

NORTH ATLANTIC TREAT ORGANIZATION (NATO)

MIRRORS

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S LEGENDARY MURDER MYSTERY STORY:

“MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS”

PUBLISHED JANUARY 1, 1934

BY

AGATHA CHRISTIE

1890-1976

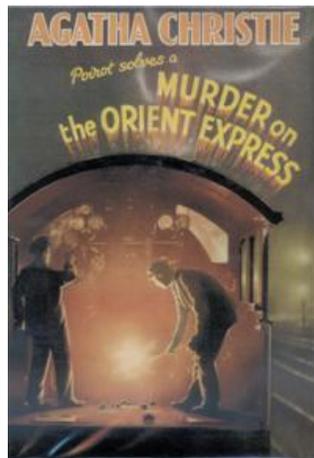
Miss Agatha Christie was knowledgeable enough to write this classic book, suspecting that Bruno Richard Hauptman , a German born carpenter, was not the kidnapper and murderer of the Charles Lindbergh infant and that Isidor Fish, a fur dealer, was the real kidnapper and killer who had fled to Germany before the ensuing Hauptman murder trial and died there. As such she developed this clever fictional account of the Crime Of The Century and its eventual revenge murder of the real Lindbergh infant murderer then living in Europe and aboard an Orient Express Rail Journey with a typical Agatha Christie mystery ending.

THE PLOT

Returning from an important case in Syria, Hercule Poirot boards the Orient Express in Constantinople. The train is unusually crowded for the time of year. Poirot secures a berth only with the help of his friend M. Bouc, a director of the Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits. When a Mr. Harris fails to show up, Poirot takes his place. On the second night, Poirot gets a compartment to himself.

That night, in Vinkovci, at about Poirot wakes to the sound of a loud compartment next to his, which is Poirot peeks out his door, he sees the door and ask if he is all right. A man *me suis trompé*”, which means "It's conductor moves on to answer a bell go back to bed, but he is disturbed by and his mouth is dry.

As he lies awake, he hears a Mrs.



twenty-three minutes before 1:00 am, noise. It seems to come from the occupied by Mr. Ratchett. When conductor knock on Mr. Ratchett's replies in French "*Ce n'est rien. Je nothing. I was mistaken*", and the down the passage. Poirot decides to the fact that the train is unusually still

Hubbard ringing the bell urgently.

When Poirot then rings the conductor for a bottle of mineral water, he learns that Mrs. Hubbard claimed that someone had been in her compartment. He also learns that the train has stopped due to a snowstorm. Poirot dismisses the conductor and tries to go back to sleep, only to be wakened again by a thump on his door. This time when Poirot gets up and looks out of his compartment, the passage is completely silent, and he sees nothing except the back of a woman in a scarlet kimono retreating down the passage in the distance.

The next day he awakens to find that Ratchett is dead, having been stabbed twelve times in his sleep. M. Bouc suggests that Poirot take the case, being that it is so obviously his kind of case; nothing more is required than for him to sit, think, and take in the available evidence.

However, the clues and circumstances are very mysterious. Some of the stab wounds are very deep, only three are lethal, and some are glancing blows. Furthermore, some of them appear to have been inflicted by a right-handed person and some by a left-handed person.

Poirot finds several more clues in the victim's cabin and on board the train, including a linen handkerchief embroidered with the initial "H", a pipe cleaner, and a button from a conductor's uniform. All of these clues suggest that the murderer or murderers were somewhat sloppy. However, each clue seemingly points to different suspects, which suggests that some of the clues were planted.

By reconstructing parts of a burned letter, Poirot discovers that Mr. Ratchett was a notorious fugitive from the U.S. named Cassetti. Five years earlier, Cassetti kidnapped three-year-old American heiress Daisy Armstrong. Though the Armstrong family paid a large ransom, Cassetti murdered the little girl and fled the country with the money. Daisy's mother, Sonia, was pregnant when she heard of Daisy's death. The shock sent her into premature labour, and both she and the baby died. Her husband, Colonel Armstrong, shot himself out of grief. Daisy's nursemaid, Susanne, was suspected of complicity in the crime by the police, despite her protests. She threw herself out of a window and died, after which she was proved innocent. Although Cassetti was caught, his resources allowed him to get himself acquitted on an unspecified technicality, although he still fled the country to escape further prosecution for the crime.

As the evidence mounts, it continues to point in wildly different directions and it appears that Poirot is being challenged by a mastermind. A critical piece of missing evidence—the scarlet kimono worn the night of the murder by an unknown woman turns up in Poirot's own luggage.

After meditating on the evidence, Poirot assembles the twelve suspects, M. Bouc and Dr. Constantine in the restaurant car. He lays out two possible explanations of Ratchett's murder.

The first explanation is that a stranger—some gangster enemy of Ratchett—boarded the train at Vinkovci, the last stop, murdered Ratchett for reasons unknown, and escaped unnoticed. The crime occurred an hour earlier than everyone thought, because the victim and several others failed to note that the train had just crossed into a different time zone. The other noises heard by Poirot on the coach that evening were unrelated to the murder. However, Dr. Constantine says that Poirot must surely be aware that this does not fully explain the circumstances of the case.

Poirot's second explanation is rather more sensational: all of the suspects are guilty. Poirot's suspicions were first piqued by the fact that all the passengers on the train were of so many different nationalities and social classes, and that only in the "melting pot" of the United States would a group of such different people form some connection with each other.

Poirot reveals that the twelve other passengers on the train were all connected to the Armstrong family in some way:

▲ **Hector McQueen**, Ratchett/Cassetti's secretary, was an aspiring actor who became boyishly

devoted to Sonia Armstrong, having seen her during the original trial against Cassetti where his father served as the Armstrong's' lawyer;

- ♣ **Masterman**, Ratchett/Cassetti's valet, was Colonel Armstrong's batman during the war and later his valet;
- ♣ **Colonel Arbuthnot** was Colonel Armstrong's comrade and best friend;
- ♣ **Mrs. Hubbard** in actuality is Linda Arden (née Goldenberg), the most famous tragic actress of the New York stage, and was Sonia Armstrong's mother and Daisy's grandmother;
- ♣ **Countess Andrenyi** (née Helena Goldenberg) was Sonia Armstrong's sister;
- ♣ **Princess Natalia Dragomiroff** was Sonia Armstrong's godmother as she was a friend of her mother;
- ♣ **Miss Mary Debenham** was Sonia Armstrong's secretary and Daisy Armstrong's governess;
- ♣ **Fräulein Hildegard Schmidt**, Princess Dragomiroff's maid, was the Armstrong family's cook;
- ♣ **Antonio Foscarelli**, a car salesman based in Chicago, was the Armstrong family's chauffeur;
- ♣ **Miss Greta Ohlsson**, a Swedish missionary, was Daisy Armstrong's nurse;
- ♣ **Pierre Michel**, the train conductor, was the father of Susanne, the Armstrong's nursemaid who committed suicide;
- ♣ **Cyrus Hardman**, a private detective ostensibly retained as a bodyguard by Ratchett/Cassetti, was a policeman in love with Susanne.

♣

All these friends and relations had been gravely affected by Daisy's murder and outraged by Cassetti's subsequent escape. They took it into their own hands to serve as Cassetti's executioners, to avenge a crime the law was unable to punish.

Each of the suspects stabbed Ratchett once, so that no one could know who delivered the fatal blow. Twelve of the conspirators participated to allow for a "twelve-person jury", with Count Andrenyi acting for his wife, as she—Daisy's aunt—would have been the most likely suspect. One extra berth was booked under a fictitious name—Harris—so that no one but the conspirators and the victim would be on board the coach, and this fictitious person would subsequently disappear and become the primary suspect in Ratchett's murder. (The only person not involved in the plot would be M. Bouc, for whom the cabin next to Ratchett was already reserved.)

The main inconvenience for the murderers was the occurrence of a snowstorm and the presence of a detective, which caused complications to the conspirators that resulted in several crucial clues being left behind.

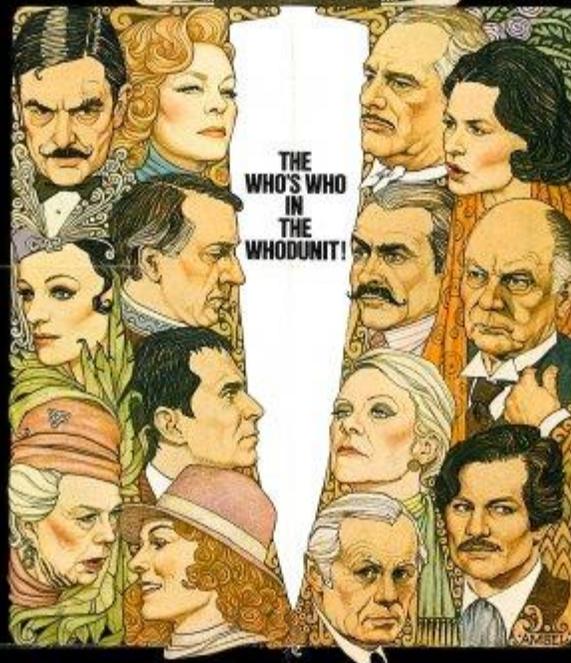
Poirot summarizes that there was no other way the murder could have taken place, given the evidence. Several of the suspects have broken down in tears as he has revealed their connection to the Armstrong family, and Mrs. Hubbard/Linda Arden confesses that the second theory is correct and that Colonel Arbuthnot and Mary Debenham are in love. She then appeals to Poirot, M. Bouc, and Dr. Constantine, not to turn them into the police. Fully in sympathy with the Armstrong family, and feeling nothing but disgust for the victim, Bouc pronounces the first explanation as correct, and Poirot and Dr. Constantine agree, Dr. Constantine suggesting that he will edit his original report of Cassetti's body to comply with Poirot's first deduction as he now 'recognizes' some mistakes he has made.

His task completed, Poirot states he has "the honour to retire from the case

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"MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS"

Charles Lindbergh



Charles Lindbergh & Spirit of St. Louis

Charles Augustus Lindbergh (February 4, 1902 – August 26, 1974) (nicknamed "Slim", [1] "Lucky Lindy", and "The Lone Eagle") was an American aviator, author, inventor, explorer, and social activist.

Lindbergh, a 25-year-old U.S. Air Mail pilot, emerged from virtual obscurity to almost instantaneous world fame as the result of his Orteig Prize-winning solo non-stop flight on May 20–21, 1927, from Roosevelt Field located in Garden City on New York's Long Island to Le Bourget Field in Paris, France, a distance of nearly 3,600 statute miles (5,800 km), in the single-seat, single-engine monoplane Spirit of St. Louis. Lindbergh, a U.S. Army reserve officer, was also awarded the nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, for his historic exploit.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, Lindbergh used his fame to relentlessly help promote the rapid development of both commercial aviation and Air Mail services in the United States and the Americas. In March 1932, however, his infant son, Charles, Jr., was kidnapped and murdered in what was soon dubbed the "Crime of the Century" which eventually led to the Lindbergh family being "driven into voluntary exile" and fleeing the United States in late December 1935 to live in Europe. The family continued to live overseas until returning to the U.S. after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor by the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Before the United States formally entered World War II by declaring war on Japan on December 8, 1941, Lindbergh had been an outspoken advocate of keeping the U.S. out of the world conflict, as was his Congressman father, Charles August Lindbergh, during World War I, and became a leader of the anti-war America First movement. Nonetheless, he supported the war effort after Pearl Harbor and flew many combat missions in the Pacific Theater of World War II as a civilian consultant, even though President Franklin D. Roosevelt had refused to reinstate his Army Air Corps colonel's commission that he had resigned in April 1941.

In his later years, Lindbergh became a prolific prize-winning author, international explorer, inventor, and environmentalist.

The Crime of the Century

In shock value, in terms of human interest, it was the Crime of the Century: Someone had dared to kidnap and kill the infant son of the man then regarded as the world's greatest hero.

No mere football hero admired by sports fans, no astronaut propelled by the machinery of modern science, but Charles A. Lindbergh, the young man who had flown the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927. Nicknamed Lucky Lindy and the Lone Eagle, he had almost single-handedly launched the era of transoceanic flight.

In addition to his Atlantic crossing he and his bride, millionaire heiress Anne Morrow, went on to fly the Pacific North to the Orient, pioneering the flight paths followed by jet liners even today. Mobbed by admirers and pursued by the press both here and abroad, they built a \$50,000, 20-room stone house at a secluded spot in the rocky, wooded Sourland mountains of central New Jersey. The Lindberghs had spotted the site from the air, and were impressed by its isolation and potential as an airfield. During the American Revolution, Declaration of Independence signer John Hart had used the same area to hide from the British.

The Lindberghs' son, Charles Jr., was then 20 months old, and they were expecting another child. On a chill, damp weekend in March, 1932, they planned to return Sunday to the home of Mrs. Lindbergh's parents, in the posh suburb of Englewood, NJ, 50 miles away. But young Charles had a cold and they decided to stay another night or two, accompanied by the child's nurse, Betty Gow, and a housekeeper couple. Except for them and the grandparents, it is presumed that no one else knew they were staying.

Yet sometime between 8 and 10 PM on the night of Tuesday, March 1, the child was taken from his second-floor nursery by a kidnapper who left no fingerprints but did leave a note demanding \$50,000 in ransom -- a fortune in those Depression times. Finding the baby was gone, Lindbergh searched the grounds, and called the State Police. The Township of East Amwell, where the Lindbergh house was located, had no local police then or now.

Police and press descended on the scene, trampling what might have been left of a kidnapper's footprints in the mud and a light fall of snow. In addition to the ransom note, investigators found a discarded homemade ladder and a chisel near the house.

In the days and nights that followed, a desperate Lindbergh sought help from numerous negotiators who claimed to be go-betweens with the kidnapper. Thousands of letters poured into the estate, some expressing sympathy, some with ransom demands or death threats, and a host of psychic predictions.

The newspapers initially speculated that gangsters had taken the child. Who else would have the gall to snatch the son of the Lone Eagle? Al Capone, the most notorious of them all, was so appalled at the thought, that he offered a \$10,000 reward for information that would lead to the recovery of the child unharmed. Capone also said if he were released from his Chicago jail cell, he and his henchmen would find the perpetrator. A national debate ensued on whether or not to free Capone for the task. Speculation ended when the man who put Capone behind bars, IRS agent Elmer Irey, convinced Lindbergh that if released, Capone would immediately flee the country.

One of many would-be go-betweens was Dr. John (Jafsie) Condon, a retired teacher who claimed to be in contact with the kidnapper. One night at a cemetery in the Bronx, accompanied by Lindbergh, Jafsie paid the ransom in gold certificates whose numbers had been recorded. The kidnapper gave Condon a note saying the child was on a boat off the Massachusetts coast. Lindbergh spent days flying over the area to no avail. Unknown to all, the body of little Charles Jr., dead of a skull fracture, lay in the leaves off the Hopewell-Princeton road, a few miles from the Lindberghs' home. On May 12, 1932, the tiny remains were discovered by a truck driver who entered the woods to relieve himself.

It took more than two years of following the trail of passed ransom bills to track down the man accused of the murder, a German-born Bronx carpenter, Bruno Richard Hauptmann. When he was arrested, Hauptmann had over \$14,000 worth of the ransom cash hidden in his garage. It was later discovered that a board cut from his attic floor was used in the ladder. Dr. Condon eventually identified Hauptmann as the man to whom he paid the ransom. Within hours of his arrest, press and police were clamoring for the death penalty for Hauptmann. Who would believe Hauptmann? He insisted the money was left by one Isidor Fisch, a fur dealer he knew who had fled to Germany and died there ...a story beyond corroboration. Who would believe Hauptmann's wife, Anna, who protested that on the night of the kidnapping she had been home with Hauptmann in the Bronx? Hauptmann was extradited to New Jersey. On January 2nd, 1935, the spotlight fell on the century-old Hunterdon County courthouse in the little borough of Flemington for the Trial of the Century.

Charles Lindbergh's 1941 Antiwar Speech

Des Moines Speech: Delivered in Des Moines, Iowa, on September 11, 1941, this speech was met with outrage in many quarters

Des Moines Speech:

It is now two years since this latest European war began. From that day in September, 1939, until the present moment, there has been an over-increasing effort to force the United States into the conflict.

That effort has been carried on by foreign interests, and by a small minority of our own people; but it has been so successful that, today, our country stands on the verge of war.

At this time, as the war is about to enter its third winter, it seems appropriate to review the circumstances that have led us to our present position. Why are we on the verge of war? Was it necessary for us to become so deeply involved? Who is responsible for changing our national policy from one of neutrality and independence to one of entanglement in European affairs?

Personally, I believe there is no better argument against our intervention than a study of the causes and developments of the present war. I have often said that if the true facts and issues were placed before the American people, there would be no danger of our involvement.

Here, I would like to point out to you a fundamental difference between the groups who advocate foreign war, and those who believe in an independent destiny for America.

If you will look back over the record, you will find that those of us who oppose intervention have constantly tried to clarify facts and issues; while the interventionists have tried to hide facts and confuse issues.

We ask you to read what we said last month, last year, and even before the war began. Our record is open and clear, and we are proud of it.

We have not led you on by subterfuge and propaganda. We have not resorted to steps short of anything, in order to take the American people where they did not want to go.

What we said before the elections, we say again, and again today. And we will not tell you tomorrow that it was just campaign oratory. Have you ever heard an interventionist, or a British agent, or a member of the administration in Washington ask you to go back and study



a record of what they have said since the war started? Are their self-styled defenders of democracy willing to put the issue of war to a vote of our people? Do you find these crusaders for foreign freedom of speech, or the removal of censorship here in our own country?

The subterfuge and propaganda that exists in our country is obvious on every side. Tonight, I shall try to pierce through a portion of it, to the naked facts which lie beneath.

When this war started in Europe, it was clear that the American people were solidly opposed to entering it. Why shouldn't we be? We had the best defensive position in the world; we had a tradition of independence from Europe; and the one time we did take part in a European war left European problems unsolved, and debts to America unpaid.

National polls showed that when England and France declared war on Germany, in 1939, less than 10 percent of our population favored a similar course for America. But there were various groups of people, here and abroad, whose interests and beliefs necessitated the involvement of the United States in the war. I shall point out some of these groups tonight, and outline their methods of procedure. In doing this, I must speak with the utmost frankness, for in order to counteract their efforts, we must know exactly who they are.

The three most important groups who have been pressing this country toward war are the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration.

Behind these groups, but of lesser importance, are a number of capitalists, Anglophiles, and intellectuals who believe that the future of mankind depends upon the domination of the British empire. Add to these the Communistic groups who were opposed to intervention until a few weeks ago, and I believe I have named the major war agitators in this country.

I am speaking here only of war agitators, not of those sincere but misguided men and women who, confused by misinformation and frightened by propaganda, follow the lead of the war agitators.

As I have said, these war agitators comprise only a small minority of our people; but they control a tremendous influence. Against the determination of the American people to stay out of war, they have marshaled the power of their propaganda, their money, their patronage.

Let us consider these groups, one at a time.

First, the British: It is obvious and perfectly understandable that Great Britain wants the United States in the war on her side. England is now in a desperate position. Her population is not large enough and her armies are not strong enough to invade the continent of Europe and win the war she declared against Germany.

Her geographical position is such that she cannot win the war by the use of aviation alone, regardless of how many planes we send her. Even if America entered the war, it is improbable that the Allied armies could invade Europe and overwhelm the Axis powers. But one thing is certain. If England can draw this country into the war, she can shift to our shoulders a large portion of the responsibility for waging it and for paying its cost.

As you all know, we were left with the debts of the last European war; and unless we are more cautious in the future than we have been in the past, we will be left with the debts of the present case. If it were not for her hope that she can make us responsible for the war financially, as well as militarily, I believe England would have negotiated a peace in Europe many months ago, and be better off for doing so.

England has devoted, and will continue to devote every effort to get us into the war. We know that she spent huge sums of money in this country during the last war in order to involve us. Englishmen have written books about the cleverness of its use.

We know that England is spending great sums of money for propaganda in America during the present war. If we were Englishmen, we would do the same. But our interest is first in America; and as Americans, it is essential for us to realize the effort that British interests are making to draw us into their war.

The second major group I mentioned is the Jewish.

It is not difficult to understand why Jewish people desire the overthrow of Nazi Germany. The persecution they suffered in Germany would be sufficient to make bitter enemies of any race.

No person with a sense of the dignity of mankind can condone the persecution of the Jewish race in Germany. But no person of honesty and vision can look on their pro-war policy here today without seeing the dangers involved in such a policy both for us and for them. Instead of agitating for war, the Jewish groups in this country should be opposing it in every possible way for they will be among the first to feel its consequences.

Tolerance is a virtue that depends upon peace and strength. History shows that it cannot survive war and devastations.

A few far-sighted Jewish people realize this and stand opposed to intervention. But the majority still do not..

Their greatest danger to this country lies in their large ownership and influence in our

motion pictures, our press, our radio and our government.

I am not attacking either the Jewish or the British people. Both races, I admire. But I am saying that the leaders of both the British and the Jewish races, for reasons which are as understandable from their viewpoint as they are inadvisable from ours, for reasons which are not American, wish to involve us in the war.

We cannot blame them for looking out for what they believe to be their own interests, but we also must look out for ours. We cannot allow the natural passions and prejudices of other peoples to lead our country to destruction.

The Roosevelt administration is the third powerful group which has been carrying this country toward war. Its members have used the war emergency to obtain a third presidential term for the first time in American history. They have used the war to add unlimited billions to a debt which was already the highest we have ever known. And they have just used the war to justify the restriction of congressional power, and the assumption of dictatorial procedures on the part of the president and his appointees.

The power of the Roosevelt administration depends upon the maintenance of a wartime emergency. The prestige of the Roosevelt administration depends upon the success of Great Britain to whom the president attached his political future at a time when most people thought that England and France would easily win the war. The danger of the Roosevelt administration lies in its subterfuge. While its members have promised us peace, they have led us to war heedless of the platform upon which they were elected.

In selecting these three groups as the major agitators for war, I have included only those whose support is essential to the war party. If any one of these groups--the British, the Jewish, or the administration--stops agitating for war, I believe there will be little danger of our involvement.

I do not believe that any two of them are powerful enough to carry this country to war without the support of the third. And to these three, as I have said, all other war groups are of secondary importance.

When hostilities commenced in Europe, in 1939, it was realized by these groups that the American people had no intention of entering the war. They knew it would be worse than useless to ask us for a declaration of war at that time. But they believed that this country could be entered into the war in very much the same way we were entered into the last one.

They planned: first, to prepare the United States for foreign war under the guise of American defense; second, to involve us in the war, step by step, without our realization;

third, to create a series of incidents which would force us into the actual conflict. These plans were of course, to be covered and assisted by the full power of their propaganda.

Our theaters soon became filled with plays portraying the glory of war. Newsreels lost all semblance of objectivity. Newspapers and magazines began to lose advertising if they carried anti-war articles. A smear campaign was instituted against individuals who opposed intervention. The terms "fifth columnist," "traitor," "Nazi," "anti-Semitic" were thrown ceaselessly at any one who dared to suggest that it was not to the best interests of the United States to enter the war. Men lost their jobs if they were frankly anti-war. Many others dared no longer speak.

Before long, lecture halls that were open to the advocates of war were closed to speakers who opposed it. A fear campaign was inaugurated. We were told that aviation, which has held the British fleet off the continent of Europe, made America more vulnerable than ever before to invasion. Propaganda was in full swing.

There was no difficulty in obtaining billions of dollars for arms under the guise of defending America. Our people stood united on a program of defense. Congress passed appropriation after appropriation for guns and planes and battleships, with the approval of the overwhelming majority of our citizens. That a large portion of these appropriations was to be used to build arms for Europe, we did not learn until later. That was another step.

To use a specific example; in 1939, we were told that we should increase our air corps to a total of 5,000 planes. Congress passed the necessary legislation. A few months later, the administration told us that the United States should have at least 50,000 planes for our national safety. But almost as fast as fighting planes were turned out from our factories, they were sent abroad, although our own air corps was in the utmost need of new equipment; so that today, two years after the start of war, the American army has a few hundred thoroughly modern bombers and fighters--less in fact, than Germany is able to produce in a single month.

Ever since its inception, our arms program has been laid out for the purpose of carrying on the war in Europe, far more than for the purpose of building an adequate defense for America.

Now at the same time we were being prepared for a foreign war, it was necessary, as I have said, to involve us in the war. This was accomplished under that now famous phrase "steps short of war."

England and France would win if the United States would only repeal its arms embargo and sell munitions for cash, we were told. And then began, a refrain that marked every

step we took toward war for many months--"the best way to defend America and keep out of war." we were told, was "by aiding the Allies."

First, we agreed to sell arms to Europe; next, we agreed to loan arms to Europe; then we agreed to patrol the ocean for Europe; then we occupied a European island in the war zone. Now, we have reached the verge of war.

The war groups have succeeded in the first two of their three major steps into war. The greatest armament program in our history is under way.

We have become involved in the war from practically every standpoint except actual shooting. Only the creation of sufficient "incidents" yet remains; and you see the first of these already taking place, according to plan -- a plan that was never laid before the American people for their approval.

Men and women of Iowa; only one thing holds this country from war today. That is the rising opposition of the American people. Our system of democracy and representative government is on test today as it has never been before. We are on the verge of a war in which the only victor would be chaos and prostration.

We are on the verge of a war for which we are still unprepared, and for which no one has offered a feasible plan for victory--a war which cannot be won without sending our soldiers across the ocean to force a landing on a hostile coast against armies stronger than our own.

We are on the verge of war, but it is not yet too late to stay out. It is not too late to show that no amount of money, or propoganda, or patronage can force a free and independent people into war against its will. It is not yet too late to retrieve and to maintain the independent American destiny that our forefathers established in this new world.

The entire future rests upon our shoulders. It depends upon our action, our courage, and our intelligence. If you oppose our intervention in the war, now is the time to make your voice heard.

Help us to organize these meetings; and write to your representatives in Washington. I tell you that the last stronghold of democracy and representative government in this country is in our house of representatives and our senate.

There, we can still make our will known. And if we, the American people, do that, independence and freedom will continue to live among us, and there will be no foreign war.

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Colonel Muammar Kaddafi

SPEECH TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, September 24, 2010 12:13m EST



Today Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, the leader of Libya, delivered to the United Nations General Assembly what might be called a diatribe and can definitely be deemed a rambling and unexpected speech. Speaking for 100 minutes—a huge overshooting of his allotted 15 minutes—he managed to speak truth to power and mix in a healthy dose of gibberish at the same time. The UK Telegraph captures the strange dynamic he achieved with this description:

“Reading from a sheaf of handwritten notes, he touched not only on Israel and the Taliban but also on swine flu and the US invasion of Grenada.”

He did indeed. Introduced as “the king of kings of Africa,” Qaddafi joined previous heads of state in breaking UN tradition to exceed the designated speech time limit, and to use the podium to criticize instead of to employ orthodox diplomatic language. Below are some highlights from his speech and an analysis of which part is an important human rights point, and which part is outlandish to the point that it undermines his valid considerations. Unfortunately, the excellent points get lost in the eccentricity of Qaddafi’s presentation and the strangeness of his many other points. Still, many of them cannot be dismissed.

“Israstine” Calling attention to the continuing violence that defines the Israel-Palestine conflict: important and necessary, especially given recent reports on human rights abuses from both sides and continued disagreement on the Israeli expansion of settlements. Filling a need to give a name to the State he desires to see constitute a one-state solution: laughable. And yet, to play devil’s advocate, it is hard to see exactly what he meant when we can only read excerpts from his speech as reported in the news. In a coherent and persuasive Op-Ed on the topic of a one-state solution in the New York Times on January 21, 2009, Qaddafi made very salient points about why a two-state solution would present both a security threat to Israel and fail to resolve the Palestinian refugee crisis; in this op-ed he used “Israstine” as a semantic device only once and only after laying out his argument. Taken out of context the idea of naming this mythical/hypothetical state seems ridiculous, but if we read his op-ed from January 21 it takes on new meaning. Perhaps we are robbed of the true presentation by virtue of having only excerpts and commentary to rely on.

We should respond—why not? Qaddafi is not the first person to call for a change to the power structure of the Security Council so that it more accurately maps to the world’s current political arrangements. News outlets have made much of Qaddafi’s dress when he made his speech, including the fact that he was wearing a large pin of Africa. Similar comments are not made about American politicians wearing American flag pins, but then it is de rigueur to wear your nationality on your sleeve, but pan-regionalism is not so popular, nor so common, nor particularly supported. Comparing the Security Council to a feudal system was perhaps a bit much; calling it a “terror council” certainly was. Neither point needed to be made to express the—clearly true—point that the Security Council is inherently imbalanced in maintaining the position of the permanent five

powers from the Cold War founding of the UN. But upon peppering his speech with statements about moving the UN to Libya to prevent jetlag, he suddenly reminds people of why some might not wish to cede power to governments such as his by disturbing the current Security Council arrangements.

Criticizing the United Nations Charter: Certainly anyone and everyone is in a position to criticize it, constructively one hopes, as it is the current foundation for many modern human rights texts. Tearing up the document and stating that he does not recognize its authority: not particularly constructive nor fitting to the setting.

Calling for Investigations into the Major Wars Since the UN Was Founded: On its face there is nothing wrong with this proposal. It assumes, however, that there are secret things that we have yet to find out about the causes of or practices during these wars. Perhaps this is the case. Certainly we still don't know everything that has gone or is going on in current conflicts, such as Iraq and Afghanistan. But when presented the way it was, including alongside calls for investigations into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. and President Kennedy, it begins to sound like a conspiracy theory. Here again, perhaps the presentation is undermining the point. If the point is that the UN could improve its ability to reign in the belligerence of some of its leading members, than perhaps the point stands. In short, we can't simply dismiss Qaddafi's speech on the grounds that it was at points ridiculous or because we find him ridiculous in his personal style. It also seems that what is usually a boring and ill-attended affair has, because of the eccentricity with which the speech was presented, now become an excellent jumping off point for humorous recounts. Also too hard to dismiss are the devices, often highly radicalized, that the media and critics use to lampoon him and turn his messages into jokes. One can't help but notice the special focus that people pay to Qaddafi's "traditional" dress and "traditional" request to sleep in a bedouin tent. As mentioned before, not a single commentator misses pointing out his Africa pin; conversely, when President Obama does not wear an American flag pin on his lapel he is criticized. No one would dare question why a leader is wearing a "traditional" western business suit or why they are continuing the "tradition" of sleeping in a hotel while traveling abroad. Acts such as wearing traditional dress and requesting a bedouin tent could be written off as merely the disingenuous tactics of a dictator, gimmicks devoid of any real cultural content. And yet, like other things that Qaddafi says, they can't be so easily discounted. It is in their quick dismissal that another error is committed, that of seizing upon difference and a break from protocol as an excuse to ignore the content of the gesture or of the message. He may be eccentric, but that's not really the point; nor is it impossible for a person with an imperfect or negative record to make valid criticisms of other leaders.

NATO ATTACKS LIBYA
March 19, 2011

LESSON LEARNED

Be very careful of what you say at the United Nations General Assembly

PLANNING THE NATO ATTACK ON LIBYA
Friday March 18, 2011
ALLIES ATTACK LIBYA



Libya was bombed by the NATO military continuously for several weeks killing Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, the legendary Presidential leader of Libya, several members of his personal family and hundreds or thousands of pro-regime and ant-regime civilians.



WHAT IS NATO?



North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance consisting of 28 countries are: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

History of NATO

The NATO bombing of Operation Allied Force or, by the Anvi¹ was NATO's military Republic of Yugoslavia during lasted from March 24, 1999 to bombing marked the second history, following the 1995 Bosnia and Herzegovina. The of Yugoslav forces from Kosovo, mission in Kosovo and put an end 1990s. The bombing campaign number of civilian casualties that



Yugoslavia (code-name United States, Operation Noble operation against the Federal the Kosovo War. The strikes June 10, 1999. The NATO major combat operation in its NATO bombing campaign in bombings led to the withdrawal establishment of UNMIK, a UN to the Yugoslav Wars of the was criticized, especially for the resulted from the bombing.

NATO in Afghanistan

NATO is in Afghanistan at the express wish of the democratically elected government of Afghanistan and is widely supported by the Afghan population. The Bonn Agreement of 5 December 2001 requested the United Nations to authorize the development of a force to assist in maintaining security in Kabul and its surrounding areas. On 20 December 2001, the UN Security Council approved the first resolution authorizing the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

GATHERING FIREWOOD, NINE AFGHAN BOYS KILLED BY NATO HELICOPTERS

KABUL, Afghanistan — Nine boys collecting firewood to heat their homes in the eastern Afghanistan mountains were killed by NATO helicopter gunners who mistook them for insurgents, according to a statement on Wednesday by NATO, which apologized for the mistake.

The boys, who were 9 to 15 years old, were attacked on Tuesday in what amounted to one of the war's worst cases of mistaken killings by foreign-led forces. The victims included two sets of brothers. A 10th boy survived
The NATO statement, which included an unusual personal apology by the

commander of the NATO forces in Afghanistan, Gen. [David H. Petraeus](#), said the boys had been misidentified as the attackers of a NATO base earlier in the day.



News of the attack enraged Afghans and led to an anti-American demonstration on Wednesday in the village of Nan glam, where the boys where from. The only survivor, Head, 11, said his mother had told him to go out with other boys to collect firewood because “the weather is very cold

now.”

“We were almost done collecting the wood when suddenly we saw the helicopters come,” said Head, who, like many Afghans, has only one name. “There were two of them. The helicopters hovered over us, scanned us and we saw a green flash from the helicopters. Then they flew back high up, and in a second round they hovered over us and started shooting. They fired a rocket which landed on a tree. The tree branches fell over me and shrapnel hit my right hand and my side.”

The tree, Head said, saved his life by covering him so that he could not be seen by the helicopters, which, he said, “shot the boys one after another.”

General Petraeus pledged to investigate the attack and to take disciplinary action if appropriate. “We are deeply sorry for this tragedy and apologize to the members of the Afghan government, the people of Afghanistan and, most importantly, the surviving family members of those killed by our actions,” he said. “These deaths should have never happened.”

It was the third incident in two weeks in which the Afghan government has accused NATO of killing civilians. NATO strongly disputes one of those reports, but another the killing of an Afghan Army soldier and his family in Nangahar Province on Feb. 20 — was also described as an accident.



Nine young boys killed by NATO Helicopters

The attack on the boys occurred high in the mountains outside Nanglam in the Pech Valley of Kunar Province. American troops are preparing to close their bases in the valley in the next several weeks, in part because their presence has vexed the locals, who would prefer to be left alone. The area is poor, and the only major road was built to service Forward Operating Base Blessing, according to local residents. A rocket attack on the base on Tuesday led to a helicopter search for the insurgents responsible, the NATO statement said. The base is surrounded by mountains and is the frequent target of [Taliban](#) fighters, who shoot down on it from the rocky heights. The helicopters “returned fire at the assessed point of origin with indirect and aerial fire,” the NATO statement said. “Regrettably there appears to have been an error in the handoff between identifying the location of the insurgents and the attack helicopters that carried out subsequent operations.”

Villagers — who heard the gunfire in the mountains and worried when the children did not return home we went to look for them. The boys had been out since the morning, local people said. “As soon as we heard about the attack on the village’s children, all the village men rushed to the mountains to find out what really happened,” said

Ashabuddin, a shopkeeper from Manogai, a nearby village, whose nephew Khalid was among those killed.

“Finally we found the dead bodies. Some of the dead bodies were really badly chopped up by the rockets,” he said. “The head of a child was missing. Others were missing limbs.” “We tried to find the body pieces and put them together. As it was getting late, we brought down the bodies in a rope bed. We buried them in the village’s cemetery.”

SUMMATION

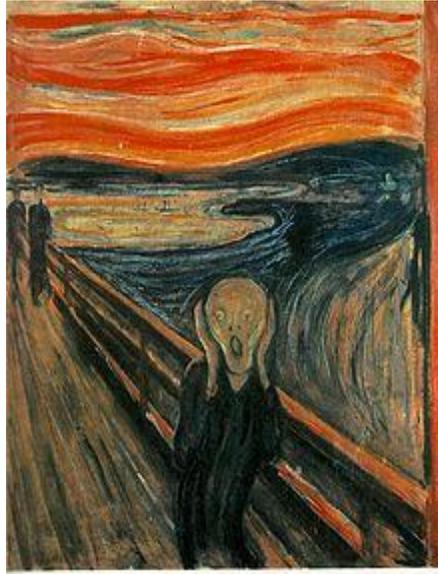
How does the murder of one man in Agatha Christies book Murder on The Orient Express reflect itself in the following NATO murders of Colonel Muammar Kaddafi and members of his family along with hundreds of Libyan civilians and the outright murder of the nine young boys in Afghanistan?

Each murder case does not offer a single murderer that can be apprehended and charged in a Court of Law with a crime of murder and subject to the death penalty for such a crime. All 28 countries of NATO are guilty of their murderous attacks

Hercule Poirot had the murder case of one man to solve and discovered at the end of his investigation that all twenty-seven passengers on the Orient Express were guilty of the same murder.

In recent years NATO Forces have murdered thousands of civilians in the world and remain unaffected with any one of these outrageous killings. A simple: “Sorry! We will investigate this tragic accident report.” ends the matter

BEWARE OF NATO



AN UNTOUCHABLE KILLING MACHINE USED WHENEVER AND WHEREVER THEY DECIDE TO ATTACK A PEOPLE IN ANY NATION OF THE WORLD THAT IS NOT ONE OF THEIR OWN



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