious in nature) were also the protests in Thailand.

How can we understand the protests in Thailand? At surface, the protests seem to be a consequence of importation of American SJW movement into the country that has been led by military dictatorships for most of its recent 100 years; the cultural call signs of protesters, large part university students, have overwhelmingly been a reference to Anglo-American popular media, supplemented with rainbow flags and K-pop fandom swarms. Meanwhile, the king himself, a character that could have easily fit into the movie *Hangover 2*, has spent most of his time at his retreat in Bavaria - seemingly to enough annoyance of German authorities that there have been talks of suspension of his status of diplomatic immunity and outright expulsion should he exert rule by decree from there.

However, student movements and mass protests are nothing new in Thailand. They have been a political staple of last 50 years, and there's no reason to assume the current protests are any different.

But how has it come to this? Perhaps it's important to also examine the historical background, to understand the forces at work in Thailand today. Can Thailand already be understood simply by applying Sir John Glubb's theory of the Fate of Empires?

## **Peoples of Thailand**

Modern-day Thailand may look like an ethnically homogeneous country on paper, being about 85% ethnic Thai, with major minorities being Khmer on the border with Cambodia, Malay around Pattani in the south, a large Karen refugee population near the border with Myanmar, and a Chinese diaspora community presence running for centuries. The Thai themselves migrated into what is now Thailand from what is now Guangxi some time between VIIth and Xth century, settling into and eventually overtaking the Dvaravati culture centred on the Chao Phraya basin. The people of Dvaravati themselves were Mon (or a closely related group); Mon are today a small minority in Thailand, though a large part are likely descendants of Mon expelled from Burma much later. The Dvaravati population has been thoroughly assimilated into the culture of newcomers, forming the modern Thai. In addition, there are smaller ethnic groups in remote mountain regions, such as Kuy, or Hmong whose area of settlement is much wider and reaches across Laos into China and Vietnam.

In fact, census data from mid-XXth century described up to 99% of the population as ethnic Thai. All this, however, completely ignores the internal division of the Thai, which can be divided into four groups, officially referred to only geographically as Central, Southern, Northern, and Northeastern Thai. Those, in fact, can be traced back to divisions already existing for centuries; Central Thai descending from Thai kingdoms of Chao Phraya basin,

Northern Thai stemming from the kingdom of Lan Na centred on Chiang Mai, Southern Thai stemming from the kingdom of Nakhon Si Thammarat formed after Thai conquest of earlier Tambralinga to the south, while the Northeastern Thai from the region referred to as Isan (literally: “northeast”) are closely related to the Lao of Laos and in fact outnumber them. In fact, it’s estimated that they outnumbered Central Thai as early as 50 years ago, but their numbers have dwindled as a result of migration from the poor rural northeast into the cities of central Thailand. In addition, there are smaller minority Thai groups with their own distinct local tradition, such as Khorat Thai and Phu Thai.




Altogether, the rough estimate of ethnic composition of Thailand is:

40%	Central Thai
25%	Northeastern Thai (or Lao)
10%	Northern Thai
10%	Southern Thai
5%	Chinese (mostly Teochew)
5%	Various mountain peoples
3%	Malay
2%	Khmer

The predominant religion in Thailand is Buddhism, and most of the historical figures, including rulers, spent at least several years during early adulthood in training as monks.





-  Sukhothai
-  Ayutthaya
-  Rattanakosin

## History of Thailand

Modern-day Kingdom of Thailand is already the third iteration of Thai states centred on the Chao Phraya basin: Sukhothai flourishing since 1238, overshadowed and vassalised by Ayutthaya which took over in 1350. Ayutthaya itself was overshadowed as a regional empire by the newly-formed Burmese Taungoo, who briefly managed to conquer Thailand in late XVIth century (but Ayutthaya successfully regained independence during a civil war in Burma). From then on, Ayutthaya successfully retained independence for a while longer but failed to reestablish itself. Finally, in mid-XVIIIth century, the Burmese under the new Konbaung dynasty invaded yet again, sacking Ayutthaya during the 2nd invasion in April 1767 and putting an end to the kingdom already deeply internally divided between various claimants to the throne.

Konbaung, however, could not hold onto the lands of Chao Phraya basin. Faced with a Qing invasion, they were forced with abandoning the land in state of anarchy and disarray, ripe for former Ayutthaya generals and governors to attempt reunification.

In the end, this reunification took less than a year. Former governor of Tak, popularly known as Taksin, was crowned king already in December 1767, then still in his 34th year of life. Taksin himself was of mixed ancestry; his father was a Teochew Chinese merchant, and his mother was of mixed Mon-Thai nobility. Mon, today reduced to a small minority, were one of the dominant peoples of Southeast Asia along



with the Khmer before Burmese and Thai migrated into the region, and remained an important power until recently (it was in fact a Mon rebellion that toppled the Taungoo in Burma earlier in the XVIIIth century). Taksin, however, chose to relocate the capital from the destroyed Ayutthaya closer to the sea, to Thonburi, which is today part of Bangkok, right across the Chao Phraya river from the current royal palace. Using his ancestral connections to China, he managed to obtain Qing Empire's grace and set on to turning his newly-formed kingdom into a regional empire.

One after another he managed to conquer the neighbouring kingdoms. Kingdom of Nakhon Si Thammarat to the south on the Kra Isthmus connecting Thailand with Malaya, itself already a vassal of Ayutthaya, was conquered in 1769. Resistance of other generals and governors in former Ayutthaya itself was brought to an end by the end of 1770. Lan Na to the north was conquered on second attempt in 1775, taking it from Burmese sphere of influence. Taksin then turned to the northeast, tasking his right hand commander Thongduang with invading the Lao kingdoms of Luang Prabang, Vientiane, and Champasak. Luang Prabang joined the invasion voluntarily to become a vassal, while Vientiane was conquered in 1778 after a siege of the capital and a sack of its relics, most important being the Emerald Buddha, Champasak surrendering in the same year.

Cambodia was also invaded, already in 1769, to back the usurper Ang Non II in his struggle against Outey II. This led to a decade-long proxy war between the successors favoured by Taksin and by the Vietnamese Nguyen Lords.



While Ang Non II was successfully enthroned in 1775 already, he was eventually assassinated by Vietnamese agents in 1779 and the status of Cambodia as part of Thai or Vietnamese sphere of influence was not decided yet. Only the two westernmost provinces were ceded to a pro-Thai court noble Baen to become a vassal of Thailand.

### **Chakri dynasty**

Taksin was becoming increasingly escapist and started identifying himself as a future Buddha, demanding to be worshipped and monks to recognise him as a spiritual teacher. As he proceeded to shut himself from the troubles of ruling by resorting to meditation and fasting, several generals joined in a conspiracy to depose him, to which he gladly accepted, asking to be allowed to retire as a monk. However, this prompted Thongduang to return from Cambodia which he was to subdue and install Taksin's son on the throne, and in April 1782, he stormed the capital, and had both the conspirators and Taksin executed, the king for negligence and unjustness to his subjects. Thus he became the first king of the Chakri dynasty - and on the 6th of April 1782, when he was crowned as Phra Phutthayotfachulalok, is considered the beginning of Rattanakosin Kingdom, which rules Thailand to this day. Thongduang, too, was of similar mixed descent, Mon on his father's side, and part-Chinese part-Thai on his mother's side.

Thongduang moved the capital across the river to Bangkok and continued a mercantile policy which was to establish Thailand as a local centre of trade. He promoted immigration of Chinese merchants as well as renewed relations with Europe which were severed under Taksin's reign due to

opposition to Christianity. Missionaries were allowed to return to Thailand. He has also reorganised Buddhism, naming an official religious head of Thailand for the first time, to the title of Sangkharat (or Supreme Patriarch).

To take control of the state apparatus, Thongduang staffed as many positions as possible with royal princes: bureaucracy, army, provincial governors, senior monks... Those princes were largely children of various concubines who were ineligible to inherit the throne, and there was no shortage of them: Thungduang had 42 children, his brother Burma 43, and his heir Prince Itsarasunthon, later crowned as Phra Phutthaloetlanaphalai, eventually had as many as 73.

It was also during his reign that Pattani was absorbed into Thailand, in 1785. Previously a Malay Sultanate, but already briefly a vassal of Ayutthaya at some point before, Pattani has resisted rule in several rebellions, which prompted a split into several smaller puppet kingdoms. It remained the only of the Malay states never incorporated into the British colonial empire.

Phra Phutthaloetlanaphalai, who succeeded the throne in 1809, was a patron of arts; a poet himself, he has rewritten and modernised earlier great literature and folk tales. Another major figure of this Thai cultural renaissance was the official royal poet Sunthorn Phu, the author of the epic poem Phra Aphai Mani, finished only in 1844, one of the longest epics poems and the 2nd longest written by a single author, 48,686 lines in total.

After suddenly dying in 1824 without raising an heir, he was succeeded by his son Prince Chetsadabodin, later given regnal name Nangklao. While Chetsadabodin was not the son of the queen but rather of one of the concubines, which would normally disqualify him from succession, he was older and more experienced than the heir-presumptive Mongkut, who has also only just started his monastic training.

### **Treaties with West**

This was a period when the British started to vie for control of Southeast Asia, having established themselves in Singapore in 1819. Thailand and Britain were previously at odds since Thailand attempted an invasion of Kedah in 1821, which similar to Pattani has been briefly a vassal of Ayutthaya, but was already in British sphere of influence by then. Thailand however assisted the British in their first invasion of Burma, eventually managing to negotiate the Burney Treaty, signed on the 20th of June 1826 by Henry Burney, an agent of British East India Company, and the king Nangklao. The treaty recognised Thai sovereignty over not only Pattani, but also Kedah, Kelantan, Perlis, and Terengganu, in exchange for free trade in Thailand and reduced taxation on trade. Another similar treaty, the Roberts Treaty, was signed with US on the 20th of March 1833. The trade with China flourished too.

Vientiane and Champasak revolted against Thai suzerainty in 1827, led by king Anouvong of Vientiane. Besides having lost their relics earlier (though Anouvong ordered replicas of the Emerald Buddha to be made), there was also the issue of military conscription, *corvée* labour, and

population transfers. The Khorat Plateau of modern-day northeastern Thailand, which has been largely uninhabited, was colonised large part by settling Lao population into newly established villages. The spark that triggered the rebellion was Chetsadabodin's campaign to tattoo those Lao settlers in Khorat, to mark them with village name and census number for easier population control. Anouvong gathered an army of 10,000 men, demanding the population of Khorat to be repatriated, and seeking to gain foreign support from either Vietnam or Qing (given that Britain was now unlikely). As it turned out, there was no foreign support, and the rebellion was swiftly and brutally suppressed. The city of Vientiane was razed to the ground, population completely relocated, the kingdom annexed, while Luang Prabang and Champasak were placed under stricter control. Anouvong himself was captured and publicly executed in Bangkok in 1828.

Chetsadabodin, despite having 51 children with various consorts, never raised a heir, as none of his consorts were ever promoted to a queen. Upon his death in 1851, he was therefore finally succeeded by his half-brother Mongkut, who has remained a monk for entirety of his predecessor's reign. He has spent the early days of his monkhood travelling Thailand incognito, seeking for a lineage of monks that was strictly adhering to the monastic rules and that could relate the teachings to original teachings of Gautama Buddha, something that he found frustratingly hard. He has eventually found a Mon lineage orthodox enough for his task: establishing an official monastic order,



Dhammayuttika Nikaya, launched in 1833. Starting in 1836, he was the abbot of Wat Bowonniwet, the central monastery of the order. The order has since received overwhelming preferential treatment by the monarchy, being by far the most prominent despite holding only a small minority of monks.

He has also spent time pursuing western education, befriending the apostolic vicar Jean-Baptiste Pallegoix. He was particularly interested in astronomy and geography, and Christian morality, but wasn't swayed by the doctrine and remained a Buddhist. All this convinced him that Thailand, in order to make dealings with Europe as an equal, must modernise and adopt some of the Western ways. He has also learned to speak English and Latin.

### **Westernizing effort**

Mongkut's reign as Phra Chomkloa started with introduction of European education as well as fashion, shirts and trousers replacing earlier unstitched robes and obligatory bare chest when meeting the king (to display not hiding any weapons).

He has also renewed the treaties with western powers: in 1855, he signed the Bowring Treaty with Sir John Bowring, the Governor of Hong Kong, which negotiated a reduction of import taxation, opening of Thailand to free trade, as well as securing British subjects in Thailand the privilege of extraterritoriality: they could not be legally tried under Thai law. This was followed by the Harris Treaty that negotiated similar terms with US in 1856, signed with Townsend Harris who later also opened Japan to foreign trade;

another treaty with France followed later that year. While this was seen as a blow to Thai sovereignty, reducing the previous royal privileges of control over trade, this has also started independent entrepreneurship in Thailand, as rice and sugar production for export boomed. Thailand introduced coinage in 1860.

The struggle of Thailand with Vietnam for control over Cambodia came to an abrupt end when Saigon was ceded to France in 1862, followed by other provinces in Mekong Delta (added to colony of Cochinchina) and protectorate over Cambodia in 1867. With Britain having earlier already taking possession of Tenasserim and Pegu from Burma, Thailand was now increasingly encroached on both sides by advancing colonial powers.

In 1868, he invited foreign dignitaries for observation of the solar eclipse on the 18th of August. He announced that he has himself calculated the location and time of the eclipse (the predictions were exact), and scolded his court astrologers for ignoring his predictions and rejection of western astronomy. This was his greatest demonstration to European powers of Thailand being adequately technologically advanced that there is no need to colonise and civilise the country; however, it was also his last, as he has caught malaria during the expedition and died six weeks later.

Mongkut has fathered 82 children, all during his 17 years of rule as he was celibate as a monk. He was succeeded by his designated heir Chulalongorn, who also accompanied the king and caught malaria, but survived. Another of



his sons became the head monk Vajiranavarorasa of Dhammayutika Nikaya and eventually also the Supreme Patriarch of Thailand.

Chulalongkorn has sent royal princes for education in Europe. His heir, Vajiravudh, was sent to study at the Royal Military College in England in 1898, then studied law and history in Oxford, followed by a tour of Europe in 1902. The king himself also visited Europe in 1897, which inspired some of his reforms.

Chulalongkorn continued with modernisation of Thailand. His reforms can be summed up as complete abolition of feudalism. In territorial government, he has abolished power of vassal kings, replacing the local nobility with a centralised indendancy system based on a hierarchical monthon system by 1897. In parallel with this, sanitary districts were established on a British model, organised on a local community level. Another of his implementations inspired by his tour of Europe was forest management from his visit of Sweden. He has abolished slavery (in 1905) and corvée (in 1900), absolving Thai subjects of obligatory service at the local branch of the government. Instead, the obligations of subjects to the government were now military conscription, put in law in 1905. The government itself was modernised in 1892 with establishment of ministries in place of the traditional system with a chancellor and army commander and four additional assistant ministers of undefined roles. To modernise the army, the Royal Military Academy was founded in 1887 in order to train officers in European fashion. Chulalongko-

rn has also abolished the practice of prostration in 1873 already, noting that merely taking a bow is a display of respect enough, as well as abolished torture as part of the judicial process.

However, Chulalongkorn's reign was also a time of Thailand's territorial concessions to both Britain and France. France, which established a protectorate in Vietnam during the 1880s after the victory over Qing in Tonkin War, proceeded with border disputes and naval provocations to force a war with Thailand in 1893. King Chulalongkorn's appeals to Britain were futile; the only thing Britain guaranteed was territorial integrity of Thailand proper. France conquered the Laotian kingdoms, establishing a border along Mekong that remains the border between Thailand and Laos to this day (despite that the population of Khorat plateau on the right bank itself was originally Laotian). In another crisis triggered in 1902, France also annexed the parts of Cambodia attached to Thailand ever since the outcome of the proxy war in the 1770s, as well as small parts of territory on right bank of Mekong near cities of Luang Prabang and Champasak. In addition, Britain suddenly demanded a transfer of northern Malay sultanates, except for Pattani which remained a part of Thailand, under British protectorate, in 1909. Thailand was reduced to its present-day borders.

Vajiravudh inherited a Thailand that was increasingly influenced by European liberal thought of the time: calls for democratisation and nationalism from European-educated intellectuals were demanding a modernisation

similar to the one already undertaken in Japan. After establishing an irregular paramilitary - the Wild Tiger Corps - in 1911, a group of 91 discontent military officers sought to overthrow the king and implement a constitutional monarchy . However, the plot to assassinate him never came to be, since the officer that was selected by lot as the eventual assassin leaked the plan to the royal bodyguard. A military tribunal sentenced three to death, 20 for life imprisonment, and the rest for long sentences - however, the king was lenient and lessened the sentences, eventually pardoning all of them, seeing that the plotters actually had what they thought would be right to do for their homeland in mind.

### **Entering world's stage**

Thailand avoided most of the WW1, only formally declaring war on Germany and Austria-Hungary during 1917. A small expeditionary force was sent to assist France during the last offensives of 1918. This however secured Thailand a seat at the Versailles Peace Conference, as well as becoming a founding member of the League of Nations. With legal system deemed adequately modernised, the western powers followed by rescinding their clauses of extraterritoriality for their subjects in Thailand - Thailand was finally treated by international treaties as an equal to European powers and United States.

Vajiravudh also adopted the modern-day symbols of Thailand. The tricolour flag was adopted in 1917, to replace the old one, with a white elephant on a red field. The national emblem, displaying the Garuda, was established as the principal emblem of the state in 1911 - Thailand had a



western-style royal coat of arms in use since 1873, as well as a set of four royal seals since the founding days of the Rattanakosin Kingdom for signing the documents, one of them featuring the Garuda. He also took the dynastic reforms of promulgating a law on succession to replace previous vague system of previous king choosing a favourite son of the official queen. In addition, he implemented a numbering system for kings to replace a complex set of princely and regnal names, so that all kings would be given the regnal name Rama with an index number - himself being Rama VI.



Vajiravudh fell ill in 1925, without having a son. His princess consort Suvadhana was pregnant at the time, and according to the new succession law, the throne would pass to the baby if male, otherwise to his brother Prajadhipok. Suvadhana gave birth to a daughter, Princess Bejaratana, only hours before Vajiravudh's death.



Prajadhipok led Thailand into the era of Great Depression. Thailand already had some financial troubles before, and Prajadhipok attempted to rectify some of the financial mistakes of previous cabinet starting in 1926. Being more ambitious with regards to governing than his predecessor, he wanted more control over appointments of state officials, and since many of the new cabinet members were various princes and nobility that he could trust, he faced trouble convincing the general public that he isn't simply strengthening the oligarchy.



The biggest hit for Thailand was when Britain abandoned the gold standard in September 1931, and devalued the pound sterling by 30%. As most of Thailand's international reserves were held in pound sterling, this triggered a decision: should Thai economy stay linked to Britain, or should it instead switch to the US dollar, then still backed by gold standard? The decision to switch pound sterling for the US dollar was controversial, since Thai rice exports kept a higher price on the international markets, negatively impacting demand.

### **First military regime**

Prajadhipok admitted to not being in control of the economic situation, lacking required expertise, in February 1932, during a round table meeting with military officers. This was interpreted as a sign of weakness and as a proof that the time has come for Thailand to no longer be led by autocratic rule. While Prajadhipok himself was already drafting a constitution, he rescinded the planned announcement, which led to a coup d'état led by a group of officers on the 24th of June 1932. The group behind the coup was led by Pridi Banomyong, a professor of law and a socialist, and Colonel Phahon Phonphayahasena. The king conceded to demands, signing the new constitution on the 10th of December 1932, thus ending the Rattanakosin Kingdom and allowing the transition into constitutional monarchy - or, de facto, into a series of military dictatorships.

It was less than a year when Thailand erupted in a civil war. Pridi Banomyong's draft of the new economic plan for recovery called for nationalisation of farmlands and a government-directed industrialisation.





The conservatives objected and Phraya Phahon managed to oust the previous government, but they were excluded from the new government too. This allowed Prince Boworadet, a grandson of Mongkut and thus a cousin of Prajadhipok, to start a counterrevolutionary rebellion. The critical battle occurred in October 1933, when Plaek Phibunsongkhram, another of high-ranking military members who backed the coup, crushed the rebels who were already besieging Bangkok, expecting some army units to defect. It is unclear whether the rebellion had full backing of Prajadhipok, but nonetheless the new government no longer trusted the king, and after several disputes regarding taxation of personal assets of the royal family members, and of privileges held by the king to overrule certain court decisions in penal law, and on the right to veto laws. The king announced that if his demands are not met, he will abdicate, and after the government rejected the ultimatum, the king was deposed in March 1935, to be replaced by his nephew Ananda Mahidol, then a nine year old boy living in Switzerland.

The Thai government under Phraya Phahon was greatly influenced by the fascist movement in Europe, and both Phraya Phahon and Plaek Phibunsongkhram, now the Minister of Defence, were great admirers of Mussolini. The state promoted cinema industry, seeking to imitate Italian fascist productions, as instruments of state propaganda. Plaek Phibunsongkhram took over in 1938, and started implementing many reforms clearly inspired by not only Italy but also Germany. Economic nationalism of Plaek

Phibunsongkhram's Thailand was based on the German model; Chinese diaspora, who moved into Thailand as merchants, have been likened to Jews, and the government promoted suppression of Chinese-led businesses. Ironically, Plaek Phibunsongkhram's paternal grandfather himself was a Cantonese immigrant, which he vehemently denied.

Starting in 1939, Plaek Phibunsongkhram's government issued the 12 Thai Cultural Mandates:

- The first set the official name of the country as Prathet Thai - Thailand, land of the Thai (Thai etymologically meaning free man, parallel to how France is named after Franks, also synonymous with freedom). This implied unity of all Thai ethnic groups - including the Lao, as well as the Shan further to the north, then subjects of the British in Burma. Previously, the name by which the country was internationally known, was Siam.
- The second defined the duties of loyalty to the nation.
- The third demanded suppression of regional differences between the peoples deemed as Thai.
- The fourth defined appropriate forms of salute to the flag and the anthem.
- The fifth demanded economic nationalism - a boycott of non-Thai products.
- The sixth set the new national anthem.



- The seventh urged the Thai to have stable careers to help build the nation.
- The eighth shortened the national anthem, and amended the mistake where Thailand was still referred to as Siam, only four months after the sixth.
- The ninth demanded all Thai citizens to speak and write proper Thai.
- The tenth defined appropriate dress. It demanded that Thai people should not appear at public gatherings or in cities wearing “only underpants, no shirt, or a wraparound cloth”. It should be noted that traditional Thai clothing (that is, earlier than Mongkut’s implementation of shirt and trousers as appropriate attire) consisted of a loose piece of cloth worn around the lower body, wrapped in a manner that resembles loose pants; and both men and women were casually bare-chested, something now deemed absolutely inappropriate.
- The eleventh decreed how Thai citizens should plan their daily schedules. Thai people were urged to spend 8 hours working, 8 hours tending to personal activities, and 8 hours sleeping, broken by meals at set times, no more than four daily, and midday rest and lunch break no longer than an hour.
- The twelfth decreed that Thai citizens should assist and protect children, the elderly, and the handicapped, should they need assistance in public.

While not coded as a part of those cultural mandates, Plaek Phibunsongkhram also helped create the national dish of Thailand - pad thai. Stir fried noodles were not traditional in Thailand, they were a Chinese cultural import, rice being the main staple, but Plaek Phibunsongkhram explicitly promoted consumption of rice noodles. It is not clear what role exactly the government had in creating pad thai, but it is clear that the dish as we know is today is rooted in those cultural reforms. Thus, it is possible that pad thai is in fact the most globally popular fascist invention - at least currently, as historically it was overshadowed by the Volkswagen.

### **Japanese yoke**

Thailand entered the WW2 with irredentist aspirations to regain its losses to France and Britain. Losses west of the Mekong were regained after a series of skirmishes on the border in 1940. Afterwards, Thailand briefly pursued a position of neutrality, something that was reversed when Japan demanded free passage to reach British Burma. Thailand conceded with the demand that Japan supports its claims in Malaya and Shan (annexing the Kengtung state and joining occupation of other parts of Shan with Japan), and joined the war on the 25th of January 1942. Japan constructed the infamous Burma Railway using Allied prisoners of war as the workforce - one of the most notable portions of the railway being the bridge over the River Kwai, immortalised by the novel and the movie in the 50s.

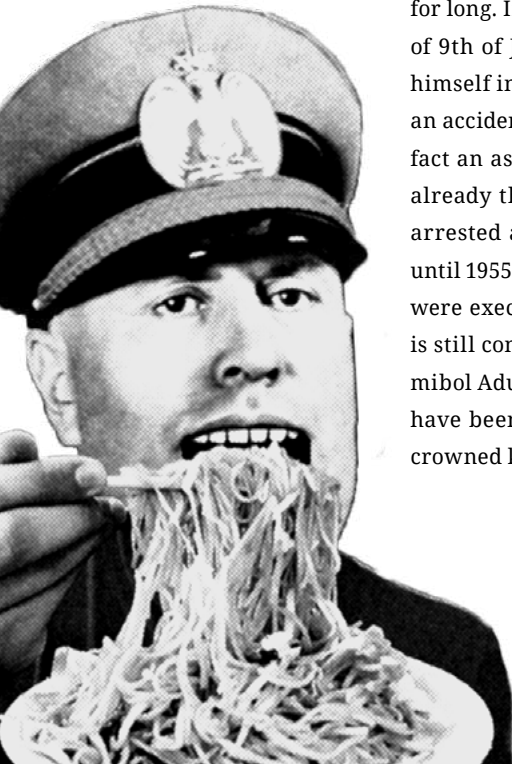
But Thailand also had an active resistance movement: Free Thai. The movement was organised by the Thai ambassador in Washington, Seni Pramoj, who refused



to deliver the declaration of war to the government, and instead sought help from Americans to train as many Thai expats as possible for infiltration inside Thailand. Japan was aware of opposition inside Thailand and, as the war dragged on, started treating Thailand more like another occupied country. Free Thai was joined by Pridi Banomyong. Plaek Phibunsongkhram was forced to resign in August 1944, as the public opinion was increasingly against him. He was replaced by Khuang Aphaiwong, who officially continued relations with the Japanese, but covertly cooperated with the Free Thai. But WW2 ended after the atomic bombings of Japan before planned uprising in Thailand against the Japanese.

### **Return of the king**

The king Ananda Mahidol could finally return from Europe in December 1945. He was reluctant to accept his role; the British observed that he would not remain a king for long. Indeed - he was found shot dead on the morning of 9th of June 1946; his two pages claimed that he shot himself in the face with a pistol. Initially, it was reported an accident; however, soon rumours spread that it was in fact an assassination ordered by Pridi Banomyong, then already the prime minister. The pages were eventually arrested and charged with regicide, the trials dragged until 1955 with final verdict that the pages were guilty and were executed by the firing squad. However, the subject is still controversial in Thailand, and even the king Bhumibol Adulyadej later said he did not believe the pages to have been guilty. Ananda Mahidol was never officially crowned king.



The next king Bhumibol Adulyadej was the younger brother of Ananda Mahidol. He remained the reigning monarch for 70 years, until his death in 2016. Throughout his long reign he has refrained from taking sides in politics. However, his person is legally considered inviolable in Thailand to the point of the world's stricter *lèse-majesté* law, and perceived insults to the monarchy have often been cited as pretexts for repression by military governments.

Plaek Phibunsongkhram now had an unexpected second arrival on the stage. With the Cold War building up, and Pridi Banomyong being supportive of Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, Plaek Phibunsongkhram now managed to get US backing by presenting himself as the anti-communist option. After another coup d'état in 1947 he managed to oust Pridi Banomyong, who went to exile in China under Mao Zedong. Plaek Phibunsongkhram remained in power until 1957, when he was finally ousted by the army under Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat after accusations of electoral fraud, intimidation of opposition, as well as invoking the *lèse-majesté*, as the king Bhumibol was almost completely removed from public ceremonies and reduced a mere palace figurehead. Sarit Thanarat restored the king's ceremonial duties, as well as started a campaign against opium and prostitution, which were increasingly present with urbanisation of society (especially in Bangkok) and presence of US military. After Sarit Thanarat's death in 1963, he was replaced by Thanom Kittikachorn. Meanwhile, Plaek Phibunsongkhram went into exile in Japan, where he died in 1964.

However, as economy in the cities was booming, partly thanks to support from US who saw Thailand as a valuable ally in the region, the economic development skipped the poorest rural regions. This, along with discontent with stationed US troops who operated air bases for support in the ongoing Vietnam War, provided grounds for a communist insurgency in rural Thailand. The Communist Party of Thailand aligned itself with China and received support from Yunnan. Initial low-scale guerrilla throughout the 1960s was joined by popular peasant revolts and student activism in the 1970s. In October 1973, a mass uprising of students in Bangkok, which attracted a crowd of more than half a million in total, spun out of control by the 14th of October, with the government bringing in tanks and helicopters to support the police. By the end of the day, 77 were killed and several hundreds were injured, but as Thanom Kittikachorn saw he cannot intimidate the masses, he decided to resign and eventually leave the country. This was the first successful popular uprising in history of Thailand.

**Student protests**

However, Thailand was unable to elect a coherent government. As the Vietnam war ended in 1975 and communists took over Laos and Cambodia too, many of the moderate middle class former supporters of the uprising against the military dictatorship were increasingly distrusting of the socialist agenda of student activists. Thanom Kittikachorn suddenly returned to Thailand in October 1976, to become a monk at the Wat Bowonniwet, announcing that he has no desire to reenter politics. This nonetheless





triggered student protests, and socialist student groups occupied the campus of Thammasat University. On the 5th of October, lèse-majesté was invoked against the student protesters, claiming that a mock play they staged was directed against the crown prince. Various paramilitaries (Red Gaur, Nawaphon, Village Scouts) now organised and joined by uniformed police to storm the campus the next morning. The Prime Minister, Seni Pramoj, attempted to defuse the situation, urging the student leaders to surrender and enter negotiations, but to no avail, as the Bangkok police gave a free-fire order. Student representatives who turned themselves in were arrested, others who surrender were shot down, and paramilitaries and police commandos stormed the campus. The event became one of iconic examples of a lynch mob attack: the final death toll rose to at least 46 (including 5 attackers); but unofficial reports say more than 100 students were killed. This paved a return of military rule. First the army installed Thanin Kraivichien, a Nawaphon member, as a civilian Prime Minister. The army took full power through another coup in October the following year, under Kriangsak Chamanan.

The new military government had to defuse the domestic political situation as well as deal with fallout from Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Luckily for the government, revelations of the crimes committed by the Khmer Rouge regime greatly diminished the public support for communism in Thailand. Deng Xiaoping also agreed in 1979 to stop backing the Communist Party of Thailand. When Kriangsak

Chamanan stepped down in 1980 (the first of Thai military dictators to do so voluntarily), he was replaced by Prem Tinsulanonda, who continued his task of slow democratisation under constitutional military rule.

To fight consequences of the global oil crisis as well as decreasing US investment, Prem Tinsulanonda unpegged the Thai baht from the US dollar, and started devaluing it. This allowed the Thai economy to keep growing by the average rate of 8% per year that was maintained since the WW2. Devaluations made Thailand more interesting to foreign investment. However, Thailand was now experiencing increasing private current account deficits. Thailand was also increasingly presenting itself as an extravagant tourist destination, with widespread prostitution (which is legal, though brothels and pimping are not) and drug use (illegal and subject of government crackdowns). Thailand today is known also for nonce tourism (though not as widespread as in neighbouring Cambodia) as well as its sissies - called kothoy in Thai. Today, Thailand is also a destination for cheap sex reassignment surgeries, the results of which are often questionable.

Prem Tinsulanonda stepped down in 1988, despite calls from the democratically elected parliamentarians to continue his premiership. He was promptly named a senior advisor, and Thailand was finally under a stable democratically elected government of Chatichai Choonhavan. This, however, didn't last long; he was deposed in another military coup in February 1991, on charges of embezzlement and corruption. The military now chose their own



civilian government; but after a general election in March next year, the public would not trust the installed government of Suchinda Kraprayoon. Another bout of mass demonstrations (up to 200k) followed in May; again, the protests were brutally suppressed, with at least 52 killed - but eyewitnesses reporting trucks full of bodies, as well as hundreds of disappearances, leave a lot unanswered. The protests were followed by appeals from the royal family: first the Princess Sirindhorn and Prince Vajiralongkorn, but finally, from the King Bhumibol Adulyadej himself, calling for the generals to refrain from violence and return to political discourse, saying that they can't be the winners when the one who is losing is the nation of Thailand. The military then stepped down and allowed Chuan Leekpai to form a civilian government.

As the deficits of Thai economy grew, the bubble of continuing Thai GDP growth eventually had to burst. In May 1997, the Thai baht was hit by speculative attacks - but the government only budged when it became clear that Thailand now lacks the foreign reserves necessary to back the value of the baht. On the 2nd of July 1997, the Thai government was forced to float the baht. This swiftly devalued the baht to less than half its value before, brought the Thai economy to a halt, laying off hundreds of thousands of foreign workers, and by 1998 the Thai stock market dropped by 75%. The fallout abroad is known as the 1997 Asian financial crisis as it affected the whole region: most strongly affected were Indonesia, South Korea, Philippines, and Malaysia; but only China managed to weather

through relatively unscathed, largely thanks to RMB's nonconvertibility and the fact that investment in China at the time was still relatively solidly grounded in factories rather than securities.

Thai economic recovery elected a businessman, Thaksin Shinawatra, to the office of Prime Minister in 2001. He implemented universal healthcare for the first time in Thailand, and started a massive infrastructure investment campaign. Both public debt and corruption were decreased, poverty rates were decreased from 20% to 10%, and income in the poorest northeast rose by almost 50%. All this helped him secure a landslide win in the next election. More controversial was his war on drugs policy, where Human Rights Watch claimed more than 2500 killings in the first couple months, most of them claimed to have had no links to actual drugs trade. His term also saw start of rebellion in the Malay Muslim south, both as organised crime and as a separatist movement for separatism of Pattani.

**Army returns**

Thaksin Shinawatra was ousted in 2006 by the army, after allegations of corruption, tax evasion, and selling of important Thai assets to international investors cost him public support. Since then, Thai politics has become increasingly volatile again. The interim government drafted a new constitution and held an election in 2007. 2008 brought a fresh political crisis, when newly elected Samak Sundaravej promptly sought to amend the constitution again and grant amnesty to Thaksin Shinawatra. He was deposed by the Constitutional Court that managed to find a conflict of interests and eventually managed to get the

opposition leader Abhisit Vejjajiva to form a government. This led to another bout of protests, first in 2009 in Pattaya during the East Asia Summit, and then in 2010, leading to another military crackdown in May. After dissolution of the government in 2011, Thaksin's sister Yingluck Shinawatra won the next election - which led to another political crisis when a controversial rice-pledging scheme was found to have been a massive economic loss for the state. Now the protesters in the streets were pro-military: starting from November 2013, protesters started marching on government buildings, the government fearing police intervention would lead to another coup. Yingluck Shinawatra stepped down and the next election was to be held on February 2014, but when advance voting was suppressed by various disturbances, and as protest leaders were getting arrested, it became clear that the election will be invalid. In May, the army declared martial law and formally staged a coup, installing general Prayut Chan-o-cha as the Prime Minister. In a controversial echo of the 12 cultural mandates of Plaek Phibunsongkhram, Prayut Chan-o-cha, too, rolled out a program of 12 core values for a strong Thailand, which read like clichés straight out of a tradlarper's playbook.

In 2016, the king Bhumibol Adulyadej died, and was succeeded by Vajiralongkorn, a known playboy and eccentric. It was not until 2019 that he was formally crowned; and while never loudly expressed due to lèse-majesté laws, there were clear silent concerns whether he would be fit for the role.

2020 brought back student protests, and while Thailand appeared more competent than European and American states at tackling the pandemic, the response has been criticised as serving suppression of protests more than actual epidemic control. With 2020 coming to an end, the current situation in Thailand is inconclusive.

### **Thailand: Glubbian Analysis**

Can the Thai history be understood by comparing it to the Glubbian stages? While only ever a regional power, and today overwhelmingly seen as a Thai ethnostate, meaning that certain notions of Sir John Glubb might not be fully applicable to the case of Thailand, it is possible to see some parallels. Thailand starts with an outburst of nobles loyal to Taksin renewing the collapsed state of Ayutthaya, proceeds to conquer neighbouring states, after which it develops into an affluent state by positioning itself as a trading hub, and by avoiding being incorporated into either of the European colonial empires of the XIXth century. After the first major crisis which led to establishment of a constitutional monarchy (with military taking the central position of political power), Thailand then proceeded with a period of economic growth and modernisation, and after an economic crisis shifting focus on tourism and entertainment industry. Thailand is today a major tropical tourist destination infamous for debauchery, the current eccentric king Vajiralongkorn being an apt personification of the state of Thailand nowadays. Seemingly already deeply in its Age of Decadence, and full 253 years since Taksin took power (and 238 since the establishment of Chakri

dynasty), close to the figure of 250 years, if Thailand is to follow expectations laid down by Sir John Glubb its days of national greatness are already numbered. What comes next? Will Thailand, perhaps reduced by some of the border regions (especially Pattani), remain there as a shadow of its former glory (like Sweden has for over 200 years), or will it fall apart during next major conflict? Either case, the social unrest currently seen is not unexpected, and it is perhaps apt that it's experienced at the same time as in US, a country of similar age (but which has established an empire of far greater geopolitical weight, perhaps among the greatest ever seen).

The Glubbian stages, applied to Thailand, can be delimited as:

- The Age of Pioneers - corresponds to Taksin's early reign.
- The Age of Conquests - starts with Taksin's reign already, but continues until the end of 1820s, when Laotian kingdoms are finally completely subdued, and suzerainty over northern Malay sultanates was confirmed by Britain.
- The Age of Commerce - starting with signing of trade treaties with European powers and US, especially after 1850s when Thailand opens for free trade, continues throughout the rest of XIXth century.
- The Age of Affluence - from Chulalongkorn's economic reforms on at the onset of 20th century, when Thai

economy was open for foreign investment. Thailand became and remained economically far more developed than its neighbours, who were doubly encumbered both by weight of colonialism and socialist governments after the WW2.

- The Age of Intellect - while Thailand was never a scientific powerhouse, higher education became widespread after WW2, which allowed for student activism to become a strong political force in the country by the 1970s.
- The Age of Decadence - is Thailand here yet? Economic crisis of 1997 brought pessimism; the influx of foreigners can be seen both in shape of economic migrants from neighbouring Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos, and especially in tourist spots (Pattaya, Phuket) in shape of western expats pursuing a decadent lifestyle; and Thaksin Shinawatra can be seen as an example of a populist leader, typical of a decadent state, and his programs do fit the description of the welfare state becoming more and more pervasive, as well as increasingly futile reactionary tendencies of royalists and Prayut Chan-o-cha's government; all in all, post-1997 Thailand can easily be understood as belonging to the Age of Decadence.





## FAQ

### How can I contribute?

You can write an article, a poem, make pictures or submit something else creative.

### Where can I submit something?

Current thread, email or discord.

### When is the next deadline?

Generally every two-three weeks, depending on the amount of content. For exact dates see the thread or contact us

### Do I choose the pictures for my articles?

You can choose/make them yourself if you wish to, otherwise someone else can decide for you.

### Is there a length limit?

Generally we try to keep articles between 700-3.000 words. If necessary or justified by interesting form or content, exceptions are possible.

### What topics are suitable?

Alle, since any topic is KC-tier with the right approach.

### How do I know if my text is good enough?

As a rough measure see the already existing texts. Some are for assburgers, other are less serious.

What needs to be present is at least an attempt to bring some structure into your text, since we don't want a zine made out of random thrash.

We are not grammar nazis, runglisch, weird stylistic choices and grammar abuse are fine, as long as you reread your text and try to be understandable.

### Contact

kohlzine@tfwno.gf  
kohlchan /make/ thread