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Honors Theses

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Honors Theses

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In January of 1964, Rev. Leon Howard Sullivan, minister at the historic Zion Baptist Church and well-known civil rights and Black Power advocate, hosted the grand opening of his startup job training and adult education center in an abandoned North Philadelphia police station. Touted by some as the first black-run program of its kind, Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) was born amidst the raging Civil Rights struggle and at the dawn of both the Black Power era and President Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty. OIC was Sullivan’s own answer to the pressing questions of urban poverty and unemployment. With federal and foundation funding, OIC within its first ten years grew into a national operation with branches in cities across the country. How was OIC’s relationship to its earliest and most significant sources of funding influenced by common conceptions about the roots of post-war urban poverty, and how did OIC reshape those views? In what ways was OIC an expression of the politics of corporate Black Power to which Sullivan was an early adherent, and where did Sullivan and his political thought stand in relation to the emergent Black Power era?

This paper looks at how Germans were portrayed in theater productions performed in London between 1914 and 1945. It attempts to
determine if, how, and why mainstream English attitudes towards this oftentimes enemy nation changed over the course of the First World War, interwar period, and Second World War. A systematic analysis of popular plays – war plays and generally well-attended titles – reveals a depiction of Germans that changed over time, implying a shift in the common attitude towards them. I argue that these changes reflect the larger psychosocial changes that took place in England over four of the most tumultuous decades of the twentieth century. An initial antagonism and hostility towards Germans during World War One reflects the imperialist and racist attitudes that were firmly embedded in English culture in the post-Edwardian age. Following the trauma of the Great War, theater of the interwar period showcases an ever-expanding sense of isolation, bewilderment, and self-consciousness in English society that did not have the time or energy to vilify any external peoples. Renewed military aggression against Germany in World War Two brought with it a return of negative portrayals of Germans. These plays, however, usually decry Nazi fascist politics instead of the German national character as plays from the former war did. Ultimately, the theater of the Second World War can be seen as a fusion of the outward focus on unsympathetic German stock characters of the First World War and the inward-looking emphasis on domestic struggle and emotional English turmoil of the interwar period.

**THE TREE WITHIN THE SEED: THE INFLUENCE OF THE ROMANTICS ON JOHN STUART MILL’S CONCEPTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

*Dylan Boynton*

Born in 1806, John Stuart Mill is today best remembered as a defender of individuals and advocate of Utilitarianism – a code of ethics that believes man is governed by pleasure and pain. Raised by his father, James Mill, to be the champion of utilitarian reforms in England, John Stuart Mill had a crippling mental breakdown in 1826. With the help of the Romantic poets William Wordsworth and
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and a host of other continental thinkers, Mill reevaluated his philosophy. From 1843 onwards Mill produced a series of major philosophical works in sociology, logic, economics and politics. However, he is best known as the author of On Liberty, The Subjection of Women and Utilitarianism. The individual was always important for the early utilitarians, but as Mill became exposed to new ideas – especially those of the Romantics – his conception of the individual changed greatly. In his later work Mill places the individual within a newfound historical and cultural context, and seeks to defend the individual against the impersonal economic and social forces of the 19th century. Yet the strongest Romantic influence is found in the three aforementioned essays, where Mill defends individualism not in relation to society, but in and of itself as a powerful and beautiful force that must be cultivated. My thesis explores the various ways in which Romanticism impacted the mature thought of John Stuart Mill and how ultimately, it was an essential component in his view of the world.

**ITALIAN IMMIGRATION TO LOUISIANA: LYNCHING, RACE RELATIONS AND THE ASSIMILATION OF ITALIANS IN THE DEEP SOUTH, 1880 – 1924**

*Angela Bueti*

While popular representations of Italian immigration at the turn of the twentieth century conjure visions of the Statue of Liberty and stories of Ellis Island’s huddled masses, not all Italian immigrant experience fits neatly into the narrative of tenement apartment buildings in the North End of Boston, or Mulberry Street in New York. In the United States, diverse geographical locales proved fertile sites for the development of Italian immigrant communities. This study explores the Italian community in Louisiana from 1880 to 1924 in the larger context of Italian migratory trends to the Deep South and the United States. In particular, it will consider lynching episodes per-
petrated against Italians in Louisiana and the Deep South, and the questions of racial perception and definition, integration, and group acceptance. Fueled by pseudo-scientific justifications and prevailing racial stereotypes of Southern Europeans, the stage was set for the unique and largely harsh reception of Italian immigrants in Louisiana and the South, in which race was already the prevailing subject of social, political, and economic contention. By looking at events and trends on both sides of the Atlantic, however, racism—both overt and hidden—was early apparent in Italian history and the Italian immigration story, and plays crucially into government reaction, policy and public opinion—and the greater narrative of race relations and immigration in the United States.

**Mediated Medicare: Political Realities of Medicare Passage and Their Portrayal in the Media**

*Lauren Burdett*

March 21, 2010 marked the second time in American history that the House of Representatives passed sweeping healthcare reform. The first was April 8, 1965 when the House voted in favor of H.R. 1, the Social Security Amendment of 1965, which included the first-ever healthcare provision for elderly Americans. There is perhaps no other piece of social legislation in American history that has been introduced and failed so many times over nearly half a century than healthcare, so it is with curiosity and a good dose of incredulity that lawmakers today look back on President Lyndon Johnson’s successful passage of the 1965 Amendments to Social Security, better known as Medicare and Medicaid. The various factors that contribute to the policymaking process have changed dramatically over the years, and policymaking has only grown more complicated since the 1960s. One external political factor that grew increasingly important was the role of the news media in reporting the action in Washington D.C. Media, too, have become more complex and had to adapt to a quickly changing environment.
The purpose of this study is twofold – first, to examine and analyze the political means used by President Lyndon Johnson and the leaders of the House of Representatives to pass the 1965 Medicare bill, and second, to examine how the media at the time represented the passage of Medicare. “Media” in this case is defined as three specific newspapers: The New York Times, The Chicago Defender, and The Los Angeles Times. These three were chosen in an attempt to examine a greater national sampling. The three are geographically diverse and yet are similar in their attempts to address a nationwide audience. What is clear in retrospect in the case of Medicare is that the media unwittingly played directly into the hands of a very interventionist White House by heralding Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Wilbur D. Mills of Arkansas, as the champion of Medicare and the one who pioneered the idea of combining the Republican and Democratic Medicare plans into one that could pass the House of Representatives and expand the benefits seniors received. Following is the specific analysis describing the administration’s strategy, the unwitting cooperation of the media and the comparison of Medicare coverage among the newspapers under consideration.

“90 PAGES OF REASONS WHY RON GRANIERI SHOULD BE TENURED AT PENN”

Zac Byer

The National Collegiate Athletic Association was founded in 1906 as a means of protecting amateur football players’ health and safety. Yet, if the founders of the NCAA could review their creation today, they would see a tremendously different organization. Using three policy aspects as case studies—the 1948 Sanity Code, various attempts at academic reform, and the ongoing Native American mascot controversies—I contend that the NCAA has largely digressed into an image-driven, regulatory body. I do not intend to overlook various push-pull factors such as academic elites, ethnic interest
groups, university athletic departments, and the media. However, through my research of the evolution of NCAA bylaws and governing documents, as well as primary source documentation of the policies in question, I argue that the NCAA has carved out an expansive niche for itself well beyond its founders’ intent.

**Dwight Macdonald, American Radicalism and Intellectuals at Mid-Century**

*Sophie Cavoulacos*

During World War II, Dwight Macdonald edited a magazine named politics that served as a forum for disenchanted intellectuals on the Left and sought to articulate new directions in radicalism after the disenchantment with Marxism and Enlightenment notions of science and progress in the era of Hiroshima.

The demise of politics in 1949 is part of a larger, transatlantic narrative of the failure of a Third Camp between communism and capitalism with the advent of the Cold War. What is so striking about Macdonald was his capacity to emerge from the “end of ideology” of the 1950s and return to the political scene in the 1960s, opposing the Vietnam War and engaging with the New Left. Having left behind Marxism, Macdonald assembled an eclectic canon as a political guide, looking to figures such as the French Encyclopedists Randolph Bourne, Tolstoy and Alexander Herzen.

**Island of Hope, Tears, and Trials: Reconciling Xenophobia and Internationalism through the Ellis Island Immigration Appeals Process**

*Ariel Colangelo*

While much has been written about the millions of immigrants who passed through America’s golden gates between 1900 and 1920, far
less attention has been paid to those individuals who were rejected at the ports of entry and returned to their countries of origin. Contrary to popular belief, however, not all aliens who passed through immigration stations, and in the case of this thesis, Ellis Island, were simply admitted or deported. Rather, each year, a small number of immigrants who were detained and scheduled for deportation decided to appeal the decision of the Immigration Commission and petition for entry into the United States. Focusing on the year 1912, this thesis hopes to determine whether those who were ultimately admitted and those who were ultimately deported displayed certain characteristics, and as such, whether the process by which the appeals were handled was detectably systematic, inherently biased, or entirely random. The paper then seeks to examine the trends that emerged as a result of this appeals process, based on the laws that governed national immigration at the time, the people who were employed by the Bureau of Naturalization, and the individual stories of those who filed appeals and attempted to fight for their right of American entry. The thesis culminates in a discussion about the tensions that exist in a country rooted in a “melting pot” ideology, yet one that is fearful of overwhelming external influences, and how these stresses were highlighted as a result of twentieth century immigration.

**CONSTRUCTING SOCIALISM IN EAST GERMANY: AN EARLY HISTORY OF THE GDR; 1945-1955**

*Stephanie Engelhard*

In April of 1945, the fate of Germany was unclear. As the specter of Nazism faded into the background, a new conflict arose between the United States and the Soviet Union, a conflict which placed Germany once again at the front lines. This thesis tracks the process of Stalinization in the GDR under Ulbricht from the early post-war period until 1955, when the GDR became a founding member of the Warsaw Pact, cementing the division of Germany. Focusing on Ul-
Ulbricht’s ability to eliminate opposition among the population and within the ranks of his own party, as well as his ability to capitalize on misfortunes, this thesis argues that Ulbricht was the primary driving force behind the radical Stalinization of the GDR and the division of Germany.


*Elijah Greenstein*

A central theme of this thesis is that modern nations are artificial creations, “imagined communities” to quote Benedict Anderson, that developed far less organically than they appear to from today’s perspective. I endeavor to gain an understanding of some of the processes involved in nation-building and the development of national consciousnesses by exploring Chinese nationalist sentiments regarding Manchuria between 1911 and 1931. This interval in Manchurian history provides an ideal opportunity to study these themes, due to its development over the first half of the 20th century from ethnic-minority borderland, to independent political entity, to fully integrated part of China. How did Manchuria, the barbaric enemy of the 1911 nationalist revolution become the symbol of Chinese nationalism in 20 years’ time? How did the reversal, one that eventually defined the modern Chinese nation, take place? Utilizing contemporary newspapers and government reports, I hope to answer such questions and present a nuanced interpretation of the place of Manchuria in the Chinese national imagination. By revealing the diverse attitudes that Chinese within and outside of Manchuria harbored about Manchuria’s future as a part of or apart from China, I will show that in the early 20th century Manchuria’s fate as a part of China was far from certain. By exploring the development of these attitudes over time, I will show that domestic and international influences acted as both catalysts and impediments to the development of a unified nationalist consciousness in China.
Two Faces of Belgium: Evolving Perceptions of Belgian Neutrality, 1911-1914

Caroline Harmstone

When one thinks of the causes of World War One, complicated alliance systems and German aggression usually spring to mind. Belgian neutrality is frequently taken for granted. However, far from being set in stone, Belgium’s neutrality was under increasing scrutiny from 1912, not only from Britain, France and Germany, but also from within. It is an issue that, instead of being perceived as unchanging, should be viewed as an essential influence over the planning for war of the European powers, especially France. The ambiguity over the neutrality debate, and the military and diplomatic considerations surrounding it, made French war planning extremely difficult on both a civilian and military level. This thesis strives to demonstrate the extent to which Belgian neutrality was not certain, seen from both the French and Belgian perspective. It also seeks to illustrate how the two most important minds of French war preparation, Raymond Poincare and Joseph Joffre, compensated for Belgium’s neutrality and adapted their approach to a conflict with Germany. For this thesis, I have consulted a great deal of primary sources, including the French “documents diplomatiques”, as well as memoirs, newspapers, and speeches.

The GI Revolt after World War II: How the US Government Failed to Communicate its Demobilization Policy

Douglas Halperin

Following World War II, the United States was faced with the tremendous task of gradually bringing home the soldiers who had fought in the European and the Pacific Theaters. What ensued from V-E day in May of 1945 until early January of 1946 was an era of confusion with regard to the demobilization policy Secretary of War Robert Patterson presented. Angered by a drastic cut in demobiliza-
tion in early January, the soldiers in both theaters protested in cities across the world against the disappointing slow-down. Arguing for continued redeployment back to the United States and a more easily understood policy with regard to the requirements for coming home, soldiers created an international movement that gained huge media attention. However, after General Dwight Eisenhower appeased soldiers with his remarks as well as his speech for the Demobilization of the Armed Forces Hearing before the Committee on Military Affairs, he pledges to resume demobilization, and with pressure from the beginning of the cold war, protests stopped relatively quickly and never garnered much press again.

**Mothers and Martyrs: The Role of Afrikaner Women in the Commemoration of the Great Trek and Anglo-Boer War**

*Caitlin Jones*

Of the numerous studies on the history of Afrikaner Nationalism, a small portion focuses on the dynamics of gender and their centrality to the movement. This paper focuses on the representation of historical memory of the Afrikaner Nation through the image of womanhood. This paper analyzes the notions of gender from contemporary accounts of The Great Trek and the Anglo-Boer War. How men and women understood and articulated women’s role in these seminal events provides a context against which the depiction of women in the commemoration of the Trek and the Boer War can be analyzed. Ultimately, the paper argues that using the image of the Afrikaner woman to symbolize the nation created a dichotomous and idealized role for women to participate in the Nationalist movement.
DRINK AND THE DEVIL: PIRACY AND BUCANEERING AS LABOR RESISTANCE IN THE EARLY MODERN MARITIME WORLD

Andrew Kincaid

I’ve sailed under the black flag for twelve months now, a sworn confederate in the pirate brotherhood, commissioned to chronicle their lives at sea. During these months before the mast, I’ve come to appreciate my brethren for what they are, not mere maritime brigands or the scourge of the deep blue sea, but rather dissidents constituted in opposition to the nascent capitalist order. More than haphazard bands of petty thieves, these outlaws have defined themselves in contradistinction to the world from which they seek refuge, flouting the paradigm of private property by electing to hold ships in common and repudiating the emergent wage model by paying their crews in shares. The mariners with whom I serve have abjured the authoritarian and often draconian regimes aboard merchant and naval vessels, establishing floating democracies in which captains are elected by the crew, authority is vested in consensus, and rules are explicitly delineated in articles established by the entire constituency. In a Europe that has grown ever more rigid, governed by what it so arrogantly terms Reason and Enlightenment, these freebooters have resisted the designs of shipmasters and trade magnates, refusing to become anonymous and interchangeable sources of labor in an economic system that blithely ignores their humanity. These pirates, then, these villains of the civilized world, hoist the black flag as declaration of their independence and indomitable solidarity, asserting the justice of a moral economy in defiance of the free market. They are men without nations, sailing on their own account.

THE CORRUPT BARGAIN ACCUSATION: ANDREW JACKSON’S WINNING STRATEGY IN 1828 AND THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF AMERICAN POLITICS

Zach Klitzman

In the presidential election of 1824 none of the four candidates won
a majority of electoral votes. In the subsequent special election in the House of Representatives, John Quincy Adams won, even though Andrew Jackson had earned the most popular and electoral votes originally. Soon rumors spread that Adams had made a “corrupt bargain” with Henry Clay in which Clay turned the House for Adams and in return became Adams’s Secretary of State. Jackson was enraged, and decided to run again for the Presidency in 1828, using the “corrupt bargain” charge as political ammunition against Adams. This honors thesis will examine to what extent Jackson and his supporters, especially John C. Calhoun and Martin Van Buren, were successful in propagating this accusation and forming a national coalition to defeat Adams.

“THE CEILING OF IMAGINATION”: KENNEDY AND THE CONGO

Steven Koch

In Africa and the United States, John F. Kennedy’s victory in the 1960 Presidential election appeared to many to mark the beginning of a new era in America’s Africa policy. From the 1950s until Kennedy’s inauguration, a mostly-liberal group of Democrats had attempted to articulate a new, distinctive vision for U.S. foreign policy in Africa, and had emphasized their differences with the incumbent Republican administration. Yet during the Kennedy administration’s first great African challenge, the independence of the former Belgian Congo and the crisis it produced, the new president continued many of his predecessor’s policies.

This paper will first examine dialogues within the Democratic in the 1950s and early 1960s regarding Africa; it will argue that in contrast to appearances, Democrats and Republicans shared many fundamental beliefs about Africa, the nature of colonialism, and the region’s appropriate place in the broader Cold War struggle with the Soviet Union. Second, through an examination of the Kennedy administration’s response to the imprisonment and death of Congolese
Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba and to the Katangese secession, the paper examines continuities in Congo policy between Kennedy and Eisenhower. The paper suggests connections between Democratic thought on Africa from the Eisenhower period and Kennedy’s pivotal decisions during the Congo Crisis. By emphasizing the commonalities of Democratic and Republican thought on Africa and the role they played in shaping policy, the paper offers a lens through which to understand the American response to one of the most important and traumatic episodes of African decolonization.

THE SUEZ CRISIS AND ITS EFFECT ON ISRAELI FOREIGN POLICY

Maia Lichtenstein

The Suez Crisis of 1956 was a momentous event in the history of the modern Middle East. It signified the end of French and British imperial influence in the Middle East and the beginning of America’s increasing involvement and dominance in the region. It also marked the moment of Nasser’s assumption of the leadership of the Arab world as an independent entity. However for Israel, one of the primary actors in the operation, the crisis did not lead to any significant foreign policy shifts. Israel’s relationship with Egypt remained hostile; it remained distant from the United States, bitter towards England, and close to France. Israel’s leaders maintained a desperate desire to continue to build their arms supplies, both conventional and nuclear, despite their impressive military victory over the Egyptians. Israel’s leaders continued to feel a sense of isolation despite their coordination with the British and French in Operation Muskeeteer. Using diplomatic records and personal memoirs, this thesis analyzes the political and military outcomes of the Suez Crisis from the Israeli viewpoint, and explores why the crisis did not alter any of Israel’s policies or relationships. It will argue that Israel’s relative isolation within the world community and hostile neighboring states created a feeling of desperation among Israeli’s leadership. Israel therefore viewed any and all venues of cooperation as potentially
promising and most threats as existential. The Suez Crisis did not open any radically new venues for alliances or expose or deplete any threats to Israel’s security. Therefore, any changes in Israeli foreign policy were not drastic shifts in direction but rather small building blocks on previously existing strategies.

**COLONIAL DISCOURSE IN THE COLD WAR: NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SALAZAR AND JOHN F. KENNEDY OVER ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE AND THE AZORES BASE FROM 1961 TO 1963**

*Daniella N. Mak*

Following Senator Ted Kennedy’s passing last year on August 25, 2009, African media outlet All Africa reported that, “Today Africa mourns the death of Senator Edward Kennedy because he is a Kennedy, because the Kennedys represented, no matter how dim it appeared, a glimmer of hope in a still colonial world.” For many Africans, the Kennedy family symbolized a promise for change; a promise to give Africans a voice in shaping their own futures. President John F. Kennedy attempted to charter a new course for U.S. policy vis-à-vis Angola by supporting colonial independence from Portugal, a vision that he had set in mind long before running for presidency. However, clamor for independence from Washington caused a diplomatic rift with Portuguese leader António de Oliveira Salazar. For Salazar, it would be unfathomable to dismantle the Portuguese empire in Africa; Angola was an inherent part of the Estado Novo. Salazar would pressure Kennedy to quell his talk about decolonization by threatening Washington with non-renewal of the U.S. lease on the Portuguese Azores bases, a vital asset for Cold War operations. My thesis seeks to frame the negotiations between Kennedy and Salazar in a Cold War context. How was discourse about colonial rule and decolonization deployed by the United States, Portugal, the Soviet Union, and the “Afro-Asian states”? How did this correspond to Cold War alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Treaty? In this thesis, I explore the colonial ideology of
the Estado Novo, the nature of Portuguese-American relations as
NATO allies, and the debates on both sides by leading politicians
and intellectuals about colonialism and the Cold War.

**THE CARTER COALITION: A CRITICAL LOOK AT THE IRONIC (AND
SEEMINGLY PARADOXICAL) ASSEMBLAGE WHICH ELECTED JIMMY
CARTER PRESIDENT IN 1976**

*Adam Mandelsberg*

I suggest a need to conduct a more thorough examination of the 1976 contest not simply because the race has been consistently overlooked by historians and political scientists alike, but in order to shed greater light on what I have come to believe was one of the most climactic, and thereby formative, epochs in our nation’s history. In the years leading up to the 1976 presidential campaign, our nation grappled with issues as profound and wide-ranging as modernization, racism, and the potency of the federal government. Yet, whereas in prior years, various states, regions, and voting blocs struggled discretely, in 1976. for the first time since the enactment of landmark reforms in the previous decade affecting nearly all aspects of American society, northerners and southerners, union workers and anti-union activists; former slaves and slave owners somehow managed to find their way into the same political camp, united under the broad brush of Jimmy Carter for President. In my thesis, I attempt to address the following questions: why did this “realignment” occur and (perhaps even more importantly) why did it prove ephemeral? At the very least, however, rigorous analysis of this election suggests that the march to the so-called “Reagan Revolution” of 1980 may not have been steady or inevitable at all, and signals that perhaps if Carter had been a more effective commander-in-chief, a very different American electoral coalition may well have emerged as regnant.
Splendid Isolation and the Anglo-Japanese Alliance: A Study in Late Nineteenth Century Foreign Policy, 1897-1902

Jonathan Meza

In the final years of the nineteenth century, the British government faced challenges from foreign powers throughout her empire. With the French threatening the Suez Canal by establishing an outpost at Fashoda, the outbreak of a long, bloody war in South Africa, and the loss of British supremacy in China, Prime Minister Salisbury and his cabinet in London recognized that British forces could no longer maintain the security of their worldwide empire in the new geopolitical landscape that featured a Franco-Russian bloc and an expansionist Germany. However, rather than forfeit the principles of “splendid isolation,” the predominant British foreign policy of the second half of the nineteenth century in which the Foreign Office retained a free hand in international affairs through avoiding alliances with other powers, the British government sought to adjust this system to contemporary circumstances. When Germany proved unwilling to work with Britain in China without a formal alliance in 1901, Secretary of State Lansdowne responded by negotiating an agreement with Japan that was limited to East Asia. This treaty eased the burden of imperial security for the British by providing for military cooperation with the rising power of Japan while simultaneously allowing Salisbury’s government to maintain its free hand throughout the rest of the world. Although the conclusion of 1902 Anglo-Japanese Alliance is traditionally considered the end of “splendid isolation,” this thesis argues that this agreement was actually a continuation of this nineteenth century foreign policy.
“THE LEAST DANGEROUS BRANCH?: COURTS AND THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

Rebecca Orel

This thesis compares the role that the highest courts play in social change in Britain and the United States, using the decriminalization of homosexuality as a case study. Much has been written about the connections between British and American law. Yet, the legal system established by the Framers and its evolution over the following two centuries diverged significantly from the English model. How did this come to be? In fact, the American judiciary was set up in response to the perceived weaknesses of the British system. Furthermore, the seeds of its expansion – in which the American judiciary has taken on a role vastly different from that played by its British counterpart – were planted during the Revolution and its aftermath. My thesis will argue that the processes by which homosexuality was decriminalized in these two countries can be traced back to this original divergence. While judicial review was always a potential power of the courts in the United States, the preeminence of parliamentary supremacy in Britain precluded the possibility of the courts having the power to overturn legislative acts.

As a result, while the courts in the United States were able to evaluate the constitutionality of laws criminalizing homosexual acts, the courts in Britain only had the power to enforce them. As a result, efforts in the 1950s and 1960s to decriminalize homosexuality were expressed through Parliament, rather than the courts. In contrast, while a number of states in the U.S. did pass laws to this effect, it nonetheless took a Supreme Court decision to set a national standard. Thus we can see the ways in which divergent theories of the courts’ role in government has had a practical effect on their ability to effect social change in these two countries.
Juvenile Delinquency on the Philadelphia Home Front: Un-clean Teens or Wartime Hysteria?

Daniella Rohr

On September 4, 1944 the Los Angeles Times ran a story with the headline, “Two Teenage Bandits Rob, Stab Two Boys.” Newspaper headlines across the nation appeared to echo this news reporting “Youths Arrested in Theft Cases,” “Sharp Rise in Juvenile Delinquency Seen”, and “Auto Thefts Higher: Youth Chief Culprit.” World War II had an undeniable effect on the home front and a major impact on the country’s youth. Fear of juvenile delinquency in World War II America skyrocketed as high school enrollment rates plummeted. In 1942 more than twice as many girls under the age of twenty-one were arrested for sexual offenses than in 1941, and over a million fewer students matriculated in American high schools in 1944 than in 1941. Though juvenile deviance was widespread during the war years, it was for the most part petty in nature, including auto theft, sexual promiscuity, “corner lounging,” and public inebriation. The increase in crime, moreover, was widely anticipated with the unrest of a wartime society, as well as largely sensationalized by public officials, regular citizens, and the media alike. This thesis compares Federal conceptualization and response to this perceived phenomenon with that of local and community officials in Philadelphia between 1941 and 1944. Special attention is paid to the African American and female populations, as well as the Federal government’s use of the phenomenon in the context of the larger war effort abroad.

“My Time Will Yet Come”: The American Reception of the Music of Gustav Mahler, 1904-1950

Ben Scherban

My thesis examines the American reception of the music of Gustav Mahler during the first half of the twentieth century, beginning in
1904 when a work by Mahler was first heard in America. I explore the conductors who performed his symphonies, the debates over the merits of his music, and the changing conception and perceived stature of Mahler as a composer. This paper also seeks to understand the construction of the myth that Mahler was unknown in America before being championed by Leonard Bernstein.

“40 Years Is Enough”: Myth and Memory in Commemorations of May 1968 in France

Aro Velmet

“Beneath the pavement, the beach!” encapsulates the popular understanding of the French May riots of 1968. The students came, they saw, they conquered, had lots of sex in the process and were finally put back in their place by the swift hand of the Gaullist government – or so the story goes. This study looks at commemorations of the largest general strike in French history to understand how a significant socio-political rebellion was transformed into a narrative of a joyous month-long party on the streets of Paris. Focusing on the 10-year anniversaries of ‘68, this study looks at the formation of May’s mythology. The concerns of the present have always shaped memories of the past and May 1968 is no exception. This thesis looks at the political history of May, the transformation of its leaders into mythical heroes, the development of a feminist narrative of May and the dichotomy between revolutionary and utopian representations of May in order to understand how commemorative activities are shaped by large sociocultural changes on the macro level and the structures of memory on the micro level.
“THE END OF THE BEGINNING: EARLY CHINESE COMMUNISM, AND ITS DESTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION”

Josh Vittor

The Chinese Communist Party was founded in 1920 not by Mao Zedong, but by two Marxist scholars: Chen Duxiu and Li Dazhao. Chen and Li guided the party through its formative years, defined primarily by the huge influence of the Soviet Union. Under immense pressure from the USSR and the Comintern, the CCP agreed to a formal relationship with the Chinese Nationalist Party (GMD). Less than five years after the cooperation between the CCP and the GMD – known as the First United Front – was established. After splitting away in 1927, The GMD conducted a brutal purge on the CCP, arresting many of China’s leading Communists and even killing many officials including Li Dazhao. This thesis will demonstrate how, by submitting to the will of the Soviet Union and the Comintern, and allowing for the application of a Soviet model for Communist revolution in China, the CCP’s agreement to the United Front strategy essentially sowed the seeds for its near destruction in 1927. The focus will be twofold: first, on the specific figures—Chen, Li, specific Comintern officials, and others—who actually made the decision to align with the GMD, and their complicated motivations for (or objections to) doing so; and second, the paper will discuss the ideological conflicts, not only between the CCP and the GMD, but between the CCP and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union saw China as one of many “backward countries”, ideal hot-spots for potential Communist Revolution. The Comintern and its representatives in China were blinded by their belief in their ability to force-feed a Russian form of Marxism to a country that was in a state of geopolitical chaos. Ultimately, in 1927, the Soviet Union retreated from China, leaving the CCP to nurse its wounds, oust its remaining leaders (like Chen) as scapegoats for the failed United Front, and open the door for Mao to step in to eventually claim his role within history as the father of Chinese Communism. Additionally, I will question the historical conundrum of why Chen and Li,
the originators of Chinese Communism, have faded into virtual anonymity, while Mao has become perhaps one of the most memorable and historic figures of the twentieth century.

**STATE-DIRECTED DEVELOPMENT IN GEORGIA AND ALABAMA: 1960-1968**

*Matthew Walsh*

The paper is a comparison of state-directed economic development in Alabama and Georgia during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. It focuses on the efforts of state and area planning authorities to attract economic capital through Federal programs and private industry. Significantly, with the 1961 Area Redevelopment Act and the 1965 Public Works and Economic Development Act, the Federal government was during this period involved in capital formation in an historically unique way. Perhaps most notably, Washington underwrote private capital formation in depressed areas. As early as 1961, authorities in Georgia recognized the opportunity and created a series of institutions designed to further economic development that were efficient relative to those of competing states. Federal records make clear that Georgia’s became the preferred model. By comparing the models of the two states and referencing Federal records, this paper hopes to examine these unique programs in American economic policy.