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"There are these four ways of answering questions. Which four? There are questions that should be answered categorically [straightforwardly yes, no, this, that]. There are questions that should be answered with an analytical (qualified) answer [defining or redefining the terms]. There are questions that should be answered with a counter-question. There are questions that should be put aside. These are the four ways of answering questions."

– Buddha, Sutta Pitaka [1, 2]

"The problem is not that officers don't ask questions. Oh, you have a staff meeting, and the young officers will ask lots of questions. The problem is that they don't know how to ask the right questions."

– A Senior Enlisted Instructor, 2RFIS, Ft. Bragg, 1995 [3, 4]

The Human Adventure: In most adventure stories, and especially in militant space-opera, science-fiction literature, the issues of the day are not decided by the big battles, but by the actions of individuals and small groups (characters) in what would be called "special operations" or "black-ops" – sneaking into the enemy base, spying, sabotage, breaking into computer systems, the lucky recon mission that finds the enemy's one weakness, assassination of leaders, the special mission to retrieve the alien or religious artifact, rescuing prisoners – all of the things that individuals and small groups can do within the larger setting of the conflict, and that *creates drama*. Partially, this is because our literature is necessarily character oriented (and movies and television are based on individual, recognized actors in lead roles), partially it is the result of the human audience's need to connect with a likable sympathetic character, but equally, it is because the human audience has always identified with the sense of individual empowerment on the heroic scale (e.g., Joseph Campbell, Hero with a Thousand Faces (1942)), even when the heroic character isn't really human. That, in addition to the fact that we are individually narcissistic.

In times past, those who were so heroically empowered in the stories were either gods, demigods, sons of gods, sons of kings or were kings, or later, saints and those blessed by God. Individual empowerment (and legitimacy and education) always rested with the upper social classes, and with those who took to arms or to the seas, while peasants bound to the land or to lords, could only listen to stories. The startling difference in modern adventure literature is that 'average' people, in admittedly extraordinary circumstances, are empowered and act in heroic ways. This is also part of the appeal of modern televised professional sports, that feeling, that childhood dream that still lives inside each of us, that, hey, we could do that, or we could have done that, we could have been that good, if only we had the physical talent.

The fundamental attitude which accompanies 'technosolution' (see discussion, 1 Patents, p. 726, *supra*) and is the result of the Enlightenment and the Reformation,[5] is the idea of individual empowerment through technology (as opposed to fantasy or religion). The universe is accessible to us, it is predictable, we can shed light into previously dark places, we can understand, we can do. Technology puts the power of the gods in our hands, each of us individually, and as a group.

- ✓ "'There's always the question how much technology is empowering a small group of people to cause damage. ... [S]maller groups might have access to ... nuclear weapons

or, even worse, bioterror or cyber' weapons." – Bill Gates, as quoted by Mike Allen, "Bill Gates: tech companies inviting government intervention," Axios, February 13, 2018.

Could James Bond have done all that he did without his famous array of technological gadgets? And for the first time, in the decades following the end of the Second World War, we – the human race, or at least nations representing a sizeable portion of it – had the capability to destroy the world, to destroy our entire civilization, and possibly to extinguish all life on Earth. It was then that the stories of gods and natural disasters that had so entertained our ancestors began to lose some of their eternal appeal.

✓ There is a parallel between nuclear weapons and war, and modern weapons and the Second Amendment. Modern weapons are of a different class (along with population density) in relation to the Second Amendment's assumptions to nearly the same extent that nuclear weapons are different than all preceding conventional weapons.

This is the basis of modern terrorism, one person with a bomb or modern firearms can now do in a minute what would have taken a dozen or hundreds of people centuries ago. And as is well documented, increasingly, individuals decide to become the god of death, theirs and however many other people they can kill in a short time before they either commit suicide or are killed by the police. Aside from the regular public outcry and political, social and legal issues of mass-murder, workplace or school building shootings, the base issue with Second Amendment ("right to bear arms") arguments is that in the time it was written, a person with a musket would have killed at most one person in a crowded room or building before being overwhelmed or fleeing: automatic breach-loading, 'repeating' or whatever terms you want to use, modern weapons – even of the civilian sort – have changed this computation completely. This should not come as any surprise considering the staggering extent to which warfare was changed from the early 19th Century to the mid-20th Century.

✓ And also to the extent that we have touched both the Absurdity and the Existential Void, like never before in the early technological age. The 'god of death' mass-murderer phenomenon is the overlap of the two that we have yet to resolve. I use a specific gender here because it has not escaped notice of the media and social sciences, that the vast majority of mass murderers are men/male. What is the reason?

Technology is a force multiplier that gives individuals and small groups an effect and effectiveness far disproportionate to their actual numbers. Would I have been able to design this game without the computer technology I employ? Possibly, but it would not have been the same, it would not have been a PBEM or internet-based gaming, of course. In my very first serious attempt at game design, when I was about 15 years old, I recall hand writing, and editing and re-writing, pages and pages of complex rules. I might perhaps have continued to do that without computers, but the reach of my game would be very limited without the internet.

✓ It is no great historical coincidence that the 18th, 19th and early 20th Century revolutions that swept away the old monarchies and regimes and focused on individual rights followed the modern technological movement. There is a larger continuity.

✓ Most of the 'modern problems' can be characterized as age-old problems enhanced by or combined with our struggle with the sudden individual and personal empower-

ment granted by the rapid development of technology. Sort of like a teenager struggling between childish impulses and increasing freedom, decision making, economic power, and coming adult expectations. And being given a car. Some never quite pass.

■ See related discussion in More Than a Feeling, *et seq.*, 1 Temporal Technology, p. 808, *supra*.

➢ Time Safari, Inc.: The ultimate human adventure and force multiplier in science-fiction is time travel tales (how many movies, TV series?[6]) and a time excursion would be the ultimate Special Operation. Time travel fiction succinctly epitomizes *technological empowerment* of individuals and small groups (*ut supra*), entangling with personal regrets, angst, etc.

✓ [Interview with *fictitious* science-fiction writer Kevin Ulrich] "The Soviets found the time machine to be an invaluable tool for espionage." – The History of Time Travel (mockumentary, 2014).[7]

✓ I watched an interview with one of the main creative team members for the Terminator movies who amusingly pointed out that if you were sending an agent back in time, you'd want someone who blends in with the crowd on the street; Schwarzenegger stands out in a crowd, but people loved it anyway!

Time Safari, Inc.?[8] As discussed in 1 Temporal Technology, GGDM is not suitable for that sort of play, it has the wrong structure. To the extent that temporal technologies are allowed in GGDM, participants should be extremely careful if allowing temporal Special Operations.

✓ One problem with temporal excursions of any kind is that they require a level of awareness and perfection beyond human capability to avoid causing ripples and paradoxes. In the short film "Destroyer of Worlds" (Samuel Dawes, The CGBros, 2019, YouTube 44 minutes) the 'bad guys' took the car keys but missed the journal that had writings about the events leading to their future time. When the journal fell out of the author's bag on the train in 1954 and was picked up and read by his past self in 1954, that future vanished because he didn't follow the same course. And the woman passenger whose lipstick he used to write equations on the train window also vanished.

I would suggest at the most that such operations be limited – very limited – to Recruiting and Lodging Missions (and possibly remote viewing); actual Special Operations 'black ops' are too problematic in their causal ripple effects. Even Recruiting and Lodging can cause ripples if anyone is doing anything they would not have otherwise done (e.g., became a spy instead of a brilliant professor), but those may be handled within the game by a judicious Concierge:

✓ Suppose a virus – actual biological or the computer type – was created in the future and emplaced in our time through temporal means. How would we know that it was from the future? The event would just 'happen' in the normal course of things in our time, it would just be there so to speak, the only possible mystery being where it came from (like trying to figure out where an epidemic started). If the virus in question were of the *biological kind*, there would be some – nay, major risk – that the mad creator either wouldn't exist or that their world would be different as a result (because their ancestors died of the virus) – and hence the virus was never created or never sent back in time – a paradox. Something like a computer virus or inserting a flaw or backdoor into operating systems (for example, allowing an enemy state to shut down the national power grid or steal secrets), is less likely to create paradoxes, but if that is

the case – or in either case – both are history that already happened before the future mad scientist type, and thus, what have they accomplished but to confirm history?

✓ If someone from the future were putting ideas and images in your head – maybe in a sort of Interstellar (2014) movie way – how would you know? We do sometimes get ideas suddenly that seem to have no source or are disconnected from what we are thinking at the moment, or wake up in the morning with a sudden new understanding. Cognitive theorists have suggested our brain multi-processes and that dreams play a role in working out issues and problems, but regardless, to us they are our thoughts and ideas because they suddenly occurred in *our minds*.

▪ See Temporal Constructural Element, p. 173 and Avi Sion feature quote, p. 175, 1 Constructural Elements, *supra*.

✓ One possible solution to sloppy time-travel causality is to argue, like the creators of the Terminator franchise, that there is a fixed future point or condition (that is, a future world without Skynet) and whatever causal changes are made, or paradoxes are created between the 1980s and that point, will always lead to that fixed point, despite creating divergent timelines (which can be viewed as line excursions). If this is the way that GGDM participants treat temporal technologies, then they should be prepared for very heavy-handed Concierge Intervention to make sure it comes out right!

➢ Character Assassin: Unfortunately, Special Operations – the vision of such – bumps hard up against the 'no literary characters' in GGDM discussed in A Story Without Characters, 4 The Streams of Time, p. 102, *supra*. As much as possible, participants should envision Special Operations in a general conceptual sense, but there is no avoiding the issue of individuals – characters, actions, motives, like any criminal investigation or spy novel or documentary – in Special Operations, as is demonstrated by the discussions below.

✓ The trial of Adolf Eichmann perhaps 'served a purpose' of refocusing attention on the banality aspect, the generation of mundane people who either participated in or passively accepted what happened in the Third Reich. In the immediate aftermath of WWII, the focus naturally was on the 'masterminds' (intentionalism holocaust argument) and vast insanity of it, but from the 1961 Eichmann trial the world learned the expression and concept of "The Banality of Evil" which was coined by Hannah Arendt, who reported on the trial for The New Yorker.[9] GGDM throughout has focused on the duality of the leadership and those on the ground (and unity of the opposites).

Any individual involved in a Special Operation will live for probably a Regular Turn or less in GGDM game time (depending on how much 'objective time' the participants think a turn represents), and thus Lodged Missions must age out, like RPs in the Treasury and Faculties in the Enlightenment pool.

✓ Thus, in GGDM there should be no captured spy exchange or Bridge of Spies (Glienicke Bridge, Berlin, featured in the 2015 movie), because of the potential time scale of a Regular Turn.

It is also possible to assume that the actions of individuals *echo well beyond the very short time duration of their act* and shortsightedness of their lives, e.g., the assassination of Philip II of Macedon (father of Alexander the Great, who was then about 20 years old):

✓ "Whatever the actual background to the assassination, it may have had an enormous effect on later world history, far beyond what any conspirators could have predicted. As asserted by some modern historians, had the older and more settled Philip been the one in charge of the war against Persia, he might have rested content with relatively moderate conquests, e.g., making Anatolia into a Macedonian province, and not pushed further into an overall conquest of Persia and further campaigns in India." – from Wikipedia article, "Philip II of Macedon," captured June 1, 2019.[10]

✓ Without Alexander the Great's conquests, there is no Cleopatra VII Philopator, the last ruler of the Ptolemic Kingdom of Egypt. Generally, Alexander the Great may have had some minimal relationship to the rise of Rome, the Romans admired him, e.g., Plutarch's famous comparative biography, and may have been influenced by visions of replicating his achievements.[11] Thus, the echoes of the moment of assassination of Philip II of Macedon ripple and refract through time to Julius Caesar (who was, if you recall, also assassinated 292 years later) and Mark Anthony, to both of whom Cleopatra bore children.

"Thanks to oil, Khartoum today is a boomtown, the whole city a construction site. Osama Bin Laden had a construction business here in the 1990s, when he lived in Al-Riyadh City, a rich suburb of Khartoum. He was an acquaintance of Gubara's eldest son. Mohammed Gubara knew everyone because he was the director of the Blue Nile Sailing Club. Mohammed also knew Carlos the Jackal, a leftist terrorist who lived in Khartoum in the 1980s, when he was one of the world's most-wanted criminals. The Jackal was eventually betrayed by his own bodyguards as he lay recovering from minor surgery – for a varicose vein on a testicle – and extradited to France."

– Nadja Kornith, "The Omega Man – Gadalla Gubara and the half-life of Sudanese cinema," Bidoun (bidoun.org), Issue 20, Spring 2010

The Gubaras: To close the circle, the Gubaras were distant descendants of the Mahdi as was the Prime Minister, and thus they were also distantly related to the Prime Minister. It doesn't take a college degree to see why Osama Bin Laden made their acquaintance.

Player Generated Entropy: Special Operations (other than information gathering) are treated in GGDM as a dichotomy:

✓ On the one hand, they represent literal 'black-ops' (attempts) by one position against another through all of the usual espionage means familiar to us – bribery, blackmail, infiltrating *resistance groups*, media manipulation – to the extent that those work on alien species – and in another, they represent in many cases, unintended consequences and espionage-like entropic events that may occur within the target society regardless of external forces.

In the realm of unintended consequences, a Special Operation sometimes has effects far beyond what is anticipated by the masterminds and perpetrators (e.g., the Affair of the Poisons and the Dreyfus Affair, 3 Special Operations, p. 1309, *infra,* the assassination of Philip of Macedon, previous page, the assassination of General Heydrich next page). Thus, the mechanics of Special Operations in GGDM are literal in the sense of 'recruiting' missions, amassing opportunities and

assets against a target, while the results can often times be more general, beyond the scope of merely destroying an installation, corrupting local officials, or stealing a few research secrets or some computer code.

- ✓ It is similar to the way the stock market is treated in our current civilization: "The risks on Wall Street have been socialized while the profits have been privatized." – William D. Cohan.

- ✓ Operation Anthropoid was the only successful attempt by the Allies to assassinate a Nazi leader. The success was of negligible military value and the Nazi retaliation against the Czech population (against which the Czech government in exile warned) curtailed any such future operations. General Heydrich died of his wounds (on June 4, 1942) a week later after they became infected, and in that, some see justice as he was the architect of the famous 'Final Solution' and chaired the Wannsee conference just six months earlier. Many of the attendees of the Wannsee conference were not convicted, but at least Heydrich was killed. Other effects of his assassination are debatable; execution of the Final Solution plan fell to his deputy, Col. Eichmann (i.e., the "Banality of Evil" who was his sidekick at the Wannsee conference) and perhaps internal resistance to the Final Solution within the Reich ministries and Wehrmacht stiffened after his death? It must have also been concerning to the Germans that a lone Allied bomber (a RAF Halifax) was able to penetrate so far into their airspace in December 1941 and parachute in 9 soldiers just east of Prague.

  - ▪ Heydrich appears as an old man in The Man in the High Castle, brags about his immoral 'achievements,' and tries to have the elderly Hitler assassinated so that he can take over the Greater Reich.

- ➢ Resistance: Not all resistance is or should be considered foreign-induced; e.g., the Solf Circle,[12] the Kreisau Circle, and the White Rose group in Nazi Germany were not connected to any of the Red Orchestra groups, nor were they any danger to the Nazi State, but were stamped out simply because they disagreed and were speaking out about it (similar to the Confessing Church). However, the Allies reprinted and dropped over Germany in July 1943 millions of copies of the sixth White Rose leaflet – that had been smuggled out of Germany to the UK (see propaganda and psyops discussions). Organic internal ideological resistance is addressed more properly with Thesis Statements (see Disputation, 2 Reformation, p. 1391, *infra*) but can become a consideration in Special Operations.

  - ✓ In terms of local 'criminal' activity, in the 1966 movie Khartoum, the enemy could not have done more damage than the shyster who forged General Gordon's signature on grain appropriation orders, then sold the grain for pure profit in the marketplace. When it was discovered that most of the grain stores were missing and the besieged garrison had little food, the perpetrator was arrested and revealed to be one of Gordon's own men; he was executed summarily but what was the difference at that point? Security needed to prevent the acts. Why did no one notice? A greedy thief was more valuable to the besiegers than a saboteur.

- ➢ Vortex Manipulator: Each time that a Black-op (i.e. activation of the Special Operations Power for the purpose of Black-ops, *ut infra*, including activations for the purpose of Treason, see 3 Special Operations, p. 1310, *infra*) or Counter-Operation (i.e. activation of the

Special Operations Power for the purpose of Counter-Operations, *ut infra*) is executed (targeted, attempted) against a position, regardless of the results and regardless of who is ultimately 'blamed' for it, an Intervention Potential is <u>attached</u> *to the position* from the pool of general Intervention Potentials (note that this is not the same as an Intervention Potential Plus) *at the location of the Special Operation* and should be used by the Concierge in that Regular Turn or within the Turn Cycle, to create some effect linked to the Special Operation.

- ✓ For example, whatever the motives and intents of the July 20 Plot conspirators, they inadvertently succeeded in eliminating one of the finest field commanders of WWII (regardless of the alleged myth): The Nazi party, suspecting that Rommel was involved in the July 20 Plot, forced him to commit suicide on October 14, 1944, and then lied to the German public about his cause of death. Probably, this didn't change the course of the war ... but what if Rommel had been commander at the Battle of the Bulge just a few months later? Had Rommel succeeded in the mutiny of the Western commanders (and his demand letter finally reached Hitler), there might not have been a battle in the Ardennes in December 1944. But he was not a July 20 plotter.

This effect could be linked to a known Thesis lodged against the position (see Disputation, 2 Reformation, p. 1391, *infra*), if any, or to an ongoing Kairotic Moment effect (see Kairotic Moments generally, *infra*) to create story continuity.

- ✓ Merely recruiting and Lodging Special Operations or Counter-Operations Missions *do not* cause an Intervention Potential to be <u>attached</u>, nor does Reconnaissance activations (see One-Way Mirror, *et seq.*, 2 Information, p. 1340, *infra*).

- ✓ If the Special Power Activation failed due to Constructural Elements, *it never happened*, and thus was not attempted, and no Intervention is <u>attached</u>.

- ✓ This rule applies only to Black-Ops and Counter-Operations, not to Information Operations.

The attacker in a Black-op will consider this a bonus, whether or not the operation is successful. And it's a plus too if paranoid defenders conduct Counter-Operations in places where no Special Operations Missions have been Lodged, and thus generate another Intervention. But more so, the reason for this is the vortex of paranoia in civilizations: If they go looking, they will find an enemy, foreign or domestic, to persecute. Rocks will be kicked over, rocks will be thrown in glass houses.

- ➢ <u>Presidential Assassinations</u>: Four sitting U.S. Presidents have been killed by assassins:
    - ✓ President Lincoln was killed by a Confederate sympathizer,
    - ✓ President Garfield was killed by a disgruntled office seeker at a train station,
    - ✓ President McKinley was killed by a mentally-ill man who claimed to be an anarchist (but had been shunned away by Emma Goldman), and
    - ✓ President Kennedy was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald, whatever you think he was... crank, Soviet agent, Mafia agent, CIA agent, communist sympathizer, whatever your pet conspiracy theory.

The system was slow to react, there was *no security* around President Lincoln, *little security* around President Garfield, President McKinley was in a meet & greet with the aisle lined by

U.S. Army artillerymen in full dress uniforms (one of them tackled the shooter) and with local police detectives and a couple of Secret Service agents (who were standing too far away to be effective), even though the Secret Service had not yet been officially tasked by Congress with protecting the President.[13] It was not until after the assassination of President McKinley that Congress officially legislated the Secret Service as the arm to protect the President.

- ✔ Only the assassination of President Kennedy has attached suspicions of foreign nation or criminal organization involvement.

- ✔ Emma Goldman, the lover of Alexander Berkman who was then in jail for attempting to assassinate Henry Frick, was detained after the assassination of President McKinley, but was released as she had no involvement and had shunned the shooter. But she was never considered at any point, a possible foreign agent despite her Lithuanian birth, but rather as an intellectual anarchist agitator in possibly a loose, vague international conspiracy.

Thankfully, despite the quickly-forgotten movie The Pelican Brief (1993), no U.S. Supreme Court Justices have been assassinated, though many lower court Judges have been killed (e.g., the 2005 Atlanta Courthouse shootings) and many of them carry concealed weapons (e.g., Judge Joseph J. Bruzzese Jr. who was ambushed in the Jefferson County, OH courthouse parking lot in 2017 and returned fire after being shot). People give considerably less thought to the profound implications of violent attacks on the judiciary than on the President of the United States (or leaders of other nations), some even applaud them (e.g., Judge Chuck Weller, a family court judge, who was shot through a third floor courthouse window in Reno, NV in 2006. See "Wounded judge was despised by some parents," Associated Press, June 14, 2006).

"As William F. Buckley, the founding editor of National Review, once put it: 'To say that the CIA and the KGB engage in similar practices is the equivalent of saying that the man who pushes an old lady into the path of a hurtling bus is not to be distinguished from the man who pushes an old lady out of the path of a hurtling bus: on the grounds that, after all, in both cases someone is pushing old ladies around.'" – Quoted in the Washington Post, August 16, 2017

The Little Black Book: Special Operations are all of those things that governments do that they wouldn't want to see on the front page of a newspaper. They are, at best, a necessary evil, no matter how adventurous the stories or how charismatic the characters. The Special Operations Power may be activated for the following purposes:

1. Reconnaissance (Surveillance and Probing, see 2 Information, *infra*),

2. Recruit Missions (SOMs),

3. Lodge Missions (SOMs),

4. Information Operations (see 2 Information, *infra*),

5. Black-ops (non-Information operations),

6. Treason (it takes two to tango...),

1 Special Operations – Little Black Book

7. Train Counter Operations Missions (i.e. Lodge & Recruit COMs),

8. Counter-Operations (sweeping up the garbage!).

Reconnaissance – which address observation and military reconnaissance as opposed to espionage and black-ops – and Information Operations – spying, espionage – will be discussed fully in, 2 Information generally, *infra*. This part relates solely to Black-ops and Counter-Operations.

➢ Acting Lessons: Special Operations Power activations cost one Act, however, when the Power Activation occurs at a sovereign colony (as in Counter-Operations for example) the Power activation *costs a Scene instead*, which must be on the colony. That is, any activation of the Special Operations Power will cost either an Act or a Scene as applicable, but not both, unless a position is Lodging Missions at both alien and friendly units in the same Regular Turn. If the target location is a sovereign ship (or MegaCorporation membership property) which is at a sovereign colony (as in putting SOMs or COMs on a ship), either one Act or a Scene (position's choice) at the colony may be used for the Power Activation. A position may not choose to use an Act when a Scene is required; the Scene must be used.

➢ Making a Scene: Special Operations Power Activations generally do not fail due to inactive Constructural Elements unless they occur on Friendly, Naturalized or Converted sovereign colonies or ships (i.e. using a Scene). Thus, Power Activation failure for inactive Constructural Elements (see Power Off, 2 Constructural Elements, p. 193, *supra*) can only occur when Special Operations Power is activated to place Special Operations Missions (SOMs) on Friendly, Naturalized or Converted sovereign colonies or ships or to carry out Black-ops at those places, and in any Counter Operations activation on sovereign colonies.

✓ A position may use an Act to Train Counter Operations Missions (COMs) that are being placed on ships at sovereign colonies to avoid the possibility of Power Activation failure. However, this may not always be an option depending on circumstances.

▪ Although this is mostly a game gimmick, it may also be reasoned that ships are easier to protect – especially spaceships – due to the limited room, restricted access, compartmentalization, outside environment, etc. Which is what makes the smuggling of Shadow 'teeps' onboard the Earthforce fleet at Mars such a stretch in the Babylon 5 episode, "Endgame" (1997), but the show pulled it off smoothly.[14]

Special Operations Power Activation failure checks are only made when a Scene is used, whether voluntarily or by requirement (*ut supra*). Special Operations Power activation failures can be subject to Enlightenment rolls if such is committed to insure the Power Activation *and* if the *target location* (i.e. where the Scene is used) has an active Epistemological Constructural Element (see Skool Tyme, 2 Constructural Elements, p. 190, *supra*).

In short, Special Operations at alien locations *does not depend on* the operator's Constructural Elements, but may be greatly affected by the target's inactive Constructural Elements, as discussed in more detail in A Heartless Woman's .38, 2 Special Operations, p. 1301, *infra*.

✓ Note that like the Taxation Power, the Special Operations Power Activation can fail at each specific friendly location while also executing normally at alien locations (whether successful or not). See Jobs for Jackals, 2 Special Operations, pp. 1290-1291, *infra*, for further discussion.

"[Adm. Wilhelm] Canaris was a highly intelligent and sensitive man with many likeable qualities. He loved his dogs and his horse almost more than any other living creatures. He often said to me, 'Schellenberg, always remember the goodness of animals. You see, my dachshund is discreet and will never betray me – I cannot say that of any human being.'" – Walter Schellenberg

"[Adm. Caranis'] skill in acting a part, his cunning, his imagination, the ease with which he affected naive stupidity and then emerged into the most subtle reasoning disarmed the security agents who interrogated him."

– Fabian von Schlabrendorff

"Canaris hated not only Hitler and Himmler, but the entire Nazi system as a political phenomenon .. He was everywhere and nowhere at once. Everywhere he traveled, at home and abroad and to the front, he always left a whirl of confusion behind him .. In reality this small, frail, and somewhat timid man was a vibrating bundle of nerves. Extremely well read, oversensitive, Canaris was an outsider in every respect. In bearing and manner of work, he was the most unmilitary of persons." – Hans Bernd Gisevius

Destruction of the Abwehr: Participants should never dismiss the idea of ideological infighting and ineffectiveness as basis for game entropic effects or die roll failure; this especially seems to be true of intelligence services due to the secretive work they do and their prideful position.

The Abwehr was the German military intelligence service during WWII. It was not especially effective and some members were part of the Black Orchestra; the Abwehr provided British explosives and fuses for two attempts to assassinate Hitler in 1943 and 1944. Some members were connected to the Solf Circle as well and had allegedly compiled a huge dossier (the lost Zossen documents that the Gestapo allegedly burned at castle Schloss Mittersill, but some were allegedly buried) of German war crimes on the Eastern Front.

- ✓ "Hitler had long suspected that the Abwehr had been infiltrated by anti-Nazi defectors and Allied agents, and the defection of [Erich] Vemehren after the Solf Circle arrests all but confirmed it. It was also mistakenly believed in Berlin that the Vermehrens absconded with the secret codes of the Abwehr and turned them over to the British. That proved to be the last straw for Hitler. Despite the efforts of the Abwehr to shift the blame to the SS or even to the Foreign Ministry, Hitler had had enough of [Vice Adm. Wilhelm] Canaris and he told Himmler so twice. He summoned the chief of the Abwehr for a final interview and accused him of allowing the Abwehr to 'fall to bits.' Canaris quietly agreed that it was 'not surprising,' as Germany was losing the war.

  Hitler fired Canaris on the spot, and on 18 February 1944, Hitler signed a decree that abolished the Abwehr. Its functions were taken over by the Reichssicherheit-

shauptamt or RSHA (Reich Main Security Office) and SS-Brigadeführer and General major [Brigadier General] of Police Walter Schellenberg replaced Canaris functionally within the RSHA. This action deprived the German Armed Forces (Wehrmacht) and the anti-Nazi conspirators of an intelligence service of its own and strengthened Himmler's control over the military. Canaris was cashiered and given the empty title of Chief of the Office of Commercial and Economic Warfare. He was arrested on 23 July 1944, in the aftermath of the July 20 Plot against Hitler and executed shortly before the end of the war, along with [Generalmajor Hans] Oster, his deputy. The functions of the Abwehr were then fully absorbed by Amt VI, SD-Ausland, a sub-office of the RSHA, which was part of the SS." – from Wikipedia article, "Abwehr," June 23, 2019.

The feud between the Gestapo and Abwehr has been referenced in movies such as Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace (2000) where it was commented that "the Gestapo is taking Abwehr apart."

[Narrator] *"[Col. Claus von] Stauffenberg increasingly became the core of the Valkyrie plan ... but one major problem remained: Neither [Maj. Gen. Henning] von Tresckow or other conspirators, such as [Col. Albrecht] Mertz von Quirnheim, had actual access to the Fuhrer. But then, in June of 1944, Stauffenberg was appointed as chief of staff to none other than General [Friedrich] Fromm, head of the home army. Hitler frequently wanted to be appraised of its combat readiness. So Stauffenberg suddenly found himself in a position where he himself would see Hitler on a regular basis. Of all of the conspirators, he was now best placed to become the assassin."*

– Operation Valkyrie: The Plot to Kill Hitler (2008)

Opportunity: Opportunity is key and fleeting,[15] without opportunity, all plans are just air. General Fromm was a passive observer of the plot (and he was aware that Col. Stauffenberg was involved in the Black Orchestra group), who quickly turned on the plotters before knowing whether Hitler had survived or not, but he was the catalyst of the opportunity nonetheless, sending his Chief of Staff to report to Hitler instead of going himself, or sending someone else he knew was not involved in plotting against Hitler. Very strange, isn't it? Was Fromm passive-aggressive against Hitler?

The key to Special Operations – especially given the operational conditions of the GGDM setting – is opportunity. First Contact, MegaCorporations, Balkanized Planets, alien trade, Diplomatic Space, any form of extended contact between positions in GGDM creates opportunity just as 'familiarity breeds contempt' (Chaucer, 1386 A.D.). When designing or judging Special Operations, participants should consider first the opportunity for the operation, how many steps are between the concept and the concrete target of the operations, how many opportunities for screwups and chance to intervene, what connects the originator to the target that provides the opportunity for the operation? Thus positions must choose: Isolation as protection or engagement with the story and the developing pan-galactic culture in the game?

✓ 'Opportunity' is a word frequently used for or substituting for 'offer or solicitation' (especially in anything relating to sales). This is not a bad question for GGDM special operations. What is being sold, solicited or offered? And to whom?

➢ <u>Internal Disputes & Isolationism</u>: The preceding opportunity discussion does not apply strictly to Thesis Statements, see Disputation, 2 Reformation, p. 1391, *infra*. However, there are possible game connections between Special Operations and Reformations.

Internal disputes are often the opening for foreign intervention. A succession dispute in Scotland was the opening for Edward I of England (aka "Edward Longshanks") when the disputants appealed to him to mediate (as feudal custom, only a king could mediate a dispute for royal succession) in an attempt to avert another civil war. Edward insisted on being pro-claimed Lord Paramount of Scotland on the argument that in order to mediate the dispute he had to have authority over the disputing parties, but it was a trap, and soon he was demand-ing allegiance and implementing laws in Scotland as its ruler and stormed towns, won battles defeating anyone who didn't agree. You know the history already.

Similarly, Offa of Mercia in the 8th Century used disputes in the Kingdom of Kent to make himself overlord there, over Canterbury and the Channel port of Dover and over East Anglia (whose king he had beheaded for rebelling, 'offa your head!'); then used a dispute with the Archbishop of Canterbury to convince the Pope to divide the Holy See into two Archbishop-rics, halving the power of Canterbury and providing a new Archbishop at Lichfield loyal to him in 787 A.D.

'Foreign' in this case is *relative*, since the unification of England in the 10th Century and the gradual political, linguistic, economic and cultural unification and homogenization of the Isles is a celebrated thread of English history.[16] But at the time, since the disputants were each considered sovereign – whether as Lords Temporal or Lords Spiritual – any meddling or affairs outside their sovereignty was foreign.

Space-opera settings with long-term ideas or detailed back histories tends to follow this pat-tern from sovereign or semi-independent colonies or regions in the early eras to some similar process of unification leading to galactic empires, etc. or just endless petty galactic warfare, e.g., Christopher Moeller's Iron Empires stories:

✓ "Eight weary nations, spanning three million light years of the Milky Way Galaxy. They are the withering remains of a human civilization once immeasurably vast. Their dying has not been quiet." *Id.*

Some Government Titles are based on and require isolation to pass their Conflict Checks. By choosing those titles from the pool, positions have chosen isolation. Government Titles serve as guides to the position's conduct.

✓ [Interview] "It turns out that in 1944, there were seven and a half million foreign workers in Germany. And the Germans had this worry that there could be a civil dis-turbance." – Professor James V. Koch (Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA), Op-eration Valkyrie: The Plot to Kill Hitler (2008).

▪ [Interview in German with English Subtitles] "The plan, under the motto 'Valkyrie' was a contingency plan in the event of an uprising of foreign workers forced to work in Germany. There were many such workers in almost all sectors. If a labor revolt did occur, it would be suppressed by Plan Valkyrie. Every corps had prepared for this eventuality." – Baron Philipp von Boeselager, credited as the last survivor of the July 20 Plot. *Id.*

- The conspirators in the July 20 Plot to kill Hitler were high-level army officers who were desperate to rid Germany of its insanity and who cleverly planned *to subvert an existing continuity of government structure and plan already in place* to complete their *coup d'etat* if Hitler was killed by the bomb in the Wolfsschanze.

➢ Earth Bygones: The period before and between, and even just after World War II is ripe with examples of special operations of all kinds – some wildly successful (e.g., the Norwegian heavy water sabotage operations 1940-1943, commando raids and air flak operations to blind radar, and the *entirely fictional* Guns of Navarone story of 1961 movie fame which would be equivalent to sabotaging an Orbital or System Defense Base) and some less so (e.g., Operation Canned Goods, 1939) or completely fanciful, questionable, or outlandish (e.g., Operation Long Jump and the plot to kidnap the Pope, both in 1943).

The entire 20th century, extending through the Cold War is fertile ground for imagination of GGDM Special Operations, in addition to a considerable body of spy-thriller fiction (even to the silliness of James Bond movies), science-fiction and fantasy-fiction stories they inspired.

I highly recommend reading the Wikipedia article (and any news articles or other reliable historical journalism) on the Red Orchestra to obtain ideas of what can be done under the most oppressive circumstances with the placement (seeding) of just a few agents working more or less independently of each other and often without knowledge of other groups. It is true that all involved on both sides were humans, within social and business relationships, which is not presumed to be the case in GGDM most of the time. So the Concierge and participants must judge the quality of contacts between the Special Operations aggressor and the target alien population – how common or rare is contact with aliens for the particular target group? How long and improbable is the string of contacts, circumstances, contrivances to get from operational concept to concrete objective?

✓ See discussion of Improbables, 4 Colleges, p. 506, *supra*.

✓ On the subject of Cold War espionage operations, I recommend reading the Wikipedia article on Mitrokhin Archive (and other reliable historical journalism) regarding actual operations that the KGB deemed and undertook as practicable.

➢ Harebrained Schemes: Some schemes are so harebrained as to constitute a dark comedy of sorts. Examples include the attack on Nancy Kerrigan by contract thugs plotted by Tonya Harding's ex-husband and ex-bodyguard, or by way of further example, the scene where Russian spy Anna Chapman (Anna Vasil'yevna Kushchyenko) was caught. In particular, the attack on Nancy Kerrigan was a dime-store-novel plot, schoolboy stunt that made most adults legitimately do a double-take when they heard the news, an authentic "Huh? What?" response.[17]

A game mechanic that resolves the result of a Special Operation by die rolls is not a judgment on the merits of the operation. It is thus that some truly harebrained operations (e.g., ST:OS "Journey to Babel") could succeed simply on die rolls and not on merits. Many years ago, I worked on a case about a modern Ponzi scheme that was so transparent and outlandish that it demonstrated that some people are both unbelievably greedy and gullible.[18] So, it can never be said that a hare-brained Special Operation could never succeed. The Concierge is

free to exercise judgment on any Special Operation and may (especially considering the interstellar setting) block or alter the results of the patently harebrained species of Special Operation through Interventions (and an entertaining Special Bulletin New Event!).

➢ Mission Impossible: The Concierge and participants should distinguish between hairbrained operations and those which are just ***very difficult*** and are carried out by competent people, but have a low probability of success:

    ✓ [Interview] "Where the plot began to fall down was that Stauffenberg couldn't be in two places at once. He was instrumental in organizing the operation of Valkyrie in Berlin, so he needed to be there. He's a tremendously powerful, dynamic man, so he could pick up the phone and talk to all corners of Germany at once and convince everybody to act in the way that they should do. But at the same time, he realized that summer that he actually had to be the assassin as well. So he also had to be 300 miles to the east planting the bomb in the map room in Rastenburg." – Roger Moorehouse (author of Killing Hitler (2007)), Operation Valkyrie: The Plot to Kill Hitler (2008).

        ▪ [Narrator] "Since Stauffenberg had to remain alive and return to Berlin to orchestrate the coup, he had to use a timer in the form of a fuse." *Id.*

        ▪ But the one thing that absolutely had to happen was that Hitler must die – it was mission critical. Two men carried two bombs into the room (one was not armed, they didn't have time) and two men left the room after placing one bomb under the table (and tossed the second unarmed one into the woods). One of them needed to insure the task by guarding the bomb, nothing else mattered. If Hitler doesn't die – and he didn't – the rest of the planned coup fails – and it did. Stark opportunity is a cruel thing, unforgiving of self-preservation or 'human failings.'

'Mission critical' is the function of and guiding principle to the use of Enlightenment when used for rerolls in GGDM. See Mission Critical, 2 Special Operations, p. 1300, *infra*.

    ✓ Contrast this with von Gersdorff's failed attempt to assassinate Hitler in March 1943 by suicide bombing (he planned to embrace Hitler while the bomb went off, killing both of them); the preparations for which are shown in the movie Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace (2000). Therefore, Bonhoeffer was an adjutant of the Black Orchestra because he knew of von Gersdorff's plan. Von Gersdorff failed because Hitler rushed through the tour in less than ten minutes and took away the opportunity, as the bomb had a ten-minute fuse. Von Gersdorff was also part of General Tresckow's group of conspirators and it was likely that von Stuaffenberg was aware of his failed attempt and the altruistic idea behind it (which in the movie Bonhoeffer reluctantly blessed by quoting John 15:13). Von Gersdorff was also apparently involved in procuring the explosives and fuses used by von Stauffenberg in the July 20 Plot.

    ✓ Twice during WWII, the German Navy lodged agents inside the United States via U-Boats (Operation Pastorius, June 1942 and Operation Magpie, November 1944), both with no expectation of support within the U.S. and only a general sort of plan. Both failed entirely. Was this a hairbrained scheme or mission impossible? See further discussion of Lodging missions, 2 Special Operations, generally, *infra*.

"To subdue the enemy without fighting is the supreme excellence." – Sun Tzu

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"One need not destroy one's enemy. One need only destroy his willingness to engage." – Sun Tzu

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"There are but two powers in the world, the sword and the mind. In the long run the sword is always beaten by the mind." – Napoleon Bonaparte

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"The first casualty of war is truth." – Runyard Kipling

PsyOps: The following observations serve as guidelines for psychological warfare operations in the interstellar setting. First, it would seem rather difficult (but not impossible) to conduct tactical psychological warfare in a space combat, but they probably would be more effective in Pacification or Ground Combats. In order to conduct psychological warfare against another species, there would need to be a high level of familiarity between the species, translating to a fairly large Diplomatic Space.

Fear is the crudest tool of psychological warfare although other emotions can be used, such as false security, reckless triumph, religious awe, guilt, loss, and so forth, depending on the circumstances, and thus the target alien species must have the capability of experiencing the emotion that is to be evoked by the psyop in such a way as to be adversely affected. And finally, above all else, while alien psychologies multiply the difficulties of psychological warfare, it should never be considered impossible.

- ✓ Fear is the primary element of judgment; judgment comes from experiencing failure or loss, it is the shield against fear of future or continued failure or loss.

    - ▪ "The demon's target is not the possessed; it is us the observers..everyone in this house. I think the point is to make us despair..to reject our humanity: to see ourselves as ultimately bestial, vile and putrescent; without dignity; ugly; unworthy." – William Peter Blatty, <u>The Exorcist</u> (Mr. Blatty wrote both the novel (1971) and wrote the script for and produced the movie (1973)).

- ✓ <u>Head games</u>: **The Mahdi:** The message, I sent the message. There is no British army. **Gen. Gordon:** Why would you send me a false message? **The Mahdi:** Oh, it is sometimes wise, Gordon Pasha, to provide a man with a few sunny hours of fraudulent hope, so that when night comes, he will have a more perfect inward vision of the truth of his hopelessness. I sent the message, there is no British army. You are alone. Quite alone. – dialogue from Khartoum (1966).

    - ▪ At many points in the movie Khartoum, Gen. Gordon was urged to leave Khartoum. The British government ordered him to leave, and he refused. In other scenes (including the one above), the Mahdi is shown offering him safe passage and asking him to leave. As with most historical dramas, the dialogue is fictional – there was no stenographer present – and is intended to represent the sides and advance the drama and story. Fair

enough, but I don't doubt that the Mahdi wanted Gordon to leave (and would have granted safe passage) because it would have served his purposes: 1) It would then appear that the British abandoned Sudan to him, 2) He would have been able to present himself as a liberator and the Anglo-Egyptians as cowards, 3) Gordon's magnificent image in the Sudan would have been shamed, diminished, dismissed, and 4) It would have avoided the massacre. And of course, the death of Gen. Gordon provoked a backlash that was fatal to his future state.

✓ See previous discussion in 5 Combat, pp. 1006-1009, *supra*, regarding morale in GGDM.

✓ See also Pedagogy of Propaganda, 1 Kairotic Moments, p. 1425, *infra*.

President Muffley: *But, how is it possible for this thing to be triggered automatically, and at the same time impossible to untrigger?*

Dr. Strangelove: *Mr. President, it is not only possible, it is essential. That is the whole idea of this machine, you know. Deterrence is the art of producing in the mind of the enemy... the fear to attack. And so, because of the automated and irrevocable decision making process which rules out human meddling, the doomsday machine is terrifying. It's simple to understand. And completely credible, and convincing.*

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President Muffley: *Yes, but the whole point of the doomsday machine is lost if you keep it a secret! Why didn't you tell the world?*

Russian Ambassador: *It was to be announced at the Party Congress on Monday. As you know, the Premier loves surprises.*

– Dr. Strangelove (1964) [19]

Endnotes.

[1] Commentary: The universe tends to choose the last option when humanity asks questions.

[2] Citation: Wally on Buddha (Dilbert Comic): "A deep understanding of reality is exactly the same thing as laziness ... Have you ever seen a statue of Buddha jogging?"☺

[3] Citation: "There are naïve questions, tedious questions, ill-phrased questions, questions put after inadequate self-criticism. But every question is a cry to understand the world. There is no such thing as a dumb question." – Carl Sagan, The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark (1995).

[4] Commentary: I'll never forget the Master Sergeant's introductory comments: "Around here, I am called older than dirt. There are people who think I was with George Washington when he crossed the Delaware River. That's not true. I was however, Moses' Sgt. Major when he crossed the Red Sea!"☺

[5] Commentary: As will be discussed later, one of the points of the Reformation (in relation to humanism) was to reestablish individual worth in the West, bypassing the Church in the human relationship with God or the universe.

✓ This process is what I believe Eric Hoffer was addressing in the 'craving for pride' process in the West as contrasted with Asia in the 20th Century. See Wikipedia discussion of Eric Hoffer quoted in Onomatopoeia, 3 Commerce, pp. 1218-1219, *supra*.

It was thus that love became romanticized and an expected part of marital relationships, the marriage vision focused on individual satisfaction rather than family relationships, alliances, primogeniture, procreation. With the increasing expectation of romantic love and marital satisfaction, the prevalence of marriages with large age differentials slowly receded (e.g., Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All (miniseries, 1994), or Sir Francis Bacon's unproductive marriage to Alice Barnham in 1606) because compatibility is related also to stages in life, and not just social station.

- ✓ Perhaps an interesting case of the transition of expectations is the marriage of Philip of Hesse to Christine of Saxony in 1523. She was the daughter of the Duke of Saxony and undoubtedly, it was a *political marriage* to link two houses. She was, according to Martin Luther (repeating a letter from Philip of Hesse), unattractive, unlikeable, and a chronic drunk (Wikipedia article, "Philip of Hesse" linking to The Life of Luther – a translation of his autobiographical writings – available on Google Books). Nonetheless, they produced ten children in twenty years from 1527 to 1547. Philip of Hesse was lecherous and an adulterer (within weeks of his marriage), who could not be accepted in communion, and beginning in 1526, consulted with Luther and Melanchthon regarding bigamous marriage as an alternative to divorce; he considered divorcing Christine as sin and looked to the case of Henry VIII of England.

  Eventually in 1540 he secretly married 17-year old Margarethe von der Saale (he was 14 years her senior) with whom he had nine more children from 1541-1557, this seemed to have been a morganatic *romantic marriage*. Bucer and Melanchthon performed the wedding services, Melanchthon had agreed to it, Luther reluctantly gave his permission as well, but later claimed to have had nothing to do with it when Philip's sister Elisabeth (to whom Margarethe von der Saale was daughter of one of her ladies-in-waiting) revealed the bigamous wedding and Protestant Germany was scandalized (despite Philip having obtained pre-permission from Christine and jealous rivals, her father the Duke, and John, the Elector of Saxony). This was a very costly decision by the Protestant leadership and crippled Philip's political and diplomatic power at a critical time. Christine of Saxony died in 1549, so the bigamy was nine years and her last child, George I, Landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt was two years old. Philip died in 1567, Margarethe in 1566.

  Epilogue: When Protestant forces commanded by John I, Elector of Saxony suffered ignominious defeat at the Battle of Mühlberg in 1547, the Schmalkaldic League collapsed due to the defeat, undoing Philip's life's work. Bucer and other Protestant reformers fled to England. Philip's father in law, the Duke of Saxony, fought on the Imperial side during the Battle of Mühlberg and was rewarded Elector of Saxony title after John I was captured and imprisoned. The Duke was killed in battle in 1553, John I died in 1554.

[6] Commentary: Quantum Leap was passible sci-fi historical fantasy, it was formula-episodic 80s television, but it wasn't among the great science-fiction television shows. I didn't watch every episode, but I watched about half, and I specifically remember a few moments. I remember the time that Sam was inhabiting the body of a disabled vet, and he got up from the wheelchair and slugged an abusive young nursing home attendant. I also remember the time that Sam was with white supremacist during the Civil Rights movement and had to listen to their low-brow racist jokes all day – which would be like people from an enlightened utopian future listening to our self-centered, shallow, narcissistic prattle (sort of like the final scene in the Twilight Zone episode, "The Rip van Winkle Caper"). And near the end, when the producers were trying to resurrect the stale show – a problem with formula-episodic television, Forever Knight had the same issue – there was the episode with the youthful Stephen King and the devil. Because if you meet anyone during time travel, wouldn't it likely be the devil himself? Dr. Who did.

[7] Citation: From The History of Time Travel (mockumentary, 2014):

- ✓ [Faux Interviews] [General] The Pentagon would be developing a new secret weapons system and somehow the Soviets would have one first. We would be developing a new aircraft and before we could even approve a prototype, the Soviets would be flying the damned thing.
- ✓ [Writer] It became quite clear what the Soviets were doing. They would wait for us to develop something, a new tank, missile system, whatever, and Soviet spies would smuggle the design back to Moscow. Then the Soviets would use the [time] machine to go back in time and 'invent' it before we did.
- ✓ [Professor] Sputnik was based entirely on an American design. The day that the blueprints were finalized was the day the Soviets launched it into orbit.

[8] Citation: From Ray Bradbury's "A Sound of Thunder" (1952).

[9] Citation: "Arendt's term, the expression 'banality of evil,' does not refer to a theory or a doctrine, but fits 'a phenomenon which stared one in the face at the trial' (Arendt, 1992: 287), the experience of an abyss: a lack of common measure between the gigantic scale on which the crimes (the evil) were committed and the insignificance (the

banality) of the persons who were among those most responsible. Confronted with Eichmann in the flesh, Arendt felt it impossible to ascribe the phenomenon she observed to 'any particularity of wickedness, pathology, or ideological conviction of the doer.' (Arendt, 1971: 417). As a concept created through contact with a specific situation the 'banality of evil' neither referred to Shoah nor Nazism's evil as a whole. The banality did not concern all of the agents carrying out orders, but specifically the evil that was committed by Eichmann. His case was all the more exemplary because he had not been simply a subordinate. Rather, his part was decisive in implementing the crimes. Arendt neither doubted Eichmann's guilt, nor did she doubt that he deserved the death sentence." – from Sciences Po (aka Paris Institute of Political Studies), "Violence de masse et Résistance" (https://www.sciencespo.fr/mass-violence-war-massacre-resistance), no authorship attributed, April 29, 2019 (available free online).

- ✓ "If Hannah Arendt (1906-75) leaves no other intellectual legacy, her notion of 'the banality of evil' seems certain to ensure her a place in the history of Western thought. The idea, emblazoned in the subtitle of her controversial 1963 book, Eichmann in Jerusalem, impressed many people as a fundamental insight into a new and distinctly modern kind of evil. Adolf Eichmann had been a leading official in Nazi Germany's SS, one of the key figures in the implementation of the Final Solution, and he had managed to remain in hiding in Argentina until Israeli agents captured him in 1960. In her critical account of his 1961 trial for crimes against the Jewish people and humanity, Arendt argued that Eichmann, far from being a 'monster,' as the Israeli prosecutor insisted, was nothing more than a thoughtless bureaucrat, passionate only in his desire to please his superiors. Eichmann, the unthinking functionary capable of enormous evil, revealed the dark potential of modern bureaucratic man. ... While the controversy over Arendt's idea has continued, the phrase *banality of evil* has slipped easily into the language, becoming a commonplace, almost a banality itself. Journalists and others freely apply it as an all-purpose explanation – for the racist treatment of African Americans, the terror of Saddam Hussein's rule in Iraq, and even, in the case of one theater critic, the betrayal of Sir Thomas More in A Man for All Seasons. In the intellectual world, it remains an idea of consequence. Bernard Williams, Britain's pre-eminent moral philosopher, cites Arendt in declaring that 'the modern world . . . has made evil, like other things, a collective enterprise.'" – Stephen Miller, "A Note on the Banality of Evil," Wilson Quarterly, Autumn 1998 (available free online).

- ✓ "Can one do evil without being evil? This was the puzzling question that the philosopher Hannah Arendt grappled with when she reported for The New Yorker in 1961 on the war crimes trial of Adolph Eichmann, the Nazi operative responsible for organising the transportation of millions of Jews and others to various concentration camps in support of the Nazi's Final Solution. Arendt found Eichmann an ordinary, rather bland, bureaucrat, who in her words, was 'neither perverted nor sadistic,' but 'terrifyingly normal.' He acted without any motive other than to diligently advance his career in the Nazi bureaucracy. Eichmann was not an amoral monster, she concluded in her study of the case, Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil (1963). Instead, he performed evil deeds without evil intentions, a fact connected to his 'thoughtlessness,' a disengagement from the reality of his evil acts. Eichmann 'never realised what he was doing' due to an 'inability… to think from the standpoint of somebody else.' Lacking this particular cognitive ability, he 'commit[ted] crimes under circumstances that made it well-nigh impossible for him to know or to feel that he [was] doing wrong.' Arendt dubbed these collective characteristics of Eichmann 'the banality of evil': he was not inherently evil, but merely shallow and clueless, a 'joiner,' in the words of one contemporary interpreter of Arendt's thesis: he was a man who drifted into the Nazi Party, in search of purpose and direction, not out of deep ideological belief." – Thomas White (ed. by Sam Dresser), "What did Hannah Arendt really mean by the banality of evil?" Aeon (pub. in association with the American Philosophical Association), April 23, 2018 (available free online).

- ✓ "We shall begin with factual errors. Arendt never considered the Nazi evil or the Holocaust as an expression of 'an undiagnosed but latent disease of regular, ordinary human beings,' as [Eva] Illouz wrote [in "Rethinking the Banality of Evil," Haaretz, August 5, 2016]. She definitely did not see Adolf Eichmann only as a cog in the monstrous Nazi machine, and she was at pains to emphasize unequivocally, in a 1964 radio interview with the German journalist and historian Joachim Fest that she never meant that within each of us is hidden a small Nazi (nor is that notion found in her writings). From her mistaken presumption, Illouz then immediately concludes that 'if within each of us there is a dormant Nazi, then evil, according to Arendt, is necessarily banal.' That is arrant nonsense, which even many of Arendt's regular denigrators no longer dare repeat once they have been confronted with her writings. Nor did Arendt ever claim that Eichmann was not an anti-Semite or was not a Nazi idealist in every fiber of his being. It is precisely his absolute and thoughtless symbiosis with the Nazi world, its ideologies and racist norms – despicable and flagrantly immoral but nevertheless legitimate and lawful within the Nazi world, and enjoying the assent of its

'moral majority' – that is the embodiment of the banality of evil." – Ada Ushpiz, "The Grossly Misunderstood 'Banality of Evil' Theory," Haaretz, October 12, 2016 (available free online).

[10] Commentary: The story that Philip II of Macedon's assassin tried to flee but tripped over a vine and was killed by the King's bodyguards may be metaphorical: The assassin may have been slightly inebriated (the assassination occurred at a wedding) – bottle courage – and unable to run effectively, instead stumbling away in his escape attempt.

  ✓ It's also a post-mortem attempt to retrieve honor: We didn't stop the assassin but we caught and killed him instantly afterwards. The assassin was allegedly one of his bodyguards or the captain of the bodyguards.

[11] Commentary: A favorite discussion of military historians is a what-if scenario asking whether Alexander's Macedonian phalanx would have fared well against late Republic of Rome legions of two centuries later. The conquest of Macedon by the Romans (148 B.C.) offers no clue, as the phalanx (and non-Roman leadership) was considered degraded by that time and the legion (and Roman leadership) was ascendant. The technology had not really changed.

[12] Commentary: The Solf Circle destruction was also the trigger event for the Gestapo to destroy Abwehr.

[13] Commentary: The original job of the Secret Service was catching currency counterfeiters.

[14] Commentary & Citation: On this issue, JMS commented in response to the question, *Wouldn't the ship's quartermaster notice a frozen telepath arriving?*:

  ✓ "In something like this, you don't move unless you have the main quartermaster at the Mars base ON YOUR SIDE. You stuff it all into cargo loaders and crates, and ship it up. Have you ever seen military shipments? I looked into this, and security for big crates like this is done *at the point of shipping*." – from The Lurker's Guide to Babylon 5 for the "Endgame" episode (http://www.midwinter.com/lurk/guide/086.html), captured July 22, 2019 (emphasis in original).

    ▪ Still this seems like a stretch to me, you need security at both ends. Especially when no one is to be trusted, when the organization has been infiltrated, when there is an active resistance, when paranoia reigns, as in the last days of President Clark. Further, the crates in which the Shadow 'teeps' were wheeled in looked very conspicuous, there is a scene of them being moved past security!

[15] Commentary: On May 7, 1861 Virginia Militia occupied Arlington House, the home of Robert E. Lee and Mary Lee (great granddaughter of Martha Washington), overlooking Washington, D.C. As such, they were a direct threat to the Capital and could have, if they had been organized, fortified the hill and brought up heavy artillery to bombard the Capital. They departed the position after Mary Lee evacuated on May 14th to her sister's estate in Virginia. The hill was retaken unopposed by Federal troops on May 24th and later became Arlington National Cemetery.

[16] Citation: "Offa's reign has sometimes been regarded as a key stage in the transition to a unified England, but this is no longer the general view among historians in the field. In the words of Simon Keynes, 'Offa was driven by a lust for power, not a vision of English unity; and what he left was a reputation, not a legacy.'" – from Wikipedia article, "Offa of Mercia," captured May 3, 2020.

  ✓ See legacy discussion, The Insistence of Memory, 3 Temporal Technologies, p. 830, *supra*.

[17] Commentary: I, like millions of others, witnessed the unwatchable-but-can't-look-away travesty that was Tonya Harding's performance at the 1994 Olympics. Surely, she should never have been allowed back onto the U.S. Olympic Team after pleading guilty to *conspiracy to hinder prosecution* (a low-grade felony, meaning she could have spent more than a year in jail) in relation to the attack on Nancy Kerrigan.

[18] Commentary: The perp in the Ponzi scheme was sentenced to a very long jail term; I had no issue with him serving significant jail time, but the sentence seemed disproportionate when I realized that he would spend more time in jail than many people convicted of killing a human. Indeed, about 15 years later, the drunk driving perp who killed an on-duty police officer and injured his K-9 companion (discussed in 2 Diplomacy, EN 6, pp. 1122-1123, *supra*) was sentenced (on a charge of Third Degree Murder) to less jail time than the perp in the Ponzi scheme. Consistency and proportionality have always bedeviled criminal sentencing.

[19] Commentary: In perhaps an echo of Dr. Strangelove (and completely unintended, I am sure), Putin announced the Russian 'nuclear powered cruise missile' known as Burevestnik and designated by NATO as SSC-X-9 Skyfall, in his annual 'state of the union' speech on March 1, 2018. The press has dubbed it Putin's 'doomsday weapon' and Putin is known to be unrepentant about the Soviet Union and the Cold War. He is 66 years old in 2019.