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In "Our Finest Day, " the bestselling author of "Black Hawk Down" reveals the human faces behind D-Day, using reproductions of personal letters, poignant journal entries from soldiers, secret dispatches and pages from code books, and strategic battle plans and maps. Interactive pull-out historical documents. Chronicles the events of the Normandy invasion in graphic novel format. Presents the story of the battle on the coast of Normandy in June, 1944, which was the turning point of World War II. Introducing the WW2 - 75th Anniversary of D-Day Journal Series - Utah Beach Journal - This journal honors those who fought in the Second World War and were involved in the Normandy Beach Invasion 75 years ago. The series includes a Dedication Page, an Introduction Page with historic facts and 100 blank lined pages to memorialize the events and keep the memories alive for future generations. Each journal in the series focuses on a different location and event from the Normandy Invasion. The photography is by Sharon M. Fitzgerald, MA. This journal series features: 8 in x 10 in size journal A Dedication Page for memorials and gifts of family history An Introduction to each WWII historic site pictured on the cover 100 white journal pages with custom WWII artwork on each page Full-color wrap-around cover with photography by the author a matte-finish cover for an elegant, professional look and feel Smooth white paper, perfect for ink, gel pens, pencils or colored pencils This journal can be used for remembering friends or family who fought in the War, a written history that can be given to grand-kids, a gift dedicated to someone in the Armed Services now, jotting down thoughts of gratitude, recording your accomplishments, and more. Use it as a diary or gratitude journal or travel journal. The simple lined pages allow you to use it however you wish. "Of the tens of thousands of American soldiers, sailors, and airmen who took part in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, only 235 were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Medal of Honor for acts of extraordinary heroism. For the first time, the stories of the incredible acts of courage are told through the eyes of those who witnessed them. In addition, a number of first hand accounts of that day by the recipients themselves are also included. Using awards files, interviews, memoirs, and after-action reports, Nordyke has successfully woven these accounts of incredible heroism into the D-Day timeline, creating a powerful and compelling narrative which puts the reader into the middle of the action."--Page 4 of cover. "The best sort of popular military history."--Times Literary Supplement. No one who was alive on June 6, 1944, will ever forget that historic day ... and those who came after will hear of it with awe: it was the moment when the tide of war turned to victory, when the long-elusive dream of peace finally seemed attainable. This minute-by-minute account of the Normandy landings by Allied forces unforgettably reconstructs, in pictures and first-person reminiscences, every important minute of the invasion. The preeminent chronicle of the most important day in the twentieth century. The first volume of a new series dedicated to exploring iconic moments in World War II history, Omaha Beach on D-Day is a fresh and captivating new take on one of the most important moments in World War II: the Allied forces storming the beach at Normandy. The photograph at the heart of this book is Robert Capa's world-famous shot of the Allied landing in 1944, and the authors of this remarkable work have gathered interviews, testimonials, contact sheets, and over forty pages of photographic archives from the Magnum Photos agency to fill in the history behind a single moment, captured forever on film. Presents a young reader's adaptation of "The Guns at Last Light," tracing the Battle of Normandy and the Allied liberation of Western Europe through the end of World War II. Balkoski is in top form in this groundbreaking analysis of the other half of America's D-

Day.--Dennis Showalter, author of Patton and Rommel Omaha was the make-or-break Allied beach on D-Day—in (perhaps) the make-or-break campaign of World War II. If American soldiers couldn't gain a foothold there, then D-Day was unlikely to succeed. On June 6, 1944, U.S. troops on Omaha suffered the worst casualties of any of the five Allied invasion beaches—so many casualties, and so much tactical difficulty, that Omaha almost didn't succeed. One big reason why Americans gained a foothold on Omaha was Gen. Norman “Dutch” Cota. A graduate of the West Point class of 1917 (alongside famous classmates Matthew Ridgway, Mark Clark, and Lightning Joe Collins), Norm Cota played football with Dwight Eisenhower, who graduated two years earlier. From March 1941 to February 1943, Cota served with the famous 1st Infantry Division, the Big Red One, as division intelligence officer, plans/training officer, and finally chief of staff. He performed so well in the North Africa campaign that he was sent to England to help plan D-Day. After laying the tactical groundwork for the amphibious landings, Cota was made assistant division commander of the 29th Infantry Division. On the eve of D-Day, he told his men, “You're going to find confusion. The landing craft aren't going in on schedule, and people are going to be landed in the wrong place. Some won't be landed at all. . . . We must improvise, carry on, not lose our heads.” On June 6, 1944, under heavy fire, Cota landed with the second wave of the 29th Infantry Division on Omaha Beach, about an hour after the start of the invasion. He personally rallied the survivors of the landings and led the opening of one of the first exits off Omaha. Cota seemed to be everywhere that day. Coming upon a group of Rangers, the general told them, “Rangers, lead the way” (hence the Rangers' motto). He is also known for saying, “Gentlemen, we are being killed on the beaches. Let us go inland and be killed.” And, to a captain uncertain how to proceed: “I'll tell you what, captain. You and your men start shooting at them. I'll take a squad of men, and you and your men watch carefully. I'll show you how to take a house with Germans in it.” Having demonstrated the task, Cota asked the officer, “Do you understand? Do you know how to do it now? . . . I won't be around to do it for you again. I can't do it for everybody.” Great quips—which American military history will always remember and which show the character, in every sense, of Dutch Cota. Cota was a fighter—a fighting general, a D-Day general—and his contribution to D-Day will remain his rallying of demoralized troops and his blazing the trail toward the breakout and victory on Omaha. Ted Roosevelt Jr., who landed at Utah Beach, has always received credit as the D-Day general (like Cota, Roosevelt also demanded that he land on D-Day—and then died of a heart attack a month later), but Cota is the hero-general of the day, having landed early on D-Day on bloody Omaha. Portrayed by Robert Mitchum in the grand D-Day film *The Longest Day*, Cota has not yet received his due—and there's a campaign now afoot to award him a belated Medal of Honor. His story cries out to be told. Now, with the cooperation of the Cota family, Noel F. Mehlo Jr. tells the compelling story Dutch Cota on Omaha Beach, revealing new information and never-before-seen photos. In the early morning hours of June 6, 1944, a small detachment of British airborne troops stormed the German defense forces and paved the way for the Allied invasion of Europe. Pegasus Bridge was the first engagement of D-Day, the turning point of World War II. This gripping account of it by acclaimed author Stephen Ambrose brings to life a daring mission so crucial that, had it been unsuccessful, the entire Normandy invasion might have failed. Ambrose traces each step of the preparations over many months to the minute-by-minute excitement of the hand-to-hand confrontations on the bridge. This is a story of heroism and cowardice, kindness and brutality -- the stuff of all great adventures. “Drawing universal truths from urgent battlefield crises, the author provides a terrific guide and training tool for leaders at all levels” (Ralph Peters, *New York Times*—bestselling author). The odds were against the Allies on June 6, 1944. The task ahead of the paratroopers who jumped over Normandy and the soldiers who waded ashore onto the beaches, all under fire, was colossal. In such circumstances, good leadership can be the deciding factor of victory or defeat. This book is about the extraordinary leadership of seven men who led American soldiers on D-Day and the days that followed. Some of them, like Eisenhower, Theodore Roosevelt Jr., and Lt. Dick Winters, are well known, while others are barely a footnote in the history books. This book is not a full history of D-Day, nor does it cover the heroic leadership shown by men in the armies of the Allies or members of the French Resistance, who also participated in the Normandy assault and battles for the lodgment areas. It is, however, a primer on how you can lead today, no matter what your occupation or role in life, by learning from the leadership of these seven figures. A critical task for every leader is to understand what leadership is. Socrates once said that you cannot understand something unless you can first define it in your own words. This book provides the reader with the

means to define leadership by telling seven dramatic, immersive, and memorable stories that the reader will never forget. "Nobody tells a story better than John Antal and nobody knows better how to root out the lessons of history." —James Jay Carafano, author of *Wiki at War*

*D-Day* contains a wealth of essential facts about the Normandy invasion, from the initial planning stages on both sides to the battle's aftermath. *D-Day* brings these facts together in an informative and concise manner presenting detailed comparisons of the opposing forces, the commanders and their leadership abilities, the planning and execution of the assaults, the fighting qualities of the soldiers of each army, and the weaponry used by both the Allies and the Germans. A detailed-minute-by-minute chronology of events for all beaches and airborne landings is also included. Stephen E. Ambrose's *D-Day* is the definitive history of World War II's most pivotal battle, a day that changed the course of history. *D-Day* is the epic story of men at the most demanding moment of their lives, when the horrors, complexities, and triumphs of life are laid bare. Distinguished historian Stephen E. Ambrose portrays the faces of courage and heroism, fear and determination—what Eisenhower called "the fury of an aroused democracy"—that shaped the victory of the citizen soldiers whom Hitler had disparaged. Drawing on more than 1,400 interviews with American, British, Canadian, French, and German veterans, Ambrose reveals how the original plans for the invasion had to be abandoned, and how enlisted men and junior officers acted on their own initiative when they realized that nothing was as they were told it would be. The action begins at midnight, June 5/6, when the first British and American airborne troops jumped into France. It ends at midnight June 6/7. Focusing on those pivotal twenty-four hours, it moves from the level of Supreme Commander to that of a French child, from General Omar Bradley to an American paratrooper, from Field Marshal Montgomery to a German sergeant. Ambrose's *D-Day* is the finest account of one of our history's most important days. For the 75th anniversary of *D-Day*, a deluxe collector's edition gathering two gripping masterpieces of military history. Library of America presents two of the best books ever written about World War II in a deluxe collector's edition featuring 88 pages of photographs, full-color endpaper maps, rare archival material revealing how the books were written, and a new introduction by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and historian Rick Atkinson (*The Liberation Trilogy*). *The Longest Day* tells the story of the Allies' greatest success, the Normandy invasions of June 6, 1944, Operation Overlord; *A Bridge Too Far* recounts perhaps their greatest failure, the catastrophic airborne invasion of Holland in September 1944, known as Operation Market Garden. Together, they reveal not only the twisting fortunes of war and the grand sweep and scale of the largest amphibious and airborne invasions ever mounted, but also the very real human experience of combat, the small but momentous individual acts that can change the course of history. No one has told these stories more powerfully than Cornelius Ryan. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries. *D-Day, June 6, 1944: it was the biggest amphibious operation in history.* German Field Marshal Rommel, declared, "the enemy must be annihilated before he reaches our main battlefield," the Allied Forces undertook a massive invasion of the German-occupied coast of Normandy, France. First, there was the aerial onslaught by British and American airborne divisions, then the landing of the American, British, and Canadian seaborne troops. Over 150,000 Allied troops took the fight to the enemy, their incursion paving the way to their ultimate victory over Nazi tyranny. This book tells the story of those who lived and fought through this historic conflict. In first-person accounts of the Normandy landings, soldiers recreate the harrowing, world-changing drama of taking the beaches of France, dropping from the sky, wading out of landing craft, fighting to survive and, in the process, keeping alight the hopes of humanity. Describes the Allied landing on the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944, with an overview of events leading to that invasion as well as a description of its momentous effects on the war. The story behind *D-Day* begins in 1939 when Nazi Germany, led by Adolf Hitler, attacked Poland and ignited World War Two. The following year, the Germans occupied France and Western Europe and launched a vicious air war against Britain. In 1941, they invaded the Soviet Union. Seemingly unstoppable, the Nazis now held virtually all of Europe. They imposed a ruthless system of control and unleashed the horror of the Holocaust. However, by 1943, the tide had begun to turn in favor of the Allies, the forces opposed to Germany. In the east, despite huge losses, the Soviets began to force the Germans back. Introducing

the WW2 - 75th Anniversary of D-Day Journal Series Pointe du Hoc Normandy Beach Journal This series honors those who fought in the Second World War and were involved in the Normandy Beach Invasion 75 years ago. The series includes a Dedication Page, an Introduction Page with historic facts and 100 blank lined pages to memorialize the events and keep the memories alive for future generations. Each journal in the series focuses on a different location and event from the Normandy Invasion. The photography is by Sharon M. Fitzgerald, MA. This journal series features: 8 in x 10 in size journal A Dedication Page for memorials and gifts of family history An Introduction to each WWII historic site pictured on the cover 100 white journal pages with custom WWII artwork on each page Full-color wrap-around cover with photography by the author a matte-finish cover for an elegant, professional look and feel Smooth white paper, perfect for ink, gel pens, pencils or colored pencils This journal can be used for remembering friends or family who fought in the War, a written history that can be given to grand-kids, a gift dedicated to someone in the Armed Services now, jotting down thoughts of gratitude, recording your accomplishments, and more. Use it as a diary or gratitude journal or travel journal. The simple lined pages allow you to use it however you wish. In ships and planes, they crossed the English Channel. On the other side Hitler ' s army waited. And the longest day was about to begin.... In the spring of 1944, 120,000 Allied soldiers crossed the English Channel in the most ambitious invasion force ever assembled. Rangers, paratroopers, infantry, and armored personnel, these soldiers--some who had just cut their teeth in Africa and Sicily and some who were brand-new to war--joined a force aimed at the heart of Europe and Hitler ' s defenses. On the morning of June 6, D-Day began. And in the hours that followed, thousands lost their lives, while those who survived would be changed forever No other chronicle of D-Day can match Gerald Astor's extraordinary work--a vivid first-person account told with stunning immediacy by the men who were there. From soldiers who waded through the bullet-riddled water to those who dropped behind enemy lines, from moments of terror and confusion to acts of incredible camaraderie and heroism, June 6, 1944 plunges us into history in the making--and the most pivotal battle ever waged. On June 6, 1944 the greatest armada in history stood off Normandy and the largest amphibious invasion ever began as 107,000 men aboard 6,000 ships pressed toward the coast. Among this number were 18,000 Canadians, who were to land on a five-mile long stretch of rocky ledges fronted by a wide expanse of sand. Code named Juno Beach. Here, sheltered inside concrete bunkers and deep trenches, hundreds of German soldiers waited to strike the first assault wave with some ninety 88-millimetre guns, fifty mortars, and four hundred machineguns. A four-foot-high sea wall ran across the breadth of the beach and extending from it into the surf itself were ranks of tangled barbed wire, tank and vessel obstacles, and a maze of mines. Of the five Allied forces landing that day, they were scheduled to be the last to reach the sand. Juno was also the most exposed beach, their day ' s objectives eleven miles inland were farther away than any others, and the opposition awaiting them was believed greater than that facing any other force. At battle's end one out of every six Canadians in the invasion force was either dead or wounded. Yet their grip on Juno Beach was firm. June 6, 1944, is one of the most famous dates in world history, and, as David Howarth shows, a defining date in countless personal histories. In this intimate chronicle, the 7,000 vessels, 12,000 aircraft, and 750,000 men committed on D-Day are taken for granted. Instead, we see D-Day through the eyes of the men on the ground as Howarth weaves together the larger story of the beginning of the battle of Normandy with the stories of the beachhead itself. The scope of Howarth's vision—focusing on England and France, on sky, beach, and hedgerow, on divisions and squads—makes Dawn of D-Day a franker portrayal than any other of the turning-point of the war on the Western Front and the greatest amphibious operation in history. Skyhorse Publishing, as well as our Arcade imprint, are proud to publish a broad range of books for readers interested in history--books about World War II, the Third Reich, Hitler and his henchmen, the JFK assassination, conspiracies, the American Civil War, the American Revolution, gladiators, Vikings, ancient Rome, medieval times, the old West, and much more. While not every title we publish becomes a New York Times bestseller or a national bestseller, we are committed to books on subjects that are sometimes overlooked and to authors whose work might not otherwise find a home. "This is probably the best book ever written about Omaha Beach." --Bill Stone, Stone & Stone Second World War Books "Balkoski's depiction of 'Bloody Omaha' is the literary accompaniment to the white-knuckle Omaha Beach scene that opens Steven Spielberg's Saving Private Ryan." -- John Hillen, New York Post In this unforgettable narrative of D-Day, Joseph Balkoski describes the minute-by-minute combat as it unfolded on Omaha Beach, allowing soldiers to speak for themselves as they recall their attempts to

maneuver bombers through heavy cloud cover, the claustrophobic terror aboard transports, and the relentless fire that greeted them on the beach. Equal parts oral history and meticulous reconstruction, Omaha Beach is the closest the modern reader can get to experiencing the Normandy landings firsthand. Updated with more than 120 photographs, a visual edition of Ambrose's definitive account of D-Day traces the epic stories of the soldiers and junior officers who fought and defeated Hitler's armies. Augments the many accounts of the beach and inland fighting on D Day with over 50 stories about the naval dimension of the operation, which involved the largest armada ever assembled, some 5,000 ships, landing craft, and other vessels. Sailors recall their experiences on the decks of battleships and tiny landing craft and inland with the little known Naval Beach Battalions. Photographs are included of many contributors and of scenes of the invasion, along with maps and contemporary drawings. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR 6 June, 1944. D-Day - the beginning of the Allied invasion of Hitler's formidable Fortress Europe was the largest amphibious invasion in history. There has never been a battle like it, before or since. The courage of the men who fought and died on the beaches of France? The sheer boldness of the invasion plan? Or the fact that this, Rommel's 'longest day', heralded the beginning of the end of World War II. One of the defining battles of the war, D-Day is scored into the imagination as the moment when the darkness of the Third Reich began to be swept away. This is the story of D-Day, told through the voices of over 1,000 survivors - from high-ranking Allied and German officers, to the paratroopers who landed in Normandy before dawn, the infantry who struggled ashore and the German troops who defended the coast. Cornelius Ryan captures the horror and the glory of D-Day, relating in emotive and compelling detail the years of inspired tactical planning that led up to the invasion, its epic implementation and every stroke of luck and individual act of heroism that would later define the battle. In the words of its author, The Longest Day is a story not of war, but of the courage of man. Impressively researched, engrossing, lightning quick, and filled with human sorrow and elation, John C. McManus's The Americans at D-Day honors those Americans who lost their lives on D-Day, as well as those who were fortunate enough to survive. June 6, 1944 was a pivotal moment in the history of World War II in Europe. On that day the climactic and decisive phase of the war began. Those who survived the intense fighting on the Normandy beaches found their lives irreversibly changed. The day ushered in a great change for the United States as well, because on D-Day, America began its march to the forefront of the Western world. By the end of the Battle of Normandy, almost one of every two soldiers involved was an American, and without American weapons, supplies, and leadership, the outcome of the invasion and ensuing battle could have been very different. In the first of two volumes on the American contribution to the Allied victory at Normandy, John C. McManus (Deadly Brotherhood, Deadly Sky) examines, with great intensity and thoroughness, the American experience in the weeks leading up to D-Day and on the great day itself. From the build up in England to the night drops of airborne forces behind German lines and the landings on the beaches at dawn, from the famed figures of Eisenhower, Bradley, and Lightin' Joe Collins to the courageous, but little-known privates who fought so bravely, and under terrifying conditions, this is the story of the American experience at D-Day. What were the battles really like for the Americans at Utah and Omaha? What drove them to fight despite all adversity? How and why did they triumph? Thanks to extensive archival research, and the use of hundreds of first hand accounts, McManus answers these questions and many more. In The Americans at D-Day, a gripping narrative history reminiscent of Cornelius Ryan's The Longest Day, McManus takes readers into the minds of American strategists, into the hearts of the infantry, into hell on earth. At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied. D-Day contains a wealth of essential facts about the Normandy invasion, from the initial planning stages on both sides to the battle's aftermath. D-Day brings these facts together in an informative and concise manner presenting detailed comparisons of the opposing forces, the commanders and their leadership abilities, the planning and execution of the assaults, the fighting qualities of the soldiers of each army, and the weaponry used by both the Allies and the Germans. A detailed minute-by-minute chronology of events for all beaches and airborne landings is also included. On June 6, 1944, the greatest armada in history stood off Normandy and the largest amphibious invasion ever began as 107,000 men aboard 6,000 ships pressed toward the coast. Among them were 14,500 Canadians, who were to land on a five-mile-long stretch of rocky ledges fronted by a dangerously exposed beach. Drawing on personal diaries as well as military records, Juno Beach: Canada's D-Day Victory - June 6, 1944 dramatically depicts Canada's pivotal contribution to the critical

Allied battle of World War II. Chronicles the events, politics, and personalities of this pivotal day in World War II, shedding light on the strategies of commanders on both sides and the ramifications of the battle. Of the tens of thousands of American soldiers, sailors, and airmen who took part in the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, only 235 were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Medal of Honor for acts of extraordinary heroism. For the first time, the stories of the incredible acts of courage are told through the eyes of those who witnessed them. In addition, a number of first hand accounts of that day by the recipients themselves are also included. This book puts these first hand witness and recipient accounts in the larger context of the invasion. The book includes over one hundred photos of the battlefield, weapons, and equipment, with over forty rare images of German fortifications and weapons found on Utah Beach, Pointe du Hoc, and Omaha Beach. Detailed maps of German defenses on Utah and Omaha Beach in the book are drawn from defense overprint maps used to plan the invasion. The award citations of all of the recipients are included in the book, along with 268 photos of the recipients-many of which were taken at the ceremonies as they were awarded the medals-putting faces with the names and actions of these incredibly courageous men. This is the first in a series of books about American heroes of World War II written by Phil Nordyke, the author of six highly acclaimed books about the World War II 82nd Airborne Division. Using awards files, interviews, memoirs, and after-action reports, Nordyke has successfully woven these accounts of incredible heroism into the D-Day timeline, creating a powerful and compelling narrative which puts the reader into the middle of the action. Now available in flexibound format, Normandy illuminates the tense buildup to the Allied invasion of France in World War II, covering both the German and Allied perspectives through previously unpublished period photographs. Written by one of Britain's best known and most respected military historians, "The D-Day Experience"graphically captures the planning and execution of the Allied invasion, which ultimately led to victory. More than 30 facsimile items of rare memorabilia thrust readers right into the heart of history: they'll have the unique opportunity to relive this momentous event by holding and examining facsimiles of rarely or never-seen maps, diaries, letters, secret memos and reports, posters and logbooks. Many of these have, up until now, remained filed or exhibited only behind glass in the Imperial War Museum and other collections worldwide."Memorabilia highlights include: "U.S. Airborne secret maps showing drop zone from parachutist's eye viewOmaha Beach Intelligence message book with minute-by-minute reportsGerman radio signal log at 4:15 am on D-Day which reads " Thousands of ships tracked. They're coming. "The Wednesday, June 7, 1944, edition of Stars and StripesGold Beach Infantryman's handwritten diary from June 4June 17, 1944, describing landings, the move inland, and battlefield promotion.Propaganda leaflets dropped on Allied troops by night-flying German pilotsJuno Beach Canadian infantryman's letter written to his wife on the Channel crossing on the eve of D-Day. He survived D-Day but was killed later in Holland.And more " Presents the story of the battle on the coast of Normandy in June, 1944, which was the turning point of World War II. Canadians at D-Day June 6, 1944. This book tells the story of Operation Overlord, the largest and most meticulously planned seaborne invasion in the history of warfare. As dawn broke on 6 June 1944, thousands of Allied soldiers - American, British, Canadian, Free French and Polish - hit the Normandy beaches and stormed the German defenses of the Atlantic Wall. By Midnight, over 150,000 troops had been safely landed, and the long push towards Berlin and the final defeat of the Third Reich had begun. Including useful maps with troop movements, as well as an index of the armies, battles, campaigns and commanders, Fighting Them on the Beaches is a brilliant guide to this historic battle which turned the tide against Adolf Hitler. On the basis of 1,400 oral histories from the men who were there, bestselling author and World War II historian Stephen E. Ambrose reveals for the first time anywhere that the intricate plan for the invasion of France in June 1944 had to be abandoned before the first shot was fired. The true story of D-Day, as Ambrose relates it, is about the citizen soldiers - junior officers and enlisted men - taking the initiative to act on their own to break through Hitler's Atlantic Wall when they realised that nothing was as they had been told it would be. D-DAY is the brilliant, no holds barred, telling of the battles of Omaha and Utah beaches. Ambrose relives the epic victory of democracy on the most important day of the twentieth century.

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