

Church History



Church History

- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- ***The Age of Revolution*** AD **19th century**
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21st century



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- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
 - *The American Revolution*
 - *The French Revolution*
 - *The Napoleonic Era*
 - *You're Doing It Wrong*
 - *Soldiering for Christ*
 - *Conflagrations (part 3)*



The Age of Revolution

- The world was aflame with change
1881 The *Mahdi* came on the scene to lead Islam...



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The *Mahdi* (مهدي) was a leader who had been prophesied about since the earliest days of Islam
 - In the *Hadith*
(the oral records of Muhammad's teachings and life, collected by various leaders after he died)



The Age of Revolution

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 - The *Mahdi* (مهدي) was a leader who had been prophesied about since the earliest days of Islam
 - In the *Hadith*, Muhammad taught that in the last days, a great leader would rise up to destroy all infidels and *Al-Masih ad-Dajjal* (المسيح الدجال—the Anti-Messiah)
 - Yes, Islam has an “anti-Christ” as well—and he will be destroyed by the Mahdi and by his assistant, the returned Islamic prophet, *Isa* (عيسى—Jesus)



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 - Unlike the Biblical Jesus, the Mahdi is physically described by Muhammad in great detail—
 - “Almighty Allah will raise from my progeny and Ahl al-Bayt a man, who would have a decent gap between his front teeth, and have a broad forehead so that he may fill the earth with justice, welfare and economic equality...”
 - In addition,
 - “He will have a fine, slender nose” and “there will be a mole on his cheek, reminiscent of a pearl, illuminating his face like a star...”



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The *Mahdi* (مهدي) was a leader who had been prophesied about since the earliest days of Islam
 - One of the most militant leaders to preach about the coming of the *Mahdi* had been Sunni preacher Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab, who'd met and influenced a young Muhammad ibn Saud back in 1744
 - ibn Abd al-Wahhab taught a conservative Islam that dominated its adherents, treated women as slaves, destroyed anything that could be perceived as venerating ancestors or taking away from Allah's worship, etc.
 - “Wahhabism” preached that all Muslims who took part in anything sinful were not *true* Muslims, and should be killed as infidels in *jihad*
 - Other Shia and Sunni groups decried them as extremists who were only out for power and personal gain, raiding villages for loot, women, and slaves
 - And yes, if this all sounds familiar, the modern ISIS movement is composed mainly of Wahhabist Sunnis...

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ



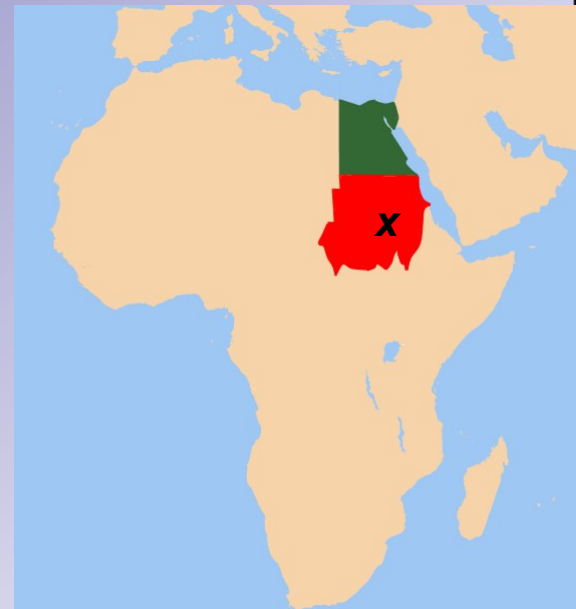
The Age of Revolution

- The world was aflame with change
 - 1881 The *Mahdi* came on the scene to lead Islam...
 - Coming out of the Wahhabist movement emerged Sudan-born Muhammad Ahmad bin Abd Allah
 - Muhammad Ahmad possessed a sharp mind, a religious passion, and a talent for public speaking as well as a slender nose, a gap between his front teeth, and a mole on his cheek
 - Soon, he amassed a following of thousands who believed that he was the true *Mahdi*, the “Guided One” who would conquer the world
 - They began a systematic conquest of Sudan ultimately leading them to the capital city of Khartoum.



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Khartoum was technically under the control of Egypt and since Britain was in the process of becoming political bedfellows with Egypt, they sent in a military presence to evacuate Egyptians from Khartoum
 - But since they were still stinging from their defeats in the Zulu and Boer Wars, they didn't feel like they could politically afford to lose any more battalions... so they sent a grand total of *one man* to do it... Major General Charles “Chinese” Gordon...



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Gordon got his nickname for his work in China during the Taiping Rebellion in the 1860s
(NOTE: The Christian *Taiping Tianguó Yùndòng*—the “Taiping Heavenly Kingdom Movement”—had attempted to overthrow the Qing dynasty and set up a Christian kingdom in China)



They actually took over large chunks of southeastern China and they attributed their military success to their Divine assistance from their leader, Hong Xiuquan, who was the younger brother of Jesus Christ, and thus, the rightful heir to Heaven

(he knew that because he'd received a vision from God to that effect)



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - Gordon got his nickname for his work in China during the Taiping Rebellion in the 1860s
 - The British sent in Gordon to support the Qing, since they were trying to make up for fighting *against* the Qing in the First Opium War a decade earlier
 - Gordon was a strong Christian, so he'd originally volunteered to go help the *rebels*—until he heard their theology and saw the wholesale slaughter that they brought to the countryside
 - So he adopted Chinese dress and customs, leading the Chinese “Ever-Victorious Army” that brought the rebels to their knees
 - Over the span of 14 years, the fighting between the Christian Taiping rebels and the Qing led to the deaths of nearly 30 million Chinese people (strangely, that didn't leave a good taste in China's mouth about Christians in general) (but “Chinese” Gordon came home a hero, famous for leading native troops to victory) (and then England fought against the Qing again in the *Second* Opium War a decade later...)



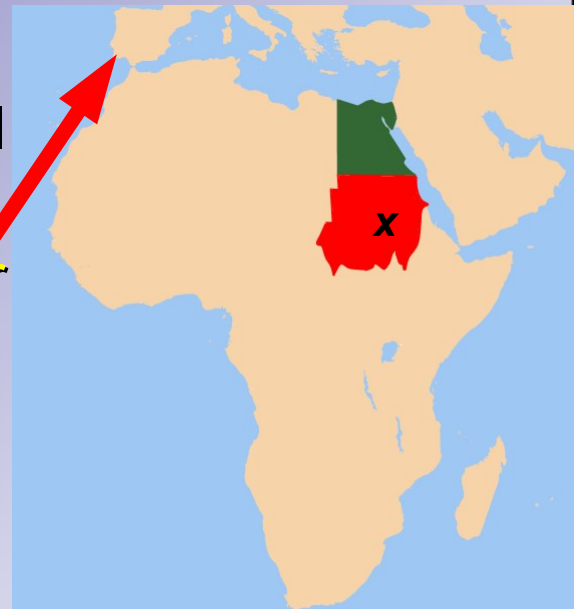
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- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - Khartoum was technically under the control of Egypt and since Britain was in the process of becoming political bedfellows with Egypt, they sent in a military presence to evacuate Egyptians from Khartoum
 - **So when Britain wanted to show Egypt that they were serious—but without risking any soldiers—they sent the wildly popular Gordon to supervise the evacuation**
 - But—*being* Gordon—he couldn't just *supervise* that
 - Instead, he took his role as British governor-general seriously, working to destroy the slave trade, sharing the Gospel with the Sudanese and teaching them that *all* of the tribes were made in God's image (and thus, *all* deserved to live in peace), abolishing the Egyptian practice of torture as punishment, etc.



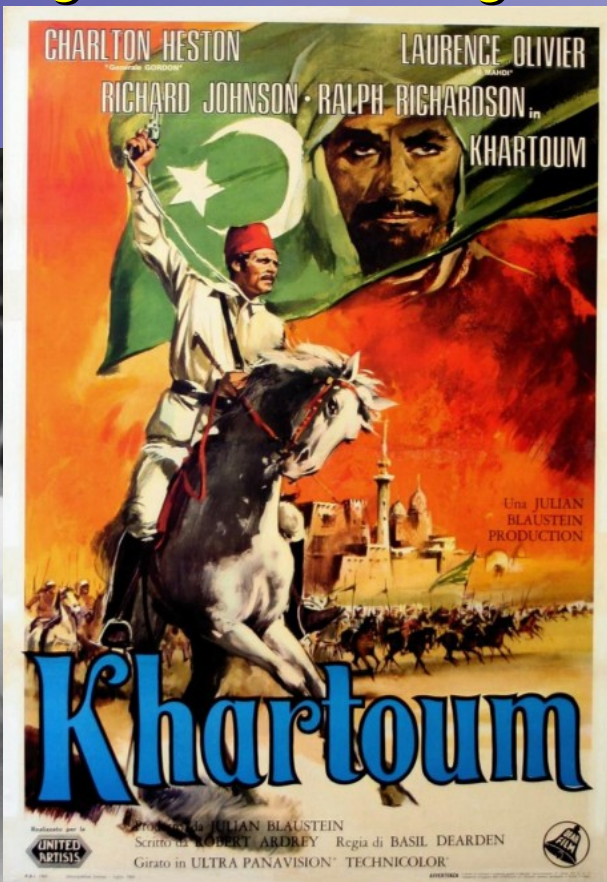
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 - But—*being* Gordon—he couldn't just *supervise* that
 - When he arrived at Khartoum, he announced that he *wasn't* going to evacuate the city after all
 - Instead, he saw it as his Christian duty to stand against the *Mahdi*—a great Christian warrior vs. a great Muslim warrior in a personal duel over Khartoum
(shades of Charles Martel vs. Abdul Rahman Al Ghafiqi over Spain back in the 8th century and if *that* doesn't merit a movie, I dunno what does...)



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - In 1966, Hollywood made the movie, “*Khartoum*” starring Laurence Olivier as Muhammad Ahmad and Charlton Heston as Charles Gordon
 - No, they didn't get all of the historical facts right but they got the “feel” of the interpersonal and inter-religious conflict right...



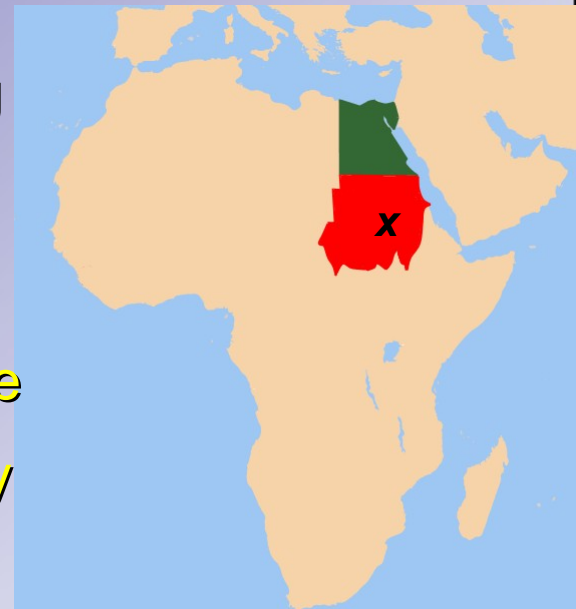
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- Outnumbered 9 to 1, Gordon fortified the city against attack, and dug in with his six months of supplies to hold out against the *Mahdi's* 50,000 warriors

- Even though the *Mahdi* (and, for that matter, the British government) repeatedly sent Gordon letters asking him to withdraw, he remained resolute and refused to budge

- (NOTE: Thanks to his successes, his moral work with the Sudanese, and his “Christian” stance against Islam, Gordon was being seen more and more of a hero in England... meaning that the public increasingly pressured Prime Minister William Gladstone to send in troops to support Gordon's holding action)



The Age of Revolution

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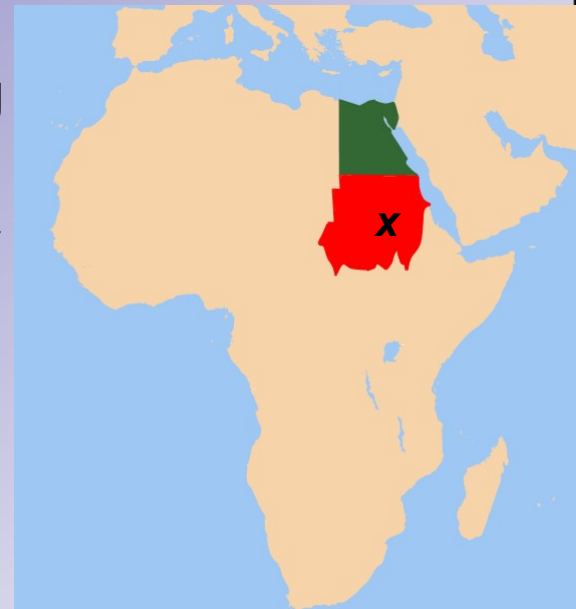


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- (NOTE²: But when Gladstone finally did send a relief column, it was commanded by Garnet Wolseley, who favored efficiency over speed—especially when the government would kinda *prefer* that the column arrive too late to actually, y'know, possibly *lose* the fight...)



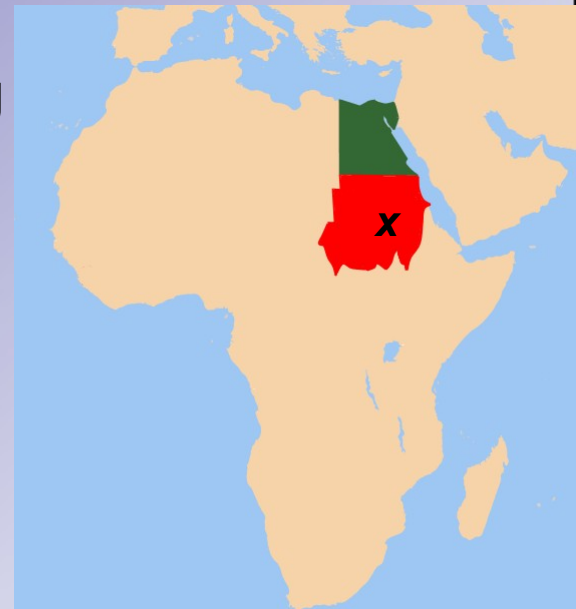
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So against overwhelming odds, and without support from his own nation, Gordon and his Christian forces held out for almost a full year

- **When the *Mahdi's* forces finally overran Khartoum, Gordon fought on the steps of his own palace, and was hacked to pieces by dervishes**



The Age of Revolution

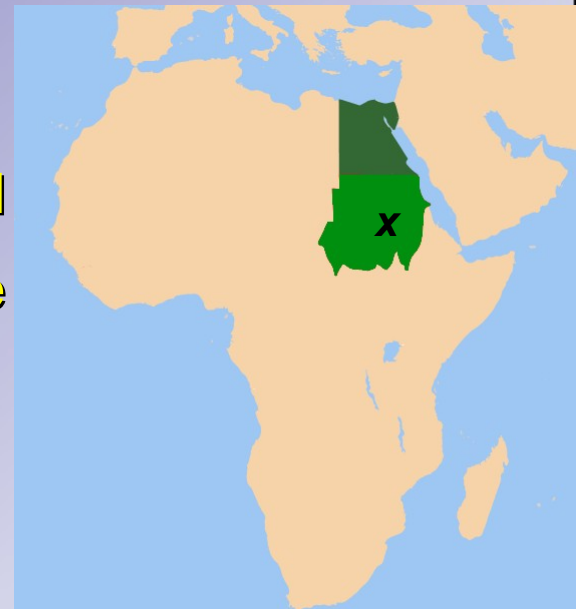
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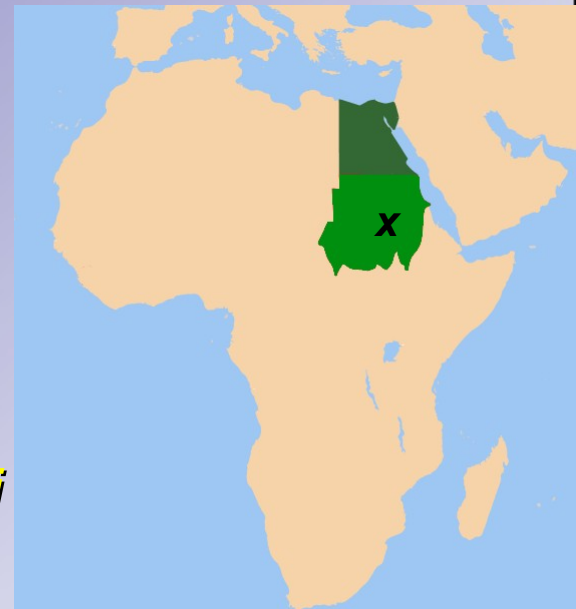
▪ The *Mahdi* declared this a clear victory for Islam against Christianity

- Gordon's head was placed on the end of a pike and put on public display as a warning to others
 - (NOTE: Even though the *Mahdi* had originally specifically forbidden that, once he saw that his men had done it, he retroactively supported it)
 - (NOTE²: Two days after the fall of Khartoum, Wolsley's relief column arrived... surveyed the situation, and then turned around and left...)



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 - **The *Mahdi* declared this a clear victory for Islam against Christianity**
 - Gordon's head was placed on the end of a pike and put on public display as a warning to others
 - **The entire Western world was shaken—the Christians had *lost* the duel that they'd elected to fight—and radical Islamic elements began to rise up all over the Middle East**
 - But then within six months after his huge victory at Khartoum, the *Mahdi* fell ill with typhus and then died... and Britain re-conquered Sudan)



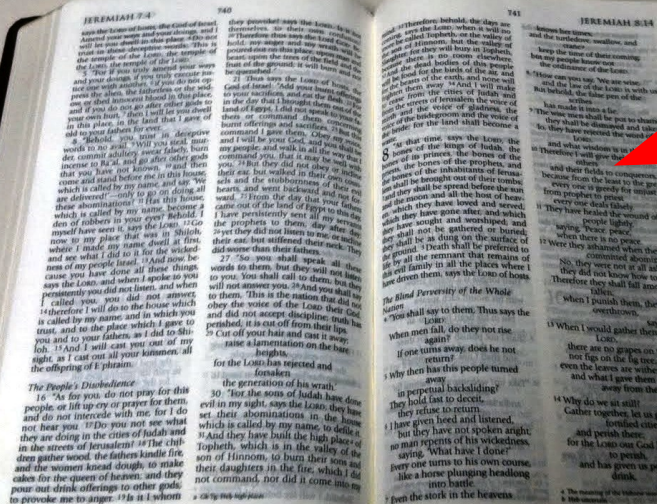
The Age of Revolution

- The world was aflame with change
- 1881 The *Mahdi* came on the scene to lead Islam...
- The *Revised Version* of the Bible was printed
- By this point in Church History, the King James Version had been the standard for over 250 years
- That meant that everyone knew it, everyone liked it but also that it was over 250 years out of date
- So the Anglican Church commissioned a revision of the King James—but only sort of
- They commissioned scholars to go back to the best Greek and Hebrew texts to make changes but also to tweak the wording so that the text was more accessible to its modern readers (as well as the novel change of printing the poetical sections of the Bible in indented columns like... well... poetry...)

REVISED NEW TESTAMENT

AND

HISTORY OF REVISION



The Age of Revolution

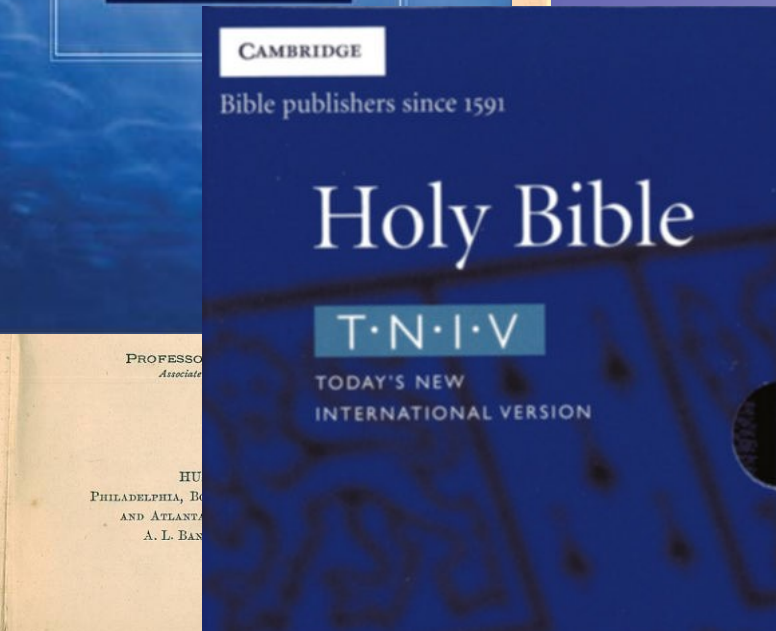
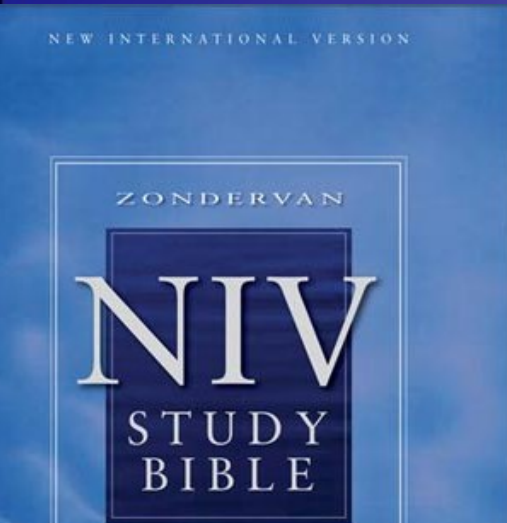
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- But they were also under orders to only “tweak” the wording—this wasn’t supposed to be a *new* translation, but simply a *revised* version of the *existing* translation
 - They knew that if they actually changed the King James translation, people would perceive that as *changing* the *Bible itself*, and everyone would balk at it
 - I mean, could you imagine the blowback if someone actually tried to change the KJV...? or the NIV...?



The Age of Revolution

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The Revised Version of the Bible was printed

- By this point in Church History, the King James Version had been the standard for over 250 years
- The Revised Version quickly became popular among pretty much everybody—though there were still some that saw it as a bastardization
 - But its biggest historical value is in that it opened the door for ever-more numerous modern revisions (and even re-translations) of the Bible
 - In 1901, the Revised Version, Standard American Edition (i.e.; the “American Standard Version”) was published, updating the spellings and language to American standards
 - Directly based on the ASV were the later Revised Standard Version (1946), the New American Standard Bible (1963), the Amplified Bible (1965), the New Revised Standard Version (1989), and even the classic paraphrase, The Living Bible (back in 1971)
 - The precedent for *all* of that was set way back in 1881...



The Age of Revolution

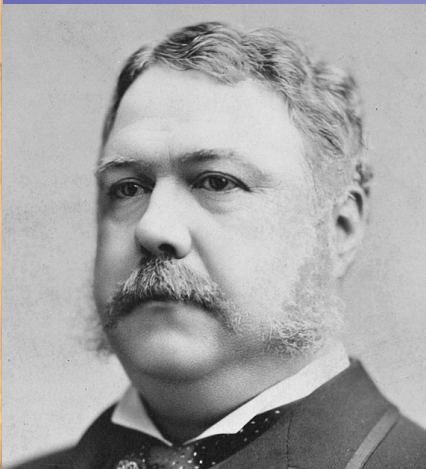
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1882 The *Chinese Exclusion Act* was passed

- Between the Gold Rushes and the high mortality rates of violence like the Taiping Rebellion, there had been a great deal of Chinese immigration to the United States recently—especially in the West
 - So California pushed forth legislation to exclude all healthy, adult Chinese males from entering the country (since by definition, they would be taking jobs away from “good”—i.e.; *white*—Americans)
 - President Chester Arthur vetoed the act at first until Congress amended it to only stay in effect for the next ten years

(BTW—this was also the same year that Arthur signed in legislation that levied a 50-cent tax on immigrants to the United States, and excluded entry for the mentally ill, the disabled, criminals, etc.)



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- For the first time, America closed its doors to a people group based solely on its ethnicity
 - Even those Chinese currently residing in the United States were retroactively declared “permanent aliens” and denied citizenship
 - So now, the current—but growing—list of “people whom Americans treated badly within their borders in the 19th century” includes:

Blacks
Latinos
Indians
Irish
Chinese

But not, so far, the Swedes...



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Charles W. Johnson started a “society”

- Johnson had moved to the United States from Sweden at the age of 18, back in 1869
 - He attended the Calvary Walnut Street Mission Church, but by 1882, he saw a need for a Bible study specifically for fellow Swedish immigrants
 - So he expanded the prayer meeting that already met in his home, and invited Swedes to join him in studying the Bible in their native language
 - By March of 1882, they'd solidified their group enough that they decided to form themselves into the “Swedish Evangelical Mission Society” and by January of 1884, the 33 members officially incorporated as the “Swedish Mission Covenant Church of Peoria”
(which we now call “First Covenant Church”—or “home,” for short)



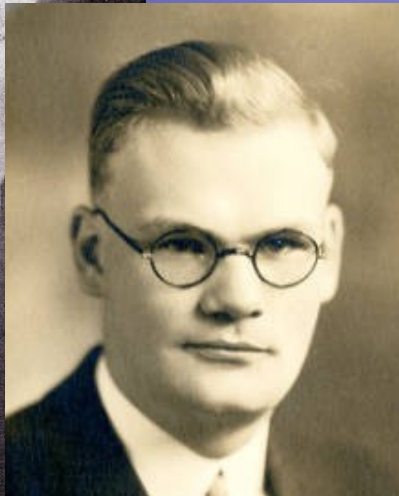
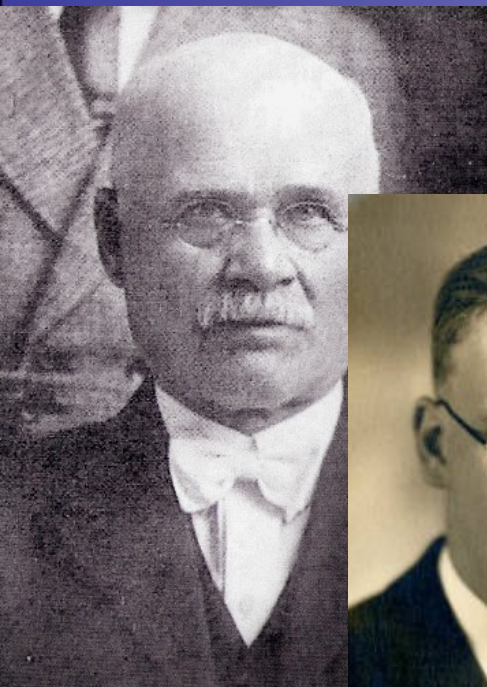
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 - In 1924, the Sunday evening service was led in English for the first time (a ruckus ensued) so it wasn't until 1935 that Vernon Benson started leading three out of four Sunday morning services each month in English...



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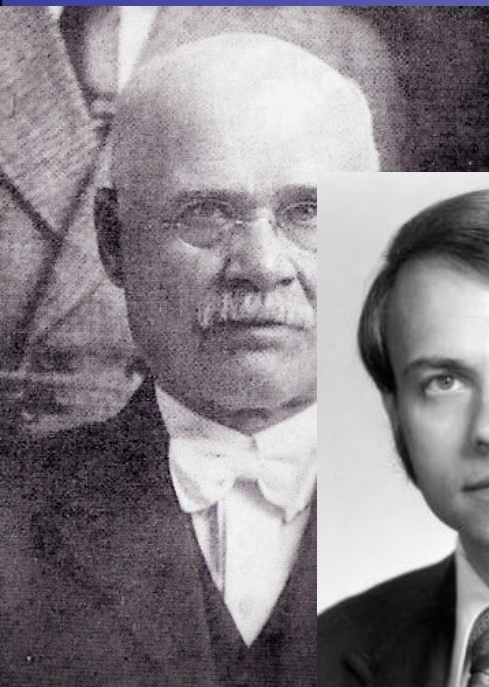
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- **Johnson himself pastored the church from 1882 to 1891, then again from 1894 to 1896, and then for a third time from 1921 to 1923, for a total 13 years... making him tied with Jim Bucher for being the *second-longest-serving* pastor in FCC history**



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- Remember the “Restoration Movement,” begun by Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone, back with their outdoor, Cane Ridge Revival in 1801?

- Well, the Civil War squelched most of the revival activity, but the movement itself was still going

- Pledging to “restore” the integrity of the original Biblical doctrines, multiple teachers dived into Scripture with the intent of finding out what everyone else was doing wrong
(and remember, to the hammer, everything looks like a nail...)



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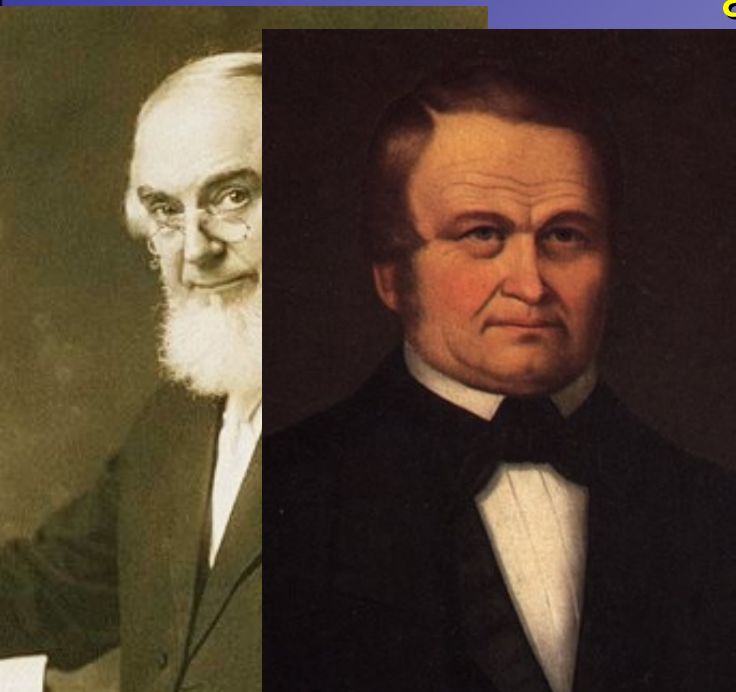
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- One of those teachers was Charles Taze Russell, a Congregationalist who'd come to find the concept of Hell personally objectionable so he began to follow the teachings of William Miller, the founder of the Adventist movement (i.e.; the first American to do the whole “I've figured out when Christ is going to return—here's my chart!” thing)



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- **Russell fully embraced the Millerite love of figuring out what things *really* meant in Scripture**

- So he argued that the modern church had utterly forgotten what the Bible was *really* about, and the truth of Scripture needed to be restored

- For example, Jesus Christ was clearly God but He didn't *become* God's Son until after He died on the cross and was resurrected

- Thus, clearly, we become God's children at our resurrections when Christ returns

- But not everyone will be resurrected—the Book of Revelation clearly shows that only 144,000 will be

(in Revelation 7:3-8 and 14:1-5,
ruling in Heaven in Revelation 20:6)



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Of course, if you look up those verses—and the verses *around* those verses—you'll see that Russell's interpretation isn't quite accurate
 - The 144,000 from Revelation 7 aren't devout Christians, but 12,000 Jews from each tribe of Israel, who will be protected through a time of tribulation, though they'll eventually stand before the throne in Revelation 14
 - And it's telling that later on in Revelation 7, we're told of a “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language,” so the total number won't be even *remotely* limited to 144,000



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 - And the Christians spoken of in Revelation 20 as ruling with Christ in Heaven aren't 144,000 good Millerites, but rather specifically those martyrs who lost their lives for their faith during that time of tribulation...



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- **There is no Hell for us to worry about—just those resurrected and those *not* resurrected**

- That second group just ceases to exist

- Which means that there's no immortal “soul” apart from our physical bodies
(which means that “souls” are a pagan interpolation)



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- So he argued that the modern church had utterly forgotten what the Bible was *really* about, and the truth of Scripture needed to be restored

- For example, Jesus Christ was clearly God but He didn't *become* God's Son until after He died on the cross and was resurrected

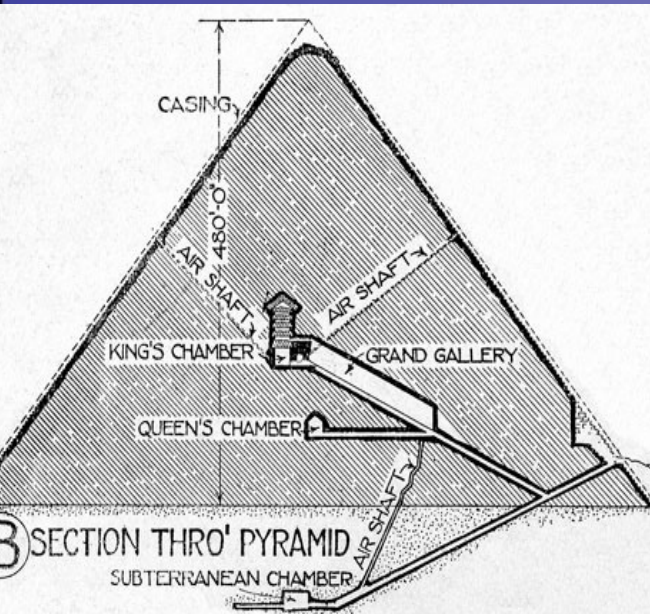
- There is no Hell for us to worry about—just those resurrected and those *not* resurrected

- **If everything hinges on our resurrection, and we'll be resurrected when Christ returns, then it's *crucial* that we figure out when that Second Coming will be**



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Luckily, Russell could figure that out definitively, because God left “the Bible in stone” for us to study so that we can know the day and the hour of His return—the Great Pyramid
 - See, it was clearly built by Melchizedek, the great priest of God, to point to important events in history
 - So if we break down its basic measurements into special “pyramid inches,” and measure specific passages against other passages, then we can clearly see that Jesus Christ was scheduled to return in 1874—which He *totally did*
 - (NOTE: When Russell noticed that Jesus *hadn't demonstrably* returned in 1874, he realized that Jesus must have come *invisibly* and begun His time of what Miller had called an “investigative judgment,” spending the next 40 years judging the world to see if it's ready to be... judged...)
 - (NOTE²: When World War I broke out in 1914, Russell felt that it totally proved his point, and called it the final Battle of Armageddon...)
 - (NOTE³: Later, when 1915 still happened, Russell decided that 1914 must have been the year that Jesus came back invisibly...)



The Age of Revolution

- **The world was aflame with change**

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The *Revised Version* of the Bible was printed

1882 The *Chinese Exclusion Act* was passed
Charles W. Johnson started a “society”

1884 Charles Taze Russell started a “society”

- Remember the “Restoration Movement,” begun by Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone, back with their outdoor, Cane Ridge Revival in 1801?
- Russell fully embraced the Millerite love of figuring out what things *really* meant in Scripture
- **To wait and watch and make sure that the true, restored church would be ready for Jesus, Russell founded the Zion's Watch Tower Tract Society, dedicated to getting the truth out there**
 - In addition to the regular periodical, Russell's Watch Tower Society published his six-volume *Studies in the Scriptures*

STUDIES
IN THE
SCRIPTURES

SERIES I to VI



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The best part of *Studies in the Scriptures* is that, according to Russell, you don't really need that pesky, confusing *Bible* any more

“If the six volumes of *Scripture Studies* are practically the Bible, topically arranged with Bible proof texts given, we might not improperly name the volumes 'the Bible in an arranged form,' that is to say, they are not mere comments on the Bible, but they are practically the Bible itself. Furthermore, not only do we find that people cannot see the divine plan in studying the Bible by itself, but we see, also, that if anyone lays the *Scripture Studies* aside, even after he has used them, after he has become familiar with them, after he has read them for ten years—if he then lays them aside and ignores them and goes to the Bible alone, though he has understood his Bible for ten years, our experience shows that within two years he goes into darkness. On the other hand, if he had merely read the *Scripture Studies* with their references and had not read a page of the Bible as such, he would be in the light at the end of two years,” because he would have the light of the Scriptures...”

STUDIES
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The Age of Revolution

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 - The best part of *Studies in the Scriptures* is that, according to Russell, you don't really need that pesky, confusing *Bible* any more
 - Then again, maybe Russell wasn't the best scholar out there to explain your Bible to you
 - In *Russell v. Ross* (1913), an attorney questioned him—
 - Q: Do you know the Greek alphabet?
 - A: Oh, yes.
 - Q: Can you tell me the correct letters if you see them?
 - A: Some of them. I might make a mistake on some of them.
 - Q: Would you tell me the names of those on top of the page, page 447 I have got here?
 - A: Well, I don't know that I would be able to.
 - Q: You can't tell what those letters are? Look at them and see if you know?
 - A: My way— [he is interrupted at this point]
 - Q: Are you familiar with the Greek language?
 - A: No.
- But *this* is the guy whose *Studies in the Scriptures* is gonna teach you the Bible better than the *Bible* does...



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- **When Russell died in 1916, his leadership role in his Society fell to Missouri judge Joseph Franklin Rutherford—who kept all of Russell's theology, most of his prophetic “end times” chartings, while conveniently downplaying the whole “Great Pyramid of Giza” source for it all, and changed the name of the Society to the Jehovah's Witnesses in 1931...**



The Age of Revolution

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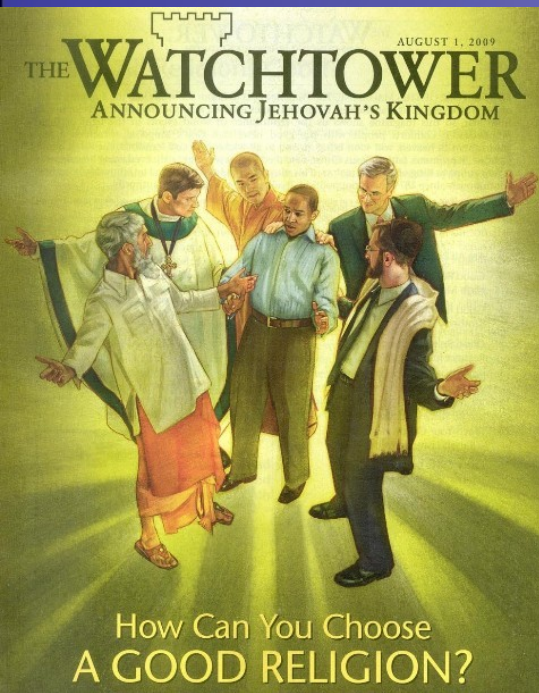
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(NOTE: *The Watchtower* still exists, as a monthly periodical of the JW's that you can still find at airports and doctor's offices around the world...)



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- **Berlin Conference divided Africa**

- Back in 1876, King Léopold II of Belgium created the philanthropic International African Society to explore and assist Africa with its societal struggles and to cover the really *nasty* work of Belgium's International Congo Society

- In fact, under the auspices of the International African Society, Léopold sent reporter Henry Stanley back to Africa

- Stanley had not only the necessary knowledge of Africa and renowned international credibility but also the moral flexibility that allowed him to be Léopold's spy and agent provocateur in establishing a Belgian-controlled (though euphemistically named) “Congo Free State”

- With England and Belgium carving up Africa for themselves, all of Europe began wanting *their* own pieces, too...



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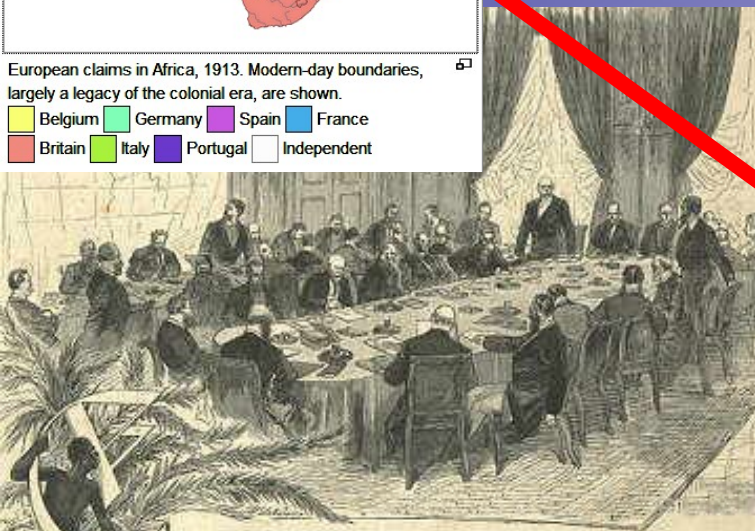
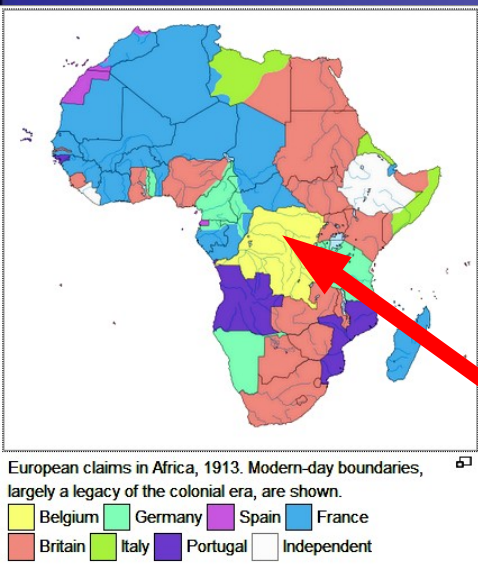
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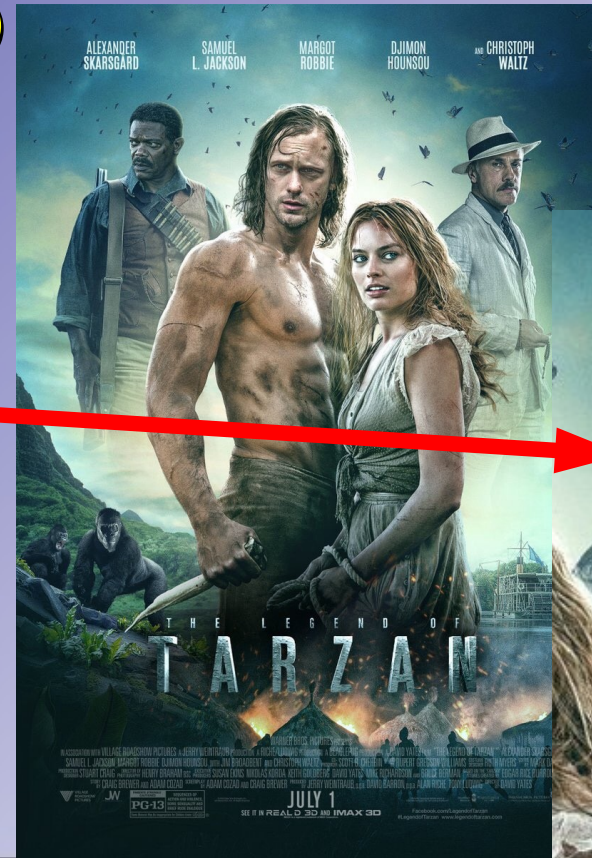
Berlin Conference divided Africa

- Back in 1876, King Léopold II of Belgium created the philanthropic International African Society
- So in 1884—under the guise of stopping the slave trade in Africa—the European powers gathered in Berlin to divide Africa into “spheres of influence”
 - Each nation got a chunk of Africa to “supervise”
 - In essence, the Berlin Conference of 1884 did secularly what the Pope did for Spain and Portugal with the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494 and the Treaty of Zaragoza in 1529
 - And the new “Congo Free State” was officially recognized as being under the private, legal ownership of King Léopold II personally



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - That ended up being kind of a horror, actually
 - Léopold's officials brutalized the populace, effectively enslaving a huge chunk of Africa to harvest rubber
 - For instance, colonial official Léon Rom (one of several characters in the most recent *Legend of Tarzan* movie who were actual, historical people)



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—

- That ended up being kind of a horror, actually
 - Léopold's officials brutalized the populace, effectively enslaving a huge chunk of Africa to harvest rubber
 - For instance, colonial official Léon Rom famously decorated his beloved flower garden at Stanley Falls with the decapitated heads of 21 dissident Congolese nationals
 - It was Rom who at the very least partially inspired writer Joseph Conrad to create the character of Kurtz—the colonial official gone mad with power after being in the bush too long—for his creepy novella, *Heart of Darkness* (which itself later inspired the classic anti-war movie, *Apocalypse Now*)



European cl
largely a leg
Belgium
Britain



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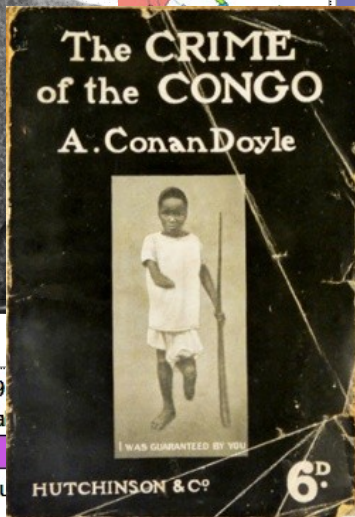
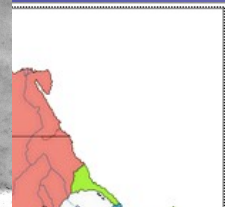
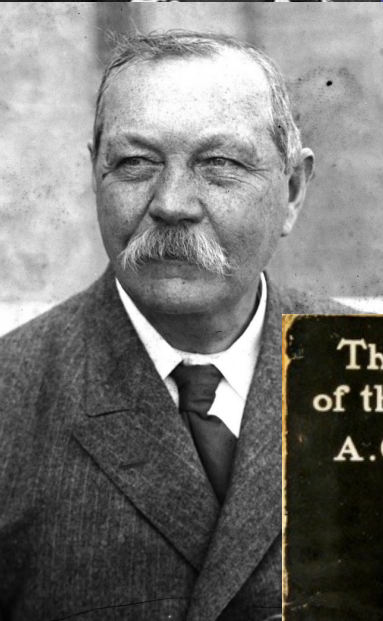
- Under Léopold and his agents, roughly 20% of the Congolese population (around 10 million people) were killed—and countless others were tortured, imprisoned, and otherwise mistreated

- One of the things that most swayed public opinion against Belgium's actions in Africa was a book, written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

- Doyle argued,

“I am convinced that the reason why public opinion has not been more sensitive upon the question of the Congo Free State is that the terrible story has not been brought thoroughly *home* to the people...”

- An independent investigation demanded by Britain found Léopold guilty of mistreating the Congolese, and forced him to sign the land over to be ruled as an *official* colony of Belgium, subject to international law—and oversight...



European claims in Africa, 1914
largely a legacy of the colonial

Legend:
Belgium (yellow) Germany (green)
Britain (red) Italy (purple) Portugal (blue)



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Berlin Conference divided Africa

1885 **The Uganda Martyrs were killed**

- **In 1884, Mwanga II came to power in Uganda**

- His father, Muteesa, had deftly manipulated the Muslims, Catholics, and Protestants against one another, constantly seeking his favor

- But Mwanga deeply resented the Christians in particular
(mainly, by his own admission, because once they converted to Christianity, his court pages no longer accepted his homosexual advances—and to resist the king in *anything* was considered an unpardonable sin in Uganda)



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- In 1884, Mwanga II came to power in Uganda
- So near the end of 1885, Mwanga began killing anyone in his court who converted to Christianity
 - He also had the incoming Anglican bishop James Hannington (and his porters) assassinated at the border
(traditionally, Hannington's final words were, “Go tell Mwanga that I have purchased the road into Uganda with my blood...”)



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 - **In all, Mwanga killed 22 Catholic and 23 Anglican converts within his own Ugandan court—burning them alive**



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Within two years, the Muslims were sick of Mwanga and his “moral weaknesses” so they ran him out and created a strict, Muslim government in Uganda which led the Christians of Uganda—with backing from England—to fight to *reinstate Mwanga as king...*
 - With help from his new, Christian allies, Mwanga retook his throne... and he was only marginally better than before
 - By 1892, the Catholics and the Protestants in Uganda were fighting against each other openly in the streets (think Dublin at its worst)
 - So in 1894, Mwanga accepted British aid to quell the violence, and Uganda became an official British protectorate...



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Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant began

- P.P. Waldenström's work in Sweden to help the church break away from its traditional, “Swedish Lutheran State Church” moorings over the past decade was finding fruit in America as well

- In 1885, the *Svenska Missionsförbundet* (or “Swedish Missions Association”) founded the “Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant of America,” with its headquarters in Chicago... which eventually became known as the “Evangelical Covenant Church”

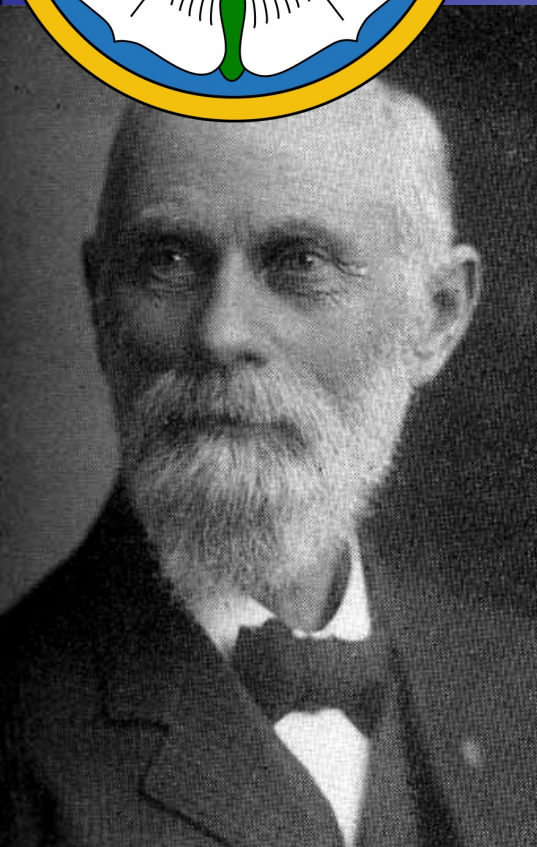
- (And yes, if you're doing the math with me, that means that *our* church predates the Covenant Church by *three years*...)



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—

- The modern ECC's core, fundamental value is on *unity*
- But at that first convention in 1885, when they were trying to figure all of that out, it all got a little hairy
 - Carl Anderson—a pastor from Galesburg—was a strong proponent of strict Lutheranism
 - And yet, he encouraged his fellow Swedes to embrace new-fangled American ideas like using English in services, or encouraging personal conversion experiences, etc.
 - To facilitate all of this, Anderson broke away from the Wisconsin Augustana Synod to create his own, “Ansgar” Synod of Lutheranism for the fledgling Covenant Church



The Age of Revolution

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 - Carl Anderson—a pastor from Galesburg—was a strong proponent of strict Lutheranism
 - Coming out of Princeton, John Prinnell couldn't disagree more
 - He argued that all denominationalism is, by definition, sinful—even blasphemous
 - To Prinnell, the church's head was Jesus Christ Himself, and each individual congregation was simply a part of the much larger, corporate Church
 - To create a denomination would be to try to organizationally come between Christ and His Church, and that is inherently wrong
 - Prinnell even tried to have the Ansgar Synod dissolved, claiming that we need to “plow anew and not sow among thistles...”



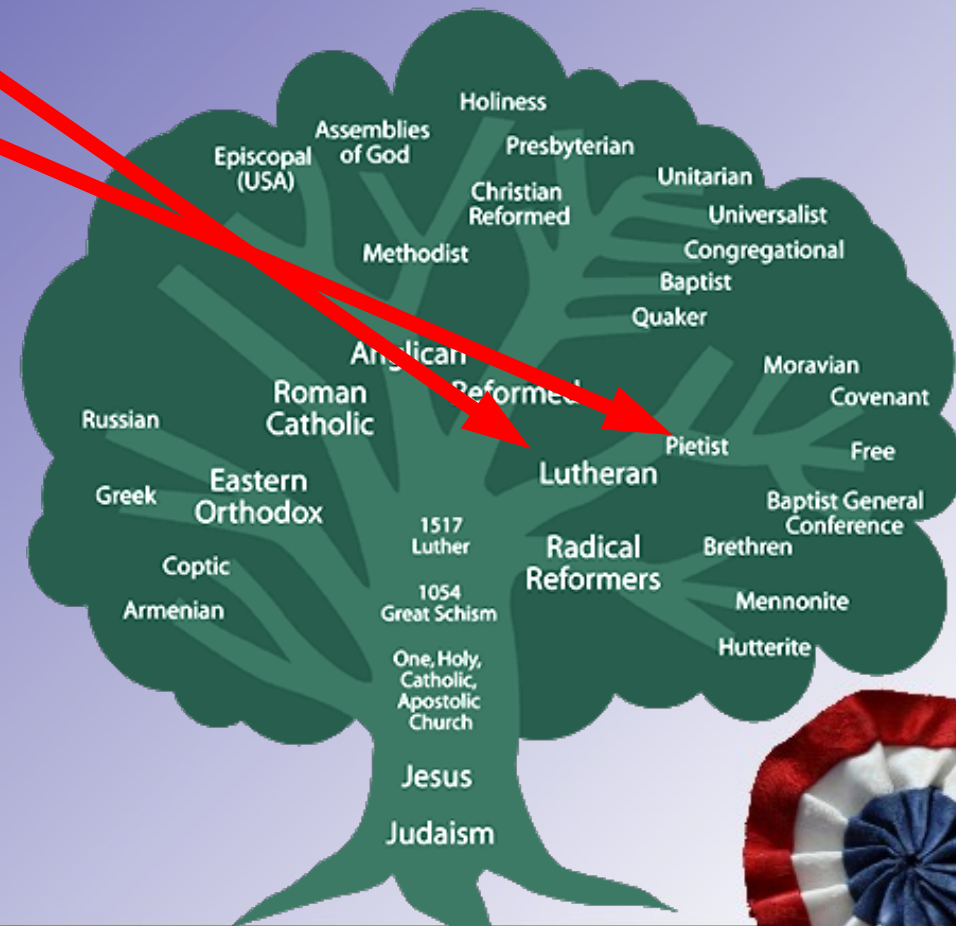
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 - Carl Anderson—a pastor from Galesburg—was a strong proponent of strict Lutheranism
 - Coming out of Princeton, John Princell couldn't disagree more
 - In-between these two was Carl Björk—a cobbler by trade, who argued (politely) against Princell by saying that it was irrational to argue that they shouldn't come together in a unified community of churches, since they were *already unified* by their common threads of beliefs and practice
 - Björk wanted to tether the new denomination to its Lutheran roots, but he was also reminded about its *Pietist* roots and its use of covenanticles to focus on having a personal—rather than just a formal—religious interaction with God
 - Thus, though he would've *personally* preferred to have made the ECC essentially a Lutheran church, Björk was persuaded to make it more of a *Pietistic* church



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The modern ECC's core, fundamental value is on *unity*
 - But at that first convention in 1885, when they were trying to figure all of that out, it all got a little hairy
 - All of this helps explain where the ECC places itself on its own “family tree”—
 - Solidly Lutheran...
 - ...solidly Pietist



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Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant began
- 1886 **Chicago Evangelization Society began**
 - D.L. Moody's church had been growing steadily since its founding back in 1857
 - So in 1886, Moody established the Chicago Evangelization Society, telling his church members “I believe we have got to have gap-men, men to stand between the laity and the ministers; men who are trained to do city mission work. Take men that have the gifts and train them for the work of reaching the people...”
 - After Moody died in 1899, the Society was renamed Moody Bible Institute in his honor



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 - D.L. Moody's church had been growing steadily since its founding back in 1857
 - **Today, MBI enrolls nearly 4,000 students a year and operates not only the famous Moody Radio but also Moody Publishers**
 - But my favorite part of Moody has got to be the amazing acoustics in the courtyard...



MOODY
Publishers™



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - That was the same year that Billy Sunday—the center fielder for the Chicago White Stockings—
(NOTE: That's a professional baseball team that was founded in 1870, but is better known today as the Chicago Cubs—not the Chicago White Sox)
 - The Chicago White Stockings named themselves as a nod to the existing Cincinnati Red Stockings but veteran first baseman “Cap” Anson was so popular that sports writers were calling the mostly rookie team “Anson's Colts” by the mid-1890s and then the “Cubs” by the turn of the century



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 - Charles Comiskey had brought the Sioux City Cornhuskers to St. Paul to become the St. Paul Saints so when he brought them to Chicago in 1900, he just used the familiar-but-now-unused “White Stockings” name to sell the brand to Chicagoans
 - As time has gone on, the *new* “White Stockings” name was shortened simply to “White Sox”



The Age of Revolution

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - That was the same year that Billy Sunday—the center fielder for the Chicago White Stockings—accepted Christ after hearing a Gospel message at the Pacific Garden Mission (a homeless shelter in the South Loop)
 - Sunday ultimately became the most influential evangelistic leader in the early 20th century...

