Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888)
Louisa May Alcott grew up in Boston and Concord, Massachusetts, one of four sisters. Her father Bronson Alcott was a philosopher/teacher and one of the leading Transcendentalists. She took lessons from Emerson, knew Thoreau, and was close to the Hawthorne family. Her father and uncle were abolitionists who participated in efforts to help fugitive slaves, and the Transcendentalist and feminist Margaret Fuller taught in her father's school (which collapsed in 1839 because the school included instruction in sex education and admitted a young black girl). During Louisa May's childhood, her family lived for several years in Fruitlands, a finally unsuccessful attempt at Utopian communal living, and for years after that in a state of virtual poverty as the family shared what little they had with others who were even less fortunate. She was raised in an intensely intellectual and literary environment but was required by circumstances to work during parts of her early adulthood, including a period as a domestic servant.
Her work experience would lead her to write short stories and a novel entitled *Work: A Story of Experience* (1873), depicting how difficult and poorly paid working life was for women. Alcott's great novel is *Little Women* (1868), a book that was an immediate success and which has never gone out of print; its second volume, published the next year, is called *Good Wives*. It was followed by numerous other successful works like *Little Men* and *Jo's Boys*. Finally the sole support for her large family, Alcott was forced to keep writing in order to provide for them, despite health problems that made the physical act of writing increasingly painful. The critic Nina Baym has gone so far as to say that Alcott literally "worked herself to death."

Notes

line 17 - "Undine and Sintram": published around 1811, a fairy-tale based novella by the German Romantic poet and novelist Friedrich de la Motte Fouqué. Resembling in some ways "The Little Mermaid" by Hans Christian Andersen, the story concerns a water spirit (Undine) who marries a knight in order to obtain a soul. It was extremely popular throughout Europe in the first half of the 19th century. It has been adopted as a subject for opera, ballet, film, other literary works, etc.

line 21 - "Faber's drawing pencils": Faber artist pencils are considered even today to be a product of quality
"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug.

"It's so dreadful to be poor!" sighed Meg, looking down at her old dress.

"I don't think it's fair for some girls to have plenty of pretty things, and other girls nothing at all," added little Amy, with an injured sniff.

"We've got Father and Mother, and each other," said Beth contentedly from her corner.

The four young faces on which the firelight shone brightened at the cheerful words, but darkened again as Jo said sadly, "We haven't got Father, and shall not have him for a long time." She didn't say "perhaps never," but each silently added it, thinking of Father far away, where the fighting was.

Nobody spoke for a minute; then Meg said in an altered tone, "You know the reason Mother proposed not having any presents this Christmas was because it is going to be a hard winter for everyone; and she thinks we ought not to spend money for pleasure, when our men are suffering so in the army. We can't do much, but we can make our little sacrifices, and ought to do it gladly. But I am afraid I don't!" And Meg shook her head, as she thought regretfully of all the pretty things she wanted.

"But I don't think the little we should spend would do any good. We've each got a dollar, and the army wouldn't be much helped by our giving that. I agree not to expect anything from Mother or you, but I do want to buy Undine and Sintram for myself. I've wanted it so long," said Jo, who was a bookworm.

"I planned to spend mine in new music," said Beth, with a little sigh, which no one heard but the hearth brush and kettle holder.

"I shall get a nice box of Faber's drawing pencils. I really need them," said Amy decidedly.

"Mother didn't say anything about our money, and she won't wish us to give up everything. Let's each buy what we want, and have a little fun. I'm sure we work hard enough to earn it," cried Jo, examining the heels of her shoes in a gentlemanly manner.

"I know I do -- teaching those tiresome children nearly all day, when I'm longing to enjoy myself at home," began Meg, in the complaining tone again.

"You don't have half such a hard time as I do," said Jo. "How would you like to be shut up for hours with a nervous, fussy old lady, who keeps you trotting, is never satisfied, and worries you till you're ready to fly out the window or cry?"

"It's naughty to fret, but I do think washing dishes and keeping things tidy is the worst work in the world. It makes me cross, and my hands get so stiff, I can't practice well at all." And Beth looked at her rough hands with a sigh that any one could hear that time.

"I don't believe any of you suffer as I do," cried Amy, "for you don't have to go to school with impertinent girls, who plague you if you don't know your lessons, and laugh at your dresses, and label your father if he isn't rich, and insult you when your nose is rude."

"If you mean libel, I'd say so, and not call about labels, as if Papa was a pickled bottle," advised Jo, laughing.
"I know what I mean, and you needn't be satirical about it. It's proper to use good words, and improve your vocabulary," returned Amy, with dignity.

40  "Don't peck at one another, children. Don't you wish we had the money Papa lost when we were little, Jo? Dear me! How happy and good we'd be, if we had no worries!" said Meg, who could remember better times.

"You said the other day you thought we were a deal happier than the King children, for they were fighting and fretting all the time, in spite of their money."

45  "So I did, Beth. Well, I think we are. For though we do have to work, we make fun of ourselves, and are a pretty jolly set, as Jo would say."

"Jo does use such slang words!" observed Amy, with a reproving look at the long figure stretched on the rug.

Jo immediately sat up, put her hands in her pockets, and began to whistle.

50  "Don't, Jo. It's so boyish!"

"That's why I do it."

"I detest rude, unladylike girls!"

"I hate affected, niminy-piminy chits!"

"Birds in their little nests agree," sang Beth, the peacemaker, with such a funny face that both sharp voices softened to a laugh, and the "pecking" ended for that time.

"Really, girls, you are both to be blamed," said Meg, beginning to lecture in her elder-sisterly fashion. "You are old enough to leave off boyish tricks, and to behave better, Josephine. It didn't matter so much when you were a little girl, but now you are so tall, and turn up your hair, you should remember that you are a young lady."

55  "I'm not! And if turning up my hair makes me one, I'll wear it in two tails till I'm twenty," cried Jo, pulling off her net, and shaking down a chestnut mane. "I hate to think I've got to grow up, and be Miss March, and wear long gowns, and look as prim as a China Aster! It's bad enough to be a girl, anyway, when I like boy's games and work and manners! I can't get over my disappointment in not being a boy. And it's worse than ever now, for I'm dying to go and fight with Papa. And I can only stay home and knit, like a poky old woman!"

And Jo shook the blue army sock till the needles rattled like castanets, and her ball bounded across the room.

"Poor Jo! It's too bad, but it can't be helped. So you must try to be contented with making your name boyish, and playing brother to us girls," said Beth, stroking the rough head with a hand that all the dish washing and dusting in the world could not make ungentle in its touch.

"As for you, Amy," continued Meg, "you are altogether too particular and prim. Your airs are funny now, but you'll grow up an affected little goose, if you don't take care. I like your nice manners and refined ways of speaking, when you don't try to be elegant. But your absurd words are as bad as Jo's slang."

75  "If Jo is a tomboy and Amy a goose, what am I, please?" asked Beth, ready to share the lecture.

"You're a dear, and nothing else," answered Meg warmly, and no one contradicted her, for the 'Mouse' was the pet of the family.
Comment on the following text, paying particular attention to Theodore Roosevelt’s depiction of American politics and the role he assigns to the American people.

Theodore Roosevelt’s speech before the Convention of the National Progressive Party (Chicago, August, 1912).

To you, men and women who have come here to this great city to launch a new party, a party of the people of the whole Union, the National Progressive Party, I extend my hearty greeting. You are taking a bold and a greatly needed step for the service of our beloved country. The old parties are husks, with no real soul with either, divided on artificial lines, boss-ridden and privilege-controlled, each a jumble of incongruous elements, and neither daring to speak out what should be said on the vital issues of the day. This new movement is a movement of truth, sincerity, and wisdom, a movement which proposes to put at the service of all our people the collective power of the people. We propose to put forth a platform which shall not be a platform of the ordinary and insincere kind, but shall be a contract with the people; and, if the people accept this contract by putting us in power, we shall hold ourselves under honorable obligation to fulfill every promise it contains. [...]
Our fight is a fundamental fight against both of the old corrupt party machines, for both are under the dominion of the league of the professional politicians who are controlled and sustained by the great beneficiaries of privilege and reaction. How close is the alliance between the two machines is shown by the attitude of that portion of those Northeastern newspapers, which are controlled by or representative of the interests which, in popular phrase, are conveniently grouped together as the Wall Street interests.

Neither the Republican nor the Democratic platform contains the slightest promise of approaching the great problems of today. If this country is really to go forward along the path of social and economic justice, there must be a new party of Nationwide and non-sectional principles, a party where the titular National chiefs and the real State leaders shall be in genuine accord, a party in whose counsels the people shall be supreme, a party that shall represent in the Nation and the several States alike the same cause, the cause of human rights and of governmental efficiency. At present, both the old parties are controlled by professional politicians in the interests of the privileged classes. Democrat and Republican alike, they represent government by professional politicians in the interests of the rich few.

The first essential in the Progressive programme is the right of the people to rule. But a few months ago, our opponents were assuring us with insincere clamor that it was absurd for us to talk about desiring that the people should rule, because, as a matter of fact, the people actually do rule. Since that time, the actions of the Chicago Convention have shown in a striking way how little the people do rule under our present conditions. We should provide by National law for Presidential primaries. We should provide for the election of United States Senators by popular vote. Nothing makes it harder for the people to control their public servants than to force them to vote for so many officials that they cannot really keep track of any one of them, so that each becomes indistinguishable in the crowd around him.

I do not mean that we shall abandon representative government; on the contrary, I mean that we shall devise methods by which our Government shall become really representative. We have permitted the growing up of a breed of politicians who, sometimes for improper political purposes, sometimes as a means of serving the special interests which
stand behind them, twist⁶ so-called representative institutions into a means of thwarting⁷ —
instead of expressing — the deliberate judgment of the people as a whole. This cannot be
permitted. [...] 

The present conditions of business cannot be accepted as satisfactory. There are too
many who do not prosper enough, and of the few who prosper greatly there are certainly
some whose prosperity does not mean well for the country. Our aim is to control business,
not to strangle it — and, above all, not to continue a policy of make-believe strangle toward
big concerns⁸ that do evil, and constant menace toward both big and little concerns that do
well. Our aim is to promote prosperity, and then see to its proper division. We Progressives
stand for the rights of the people. When these rights can best be secured by insistence upon
States’ rights, then we are for States’ rights; when they can best be secured by insistence upon
National rights, then we are for National rights. [...] The only effective way in which to
regulate the trusts is through the exercise of the collective power of our people as a whole
through the Governmental agencies established by the Constitution for this very purpose.

The Progressive proposal is definite. It is practicable. We promise nothing that we
cannot carry out. We promise nothing which will jeopardize honest business. We promise
adequate control of all big business and the stern repression of the evils connected with big
business, and this promise we can absolutely keep. Our proposal is to help honest business
activity, however extensive, and to see that it is rewarded with fair returns so that there may
be no oppression either of business men or the common people.

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⁶ to twist: tordre / déformer.
⁷ to thwart: contrecarrer / contrarier.
⁸ concerns (here): des entreprises.
DOCUMENT 1.

As President [from 1901 to 1909], Roosevelt also supported regulatory legislation. He persuaded Congress to pass the Hepburn Act (1906), which gave the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) greater authority to set railroad freight rates and extend that authority over ferries, express companies, storage facilities, and oil pipelines.

In 1910, when Roosevelt returned from a trip to Africa, he found his party [the Republican Party] torn and tormented. Disappointed by Taft [who had been President since 1909], Roosevelt spoke out for the welfare of the people and stronger regulation of business. In 1912, Roosevelt, proclaiming himself as a bull moose, sought the Republican presidential nomination.

Taft’s supporters controlled the Republican convention and nominated him for a second term. In protest, Roosevelt’s supporters formed a third party — the Progressive Party, or Bull Moose Party — and nominated the former President. Meanwhile, the Democrats nominated New Jersey’s Progressive governor, Woodrow Wilson. Socialists, by now a growing party, again nominated Eugene V. Debs.

Central to Theodore Roosevelt’s campaign was a scheme called the “New Nationalism”, which envisioned an era of national unity in which government would coordinate and regulate economic activity. Roosevelt asserted that he would establish regulatory commissions to protect citizens’ interests and ensure wise use of economic power. Wilson offered a more idealistic proposal, the “New Freedom”. He argued that concentrated economic power threatened individual liberty and that monopolies should be broken up to ensure a free marketplace.


DOCUMENT 2.

Roosevelt’s famous “Confession of Faith” address, delivered on the second day of the convention, offered a rousing defense of institutional changes that would make candidate-centered campaigns routine. He proposed a system of direct primaries that, in effect, would replace the convention as a method of nominating presidential candidates. This was the only method, he argued, to thwart the “invisible government” that silenced the voice of the people. Above all, Roosevelt’s candidate-centered campaign summoned a collective organization committed to emancipating individual men and women from the gravitational pull of the two-party system. [...]

The Progressive Party’s fight for the rule of the whole people deflected attention from the injustices of capitalism and the “war of the classes”, which, according to socialists, were
truly the cause of the people's discontent. The social reformers who joined the Progressive ranks were middle-class reformers whose objective for the political economy was security, the protection of individual men and women from the worst abuses of industrial society. More fundamentally, this program of social welfare rested in a commitment to supplant "savage individualism" with a creed of national community. As Croly put it, those who joined the Progressive Party presumed to adopt a "New Declaration of Independence", which "affirm[ed] the American people's right to organize their political, economic, and social life in the service of a comprehensive democratic purpose".


**DOCUMENT 3.**

[In the 1912 presidential election,] all major parties claimed the privilege of completing the national Progressive movement — even though it was known, more or less in advance, that the Democrats would win. The Progressives offered the most detailed plan of a new world under careful government supervision. The new party contained a high proportion of those men and women who had created the Progressive movement, and the New Nationalism, as its program was called, reflected that constituency. As strikingly different as the Democratic Party was from this wing of Republicanism, Wilson's New Freedom did not deviate greatly in approach from the New Nationalism.


**DOCUMENT 4.** An extract from Theodore Roosevelt's "New Nationalism" speech.

One of the fundamental necessities in a representative government such as ours is to make certain that the men to whom the people delegate their power shall serve the people by whom they are elected, and not the special interests. I believe that every national officer, elected or appointed, should be forbidden to perform any service or receive any compensation from interstate corporations; and a similar provision could not fail to be useful within the States.

The object of government is the welfare of the people. The material progress and prosperity of a nation are desirable chiefly so far as they lead to the moral and material

\[\text{9} \text{ a creed: } \text{un credo.}\]

\[\text{10} \text{ Herbert D. Croly (1869-1930) was an intellectual leader of the Progressive movement.}\]

\[\text{11} \text{ This speech, after which the name of Roosevelt's 1912 platform would be derived, was given at Osawatomie, Kansas, on August 31st, 1910.}\]
welfare of all citizens. [...] We must have a genuine and permanent moral awakening, without which no wisdom of legislation or administration really means anything; and, on the other hand, we must try to secure the social and economic legislation.


**DOCUMENT 5. The preamble to the Federal Constitution of the United States.**

As adopted by the Convention, September 17th, 1787.

We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Comment on the following text, paying particular attention to George Washington's outlook on the American political system and to the attitude he adopts.

George Washington’s Farewell Address.

This address was published in a Philadelphia newspaper, The American Daily Adviser, on September 19th, 1796.

Here, perhaps, I ought to stop. But a solicitude for your welfare which can not end but with my life, and the apprehension of danger natural to that solicitude, urge me on an occasion like the present to offer to your solemn contemplation and to recommend to your frequent review some sentiments which are the result of much reflection, of no inconsiderable observation, and which appear to me all important to the permanency of your felicity¹ as a people. These will be offered to you with the more freedom as you can only see in them the disinterested warnings of a parting friend, who can possibly have no personal motive to bias his counsel. Nor can I forget as an encouragement to it your indulgent reception of my sentiments on a former and not dissimilar occasion.

The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so, for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquillity at home, your peace abroad, of your safety, of your prosperity, of that very liberty which you so highly prize. It is of definite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union to your collective and individual happiness. […]

To the efficacy and permanency of your union a government for the whole is indispensable. No alliance, however strict, between the parts can be an adequate substitute. They must inevitably experience the infractions and interruptions which all alliances in all times have experienced. Sensible of this momentous truth, you have improved upon your first essay by the adoption of a Constitution of Government better calculated than your

¹ your felicity: your happiness.
former for an intimate union and for the efficacious management of your common concerns. This Government, the offspring of your own choice, [...] uniting security with energy, and containing within itself a provision for its own amendment, has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true liberty.

Let me now warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally. This spirit, unfortunately, is inseparable from our nature, having its root in the strongest passions of the human mind. It exists under different shapes in all governments, more or less stifled, controlled, or repressed; but in those of the popular form it is seen in its greatest rankness and is truly their worst enemy.

The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge natural to party dissension is itself a frightful despotism. The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security in the absolute power of an individual, and the chief of some prevailing faction turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation on the ruins of public liberty. [...] The necessity of reciprocal checks in the exercise of political power has been evinced by experiments ancient and modern, some of them in our country and under our own eyes. To preserve them must be as necessary as to institute them. If in the opinion of the people the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation. [...] Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all. Religion and morality enjoin this conduct. And can it be that good policy does not equally enjoin it? It will be worthy of a free, enlightened, and at no distant period a great nation to give to mankind the magnificent and too novel example of a people always guided by an exalted justice and benevolence. Who can doubt that in the course of time and things the fruits of such a plan would richly repay any temporary advantages which might be lost by a steady adherence to it? Can it be that Providence has not connected the permanent felicity of a nation with its virtue? The experiment, at least, is recommended by every sentiment which ennobles human nature. [...] Europe has a set of primary interests which to us have none or a very remote relation. Hence she must be engaged in frequent controversies, the causes of which are essentially foreign to our concerns. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves by artificial ties in the ordinary vicissitudes of her politics or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendships or enmities.

Our detached and distant situation invites and enables us to pursue a different course. If we remain one people, under an efficient government, the period is not far off when we may defy material injury from external annoyance; when we may take such an attitude as will cause the neutrality we may at any time resolve upon to be scrupulously respected; when we may choose peace or war, as our interest, guided by justice, shall counsel. [...] Harmony, liberal intercourse with all nations are recommended by policy, humanity, and interest. But even our commercial policy should hold an equal and impartial hand, neither seeking nor granting exclusive favors or preferences. There can be no greater error

\[2\] baneful: funeste / fatal.
than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. It is an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard.

65 In offering to you, my countrymen, these counsels of an old and affectionate friend I dare not hope they will make the strong and lasting impression I could wish. But if I may flatter myself that they may be productive of some partial benefit, some occasional good — that they may now and then recur to moderate the fury of party spirit, to guard against the impostures of pretended patriotism — this hope will be a full recompense for the solicitude for your welfare by which they have been dictated.

Document 1.

By early 1796, President Washington had had enough. He was determined to escape the “serious anxiety... troubles and perplexities of office.” Having a thin skin and always acutely concerned with his reputation, he had suffered deeply from the criticism leveled at him. [...] 5

Before Washington left office he wanted to say some things to “the Yeomanry3 of this Country” and “in language that was plain and intelligible to their understanding.” When he had thought of retiring in 1792, he had had Madison prepare a draft of a valedictory4 address. Now he altered that draft and gave the revision to Hamilton to rework into an address. [...] 10

Despite all this collaboration, the final document very much represented the president’s ideas about what his administration had experienced; it also expressed his deep anxiety about the future of the new nation. After some more editing by Washington, his Farewell Address was given to the press and published on September 19, 1796. The president never delivered it orally.

15 This document became one of the great state papers of American history, often read in classrooms and elsewhere well into the twentieth century. Indeed, speakers and writers of the time, both Federalists and Republicans, urged that the Farewell Address be read by all Americans. It seemed that significant to the future of the nation.


Document 2. Timeline.

1789 George Washington becomes the first President of the United States. He nominates Alexander Hamilton to the office of Secretary of the Treasury and Thomas Jefferson to the office of Secretary of State.

3 the Yeomanry: la classe des francs-tenanciers (personnes pouvant exploiter une terre avec un bail à très longue durée).
4 valedictory: d’adieu.
Hamilton starts building a nationwide coalition, which is eventually given the name of "Federalist Party". The Federalists wished to keep ties with the British and laid the emphasis on a strong federal government. President Washington belonged to this party.

The opponents to the Federalists gather into what is known as the "Democratic-Republican Party". This party called for the prevalence of states' rights and individual liberties, as well as a limitation of federal powers.

To maintain a national consensus – and try to put an end to the disputes between Jefferson and Hamilton, Washington accepts to run for a second term. He is eventually re-elected.

The American people are divided about the French Revolution. While most Democrat-Republicans supported it, the Federalists advocated neutrality.

Thomas Jefferson resigns from his position as Secretary of State.

Alexander Hamilton resigns from his position as Secretary of the Treasury.

In November, Federalist candidate John Adams is elected and becomes the second President of the United States in March 1797.


DEAR SIR,—When I embarked in the government, it was with a determination to intermeddle not at all with the legislature, & as little as possible with my co-departments. The first instance of variance from the former part of my resolution, I was duped into by the Secretary of the Treasury and made a tool for forwarding his schemes, not then sufficiently understood by me; and of all the errors of my political life, this has occasioned me the deepest regret. [...]  

If it has been supposed that I have ever intrigued among the members of the legislatures to defeat the plans of the Secretary of the Treasury, it is contrary to all truth. [...] That I have utterly, in my private conversations, disapproved of the system of the Secretary of the Treasury, I acknowledge & avow: and this was not merely a speculative difference. His system flowed from principles adverse to liberty, & was calculated to undermine and demolish the republic, by creating an influence of his department over the members of the legislature. I saw this influence actually produced, & its first fruits to be the establishment of the great outlines of his project by the votes of the persons who, having swallowed his bait,5 were laying themselves out to6 profit by his plans. [...] These were no longer the votes of the

5 a bait: un appât.  
6 to lay oneself out to do something: faire tout son possible pour faire quelque chose.
representatives of the people, but of deserters from the rights & interests of the people: & it was impossible to consider their decisions, which had nothing in view but to enrich themselves, as the measures of the majority. [...]

To say nothing of other interferences equally known, in the case of the two nations with which we have the most intimate connections, France & England, my system was to give some satisfactory distinctions to the former, of little cost to us, in return for the solid advantages yielded us by them; & to have met the English with some restrictions which might induce them to abate their severities against our commerce. I have always supposed this coincided with your sentiments. Yet the Secretary of the Treasury, by his cabals with members of the legislature, & by high-toned declamation on other occasions, has forced down his own system, which was exactly the reverse. [...] When I came into this office, it was with a resolution to retire from it as soon as I could with decency. It pretty early appeared to me that the proper moment would be the first of those epochs at which the constitution seems to have contemplated a periodical change or renewal of the public servants. I look to that period with the longing7 of a mariner, who has at length the land in view. [...] To a profound disregard of the honors of office I join as great a value for the esteem of my countrymen, & by an enthusiastic devotion to their rights & liberty. But I will not suffer my retirement to be clouded by the slanders8 of a man whose history is a tissue of machinations against the liberty of the country which has not only received and given him bread, but heaped its honors on his head.


7 the longing: l'envie.
8 the slanders: les diffamations.
Roxane se positionnait ailleurs. Elle refusait d’entendre parler d’analyse financière. Elle voyait bien évidemment que la finance s’insinuait partout, parmi les gens et parmi les choses, mais Roxane se tenait à distance et ne se mêlait pas aux conversations. Elle avait placé très haut le niveau d’étanchéité qui lui convenait. Certes, Roxane restait une enfant, elle ne faisait pas vraiment exprès, son comportement n’était pas le résultat d’une longue réflexion. C’était juste son naturel qui était comme ça, rétif. Elle préférait les chevaux à la finance, elle préférait qu’il y ait du vert autour. À peine libérée des obligations de l’école, Roxane prenait ses tubes de peinture, une palette, une toile, et partait à travers la campagne jusqu’à l’enclos où se trouvait le cheval dont jour après jour elle faisait le portrait. La mère de Roxane était à cette période constamment absorbée par Internet, elle travaillait ou tchattait, on ne savait jamais trop ; célibataire depuis quelques mois, elle avait décidé de remédier à la situation et passait une bonne partie de ses jours et de ses nuits sur un site de rencontres ; elle espérait une relation durable, comptait bien cette fois réussir le délicat passage à la real life.

Du coup, Roxane avait beaucoup de temps pour peindre, des heures et des heures pour perfectionner son art, pour préciser son dessin au crayon, travailler ses glaçis, une technique vraiment géniale où tu crées le volume par la succession des couches de peinture, tu superposes des couches transparentes de peinture diluée et le volume du cheval se gonfle et se creuse en ombre et lumière au fur et à mesure sur la toile. Roxane était tellement absorbée par le bonheur des glaçis, des couleurs, des formes et des volumes qu’elle restait là longtemps dans la douceur de fin d’après-midi, elle gonflait et redégonflait le volume de la cuisse, elle gonflait et dégonflait silencieusement heure après heure le volume de la tête, du flanc, de la crinière. Elle profitait pleinement de sa solitude.

(Feeerie Generale, Emmanuelle Pireyre)
Il y a eu cet énorme rayon de lumière blanche. J’ai senti que mon corps s’élevait à l’aplomb dans les ténèbres, à une vitesse folle. J’ai eu peur de heurter une borne invisible du cosmos. Un souffle d’air chaud m’a ramené sur terre et m’a couché, lentement, au beau milieu d’un pays d’horreur. Là, immobile, incapable de me hisser sur mes jambes ou même d’ouvrir les yeux, je n’ai pu que les entendre : chiens hurleurs et loups affamés, hyènes meurtries au rire aigre, feuelements de fauves autour de ma carcasse. Le silence et l’oubli ont mis des siècles à tisser un cocon où, enfin, j’ai pu me lover tout entier.

Jusqu’à ce qu’un Dieu de miséricorde me rende la vue. Et la vie.

Une femme a poussé un soupir de soulagement quand je suis revenu à la conscience. J’ai cru qu’il s’agissait d’une mère ou d’une sœur. C’était une infirmière.

Pas de mal au crâne, pas d’angoisse particulière. Ils ont dû me farcir les veines de morphine ou de trucs comme ça. Elle me parle d’un accident et, tout de suite, j’ai les phares de cette voiture dans les yeux. L’onde de choc qui a suivi résonne encore dans ma colonne vertébrale. Et puis, plus rien. Je lui demande combien de temps a duré le plus rien. Une nuit ? Une nuit seulement ? J’ai l’impression d’avoir parcouru l’éternité en sens inverse et tout ça n’a duré qu’une douzaine d’heures. Jusqu’où sont allés ceux qui ont passé tout un hiver dans le coma ?

_Tout à l’ego_, Tonino Benacquista
The commonest kind of missing person is the adolescent girl, closely followed by the teenage boy. The majority in this category come from working-class homes and almost invariably from those where there is serious parental disturbance. [...] The figures dwindle sharply after the age of forty; older cases of genuine disappearances are extremely rare, and again are confined to the very poor.

When John Marcus Fielding disappeared, he therefore contravened all social and statistical probability. Fifty-seven years old, rich, happily married, with a son and two daughters; on the board\(^1\) of several City companies; owner of one of the finest manor-houses in East Anglia, with an active interest in the running of his adjoining farm. He was a man who would have done very well as a model of his kind: the successful City man who is also a land-owner and village squire.\(^2\) [...] The most anomalous\(^3\) aspect of his personality was that he was also a Conservative Member of Parliament.

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\(^1\) the board (here): *le conseil d'administration*.

\(^2\) a squire: a main land-owner in an English village or country place.
At 2.30 on the afternoon of Friday, July 13th, 1973, his elderly secretary, a Miss Parsons, watched him get into a taxi outside his London flat in Knightsbridge. He had a board meeting in the City; from there he was going to catch a train to the market-town\(^4\) headquarters of his constituency. His agent, who was invited to supper, would then drive him to Tetbury Hall.

It was discovered subsequently that he had never appeared at the meeting. Fielding was forgiven his lapse, and the board went to business without him. The first realization that something was wrong was therefore the lot of the constituency agent. His member was not on the train he had gone to meet. He went back to the party offices to ring Fielding’s flat — and next, getting no answer there, his country home. Mrs Fielding was unable to help. She had last spoken to her husband on the Thursday morning and, so far as she knew, he should be where he wasn’t.


\(^3\) anomalous: referring to a situation that is different from the usual or accepted type.

\(^4\) a market town: *un bourg*.
The garden in which the man lay was about an acre of well-kept lawn surrounded on three sides by thickly banked rose bushes from which came the steady murmur of bees. Behind the drowsy noise of the bees the sea boomed softly at the bottom of the cliff at the end of the garden.

There was no view of the sea from the garden — no view of anything except of the sky and the clouds above the twelve-foot wall. In fact you could only see out of the property from the two upstairs bedrooms of the villa that formed the fourth side of this very private enclosure. From them you could see a great expanse of blue water in front of you and, on either side, the upper windows of neighbouring villas and the tops of the trees in their gardens — Mediterranean-type evergreen oaks, stone pines, casuarinas and an occasional palm tree.

The villa was modern — a squat elongated box without ornament. On the garden side the flat pink-washed façade was pierced by four iron-framed windows and by a central glass
door leading on to a small square of pale green glazed tiles. The tiles merged into the lawn.

The other side of the villa, standing back a few yards from a dusty road, was almost identical. But on this side the four windows were barred, and the central door was of oak.

[...] The drowsy luxurious silence of early afternoon was broken by the sound of a car coming down the road. It stopped in front of the villa. There was the tinny clang of a car door being slammed and the car drove on. The door bell rang twice. The naked man beside the swimming pool did not move, but, at the noise of the bell and of the departing car, his eyes had for an instant opened very wide. It was as if the eyelids had pricked up like an animal’s ears. The man immediately remembered where he was and the day of the week and the time of the day.

Ian Fleming, *From Russia, With Love* (1957)
(punctuation unchanged).
Faire une explication grammaticale avec proposition et justification de traduction des segments soulignés du texte ci-dessous ; les deux would sont à traiter ensemble (20pts)

2 November, morning.—

It is broad daylight. That good fellow would not wake me. He says it would have been a sin to, for I slept peacefully and was forgetting my trouble. It seems brutally selfish to me to have slept so long, and let him watch all night, but he was quite right. I am a new man this morning. And, as I sit here and watch him sleeping, I can do all that is necessary both as to minding the engine, steering, and keeping watch. I can feel that my strength and energy are coming back to me. I wonder where Mina is now, and Van Helsing. They should have got to Veresti about noon on Wednesday. It would take them some time to get the carriage and horses. So if they had started and travelled hard, they would be about now at the Borgo

Pass. God guide and help them! I am afraid to think what may happen. If we could only go faster. But we cannot. The engines are throbbing and doing their utmost. I wonder how Dr. Seward and Mr. Morris are getting on. There seem to be endless streams running down the mountains into this river, but as none of them are very large, at present, at all events, though they are doubtless terrible in winter and when the snow melts, the horsemen may not have met much obstruction. I hope that before we get to Strasba we may see them. For if by that time we have not overtaken the Count, it may be necessary to take counsel together what to do next.

Bram Stoker, Dracula, 1897, chapter 13.
Thatcherism: a style or a philosophy?

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR – THE OBSERVER, NOV. 1990

There was no Churchillism, no Heathism, no Callaghanism. Margaret Thatcher is the only prime minister to have had her own “ism”. But what really is Thatcherism? Has it been a consistent ideology or merely household budgeting on a national scale? Does it amount to a philosophy or is it just one woman’s political style?

Certainly, she has made her party more ideological. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone once said: “Conservatives do not believe that political struggle is the most important thing in life [...] the simplest among them prefer to fox hunting, the wisest, religion.” With an almost Maoist fervour, however, Mrs Thatcher has taken her party on a long march of reform through institutions of British society: the unions, the civil service, education, the health service and the law.

The Tory party has not previously claimed a monopoly of the truth. Mrs Thatcher, however, has openly sought what she calls the eradication of socialism.

Warrior rather than healer, she has set in train what she sees as a libertarian movement to extend personal choice and create an enterprise society in which the state leaves people free to spend more of their own money and managers are free to manage without being prey to the constant demands of trades union leaders. Thatcherism has been based on simple slogans such as “sound money”. As Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, said, the inflation rate is judge and jury for her governments.

Thatcherism has looked to the creation of strong defences and a strong economy, not just for their intrinsic merits, but to restore national self-confidence and Britain’s reputation in the world.

The simple slogans have lived throughout it all: The Enterprise Economy, Stand On Your Own Two Feet, Making Britain Great Again, and, of course, those famous Victorian Values.

Thatcherism has been about free markets and a belief in individual responsibility. Mrs Thatcher and her ministers have sought to educate Britain out of what they see as the dependency culture, to end the common belief that the solving of problems was always up to “them” – the council, the government, the authorities. Mrs Thatcher has encouraged the belief that there is a limit to government responsibilities. Her ability to win elections against a background of high unemployment argues that she succeeded to some extent in that.

She and her ministers have proclaimed the values of popular capitalism, which, for a Conservative administration, has the welcome advantage that it increases the number of people with something to conserve. The 2.5 million extra home-owners, many former council house tenants, and the 6 million additional shareholders who have appeared with the privatisation of state industries bear witness to that.

It has not all been consistent, though. She promised “less government”, but the Thatcher governments have legislated copiously. There was to be less centralisation, but the role of local authorities has been steadily more circumscribed. A truly consistent believer in market forces and “level playing fields” for the economy would have wiped out the mortgage tax relief. Mrs Thatcher has instead tried to encourage her chancellors to raise it. Her ideology, although some would argue that it was taken too far for her own followers on such issues as the privatisation of public utilities, was not allowed to interfere with Tory instincts as strong as that.

Will Thatcherism last? New prime ministers will have new styles. Thatcherism will leave a lasting legacy in British politics in that Mrs Thatcher’s reign has forced the Labour party to change direction and swing back to the centre. The social market, the fostering of enterprise and the creation of wealth, as well as the allocation of spending priorities have now become part of the language of every party.

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1 Margaret Thatcher resigned on Wednesday, 28 November 1990, but her leadership of the Conservative Party had been challenged since mid-November.
ANNEXE 1 – BIOGRAPHY AND SOURCE

- **Robin Oakley:** born in 1941, a British journalist, now the European Political Editor at CNN International, formerly Political Editor at the BBC (1992-2000) where he regularly presented political news items on BBC television news. Educated at Brasenose College, Oxford, he started his career on the *Liverpool Daily Post* where he became Political Editor. He then worked for the *Sunday Express*, the *Daily Mail* (1981-86), and *The Times* (1986-92). Since 1994 he has written a column in *The Spectator* and was for several years the racing correspondent of the *Financial Times*. He was awarded an OBE in 2001 for his services to political journalism.

- **The Observer:** a British ‘quality’ newspaper (i.e. with a national circulation and distinguished by its seriousness), founded in 1791, and published on Sundays; generally its political orientation is centre-left.

ANNEXE 2 – REFERENCES TO PUBLIC FIGURES

- **Winston Churchill:** Conservative Prime Minister, 1940-45, 1951-55
- **Edward Heath:** Conservative Prime Minister, 1970-74
- **James Callaghan:** Labour Prime Minister, 1976-79
- **Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone:** i.e. Quintin Hogg, Baron Hailsham of St Marylebone, 1907-2001, a Conservative politician who served for more than a decade as Lord (High) Chancellor – i.e. Minister of Justice – 1970-74 and 1979-1987

ANNEXE 2 – OTHER REFERENCES

- **Fox hunting:** traditionally, this was the favourite sport of the Tory squires and landlords in former times
- **Maoist:** from the 1960s to the 1980s, Maoists – i.e. advocates of Maoism – were noted for their great zeal and often brandished their *Little Red Book* (quotations from Chairman Mao’s political thoughts). In the Western World this word was synonymous with ‘loony’ (slang for: insane), extreme left-wing policies because Western Maoists wanted to apply Mao’s precepts and ‘Cultural Revolution’ to the Western culture, economy, political system, lifestyles etc.
- **‘A long march’:** Mao’s ‘Long March’ was a military retreat that prevented the destruction of the Chinese Red Army, 1934-35. Of course, the phrase is here used figuratively and metaphorically
- **‘Popular capitalism’ and shareholders:** the policy of privatisation is often considered as “a crucial ingredient of Thatcherism” [A. Seldon, D. Collings, *Britain Under Thatcher* (2000)], and as “pav[ing] the way to a more democratic form of capitalism” [Gavin Oldham, *How Thatcher Saw Popular Capitalism Turned Into Reality*, CityA.M., April 15, 2013]. Some statistics: 1979: 1.75m shareholders; by the 1980s: around 3m shareholders, or about 7 per cent of the population; by the end of the decade: 12m direct shareholders, or 25 per cent of the population. According to free marketeers, she thus “enabled people to own part of the businesses they worked in and whose products they bought. And [...] it brought a better understanding of what makes enterprises tick, and so fundamentally changed society.” [Gavin Oldham, *op. cit.*]
- **Mortgage tax relief:** mortgage in French: prêt immobilier, prêt hypothécaire, emprunt logement; tax relief: dégrèvements d’impôts, allégement fiscal
- **Public utilities:** such as water and energy (gas, electricity...)

23
Edward Heath on Europe and NATO, 1970

While still leader of the Conservative opposition, Edward Heath developed a policy which attempted to link membership of the EEC and maintenance of the American "special relationship". This speech was delivered at Harvard in 1967.

There is a feeling of change in the air. There is also a sense of confusion, tinged sometimes with disillusionment and even cynicism. People in the West have a feeling that the clear sense of direction which they once possessed - whether it was in support of the Atlantic Alliance when confronted with the obvious threat from the Warsaw Pact, or whether it was in the strong and sturdy movement towards closer European unity - has been lost. The momentum inside Europe appears to have weakened. And externally the preoccupation of the United States with the war in Vietnam gives the impression across the Atlantic of a lack of American interest in European policies [...] The United States, through every administration, has given unstinted support to the development of the European Economic Community. It has never hidden its belief that it would like to see it widened to embrace other states, in particular Britain. It has every right to be proud of the rapid growth in prosperity, and consequently in stability, of those European countries which it so generously aided in the late forties and the fifties. At the same time the United States has sometimes seemed to me to lack an understanding of what that Europeanism, which it has so greatly encouraged, means today; of what the consequences are of this growth of European feeling combined with economic and financial strength, consequences in particular for the United States. And perhaps none of us has really quite grasped the consequent need to redress the balance in trade and commerce, in finance, in political organisation, and in defence between the two sides of the Atlantic.

Each of these factors can be treated and discussed in isolation, but there is perhaps behind them all a more general feeling. It is now just over twenty-one years since the end of the Second World War, in which all of the powers and all of the continents I have mentioned were involved. A complete generation has come of age since then. It knew nothing of the War or its background, it took no part in it, and it does not feel itself in any way committed to its consequences. And having come of age it is pervaded by a mood of questioning, individually and nationally; questioning the purpose and direction of each individual life; questioning the object and the reason for each national existence itself. In many ways this is healthy if it drives us back to first principles, and leads us to re-establish a firm basis for future policies.

It is just at this time that the British Government is making a renewed approach towards membership of the European Economic Community. This must be seen against the long background of the attempt to establish a viable British European policy.

APPENDIX 1 – BIOGRAPHY

- See Les grandes dates de l'histoire britannique

APPENDIX 2 – NATO; THE WARSAW PACT
The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is also called the (North) Atlantic Alliance; it is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty which was signed on 4 April 1949 between the United States, Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Italy, Norway, Denmark and Iceland. The organization constitutes a system of collective defence whereby its member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party. NATO's headquarters are in Brussels, Belgium.

For its first few years, NATO was not much more than a political association. However, this situation changed with the Korean War (1950-1953), and an integrated military structure was built up under the direction of two U.S. supreme commanders. The course of the Cold War led to a rivalry with nations of the Warsaw Pact, which was formed in 1955.

The first NATO Secretary General stated in 1949 that the organization's goal was "to keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down." Doubts over the strength of the relationship between the European states and the United States ebbed and flowed, along with doubts over the credibility of the NATO defence against a prospective Soviet invasion. The creation of NATO brought about some standardization of allied military terminology, procedures, and technology, which in many cases meant European countries adopting U.S. practices. For instance, any NATO aircraft could land at any NATO base. Greece and Turkey joined the alliance in 1952.

West Germany was incorporated into the organization on 9 May 1955, and one of the immediate results of this was the creation of the Warsaw Pact, which was signed on 14 May 1955 by the Soviet Union, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Albania, and East Germany, as a formal response to this event, thereby delineating the two opposing sides of the Cold War.
[Source: adapted from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO]

APPENDIX 3 – THE COLD WAR

- See also Les grandes dates de l'histoire britannique

- The Cold War, often dated from 1947 to 1991, was a sustained state of political and military tension between powers in the Western Bloc, dominated by the United States with NATO among its allies, and powers in the Eastern Bloc, dominated by the Soviet Union along with the Warsaw Pact.

The Cold War was so named because the two major powers — each possessing nuclear weapons and thereby threatened with mutual assured destruction — never met in direct military combat. Instead, in their struggle for global influence they engaged in ongoing psychological warfare and in regular indirect confrontations through proxy wars. Cycles of relative calm would be followed by high tension, which could have led to world war. The tensest times were during the Berlin Blockade (1948–1949), the Korean War (1950–1953), the Suez Crisis (1956), the Berlin Crisis of 1961, the Cuban missile crisis (1962), the Vietnam War (1959–1975)... [Source: adapted from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_War]
APPENDIX 4 – THE USA; THE VIETNAM WAR
In 1967, the president of the United States was Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-69), a Democrat. He had escalated the Vietnam War, which had seen US involvement starting in 1961 under his predecessor, John F. Kennedy. By 1967, the situation was rather bad, even critical for the USA, with army morale low, desertion rates increasing, public support flagging, and still no victory in sight.

The UK did not take part in the Vietnam War.

APPENDIX 5 – THE MARSHALL PLAN
The Marshall Plan (officially the European Recovery Program) was the American program to aid Europe, in which the United States gave economic support to help rebuild European economies after the end of World War II in order to prevent the spread of Soviet Communism. The plan was in operation for four years beginning in April 1948. The goals of the United States were to rebuild a war-devastated region, remove trade barriers, modernize industry, and make Europe prosperous again. The initiative was named after Secretary of State George Marshall.

Criticism of the Marshall plan ranges from neoliberal criticism (e.g. it forestalled the transition to the free market by subsidizing the current, failing systems) to criticism by the revisionist school (i.e. the plan was American economic imperialism, an attempt to gain control over Western Europe just as the Soviets controlled Eastern Europe).
Examen Final - Salariés

Et maintenant, elle guettait par le hublot l’apparition des Baléares qui lui offraient la promesse d’une consolation prochaine, celle du retour dans la douceur d’un pays natal qui ne l’aurait pas vue naître, et son cœur se mettait à battre plus fort jusqu’à ce qu’elle aperçoive la ligne grise des côtes africaines et sache qu’elle était enfin de retour chez elle. Car c’était en France qu’elle se sentait maintenant en exil, comme si le fait de ne plus respirer quotidiennement le même air que ses compatriotes lui avait rendu leurs préoccupations incompréhensibles, et vains les propos qu’ils lui tenaient, une mystérieuse frontière invisible avait été tracée autour de son corps, une frontière de verre transparent qu’elle n’avait ni le pouvoir ni le désir de franchir. Il lui fallait faire des efforts harassants pour suivre la conversation la plus banale et, malgré ses efforts, elle n’y parvenait pas, elle devait constamment demander à ses interlocuteurs de répéter ce qu’ils venaient de dire, à moins qu’elle ne renonce à leur répondre pour se retirer dans le silence de sa frontière invisible, et l’homme qui bientôt ne partagerait plus sa vie en était constamment blessé, il lui faisait des reproches dont elle ne se défendait même plus car elle avait renoncé à lutter contre sa propre froideur, contre la désinvolture et l’injustice qui s’étaient installées dans son mauvais cœur. Ce n’était qu’en arrivant à l’aéroport d’Alger, puis dans les locaux de l’université, et plus encore à Annaba, qu’elle renouait avec la bonté. Elle supportait joyeusement l’attente interminable aux guichets de la police des frontières, les embouteillages et les décharges à ciel ouvert, les coupures d’eau, les contrôles d’identité aux barrages, et la laideur stalinienne du grand hôtel d’Etat dans lequel était logée toute l’équipe à Annaba, avec ses chambres délabrées donnant sur des couloirs déserts, lui semblait presque émouvante.

Sermon sur la chute de Rome, de Jérôme Ferrari
Bien que mon livre fût refusé par l'éditeur, je fus donc très flatté par le document psychanalytique dont j'étais l'objet, et j'adoptai incontinent des airs et des attitudes qui me paraissait désormais attendus de moi. Je montrais l'étude à tout le monde, et mes amis furent dûment impressionnés, surtout par mon complexe fécal, lequel, témoignant vraiment d'une âme ténébreuse et tourmentée, leur paraissait le comble du chic. Au café des Deux Garçons, j'étais devenu incontestablement quelqu'un et je peux dire que, pour la première fois, la lumière de la réussite effleura mon jeune front. Seule ma charcutière réagit à la lecture du document d'une manière inattendue. Le côté démoniaque, surhumain, de ma nature, qu'elle n'avait jamais soupçonné jusqu'alà, mais qui était ainsi révélé au monde, la poussa soudain à me témoigner une exigence qui dépassait de très loin mes moyens, démoniaques ou pas ; et elle m'accusa amèrement de cruauté lorsque, doué d'un tempérament très saïn, mais assez simple, je me montrait frappé d'étonnement devant certaines de ses suggestions. Bref, je crains de n'avoir point été à la hauteur de ma réputation. Je me mis cependant à cultiver un genre fatal, selon l'idée que je me faisais d'un homme atteint de tendances nécrophiliques et du complexe de castration ; je me montrait jamais en public sans une paire de petits ciseaux que j'ouvrail et refermais d'un air engageant ; lorsqu'on me demandait ce que je faisais là, avec ces ciseaux, je disais : « Je ne sais pas, je ne peux pas m’en empêcher », et mes camarades se regardaient silencieusement.

La Promesse de l'aube, Romain Gary