

4. Pyrrhus = Putin

Tess Lambert, 26.09.2018

Youtube Video

<https://youtu.be/DKBfc6ILJGc>

[00:01:54.880] - Tess

Amen. I understand that it would be normal to have notes in a class of this style. But I've decided to not print notes. Because I don't believe that would be that useful to you. I'm happy to notify my sources, and send all my notes if people request them. But really, for some of this history, it's been a little bit like waiting through knee deep mud, to try and find relevant points in those paragraphs. And I haven't wanted people to have to do that, and get bogged down with details of other kings, other unrelated events, or the personal opinions of the authors. If you want to look at AT Jones, he provides a very good framework for the life of Pyrrhus. There are details he misses, where other sources have been necessary. But I've tried to be able to lay this line out as concisely as simply as possible without really adding unnecessary confusion. I want to do a revision. I know that we covered a lot of history yesterday. We will go over this line, telling it like a story in a moment. One thing that I want to note is that as we've seen from 273 BC, and understanding that war, that this is a battle between the north and the south, the king of the north and the king of the south. Understanding that Pyrrhus in that Pyric war, played the role of the king of the south.

[00:02:31.780] - Tess

His name, Pyrrhus, comes from the prefix Pyro, and that's probably a word you'll recognize. Pyro meaning fire, high temperature, etc. for used in the formation of compound words such as Pyromaniac, Pyrotechnics, Pyrogen, etc. all relating to fire or temperature, heat. Pyrrhus, his name means flame red. And it's referencing that color, the red color that you associate with fire or burning embers. It's that color of fire.

[00:03:56.000] - Tess

Pyrrhus was born four years after the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC into a very turbulent time in world history. Those 22 years that span four Diadochi Wars. Those four Diadochi Wars, are what broke down Alexander the Great empire, from dozens of generals down to the four ones that we know are the four horns of Daniel 8. The line we've marked is marking Pyrrhus, not his birth, but his entrance onto the world scene into the world politics of that time. Where he enters these global turbulent times is in 303 BC. And this is in the middle of the fourth Diadochi War. In the third and the fourth Diadochi War, you have our four famous generals united against a common enemy, Antigonus, known as Antigonus Monothalamus. Antigonus the One eyed, because he would wear an eye patch. He only had one eye. He was supported in battle by his son Demetrius. And Demetrius was in an alliance with Pyrrhus by marriage.

[00:05:29.710] - Tess

In 307 BC, Demetrius frees Athens from a dictator placed by Cassander. This broke the peace treaty that ended the third Diadochi war and began the fourth. Pyrrhus and Demetrius go into an alliance in 303. In 301 BC this alliance is useful when Pyrrhus backs Demetrius at the famous battle of Ipsus. Cassander, Lysimachus and Seleucus, turning up in time with approximately 400 war elephants, that he brought from the east. Fight against Antigonus, Demetrius and Pyrrhus. And our three allies are victorious in this battle. Demetrius, who is the main character I want to focus on, in this story, other than Pyrrhus. For him it's not such great a loss. Because from with the death of his father, he ascends to the throne. He becomes king. He has his own Navy, his own territory to fall back on. And within a fairly short space of time, he's built up an empire that rivals that of his father's. Pyrrhus in this battle undefeated, but has to retreat when Antigonus is killed. We covered a little of this history in here that isn't really written down. The division of Macedonia. That occurred because of the death of Cassander. Who left it to his eldest son, who died.

[00:07:07.690] - Tess

Then you had two younger brothers fighting for the kingdom. And out of that struggle, which both Pyrrhus and Demetrius got involved in. Pyrrhus, fairly valiantly took his piece of territory and placed one brother on the throne. Demetrius, though as appears to be his character, killed that brother and took the throne of Macedonia. In this jumble of politics, they both take Macedonia and divide it between them. You have a division of territory. This put a huge strain on their alliance. By 291 BC, this division has occurred. Pyrrhus sister who married Demetrius has died. What I didn't mention yesterday, is Pyrrhus's wife, Lanassa. She married Pyrrhus and brought with her some territory, particularly some Islands located off from Epirus. And the story is told that she came from a background where Polygamy wasn't accepted and Pyrrhus didn't. She saw him as being unfaithful to her when he started marrying multiple wives. In 291 BC, she picks up her territories, writes to Demetrius and says, Why don't I marry you instead? She leaves her husband, Pyrrhus for Demetrius, taking her territory with her.

[00:08:37.260] - Tess

That naturally doesn't really go over well between the two supposed allies. In 291, Demetrius is besieging a city down here in Greece, and Pyrrhus starts to make trouble. He comes down here and invades Thessaly, which is also part of Demetrius empire. Him having built an empire that spanned this region. He is cutting Demetrius off in Greece from his holdings in Macedonia. He's quickly expelled. I don't believe they ever fight a battle. But when Demetrius comes up to face him, Pyrrhus runs back to Epirus. Demetrius responds to that. Pyrrhus started it. Demetrius responds by finishing his siege, which he was victorious in, as always. And marching up through Thessaly through into Epirus and sending his army to ravage the territory, which he does very successfully. Again, there is no battle. Pyrrhus, misses him somehow. He ends up in Thessaly. He does one on one combat with a general of Demetrius. He is victorious in that fight.

[00:10:30.050] - Tess

This was their first battle. After this, they entered into a peace treaty. Demetrius undertook a huge military build up. They say it was a greater military build up than Alexander the Great had built to try and take over the east. It's a huge enterprise he's undertaking here. And this concerns the three remaining allies, who are still alive, Lysimachus, Seleucus and Ptolemy. They have years worth of memories of trying to take

down Demetrius's father. And now that he's about as strong as his father and building up this huge army and machines of war, they know that he's going to threaten them very soon. They go into an alliance with Pyrrhus. Pyrrhus joins them. They come to Macedonia from the east and the west. Pyrrhus marching from the east. And Lysimachus marching from the east. Seleucus and Ptolemy don't show up. Pyrrhus from the west, Lysimachus from the east, diverge onto Macedonia. Demetrius's army, abandon him. And join either Lysimachus or Pyrrhus. Most of them appear to have joined Pyrrhus. What you have now is Macedonia divided between east and west, between Lysimachus and between Pyrrhus. Demetrius here being defeated. This sparked the Cold War, where Lysimachus was not happy just having that eastern portion.

[00:10:31.950] - Tess

Through sanctions, through subterfuge, he turns Pyrrhus's own territories against him, and Pyrrhus loses all but his nation Epirus, that we have marked. Also at this waymark, we have a change in scene. While all of this is going on in Macedonia, over in Italy, Thurii has changed its alliance. Thurii is located on the western side of the Gulf of Torentum, decided to align with Rome. And the trouble most of these Greek city states faced is in each city state there was two factions vying for power. This was the democrats versus the aristocrats. The aristocrats, mainly being driven by wealth, knew that an alliance with Rome would be more beneficial to that. The democrats, more patriotic, and being Greeks themselves, wanted to maintain their alliance with Torentum.

[00:11:56.270] - Tess

It really depends which dictator you want and whose fear of influence you want to come under, whether you would choose Torentum or Rome. Thurii appealed to Rome twice, 285, and again, I think he was in 283. That second time. Rome sent down a navy and troops stationed a garrison in Thurii. And this broke an old treaty that they had with Torentum, and it was the last straw for Torentum. They attacked that navy of ten ships, sunk four, captured one, they then invaded Thurii and expelled the garrison. And this sparked a declaration of war from Rome.

[00:12:44.330] - Tess

They aren't strong enough to wage war themselves against the nation that Rome had become over the last few years. They send ambassadors to Epirus and ask Pyrrhus to fight this war on their behalf. Pyrrhus agrees and arrives in Torentum in 280. Here he marches into the city, stations his own army, and starts to prepare for war.

[00:13:15.630] - Tess

Really, this is internal. He's bringing Torentum under control later that same year, earlier than Pyrrhus was willing already, Rome descends on Torentum and he's forced into a battle, the Battle of Heraclea in 280. This is the first time Rome has seen elephants, and that's really what wins the battle for Pyrrhus. It's a smaller battle, and now coming into wintertime, they aren't able to continue.

[00:13:50.530] - Tess

The following spring, they meet at Asculum. They fight a second two day battle, twice the size. Rome has now prepared. They've prepared 300 anti elephant carts.

[00:14:05.770] - Tess

That doesn't help their situation. And Pyrrhus wins once again, both time winning, but at a great loss to himself, because Rome is just so easily able to replenish their army having much more resources, Pyrrhus cannot. He goes into a very shaky armistice with Rome and sails down to Sicily. There he wants to rebuild. He turns himself into a dictator. He desecrates a temple, but it is of no use to him.

[00:14:42.290] - Tess

And Sicily very soon turns against him. And while they asked him to come to free them from Carthage, now they go to Carthage and ask Carthage to free them from Pyrrhus. Carthage was a better master than Pyrrhus had been. Rome again is descending on the south. Pyrrhus sails back to Italy and meets them in the battle of Beneventum.

[00:15:07.070] - Tess

Here he loses, and he loses to his own elephants. Again, elephants decide the battle when they turn and charge on his own troops. Pyrrhus loses, heads back to Tarentum, jumps on a ship and flees back to his country of Epirus. We looked at the name Beneventum, what it meant was the Italian salem. 273 BC. Egypt sends ambassadors to Rome.

[00:15:35.250] - Tess

Egypt has had a lot of contact with Pyrrhus over the years. Pyrrhus first wife was Ptolemy's stepdaughter. They've been following this battle. And it's these three battles, this war with Rome, that makes them take notice of Rome. They send ambassadors in 273.

[00:15:59.890] - Tess

In 272, Rome sends ambassadors back to Egypt, led by Fabius Maximus Gurges. The maximum flood. Pyrrhus dies in the streets of Argos. Argos, meaning the white color of grain at harvest. He is 46 years old, and Tarentum finally surrenders. They've been under siege since 275 for three years siege. You have the completed falling of the south.

[00:16:41.090] - Tess

We understand from Daniel 2. The statue. And when Daniel says to Nebuchadnezzar, thou art this head of gold, we understand that a kingdom and a king can be used interchangeably. So I've suggested that Pyrrhus is the king of the south. I would suggest that Tarentum represents the king of the south. And depending which line of history, we see a change in this history. Epirus also represents the king of the south. I want to pause our journey through history and have a look at Epirus and the history of that country.

[00:17:40.500] - Tess

I find Pyrrhus's name interesting, that color red. If you look at the French Revolution, the color red became their symbol. And it was used to symbolize the blood of the workers, the rising up of the workers and the blood that they shed. That color red then came up again in 1848 with the European revolutions. As that revolutionary spirit spread across Europe. And then with the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia, the red flag was seen as a symbol of revolution and then a symbol of communism. If you look at the flag of the Soviet Union, any of their military parades, any of their demonstrations, even what Putin is bringing back. He has military parades, he's flying the Soviet flag and everything is the color red.

[00:18:41.410] - Tess

If you follow back into the history of Epirus, much like the history of Rome, it descends into the mythological. They believed they had descended from gods. The first known king that enters that history, the first king that history records, is Admetus in around 500 BC.

[00:19:13.390] - Tess

I'm going to mark him as the first from Admetus. Pyrrhus is the 10th. The 10th and the most famous king. Pyrrhus was inexperienced and fairly weak when he first came to the throne. As a young man, he did something that seems too modern and he attended a friend's birthday party outside of his kingdom. While he had left his kingdom unoccupied, a rival faction stepped up and took the throne from him. And that king was Neoptolemus II.

[00:20:25.810] - Tess

Pyrrhus used his alliance with Ptolemy to come back into Epirus with a certain amount of strength, and he forced Neoptolemus into a co-rulership. These two ruled together for a period of time. And they co-rule. Alleging that Neoptolemus was plotting against him. Pyrrhus used that as an excuse to have him killed.

[00:21:03.550] - Tess

And again, he was sole ruler. After Pyrrhus died in 272 BC. There are seven kings after him. I just want to mark the number seven. And after those seven, Epirus was ruled by what is known as the Epirote League. A League of nations.

[00:21:39.550] - Tess

In our history, who do you think would be represented by Pyrrhus? King and a kingdom. And who is the king of the south? Vladimir Putin. Who is Putin the 10th from counting back through the leaders of Russia? Putin is the 10th leader of Russia since Stalin. Putin though, came to the presidency young, fairly inexperienced, without a long solid background in politics. He had only been involved in the politics in Moscow for a number of about three or four years. He steps into the presidency not by election, but by Boris Yeltsin's resignation in 1999. In the year 2000, he runs for election and wins. 2004, his first term

ends, he runs for election again, he runs a second term. 2008 is the end of his second term, and that is the maximum he's allowed to rule for. Under the Russian constitution. They're only allowed to run for two consecutive terms. The key being consecutive. He can run for a third term, but not consecutively. He knows 2008 is the end.

[00:23:22.700] - Tess

What does he do in 2008? He makes a very, very clever move. He names his preferred successor as Dmitry Medvedev. On 10 December 2007, this took the west by surprise, as they thought Medvedev too modern, too pro Western to earn Putin's endorsement. They are expecting him to choose someone from his old ranks in the KGB. But Medvedev was successfully elected on the promise that he would make Putin his Prime Minister. I find the poster for his election absolutely fascinating.

[00:23:59.680] - Tess

You have a photo of Putin and Medvedev standing side by side and it reads, Together we win. This was a co-rulership, not even hidden. Medvedev and Putin co ruled. And if you want to get into body language with that photo, there's two men standing by the side by side. And who's in front? Putin. And who's talking? Putin, Medvedev is sitting in the background, smiling. Medvedev isn't even in the front.

[00:24:39.810] - Tess

Medvedev is faithful, probably because the other options aren't very congenial. And he does not run for a second term, he just runs for the one term, which is all Putin needs him to do. In 2011, Putin announces that he's running for a third term and he steps back in as president. If we're going to mark his death at Sunday law, I'd like to suggest you can mark the number seven. And then his territory is ruled by the Epirote League of nations.

[00:25:27.100] - Tess

I hope we can see that Pyrrhus can represent Putin. I want to try and lock that down a little more for us, if we can, and go back into the history of his father. I'll just mark down some kings. We have his father, Aeacides, Neoptolemus II. In this story, it is the same fellow. And then Alcetus II. I'll just run you through this history. Aeacides involved his people in a war they did not want to be in. And that war was the second of those Diadochi wars. Aeacides being a close relative of Olympias, the mother of Alexander the Great. As Queen Mother, she became heavily involved in those first two Diadochi Wars, where her daughter in law, her grandchildren, were still alive and pretty much being passed around by the generals as the inheritors of Alexander the Great kingdom. She became heavily involved in those wars.

[00:27:05.010] - Tess

Her being a princess of Epirus, Aeacides then came to her aid and involved himself in the second Diadochi War. His people were tired of fighting. They didn't see the need of leaving their families and their crops to march and get involved in these squabbling generals. It pretty much his rule here ended with a popular uprising that people were tired of this war.

[00:27:37.350] - Tess

He flees, and Neoptolemus II arrival family for the throne in Epirus, becomes king for a short period of time. Then the Epirotes, the people of Epirus, return Aeacides to the throne. But he's severely weakened because of this affair. Cassander sends his brother and has him killed. Aeacides's brother, Pyrrhus uncle, Alcetus II then takes the throne. Alcetus is the elder brother. He's older than Aeacides. The reason that he was not the first choice to take the throne back here is he had, what the historians have called whatever they mean by that, but it's repeated by all the sources I can find, was that he had a lack of self control. All they call it is an ungovernable temper.

[00:28:48.500] - Tess

Aeacides is removed in a coup. Neoptolemus II takes the throne. Aeacides comes back, but weakened. He is killed, and Alcetus II, his elder brother, takes the throne. Who had an ungovernable temper. The Epirotes quickly become tired of Alcetus II behavior. And they kill him, his own people.

[00:29:26.940] - Tess

If we trace back a little bit of history from Putin. You have Gorbachev. In 1991, you have the Gang of Eight led by Yanayev. They remove Gorbachev in a coup, and he signs a decree making him acting president of the Soviet Union. It's very short. It doesn't last long. That coup ends, it's unsuccessful, and Gorbachev is able to come back. But he's severely weakened by this, also in the eyes of the west. Encyclopedia Britannica says Gorbachev resumed his duties as Soviet president, but his position had by now being irretrievably weakened. Entering into an unavoidable alliance with Yeltsin, Gorbachev quit the Communist Party, disbanded its Central Committee, and supported measures to strip the party of its control over the KGB and the armed forces. Events outpaced him, however, and the Russian government under Yeltsin readily assumed the functions of the collapsing Soviet government as the various republics agreed to form a new commonwealth under Yeltsin's leadership. On December 25, 1991, Gorbachev resigned the presidency of the Soviet Union, which ceased to exist that same day. I want us to note that when Gorbachev steps down, the Soviet Union ceases to exist. They lowered the Soviet flag and raised the flag of the Russian Federation.

[00:31:28.130] - Tess

And who steps up next? Boris Yeltsin. Because of his behavior back in the history of this coup, the famous footage of him climbing on a tank, addressing the people, the bravery he showed. The people loved him, but they lost that love very quickly. Why?

[00:31:53.350] - Tess

Complete lack of selfcontrol. He did not keep the respect of the Russian people. His absence from government, his unpredictable public appearances. Regularly, heavily intoxicated, and the corruption of his government wore the people down. To try and bring stability to his government, he went through six

different prime ministers in a relatively short period of time. And even for one period acted as his own prime minister. Particularly, I would mark his alcoholism.

[00:32:26.410] - Tess

If you go onto YouTube, there's videos where his bodyguards are literally holding him up as he walks down from a plane or standing in front of President Clinton. He can't even stand. And this really also affected his health. It was a lack of self control, but it was also health reasons. And you'll see why I want to include that in a minute. And this is why Putin takes the presidency relatively young and inexperienced.

[00:33:15.070] - Tess

We've seen Pyrrhus represents Putin, but if we understand end from beginning, who else does Putin represent? Stalin. Based on our understanding of the beginning, showing the end, Pyrrhus is Putin, is Stalin. It's fascinating that the secular commentators, even those that were loyal to Putin, who draw comparisons between Putin and Stalin. And I want to look at some of the parallels between these two men. One Soviet and Russian military leader is one of my sources, and he does all this from a positive perspective, saying that history has been cruel to Stalin, that he was a good guy. And even he, Constantin Petrov, marks these similarities to show how Stalin and Putin are so similar.

[00:34:20.390] - Tess

Prior to Putin, the rulers before him, Yeltsin and Gorbachev, the ones before them, they come from relatively wealthy Kulak families, the Kulaks being the wealthy peasant class. Putin didn't, and neither did Stalin.

[00:34:45.630] - Tess

Stalin was raised in extreme poverty. His father was an alcoholic shoemaker. They lived in nine rented properties over ten years. He was also heavily abusive and violent. Stalin's mother fled her husband and worked as a laundress to support herself and Stalin. Putin was raised in communal housing in the slums of Leningrad. His first job was hunting rats in the stairwells of the apartment. These communal housing apartments shared all the same facilities, and their most intimate living quarters were separated by cardboard. The history of his family before is fascinating. I think it was his grandmother who went through the siege. I think it was of Stalingrad, or Leningrad. And the history of what these people went through, the percentage of that city that died. And she so weakened that they took her and threw her in with the dead bodies, not knowing she was still alive, where she laid for days till crawling her way out. Putin comes from a family of fighters and survivors, but through awful history. Stalin was part of the groundforce foot soldier at the beginning of the USSR. He undertook paramilitary campaigns. He robbed banks to fund the Bolshevik Revolution. He was really just a foot soldier.

[00:36:38.110] - Tess

Putin. Foot soldier, part of the ground force at the end of the USSR, as a member of the KGB. Both, at the time, comparatively to those around them, unimportant positions. Stalin was a Bolshevik operative. He

organized strikes, paramilitary operations. He's reported to have robbed a number of banks, killed quite a lot of people, anything to support the Bolshevik Revolution.

[00:37:14.790] - Tess

Putin stationed in Dresden, Germany, during 1989, during the fall of the Soviet Union. It's interesting, he's called that fall of the Soviet Union the greatest geopolitical disaster of the 20th century. When you think of the millions that died and the geopolitical disasters that occurred from the beginning of the 1900 through to the year 2000, I find that quite a statement into Putin's minds that he thinks nothing compared to the fall of the Soviet Union.

[00:37:48.190] - Tess

Stalin became part of the Communist government in 1917, pretty much just with the Bolshevik Revolution. And how he did this was pretty much by gaining favor of the leadership. Lenin appointed Stalin to the post of General Secretary of the Soviet Union in 1922. Lennon appointed him. This is not an important sounding position, general secretary, but this is the only position Stalin ever held. He never graduated beyond general secretary.

[00:38:28.220] - Tess

All he did was make that position as secretary, the most powerful, important one in the Soviet Union. You can argue that Lenin placed him in power by giving him this position. By 1929, about seven years later, he'd defeated every last rival and either killed them or banished them.

[00:38:52.770] - Tess

Putin almost identical, entered local politics in 1991. Moved to Moscow in 1996, to enter state politics. Three years later, in 1999, Boris Yeltsin appointed him first Prime Minister. Then, at his resignation, appoints him as president. Yeltsin appointed.

[00:39:29.270] - Tess

Just like Stalin had to spend those first few years suppressing rivals. Putin steps into a government that is not all that powerful to begin with. Partly it's because of the elite, the billionaire oligarchs, that are now the most powerful people inside of Russia. During the early year 2000s, as he's running for that first election, he very quickly makes a deal with the oligarchs, and works on bringing them under control. Something that now he has done completely successfully. If you hear that a Russian oligarch is doing something that is business or personal or political, you know that Putin is behind it.

[00:40:18.690] - Tess

It's interesting. There was one oligarch, a billionaire, who was dating Putin's daughter. No, they were married. Who married Putin's daughter. They broke up earlier this year. It appears that he had an affair. Suddenly, out of nowhere, his wealth halved. Absolutely halved. No one knows why. Everyone knows that

his wealth, just his stocks, everything cut by half. You don't cross Putin. They're saying, it's lucky he's just alive.

[00:40:52.510] - Tess

They have a similar method. And this is particularly what Constantin Petrov noted between the two men. This is someone who sees both of them very favorably. Is that they rule similarly. Both maintain a higher understanding than anyone else in their team. They don't follow a plan, a written script by advisors, anything, anyone else in the Russian government is of a lower understanding on any particular issue than Vladimir Putin.

[00:41:25.430] - Tess

Stalin ruled the same way, so they always are above their advisers. And it's one thing that makes him very unpredictable. The other thing noted by Constantin Petrov is both abound by what is formed in the life of the society. And this is something that I find particularly interesting in the argument about whether or not Russia is still communist. Both are bound by what is formed in the life of this society. Stalin, it's argued that he was not faithful to Lenin or Marxist theology. But to be a dictator, that is what he had to use to maintain control of the people. To imply that all he was doing was following the path set out by Lenin.

[00:42:27.170] - Tess

To stay in power, Putin must follow what is formed in the life of this society. Now it is the appearance of democracy and loyalty to particularly the Orthodox Church and institutions. He must appear to run as president, whether or not that means anything or not. He must appear to have an orthodox spiritual life. Whether or not he does, they are bound by what is formed in the life of the society.

[00:42:58.170] - Tess

There are conspiracy theories which I try to avoid about Putin's early life, and some of them are a little bit plausible about how he grew up, whether or not he was adopted. I just want to note that if that conspiracy theory is true, that he was adopted, his early life is almost identical to Stalin's. Both where they grew up, their parentage, it's not completely identical, but the parallels become a whole lot closer.

[00:43:38.350] - Tess

And both starting out by undertaking war in Chechnya also, which was Stalin's first work. If we can note particularly also Pyrrhus is also Stalin. What I want to do next, is to map the Soviet Union. Not from its birth like Pyrrhus, but from the time it enters global politics. Where it enters the world stage. Stalin spent the first years of his rule consolidating power, and this was a long process as the only position he was ever given was that of General Secretary.

[00:45:00.350] - Tess

It was an interesting interview earlier this year where Putin justified Stalin's policies and said that those policies were necessary because of their external threats that Stalin had been facing that the Soviet Union faced in this time. And then he named the two threats the rise of Hitler in Nazi Germany and the Spanish Civil War. Both have one common thread, and that is the rise of fascism.

[00:45:33.070] - Tess

A little bit of context. World War I, like the Third Diadochi War, ended in a peace treaty. You have this period of peace before the exact same players go at it again.

[00:45:50.290] - Tess

I have looked at the Third Diadochi War. But because of time did not finish. Not because I don't believe that it can be done, I absolutely believe it can be done. But I know that in those Diadochi Wars you will find the First World War. The parallels are too similar. The third ends with a peace treaty. You have this period of peace before the second, or the fourth war begins.

[00:46:19.450] - Tess

That 1919 Treaty of Versailles forced Germany to take responsibility for World War I to pay heavy reparations to the Allies. And like many Germans, Adolf Hitler felt that this was unfair. With the loss of World War One, you have a great loss of national pride and living conditions.

[00:46:42.170] - Tess

I want to note 1929 in this history is a real turning point. In 1928, Hitler came in 9th with 2.6% of the vote and only 14 of 491 seats in the Reichstag. 1929 comes, and with it comes the Great Depression. Germany in the years previously had been having trouble making their reparation payments to France and Britain that they'd agreed under the Treaty of Versailles. And to remedy this under the Dawes plan, America loaned Germany a huge amount of money. But when the stock market crashed in 1929, America wanted their loans repaid. This put a huge strain on what was left of the German economy.

[00:47:41.230] - Tess

This final hit after a ten year loss of prosperity and national pride was exactly what the Nazi propaganda machine needed. If you note Hitler's rise in just a couple of years. In 1928 comes in 9th with 2.6% of the vote, 14 of 491 seats of the Reichstag. The next year he comes in second. He goes from 9th to second, not 14 seats, but 107 seats and 18.25% of the vote. 1932, couple of years later, he comes in as winner with 230 seats, 37.27% of the vote and January of next year he's appointed Chancellor.

[00:48:32.630] - Tess

27 February, the Reichstag fire occurs and he uses that as an excuse to nullify civil liberties and pretty much place himself as dictator. His meteoric rise comes in 1929 with the Great Depression and it's really that economic situation that they were able to use. 1929, Stalin defeats his last opponent and achieves

absolute power. It's also his 50th birthday. The press began to virtually deify him and that's when he really starts building this cult of personality. 1929 is the latter and treaty. In exchange for this treaty with the Vatican, the Vatican agreed to disband the Catholic Center Party in Italy. Also in 1929, the last Democratic party opposing Mussolini voluntarily disbands. You can place Mussolini, Hitler and Stalin all in 1929.

[00:49:52.410] - Tess

And the Catholic Church referred to Mussolini as their new Constantine. It's worth noting. The agreement that the Catholic Church was making at that time, and it's what they did with Hitler a few years later, was dissolve the Catholic Centre Party. It was pretty much the last Democratic stronghold against these dictatorships in Europe, both in Germany and in Italy. And to pass their code of canon law, this church law that they developed. They went into alliance with these nations, agreeing to disband any Catholic opposition. And that's one of a few reasons that they say that the papers he helped place Hitler.

[00:50:38.310] - Tess

The Vatican itself wasn't afraid to disband these Catholic centre parties because they were independent to Vatican control. If they're not taking their orders from the Pope, they're virtually useless to the Vatican. In fact, they wanted them gone because they supported policies. And it just wasn't the top down structure that they were looking for, even though they were Catholic. What I particularly want to mark in this history though, is the Spanish Civil War, which occurs from 1936 to 1939.

[00:51:23.210] - Tess

In the early 1930s, Joseph Stalin was deeply concerned about the spread of fascism in Europe. To encounter the growing power of Hitler and Mussolini, he encouraged the formation of left wing governments. And this is what the Spanish Civil War was pretty much all about. It was a titanic struggle between communism and fascism and who was going to take Spain. This was when one president was ousted and a left wing, communist leaning president, was placed in May of 1936. And soon afterwards, Spanish army officers began plotting to overthrow the government. Those Spanish army officers soon being led by General Franco. This Spanish Civil War breaks out on 17 July 1936.

[00:52:33.310] - Tess

France quickly called on all the countries of Europe not to intervene in the Spanish Civil war. In September of 1936, France drew up a nonintervention agreement which was signed, agreed to by 27 countries, including Germany, Italy and the Soviet Union. None of them held to that non intervention agreement. Mussolini begins to give aid to General Franco and his nationalist forces. And during the first three months of that non intervention agreement sends 90 Italian aircraft that fitted the cruise at Canarias, which was their largest ship.

[00:53:16.450] - Tess

And on the 28 November, the Italian government signed a secret treaty with the Spanish nationalists. So Mussolini takes the side of the generals. General Franco, who was fascist leaning. Adolf Hitler, also

continued to give aid to Franco, but he disguised this by sending men, planes, tanks and ammunition all through Portugal and into Spain. Joseph Stalin now became concerned that Franco would defeat the Republican government. And he took the view that another fascist state in Europe would pose a threat.

[00:53:55.790] - Tess

Stalin becomes involved and is descended into a proxy war. Spartacus Education Soviet Union and The Spanish Civil War. The Soviet Union provided considerable help to the Spanish Communist Party to improve its position in the Popular Front government. The Soviet Union were the main supplies of military aid to the Republican Party. This included 1000 aircraft, 900 tanks, 1500 artillery pieces, 300 armored cars, 15,000 machine guns, 30,000 automatic firearms, 30,000 mortires, 500,000 riles and 30,000 tons of ammunition. The Soviets expected the Republicans to pay for these military supplies in gold. On the outbreak of the war Spain had the world's fourth largest reserves of gold. During the war approximately \$500 million worth, or two thirds of Spain's gold reserves, were shipped to the Soviet Union. In that three year period. The Spanish Civil War of 36 to 39 is remembered today as a sort of Second World War in training. A playoff game between the championship match, between team axis and team allies. This was a proxy war that was the Spanish Civil War. And it ended on the 1 April 1939.Franco defeating the Republican government. Another fascist state was formed.

[00:55:43.530] - Tess

It's interesting that the role that the Catholic Church also played in this, in opposing Communism. They became heavily involved in the Spanish Civil War as well. And around this time, they're also working closer and closer with Hitler in Germany. It's interesting that the Pope was quick to point out during the Spanish Civil War, to point people to it, to say how much worse things could be under Bolshevism than under fascism. And this was a theme of a three hour conversation between Cardinal Full Harbor of Munich and Adolf Hitler at the Fuhrer's mountain retreat in November. Hitler harped continually on the dangers of Communism, imploring the Cardinal to persevere with efforts towards conciliation with the Nazi government.

[00:56:40.390] - Tess

Cardinal Foolharbor observed, the Fuhrer commands the diplomatic and social forms better than a born sovereign. Without doubt, the Chancellor lives in faith, in God. He recognizes Christianity as a foundation of Western culture. Not as clear is his conception of the Catholic Church as a God established institution. That is Hitler's Pope, by John Cornwall, page 180. As soon as the Civil War began, the Spanish hierarchy and the Vatican took an open and bold stand for Franco, the Spanish Catholic hierarchy, and unleashed all the power of the Catholic Church against the Republican government. The clergy of Spain became virtual combatants, and it was described by the Vatican as a holy war to save Spain from the Marxist hordes.

[00:57:42.550] - Tess

Hitler, Mussolini, Franco and the Vatican were on the same side in the Spanish Civil War. And after the defeat of the Spanish Republican forces, Franco established himself as a Catholic dictator in 1939. Pius

XII stated that God should be thanked for once more, the hand of divine Providence has manifested itself over Spain. It should be noted the tens of thousands, of hundreds of thousands of people Franco killed in that Spanish Civil War, including Catholics and priests and nuns.

[00:58:14.970] - Tess

In fact, after World War II ended, while Franco was still in power, Spanish Catholics would gather at the Vatican under that porch area where the Pope comes out. And after the Pope addressed the people, they would shout, Spain for the Pope. And the Pope would shout, and the Pope is for Spain.

[00:58:37.030] - Tess

But as we noted, this Civil War ended in April of 1939, and there had been this huge struggle between fascism and communism, between Hitler and Mussolini and Stalin. What took the world by complete and total shock and surprise was when these two ideological enemies on the 23 August, 4 months later, sign the Molotov Ribbentrop Pact.

[00:59:15.590] - Tess

This was the Molotov Ribbentrop Pact. Towards this time in 1939. But just before this, Germany had annexed Austria in a border area of Czechoslovakia. And Britain and France had up till then tolerated his aggression. But then he made a territorial demand on Poland. In the spring of 1939. And it became clear that France and Britain would not tolerate any more of Hitler's aggression. Further annexations would mean war in the west for Hitler. So Germany and France made a pact with Poland.

[01:00:01.240] - Tess

These three nations came together to sign a pact to guarantee the integrity of Polish territory. If Hitler touched Poland, it would be war. Understanding in this history with Hitler's aggression. He knows that he's instigating war with the west. The last thing he can afford is to then have war in the east at the very beginning of his campaign. This forces him to recognize that the only hope is to go into an alliance with one of his enemies. And he does that in August with Stalin.

[01:00:47.050] - Tess

Hitler knows he's facing war on the west and he cannot fight a two front war just yet. Stalin, who is in less of a hurry. This is a book by Timothy Snyder. Stalin and Europe imitation and Domination. Says: Stalin, who was in less of a hurry, chose to keep Hitler waiting until the outcome of a major offensive against Japan in the Soviet Japanese border war. By 22nd August, the Red Army's victory was assured. The next evening, the German Foreign Minister Ribbentrop was in Moscow for negotiations with the Russian Foreign Minister Molotov.

[01:01:28.150] - Tess

Those negotiations ended in a ten year non aggression pact. And this pact is signed. They meet just before midnight. They're negotiating over midnight. It's signed just after midnight.

[01:01:41.830] - Tess

Included in the Ribbentrop Molotov packed with a secret protocol by which Poland, Romania and the Baltic states would be divided into German and Soviet spheres of influence. Each power was free to seize its share without receiving repercussions from the other. Thus, ideological enemies became political and military allies. Hitler no longer had to fear a prolonged two front war against both the Red Army and the Wehrmacht. The Polish Army had no chance.

[01:02:13.560] - Tess

Hitler felt confident that the campaign in Poland would be over before the British and French could intervene in the west. Stalin could be certain that war in the west was indeed inevitable. Both dictators had achieved their aims. We can understand what Hitler got from this. But what did Stalin get from this pact? What Stalin got was by supporting Hitler, who's driving him into a war with the west. He's actually weakening his enemy by going into an alliance with him. That is why Stalin made every effort to prolong that war as long as he could.

[01:02:56.380] - Tess

The two forces of socialism and Soviet Bolshevism were now aligned. Having only just fought against each other de facto aiding opposing sides in the Spanish Civil War. As a Russian revolutionary writer and exile Viktor Sergey would assert, the midnight of the century had arrived. Nine days later, Nazi Germany invaded Poland. There are two parts to this pact. One was a ten year non aggression treaty, and the other one was secret. And it was the division of Europe. Redrawing the map of Europe into two spheres of influence.

[01:03:56.290] - Tess

This is an interesting article in the Los Angeles Times. This is August 19, 1989. See, until 1989, the Soviet Union was never willing to admit that this pact existed, even in the face of overwhelming evidence. And one of the reasons I always denied it was to admit that this pact existed would to admit that their claims over Eastern Europe, over the Soviet satellite states, had their basis in a pact with Hitler. And they never wanted to admit to that.

[01:04:32.530] - Tess

The Los Angeles Times, August 19, 1989. Reversing decades of Kremlin denials, a senior Politburo member Friday conceded for the first time that Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union under dictator Joseph Stalin signed a secret pact on the eve of World War II that cleared the way for the Soviet annexation of the Baltic states. But Alexander Yakovlav, while arguing that the secret protocol to the 1939 nonaggression accord should be unequivocally condemned, denied that it had any legal impact on the Baltic state's current status as members of the Soviet Federation. Although he dismissed the nationalistic

claims of the Baltic states, Yakovlav nevertheless broke new ground when he conceded to Pravda quote there was without doubt a collusion between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany.

[01:05:32.810] - Tess

I want to note the pact as occurring at midnight. What was the effect of this pact on the world stage? I'm going to read a quote from *The Devil's Alliance*. Hitler's packed with Stalin. Chapter Two. The week preceding those opening salvos had had an oppressive tenor. Although the precise details of the pact remained opaque, most contemporary commentators agreed that it marked an unprecedented shift. It is a stunning blow, Romanian Diarist Mihail Sebastian wrote. The whole course of world politics has suddenly changed with that pact. Moreover, there was a grim consensus that the pact was more than just another chapter in Europe's ongoing crisis and most likely heralded war. Thus the *World Statesman* urged circumspection. American President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent Hitler a personal appeal, suggesting alternative methods in solving the crisis. French Premier Eduard Daladier followed suit, urging the German dictator to step back from the brink. Otherwise destruction and barbarism will be the real victors. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, meanwhile, was disconsolate confiding to the US ambassador that the futility of it all is the thing that is rightful. Britain began preparing for the worst. London's museums began evacuating their treasures to the countryside.

[01:07:02.270] - Tess

Hospitals were cleared of nonessential cases and railway stations installed blue lights to comply with the expected blackout. Everywhere, sandbags were filled and stacked and windows were taped, while Chamberlain prepared to move into the central war room, newly completed. Beneath Whitehall, orders were prepared for the evacuation of children from Britain's towns and cities to begin. On the morning of September 1, the public mood was dark. Poor, weary world, one Diarus wrote. What a mess we people have made of it. This is the world's reaction. While the world digested the news of the Nazi Soviet pacts and considered the prospect of war. Ribbentrop trough had traveled back to Germany with his entourage to a rapturous reception from Hitler, who hailed his returning foreign minister as a second Bismarck. There's one other aspect of this park that I want to note, and it's a much less glamorous one than what we usually mention. The Pacts primary motive was to enable Hitler to invade Poland and instigate war with the west.

[01:08:09.830] - Tess

That for him, would have been suicide at the very beginning of his campaign. And I agree that this was necessary to prevent a two front war, but a less attention grabbing reason, a little more dull. But I would suggest that just as important reason was his economic situation. When Hitler came to power, the economic ties between the Soviet Union and Germany did weaken initially, as Hitler implemented economic policies trying to improve the self sufficiency of his nation, which is necessary in the event of war. It became apparent that Germany would not be able to be economically independent, so he instigated a trade relationship with the Soviet Union.

[01:08:56.290] - Tess

This history is best described in the book *Feeding the German Eagle* by Edward Erickson, which shows how Hitler had no other option than to rely on Soviet imports to begin his war effort. So four days before this patent is signed, they'd concluded a German Soviet commercial agreement August 19. For him to undertake war. Hitler could only supply 25% of his oil needs, leaving Germany 2 million tons short a year during peace, 10 million tons a year short to reach planned mobilization totals. The problem was similar with all types of metals and metal laws. Also, Hitler needed to use Soviet Russian lines to bring in his chrome, different metals, from Turkey and China.

[01:09:49.970] - Tess

This became particularly essential after the Western Front war began and British started blockading German trade routes, and many countries began to refuse to interact with Germany in trade. Without Soviet imports, German stocks would have run out in several key products by October of 1941, only three and a half months into Hitler's invasion of the Soviet Union. Germany would have already run through their stocks of rubber and grain before the first day of the invasion, were it not for Soviet imports. In fact, in 1941, when Hitler invades the Soviet Union, he's marching over the border of those satellite states. At the same time as the Nazi army is crossing into the Soviet Union, they are passing trains, yet unaware that an invasion is taking place, heading back to Germany with all of the oil, the metal ores, everything to fund his war.

[01:10:51.640] - Tess

They essentially supplied Hitler with everything he needed to fight them. In exchange for all of these they received German technology. The building plans for the ship the Bismarck. All of these German inventions were to be handed over to the Soviet Union. Pretty much like infrastructure, new types of aircraft.

[01:11:31.070] - Tess

This packed was designed to enable Hitler, on the 1 September 1939, invade Poland. And he's taking on a three fold power. At this stage, the Allies were France, Britain and Poland. Three Allies versus Germany, who is backed by Russia. You have this division of territory of Eastern Europe. They've redrawn the map of Europe and they divide it into two spheres of influence. And then one by one, begin taking down both countries. Their relationship is strained by that division, as smaller points of what part of what countries, what railroads they're allowed to use. It causes a certain amount of tension. And also noting that the main reason that Stalin is supporting the war effort to begin with is that he wants to weaken Hitler. So much so that when the west is weakened, when Hitler is weakened by war, he'll be strong enough to just step in and take all of it. In August of 1940, it began to look like this war was winding down.

[01:13:22.950] - Tess

And Stalin gets worried that with Hitler taking France so easily, if Hitler's just going to win this war, that he's actually strengthened his enemy, not weakened him. He starts to back out. Also, Germany has fallen way behind on paying for the supplies that they were buying from the Soviet Union. Hitler was stalling on sending the building plans for the Bismarck and all those different aspects, German infrastructure,

because he knew that he would eventually end up fighting Stalin. And the less he had to pay before that date, the happier he was.

[01:14:02.420] - Tess

August of 1940, Stalin suspends all exports to Germany. This was economic and trade is suspended. It's suspended for one month before they manage to negotiate their way out of it. Stalin sees a few other things that happen in the west at that time. He sees that Hitler is still facing a prolonged war, and he's more than happy then to help that continue.

[01:14:48.770] - Tess

Looking back to our study of Fatima. We understood the 25 years from 1773 to 1798. 1773, they stopped fulfilling their job function, what they've been told by Satan to do. 1798, they're scattered. 1916, they're gathered. 25 years after that, they begin to fulfill their job function. That is the 1941 with the invasion of the Soviet Union. So keep in your mind that when we discuss this history, we're discussing the first attempt on the Soviet Union, not just by Hitler, but also by the Vatican. And around this time, when war with the Soviet Union began to look more and more likely, what Pope Pius XII did was to begin an international promotional campaign for Fatima, and he spread Eastern Europe with those papers. Books and pamphlets written on the experience of the Portuguese children at Fatima, advertised as historic facts, may count in part for the foreign legions from Spain, Portugal, France and Belgium, which fought side by side with the Nazis when they invaded Russia in 1941. The superstitious Catholic masses rallied in medieval fashion to the anticommunist banner. That is the article of the Vatican Towards Communism by Levi Morris Terrell. From the election of Roosevelt in 1936 the Vatican also attempted to establish diplomatic relations with the United States. I'd like to suggest what you have here is a Vatican trying to pick a beast. The US is looking less and less likely. The reason for this. Cardinal Gaspari arrived in New York to fish out the US approach, and he spent three days with Archbishop Spellman.

[01:16:47.950] - Tess

What they were trying to see was if they could open a diplomatic relationship with the United States. Hitler had started off good in the early 1930s, 1933, signing this pact with the Vatican. But coming up to this history, the beast has started bucking. It's not a very good beast. In fact, around that history, in 1938 / 1939, in one of his speeches, he said that every time the Vatican tried to push itself into the political sphere, he was going to push it right back into its appropriate sphere, which was purely church, not state.

[01:17:28.320] - Tess

He was refusing to allow the Church to dictate to the state. And when he invaded the Soviet Union, the Vatican approached him with a plan by which they were hoping to follow his invasion with a second invasion of priests and lead to a mass Catholic conversion of Eastern Europe. Hitler's response was the day that he allowed the Catholic Church to undertake this enterprise in Eastern Europe would be the day that he allowed every single religion to do the exact same thing, so that they could, quote, beat each other to death with their crucifixes. His attitude towards the Vatican increasingly over this period, as he no

longer found a need for them, was increasingly hostile. There is this area where they're also trying to find out how the United States is looking. Problem.

[01:18:28.690] - Tess

September 3, 1939. The date that Britain and France declare war on Germany, president Roosevelt wrote to Pope Pius XII, and he said: I believe that the survival of Russia communism is less dangerous to religion, to the Church as such, and to humanity in general, than would be the survival of the German form of dictatorship. And this is where they split. This is where they disagree. And the Vatican and the US in this history cannot align. Because to Roosevelt in the United States, it's Hitler that needs taking down, whereas for the Catholic Church it is Communism and Soviet Russia.

[01:19:14.150] - Tess

Over this time, Hitler starts developing this plan. Really what he had wanted from the very beginning, from when he wrote his autobiography My Camp. He saw that the east as the region where the Germans would find living space and pretty much set up this new society. He had always intended to take down Russia. It was just a matter of time. And he decides that instead of buying supplies from Russia, if he can just defeat the Soviet Union, he can just take those supplies for himself. And this leads to his invasion of the Soviet Union on the 22 June 1941. Operation Barbarossa. You have the beginning of war in the west, and then the beginning of war in the east. You can also mark in this period the Holocaust. I know that it began previously. But with war on two fronts, Hitler is no longer interested in just concentration camps and having to staff these places. And what he brings into use in 1941 invented and used, was the gas chambers. Now it's just wholesale massacring. War in the east. And you just have the wholesale slaughter of tens of thousands of hundreds, millions of people between the Soviet Union and Russia. It's not a history that was easy reading.

[01:21:45.540] - Tess

Adolf Hitler in My Camp had spoke of the necessity for living space, particularly in Eastern Europe and particularly Russia. He envisaged setting Germans there, building up this master race while exterminating or deporting most of the existing inhabitants to Siberia and using the remainder of slave labor. As early as 1917, he had referred to the Russians as inferior, believing that the Bolshevik Revolution had put the Jews in power over the mass of Slavs. Who were, in Hitler's opinion, incapable of ruling themselves, but instead being ruled by Jewish masters.

[01:22:24.130] - Tess

His army officers told their trips to target people who were described as Jewish Bolshevik subhumans, the Mongol hordes, the Asiatic flood, the red beast. What Hitler never did was separate the Jews from Communism. And this is where also the ideology of the Vatican also aligned with Hitler. They were writing during the school years of Pope Pius XII. He had Catholic education. And as he was training for the priesthood, Vatican authors in their Vatican newsletters were blaming the Jews for the French Revolution.

[01:23:09.160] - Tess

What the Vatican blamed the Jews for was both the French Revolution, the revolutions across Europe and the Jewish Revolution. So for the Vatican and Pope Pius XII, the Jews were responsible for the deadly wound, responsible for 1798, responsible for the Soviet Union and Communism. They never separated that. And that is the same thing that Hitler did. I think someone told me recently that Marx was a Jew, and so was the Robespierre. I think that was suggested, but I'd have to double check. Jewish mothers. There is some truth, that there was a lot of Jews in the Bolshevik forces.

[01:23:59.470] - Tess

But one of the reasons for that is the fact that they'd already been suffering such heavy persecution. It's interesting with this invasion, the change that went over the Russian attitude changed towards religion. On August 21, 1941, the Moscow radio called upon all God loving inhabitants of the occupied countries to rise in defense of their religious freedom. This is Stalin's Communist Russia, who's just shut down every form of religion inside the Soviet Union. It charged the German regime with menacing the very existence of Christianity and seeking the overthrow of Christ the King to install instead the myth of the 20th century of Alfred Rosenberg. This was in response to Hitler's benevolent attitude towards a Russian Orthodox Church.

[01:24:54.050] - Tess

So both sides go from being hostile to religion to pretty much using religion, allying with it for their own causes. So over this period, if they're going to say that Russia isn't Communist because Communist is anti religion, they were not anti religion. On the 22 June 1941, all throughout the Eastern Front of World War II. In response to this, Stalin returned much of what he had taken from the Orthodox Church, and it stood patriotically behind Stalin in this war.

[01:25:29.350] - Tess

Stalin rewarded its loyalty by discontinuing the publication of antireligious journals, reducing the heavy taxes on the churches, and prohibiting violence against religion.

[01:25:45.590] - Tess

German bishops in 1942 declared a victory over Bolshevism would be equivalent to the triumph of the teaching of Jesus over that of the infidels. So very much through that history still supporting Nazi Germany. And in 1945, Russia joins the Allies. The Soviet Union joins the Allied forces. Germany is defeated, and Europe is divided into east and west, marking the beginning of a cold war. And we'll go into that history tomorrow morning. I think we're out of time.

[01:26:37.830] - Tess

If you would kneel with me, we'll pray. Dear Father in heaven, thank you Lord, for this new day. Thank you for the sun as it comes over, Lord, and breath and life, the opportunity to study in freedom. Thank you for

your histories and Your word. Thank you Lord, that you are preparing us to do this work. Lord, I place each head bowed in Your hands, and I pray you grant us wisdom insights, Lord, into what's coming, that we might know not only what is happening now, what is happening in the future, also understand our past history. Thank you, Lord, and I pray this in Jesus name. Amen.