

## Table of Contents

<b>Schwarze Kapelle</b> .....	281
➤ The B-Team .....	281
<b>Mutiny on the Bounty</b> .....	282
➤ Gilligan Won't Go Home .....	283
<b>Alieney Apostasy</b> .....	283
➤ The Apostasy .....	284
➤ Don't Hand Me No Lines & Keep Your Hands to Yourself! .....	284
➤ Jagged Points .....	285
<b>Youth Bulge</b> .....	285
➤ Viking Horns .....	286
➤ Wossamotta U .....	287
➤ Catch-22 .....	287
<b>How Isaac Met Hari</b> .....	288
➤ Terminal Patients .....	289
<b>Christmas Truce 1914</b> .....	291
Endnotes .....	292

*See Appendix DE&A – Disruption Events, Inactive Constructural Elements & Apostasy*

*“The study of the powers that shape, maintain and alter the state is the basis of all political insight and leads to the understanding that the law of power governs the world of states just as the law of gravity governs the physical world.”*

– Ludwig von Rochau

**Schwarze Kapelle:** There is always that ten percent ... as we used to say in the Marines. While colonies can suffer Disruption Events that can cause Constructural Elements at the colony to become *inactive* (see Power Off, 2 Constructural Elements, p. 193, *supra*), Ship Constructural Elements are affected mainly by two sources: Combat losses in crew and psychological fatigue (i.e. attrition) and by contact with colony populations (both friendly and alien). Colony populations can be further affected by losses in Ground Combat (e.g., the WWI generation is called the Lost Generation in Britain<sup>1</sup>).

- ✓ Schwarze Kapelle means ‘black orchestra’ which was the Gestapo’s term for conspirators in the German military and government. The term was re-popularized by the 2004 Germano-Austrian TV movie Stauffenberg, the 2008 movie Valkyrie, and the 2016 Kickstarted board game Black Orchestra. In GGDM terms, they represented groups with ‘inactive’ Constructural Elements (i.e. they tried to kill Hitler).
- **The B-Team:** Suppose that crew replacements for starships were kept frozen or in stasis, to be revived when needed. If you were a crew replacement, and were revived, it would be because whomever you are replacing in the crew has been lost. You would not ask what happened to the one you are replacing, the answer would be obvious, and it would be equally obvious that the replacements are not the ‘A-Team’ or they would not be replacements. They might be the A minus team, but not the best or most experienced, as that would be the original crew.<sup>2</sup> This has been true of replacements in any competitive endeavor throughout history.

That said, however, the Pittsburgh Pirates broadcasters Joe Block and John Wehner, on June 16, 2019, pointed out that sometimes the ‘replacements’ that are called up can be better than expected; the Pirates were forced to call up minor league prospects early due to injury and they won the everyday job by their performance. But generally, there is a reason why the replacements are not the starters... a team can generally expect to lose a little edge with replacements (the ‘Wins Over Replacement’ stat had better be positive or the player will be replaced by their replacement!); bullpen pitchers are not starters for a reason. So, there is room in replacements for an occasional Intervention... or maybe it’s just reflected in some lucky die rolls (or the use of Enlightenment).

- ✓ Whenever a ship survives a combat – that is, the combat ends with the destruction of all enemy units and/or a complete retreat of one side – there is a 15% chance that each Constructural Element on the surviving ships (except the Temporal Constructural Element) will become inactive. This is not the same as The Burning Sky, 2 Disruption, p. 275, *supra*, which applies only to any sovereign colonies left behind.
- ✓ At the end of any Ground Combat in which the defending colony was victorious, there is a 15% chance of each Constructural Element becoming inactive (*ut supra*) at the colony.

- ✓ At the end of any Colony Combat in which the defending colony was victorious, a 5% chance that each Constructural Element becomes inactive at the colony.
- ✓ These latter two are in addition to any preceding or subsequent Disruption Events that may have occurred as a result.
  - “The real miracle of the Marne, in fact, had been the hardihood of French conscripts so recently snatched from home life. They astonished even their own commanders during those first chaotic weeks by enduring casualties, arid privations which might have broken regulars. And therein lies the tragedy of the World War, for it did not take the generals long to adopt a spendthrift attitude toward their living matériel. Losses once regarded as appalling were soon thought inevitable, and the years of attrition saw human lives being ‘traded’ like the pawns of a chess game played by inept opponents.” – Lynn Montross, War Through the Ages (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., 1960), pp. 728-729.<sup>3</sup>

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*“Your methods, so far as this court can discern, show what we shall cautiously term an excess of zeal. We cannot condemn zeal. We cannot rebuke an officer who has administered discipline according to the articles of war but the articles are fallible, as any articles are bound to be. No code can cover all contingencies. We cannot put justice aboard our ships in books. Justice and decency are carried in the heart of the captain, or they be not aboard. It is for this reason that the Admiralty has always sought to appoint its officers from the ranks of gentlemen. The court regrets to note that the appointment of Captain William Bligh was, in that respect, a failure.”*

– Court Martial Judge, *Mutiny on the Bounty* (movie, 1962) <sup>4</sup>

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**Mutiny on the Bounty**: A newly constructed ship has the same Constructural Elements status as the origin colony, the population from whence the original crew is drawn (“naturellement” as Void Captain Genro Kane Gupta would say<sup>5</sup>).

- ✓ A ship located in-system with a Friendly, Naturalized or Converted sovereign colony at the end of any Regular Turn whose inactive Constructural Elements are opposed by matching active Constructural Elements on the colony has a 5% chance that the inactive Constructural Element will change to *active* status.
- ✓ A ship located in a system with a Friendly or Naturalized sovereign colony at the end of any Regular Turn whose active Constructural Elements are opposed by matching inactive Constructural Elements on the colony has a 8% chance that the active Constructural Element will change to *inactive* status.
- ✓ A ship located in a system with a Converted sovereign colony at the end of any Regular Turn whose active Constructural Elements are opposed by matching inactive Constructural Elements on the colony has a 10% chance that the active Constructural Element will change to *inactive* status.
- ✓ In some sense, positions may feel their ships are infected with a ‘mornovirus.’

- ✓ Multiple checks may be made if multiple colonies are in the system (resulting in a flickering of Constructural Elements on ships) even if they are the same planet (e.g., a planet with both a Friendly colony and a sovereign Converted **alien colony**).
  - ✓ Note that the widespread ‘cure’ for inactive Constructural Elements is by activation of the Culture Power for the purpose of Cohering and that the only means of ship Constructural Elements becoming inactive are combat and exposure to (i.e. ‘infection by’) being located at colonies that have inactive Constructural Elements, with the chance that the process could work the other way as well.
- **Gilligan Won’t Go Home:** It is only the opposition of Constructural Elements that causes change, and the changes here only apply to ships, not the colonies; matching Constructural Elements statuses do not invoke these rules. If a ship remains in a system long enough, there likely is a point at which the status of the Constructural Elements of the ship and colony will come to match; I have not the mathematical mind to figure it out (but someone will). Cohering successes can cause a ripple effect to ships at colonies in addition to the possibility that the ships may be directly ‘corrected,’ ‘reeducated,’ by the Cohering Culture Power activation.
- ✓ Are Gilligan and crew really trying to get off the island? Do they actually want to be rescued? Does John Carter want to leave Mars? Does Locke in Lost (2004-2010) really want to be rescued and go back to his wheelchair? Was being stranded in Blue Lagoon awful?
    - “Bligh was impatient to be away, but as Richard Hough observes in his account, he ‘failed to anticipate how his company would react to the severity and austerity of life at sea ... after five dissolute, hedonistic months at Tahiti’” – from Wikipedia article, “Mutiny on the Bounty,” citing to Richard Hough, Captain Bligh and Mr Christian: The Men and the Mutiny (1972).

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*Captain Bligh: But in Tahiti, the insult lies in the omission of those lewd intentions. Manners that would offend a dock-side harlot seem to be the only acceptable behaviour to King Hitihiti. – Mutiny on the Bounty (movie, 1962) <sup>6</sup>*

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**Alieney Apostasy:** Any *ship* that Unloads, Loads or Transfers Cargo, Population, *Supplies* or any Enhancements (including Looting and Trucking) to or from a non-sovereign **alien colony** planet (including Orbital Cities – regardless of whether the colony is owned by the position that controls its Native Population Type or whether there is also a sovereign colony on the planet – or *ship or Ground Unit* that participates in Pacification Combat on a Conquered Colony or Orbital Bombardment of any colony, has a chance at the end of the Regular Turn of having one or more active Constructural Elements become *inactive*, regardless of the status of Constructural Elements on the **alien colony**.

- ✓ This effect cannot occur if the Power Activation failed due to inactive Constructural Elements because the acts never occurred. Sometimes bad luck is a good thing.

Landing Colony Ships (see 4 Expansion, p. 920, *et seq., infra*) on a planet that has an existing non-sovereign **alien colony** (i.e. ‘forced Balkanization’) does not fall within the categories listed

above. Additionally, the Colony Ship no longer exists after the Landing (unless participants have modified the basic technology).

**Alien colonies** for this purpose include both Minor Races (see Mathó Thípila, 4 Diplomacy, p. 1140, *infra*) and even colonies of Native Population Types related to the position as a Lost Colonist Primal State (see 6 Beginnings, p. 63, *supra*) and Conquered Colonies being Looted.

- ✓ The chance of each *active* Constructural Element (except the Temporal Constructural Element) becoming *inactive* on the participating ship(s) is 10%.
  - ✓ Checks for non-sovereign **alien colonies** are made before checks for sovereign colonies that may be in the same system or on the same planet. As above, multiple checks may be made if there are numerous qualifying colonies in the system.
- **The *Apostasy***: Constructural Elements converted to *inactive* by contact with a non-sovereign **alien colony** or a Looted Conquered Colony may not be changed to active status by any means until a Census Power activation has occurred for the owning position (probably should be marked in **red** or **glowing green**). ☠ As the ship Constructural Element checks do not occur until the end of the Regular Turn, activation of the Census Power on the same Regular Turn as contact with the **alien colony** is ineffective.<sup>7</sup>
- ✓ “[Trump] even criticized Romney for invoking his faith in making his decision on impeachment. If the whole effort was meant to punish Romney for his apostasy or dissuade him from further acts of disobedience, it doesn’t appear to have worked terribly well. Trump has had great success in keeping the GOP troops in line, but not so much with Romney.” – Aaron Blake, “Analysis: Romney may vote against Trump again – this time with some bite,” Washington Post, March 5, 2020.
- **Don’t Hand Me No Lines & Keep Your Hands to Yourself!**: There are costs to activation of the Census Power beyond Acts, Scenes and use of a Power Activation; some proficiencies may also be lost and some colonies near Maximum Habitability could suffer Disruption Events, see Peaches for Mad Molly, 2 Disruption, p. 273, *supra*, And the Cradle Will Rock, 3 Culture, p. 382, *infra*. Activation of the Census Power represents a turnover of generations in the civilization.
- ✓ Quite frankly, throughout history, sexual and romantic attraction (not saying this will happen between aliens...<sup>8</sup>) have much to do with any form of apostasy, no matter how strictly the term is applied. In GGDM, the term is used and meant in a much wider sense than defined in the dictionary, e.g., Julius Caesar did not ‘lose’ any Constructural Elements over Cleopatra, but Marc Anthony ‘went native’ seduced by both her charms and the potential of grasping a military force to oppose Octavian Caesar. She had children by both men, though Julius Caesar refused to acknowledge his son, Caesarion, and the fate of her sons by Mark Anthony, Alexander Helios and Ptolemy Philadelphus, is disputed, but several Roman writers suggested that Octavian Caesar had Alexander killed before he reached maturity. Cleopatra’s daughter by Mark Anthony married the deposed king of Numidia and co-ruled a Roman territory with him. Her other son, Ptolemy Philadelphus disappeared from history.
    - “But each time we talk, I get the same old thing; Always, ‘No huggee, no kissee until I get a wedding ring!’ My honey, my baby, don’t put my love

upon no shelf; She said, ‘Don’t hand me no lines and keep your hands to yourself’” – Georgia Satellites, “Keep Your Hands to Yourself” (1986).

➤ **Jagged Points:** There is tremendous story potential in this process; apostasy is at the jagged point of rebellion and the Why Not question.<sup>9</sup> GGDM however, does not normally track the Native Population Types of the crew of each ship, but does assume generally that the crews of each ship share the same environment and are compatible (even if alien) and/or that the majority of crews are probably of the owning position’s Native Population Type or from Naturalized populations. See also Valarie and the Fleet of a Thousand Worlds, 1 Carriers & Fighters, p. 1052, *infra*.

Page | 285

✓ **The scene:** A smugly self-satisfied medieval-looking Friar on a starship approaches a planet with a primitive indigenous humanoid population with the intent of converting them.

- **Warrior:** Look blind one, a huge bird [that’s really funny!]
- **Blind Elder:** It is not a bird, my son, but a ship of base metal, and the man inside ... of baser mettle still.

The story does not end well when the gun-toting Friar demonstrates his ‘technological superiority’ to enlighten the natives (that is, in Pittsburgh speak, he was a total jag-off). From Ernie Colón (art & story), “Convert,” p. 62, *Epic Illustrated*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 1980.

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*“... I often hear the question: How can the United States of America help us today? My reply is as paradoxical as the whole of my life has been: You can help us most of all if you help the Soviet Union on its irreversible, but immensely complicated road to democracy. ... [T]he sooner, the more quickly, and the more peacefully the Soviet Union begins to move along the road toward genuine political pluralism, respect for the rights of nations to their own integrity and to a working – that is a market – economy, the better it will be, not just for Czechs and Slovaks, but for the whole world.”*

– Václav Havel, address at a joint session of the U.S. Congress,  
February 21, 1990

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**Youth Bulge:** Unsurprisingly, one of the main causes of social disruption is the ‘youth bulge’ – and I am not talking about *that* kind of youth bulge, but it is kind of related... which occurs, generally, when the number of youth in a society *greatly exceeds* the opportunities available for employment, advancement, housing, marriage, wealth, and/or inheritances, i.e. failing economies.’

The bulge, even if temporary in the long view, pushes against the existing order, classically resulting in war, looting, crime, revolutions, extremism, insurgencies/terrorism, genocide, migrations, expansions, exploitation, and sometimes, inventions or improvements in technique. These things, of course, always exist in civilizations – in part because there is always youth, always a new generation pushing up and all economies are failing in some respect– but the pronounced youth bulge in a society is an enhancing factor. The movements have historically become entangled with religion, nationalism, ambition, and colonialism.

The current version of youth bulge results from demographic situations where fertility rate remains high while death and infant mortality rates drop. It also occurs in societies where a significant percentage of the youth are college educated, but stagnated for a number of years, unable to advance in life (a relative term to be sure, but one defined by their learned social expectations). In modern terms, ‘waithood’ or ‘adulthood.’

Mechanization is also considered a contributing cause, at least as to unemployment. In modern developed nations, the population is aging and the working population works into their later years, leaving fewer job openings for youth, but providing, as a tradeoff, a greater overall intellectual, technical expertise and understanding, and experience level.

Within the framework of GGDM (assuming human-like demographics), there are numerous situations where the Concierge may determine that a youth bulge has occurred locally or globally.

- ✓ For example, on a planet Hosting a College, or multiple Colleges, or heavily urbanized, a college educated youth bulge might occur. Also, on a colony where significant population was recently unloaded, it might reasonably be assumed that the new population is younger rather than older, changing the population pyramid significantly. Planets experiencing rapid industrial and urban development should expect population displacement and/or a bulge, especially on Optimal and Hospitable Class planets.

Globally, an activation of the Census Power that is not followed in close temporal proximity by an activation of the Expansion Power might cause a problem.

Be creative. Attempting to avoid ‘youth bulge’ and population pyramid problems by not activating the Census Power or by use of Writs, will surely lead to other sorts of problems.

- Viking Horns: The dense complexity of these factors are demonstrated by the Viking Age, where the Nordic expansion and raiding is attributed variously to a potent combination of:
  - ✓ A Nordic/Scandinavian youth bulge,
  - ✓ The spread of Christianity into Scandinavia,
  - ✓ Improved seafaring skills and ship technology,
  - ✓ The violent overthrow of the Saxons by Charlemagne and suppression of pagans,
  - ✓ Collapse of Eurasian trade routes following the fall of the Roman Empire,
  - ✓ Climate changes (i.e. the Medieval Warm Period to the Little Ice Age),
  - ✓ Lack of arable land in Scandinavia, and
  - ✓ A lack, generally, of organized defenses and central government in Europe after the Roman disintegration.<sup>10</sup>
    - No historical evidence exists that Vikings wore horned helmets. Consensus is that it is a late 19<sup>th</sup> Century romanticization that began with Wagner’s operas. But I was able to use it in the title here because it instantly suggests a commonly-held image that is symbolic of what we think the Vikings were... ‘Viking Horns’ could just as easily represent the two major prongs of Scandinavian expansion in the Middle Ages: Southeast into the

Ukraine (Kiev, Pontic Basin to the Caucasus) and southwest into post-Roman Europe (Frankia, Britain).

- Wossamotta U: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately one-third of the U.S. population aged 25 or older has completed a Bachelors' Degree or higher. According to various sources, if you add those with academic Associates Degrees, the numbers go up to 10% higher. Every major election in the U.S., some politician trots out a promise to make college education free to all or more accessible, groans about the cost of college education, promises to reform student loans or issue forgiveness (much of which has already been done to some degree). But we all know it is not as simple as it sounds, there are already documented social problems with just an increase of 5% over the previous 28% ten years ago.

College-educated youth bulge may lead to a number of collateral social issues such as:

- ✓ *Credentialism*: increasing formal education and certification requirements for jobs without an increase in basic task, knowledge and skill requirements for those jobs,
- ✓ *Education Inflation*: an overall increase in people holding college degrees competing for the same jobs and/or for jobs that previously required lower or no degree or certification,
- ✓ *Grade Inflation or Creep*: upward creep of academic grading, higher grades for the same work that previously was given lower grades, driven by competition between institutions, education inflation and credential creep,
- ✓ *Fake degrees and diploma mills*.

All of which can possibly result in social and economic discrimination against less economically privileged groups and minorities (See this excellent law review article, Johnson, Creola (2006) "Credentialism and the Proliferation of Fake Degrees: The Employer Pretends to Need a Degree; The Employee Pretends to Have One," *Hofstra Labor and Employment Law Journal*: Vol. 23: Is. 2, Article 1. Available at: <http://scholarlycommons.law.hofstra.edu/hlelj/vol23/iss2/1>).

- ✓ See related discussion of the issue of 'publish or perish' pressure and plagiarism, research fraud, proliferation of journals, Paper Bubble, 2 Technology, p. 709, and 1 Information, EN 6, pp. 1337-1338, *infra*.

Thus to sustain higher college education rates, actual employment skills and employment concepts would have to change on a scale equaling the changes that have already occurred in the last century due to increasing basic literacy from mandatory public education: Is there any job you can get now without being able to count, read or write to at least a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade level? Most cannot even imagine what it is like to be illiterate now. What happens when you cannot get a job without a college degree?

- Catch-22: When I was young – a teen and into my adulthood – I read the classified job adverts in the newspaper daily (before the internet). Nearly every advert states that applicants need X number of years of experience or don't apply. I shortly realized it was a Catch 22 – if you don't have the experience, you cannot get the job, and if you cannot get the job, you can't get the experience. All of the employers wanted experienced, trained workers, no



one wanted to train; they essentially want to poach each other's workers (literally, this happened at my mother's workplace). I took the third option, I went to college, incurred the debt, struggled, and somehow came out well.

In the summer of 2019, nearly 30 years later, my neighbor, a mother of two seeking to return to the workforce, complained to me about the very same problem. And her plan was similar, she wanted to get trained and licensed in something (quickly) so that she could get a job, even if it required a long daily commute.

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*“The great achievement of the enlightenment, in Rochau's view, had been to undermine the notion that might equals right in politics. The mistakes that liberals had made however, was to assume that this meant the law of the strong had suddenly evaporated overnight just because it was unjust. When it became a matter of trying to bring down the walls of Jericho, Rochau wrote, ‘The real Realpolitiker thinks that lacking better tools, the most simple pick ax is more effective than the sound of the most powerful trumpets.’”*

– John Brew, “Real Realpolitik: A History,” lecture at the John Kluge Center, Library of Congress, April 10, 2014 (available free online) <sup>11</sup>

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*“The Prince was written by Machiavelli for the Haves on how to hold power. Rules for Radicals is written for the Have-Nots on how to take it away.”*

– Saul Alinsky, about his 1972 book on community organizing <sup>12</sup>

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**How Isaac Met Hari:** Suppose that in the first century A.D., the leadership of the Roman Empire were provided with an outline of the remaining history of the Western Roman Empire and the causes of its downfall, written by someone with two millennia of hindsight? Would the Roman Empire have ‘survived’ (ignoring the obvious temporal paradox) with this knowledge?

- ✓ “What Mr. [Arnold] Toynbee is referring to is much akin to building on a cracked foundation. Or painting over layers of wallpaper. Or physicians prescribing one pill to counter the side effects of another. It just doesn't make sense. It's not rational thinking. It's expensive in the long run. And it doesn't work. The United States of America ... found that out the hard way. Yes, it took many hundreds of years for the foundation to crack, but it still cracked. And they built on top of it over and over again. And what they built is no longer standing.” – J.A. Willoughby, “The Promised Land,” This Side of Center (2014), p. 150 (describing a future history of the United States).

This essentially describes the transition from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire; the Roman Republic had cracks, the Roman Empire simply painted over them, without changes.

Survival of the late Roman Empire would have required extraordinary and multi-generational united political will, fundamental cultural, political and social changes, technological developments, and enlightened leadership to hold back the oncoming waves of humanity, plagues and famines, economic failures, civil wars and interior deterioration of Roman society. In short,

while some continuous singular political entity might have survived and held most of the territories – avoiding the catastrophic social collapse of classic antiquity – that entity would not be the Roman Empire; the Romans would have to un-become Romans, abandoning many of the characteristics of what we know of as the Roman way. This simply would not have happened; this is a feat that we cannot accomplish even now. And this is how Isaac Asimov met Hari Seldon.

- ✓ Emperor Diocletian in 293 C.E. attempted to fix the political, dynastic and succession problems that troubled the empire every generation and to reverse the trend of military losses at the frontiers. The Tetrarchy lasted only a generation before the cycle of civil war and dynastic ambitions again pushed the Empire to its fall.
- ✓ The Edict of Milan 313 C.E. and the conversion of Constantine the Great to Christianity did not prolong or save the Roman Empire; he in fact destroyed the Tetrarchy of Diocletian (similar to the way a hereditary or dynastic Presidency would destroy our Constitutional Republic) and created the future capital of the empire by renaming Byzantium to Constantinople. It is vaguely possible that in converting to Christianity, the desperate late Roman leadership was *seeking some kind of mystical infusion of the uncompromising, extremist Jewish ethno-nationalism* that had given the Roman Empire serious indigestion for two centuries. It was not to be; the world had changed and Christianity had evolved away from being a Jewish sect (if it ever was). The administrative, currency and military reforms of Constantine I did possibly extend the empire by up to 100 years, until the crossing of the frozen Rhine River by barbarians in December 406 C.E. doomed the Western Roman Empire.
  - “We will never know for sure what Constantine’s true motives were in converting to Christianity. What is certain, however, is that from the moment he had sole power in the West, he ruled as a Christian. He restored Christian property seized during the Great Persecution and enacted legislation that favoured Christians. When he became sole ruler of the empire in 324, he extended similarly pro-Christian policies to the eastern empire, where he not only favoured Christians, but actively discriminated against non-Christians, restricting their ability to worship or fund their temples.” – Prof. Michael Kulikowski (Pennsylvania State University), “Christians were Strangers: How an obscure oriental cult in a corner of Roman Palestine grew to become the dominant religion of the Western world,” Aeon, January 30, 2017.
  - The complex, learned Emperor Julian (aka Julian the Philosopher) briefly reasserted traditional Greco-Roman religion from 355-363 and ordered the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem. Julian was a Platonic philosopher and may have reasoned that if the Christians say their strength comes from belief, then Rome could recover by *believing again* in the Greco-Roman religion of the great ancestors. He was the last pagan emperor, and didn’t live long enough to reverse the tide.
- Terminal Patients: At some point, the Roman Empire was in terminal decline, the patient too far gone to have been saved. I doubt there is a historian who would spend a single thought disputing the foregoing. That point may have come as early as 195 A.D. when Emperor Septimius Severus – the victor of the Year of the Five Emperors who put an end to the ‘I’ll-let-

you-be-my-friend-if-you-give-me-your-lunch’ 65-day reign of Didius Julianus – had the Roman Senate deify the insane Emperor Commodus whose assassination started the Year of the Five Emperors, and whom the Senate had previously declared a non-person, public enemy following his death. *In A.D. 195, the Roman Senate deified insanity. Because, Why Not?*

- ✓ This the Church learned from the Romans: Beatification and canonization has always been political. Fifty-four of the first fifty-eight Popes were canonized, plus two anti-Popes, before the practice finally petered out in the mid-6<sup>th</sup> Century. The first thirty-five Popes were all canonized. Has the Church ever canonized insanity? Take a closer look at the lives of the Saints (e.g., Saint Ignatius of Loyola, The Ecstasy of Saint Francis of Assisi).<sup>13</sup> Since there can only be one God, they had to invent Saints.

Diocletian’s attempt at radical reform in 293 A.D., the Tetrarchy, fell apart in 20 years as the Roman Empire reverted to normal form. The Edicts of Milan (313 A.D.) and Thessalonica (380 A.D.) did not provide enough moral nutrition to make the ailing Empire fight like Pop-eye on a spinach high.

- ✓ Similarly, Washington D.C. voters in 1994 elected the controversial, philandering and compromised, legally troubled, crack cocaine smoking felon Marion Berry to a fourth term as Mayor after he served his federal prison sentence. The nation was shocked.

The United States is proud to have survived nearly 250 years and made a lasting mark on human civilization. The value of that, we shall leave to judgment of future historians. But the United States is still a young country compared to the Roman Republic/Empire-Byzantine Empire together, occupying over 1,800 continuous years of history and other entities of antiquity. The United States of America will not last forever either, and will be the subject of historical and archeological analysis for millennia afterward, as long as there is still someone who remembers us and as long as it still matters.

How does it end? What sort of *historical accident* will tilt the system beyond recovery? Does it end in violent invasion, catastrophic societal collapse, division into regional successor states, or will the United States morph gently into some other entity? Will we simply run out of resources. Or will the concept of sovereign states slowly vanish until none care?<sup>14</sup>

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*“Friday (Christmas Day). We are having the most extraordinary Christmas Day imaginable. A sort of unarranged and quite unauthorized but perfectly understood and scrupulously observed truce exists between us and our friends in front. The funny thing is it only seems to exist in this part of the battle line – on our right and left we can all hear them firing away as cheerfully as ever. The thing started last night – a bitter cold night, with white frost – soon after dusk when the Germans started shouting ‘Merry Christmas, Englishmen’ to us.*

*Of course our fellows shouted back and presently large numbers of both sides had left their trenches, unarmed, and met in the debatable, shot-riddled, no man’s land between the lines. Here the agreement – all on their own – came to be made that we should not fire at each other until after midnight tonight. The men were all fraternizing in the middle (we naturally did not allow them too close to our line) and swapped cigarettes and lies in the utmost good fellowship. Not a shot was fired all night.”*

– Capt. Robert Patrick Miles (King’s Shropshire Light Infantry), Christmas Day, 1914  
(d. December 30, 1914)

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**Christmas Truce 1914:** There is an ‘alternate history’ video on YouTube whose title asked “What if WWI had ended at the Christmas Truce” referring to the 1914 Christmas Truce on the Western Front. The Christmas Truce is the subject of the 2005 French film *Joyeux Noel*. I have not watched the alternate history video, but without doing so, I thought this is an example of dynamics that are beyond human comprehension.

- ✓ “Dear Mother, I am writing from the trenches. It is 11 o’clock in the morning. Beside me is a coke fire, opposite me a ‘dug-out’ (wet) with straw in it. The ground is sloppy in the actual trench, but frozen elsewhere. In my mouth is a pipe presented by the Princess Mary. In the pipe is tobacco. Of course, you say. But wait. In the pipe is German tobacco. Haha, you say, from a prisoner or found in a captured trench. Oh dear, no! From a German soldier. Yes a live German soldier from his own trench. Yesterday the British & Germans met & shook hands in the Ground between the trenches, & exchanged souvenirs, & shook hands. Yes, all day Xmas day, & as I write. Marvellous, isn’t it?” – Henry Williamson (London Rifle Brigade), Christmas Day, 1914.

Page | 291

Let’s call this the ‘un-Disruption’...

To begin, if WWI ended at the Christmas Truce of 1914, we can subtract the millions of casualties incurred in the following years. This means no Lost Generation and the cultural aftereffects of the war; this also means, if you follow some historians, that the French would have had 400,000 more troops in 1940. But never mind that, because a peace in 1914 or January 1915, would have been a much different result than the peace obtained in 1918-1919. The Emperor of Germany would probably have survived, and thus no Weimer Republic, and agitators like the Fascist would have been squashed. If the peace included Russia, then the Tsar survives and the Communist revolutionaries are squashed.

There may have been a WWII, but it would not have been propelled by Fascist and Communist ideologies, it might have been another nationalist-dynastic European conflict. As a result, hegemony does not shift away from Europe and there is no Cold War. Cycling back to the much abbreviated casualty list, those extra men have extra babies, and European population grows that much more overall, not just on the French side. Further, the intellectual and industrial power of those extra population must change things in ways we cannot imagine. The combinations of just these factors quickly spins out of comprehension.

This is not to say that the monarchies would have survived, but the end would have been much different and they probably would have lasted another couple of generations or 50 years as a result of an armistice in January 1915. The British Empire may have collapsed anyway, the Imperial Chinese may have been overthrown anyway, and none of this accounts for Japanese aggression, except that the European monarchies may have put forth more unified, resolute resistance. The United States would not have become involved in European Wars, at least not until much later, would have been more focused on Japan, and technology and concepts would have developed more slowly, as war is frequently the cause of technological acceleration. It is also likely that someone would have invented the atomic bomb anyway as the physics was there around 1920, but the outcome would have been different.

[Over dinner, new Babylon 5 “political officer” Julie Musante asks Sheridan about “lurkers.”]

**John Sheridan:** *It’s our version of the homeless. In many ways, we have the same problem Earth does.*

**Julie Musante:** *Mmm. Earth doesn’t have homeless.*

**Sheridan:** *Excuse me?*

**Musante:** *We don’t have the problem. Yes, there are some “displaced” people, here and there, but, uh... they’ve chosen to be in that position. They’re either lazy, or they’re criminal, or they’re mentally unstable.*

**Sheridan:** *They can’t get a job!*

**Musante:** *EarthGov has promised a job to anyone that wants one. So, if someone doesn’t have a job, they must not want one.*

[Musante runs down a list of all the social problems EarthGov has suddenly solved.]

**Sheridan:** *And, uh w-when exactly did all this happen?*

**Musante:** *When we rewrote the dictionary.*

**Sheridan:** *You can’t deal with the problems by pretending they don’t exist.*

– Babylon 5, “Voices of Authority” (1996)<sup>15</sup>

## Endnotes.

<sup>1</sup> Commentary & Citation: Lost Generation is interesting as a term in that it first referred to the horrendous loss of the young male population during WWI, loss of the promise of the future of England (and France, Germany, Italy, etc.) but later came to apply to the disorientation, unmooring of youth in the post-World War years (both the veterans and those at home) and finally settled specifically upon a clique of expatriate authors, artists and intellectuals who settled in Paris or went to the United States. The Lost Generation term wonderfully covers the spectrum.

✓ From Wikipedia article, “Lost Generation,” January 23, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Commentary: I am coming in a bit fuzzy here, but I remember seeing a documentary about a first black vs. white basketball game or a basketball game that was widely seen as a racial showdown between all-white and all-black basketball teams. I am sure it was a college game, it probably was not the Secret Game in 1944, probably not the Lakers-Globtrotters game in 1947 (because of strict segregation); it may have also been later in the 1950s. What I remember most, and cannot now find on the internet searches, is an interview with the coach of the all black team, who said (paraphrasing) everyone saw it as a basketball showdown between white and black teams, I wasn’t really thinking about that, I just wanted to put my five best players on the court and they were all black as it happened. I think it must not have been either of the games mentioned previously because it seems the coach had a choice and somewhat accidentally, through player selection, made an ‘all black’ team.

<sup>3</sup> Commentary: As I mentioned to the designer of Verdun: Steel Inferno (2018), Mr. Montross may have been thinking of Charles Mangin “the butcher” when he wrote this text.

<sup>4</sup> Commentary & Citation: The 1984 retelling of the story, The Bounty, pays handsome tribute to Captain Bligh’s open boat voyage of 4,000 miles after he was set adrift with a group of loyalist (I’ve been on the deep Pacific, and I cannot even imagine it), but whitewashes the rest of the story and doesn’t show the deception by which the mutineers kidnapped Tahitian men and women for the voyage. The movie also cuts out before the internecine fighting, ambushes, Tahitian revolt, and homemade alcohol wiped out the men on the island. But you can do the math: The end of the movie indicates (correctly) that when they were found 18 years later, there were 9 women, 23 children and *one surviving man*, John Adams, from the nine mutineers, six Tahitian men and fourteen Tahitian women.

<sup>5</sup> Citation: Norman Spinrad, The Void Captain's Tale (1982), the term occurs 25 times in the book, according to a Kindle Edition search.

<sup>6</sup> Commentary: Likely the use of “King Hitihiti” here is intended to lump the indigenous people of Tahiti under one term and is used derisively, like ‘Jim Crow’ in the old south. Hitihiti, the historical person, was not a king, but a Tahitian “linked to the Puni chiefly line of Bora Bora,” (Jenny Newell) one of three Tahitian men (the others are Tupaia and Taiato) who joined Captain Cook’s second voyage in 1773 and travelled with him for two years stopping at Tonga, Easter Island, and the Marquesas before returning to Tahiti. He remained in Tahiti as a huge celebrity and dined with Captain Bligh of the HMS *Bounty* in 1788 (Bligh had been with Captain Cook previously in Tahiti); Captain Cook also visited him with gifts in 1777. Hitihiti left with the HMS *Pandora*, dispatched in 1790 to apprehend the *Bounty* mutineers, and spent three months in the summer of 1791 searching various islands. The HMS *Pandora* wrecked on the Great Barrier Reef in August 1791, ten mutineers captured by the *Pandora* in Tahiti were returned to England in 1792 and court-martialed. Hitihiti may have gone to rescue the Tahitian men and women kidnapped by trickery (using Captain Cook’s name) by the mutineers in June 1789. Hitihiti’s fate is unknown after that point but he was likely on the HMS *Pandora* when it wrecked.

- ✓ Information from various Wikipedia articles, e.g., “HMS *Pandora*,” “Mutiny on the Bounty,” and “James Cook,” but the most excellent, helpful and direct article on the subject is by Jenny Newell, “Pacific Travelers: The islanders who voyaged with Cook,” *Common Place*, Vol. 5, No. 2, January 2005 (available for free at <http://common-place.org/book/pacific-travelers-the-islanders-who-voyaged-with-cook/>). “Jenny Newell is a curator (Polynesia) in the Department of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas, British Museum. She is writing a doctoral thesis on cross-cultural exchanges and ecology in eighteenth-century Tahiti.” *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Commentary: There are perhaps a half dozen countries in the world where religious apostasy can officially result in execution; and a few others where it is dealt with informally by religious enforcers and vigilante groups while the government looks the other way. You know which countries those might be already. *It’s a losing argument* and that is why even in countries where it is officially a crime, it rarely results in execution: You are not going to change the apostate’s mind by execution, you are only going to make him dead, *and others wonder why?*

- ✓ There are also secular countries in the world where questioning the supreme leader or placing any authority above that of the supreme leader (or by extension, the government) is a form of secular apostasy that can result in execution or labor camp ‘reeducation.’ You know which countries those might be already. The supreme leader is usually the center of a cult of personality and so far removed from the people as to be godlike and attributed divine grace.

It is the classic question: If you are so confident in your message, what are you afraid of? While apostasy execution is an extreme ideological measure not countenanced in the West, the same question reared its ugly head again in the religious boycott of the 2007 film, *The Golden Compass*. So much so, that the sequels have not been made for fear of religious nitwits.

- ✓ “Why don’t we trust readers? Why don’t we trust filmgoers? Oh, it causes me to shake my head with sorrow that such nitwits could be loose in the world.” – Philip Pullman commenting on the boycott of *The Golden Compass*, David Byers, “Philip Pullman: Catholic boycotters are ‘nitwits,’” *The Times* (London), November 27, 2007.

<sup>8</sup> Commentary: Unless those aliens are fairy-like creatures with ample bosom and buttocks. That always works in comic books.

- ✓ “Yeah fairies wear boots, and you gotta believe me, Yeah, I saw it, I saw it I tell you no lies, Yeah Fairies wear boots and you gotta believe me, I saw it I saw it with my own two eyes...” – Black Sabbath, “Fairies Wear Boots” (1970).

<sup>9</sup> Commentary & Citation: The Why Not question is discussed in 2 Disruption, p. 269, *supra*. The HMS *Bounty* mutineers were asking the Why Not question after five months in Tahiti.

- ✓ **Christian Fletcher**: I have done no more than any natural man would do. **Capt. Bligh**: No. You have done no more than any wild animal would do. It always makes me laugh, but when men lose their self-restraint they say they’re natural. They are more natural than men who have nothing to restrain. ... You will report to the ship immediately. Do you understand me? And you will stay on ship. There will be no more mixing with the degenerate natives of these islands. By any of my officers. Or by any of my crew. You comprehend my meaning, sir? Good. – from *The Bounty* (1984).

- The screenplay writer probably got the idea for this dialogue, which forms the crux of the conflict, from listening to the rationalizations of men accused of rape, sexual harassment or philandering.
- ✓ “In 1998, in advance of a BBC documentary film aimed at Bligh’s rehabilitation, the respective descendants of the captain and Christian feuded over their contrary versions of the truth. Dea Birkett, the programme’s presenter, suggested that ‘Christian versus Bligh has come to represent rebellion versus authoritarianism, a life constrained versus a life of freedom, sexual repression versus sexual licence.’” – from Wikipedia article, “Mutiny on the Bounty,” January 25, 2019, citing to Tim Minogue, “Blighs v. Christians, the 209-year feud,” *The Independent*, March 22, 1998 (article is available free online).
- ✓ “Whatever the truth, this 209-year-old story will run and run. As Kate McAll, the producer of Wednesday’s programme, said: ‘It’s got everything – sex, drugs and flogging. What more could anyone want?’” – *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> Commentary: The greatest Viking who never lived was not Hagar the Horrible, but Charles the Viking, who defeated Harold the Saxon and then a week later repelled William of Normandy, thus securing England as a future Nordic country.

<sup>11</sup> Citation: “But just as a matter of cold realpolitik, I cannot grasp why so many people think it’s a good idea to stand by a man who, if elected, will serve as a negative campaign ad made flesh.” – Jonah Goldberg, *The National Review*, as quoted in the *Washington Post*, November 10, 2017.

<sup>12</sup> Commentary: It is sad and bemusing that in the early days of Magic: The Gathering, people were surprised and annoyed when the rabidly popular game based on collectible cards turned into a reflection of our world: The Haves and the Have Nots. In any competitive exercise, it will come down to the Haves and the Have-Nots, in whatever quality is required to win. In Magic: The Gathering, it was possession of single powerful cards that could make an otherwise average deck design work much better, where the object of the game was the fun and glory of winning regularly and aspirations to the pro-tour. Thus, the single price of those cards skyrocketed and players were dismayed that a single card that cost less than a penny to manufacture sold for hundreds of dollars, they were dismayed to find that the cost of serious play of Magic: The Gathering favored the Haves in our world. Like GGDM, the early days of Magic: The Gathering were educational, unlike GGDM, the education was neither intentional nor free.

<sup>13</sup> Commentary: Had the Axis won WWII, would Hitler (despite his anti-Christian beliefs) have been canonized? Certainly the state would have fully taken over religion, as a necessity of control and legitimization; the Vatican has been criticized for not doing much during WWII, but consider where they are located. If not during Hitler’s lifetime, shortly afterward, it would have been necessary to legitimize the ‘de-Semitismization’ of Europe by claiming it as a triumph of the ‘Christian’ Third Reich; Italy would be eager to maintain its ‘special relationship’ with Germany, and the Vatican would be pressured as would the Patriarch. Hitler would also have been awarded various orders of knighthood (despite his anti-monarchist ideology) to both glorify and placate the Third Reich.

<sup>14</sup> Commentary: Aside from looming global warming, drug resistant microbes and the technological singularity – there are worrying internal signs for those of us attuned to proximate and ultimate causes of history that suggests that the United States is on the downside of its historical cycle, that it has started along a well-trodden path of history – entitlements, oligarchy, increasing security and erosion of rights, apathy, distraction, erosion of power to the Federal Government, tribalism and political theatre, national debt, erosion of military advantage and diplomatic prestige, etc. I am not predicting the imminent demise of the United States, but I think I will not want to live in this country in a century from now; it will not be the place I swore to defend. I probably have lived in the best time.

<sup>15</sup> Citation: Or in the famous Orwell Nineteen Eighty Four quote that has recently become popular again: “The past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth.” How much history does this describe? A friend said to me, “Orwell always feels timely. Unfortunately.”

- ✓ One of the two forms of a tautology is *a statement that is true by necessity or by virtue of its logical form*. For example, “all bachelors are unmarried,” or “all triangles have three corners” are statements that cannot be disproven or made untrue by anything short of changing the definition of bachelors and triangles (or the prefix tri-, but then what about tripods? triumvirate? tri-centennial?). In the nature of language, of course, you are free to change definitions at any time – the problem is, getting others to accept new definitions and for them to become common in use (and the implications thereof). Sometimes it happens, but it’s a glacial process, not a matter of momentary political convenience.