

ABSTRACTS

YOUNG HISTORIANS CONFERENCE
APRIL 29, 2014

9:00 - 10:15 FIRST SESSIONS
SMSU 338 War Without Soldiers: Homefronts during WWII
Commentator: *Professor Jennifer Kerns*

Riveting Rosie's Riveting Struggles: Women Shipyard Workers in WWII

The women workers of WWII are generally portrayed as strong, happy, independent women sporting colorful bandanas and cocky grins, yet this manicured Rosie-the-Riveter image is a far cry from capturing the experiences of the average woman laborer on the home front. An examination of the Kaiser shipyards in Portland and Vancouver makes it evident that women workers faced a plethora of obstacles and stressors in the workplace, only to find themselves booted back into the position of housewife at the end of the war.

Stephanie Lippincott, Lakeridge High School

The Power of the People in Influencing the British Government: The *Kindertransport*

The *Kindertransport* was a program implemented by Britain throughout Europe during World War II to save thousands of persecuted Jewish children. While the British Parliament ultimately passed the movement as a bill and allowed it, the credit and work behind the movement belongs to the Quakers and various Jewish figures of authority in Britain. This paper explores the birth of this movement, its successes and struggles, and its lasting impact on the world today. Without the determination of a few willing people, thousands of lives would have perished during World War II.

Sophia Cantwell, St. Mary's Academy

Japanese Internment: A Case study of Japanese Family Internment Camps in the United States

This investigation examines the effects of Japanese concentration camp life on the family structure of 20th century interned Japanese Americans. For this to be investigated, pre-War family dynamics and Japanese culture will be investigated as well as internment camp life. The focus will be placed on Western Japanese Americans who were interned in family concentration camps such as Manzanar after the attack on Pearl Harbor, and will specifically target how the camps affected the culture of the Japanese families. Two documents, *Impounded People* and *Altered Lives, Enduring Community*, will also be assessed for their origin, purpose, value and limitation in regards to the investigation. With focus on loyalty questionnaires as well as American racism towards the Japanese, the internment's effects on family life before and after the war will be assessed.

Anna Kemper, Sunset High School

An Investigation into Nazi Propaganda Surrounding the German Youth

Between 1933 and 1945, the fascist Third Reich reigned over Germany with Adolf Hitler at its helm. The Nazi party remains infamous for its obsession with racial purity (Hitler 404) and its mechanized extermination of 6 million Jews. In order to inject his anti-Semitic beliefs in the German people, Hitler launched a propaganda campaign with a special focus on the German youth. This investigation will study the changing nature of Nazi propaganda used in the German education system and Nazi youth organizations from the years before the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 to the years before Kristallnacht (1938) and, finally, during Hitler's destruction of the Jewish race. This transformation will be analyzed using primary sources, including Hitler's own *Mein Kampf*, as well as secondary sources such as the works of historians who observed and studied Nazi schools and youth groups.

Amelia Turnquist, Sunset High School

9:00 - 10:15 FIRST SESSIONS

SMSU 328/9 Private Devotion, Public Discipline: Religion and the State in History

Commentator: *Professor Patricia Schechter*

The Catholic Church: Shaping the Roles of Medieval Women

The paradoxical modern expectation for women to remain virgins while simultaneously being sexual objects for men to enjoy as they please is a result of the ideology of the Catholic Church in Medieval Europe. Christian doctrine at this time presented an image of women as inherently weak and prone to sexual sin as a result of Eve's Original Sin. This weakness then led to the expectation that women would remain chaste and subservient, which in turn inhibited the power and influence women possessed in Medieval society. Many of the issues modern feminism fights to remedy result from these historical Christian ideas.

Ashley Just, Clackamas High School

The Most Godless Region of the World: Atheism in East Germany

With a population of 52.1% presently identifying as atheists, East Germany ranks as the most atheistic region of the world. This anomaly can be explained through the economic lenses of supply-side theory and demand-side theory when analyzing the changes instated by the Communist Party during the life of the German Democratic Republic, from 1945 to 1989. Through a process of secularization and religious oppression, the Communist Party lessened the supply of religious goods in East Germany. On the other hand, it also minimized religious demand by providing secular alternatives to traditional religious practices, and institutionalizing anti-religious sentiment. These actions combined have caused the number of citizens subscribing to religious institutions to decrease steadily over the past century.

Sophie Goddyn, St. Mary's Academy

Griswold v. Connecticut: A Study of Resistance to Sexual Revolution in Connecticut, 1961

This paper examined the 1961 Supreme Court case, *Griswold v. Connecticut*, in the context of religiosity and sexual revolution at the time. It attempted to answer the question of why Connecticut maintained the country's last anticontraceptive law and why change to contraceptive law was so strong in only that state. It showed that the maintenance of the contraceptive law was motivated by religious morality. Ultimately it concluded that Connecticut, more than any other American state, was founded on the basis of protecting religious purists and therefore maintained a significant religiosity above other states.

Natalie Pearson, Lakeridge High School

9:00 - 10:15 FIRST SESSIONS
SMSU 327 Witnesses to Empire in the Pre-Modern World
Commentator: *Professor Brian Turner*

Helots in Spartan Society

Helots, the Messenian slaves belonging to the state of Sparta, outnumbered Spartan citizens 7 to 1 in the seventh century B.C.E. Serving as a vital component of a well-oiled machine, the helots contributed to the militaristic state in several ways. Although Spartiates underwent rigorous combat training to maintain order and dominance while being greatly outnumbered by the helots, Sparta's militaristic nature was not produced by a fear of helot revolt as many historians claim. Instead, this paper argues it existed due to the helots' vital contribution to the state as a source of both soldiers and labor.

Taylor Shuman, Clackamas High School

Alexander's Empire

Alexander the Great is known for creating one of the world's largest empires but, many are not familiar with the people "behind the scenes" who contributed to his success. This paper examines the role of women in Alexander's rise to power and their influence in his political campaign. In the cutthroat world of Macedonian politics, it was Alexander's mother who played a crucial part in establishing her son as king, and used all available tools including murder and deception to do so. Despite the fact that women had little opportunity to become rulers themselves, their involvement in Alexander's reign was crucial to forging a lasting and united empire.

Sema Hasan, Riverdale High School

The Alexiad of Anna Comnena

From a small convent outside Constantinople in 1148, Anna Comnena wrote a biography of her father, the emperor of the Byzantine Empire at the time, Alexius I, entitled the Alexiad. The history covers the span of the emperor's life, his rise to power, and death but focuses mainly on his leadership during the First Crusade. Anna Comnena provides historians with powerful first hand depictions of the characters and events during this time period, along with a personal view on the Byzantine empire at the time. It is the only female perspective historians have of Byzantine and the First Crusades.

Acacia Zodrow, Grant High School

The Nuremberg Trials and Crimes Against Humanity

The London Charter, signed in August 1945 by Allied leaders to establish the International Military Tribunal, included a seemingly novel category of wartime wrongdoing into the charges against Nazi leaders—crimes against humanity. Although condemned by some as *ex post facto* law ungrounded in legal precedent, this codified prohibition of destructive action taken by a government against its own citizens was a culmination of humanitarian theory which began in the aftermath of the Thirty Years War. Codified law protecting noncombatants developed during the following centuries, yet the violent excesses of World War I and the failure of the subsequent Leipzig trials revealed the inability of existing international law to prohibit unreasonable wartime atrocities. When presented with evidence of unprecedented German brutality after the conclusion of World War II, Harvard law professor Sheldon Glueck played an integral role in incorporating crimes against humanity into the charges at Nuremberg. This paper follows the development of civilian protections in times of military conflict, noting the shift.

Katie Welgan, St. Mary's Academy

An Assessment of Ho Chi Minh's Strategies for Gaining Support in the Vietnamese Revolution

Despite Americans' awareness of Vietnam in the context of America's crusade against communism, little attention is paid to Ho Chi Minh as a national revolutionary in the creation of an independent Vietnam. This paper addresses Ho Chi Minh's tactics for inciting a revolutionary spirit in the Vietnamese people, particularly his blending of communism and nationalism. Although Ho was characterized as a fervent communist in the West, an examination of his strategies reveals a man who recognized the need to diversify his platform. Ho not only employed nationalistic propaganda, but also adopted fragments of varying political ideologies and appealed to the predominant Confucian culture in order to gain support for his campaign for Vietnamese freedom.

Madeline Fraser, St. Mary's Academy

Fair Trial in a Sensationalist Society: Charles Manson and the Tate-LaBianca Trial

The American legal system was created to ensure each citizen a fair and impartial administration of justice. Charles Manson, notorious criminal and leader of the Manson Family, faced one of the most sensationalistic and dramatized trials in all of United States history. This study views Manson's trial under these promised civil liberties, scrutinizing how Manson and his followers were not given the right to fair trial as secured under the Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Through many contemptuous actions by the court and media, the accused Family members were sentenced to death without an unbiased and lawful verdict.

Jamie Cannady, Lakeridge High School

The Influence of Military Dominance on Political Corruption

The archaic records of Rome's bloody campaigns across the Western hemisphere have undeniably painted into our minds the image of true glory, often in the form of soldiers standing amongst the blood and carnage of their enemies. It has always been noted that history was written by the victors, and with good reason. Being one of the major occupations of the empire for nearly five centuries, warfare was prevalent throughout the works of many poets –inclusive of Virgil and Ovid- and became definitive for Rome's foreign diplomacy. Although we often regard the ancient vast legions or primitive crossbows with disdain as they pale in comparison to today's elite task forces and laser guided missiles, the Romans invested in a new type of tactic that set the stage for future military conflicts: politics. The Romans realized that victory was an effort that had to be won both on the front lines and in the senate chamber, and they spared no expense in utilizing the brute strength of their armies to push for control of the Republic by all means necessary.

Henry Ha, Clackamas High School

An investigation into the Arab-Israeli Conflict

The purpose of this investigation is to examine the key factors that led to the British withdrawal from Palestine on May 14th 1948. This investigation will account for issues within Palestine as well as other elements related to the British government. The main body of evidence will examine the events leading up to British withdrawal. Evidence will include primary sources such as policy papers and letters. Documents include the British White Paper of 1939 and the Balfour Declaration. In section C, these documents will be analyzed in regards to their origin, purpose, value, and limitation in order to properly evaluate the evidence. Section D will analyze the significance of the sources stated in section B and section C according to the research question and when placed in a historical context. This analysis will be used to formulate a conclusion in section E. The conclusion, based off research and deliberations, will state the primary factors that led to the termination of the British mandate in Palestine.

Sameer Kapur, Sunset High School

Upholding the Monroe Doctrine: American Foreign Policy in the 1954 Guatemalan *Coup D'etat*

During the Cold War era, the US developed resentment toward the democratically elected government of Guatemala due to fears of Soviet influence in Latin America and liberal reforms orchestrated by President Arbenz that limited the interference of large American corporations in the Guatemalan economy. In keeping with a long history of imperialistic foreign policy, this distrust resulted in the Eisenhower administration and the CIA conspiring to overthrow the Arbenz administration and setting up a new Guatemalan government designed to be more sympathetic to American interests.

Nadjalisse Reynolds-Lallement, Lakeridge High School

10:30-11:45 SECOND SESSIONS
SMSU 328/9 The Power of Persuasion
Commentator: *Professor Desmond Cheung*

Aristotle's *Rhetoric*: The Power of Words and the Continued Relevance of Persuasion

A critical work in the field of persuasion—Aristotle essentially established the discipline—*Rhetoric* offers historians a framework by which to study the subject's history. In his text, Aristotle argues what successful rhetoric entails, for what purposes rhetoric should be used, and what effective rhetoricians do. Aristotle's *Rhetoric* speaks to the power of words and has remained relevant since its publication. Rhetoric offers writers and speakers a foundation from which to build their arguments. Although the perceived importance of persuasion has faded since Aristotle's time, we still use words, and many scholars encourage the reclamation of rhetoric.

Claire Floyd-Lapp, Grant High School

Copernicus' Role in the Scientific Revolution: Philosophical Merits and Influence on Later Scientists

Nicolaus Copernicus' publication of *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* marks the beginning of a revolution in the field of astronomy and physics. Within 150 years, a heliocentric system became almost universally accepted in the scientific community. Copernicus' model was significant not because of its scientific merit, but because of its ideological appeal to scientists during the 16th through 18th century. This paper explores the philosophical foundations of Copernicus' model, and examines his influence in later works of four significant astronomers and physicists, Brahe, Kepler, Galileo, and Newton.

Jonathan Huston, Riverdale High School

An Investigation into Zionism's inner leadership

This is a thorough investigation of Zionism's inner leadership and specifically Herzl's leadership and success or failure as a political leader. Zionism is a well known and widespread movement that speaks volumes to many people but the leadership during many time periods has been quite lacking. Thus, the motivation to further delve into the historical problems with the Zionist movement but even more of a narrow spectrum in respects to Theodor Herzl himself. Through his whole political career, this investigation will inspect what went wrong.

To assess this character and his politics, this paper will go through the general and deeper information regarding other works about Herzl's movement and Herzl's own writings himself. This will hopefully shed some light on Herzl and his Zionism and evaluate to some extent the success of his movement.

Zia Klocke, Sunset High School

1:00 - 2:15 **THIRD SESSIONS**

SMSU 327 **Conceptualizing the Common Good: Politics and Diplomacy from Antiquity to the 21st Century**

Commentator: *Professor David Del Mar*

Aristotle's Common Good: A Historical Analysis of Aristotle's *Politics*

After studying societal structure in Ancient Athens, Aristotle compiled his research into a comprehensive work on government. Though he focuses on three different types of government and their citizen composition, Aristotle captures the preservation of the "common good" within each. This is the value that government should provide citizens with the ability to live well. Though historians still debate the detailed meaning behind Aristotle's words, this central theme is recognized as his key teaching on societal structure. His ideas stemmed from his home in Greece, but his influence can be seen in societies throughout the rest of world history.

Connor Reising, Grant High School

An Investigation into Alliances and Diplomacy in the Cold War

The question investigated in this research paper is, "how did the United States spread its sphere of influence across Europe through its involvement in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization from 1949 until the mid 1950s?" After the end of the Second World War in 1945, there was a great deal of political tension throughout the world, particularly between the United States and the Soviet Union. Using both recent published works from historians and works published closer to the time of the formation of NATO, this investigation will examine how the global presence of the United States was altered through involvement in this alliance. The political activity of the United States during this time in history had an effect on the way the United States handles foreign policy today.

Braden Prillwitz, Sunset High School

An Investigation into Israel's Foreign Policy

The October War of 1973 is one of the most important wars in Israeli history in terms of political consequences. This investigation evaluates the extent to which the October War impacted Israel's negotiating attitude toward Egypt regarding territorial concessions. To be able to measure the degree of change, this investigation first analyzes Israel's territorial policy before the war. Then, key aspects of the October War are highlighted in order to explain the extent of shock and abasement experienced by Israel as a consequence of the war. Finally, the investigation seeks to analyze how the Israeli shock initiated significant domestic government changes, and adjusted its policy into becoming open to Egyptian territorial negotiations.

The two sources selected for evaluation, The *Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty* signed by both countries in 1979 and *The Arab-Israeli Conflict* by Kirsten E. Schulze are evaluated for their origins, purposes, limitations, and values.

Ethan Tan, Sunset High School

1:00 - 2:15 THIRD SESSIONS
SMSU 338 Postulation and Pustules: Thinking About Medicine and Experiencing Epidemic Disease
Commentator: *Professor Jennifer Tappan*

We owe it all to the Greek Philosophers

The development of anatomy and healing made in ancient Greece laid a foundation for Greek philosophers to usher in the most important medical achievement in history: the Hippocratic Oath. Philosophy in ancient Greece impacted medicine so that evaluation of decisions in medicine were examined. The power given to a physician is unfathomable; philosophers helped to give some of that power back to the patient. Although the anatomical and healing advances we're significant none of that would be worth it without the respect of life.

Megan Pedersen, Clackamas High School

The Contributions of St. Cyprian: Perspectives on Epidemiology and Early Christianity

The Plague of 251 was nicknamed the Plague of Cyprian because of St. Cyprian of Carthage's recordings of the epidemic. In Cyprian's treatise 'On Mortality' he depicts the symptoms of the disease and offers advice to Christians on how to proceed. Cyprian offers valuable insights to the students of history by depicting a reliable account of the plague so as to build accounts of epidemiology, and as an abstract concept, Cyprian illustrates the moral battles surrounding fatality of early Christians. Records of the Plague of 251 are helpful to epidemiologists, and Cyprian's consolation tactics explain the emotions of early Christians facing mortality.

Iris Smith, Grant High School

The Dangers of the Spanish Lady: War, Medicine, and Leadership as contributing factors to the Spanish Influenza Epidemic of 1918-1919

The Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918 rocked the world as the deadliest epidemic of all time, yet this powerful disease has been largely overlooked in historical discussion because it lacks the dynamic nature of The Great War. A closer look at the epidemic reveals that it was so deadly precisely because it lacked that dynamic nature. The flu's onset was insidious, and the combination of war, lack of medical knowledge, and poor leadership ultimately conspired to allow the disease to devastate America.

Holly Swanson, Lakeridge High School

1:00 - 2:15 THIRD SESSIONS
SMSU 328/9 Crafting Identities, Crafting States
Commentator: *Professor Tom Lockett*

Language as a Tool: The Use of Arabic in Spain Under Islamic Rule

Beginning in 755 the Islamic rulers of Spain attempted to establish a culture of coexistence between the Jews, Christians and Muslims where the oppositional religions were able to unify for socio-economic benefit. The Arabic language proved to be the most significant factor in creating this unity as it was used to monitor trade, developments in the sciences and the preservation of philosophical developments from Greco-Roman antiquity.

Madeline Bell Hauenstein, Riverdale High School

The Prosperous Reforms of Maria Theresa

Throughout history, courageous individuals have risen to the challenges of their times, shaping their era as well as the future through the creation of meaningful change. Archduchess Maria Theresa was one such individual. After fighting for her inheritance to the throne of one of Europe's most powerful empires at the age of twenty-three, she transformed a declining Habsburg Empire into a place of prosperity through a series of innovative reforms. Maria Theresa's reforms, which targeted her dominion's ailing military, administration, finances, and society, ensured success for the Habsburg Empire both during and long after her reign.

Brynn Bruder, St. Mary's Academy

An Investigation into Argentina's Economic History

During the Great Depression, Argentina was not spared from the economic chaos of the time. One of the things that are important to understand is how a country like Argentina, in South America, tackled such an economic disaster, trying to recover their country. The main question to be answered here is how effective were the economic policies that were enacted in Argentina during the Great Depression. The main focus of this investigation will be purely on economic policies and how they would have benefited Argentina during the Great Depression, social and political events will not be examined. In order to try to understand this, the policies that were enacted must be understood, specifically how they worked and what was the overall rationale behind implementing them.

Daniel Eynis, Sunset High School