

for EABA™ v2

# 1957

an alternate start point for Agency

 **BTRC**

greg porter



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# 1957 1.0

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Published by:           Blacksburg Tactical  
                                  Research Center

Design:                   Greg Porter

Layout:                   Greg Porter

Page backdrop:         Paschalis Zervas

Useful Scenery:        Cathy DeMott

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**Vignette**

The Vegas Strip was getting bigger every year. The papers said 'too big, too fast', but they couldn't understand Scenery. Agents ran the Strip, and if they were halfway competent, the profits would roll in. Half a dozen new casinos in the past two years.

Half wouldn't make it. Scenery copies what it sees to work but can't always duplicate it. Ten million visitors a year. Elvis, Sinatra, topless stage shows and high-class restaurants.

I had just handed the keys of my TR3 to the valet when the concierge came out the main doors, accompanied by a welcome blast of air-conditioning. "Mr. Factor wishes to see you at your earliest convenience." Faktorowicz. That was quick. After that business in Los Angeles someone must have seen me headed northeast. Route 91 only goes one place worth visiting, and it would not take an Agent to figure out who they would call. I told the bellhop to get the luggage to my room, gave him my card and a dollar tip. He looked at me, looked at the card. I could see the curiosity warring with the potential of ruining another nice tip later. "Yeah, I know, I look a lot like him, but James Dean is gone and we'll never see his like again." It was good while it lasted, though. I stepped into the Stardust's icy embrace.

Faktorowicz, makeup mogul Max Factor's half-brother, persona non grata with the Brits for having swindled the royal family, now a 'respectable businessman'. He owed too many people too many favors to ever be in charge, but he was damn good at what he did. For Faktorowicz, I was sure 'my earliest convenience' meant 'goddamn now', and since he was part of why I was here, his attempt to catch me off-balance wasn't going to work.

Factor's outer sanctum had two bits of Scenery, one splendid, one gorilla. Both had desks and both had electric typewriters. I think the gorilla was the better typist, but that's not what he was there for any more than she was. He gave me a thorough and professional pat-down before buzzing me in to Factor's office. The door closed behind me with an electric snick and a surprising amount of mass.

"Jimmy."

"It's Harold, now."

"Harry, Jimmy, whatever. You made some people in Los Angeles very unhappy."

"Not unhappy enough. They still had enough unbroken fingers to call you."



"You're a regular Don Rickles. I owe LA a favor, but I owe you one too, which is why we're talking. But I don't owe you that much of a favor, so when we're done talking, you're going to leave here in a sack and you're going to wake up in the desert with a broken leg and a canteen. The favor is that it won't be two broken legs. I know you've got some heavy hitters on your side, but you don't mess with the families."

"Berman."

"Davie the Jew? Didn't I just say something about the families?"

"He's working for the Reds."

"Davie? Nice try. He's as American as they come."

"Maybe so, but that's not where he came from. Stalin's people got to his mother, and she got to him. He's been in the pocket of the Commies since he was a kid. Found out that crazy Uncle Joe even visited him once or twice back in the Ukraine."

"Agency?"

"Never heard of it happening, but God only knows what Stalin was capable of. Maybe even rolling one of us."

I pulled out a fat envelope and dropped it on Factor's desk. "Pictures, receipts, travel records. Vegas is close enough to the A-bomb tests that key personnel come down for hookers and Elvis. All kinds of pillow talk going on, and one of his key girls at the Flamingo is a Soviet Agent." I didn't need to capitalize the A for Factor to understand. He leafed through it. He knew what my group did. We didn't make things up. He didn't want to believe, but he eventually stuffed things back in the envelope.

"I'm gonna need this for later." I nodded. "That's why I brought it."

"The surgery?" I nodded again. Berman was going under for routine surgery tomorrow. He wasn't coming back up.

"I just need people to stay out of the way. It will look like an unforeseen complication."

"If you get caught, Berman's goons will make you wish I'd given you the broken leg. And you know his Commie girlfriend will be watching out for him while he's under."

"And if I don't get caught, it's just one of those things that happens. No scandal, no blame, no Family with blood on their hands." Factor looked at me for a very long several seconds.

"Get out of here. I'll make sure what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. Do it and be gone." He put the envelope in a side drawer, gave me a look that said "and don't come back" and hit the buzzer for the door. I left.



What it's about -----

1957 is an Agency supplement for starting a campaign in, obviously enough, 1957. This is not some sort of "you all go back in time" supplement or anything like that, it is just set in the unimaginably distant past of a few generations ago.

For almost all gamers, this is 'before their time', yet easily within living memory, your father's, mother's or grandparents. What was the world like then, that Agents were living in and shaping? And just how jarring will it be for players who might think that this is a 'modern' world?

Well for starters, there is no Internet. No mobile phones. Very, very few fax machines. No pagers. Long distance calls to anywhere except between major cities required a human operator to connect the call. Very few credit cards and the ones that do exist are only honored in a limited number of places. No personal computers. There are exactly three television stations you can watch, ABC, NBC and CBS. And to change the station on your television (which is probably black & white), you have to get up, walk over to it and turn a chu-chunk! big-ass dial on the front. Mankind has put exactly zero items into space, and the first episode of Star Trek and its progressive notion of black girls in miniskirts as bridge crew is almost a decade away.

Fifteen percent of homes in the United States do not have full plumbing systems. Twenty percent do not have a telephone. Fifteen percent do not have a television. Five percent still do not have electricity and virtually no one has central air conditioning, but window air conditioners are becoming popular with the well-heeled. The 'Coldspot' window unit sold by Sears in 1957 costs the equivalent of 2,000 Credits in 2018 money! And it is described as 'portable' since it only weighs 40 kilograms...

In other words, it is a setting where all the easy tricks and conveniences that modern players and Agents have at their disposal are simply non-existent. Agents have to rely on their talents and wits. If you do not know something, you have to physically go to a library and look it up. If you need to negotiate something, you go there and talk to people in person. If you want to request a document from someone, you have to wait for it to show up in the mail, because overnight or express delivery has not been invented yet. When you buy something anywhere but a store, you send a check or money order and wait six to eight weeks for it to arrive, and there are no tracking numbers to see where the package is at.

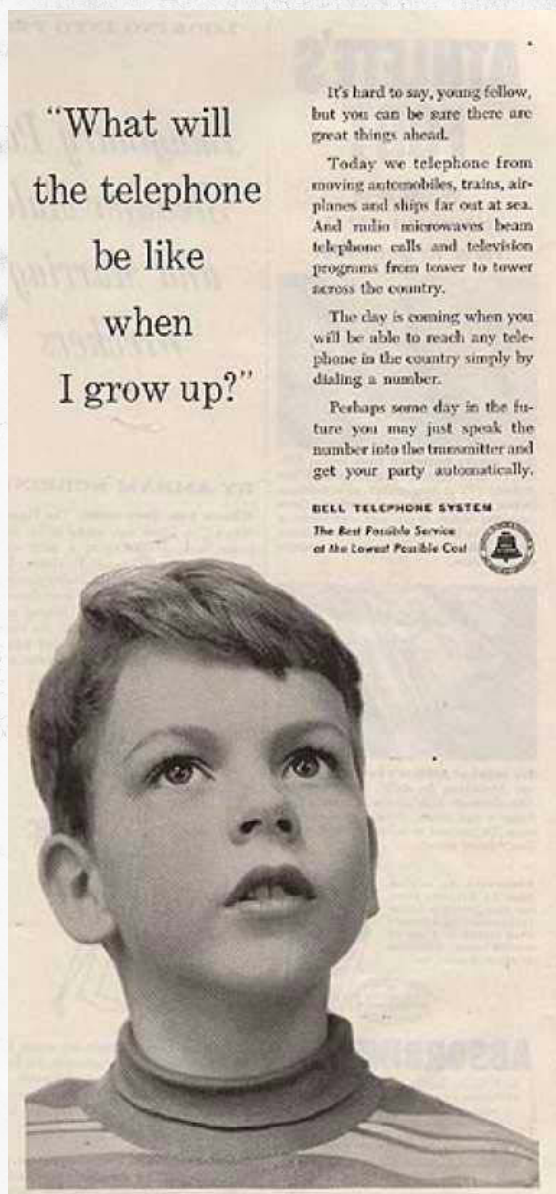


1957 is not just a setting, it is a year. It has 365 days, and when those days run out, the campaign is over. Yes, the gamemaster can continue things into 1958 and beyond, but the idea is that the Agents will be involved in something that is happening in 1957, and that whatever the big plot is, it will resolve in 1957, even if the final repercussions of that plot will take some time (even years) to fully resolve. For instance, the 'space race' begins in 1957 when dastardly Commies put Sputnik into orbit and the Vanguard rocket the US launches in response blows up on the launch pad.

1957 does not have to end the same way our history records it. Because this is **Agency** and we (you, anyway) are Scenery, what gets written in the history books is not necessarily what really happened.

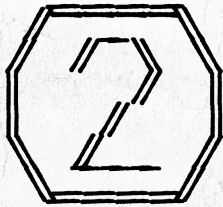
In addition to all the fun and games, 1957 is also a history lesson. It will rub your nose in the past. Your Agents will be noticeably out of place and socially hindered if they try to act with the attitudes of 2018, even if they are among other Agents. Acting with and within the social moires of this other time, even if trying to change them, is part of the setting. And social attitudes are changing. This is the time of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, a time when President Eisenhower called for Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment, when the United States Supreme Court addresses homosexuality for the first time, when the 'Red Scare' that caused countless people to be blacklisted for 'un-American activities' was finally starting to fade.

In addition to the lengthy cultural notes in the next chapter, 1957 will also be peppered with period advertisements, in most cases taken from that exact year. This will as much as anything else, give you a 'feel' for the look and attitudes of the time, how the world (especially the United States) sees itself, and the starting point for what the players and their Agents are going to be doing.



In the future you will be able to reach any telephone just by dialing its number!



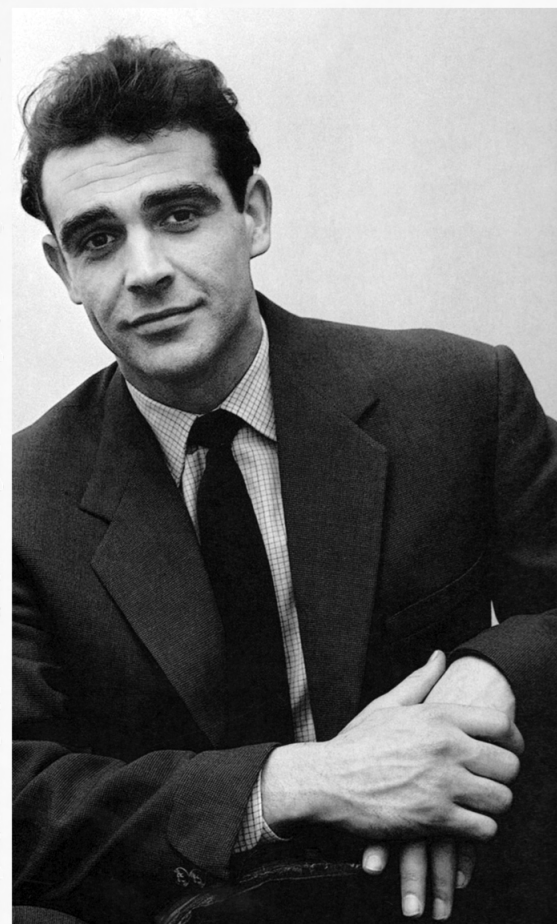


### Agents

All of the standard rules for making Agents are going to apply. Like in **Agency** set in 2018, there is a possibility that your Agents have some sort of notoriety, it is just that in 1957 you have to dig a little deeper to get to names and fame past the obvious things like movie stars, presidents and Albert Einstein. If you are going that route, we leave it up to you to do your own digging.

As with a 2018 campaign, the gamemaster needs to know something about what they want to be going on. Is the campaign going to be somehow connected to a 2018 campaign? If so, there is only so much historical tinkering you can do. On the other hand, if it is just a 1957 campaign, you can mess with historical outcomes all you want. Maybe the world's Agents are faced with the existential threat of Roswell's aliens being überpowerful Agents who are secretly manipulating world leaders as part of a plot to change the climate to one which will be comfortable for them but which will all but destroy humanity. We are not suggesting that is what is happening, but if you want to grab it and run with it, be our guest.

The point is, the gamemaster needs to have some idea what sort of Agents are going to be needed, and the players need to have some idea of what sort of Agents are going to be useful. If everyone wants to play Malcolm X and rewrite the history of the civil rights era, it will be a problem if the gamemaster had "infiltrate the Nazi holdouts who want to start World War 3 and build a Fourth Reich from its ashes" as their core plot for the year.



Man's man Sean Connery in 1957. Having an affair with ten-years-his-senior movie star Lana Turner during the making of 'Another Time, Another Place', her gangster boyfriend (really!) pulls a gun on him during filming (again, really!), at which point Mr. Connery takes the gun away from him, wrenches his arm and drives him off the set. Definitely an Agent.



### Attributes

There are no changes in how Attributes work in a 1957 campaign. There are social and cultural stereotypes regarding them, however. Keep in mind that a woman with a high Strength will stand out, and the background for the Agent should reflect this and the social status of the Agent. Someone who got her muscles welding Liberty Ships in Baltimore during World War 2 could be strong, but this raises a few eyebrows in upper-class circles, while being on the Olympic shotput team would still raise eyebrows, but be a little more socially acceptable (you would also look like a Soviet tank, if the female gold medal shotput winner from the 1956 Olympics is any indication). High Awareness in a woman only draws attention if you are smarter than the man you are standing next to (and show it). Agility, Will, Health and Agency are unaffected, but a male Agent may discount the notion that a female Agent could have more Agency.



Unusual, but not unheard of. Female bodybuilder Abbye 'Pudgy' Stockton.

### Skills

Because you are Agents, men and women still have the full range of skills available, it is just that some will stand out more in a woman than a man or a black more than a white, and professional permits related to some skills are not possible for a woman or other socially disadvantaged groups. So, you might have a female Agent who is rated to fly multi-engine planes, but she is not going to be a professional airline pilot. And she might have a black belt and a gold medal for marksmanship, but she will not be on a Secret Service detail. And because this is 1957, some skills are much more rudimentary than they are in 2018. Computer programming is done with stacks of paper cards with holes punched in them, and the first computer hard disk came out in 1956, held a full 5 megabytes of data and literally weighed a ton. So, you are not going to infiltrate enemy databases and steal their goodies unless you brought a truck to carry the disk home with.

**free skills:** An American Agent is going to have Automobile driving as their only guaranteed free skill. All Agents below the age of 30 will also be assumed to know their way around a typewriter and camera. Non-American Agents have their native language and English fluency (with accent).



**Traits**

There are only a few Traits for 1957 where a lot of extra information is required, but those Traits will be quite important.

**Age:** There are no limits on the starting age of an Agent, but it can have a strong effect on your attitudes and to some extent your style of dress. For instance, younger generations are less likely to wear hats of any kind, while those in older brackets are more likely to wear fedoras. Older women will be more comfortable in skirts, while younger women may wear slacks in casual settings (but never at work, school or formal settings).

**Allegiance:** Agents in 1957 are required to have this Personality, but matters of nation and race and gender and so on can be very important. So, those opposed to integration might have an allegiance to the 'white race'. Hopefully player Agents will not saddle themselves with Allegiances that will cause problems when interacting with other players.

**Secret:** The biggest Secrets you can have in a 1957 campaign are ones where you are hiding something that would otherwise be a negative Status. Some of these would be easier than others. It would be hard in 1957 for a woman to pass herself off as a man, but quite possible for a light-skinned black or Gentile-looking Jew to pass themselves to pass themselves off as white. Similarly an atheist could go through the motions of being a superficial Christian, a closet Communist (or spy!) could hide political allegiance or a homosexual could pretend to be hetero. As Secrets, each of these would have the same value as the negative Status. If the Secret is revealed, you suffer the effects of the negative Status, probably forever.

Other Secrets can be related to these types of Status, but indirectly. For instance, in 1957 Strom Thurmond is 55 years old and the newly elected junior Senator for South Carolina. He is an unrepentant racist and will hold the record for the longest filibuster ever (>24 hours) in opposition to the Civil Rights Act of 1957. He also has a 33 year old mixed race daughter from his family's black maid, who he financially supported and put through college. This was a Secret that he, she and her mother kept from the public until after his death in 2003. You can imagine what something like this would have done to his election chances if it had been revealed in 1956. Players with any sort of fame or public persona could have such a Secret, or Agents or Scenery they are working with or investigating might have such a Secret that could be used to manipulate them.



Another historical Secret that was let out of the bag regards rocker Jerry Lee Lewis, who in 1957 was doing shows pulling in the 2018 equivalent of a quarter million Credits per night. But in 1958 details about his third marriage (in 1957) came to light. Myra Gale Brown was his cousin and was 13 at the time. His record label dropped him, radio stations stopped playing him and he went from doing sold-out shows to playing for peanuts at small clubs. You can imagine him as a talented but self-absorbed Agent who thought he was above the rules that applied to Scenery and made a bad personal decision that came back to bite him. As a side note, since the marriage was legal this also means there was a US state in 1957 where a 13 year old could get married (presumably with parental consent).

**Status:** To be blunt, if you are not a white, Christian male in 1957, you will have negative Status in the United States. The extent a lack of one of these in other parts of the world is a handicap will vary (in Communist China not being a Christian or white is obviously not a problem). Remember that Status in EABA v2 is a modifier on social rolls between those with and without it, and is also the default way in which people are viewed/treated if otherwise equal. Between a white and black person of apparently equal measure, the white will get preference as a matter of course. Same for a man



**STOP WASHING DISHES!**  
The G-E Dishwasher does your entire dishwashing job for about a penny a day! All the dishes, pots, and pans are hygienically cleaned in water hotter than human hands could endure. They are dried by their own heat. No unsanitary dishcloth, no breakage. You can have the G-E Dishwasher installed as part of the General Electric Sink—or as a separate cabinet.

**STOP SAVING GARBAGE!**  
Dispose of food wastes right at the sink! Parings, scraps, etc., go down the drain into the G-E Disposal, where they are reduced to a pulp and flushed away. No odors—no clogged pipes! The G-E Disposal comes as part of the G-E Electric Sink—or can be separately installed in your present sink.

**New General Electric Sink Ends The Two Most Distasteful Kitchen Tasks**  
HOUSEWORK now becomes easier for both women with servants and those without help. Two tedious kitchen tasks are gone! The new General Electric Sink "does the dishes" and disposes of garbage mechanically.  
*Protects China from Breakage*  
Stack the dishes in the dishwasher trays—turn a switch—and quickly the job is finished! The G-E Dishwasher cleans and dries itself. Your dishes are safe from chipping and handling.  
Down the sink into the Disposal go all food wastes—to be *instantly* disposed of!  
The G-E Electric Sink brings you dishwashing and disposal services at small cost. Visit your dealer's, or write for information. General Electric Co., Specialty Appliance Sales Division, Sec. DR9, Nela Park, Cleveland.



vs. a woman or a Christian vs. a Jew. This is not pretty, but it is the way the world works in 1957. A negative level of Status in 1957 can permanently close certain careers to you, regardless of fame or wealth, though other levels of Status might negate this. There are no women in combat roles in 1957. There are no black Senators in Congress, no black pilots or stewardesses on airliners, no black CEO's at a Fortune 500 company. No one of Jewish ancestry has ever run for President and twenty-five percent of hotels will not even book a room for you if you are a Jew. Negative Status can also include laws that restrict you (sundown laws against blacks or anti-abortion laws against women), or even go as far as criminalizing who you are (homosexuality).

Not the least bit offensive (to whites) in 1957.



Status does not trump the abilities of Agency, but any time Status would be a factor in social interaction, a level of limited Status difference increases or decreases the difficulty of the task by 2 and a full level of Status by 4, depending on which party has the higher status. So it is easier for a male Agent to use Agency on female Scenery and harder for a female Agent to use Agency on male Scenery. Exceptions to this apply for cases where stereotypes are played on. A 'woman in distress' is going to get a benefit from limited Status, while a 'woman being pushy' is going to take a penalty. Similarly, an obsequious black might get out of a situation by groveling far easier than by being assertive. The question is whether the Agent (and player) is willing to do so. The specifics of Status in 1957 are:

**black:** Or in common 1957 parlance, 'negro' or 'colored', as in 'United Negro College Fund' or 'National Association for the Advancement of Colored People'. Being black is one level of negative global status (4 points). It does not apply across the globe, but for enough of it to matter.

**non-white:** Anyone who is not white but is not black. This is one level of limited negative Status (2 points). An example would be being Indian (American), Indian (India), Jewish, Hispanic, Arab, anything 'Oriental', pretty much anything that does not look like a white of European descent.

**female:** Being a woman is one level of limited negative Status (2 points). It is simply assumed that you are incapable of doing some things, and even attempting to do so is being an obstruction to a man who is actually qualified to do the task. But at least you are not black (which is in game terms the only reason it is not a global negative level of Status, so that a white female wins tiebreakers against a black male).



A new Royal Portable can raise her marks up to 38%

IT HAPPENS EVERY DAY! Many so-called "slow students" learn to type and then show up on the honor roll.

Incredible? Not at all. Typing makes homework fun, actually encourages study, helps organize lessons, helps finish assignments faster.

**Start them right with Royal!**  
Twin-Pak, the quick-change, no-smudge ribbon... Magic's Margin... extra light touch... that famous Royal suggestion! These are just a

few of the exclusives that make the 1958 Royal Portable the greatest portable that ever went to school—the all-time favorite of students.

**Pay just pennies a day!**  
You can buy a Royal Portable in any one of the 6 wonderful colors for only a few pennies a day, with up to two full years to pay. There's nothing to keep you from giving your student a new Royal Portable—and a Royal send-off toward better grades—right now.



Convenience plus! Only the new Royal Portable gives you Twin-Pak ribbon. Changes instantly—no money fingers.

**ROYAL** world's most wanted portable typewriter

A product of Royal Typewriter Corporation, world's largest manufacturer of typewriters.

Advertising: Using glasses to stereotype smart women since 1957. Bonus points for implying that male students do not need the extra help to get good grades.



**non-Christian:** This is one level of limited negative Status (2 points). Most commonly, this is going to involve being a Jew, a Muslim or an atheist. Each of these is going to have its own form of discrimination. Being a Catholic is not a Status penalty except in very rarified circles (John F. Kennedy will have some controversy in 1960 when running for President).

Anti-semitism is still alive and well in the United States. Certain careers are far more open to Jews than to others, but hotels still discriminate against them, clubs refuse them membership and they are subject to slurs.

Muslims are sort of exotic in a heathen kind of way, but few actually know enough about Islam to actually get offended. Muslim actor Omar Sharif is going to become quite famous in Hollywood circles in a few years. The discrimination is going to be less overt than anti-Semitism.

Atheism is also a radical thing to be publicly associated with. Remember that this is an era of school prayer and laws in several states saying that those who do not believe in God cannot hold public office. This is a fairly easy belief to hide (and can be taken as a Secret), since insincerely going through the motions is something a lot of people do in 1957 anyway. Your only difference is that instead of being a hypocrite, you do not actually believe (which is apparently worse). The problem with openly being atheist in 1957 is that most people then assume you are also a Communist.

**homosexual:** This is one level of global negative Status (4 points). In 1957, American psychiatrists consider homosexuality to be a mental disorder. Openly admitting to be homosexual will get you fired from most jobs and not hired if you apply for one. It is an automatic disqualification for any government job (more people were fired for being homosexual than for being Communists). The usual term for you is 'deviant' or 'pervert' and sodomy is a crime in every state. It is the sort of thing that is tolerated for 'artists' of various sorts as long as they do not openly admit it (absolutely fabulous Liberace will at one point be the world's highest paid performer), but it is not something for 'serious people'. This could also be a Secret worth 4 points, where you take the global Status penalty if the Secret is revealed.

**000-x63 Sexual deviation**  
This diagnosis is reserved for deviant sexuality which is not symptomatic of more extensive syndromes, such as schizophrenic and obsessional reactions. The term includes most of the cases formerly classed as "psychopathic personality with pathologic sexuality." The diagnosis will specify the type of the pathologic behavior, such as homosexuality, transvestism, pedophilia, fetishism and sexual sadism (including rape, sexual assault, mutilation).



**communist:** This is one level of limited negative Status (2 points). The House un-American Activities Committee is not as much of a thing as it was before Joseph McCarthy was discredited and disgraced back in 1954, but the Cold War is still on and America's enemies are the Communists. So, being a communist means you have aligned yourself with the political philosophy of 'the enemy', and this is about like going into church and declaring yourself a Satanist. It is a fringe belief considered allowable only amongst the artistic and entertainment communities (i.e. people who do not make a difference and are unimportant in the grand scheme of things). Communists are usually assumed to be atheists and vice versa, but they are separate items and you can be one without the other. Like homosexuality and atheism, you can take this as a Secret and only take Status problems if the Secret is revealed.



Commies, zombies, it's hard to tell sometimes.

So, you can really crank up some points with Secrets or Status, as long as you are willing to live with the problems. And there are famous people in the world who are overcoming this in 1957. Some prominent people with Status penalties in 1957 would be author Ayn Rand (female, atheist), entertainer Sammy Davis, Jr. (black, Jewish (formally converted in 1961)), activist Malcolm X (black, Muslim), actor-director Ed Wood (Plan 9 from Outer Space)(homosexual), artist Andy Warhol (homosexual), author James Baldwin (black, homosexual), FBI director J. Edgar Hoover (secretly homosexual), actor Rock Hudson (secretly (sort of) homosexual), civil rights leader A. Philip Randolph (black, atheist), entertainer Liberace (homosexual, but denies it), actress Katharine Hepburn (female, atheist), author Ernest Hemingway (atheist), and singer Pete Seeger (communist).



**Final notes**

This is a setting where for it to really work, you have to be the Agent. It is a setting and a world and a real place where to be tolerant and inclusive makes you the odd man out. If you are going to share the attitudes of most of the Agents (and Scenery) in 1957, then it is your dialog and your actions, not filtered by the distance of 'my character says'. It is about what you are saying and the actions you are initiating. And it may sometimes make you uncomfortable, but it will also help you understand where the gamemaster-controlled NPC's are coming from.

The next chapter is going to deal with a lot of nuts and bolts of the world of 1957, but one of the most important things to remember in terms of making an Agent is that the world is slower and personal skills are much more important. If you want to do research, you must physically go to where the knowledge is. No Google, no Wikipedia, no Siri or Cortana or Alexa. If you need to do some complex mental calculations, you have to be able to do them with pen and paper because you do not have a scientific calculator. If you need directions to get somewhere, there is no GPS, you need a paper map in front of you. If you do not buy something in person, it could take weeks to arrive, or months if it comes from overseas. Negotiations are done in person, not by phone. And if you need to call someone, you have to go to where a phone is. So if your car breaks down and you need a tow truck, you have to walk or hitchhike to someplace you can call one.

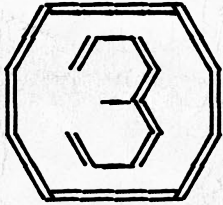
That is, aside from the people standing right next to you, you are on your own. So your skill set should let you do the things you need to do because you will have few technological crutches to cover the things you cannot.

**SIX SURVIVAL SECRETS FOR ATOMIC ATTACKS**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ALWAYS</u> PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST . . .</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND . . .</b></p> <p><b>1. Try To Get Shielded</b>          If you have time, get down in a basement. Should you unexpectedly be caught out-of-doors, seek shelter alongside a building, or jump in any handy ditch or gutter.</p> <p><b>2. Drop Flat on Ground or Floor</b>          To keep from being tossed about and to lessen the chances of being struck by falling and flying objects, flatten out at the base of a wall, or at the bottom of a bank.</p> <p><b>3. Bury Your Face in Your Arms</b>          When you drop flat, hide your eyes in the crook of your elbow. That will protect your face from flash burns, prevent temporary blindness and keep flying objects out of your eyes.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEVER</u> LOSE YOUR HEAD . . .</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND . . .</b></p> <p><b>4. Don't Rush Outside Right After a Bombing</b>          After an air burst, wait a few minutes, then go help to fight fires. After other kinds of bursts wait at least 1 hour to give lingering radiation some chance to die down.</p> <p><b>5. Don't Take Chances With Food or Water in Open Containers</b>          To prevent radioactive poisoning or disease, select your food and water with care. When there is reason to believe they may be contaminated, stick to canned and bottled things if possible.</p> <p><b>6. Don't Start Rumors</b>          In the confusion that follows a bombing, a single rumor might touch off a panic that could cost your life.</p>
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Remember kids, wait at least an hour before going outside after a ground burst A-bomb, to give the radiation a chance to die down.





### The world of 1957

We have given you some superficial ideas of what life was like in 1957 and some of the ideas that players or gamemasters might have for Agents, but this chapter is meant to flesh out some of the big, everyday things that are going on. This is stuff you could base a campaign on, set up an alternate history to highlight, or simply use as background for your own adventures on different subjects. As with an Agency campaign set in 2018, most if not all of these big items represent ideological differences between Agent groups, reflected in the outward and open hostility of the Scenery they influence.

The Scenery of 1957 has a number of things on their minds, which in Agency means that Agents also have them on their minds. In terms of the social issues, they are described from the position of the way things work and the majority view, which in Agency means that most Agents feel this way too, and we cannot emphasize that enough. The attitudes of Scenery reflect the generations of the Agents who influence them. So, a 1957 campaign is almost certain to have Agents on both sides of important cultural issues, and not just in opposition. Agents might be in a group whose leader has attitudes different than their own, but have to live with it in pursuit of some larger shared goal. Players might even take some degree of these attitudes as a Personality for their Agent, or take working against one of these attitudes as part of a Background or Motivation. Now, not everyone is going to be racist, sexist or whatever, but any cultural attitudes described below are the default for what Agents affected by them will run into. A gamemaster can make one of these items their centerpiece for 1957, or just use the following as a guideline to the attitudes players will run into in various parts of the world (mostly the United States). We are going to devote a fair amount of space to some of them, but that does not mean we want or expect you to base a campaign on it as some sort of 1950's social justice warriors. Rather, it is sort of a cultural gazetteer to give you a feel for the world and the hurdles your Agent is going to deal with if they choose to have a social disadvantage because of their race, gender or beliefs.

A lot of these cultural aspects may be distasteful for players, because there is not as much separation between 'game setting' and 'reality'. It is not like this is a fantasy setting where you can just say 'Orcs are evil' and not feel bad about your attitude towards them. It is the world of your grandparents and if they were adults in 1957, these social attitudes were probably either what they had or what they faced. With that as a preface...



### The Cold War

This is probably the biggest of the real world things that is happening, even though it will completely disappear about thirty years from now. If the Cold War becomes 'hot', it becomes World War 3, and that is bad for everyone. For players or gamemasters who have heard the term but are slightly fuzzy on what the Cold War actually was...

The relationship between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (the USSR) and the United States (and UK) was a 'friendship' in the Machiavellian sense of 'the enemy of my enemy is my friend'. The US knew that Stalin (who died in 1953) was a madman and shared as little as possible with him that might be useful after World War 2 ended, like the entire US atomic bomb program (which Stalin knew about anyway). When World War 2 ended in Europe, no one wanted to start fighting each other, but no one wanted to give up anything they had gained. Which is why Germany was split into East Germany and West Germany and Berlin was East Berlin and West Berlin.

With direct conflict seemingly off the table but totally incompatible ideologies wanting to spread their influence, the 'war' became a war of hearts and minds rather than bullets and bombs, and the actual fighting was done by proxies. A 'cold' war rather than a 'hot' one. For instance, in 1957 Fidel Castro is waging a communist insurgency against the US-backed President Fulgencio Batista of Cuba. The United States supports Israel in the Middle East (even if Israel just attacked Egypt) and is making nice with King Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia (even though slavery is still legal there), while President Nasser of Egypt is simultaneously playing the USSR for military aid (through Czechoslovakia as a convenient political fiction) and the United Kingdom for support for the Aswan Dam project. In Malaysia (still a British colony), the government is fighting a vicious war against the communist Malayan National Liberation Army.

TOP SECRET  
U.K. EYES ONLY

COPY NO. 2

ANNEX A

POSSIBLE REACTION OF THE SOVIET UNION TO THE UNITED STATES POLICY ON SYRIA IN AREAS OTHER THAN THE MIDDLE EAST

1. It is not a first-class or vital Soviet interest to preserve a dominating influence in Syria. The Soviet leaders would therefore not wish to risk a global war by entering openly into a conflict in which Syria was engaged with members of the Bagdad Pact and, possibly, the U.S.A. Moreover, since the prestige of the Soviet Army is not yet involved in Syria, the prospect of a Syrian defeat would not be intolerable.
  2. Syria has, however, now moved so far into the Communist camp that the Soviet leaders would be bound to regard the overthrow of the new Syrian regime as involving a serious reverse for them in the Middle East and some loss of prestige throughout the world. Their reaction to the United States policy on Syria could be expected to be strong and determined, and they would try to frustrate it by every means short of those which, in their judgment, would be likely to involve them in a war with the West.
- Possible Soviet Counter-Moves
- A. Political
    3. The Russians would mount a world-wide propaganda campaign (already foreshadowed in Gromyko's statement of 10th September), depicting Syria as the innocent victim of a threatened aggression by the United States, United Kingdom and France, who were using reactionary Arab regimes to serve their imperialist aims of crushing Arab nationalism in the interests of the oil companies and Israel.
    4. The purpose of this campaign would be:-
      - (i) To arouse the latent suspicions of Western imperialism in the other Arab and Asian States and portray the United States, France and United Kingdom as potential aggressors in the eyes of the neutralist countries.
      - (ii) To undermine the morale of Arab States co-operating with the West.
      - (iii) To mobilise the Bandung Powers, especially India, to work up pressure for a Syrian appeal to the United Nations on the Suez model.
      - (iv) To play on Arab/Asian and N.A.T.O. fears of global war.



This sort of thing was going on all over the world. And at the same time, everyone who did not have the A-bomb but did have the money and brainpower, was working on building their own, and those that did have their own (the United Kingdom), were busy working on H-bombs (the UK would test their first in 1957).



THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO SHELTER YOU-INDOORS, A SCHOOL DESK, A CHAIR, A TABLE. ALWAYS DUCK AWAY FROM WINDOWS AND GLASS DOORS.

'Duck and cover' was a real thing...

1957 might not be the height of the Cold War, but it is the height so far. There are US bombers in the air at all times, loaded with nuclear weapons and simply waiting for orders on where to go with them. It scares the bejeebers out of Agents, as it is the first time since the Inquisition that Scenery has gotten so out of control over its reflection of Agent hatreds and fears. Even the most highly placed of Agents is constrained by the Scenery that makes up their generals and legislatures. Neither side can simply 'back down', and both sides are waiting for the other to make the first overtures to help defuse the tension.

The Cold War is mostly being fought by proxy at this point, with East and West trying to influence lesser nations to join their side, with various means and degrees of success. For instance, the United States is currently trying to convince Saudi Arabia that jihad against the USSR is appropriate because they are godless and the West is not. And we all know how well that whole 'stoking the fires of Islamic fundamentalism' thing works out in the long run. The USSR simply goes for the route of providing weapons and foreign aid to any nation adopting Communism, for instance North Korea, Cuba and newly independent nations in Africa, or for that matter, any nation which would take a stance against a nearby nation supported by the US. So, every nation around Israel was chock-full of Russian weapons and attitudes towards Israel were not improved by Israel's failed invasion of Egypt in late 1956 (to gain control of the Suez Canal and oust Egypt's President Gamal Nasser). For 1957 reference, the Suez Canal was blocked for shipping by the effects of this nine-day war, and will not re-open until March 8, 1957.



In the United States, the Cold War and anti-Communist sentiment is part of daily life. Officially, communism is the threat and the Soviet peoples are simply oppressed victims of it, but the Scenery generally sees 'the Reds' as a threat to the American way of life. Schoolchildren do the pledge of allegiance every morning, there is a big American flag in every classroom and everyone has to do their atomic attack drills and knows where every fallout shelter is between home and school. There is not a fear of imminent attack, but the awareness that 'godless commies hate us for our freedom' is something that you cannot go a week without encountering in one form or another. So while the conflicts of the Cold War do not by any means have to be the centerpiece of a 1957 campaign they are as much an inescapable part of a campaign as interstellar travel is to something like Star Wars.

**Racism** - Racism is not just about blacks and we are using the term as a catch-all for 'other-ism'. Attitudes of this sort are aimed at anyone who is not 'white', it is just that blacks are the largest group it is aimed at and the easiest to see it happening against. And we are using 'black' because it is the nicest term that would be used in 1957. The modern term 'African-American' will not be invented for generations, and would be inaccurate in any case because discrimination is worldwide.



There is a lot of bias against Hispanics, who are generally lumped into the category 'Mexicans'. There are virtual slave camps for migrant laborers in Florida, systematic violence

against migrants by US Marshals in Texas, and a 1954 Federal operation to remove illegal immigrants from the US was literally called 'Operation Wetback'. Workplace safety laws are routinely violated, minimum wage laws ignored, and because the legal systems in these areas are stacked against them, they have little or no recourse. Especially in areas near the Mexican border, all of the same sorts of discrimination blacks faced was also faced by Hispanics (not admitted to clubs, kept out of housing, not selected for juries, not hired for important jobs, etc.), and stereotypes abounded (the Looney Tunes character 'Speedy Gonzales' dates from the early 1950's). Note that the border controls in 1957 were there for major entry points, but the border itself was pretty porous.

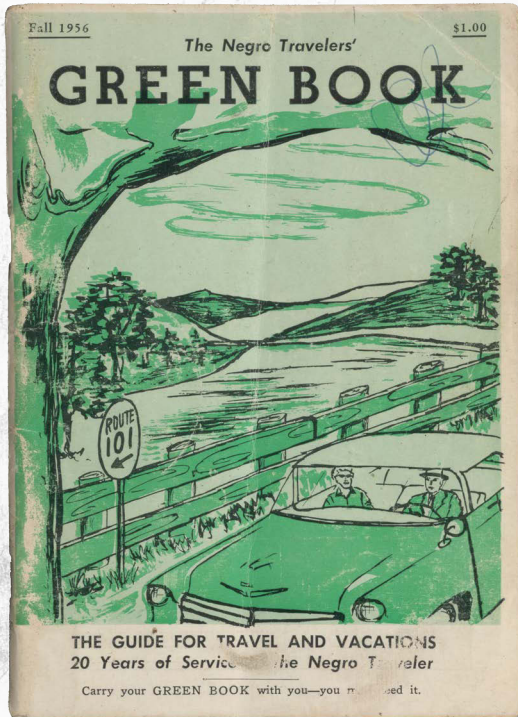


Racism also covers anti-Semitism. While Jews in 1957 move much more freely in society than other groups that are discriminated against, there is still a strong undercurrent of anti-Semitism in the United States and many other countries. 'Kike' is a common slur. Harvard had a quota for Jews to keep their numbers down. Yale and the other Ivy League schools likewise. Homeowner associations may have covenants that prevent properties in their neighborhood from being sold to Jews. The still-recent memory of the Holocaust (for which there are deniers) give most anti-Semitic attitudes in the US the cover of "we are not anti-Semitic, the Nazis were anti-Semitic", but US attitudes (and those in most other parts of the world) are merely different points on the same spectrum and about thirty percent of the US population has some sort of bias against Jews. Famous people like aviator Charles Lindbergh (first solo trans-Atlantic flight), author Roald Dahl (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory), fashion designer Coco Chanel, and poet T.S. Eliot were all openly anti-Semitic in 1957 (and there is still discussion on whether Walt Disney was). Country clubs routinely have explicit 'no Jews' policies. Many hotels will not book a room for you if you are a Jew. Jews who 'look Gentile' will sometimes change their names to improve their chances of employment or social standing. The attitude is so commonplace that it falls into stock phrases, like driving a hard bargain is 'Jewing someone down'.

For other groups, there is some racism towards people of Asian or Arab or Indian (India) descent or for that matter anyone who does not look of white European origin, but not nearly as much as against the other groups, simply because there are so few of these other groups, they are not seen as a threat and are not trying to take your job or marry your sister. They are still discriminated against in terms of housing and jobs, but it is sort of an 'also-ran' passive racism rather than the proactive level of bigotry that has separate water fountains labeled 'white' and 'colored'.

But the greatest amount of racism by far in the United States is what we expect, that against blacks. Civil rights for blacks is in the forefront of the news in the United States. Martin Luther King was on the cover of Time magazine (February 18, 1957), Rosa Parks' refusal to sit in the back of the bus in 1955 is still talked about, as is the murder of 14-year old Emmett Till, the acquittal of his two murderers by an all-white jury, and the murderers' subsequent bragging about having did it since they could not be tried a second time for the crime.





This was produced on a shoestring budget and they could not find clip art of black motorists for the cover. 'Carry your Green Book with you - you may need it.'

For blacks who could afford air travel, travel agents were trained to limit sales to a minimum subset of flights so that as few white people as possible would be offended by their presence. Jackie Robinson (the first black Major League Baseball player) was late for spring training because his local airport simply would not let him on a plane. Black jazz great Ella Fitzgerald was told to 'sit in the back of the plane' even though she had a first class ticket (she sued and won). Telephone sales agents would be taught how to recognize 'black' voices and deny seats accordingly. Real estate agents would state on their business cards that they did not sell properties to blacks. For those travelling by car or train, a must-have was 'The Negro Travellers' Green Book', an indispensable guide to gas stations, lodging, restaurants and other businesses that were safe for black travellers to use.

In the military, there is technically equal opportunity for whites and non-whites, but in practice not so much and blacks have little recourse. It was not until 1952 that the first blacks were integrated into previously all-white units. Black soldiers still cannot get high-profile assignments like embassy duty or guard duty in Washington DC. The chance for higher rank was also limited. The West Point class of '54 had 645 cadets, of which 3 were black. According to Jet magazine, one of these three (Hugh G. Robinson) was the son of the highest ranking Negro Army officer at the time, a colonel (for reference, Hugh G. Robinson retired at the rank of Major General).

| "No one has been barred on account of his race from fighting or dying |  
| for America, there are no white or colored signs on the foxholes or |  
| graveyards of battle." - John F. Kennedy |

Sixteen states (all in the South) still say interracial marriage is illegal. The landmark case Virginia v. Loving which invalidates these laws will not be decided for another ten years, and a Gallup poll on the issue in 1958 went against interracial marriage by a 16:1 margin (and one-quarter of those polled were black, so no group approved of it).



The pushback against racism in 1957 is taking several forms. Malcolm X is active in New York City, organizing groups and publicly confronting New York police over racially motivated beatings. The famous Woolworth lunch counter sit-in will not be for another three years. The Birmingham Movement (whose most notable figure will be Martin Luther King) will not be for another six years, but right now King is founding the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and is still travelling with armed bodyguards in the aftermath of his house being bombed in 1956 (he has not embraced non-violence yet).

The lines that are drawn and allies are not what you would expect in 2018. The National Rifle Association is helping black gun clubs set up shooting ranges in the South (1960), while your Klu Klux Klan members are mostly Democrats. The wholesale switch of the South from being Democrat-majority to Republican-majority did not start to take place until the 1960's (the 'Southern Strategy' (look it up)), so Democratic presidential candidates had to appeal to or at least appease Southern Democrats in order to get elected. The landmark Civil Rights Act that most people in 2018 are familiar with was not passed until 1964 (there were several Civil Rights Acts, of which the 1964 version was the most sweeping).

1957 is fully in the 'Jim Crow' era and also the current high point of the civil rights movement against it. Deliberately restrictive voting laws in the southern part of the United States mean that in 1957 only about twenty percent of blacks are even registered to vote. And when they do try to vote, they are hit with 'poll taxes' (which hit blacks harder because of lower incomes), 'literacy tests' (which are impossible to pass) and other hurdles designed to keep the black vote from mattering and to discourage all political participation. And ninety years after emancipation (presumably with the influence of black Agents), the time for pushing back against this has finally come.

In short, if you are a typical player reading this in 2018, the worst you have ever heard of in terms of racism is in 1957, 'an average Tuesday'. If you think of bad movies from the 1970's or 80's with awful Southern sheriffs, racist South Africans, Nazis and neo-Nazis, unrepentant Conferdates, the whole cast of racist caricatures? These are the holdouts and leftovers from 1957, when such attitudes in many places were normal. We mentioned that Harvard had a quota to keep the number of Jewish students down. The quota for black students at Harvard each year was less than twenty.



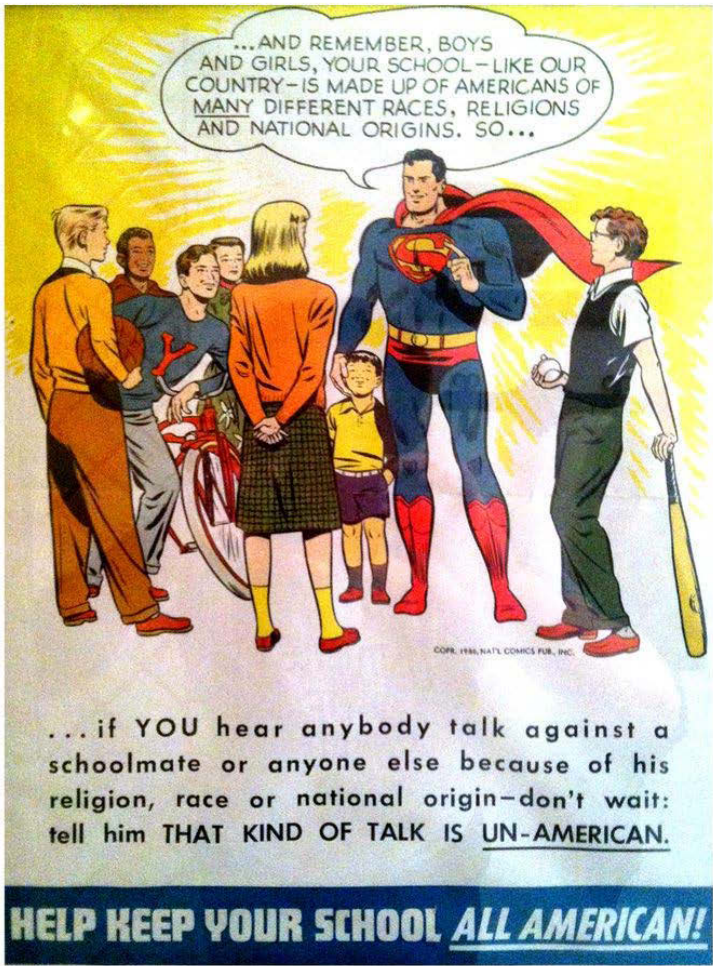
And that is for an enlightened institution in the north of the United States. The University of Georgia and University of Mississippi still do not allow black students at all. Racism is pervasive, the only question is whether it is overt hatred and disdain or the soft bigotry of quotas and unofficial practices in things like whether an apartment building will let you rent a unit or whether a real estate agent will show you a home in a particular neighborhood. Agents who want to fight these battles have plenty of places to do so. Example:

In the summer of 1957 the president of the Arkansas NAACP recruited nine black students based on their strength and character and likely ability to withstand the emotional cost and the spotlight of being the first black students integrated into Little Rock Central High School. The governor of Arkansas, Orval Faubus, called out the Arkansas National Guard to physically keep these nine students out of the school, which they and a large number of pro-segregation protesters did on September 4, 1957. Even personal appeals to the governor by President Eisenhower made no difference and eventually Eisenhower had to bring in the 101st Airborne and federalize the Arkansas National Guard to take Faubus out of the command loop. Because that is how much some people did not want black children in the same classrooms as white ones. In 1958 Governor Faubus went as far as to close the entire Little Rock high school system (for most of a year) just to keep blacks out of white classrooms. This is the way far too many people in 1957 view those who are 'different', and the extremes they are willing to go to keep 'others' in their place.



Black students in white Little Rock classrooms: In 1957, just as bad as a Commie anti-Christ.





While we have been talking about the United States, remember that racism is often simply 'people in charge discriminating against people who look different and not in charge'. There is a visually distinct subset of the Japanese (the Ainu) that other Japanese mock and discriminate against. The majority Han Chinese discriminate against other ethnic Chinese, also against blacks and still have an ax to grind with the Japanese over atrocities committed during World War 2. Chinese are discriminated against in Indonesia, ethnic Incans are discriminated against by the descendants of their Spanish conquerors and so on ad infinitum.

And overcoming racism is the easiest of the biases that some Agents want us to rise above. Bear

There is hope, however...

in mind that even among the people who want blacks and whites to be integrated and equal under the law, most of them still think an inter-racial marriage should be illegal. That is, they can accept the notion of their daughter sitting next to a black kid at school, but draw the line at her marrying one (or him marrying a white girl). The ground-breaking movie about inter-racial dating, 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner' (with Sidney Poitier in the leading role as a black doctor), will not come out for another ten years.

So with this sort of problem for something as obvious as race, you can just forget about any public support for alternate sexualities, drug legalization or easy access to abortion. These are issues so far to the fringe of American politics that no candidate is going to touch them, and for 1957 we can assume most Agents feel this way as well (players can of course be the exception, but may meet hostility for it).

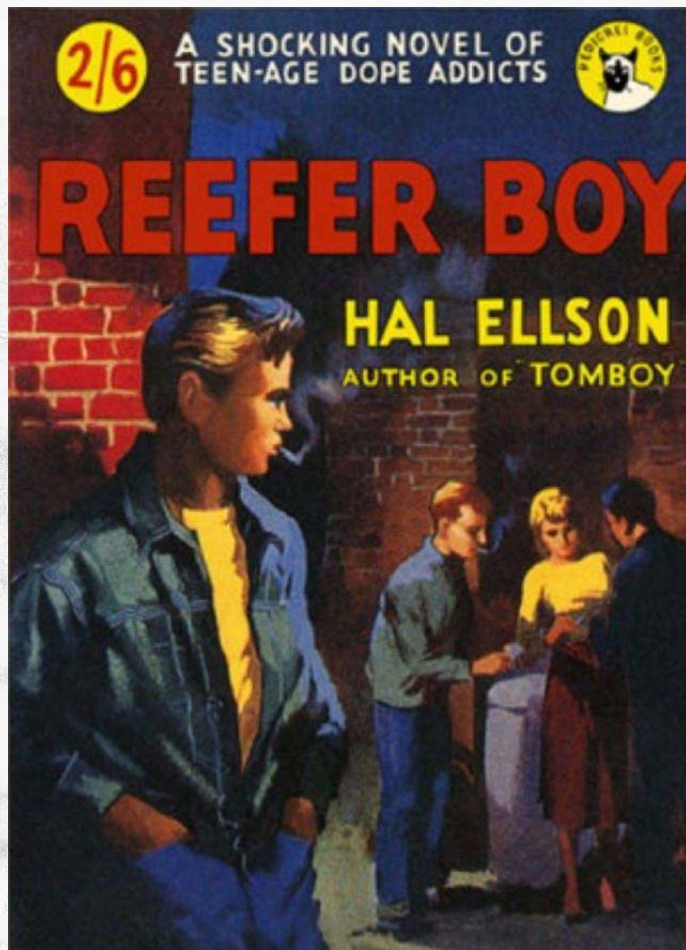


### Drugs

The year 1957 is a strange one for drugs. In the United States, virtually all of the 'old school' recreational drugs are highly illegal (marijuana, heroin, cocaine), but LSD has not yet been made illegal, amphetamines are available at the local drugstore and there are magazine ads about dosing Grandpa with thorazine if he gets out of hand. Prescriptions are written by the millions for valium, barbituates and uppers, but marijuana is seen as a gateway that leads inescapably to heroin addiction (and Communists were behind it!), with a harsher minimum sentence for mere possession than for murder in some states. At the federal level, the Boggs Act (1952) specified a mandatory minimum sentence of 2 years for first time marijuana possession.

While they are linked in the eyes of sensationalists, the various drug cultures are quite separated, with heroin imports mostly run by the Corsican Mafia, marijuana sometimes being home-grown (low-yield varieties grow wild in many areas) and was mostly a 'black thing', LSD was usually manufactured locally and not trafficked in bulk, amphetamines are legal enough that there is not enough profit in a bulk illicit market (yet), and cocaine, while illegal, was not considered a social problem because so few people used it (it will not become a problem again until the 1960's).

The CIA is experimenting with LSD on Americans and recording the results, and the US military is supplying weapons aid to heroin producers in southeast Asia to help them combat Communism, but simultaneously vastly improving their ability to produce and move their product, which increases the amount of heroin on US streets. Scenery is not very bright that way.



You can tell he is a hard-core delinquent by the t-shirt and jeans...

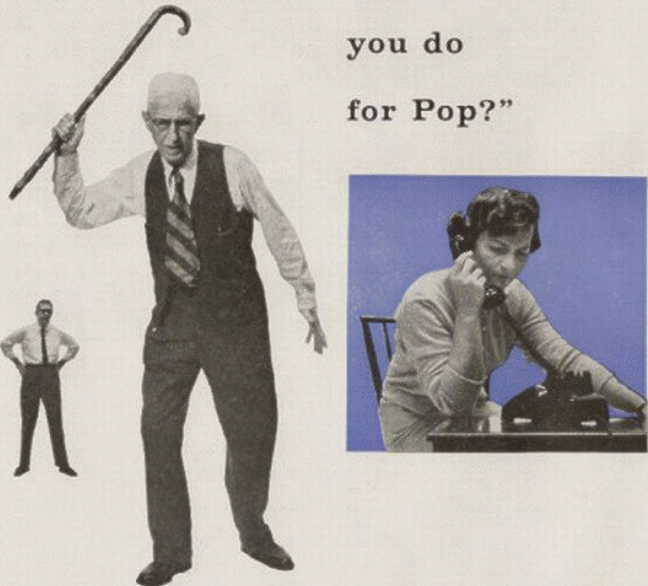


A lot of the small-scale movement of drugs is through biker gangs like the Hell's Angels (formed in San Bernadino in 1948), called 'one-percenters' as a term of pride, derived from a statement by the American Motorcycle Association saying "The trouble was caused by the one percent deviant that tarnishes the public image of both motorcycles and motorcyclists."

Large-scale smuggling into the US is mostly from the Atlantic side for heroin, going from Asia to Marseille to Cuba and then to the US, with President Batista of Cuba and his officials taking a cut for looking the other way. Large scale smuggling of marijuana is done through Mexico, which is about 75% of the US supply in 1957.

A subset of Agents have always been intrigued with mind-altering drugs and apocryphal but consistent reports of trips far different than Scenery has, keeps each new generation of Agents involved in the drug scene. LSD is of particular interest in 1957 because of the miniscule doses needed, the intensity of the experience and the fact that anyone can get the full production methods for it for a small fee from the US Patent Office.

**"Doctor,  
what can  
you do  
for Pop?"**



Deeply involved in the problem of the hostile, agitated senile are all members of the family . . . and you, their physician.

In discussing the use of 'Thorazine', Pollack<sup>1</sup> observes: "Older persons with such disorders can be treated at home by the general practitioner with much benefit and with great relief to the family."

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*for prompt control of the agitated, belligerent senile . . .*

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L. Pollack, B., Geriatrics 11:203 (June) 1954.

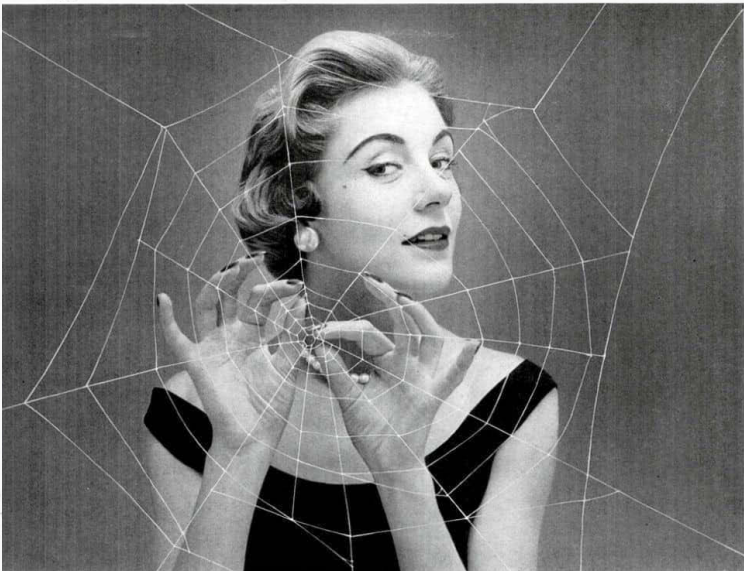
\*T.M. Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. for chlorpromazine, S.K.F.

'For prompt control of the agitated, belligerent senile'. Back in 1957 getting a thorazine prescription for someone else was no big deal. Also available in suppositories, but if Gramps was not agitated and belligerent already, I guarantee he would be if you tried to dose him that way.



**Feminism** - Women are most certainly second-class citizens in 1957, though in the most progressive parts of the world (i.e. not the United States) things are closer to equal. Since the audience of players is mostly going to be from the United States, the US perspective is worthy of note.

First, abortion is illegal in the United States with rare exceptions. There were about three hundred legal abortions in the United States in 1957. Depending on who you ask, there were at least three hundred thousand illegal ones, and possibly as many as a million. Safe, legal reproductive choice is class-based. That is, if you can afford a ticket to Switzerland (or can find a friendly US judge to give you a legal exception for 'medical necessity'), you can have a safe and legal abortion. If you cannot afford that, you have to take your chances with dodgy medical practioners or the stereotypical but all-too-real coat hanger. Laws and attitudes in the United States are slowly changing, but a woman's right to control her own reproduction will not become a part of US law until 1973.



No wife wants her husband to carry the memory of her morning breath to work with him. The attractive women he meets during the day don't have it

Birth control pills will not become available until the 1960's. In 1957, in over half the US states, birth control is illegal for unmarried women. Sex ed for teens is either awful or non-existent, since it is the nature of Scenery to ignore or condemn the fact that their children are going to do the exact same things as their parents did at that age.

Some European countries had more liberal attitudes, others were almost as bad as the United States in many respects. Literature on birth control was illegal in France in 1957, and all contraception was illegal in Ireland (as was divorce). And anyplace where Catholicism was the majority religion, women's rights were in short supply (divorce is illegal in most of South America).

### There's another woman waiting for every man — AND SHE'S TOO SMART TO HAVE "MORNING MOUTH"

We're not saying that if wives simply use Chlorodent their husbands will never look at a pretty girl. But we do know if you use Chlorodent, your good-bye kiss works for, not against you. For Chlorodent really gets rid of that stale, furry "morning mouth." Your own clean, fresh taste tells you your breath is sweet—even hours later. The secret is chlorophyll-plus. You see, Chlorodent has a big, generous helping of chlorophyll, plus a patented cleansing agent. Chlorodent is so effective it brightens teeth measurably better than any other toothpaste formula, bar none. Brighter teeth. A cleaner mouth. An inviting breath. All this we guarantee—or Lever Brothers Company will return your money. Isn't that reason enough for buying Chlorodent—today? P.S. Same chlorophyll-plus benefits in Chlorodent Tooth Powder.

Stop "morning mouth" — enjoy that wonderful, clean, fresh Chlorodent feeling!

**Chlorodent**  
CHLOROPHYLL PLUS TOOTHPASTE

University dentists found the special cleansing agents in Chlorodent keep enzyme decay acids below the danger point for 8 out of 10 people for hours — with just one brushing.

You are an easily replaced commodity. Buy our toothpaste or your husband will have an affair with his secretary.



In short, any hazards from being sexually active were entirely the woman's problem, women had less rights than men, there was a de facto and sometimes de jure double standard and neither law nor society was very supportive. Agents are of course not going to be on either side of a pregnancy, but those who are socially active on the issue have plenty of things to do.

Women in the workplace are almost entirely in lesser roles and getting paid less than a man for the same job is sometimes explicitly written into company policy. There are only a few female CEOs of major companies, and only 2% of executives and lawyers in the United States are female. The first female judge in the United Kingdom was in 1957, and women were just recently allowed to run for public office in Mexico (1953). Like for matters of race, if you are an influential woman, you will automatically stand out. And there will be an entire section of the Scenery (and some of your fellow Agents) watching you closely to take advantage of any of your failures.

As far as Scenery sees it in 1957, a woman's role is to help a more qualified man. To be a homemaker, mother, secretary or assistant or do other tasks that free up men to do the important things. For a woman to play a leading role is overturning the natural order of things, and a woman doing these things is merely obstruction in a job that would be better handled with a man in charge. College education is seen by some as a waste, since the woman will just end up getting married, having children and never use her degree anyway. Women are simultaneously weak yet able to easily manipulate men. Beautiful but preoccupied with self-doubt about their appearance. And this is the attitude in much of the developed world. A 1957 newspaper article recommended bank cashier jobs as an excellent temporary job between the time when a woman finishes school and when she gets married (and of course quits to be a homemaker and mother). This was written by a woman. In the 'second' and 'third world', awful discriminatory practices against women are likely still law, such as not being able to own property, counted as the property of the husband, not being allowed to drive, or legally restrictive dress codes. Western women are often made allowances for simply because many such nations are still colonies of a European power, but local women have no such protections.

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7 1/2" long  
1 1/2" diameter

Helps relieve tensions. Honest. And why do we need to know its length and diameter?



**Guns** - In the United States there are only two real regulations regarding firearms purchases. The first is that manufacturers or dealers cannot send pistols to private individuals through the mail, and the second is that autofire weapons require a background checks and US\$200 transfer tax (equivalent to about 2,000 Credits in 2018 terms). And while felons are not allowed to own guns, there are no background checks nor any obligation to even ask. You can order an anti-tank rifle under an assumed name and pay for it with cash or money order and the postman will deliver it to your door, no questions asked. There is no social stigma about gun ownership or shooting, surplus military weapons (not 'lookalikes', actual military surplus) are common, and the 1956 Olympic shooting events involved shooting human silhouette targets.

So, acquiring guns is easy. Even if you are not in the United States. Remember that World War 2 only ended a little more than a decade ago and plenty of guns got 'lost' in Europe after the war, even if there are legal restrictions on their ownership. So, those who have connections are always going to be able to get them.

Legally carrying them is another matter. In the United States, about the only place where it is easy and legal to carry a concealed firearm is Vermont. Most other states either do not even have concealed carry permits or have onerous requirements (which you can finagle with Agency), but cross-state reciprocity is almost unknown and permits for out-of-state residents are probably not available.

**MOST POWERFUL RIFLE EVER MADE!**  
**NAZI 20MM SEMI-AUTO**  
**SOLOTHURN ANTI-TANK RIFLE!**

with High Power Telescopic Sight



**ACCESSORIES**

**THE ULTIMATE RIFLE** — Here is the rarest modern firearm ever offered to the American collector! The biggest, most powerful rifle ever made. In V.G. to Excellent Cond. Designed in 1938 by order of Hitler's general staff, the Solothurn S18-1000 was used on all fronts against all allied armies. Its devastating accuracy coupled with torrent-like firepower were directly responsible for the frantic redesigning of nearly all allied armored fighting vehicles.

**FANTASTICALLY RARE** — This latest and greatest Solothurn catches everyone's eye. It will be the showpiece of your collection. Its 80 Cal. (20MM) bore, fast semi-automatic fire, superb engineering and deadly efficiency make other anti-tank rifles look like toys. Let its efficient muzzle brake lets you shoot this exciting rifle with ease.

**STATISTICS** — Each gun ordinance checked and test fired. Hurls a 1/2 lb. armor piercing shell up to 4 miles. Its terrific muzzle velocity plus special wide field telescopic sight allow rapid fire with pinpoint accuracy at one kilometer (3/4 mile). Will cleanly penetrate 2" of finest steel armor plate. Quick detachable barrel. Muzzle vel. 2700 FPS. Bbl. length: 4'4". 10-shot semi-auto mag. fed. Legal to own with no licenses required. COMES FITTED WITH ORIG. HIGH POWER CALIBRATED TELESCOPIC SIGHT AT NO EXTRA CHARGE. (Sight is illuminated for nightfighting.)

**ABSOLUTELY COMPLETE! ALL 52 ORIGINAL ACCESSORIES AND SPARE PARTS INCLUDED FREE!**  
**YOUR GUN COMES TO YOU WITH FOLLOWING:** Orig. ordnance fitted chest; 10 magazines; complete assorted covers and carrying devices; all spare parts in orig. metal boxes and leather bag; 1 dummy exercise cartridge (very rare); complete special tools, detachable muzzle brake, complete cleaning kit items; complete precision armorers kit in top grain leather case; tools for 1000 uses. An exceptional and useful bonus. Every special extra ever issued with this gun. Nothing else to buy. This complete package worth \$635 on late 1957 collector's market.

**RARE AMMO!** (At a price you can afford to shoot.) 20MM Solothurn Anti-Tank. A \$12 cartridge on the collector's market. In orig. cardboard tubes.  
 To Gun Buyers Only ..... \$ 9.95  
 50 rds. .... \$7.60  
 To Cartridge Collector's  
 Single rounds, each ..... \$3.95

**YOUR PRICE COMPLETE \$189.50**

**LAYAWAY PLAN:** \$25 down, \$25 per month holds your gun until paid for.

**TO ORDER:** Send check, cash or money order. \$40 deposit for C.O.D. Shipped by freight.

**Cadmus Industries**

60 Craft Bldg., 5880 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles 28, Calif.

Legal to own with no licenses required. Costs about as much as a nice 'assault rifle' in 2018.



The safest bet for players is to assume that concealed carry of a firearm anywhere is going to be illegal unless you are a law enforcement officer operating in your jurisdiction (though other law enforcement officers might 'look the other way' for you if you are out of your jurisdiction).

On the plus side, the only way someone will know if you are carrying a gun is if you are searched. There are no metal detectors or explosives sniffers or x-ray machines for your luggage, and Scenery are generally unconcerned about the presence of firearms unless they have personal reason to be worried about them (the Secret Service will frisk you before you meet the President). Rural high school students take rifles to school in the family truck so they can do hunting after school in the fall. Junior high schools might have a shooting range in the basement. If you have a hunting rifle over your shoulder when you walk into an airport (and you are white), the first serious question you will face is when the stewardess asks if you want to keep it in your seat or put it in the overhead bin (laws against firearms on commercial flights are first passed in the United States in 1961 (Public Law 87-197)). Airline pilots could also carry guns (and one killed an attempted hijacker with his in July 1954).

And for all this laxity regarding guns, the firearm murder rate per 100,000 people in 1957 is about the same as it is in 2018. The use of guns to solve problems or make political statements is a concept largely absent from the minds of Scenery. There was exactly one 'mass shooting' (by FBI definition) in the United States for the entire decade, and presumably Agents feel much the same way. Good old fists and the occasional blunt object are all most Agents need. Even gang warfare is mostly non-lethal and when a gun is used in a targeted killing (rather than a crime of passion) it is major news. Mobster Frank Costello avoided an assassination attempt on May 2, 1957 and walked away after taking a bullet to the head. Albert Anastasia (boss of what would later be the Gambino crime family), caught 5 bullets in a barbershop on October 25, 1957 and did not walk away from it.

Criminal forensics involving firearms is primitive in 1957. Police can match a fired bullet to a gun if they have both, they can sometimes identify a model of gun by its shell casings (only works for guns that eject them), and of course, fingerprints left on a gun can link someone to a crime involving that gun. And that is about it. If you do not leave fingerprints on a gun (or bullets) and get rid of it after a crime, all you need is an alibi and you are almost untouchable.



Dress codes - In 1957, who you are can be measured by the way you dress. Denim (or 'dungarees') are only worn by workmen or teenagers trying to be cool (Elvis Presley will make them the 'in' thing by wearing them in the movie Jailhouse Rock in late 1957). However, you would never wear jeans to school or any sort of professional setting. Men have short hair, are clean-shaven and wear suits with button-down shirts and narrow ties. If you are especially daring (and successful), a narrow mustache adds character, but stubble or goatees are only allowed for rebels, outcasts and artistés. Women in professional settings wear skirts that go below the knee (never slacks) and having your hair styled is pretty much required to be considered as a serious woman. No one breaks this mold, not even Agents. Not even someone like Steve Jobs would be able to get away with blue jeans and a turtleneck. If you are a ground-breaking mogul like Walt Disney or Howard Hughes, you are wearing the same style and same haircut as your most junior executive.

Part of what would be 'counter-culture' is going against this. So, your 'rebels' go for jeans and black leather jackets and rock & roll, and girls would wear skirts above the knee, let their hair down and basically dabble in everything their parents disapproved of, like reading Allen Ginsburg and Jack Kerouac, or making black friends from whom they could score the demon weed 'marihuana'.

To the advantage of Agents, Scenery expects that those who dress the part are capable of doing the part and belong the part. If you dress like a workman, you will be treated like one. If you are a white guy who looks like a sharp-dressed executive, people will treat you like one.



Visiting a friend for a barbeque? This calls for my casual button-down shirt and tie!



### Censorship & Prudery

Bikinis have been out for 10 years but you can still be ticketed for public indecency for wearing one at the beach unless you are sufficiently famous (even in Europe). Brigitte Bardot and Marilyn Monroe can get away with it, but whether you can is iffy. The Pope still considers it sinful for anyone to wear one.

*SO HUMILIATED WHEN SHE REALIZED  
The cause of her husband's frigidity*



Send for FREE BOOK telling about this grave womanly offense. Learn how no other type liquid antiseptic-germicide tested for the douche is so powerful yet harmless!

Isn't it a shame when a woman doesn't realize how important it is to always put ZONITE in her fountain syringe? Failure to practice hygiene (internal cleanliness) often results in such needless tragedies—bones broken up, few social invitations, the feeling of being shunned without knowing why.

First in the world to be so powerfully effective yet so harmless, ZONITE is positively non-poisonous, non-irritating, non-burning. Remember that ZONITE is SAFE! SAFE! SAFE! to the most delicate tissues. You can use ZONITE as directed as often as needed without the slightest risk of injury.

#### Gives BOTH Internal and External Hygienic Protection

A modern woman realizes how important hygiene is to health, married happiness, after her periods, and to combat an offensive odor even greater than bad breath or body odor—her odor she herself may not detect but is so apparent to people around her.

ZONITE deodorizes not by "masking"—it actually destroys, dissolves and removes odor-causing waste substances. And ZONITE has such a soothing effect. It promptly relieves any itching or irritation if present. ZONITE gives both internal and external protection, leaving one with such a refreshed, dainty feeling.

And isn't it reassuring to know that: NO OTHER TYPE LIQUID ANTISEPTIC-GERMICIDE TESTED FOR THE DOUCHE IS SO POWERFUL YET SAFE TO TISSUES AS ZONITE!

—so c-o-o-s-e! Complete douching directions come with every bottle. Buy ZONITE today! Get it at any drugstore.

#### ZONITE'S Miracle-Action

Developed by a famous surgeon and scientist—the ZONITE principle was the

FREE! NEW!  
For amazing enlightening new booklet containing frank discussion of intimate physical facts, recently published—mail this coupon to Zonite Products Corp., Dept. MR-20, 100 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

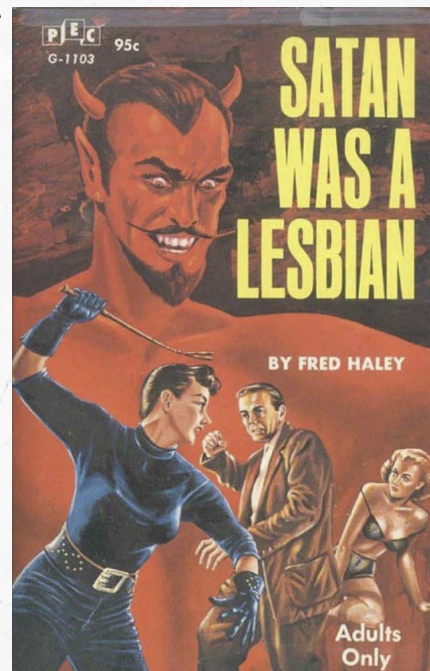
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Other good only in the U.S.

**Zonite**  
FOR NEWER  
feminine hygiene

Anything and everything involving women can be advertised, so long as you are sufficiently vague, but showing mild cleavage on television is a major moral problem. The family show 'Leave it to Beaver' (started airing in 1957) was not allowed to show a toilet, but censors eventually relented and allowed showing the top of the toilet but not the seat. Barbara Eden in the television show 'I Dream of Jeannie' (1965) was not allowed to show her navel.

Books and literature were also censored, officially or unofficially. In the United States, reading anything that might make you look sympathetic to Communism would be a bad idea. **Howl** (Allen Ginsberg) was seized by San Francisco Customs in 1957 for 'obscenity' (overturned on trial). **Lolita** (Vladimir Nabukov) was banned in several countries. **The Naked and the Dead** (Norman Mailer) was banned in Canada for 'obscenity', as was **Peyton Place** (Grace Metalious), while **Tropic of Cancer** (Henry Miller) was seized in the US from 1934 to 1964.

Numerous other minor titles would be banned in a single country for criticism of the ruling party, a prominent family, the dominant religion or a particular government policy (like criticizing apartheid in South Africa). And then there were fly-by-night presses that would market a few adult titles and then disappear, only to pop up and do it again later.



Fifty Shades of Ow, Dammit that Hurts!

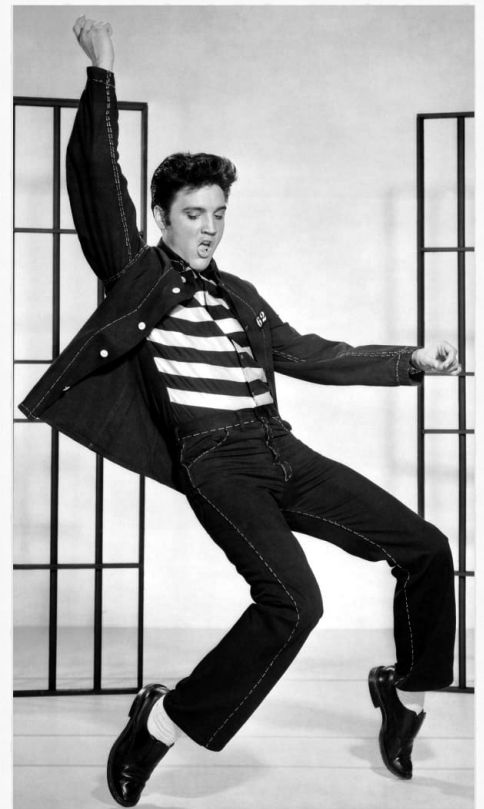


Even comic books came under fire. There were Congressional hearings on the corrupting of American youth because of comic books in 1954, after a four-part newspaper series titled 'Depravity For Children - 10 Cents a Copy!'. The 'Comics Code Authority' started in 1954 as a self-policing part of the comics industry to avoid government regulation. Designed to keep comic books wholesome, some specifics were:

- (a3) Policemen, judges, Government officials and respected institutions shall never be presented in such a way as to create disrespect for established authority.
- (a6) In every instance good shall triumph over evil and the criminal punished for his misdeeds.
- (b1) No comic magazine shall use the word horror or terror in its title.
- (c4) The treatment of live-romance stories shall emphasize the value of the home and the sanctity of marriage.

Portraying vampires, ghouls, zombies and werewolves was off limits, as was apparently any sense of art, use of color, plot or continuity. Some comic artists had their own way of protesting this. For instance, Archie Comics artist Harry Lucey submitted his work with characters unclothed and the inkers had to add the clothing themselves.

Music also had censorship. As mentioned earlier, Jerry Lee Lewis got knocked off the airwaves not because of his songs, but because of his private life. Elvis Presley's hip gyrations on stage were considered so provocative that when he was interviewed (seated) on the Ed Sullivan Show, he would only be shown from the waist up so as not inflame the sinful passion of any teenage girls who happened to be watching. 'Wake up Little Susie' (Everly Brothers, 1957) was banned because it was about two teens sleeping together, and we mean sleeping as in 'accidentally fell asleep together on a date', not hanky-panky 'sleeping together'. Black musicians just did not give a (censored), with banned titles like 'Big Long Slidin' Thing' (1954), 'It ain't the Meat, it's the Motion' (1951), and the banned for its title alone 'Don't Fuck Around with Love' (1953).



Too sexy for television...

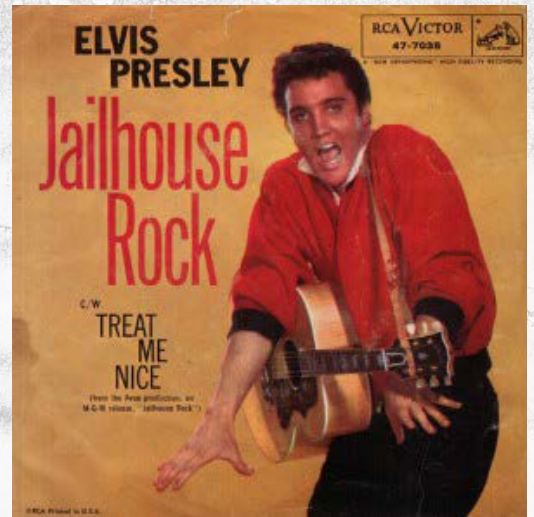


**Entertainment**

Since we are talking about the media in general, what is going on in various media right now? This is not going to factor into plots unless you want it to, but it lets the gamemaster add local color in terms of what is on the radio, what is playing at the theater where you meet your shady contact, play period music in the background, and so on.

**Radio:** The Billboard top 40 singles for 1957 are:

- January Singing the Blues - Guy Mitchell
- February Young Love - Tab Hunter
- March Young Love - Tab Hunter
- April Butterfly - Andy Williams
- May All Shook Up - Elvis Presley
- June Love Letters in the Sand - Pat Boone
- July Teddy Bear - Elvis Presley
- August Teddy Bear - Elvis Presley
- September Tammy - Debbie Reynolds
- October Honeycomb - Jimmie Rodgers
- November Jailhouse Rock - Elvis Presley
- December You Send Me - Sam Cooke



**Television:** 1957's most popular TV shows (by network): Gunsmoke(CBS), Tales of Wells Fargo(NBC) and The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp (ABC). The biggest advertisers are Proctor & Gamble, General Foods and Colgate-Palmolive.

**Movies:** The 'Best Picture' Academy Award for 1957 will be **Around the World in 80 Days**, starring Mario Reyes, David Niven and Shirley MacLaine. Other movies of note are **Bridge on the River Kwai**, **12 Angry Men** and **A Farewell to Arms**. Movies to not note are **The Viking Women** and **the Sea Serpent**, **Attack of the Crab Monsters** and **I Was a Teenage Frankenstein**.

**Books:** The New York Times best-seller list for 1957 will be topped by **Peyton Place**, **By Love Possessed** and **The Scapegoat**.

**Scandals:** Ingrid Bergmann had an affair (and pregnancy) with Italian director Roberto Rossellini. Both were married at the time. Shocking!

**Las Vegas:** Acts of note in Las Vegas this year are Louis Prima, Liberace and Judy Garland.





**Settings and Plots** -----

In the opening vignette, there is a lot of name dropping going on, and as much of it as possible is real world things translated into Agency terms. James Dean died in an car accident in 1955, and we say he almost died and it was covered up by an Agent group that recruited him. Which group, we do not need to know. Elvis and Sinatra were playing in Vegas about this time, Don Rickles was a household name and the first topless shows in Vegas started in early 1957. John 'Jake the Barber' Factor (born Iakov Faktorowicz in England) was in fact a gangster with Las Vegas connections and the half-brother of Max Factor of cosmetics fame. John Factor also pulled off an English stock swindle worth several million dollars and some of his victims were British nobility. He also rigged the tables and then broke the bank of a Monte Carlo casino. 'Davie the Jew' was David Berman, another gangster with Vegas casino ties, who was born in the Ukraine and who died while undergoing routine surgery on June 16, 1957. And Las Vegas is a short drive from Nellis Air Force Base and its atomic testing range (you could see the mushroom clouds from Vegas hotels). And the Soviets were spying on the US atomic bomb program. So all of this ties together in a neat little plot that really only involves a handful of Agents (and whatever groups and loyalties they represent), and does so using nothing but historical figures and real-world events.

There is lots and lots of interesting real-world stuff going on in 1957 that you can mine for adventure ideas. Scenic locations, famous people, events that could and will change the world for decades to come. Plus whatever gamemaster-created plots are oing on that the Scenery will never understand. And players can be in the thick of it.

1957 is just a few short years before the world was introduced to the film version of James Bond in the movie Dr. No (1962), based on a novel of the same name (1958) by Ian Fleming. Because of the way the gameworld works, this could be a Scenery interpretation of something that actually happened in 1957. And you could make it even more meta by having Sean Connery be an Agent involved in the events, with Ian Fleming accidentally witnessing them and writing it up in the only way he can interpret it as Scenery, as something he imagined rather than something real. So you can see how bizarre you can get with an **Agency** campaign set in 1957. That is up to you. While you are thinking about it, here are a few real world locales and topics to consider for adventure purposes.



Espionage

Espionage is a freaking big deal in 1957. This is the height of the Cold War. While China is an also-ran and not effectively into spying at the moment, the United States and USSR are active across the world, and the USSR at least has had agents (if not Agents) in place in some nations for decades. Weapons plans, troop deployments, atomic secrets, blackmail plots, the works. And other nations are in on it as well. Great Britain has its own nuclear research program because the US will not share data with them, so they are no doubt trying to find things out by other means even if we are their ally. France is probably trying to do the same. Who knows who Israel is spying on, but they are probably spying on someone, simply as a matter of self-preservation. Several of the people involved at Oak Ridge and Los Alamos passed information to the Soviets and are currently in jail, but a few were never suspected and are still doing their regular jobs (but are no longer being used by the Soviets).

The most famous real-world spy of 1957 (that no one knows about yet) is Kim Philby. Recruited by the USSR probably in 1934, he worked for the Special Operations Executive (part of the British War Office) in World War 2, and was passing intelligence to the Russians throughout the war. In 1949 he was posted to Washington DC to work as the chief of British Intelligence there. He came under enough suspicion in 1951 that he had to resign from MI6, but was exonerated in 1955. By 1956 he was a correspondent for two British papers in Beirut, which provided cover for freelance work for MI6. He was not nearly as useful to the Soviets in this capacity, but apparently still did some work for them in Beirut until he was unmasked by a Soviet defector in 1963 and fled to Moscow to avoid arrest.

Other important spying going on in 1957 includes Vilyam Genrikhovich Fisher, who is a Soviet KGB colonel operating in New York City and who will be arrested by the FBI on June 21, 1957. He will use and be known by the alias 'Rudolf Ivanovich Abel' from this point forward. On September 13, 1957, the CIA and the Pentagon recommend to President Eisenhower that the US supply arms and money to army officers seeking to overthrow the government of Indonesia. In 1957 the US Central Intelligence Agency is somewhere between out of control and hopelessly inept. Most of the intelligence it does get is what was passed on from other intelligence services. In 1952 the CIA had 1,500 agents or informants in North Korea and virtually all of them were feeding the US false information. Of the 212 agents put into Manchuria, 101 were killed and 111 were captured.



Technology  
Forget about it.

- In 1957 a walkie-talkie is about the size of a loaf of bread, weighs 3kg, has an antenna a meter long, a range of a few kilometers and is unencrypted
- The first two-way car radio with a power use low enough that you did not have to keep the engine running to use it will come out this year
- FM radio stations are virtually unknown outside of a few major cities and are broadcasting in mono rather than stereo
- The biggest television you can get is a 24 inch model (60cm), it masses about 40 kilograms and has a 2018 equivalent cost of about 3,000 Credits
- There are only 150,000 color televisions in the United States
- Police use revolvers chambered in .38 Special (1d+2 lethal)
- There is no practical body armor
- Guns are all steel, no aluminum, no plastic
- Computers are room-sized and are far, far dumber than your 2018 phone
- If you want a printed document while travelling, bring a portable typewriter. If you need multiple copies, bring carbon paper



- If you want a visual record, bring a 35mm film camera. If do not mind black and white, 'instant' (a minute or so) cameras are the latest thing
- If you want a video record, bring a portable movie camera and hope what you are recording does not last more than a few minutes
- If you want a sound record, bring a tape recorder (your movie camera does not do sound)

- The first portable transistor radio in the US (AM and mediocre at that) came out in 1954.
- US male/female life expectancy is 66/73 years
- Velcro was just invented this year
- Flashlights are feeble
- Cars still have fins
- The first stereo records are produced this year
- A night vision scope for a rifle adds 2.5kg for the scope and 7.5kg for the battery and power supply. It has a range of 125 meters.
- Lasers, snowmobiles, integrated circuits, audio cassettes, zip codes and LEDs have not been invented yet

**BIG TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE**  
**1957 WORLD FAMOUS RCA VICTOR COLOR TV**  
**BIG 21" LIST PRICE \$495.00**  
**BUT YOU GET BIG TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE**  
**\$250.00 TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE**  
**FREE 90 DAY WARRANTY**  
 \*Like Having 2 Sets in 1...  
 \*REGISTER NOW AT ANY DORNY'S STORE \*  
**FREE 90 DAY WARRANTY**  
 \*COMES TO YOU FOR FREE DEMONSTRATION...\*

**FIRST SHOWING!**  
**Dodge CUSTOM Royal**  
**ALL NEW FOR 1957!**

- \* New Torque-Flite push-button go!
- \* New low look!
- \* New Torque-Aire ride!
- \* New Total-Contact brakes!
- \* New safety-strength design!
- \* New simpler starting!
- \* More fine-car features than any other car at its price!

Now see the new queen of automotive fashion... the long, low, lovely Dodge Custom Royal for '57! Drive and ride in the all-new luxury of the biggest, finest Dodge of all. It's on display now at your Dodge-DaSoto dealer's.

*You're always a step ahead in the cars of the Forward Look*

'57 Dodge Custom Royal © Great Hardware. Manufactured in Canada by Chrysler Corporation of Canada, Limited.



### Travel

Agents have to go places. The simplest way to deal with travel in 1957 is to assume it costs more and takes longer. Trips by car or train would be about twice as long and cost about twice as much (gas was the 2018 equivalent of US\$1.75 per gallon/.5 Cr per liter) but the roads were longer and car maintenance more frequent. In addition, the United States 'interstate highway system' has not been built yet, so the straight, multilane highways with a median between them are only seen on a few toll roads. Driving across the US would take about two weeks in 1957.

Trains handle about 30% of long-distance passenger travel in the United States, but improvements in roads and air travel mean that this number is declining and will continue to decline, but for 1957 the routes and trains are still quite good. While slower than air travel, it was not mass-limited, so you could bring more stuff and have more luxurious accomodations (especially on European trains like the Orient Express (Paris to Istanbul in two-and-a-half days for a minimum fare of about 3,000 Credits in 2018 terms). The US equivalent was Santa Fe's luxurious and expensive 'Super Chief' train, which carried movie stars and other notables across the country at speeds of up to 180kph but still took two-and-a-half days to get from New York City to Los Angeles (minimum fare about 2,000 Credits in 2018 terms (meals not included, but the menu is fabulous)). All long-haul trains have numerous stops for refueling and taking on a disembarking passengers, and European trains will have passport checks at every border.

Now- on Super Chief and El Capitan ...

## Indian Guides across New Mexico



Blue Wing, War Bow and Sunrise... Pueblo Indian guides of the Indian Country.



A real Indian, right on the train!  
He's your guide to the wonders of the Indian Country.  
Eastbound on the Super Chief and westbound on El Capitan, he rides with you all across his native New Mexico, enhancing your trip with tales of his people and their magic land.  
A leader in his pueblo, he's educated and courteous, anxious to give you the legend and lore of his homeland.  
Children love his colorful costumes and his stories about age-old tribal ceremonials and the exciting days along the old Santa Fe Trail.  
For a new adventure in travel on your way to or from California ride the Super Chief and El Capitan through the romantic Indian Country on the Santa Fe.  
Take the family along! Your travel agent or any Santa Fe passenger representative will gladly show you how much our Family Fares can reduce your travel costs. He's as near as your telephone - so why not phone him today and ask about these money-saving fares.



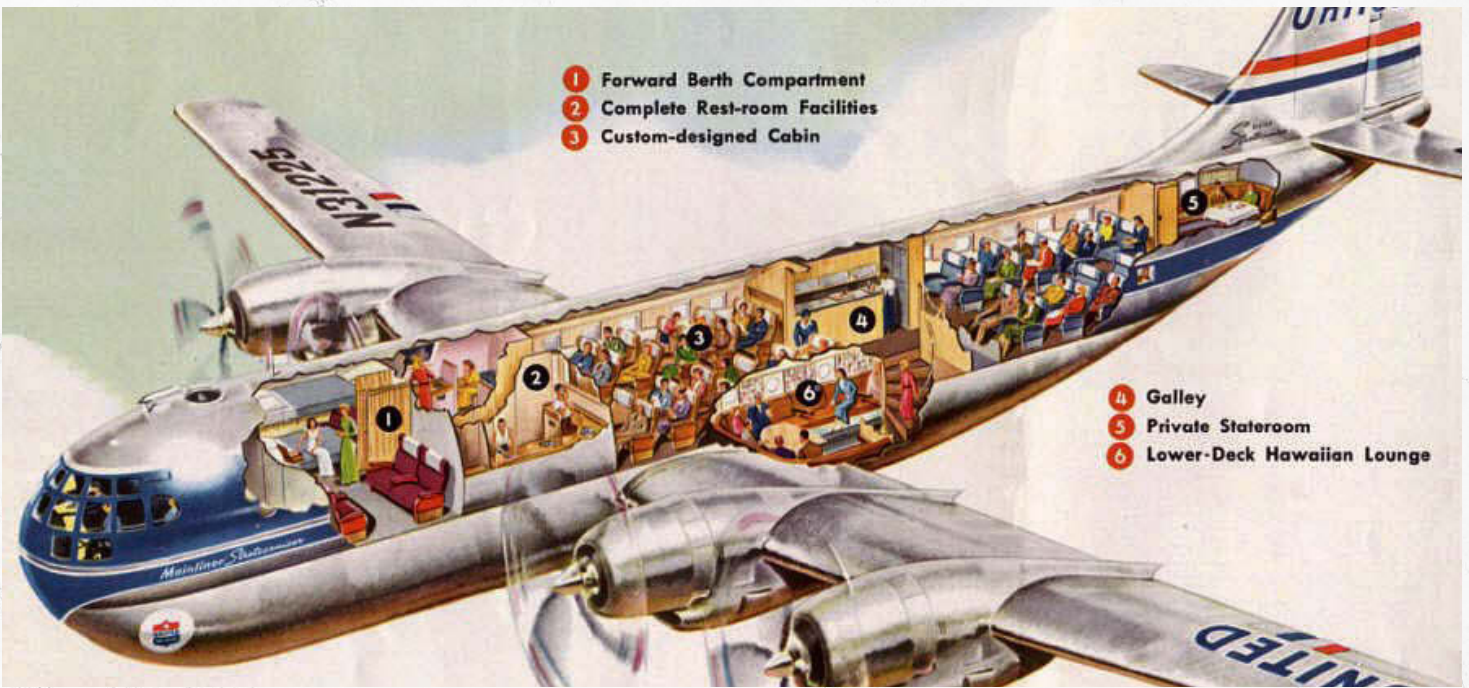
A real Indian, right on the train!

It is worth a side note that European trains were also still used by a lot of diplomatic couriers, who would seem to be nothing more than average passengers. In 1950, U.S. naval attaché Eugene Karpe 'accidentally' fell off the Orient Express (and died). The 1963 James Bond movie 'From Russia with Love' (Sean Connery again) had a fight scene set on the Orient Express.



We talked about racial discrimination in air travel, but not much about air travel itself. Planes are flying everywhere in 1957, just not as fast or as frequent or as safe or as cheap as in 2018. For instance, a one-way flight from New York City to Tokyo will take 32 hours, involve 5 stops (Chicago, San Francisco, Honolulu, Wake Island, Guam Island) and cost you about 5,000 Credits in 2018 terms. And that price is Economy Class. Also, flights are not nearly as common. JAL (Japan Airlines) had a full five trans-Pacific flights per week from San Francisco. The cheapest one-way flight from New York City to a European destination is about 2,500 Credits in 2018 terms, and is an 8 to 10 hour flight. Domestic airfare in the United States is only about 50% more expensive than its 2018 counterparts, but in 1957 is almost entirely prop-driven planes and takes about twice as long, usually with a refueling stop. A New York-Los Angeles flight would be about 12 hours.

Agents are going to be far less hampered by costs than Scenery, but the increased cost does tell you the sort of people you will be flying with. And you will be flying with other people, since only CEO's and heads of state have private planes capable of trans-Atlantic or Pacific flights in 1957. On the bright side, long flights in 1957 have plenty of physical amenities, including real meals, wide seats, bars and even beds for the really long-haul flights. Intellectual amenities not so much (bring a book). Because drinks were usually free, smoking was allowed and there was no in-flight entertainment to speak of, smoke-filled cabins with a fair number of upper-class drunks would not be an uncommon occurrence on a long flight.



Note the actual bed in the front, the private stateroom in the back and the lower-deck lounge.



Airline travel, despite the glamour and expense, is not nearly as safe in 1957 as it is in 2018. There were six fatal airliner crashes in 1957, plus the president of the Philippines died when his plane crashed on March 17, 1957. The official report says that 'metal fatigue' was the reason, but you know how Scenery is when it comes to these things.

On the bright side, there is virtually zero airline security. No one is going to ask you for identification, it is assumed you are smart enough to have a passport and/or visa and the only time security personnel are going to do more than glance to see if you have a valid ticket is if you look poor or non-white. As a reminder, if this is the case and your destination is the American South, have someone pick you up at the airport, since many taxi companies are 'discouraged' from taking blacks to or from the airport and once at the airport, white ticket attendants might not let you on the plane.

Travel by ship is no longer the only way to get across the Atlantic and the airliner is quickly supplanting the luxury liner as the means of getting places in the fast-paced 1950's. The ships of the 1950's are the last hurrah of the trans-Atlantic liners. Ships like the SS United States (launched in 1952) could carry 2,000 people and do a trans-Atlantic crossing in about 4 days at a speed of about 60kph. One-way 'tourist' fare was about 1,500 Credits in 2018 terms, first-class would be double that (and up). But by 1961 the cost of operating the ship was more than it was bringing in, and when the ship started making voyages where there were more crew than passengers, the ship was repurposed for the more profitable and popular 'cruise line' duty in the Caribbean.

Travel by ship can be very luxurious and spacious, with more facilities available for passengers. For adventure purposes, there is a lot more 'real estate' to use for hiding things, the ability to be met mid-trip by other ships (or submarines!) and other exotic possibilities that can happen outside the borders (and jurisdiction) of any nation. And speaking of Cuba (see right), some discussion of locations in 1957.

*New*  
**LOW SUMMER FARES!**

**ROMANTIC OVERNIGHT Cruise**

**HAVANA**

**ROUND-TRIP EXCURSION**  
*Monday and Wednesday Sailings Only*

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Come for the gambling, stay for the revolution...



**Cuba**

In 1957 is run by dictator ('President') Fulgencio Batista. The revolution that puts Fidel Castro in power will not end until late 1958, but it is underway in 1957. If you wanted to start a campaign off with a bang, Havana is the target of eighteen planted bombs on January 1, 1957. The increasing revolutionary activity puts a crimp on Cuba as a vacation destination for the wealthy (air travel is too expensive for most of the middle class), and other spots have to take up the slack. The entire Cuban Revolution could be the focus of a 1957 campaign, with an Agent leading each side (Castro and Batista), using violence on each other and trying for international and other Agent support to prop up their positions. American interests are following events in Cuba with some alarm, since organized crime and other American interests control about half the wealth of the country (mines, plantations, railways, hotels, etc.), all of which will be lost when Castro takes over in late 1958. It is worth noting that iconic figure Che Guevara is a commander under Castro during this period. Miami, which will be the focal point for wealthy Cuban emigrés after Castro's takeover, only has a population of about 250,000 and will not have an airport for commercial trans-Atlantic flights until 1959.

**West Berlin**

The biggest Cold War location in terms of intrigue and skullduggery is probably West Berlin. A bit of history first. At the end of World War 2, the United States and the USSR had significant amounts of troops in Germany and were racing towards the middle in some sort of crazy administrative land grab, since a formal surrender by Germany would make both sides stop advancing. When the war ended, the country and the capital (Berlin at the time) was split into East Germany (USSR) and West Germany, (United Kingdom, France, United States). But, Berlin was entirely inside the 'East Germany' part of things, so there were three negotiated air corridors and three allowed rail lines through the USSR-run East Germany to the West Germany side.



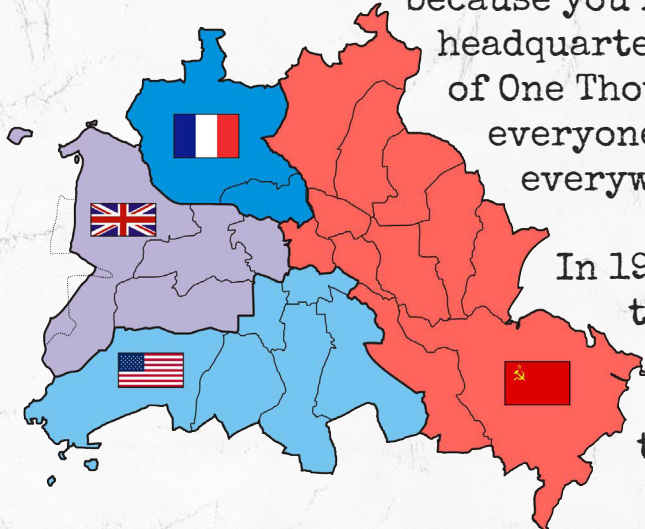
The situation in West Berlin would occasionally get tense...



At the time of this agreement it was assumed this would be a temporary situation as it was expected that Germany would be reunited soon enough and be an independent rather than occupied nation. However, the Cold War started very shortly thereafter, with Stalin saying "mine!" about East Germany and the Allies then refusing to budge about leaving "their" parts of Berlin. So, in 1957 the biggest city in Germany is sitting in the middle of Soviet-controlled East Germany and is under the military control/ protection of four different countries. In 1957 the Berlin Wall has not been built, but access between East and West is being throttled. Power lines and phone lines no longer connect the two, there are armed check-points (such as the famous 'Checkpoint Charlie') and military patrols are a common sight. Oddly, the Allies (US, UK and France) insist on the legal fiction that all of Berlin is 'jointly occupied', and so US patrols routinely operate on the Soviet side of Berlin, with the proviso that they not assist anyone trying to flee to the West.

You can imagine the espionage, convoluted diplomatic interactions and spiteful little tit-for-tat things that are going to happen in such a place in 1957. For instance, the CIA in cooperation with the British, dug a secret tunnel several hundred meters long, across the border, to intercept underground East German phone lines. Neither the US nor the British told the West German government about this because it was infested with spies. However, the KGB found out about it anyway because they had a spy in British Intelligence. So, the KGB knew about the phone tap and which lines it was on, and presumably used this knowledge to their advantage. They did not, however, tell the East German Stasi (secret police) about the wiretaps,

because you know, Western spies. As an aside, the Stasi headquarters in East Berlin was known as 'The House of One Thousand Eyes'. They seemingly spied on everyone and everything and had informers everywhere.



In 1956 the KGB eventually 'discovered' the tunnel (that they knew about from the start) and made a big photo op over it one day before Nikita Khrushchev was going to have a state banquet at Windsor Castle with Queen Elizabeth. Awkward.

Because the only thing more efficient than military occupation is military occupation by committee...



That is the sort of thing that is going on in West Berlin in 1957. The border between East and West Berlin was also used for prisoner exchanges, where one side's captured spies would be traded for the other's. The Glienicke Bridge over the Havel River was the 'Bridge of Spies', where captured U-2 spy plane pilot Gary Powers was exchanged for the previously mentioned captured KGB colonel in 1962. The novel 'Recovery' (Steven L. Thompson, 1980) deals with hijinks involving the US Military Liaison in Potsdam (West Berlin), and while it is set long past 1957, the plot could easily be adapted to an earlier year and gives a good feel for the setting.

In general, everyone in East and West Berlin was opening everyone else's mail, radio traffic was constantly monitored, individuals might be kidnapped or otherwise 'disappear' (either for real or because their cover was blown), and people would be double- or sometimes even triple-agents. Westerners would often dine in East Berlin because of the lower prices and the Stasi would bug the restrooms just in case someone let something slip. You can make things as complicated and implausible as you want in West Berlin in 1957 and it probably still would not match actual reality. Remember that getting from East Berlin to West Berlin was fairly easy (no Berlin Wall yet), so various intelligence forces would be playing hide and seek to spy on each other, and since many of the spies had 'diplomatic credentials' the worst that would happen would be detention/expulsion. Using Agency here would present its own unique challenges because not only are allegiances and motivations sometimes misleading, anyone who is professional at their job is good at spotting attempts at manipulation, and everyone is suspicious of everyone else, also sometimes not suspicious enough of their own people.

Tensions are beginning to increase between East and West over Berlin. Not much is going to happen in 1957, but Nikita Khrushchev is unhappy with a Western symbol of prosperity sitting in the middle of far less prosperous Soviet East Germany, and this will eventually result in the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961.



**Yugoslavia**

Yugoslavia (Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) is on the other side of the Adriatic Sea from Italy and the odd man out in East-West politics in 1957. It is a Communist government run by strongman and former partisan fighter Josip Tito, but is not part of the Warsaw Pact. It is itself a mini-union of smaller countries (Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia and Slovenia), several of which apparently hate each other and are held together only by Tito's force of will (and secret police). Because it is Communist, the USSR tacitly supports Tito, but because the US has made a statement by providing military aid (material, not troops), the USSR does not want to press matters by asserting authority over Tito (the USSR also provides military aid). In 1957 terms, Tito is almost certainly an Agent, with a handful of Agents beneath him in key positions, who has carved out his own country-sized fief and is playing off East and West to keep its independence. At the moment, relationships with the USSR are cool. Tito publicly criticized Soviet actions in the Hungarian Revolution, with a war of speeches and nasty editorials in Pravda, the USSR going as far as asking China to weigh in on their side of the issue. If a 1957 campaign stresses Cold War aspects of Agents and allegiances, this rift in USSR-Yugoslavia relations might be seen as an opening for other plots and plans. Plans which, if they go horribly awry could result in World War 3...

Having passably good trade relations with both meant Yugoslavia had a good standard of living for a Communist state, citizens could move freely and practices discouraged in the USSR (particularly religion) were not a problem. Basically, as long as you supported the government (i.e. Josip Tito), you were fine. If you did not, it did not matter who you were, you were in trouble (the chief of the secret police died in an 'auto accident' after criticizing Tito's politics). The barren island of Goli Otok (which means 'barren island') is the site of a high-security prison for those who need to be sequestered rather than executed. It is pretty much a 'bad movie prison', with hard labor, nasty weather, and abusive guards who do not intervene if prisoners try to kill each other. The nearby island of Sveti Grgur serves the same purpose for women. Even publicly speaking about either of them could get you an extended personal tour of the facility.

Because it is more open, and has Agents in high positions, Yugoslavia could be a place where East-West Agent shenanigans can take place, or Agents might find it easier to get into (or out of) the USSR, and where high-level Agent deals and threats and bribes have to take place to get things done.



USSR

In 1957 it is not 'Russia', but is the 'Union of Soviet Socialist Republics', which is Russia and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Byelorussia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. In the mind of most Americans, it also includes the 'Warsaw Pact' nations that are under the thumb of the central Soviet government: Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania.

Utter madman and undoubted Agent Josef Stalin died in 1953, but his handiwork remains. Stalin played the ambitions of his underlings against each other and made them all fear him, so it took a while for Nikita Khrushchev to solidify his power as General Secretary. But Khrushchev is now firmly in charge, enough so to thwart a coup attempt against him on June 18, 1957. Khrushchev is engaging in some political reform, allowing Soviet citizens to go abroad as tourists, releasing some prisoners from the gulags and despite occasional outbursts, is interested in softening attitudes towards the West and will actually meet with US leaders in 1959 and 1960. However, none of this means any weakening of Soviet control over its territory or any sort of meaningful political reform that might reduce the power of the Communist Party. After all, the Hungarian Revolution (failed) was just last year and was shut down with troops, tanks and executions.

Internally, the USSR in 1957 is very much a totalitarian state with the trappings of oligarchy. Travel, information and all goods are rigidly controlled, not just with external powers, but within the USSR itself. There are cities that are completely closed to foreigners (and most Soviet citizens), and other cities that are so secret they are not even on maps. Most of these had to do with the Soviet atomic, biological warfare, chemical warfare, and space programs, and most would have checkpoints for entry and some are completely surrounded by barbed wire and guard towers. Without any sort of oversight or concern for the Scenery there, some of these cities will become so toxic that they will be abandoned after the Cold War ends, and accidents or incidents that happen there never make it into the news.



**North Korea**

The Korean War ended with an armistice in 1953, but the United States will unilaterally violate the terms of it by announcing they are no longer bound by the provisions that prevent moving new weapons into Korea. Specifically, in January 1958 the United States will move nuclear-capable artillery and nuclear-tipped battlefield rockets into South Korea. North Korea is not the nation people think of in 2018. In 1957 its economic growth was greater than that of South Korea and the standard of living for its people was comparable. Agent Kim Il-sung (the 'elected' leader of the 'Democratic People's Republic' of Korea has not yet begun his long slide into insularism and paranoia, but will respond to the US provocation by creating massive underground bunkers and deploying troops so close to the Demilitarized Zone between the two countries that any use of nuclear weapons would hurt US or South Korean forces as well.

Kim Il-sung has his own vision of 'what should be', and will not tolerate interference. He is a very strong Agent who aggressively seeks to find new Agents, either to turn them to his vision if they are cooperative, or to eliminate them otherwise. Those who assist him are nonetheless not trusted and they are constantly tested, pitted against each other in power plays and encouraged to make emotional ties that he can use to later manipulate them with. In 1957 he has no interests in what is going on in the outside world, but is still smart enough to start forging ties and putting people and assets in place in case he someday does feel a need to interfere with things happening outside his borders.

**Middle East**

Everyone hates Israel and Islam-dominated governments are the norm, so there is little change between 1957 and 2018 in that regard. What is different is that the oil boom and corresponding petrodollars are just now showing up on the international radar and influencing the local economy. Inflation is affecting the price of some commodities. For instance, slave-girl prices in Saudi Arabia are as high as 10,000 Credits (2018 equivalent), and are pricing lesser Saudis out of the market. Saudi Aramco, the biggest producer in the region, has not yet reached production of a million barrels per day (compared to about 10 million in 2018) and the massive extent of petroleum reserves in the region is just now being realized. Riyadh (the capital and largest city of Saudi Arabia) was only about 150,000 people in 1957 (over 5 million in 2018) and its first airport had opened in 1953 (flights to Cairo three times a week!).



The importance of this region to the industrial economies of both the United States and USSR is obvious, so both sides have to play a diplomatic dance with the various factions in control and are willing to turn a completely blind eye to 'minor differences' (like legalized slavery) in exchange for a guaranteed supply of oil or military bases. The United States is supporting the Shah in Iran and has guaranteed protection to Saudi Arabia (first US military base in July 1957), the USSR is supplying arms to Egypt and so on. The English and the French, who had influence or former colonies in the region, were in on it too, and not everyone was seeing eye to eye, so Western governments were plotting coups and the local governments were trying to play off the West and East to see who would give them the best deal (President Gamal Nasser of Egypt was getting British money to build the Aswan Dam at the same time he was getting tanks from the USSR). At this point, the local governments do not have the expertise to exploit the oil reserves themselves and simply collect money from the international corporations doing the drilling and refining (which they use to suppress opposition and ensure their family's continued rule), but over time most of these countries will begin asking for a bigger share and in some cases nationalize the industry and take it out of foreign hands by force.

**Africa**

Africa in 1957 is mostly still colonies of the former 'Great Powers' (i.e. Europe), specifically France, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Belgium and Spain in order of countries 'owned'. However, the process of granting independence to these countries is currently underway, which will lead to the economically vibrant and democratically strong bastions of human rights that Agents in 2018 are familiar with. Sudan and Tunisia gained their independence in 1956, Ghana will gain independence on March 6, 1957, and the Republic of Guinea will gain independence in 1958.

As a side note, a gamemaster who wants more versimiltude can use the 1957 names for countries. All the African countries gaining independence have different names before and after (Ghana used to be Gold Coast, for instance). Other parts of the world also have different names. Sri Lanka (home of author Arthur C. Clarke in 1957) is currently Ceylon. Myanmar is still Burma. Beijing is still called Peking and Guangzhou is still Canton, St. Petersburg is still Leningrad and Volgograd is still Stalingrad.



### China

China most certainly has a lot of Agents, but how they and China as a whole play out in 1957 is unknown. Because of physical differences, the West has few spies in China and vice versa. China is not a member of the A-bomb club and has no bombers that can reach the United States. The Korean War has ended, so the US and China are not currently in any war-by-proxy. China has no significant imports to the US and vice versa so there is no economic leverage, and very few people in either country can speak or read the other's language. So, anything at all could be going on with China and its one-seventh share of the world's Agents. Or nothing at all.

China is ruled by Mao Zedong ('Chairman Mao'), who has been in power since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 (and Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party before that). The early years of his rule were marked by wholesale execution of any group that might challenge him or the Party (estimates range from 2 to 6 million killed). The big news in 1957 is Mao announcing 'The Great Leap Forward', a set of policies designed to quickly transform China from an agrarian country to an industrial one. However, a combination of poorly thought out policy, bad weather and a fundamentally corrupt and self-serving bureaucracy will result in a

famine. The extremes to which low-level officials went to cover up their own incompetence and graft were so comical that they would be unbelievable if written as fiction, yet so tragic in cumulative effect that between 20 and 50 million people die of starvation because of it. China will export food while this famine is going on, just to maintain the fiction to the rest of the world that 'The Great Leap Forward' is working. The long term results of this failure will push Mao out of the primary leadership role in 1959, a position he will not regain until the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in 1966 (with another several million deaths).



**中国人民解放军是毛泽东思想大学校**

'The Chinese People's Liberation Army is the great school of Mao Zedong Thought.' It's catchier when set to patriotic music.

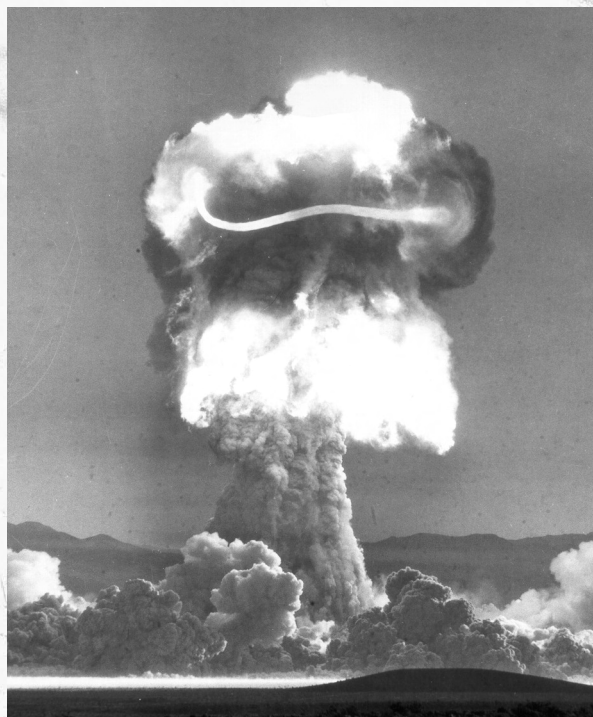


If we look at this a Mao being an Agent you can view this as the limits of what a top-down Agent approach can do (even with help from other Agents) against the inertia and policies of a Scenery 600-million-strong. And also the callous disregard for the lives of Scenery by a group of Agents in pursuit of a goal. Another possible plot idea involving China would be that Mao has used his purges to identify Agents and has used them to set up an entirely Agent-based production chain to make his 'Little Red Book' (Quotations from Chairman Mao) as an Artifact (including bilingual editions) in the belief that those who read it or merely possess it will be swayed by Agency to support his beliefs.

If you want to take the problems of The Great Leap Forward and use them in a 1957 campaign, you can just start The Great Leap a year or two earlier, so that the negative effects are actually happening in 1957. And speaking of events, here are some more things going on in or around 1957.

**Nuclear weapons**

Above-ground nuclear testing is still going on. While there is public talk of a nuclear test ban, nations like Great Britain (which is testing its first H-bomb on May 15, 1957) are privately resisting a test ban until they have tested their own designs to make sure they work. In 1957 the 'nuclear club' is the United States, the Soviet Union and Great Britain. France is in preliminary stages of bomb development, and the USSR is (for now) supplying technical assistance to China, but China historically will not detonate its first atomic bomb until 1964. There are no intercontinental nuclear missiles in 1957. There are short range battlefield missiles, but long range delivery of nuclear weapons requires planes like the B-52 bomber (introduced in 1955).



June 24, 1957 (Nevada). It is estimated that radiation released into the atmosphere from this test contributed to the eventual cancer deaths of up to 20,000 people.

For purposes of Agency plots, there are unsubstantiated stories that both Germany and Japan did nuclear tests in the final parts of World War 2, with rumors that top Japanese nuclear scientists fled to North Korea after the end of World War 2.



**Alaska & Hawaii**

In 1957 the United States is 48 states. Alaska and Hawaii are US territories at the moment. Alaska has been trying for statehood for over a decade, but Republicans are afraid Alaska will not be able to support itself and become a 'welfare state' and southern Democrats are afraid it will generate new members of Congress in favor of civil rights for blacks. Eventually, through a lot of publicity and political wrangling, enough support was gotten in the US Congress for a statehood bill to be passed, which will be signed by President Eisenhower on January 3, 1959.

Hawaii's admission as the 50th state is currently under negotiation as well in 1957, but with less controversy, partially due to Hawaii being the first American target attacked in World War 2 and the work of its people to support the war. Hawaii will become the 50th state on August 21, 1959. Controversy regarding Hawaii relates to its past and some shady politics regarding its status. For all practical purposes, US business interests overthrew the legitimate government of Hawaii back in 1893 and even the US government recommended the usurpers be kicked out and the previous government restored. Which never happened, meaning that the government which negotiated for US statehood had no legitimate standing to do so. There is no terrorism or overt resistance to US government in Hawaii, but you could have an 'alternate 1957' where things went differently and there is a home-grown Communist insurgency trying to do what Castro is doing in Cuba. This would be fundamentally different and more difficult, since getting arms and new fighters to Hawaii is a bit more difficult than taking a speedboat a few hours across the Caribbean.

**Sputnik**

The Space Age begins on October 4, 1957 when the USSR launches humanity's first satellite. For 21 days it circles the Earth, going "neener-neener" (actually, "beep") at the Americans (and everyone else), until its batteries ran out. The US tried to respond with a Vanguard rocket on December 6, 1957, which reached an altitude of 1.2 meters before crashing and exploding. The satellite it carried was blasted into a nearby field and began transmitting, leading the US press to call it 'Kaputnik'. While the Soviets did not immediately capitalize on Sputnik's propaganda value, it was a demonstration that you could build a missile big enough to lob a nuclear weapon onto a city on the other side of the planet, and the launch vehicle was in fact the rocket used for the USSR's first ICBM.



**ROCKET ARTILLERY UNVEILED BY RUSS**

Khrushchev, Mao Jeer U.S. Lag in Satellites



### Wars and rumors of wars

An awful lot of the items that follow are, in Agency terms either going to be lone Agents manipulating resistance groups or influencing already-existing stress points, countered by Scenery following the lead of a colonial power or a Cold War schism, and a result of this is meaningless and brutal atrocities committed by and against Scenery. This is either ecause they are Scenery and the Agents do not care, or Scenery governments are just doing what they are expected to do (quash rebellion, maintain order). In the real world, everyone has responsibility for their own actions and cannot use this as an excuse, which makes the historical record all the more tragic. The following are just the barest outlines of things going on in 1957, and it is expected that the gamemaster will dig for more details if one or more are going to be used as a focus or setting for an adventure. Wars and conflicts bubbling, ongoing or ending include:

**Afghanistan** - Afghanistan has been giving Pakistan a sad since 1947, when it was the only nation to vote against Pakistan joining the United Nations. Afghanistan never accepted the border with Pakistan set up by the British in 1893 and has always desired Pakistan's southwest province to give it sea access. This a war of words and occasionally bullets, in which poorly armed Afghanistan generally has its advances rebuffed by the Pakistani military. Unlike the way most view it in 2018, Afghanistan in 1957 (at least the urban parts) is secular and cosmopolitan. Sardar Mohammed Daoud Khan (Prime Minister to King Zahir Shar) is courting aid for infrastructure improvements, like a loan from the Soviet Union in 1955 worth US\$100 million, plus a 5-lane highway from Kabul to the Soviet border), and making some steps to improve the rights of women in the country. The capital (Kabul) has had a university since 1930 and most of its instructors have degrees from Western countries, Afghanistan has its own airline (with Pan American Airways as a minor shareholder) and operates flights to India, Bahrain, Iran and Lebanon, albeit without the luxuries seen in the more developed world.



A record store in Kabul, circa 1963. Albums visible include 'Do You Remember When?'(McGuire Sisters, 1956)(center right), 'Sing, Satchmo!'(Louis Armstrong, 1963)(top left)'Porgy and Bess' (Sammy Davis Jr., 1962)(bottom left), 'Fireworks from Spain' (Madrid Concert Orchestra, 1959)(woman on left) 'Evergreens' (Peter Krauss, 1960)(woman on right)



By 1959 the Afghan air force has Soviet Mig-15 jet fighters and Ilyushin Il-28 jet bombers. President Eisenhower will briefly visit Kabul in late 1959 (between visits to Pakistan and India) and will speak with the King about Soviet influence and increasing US aid to the country. Soviet First Secretary Nikita Khrushchev had already visited Kabul back in 1955.

**Algeria** - A war in Algeria has been going on since 1954 and will continue until 1962. This is a war of independence, with the Algerian National Liberation Front (not to be confused with the Judean People's Liberation Front) fighting against French colonial rule. The National Liberation Front mostly operates through bombings and terror, while the French response is martial law, brutality, torture and arbitrary executions (which drove even more people into the Liberation Front). In 1957 there is a lot going on in the capital (Algiers), with all of the aforementioned tactics being used. Bombs at bus stops and casinos, female suspects being strip searched (and worse), general strikes, armored cars in the streets, the works.

**Basque Insurgency** - The Basque region is a culturally and linguistically distinct region on the Atlantic coast between France and Spain. In 1959 it is going to start agitating for independence from Spain, and this will in time bring France into the conflict. In 1957 there is presumably a new or unawakened Agent who will eventually start or influence the Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA, or 'Basque Homeland and Liberty') group. It will never be a large or powerful group, but in Agency terms is probably a single-issue group held together by the personality and manipulation of a single Agent.

**Columbia** - Is in the closing stages of 'La Violencia' (The Violence), a civil war that ran from 1948 to 1957, between the two main political parties, the Conservatives(government) and Liberals(rebels). Just to add some further confusion, both sides fought against the paramilitaries of the Colombian Communist Party. The fighting began in 1948 with the assassination of the Liberal Party presidential candidate and did not slow down until an amnesty was declared in 1953. However, not all the paramilitary groups demobilized, civilian rule was not restored until 1957 and the last of the liberal and conservative paramilitary leaders died in combat in 1964 and 1965. One of the liberal paramilitary leaders joined the communist side and formed the guerilla group FARC, which continued to plague Columbia until 2017.



La Violencia was notable for its scope and brutality, even by the standards set in places like Kenya. Prisoners thrown from planes, crucifixions, cutting people up while still alive, scalplings, mass rapes and worse. Estimates are that up to 300,000 people died and up to 800,000 injured, out of a total population of about 13 million. There are no rules in **Agency** to describe how this sort of mass insanity can happen or be made to happen, and that is probably for the best.

**Cyprus** - The island of Cyprus has been in turmoil since World War 1 and still is in 2018. And since 1957 is between these two points... Basically, it is occupied by both Greeks and Turks, both of whom want it to be part of or at least governed by their respective nations. The UK, which 'annexed' Cyprus during World War 1, had to deal with violent elements on both sides, with riots, burned buildings and attacks on the police. Eventually they decided the best thing would be to set up Cyprus as an independent country in early 1960, with joint rule between the groups. Which started to fall apart before the ink was dry on the agreement. By the early 1960's Turkey and Greece (both NATO members) were ready to go to war with each other over the island, ending only with the creation in 1964 of a UN-patrolled buffer zone between the north and south of the island, where virtually no one is allowed to live, and which has minefields, barbed wire, anti-tank ditches and guard towers to keep the two sides separate. And it is still there (though not as tense) in 2018. In **Agency** terms, either there are Agents still agitating on each side, or the Scenery, once set in motion just keeps moving along that path and will not change its course without outside intervention.

**Egypt** - The Suez Crisis ended in late 1956. This was Israel invading Egypt (with British and French help), after Egypt's President Nasser nationalized the company running the canal. This ended with all three invading parties getting a military victory but a political bloody nose, the canal itself temporarily blocked due to sunken ships and the British Prime Minister being forced to resign. While it is 'over' at the start of 1957, it served as a catalyst for future Arab nationalism and resentment against interference by outside powers. It will also play into a coup that topples the French government a few years later.



**France** - You do not normally think of a first world democracy having a military coup, but one is brewing in France in 1957. The French were unhappy with the government for its handling of the First Indochina War (Vietnam, 1954), and the military is going to be very unhappy in the wake of the wake of the Algeria Crisis (ongoing). So much so that they want to pull Charles de Gaulle out of retirement and install him as head of the French government. In May of 1958 they seize power in Algiers and take the island of Corsica with paratroopers, with plans to seize Paris. In response, the French government folded (a better option than a civil war), and Charles De Gaulle will be Prime Minister and then President of France until his death in 1970.

**Hungary** - The failed Hungarian Revolution is still on people's minds at the start of 1957. Especially those in Hungary. The entire situation was a festival of fail for the West. Hungary officially exited the Warsaw Pact and appealed for aid and the West did nothing. The CIA did not like uprising leader Imre Nagy and used covert radio stations to broadcast that he was a traitor to the revolution. Caches of weapons meant for revolutionaries could not be found, and the whole involvement of Britain and France invading Egypt to oust President Nasser gave the West little traction to complain when the USSR rolled into Hungary and crushed the rebellion. The USSR in early 1957 is still rounding up some of the 22,000 people who will eventually be imprisoned for their part in the uprising, and neighboring countries are figuring out what to do with the 200,000 people who fled to the West as refugees.

**Iceland** - Generally peaceful Iceland is miffed in 1957 about foreign trawlers (mostly British) taking as much fish as they want from Iceland's territorial waters. This is a problem that has been going on for a while and will get a bit tense in 1958 when Iceland unilaterally extends its territorial waters to 12 nautical miles. Britain said it would send warships to prevent the Icelandic Coast Guard from detaining British fishing vessels. No one died during the dispute, but ships did run into each other and shots were fired. Iceland finally got its way by threatening to leave NATO, and since Iceland was a vital refueling base for US trans-Atlantic flights, eventually a compromise was reached.



**India** - China and India share a 3,200 kilometer border in some of the most rugged and inhospitable terrain on Earth. However, they do not agree on the exact line of that border and are willing to fight over it. It will not reach that point until 1962, but both sides are staring angrily at each other across the disputed areas in 1957.

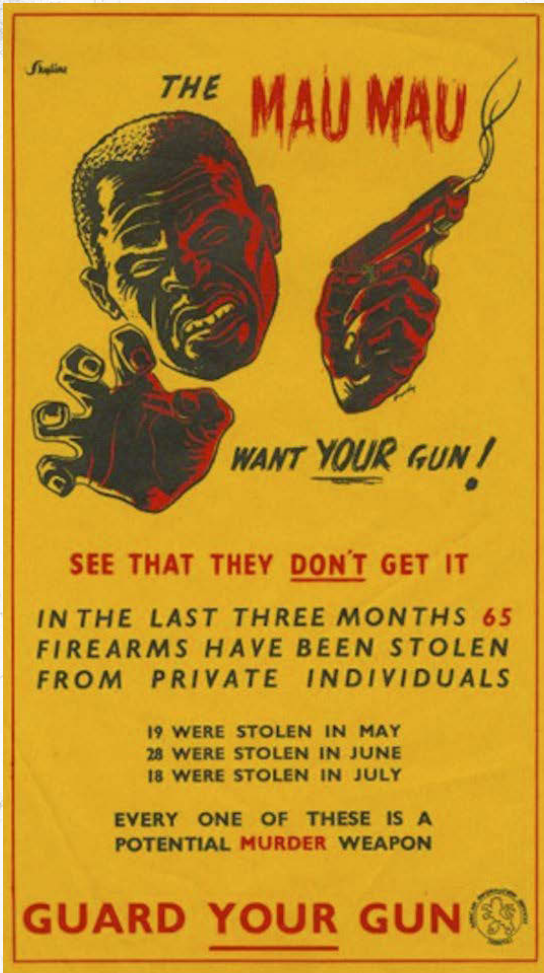
**Indonesia** - A self-proclaimed Islamic State of Indonesia has been declared here, controls a significant part of the country and has about 15,000 armed fighters. The government is beginning a combination of crackdown and negotiation that will by 1962 end the rebellion and grant a part of the country autonomous status with special provisions for Islamic law.

**Iraq** - Tensions are building up in 1957 and lead to a coup de etat in 1958 that will result in the death of the current royal family (King Faisal II), and new rule by the military, which will in turn be unstable and lead to a coup that kills the original coup plotters a few years later. The current tensions are that the royal family is seen as being in the pocket of British and American interests, and the country is being maneuvered by treaty into taking actions against other Arab nations (Iraq was compelled to side with the British in the Suez Canal Crisis).

In addition to this, the Kurdish population in the north of Iraq has been trying to secede or gain autonomy since the British took charge of the country after World War I. The next major push they will make is after the above-described hostilities. Negotiations will fall through and turn into a war that kills 100,000 in 1961. Turkey (which borders Iraq in the north) has consistently opposed a Kurdish nation in Iraq because they have their own Kurdish population on that border and do not want a precedent for their Kurds to mount a separatist movement. As of 2018, all of the previous notes on the Kurds still apply.



Ireland - The Irish Republican Army is on a resurgence, having dropped off the map after the end of World War 2. A new campaign was begun in December 1956, solely in Northern Ireland. Using weapons stolen from military supplies over the previous few years, they began doing hit & run raids and bombings against a variety of military and infrastructure targets (radio towers, barracks, etc.). The campaign ('Operation Harvest') was officially ended in 1962, but had lost steam a few years before. There were never more than a few hundred IRA members, and the British policy of indefinite internment without trial for suspects made it hard to recruit new people and easy to keep the malcontents out of circulation. This is another case where you could consider it as one Agent pushing their views onto an already willing set of malcontents. In Agency terms, if you were going to put a name on this person it would probably be Seán Cronin (died in 2011).



Kenya - Is in the closing stages of the Mau Mau Uprising, which started in 1952 and will not technically end until 1960. However, the uprising's leader Dedan Kimathi was captured in October 1956 and his execution on February 18, 1957 will effectively put an end to the rebellion. In 1957 terms, he was an Agent and without him, the uprising was rudderless and easily overcome. While the rebellion was ongoing the Mau Mau were poorly equipped and never had full popular support, so most engaged in hit-and-run attacks. The Mau Mau would torture, mutilate and kill loyalists, and burn entire loyalist villages, killing anyone who tried to exit a burning building. The British response was to simply surround every village they could with trenches and barbed wire, and other policies to keep food or materials from getting to the rebels and to keep them being able to use the infrastructure of the country. And concentration camps and martial law and torture and executions. And,

they documented their atrocities, but it would take until 2013 for the British government to officially 'regret' setting infants on fire in front of their parents. If you wish to link a 1957 campaign to a modern one, one of the torture victims was US President Barack Obama's grandfather.



**Laos** - At this time, Laos is in what the US calls the 'Secret War'. 1957 is a lull between the French being kicked out of Vietnam and the beginning of serious US involvement there, but the CIA is active in Laos. This is one of the big areas in which the US is supplying military aid to the government and warlords to contain the threat of communism, to the extent that the entire Laotian military budget comes from US coffers. To demonstrate their loyalty and show how well this money is being spent, in 1959 two entire battalions of these troops will defect to the communist side and escape to North Vietnam (taking their families and weapons with them). As mentioned earlier, this US military aid will allow the current drug producers here to eradicate their competition and become single, very large suppliers of product that will eventually show up on US streets.

**Lebanon Crisis** - This is another case where tensions are building but will not turn into anything until 1958. The 'Eisenhower Doctrine' was that the US would intervene in any nation being 'threatened' by communism. The US-friendly government of Lebanon (President Camille Chamoun) had to rule a population split between Christians and Muslims, and the Suez Crisis was causing pressure on Lebanon to break ties with the West, and eventually President Chamoun appealed directly to the US for help, which turned into the Sixth Fleet parked offshore and the 1st Airborne, 187th Infantry and 8th Marines in the country to put down rebellious elements (about 5,000 of which were put down permanently).

**Puerto Rico** - In 1957 Puerto Rico is an 'Unincorporated Organized Territory', which is a nice way of saying 'colony' and 'taxation without representation' (they have been US citizens since 1917). There is not much violence going on in 1957, but in 1950 Puerto Rican nationalists tried to assassinate President Truman. Activists and some of the population want Puerto Rico to become one of the United States. Some want independence and others are fine with the status quo. Each side has arguments, fears and valid arguments to support their position, so in 1957 the island is mostly going along with the status quo and expanding its industry and tourism potential (the latter of which will get a boost when Cuba is no longer an option).



**South Vietnam** - The current conflict in Vietnam has been simmering since 1954. The French just lost the First Indochina War, which resulted in Vietnam being partitioned into North (supported by China) and South (pro-West) Vietnam, and the French have bailed out from the bloody nose they got there. Vietnam is currently run by President Ngô Đình Diêm, who was elected in a massively fraudulent election in 1955 (600,000 votes for him in Saigon alone, which had 450,000 registered voters). There was also evidence he misused the country's limited supply of diacritical marks. However, he was pro-West, so no one in the West put up much of a fuss. And no one in Vietnam put up much fuss either, if they knew what was good for them (several thousand did not and were never seen again). Diêm is keeping foreign 'military advisors' in Vietnam to a minimum, but there are a few hundred Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) members in Vietnam at the moment, as 'technical staff' assigned to the 'diplomatic mission' (with diplomatic immunity). In 1957 there is a minor amount of insurgency or small scale civil war, mostly because a rollback by Diêm of land reforms for rural farmers. There is not any direct involvement by North Vietnam yet but they are using the rural unrest as fertile ground for converting people to communist ideals.

**Sudan** - The Sudanese Civil War has been going on since 1955 and is based on North and South Sudan (under Egyptian and British rule) being combined into a single entity. Did we mention the north was predominately Muslim and the south was predominately Christian? Hilarity quickly ensued and continued until 1972. The weakness of the southern rebels was matched by the factionalism and infighting in the government of the stronger north, with coups and counter-coups switching the government between Marxist and non-Marxist factions. The war will eventually kill about half a million people, of whom only 20% were combatants. If you want an out of the way place where anything goes and Agents in 1957 would be hard pressed to cause an international incident, this would be near the top of the list.



**Taiwan** - Taiwan has been an annoyance and prickly point of honor for the Chinese since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. Basically, the previous government fled to the island of Taiwan (about 200km off the coast) and set themselves up as a new nation. In response, China claimed Taiwan as part of itself and declared a 'One China' policy, which in a nutshell is 'Taiwan is ours and if you recognize Taiwan then we will not talk to you'. So, Taiwan in 1957 is not a member of the United Nations, the US has no embassy there and holds no official communications with Taiwan. Unofficially, the US is still unhappy with China over that whole Korean War thing and actively opposes further Chinese expansion in Asia. So, while the US does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, it is willing to throw its military weight around to keep China from taking Taiwan by force. Basically, the United States could shoot down anything China could put in the air and sink anything that China puts into the water. Nonetheless, in late 1954 and early 1955 Taiwan fortified some tiny islands it still claimed possession of. These were close to the mainland, and China responded with artillery and troops, and things got dicey enough that the US Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended nuking China to get them to back down. The threat of doing this, plus the USSR sitting on the sidelines telling China 'Do not expect us to threaten the US with nukes on your behalf', caused China to back down. However, the tensions remain and will turn into another conflict in August 1958 (and again in 1995). As late as 2016, China expressed public anger at President-elect Donald Trump for simply accepting a congratulatory phone call from the President of Taiwan. How this sort of thing reflects Agency or Scenery is up to the gamemaster.

**Tibet** - Also known as the Xizang Autonomous Region, it is anything but autonomous, being fully under the control of the People's Republic of China since 1951. The PRC basically ignored the agreement it had made with representatives of the Dalai Lama and by 1957 parts of Tibet were in open rebellion, with resistance fighters engaging the People's Liberation Army. The US refused to provide official aid unless the government of the Dalai Lama requested it (he did not), but the CIA provided covert aid and training to Tibetan rebels. This turned into a full-scale Tibetan rebellion in 1959 (quashed), the Dalai Lama fleeing into exile (to India) and he has not been back to Tibet since.





### Adventuring -----

All of the basic notes from Agency still work in the 1950's and even the opening adventures can be translated to 1957 (the main NPC's would almost certainly be male instead of female). This chapter is just some short notes on new things you can add.

### Agent groups in 1957 -----

Most Agent groups from 2018 would exist in 1957. Groups like the Wanderers are just starting up in 1957, while Mercantile (extinct in 2018) is quite influential in 1957.

### Yakuza

With only a change in focus, the Mafia listed in the main Agency rules can be used. The Yakuza (Japanese organized crime) is just coming into its own again, though it has been around in one form or another for quite a while. After World War 2, Japan was under military occupation by the United States, but it was always assumed that full autonomy would be regained. And with the start of the Cold War and Japan's proximity to China and the USSR, keeping Japan free of communist influence was paramount. So, on one hand you had the US occupation forces doing everything they could to root out organized crime, but on the other hand, US intelligence agencies were letting Japanese war criminals (high government officials) out of lockup because of their influence, nationalism and anti-communist stance. And some of these people were prominent underworld figures who either were also government figures or had influence over them. The occupation forces eventually gave up on trying to control the Yakuza, and by the time the US left in 1952 there were several thousand gangs in Japan, and a class A war criminal (Yoshio Kodama) was helping found the political party that would hold an undisputed majority in the government until the 1990's (the Liberal Democratic Party or LDP).

Another former war criminal would become Japan's Prime Minister in 1957.



Future elder statesman...



In 1957 the overall nature of organized crime is diffused through many small gangs and not much overall control, but a lot of influence since the total of Yakuza members is more than the total of Japanese policemen (who under post-War restrictions are not allowed to carry guns). Yoshio Kodama is currently working to unify these gangs into a single organization, but this will not fully happen until the early 1960's. For now, corruption and influence runs from the top of society to the bottom, but it is simply not mentioned and is swept under the rug both domestically and in foreign affairs. US corporations paid tens of millions in bribes directly to government officials and the LDP, and it took until the late 1970's for any appreciable political fallout to happen from it. The CIA is operating out of the US Embassy with the full knowledge of the US ambassador, funnelling millions of dollars into anti-Communist efforts, which are managed in their entirety by Yakuza-controlled groups. Remember that in 1957, the fight against communism is everything and any sin can be overlooked in the name of that cause.

A dominant feature of Yakuza members, especially at the lower levels is extensive body tattoos. This is among other things, a sort of permanent 'membership card'. It is not something that can be faked, and once you are identified as such, you do not have much career except for Yakuza jobs. Another feature is amputation of fingertips as a means of atonement or apology for mistakes, and this is done by the person seeking to apologize or atone.

Agents approaching this from the outside are going to have little choice but to deal with the Yakuza on the Yakuza's terms if they are in Japan. They are probably not going to fit in (being gaijin and all), probably do not speak the language and are outnumbered, outgunned and dealing with a group whose members would be difficult to influence with Agency. The Yakuza will be the Agent group in Japan in 1957. Any other Agent groups there will operate only with the Yakuza's permission and never against Yakuza goals or operations. Or not more than once, anyway.



**The Summit**

This is the internal name for a group the media called the 'Rat Pack', a group of superstar entertainers that worked and networked officially and unofficially in the 1950's and 1960's. Most if not all of them were actually Agents, and they used their wealth and mobility to pull off a number of daring exploits, which either disappeared in the Scenery news or were dramatised as movies or called publicity stunts. The 'James Dean' Agent in the opening vignette would probably be a Summit member.

In 1957 the group is in mourning after the death of their leader, Humphrey Bogart, who died on January 14 from a cancer he developed as a result of radiation exposure (from defusing an atomic bomb planted in Washington DC by fanatical followers of Agent Stalin in 1955). So, this group is probably not doing anything as a group, but its individual members might be encountered. Or, you could have players take the roles of lesser known celebrities who are taking up the slack while the leadership mourns. The opening vignette might be an example of this.

**Mercantile**

Mercantile is on top of the world right now. It is predominately a group based on United States interests, and the United States is in 1957 the industrial and financial powerhouse. The industrial infrastructure that will provide Japan and Europe a competitive edge is still busy supplying their domestic markets, and China is not even on the radar (and for that matter, probably has to import their radar from the USSR).

Mercantile's leadership is competitive and chosen from the Agents who are prominent in the most profitable industries or endeavors. Not necessarily CEO's, but the people who have the largest financial stake, like major stockholders. In 1957 these industries are simple and related: Oil, steel and cars, with tech and processed food making a good enough showing to also have a seat at the table. Of the top 20 in the Fortune 500 list for 1957, fifteen fit into the first three items on that list.



Of America's richest people in 1957, who got that way by means other than inheritance, the list of (potential) Agents, their 2018 approximate worth, current age and their present (or past, if retired) field of endeavor would be:

- J. Paul Getty: ≈8 billion \$US, age 68, Getty Oil
- Arthur V. Davis: ≈5 billion \$US, age 90, Alcoa aluminum, real estate
- Haroldson L. Hunt, Jr.: ≈5 billion \$US, age 68, oil fields
- Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr.: ≈3 billion \$US, age 69, investments
- Daniel K. Ludwig: ≈3 billion \$US, age 60, shipping magnate, hotels
- Sid W. Richardson, ≈3 billion \$US, age 66, oil
- Alfred P. Sloan: ≈3 billion \$US, age 81, General Motors
- Howard Hughes: ≈3 billion \$US, age 52, Hughes Aircraft
- James Abercrombie: ≈1 billion \$US, age 66, Abercrombie Oil
- Stephen Bechtel Sr.: ≈1 billion \$US, age 57, construction
- William A. Blakley: ≈1 billion \$US, age 69, real estate, banking, Senator
- Clarence Dillon: ≈1 billion \$US, age 76, banking
- Arthur A. Houghton, Jr.: ≈1 billion \$US, age 51, Corning Glass
- William Myron Keck: ≈1 billion \$US, age 77, oil
- Charles F. Kettering: ≈1 billion \$US, age 81, inventor, engineer
- John Lee Pratt: ≈1 billion \$US, age 78, engineer, investor, DuPont
- Clint Murchison Sr.: ≈1 billion \$US, age 62, oil
- John W. Mecom, Sr.: ≈1 billion \$US, age 46, oil
- William L. McKnight: ≈1 billion \$US, age 70, 3M

You can see that most of the freakishly wealthy people are old enough to be retired or nearly so, and the top end of their wealth is merely their previous success multiplying itself through things like stock dividends. If Agents and in Mercantile, they might have 'elder statesmen' roles, advisors but not actively setting policy. The movers and shakers would mostly come from the younger ranks of 'mere' billionaires. We deliberately did not list who is active and who is retired, just to give you more leeway on how you want to configure them.



Do note that of the 12 who are below the age of 70, 6 have made their fortune in oil. With the Cold War, the new importance of oil for both the West and East and meddling of all sorts going on in the Middle East, Mercantile as an Agent group is going to be very active in this region, mostly in maintaining their own interests, but also in an anti-communist role depending on a member's personal inclinations on the subject. Since most of the Communist-leaning nations want to nationalize oil production, this places virtually all Mercantile members with oil interests on the side of the West, and thus requires them to turn a blind eye to any problems that come from this (supporting radical Islam, propping up dictators, being complicit in coups, etc.)

A few notables from the list for **Agency** purposes:

**William Myron Keck:** Notable for establishing the W. M. Keck Foundation in 1954, one of the largest philanthropic organizations in the world. Funded (long after his death) the Keck Telescope (a US\$140 million grant) and the Keck Institute for Space Studies. We will say that in 1957, he was privy to knowledge or at least suspicion about something happening in outer space, and that his foundation had instructions to fund and pursue research in certain areas in the event other things happened, either in astronomical or geopolitical terms. Keck does not die until 1964 and actively manages the foundation in 1957, so he could be a patron of Agents, having them covertly investigate things that might cause his Mercantile peers to question his sanity if they were publicly revealed.

**Alfred P. Sloan:** Known as a brilliant manager who worked out the operation of his business like a precision machine, with absolutely no consideration for the human aspect of its operation. The people who worked for him were simply interchangeable components of that machine. Classic Agent-think and perfect Mercantile material.



**Howard Hughes:** Rich, famous, brilliant. In 1957, also descending into madness. At the moment he is merely obsessive-compulsive (sorts his peas by size before eating them) and celebrating his marriage to actress Jean Peters (January 12, 1957). By 1958 he had reached a point where he spent four months alone in a private theater, endlessly watching movies and subsisting only on chocolate, chicken and milk. He did not improve much, became a germophobe recluse, codeine addict and was a barely recognizable scarecrow by the time of his death in 1976. While the most severe case among Mercantile, he was not alone in his eccentricity as he aged. For a 1957 plotline, Mercantile, and in particular a select few members, know a secret. Something so important that you cannot ignore it, but so terrible that thinking about too much leads to insanity. How Mercantile came to know this and who is chosen in each generation of Agents to carry the knowledge forward is unknown. It is also unknown whether any of the survivors of the action against Mercantile in 2001 know the secret, or whether it has been lost.

**Osman Ali Khan:** Not a member of Mercantile, but probably the wealthiest person alive in 1947. He was the last monarch of a chunk of land (and 16 million citizens) forcibly annexed to India in 1948 and got his money through diamond mining, and had a net worth (in 2018 terms) of over US\$30 billion. Most of that money (including tons of gold and silver) disappeared after confiscation by the Indian government and was never fully accounted for. Some of it is almost certainly propping up someone's lifestyle in 1957 instead of being used for the good of the Indian people.

**Others:** In addition to the super-rich individuals listed, there are a large number of families and individuals who profited greatly from World War 2, amongst whose numbers Agents can certainly be found. Ship builders, arms factories, steel producers, Swiss bankers, smugglers, you name it. Any place free enough that private industry could make war materials for a profit, or anyplace corrupt enough that a black market could thrive or ill-gotten gains needed to be laundered or hid would have creative, ambitious people (i.e. Agents) making a profit from it. Some of the these World War 2 connections would turn out to be useful in the long run (Yoshio Kodama), while ties to the Nazis tended to be a problem unless you were so brilliant that the US needed your expertise, which is why the guy who oversaw the V-2 rocket program (Werner von Braun) is also the father of the US space program. He did not get wealthy, he got pardoned.



Alternate campaign strategy -----  
The world is 'larger' for Agents in 1957 than it is for players in 2018 and this is a cultural as well as technological difference. It takes longer to get places, people's concerns and spheres of interest may be smaller. The timetable on which people expect things to happen is longer and people make plans based on information that may be out of date by the time they get it, and people are expected to be able to operate independently without having to get the home office sign off on everything.

So, a gamemaster can consider a campaign that is several campaigns. That is, each player makes up two or three Agents, and each of those Agents is part of a different group. So, one session might be US Agents working for the government and dealing with a Soviet threat to NATO in Europe, another might be Summit Agents dealing with the Mob in Las Vegas and a third group could be Mercantile trying to make inroads into Saudi Arabia and getting opposed by theocratic Muslim Agents trying to push out Western influence. This gives you several themes to play with, different cultures and settings and problems that cannot all be solved the same way. Agents can be a little more specialized and do not need to have a skill set or personal contacts that let them do everything.

And if you are really good at it, you could work the different campaigns into a single overall theme. The Mafia is trying to get a piece of Mercantile's action, the Muslim pushback is courting the USSR for assistance, and US Agents are trying to stop weapons from being smuggled into the Middle East through Yugoslavia.

# BIGGEST H-BLAST



## Pacific Lights Up 'Like 500 Suns'

### Bomb Is Called First Real Hydrogen Weapon

By William L. Lawrence  
A hydrogen bomb exploded in the Pacific today, lighting up the sky like 500 suns. The blast was the most powerful ever made by man, and it was called the first real hydrogen weapon.

It was dropped from a B-52, the world's largest bomber, at a height of 31,000 feet. The bomb exploded at a height of 26,000 feet, and the fireball it set off reached a height of 48,000 feet.

### Air Traffic Jam



Charles William G. DeWerry (center) and Lt. Robert J. Fox of 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment are seen as they descend from a C-119 cargo plane. But none is in the danger zone.

### Sea to City Hall Air Rescue

A Coast Guard helicopter landed at City Hall yesterday with a critical air rescuer lifted from a flying boat. The rescue was the first of its kind in the city.

### Diameter of Four Miles

The atomic equivalent of a four mile diameter fireball was seen in the Pacific today. The fireball was the result of the hydrogen bomb explosion.

### Interservice Warfare

Air Force Condemns Army's Nike Missiles  
The Air Force condemnation of the Army's Nike missiles is a sign of interservice warfare. The Air Force says the missiles are obsolete.

### Shrine Circus Trapeze Star Hurt in Fall

A beautiful trapeze star from the Shrine Circus was hurt in a fall today. The star was performing in the circus tent.

### Ike Under Demo Fire on Service Feud

WASHINGTON, May 21.—The Air Force today said it was under a "demo fire" on a service feud. The Air Force says the Army's Nike missiles are obsolete.

### Fishermen 'Routed in by Perfect Cast'

A large school of fish was routed in by a perfect cast today. The fishermen were fishing in the bay.

### Fernando Says Red Ship Hit

TRIPOLI, May 21.—A Red ship was hit today, according to a report from the United States. The ship was carrying arms.

### Girls in Gym Suits Rout British Troops

At least 100 girls in gym suits routed British troops today. The girls were at a school in the city.

### \$267,000 Loss in Market Fire

A fire in the market today caused a loss of \$267,000. The fire started in a store in the market.

Shop Tonight--Stores Open Until 9 p. m.

GM activity: Scan old newspapers for signs of Agent activity. 'Girls in gym suits rout British troops' looks like it is worth investigating...



All About the Jacksons -----

Counterfeiting has been one of the most serious crimes (up there with treason) since forever. One of the things most governments declare a monopoly on is the creation of its currency. You can screw over confidence in government, mess with the economy and affect international relations if you can pump enough funny money into the system. Scenery relies on money to function, and affecting the way Scenery views money can have lots of consequences. In the 1950's the anti-counterfeiting tech was not nearly as good as it is today, but on the other hand, the tools to make counterfeits were not as sophisticated. No digital scanners, no color laser printers. To make good counterfeit banknotes you needed a master engraver to make you up printing plates, or if you were doing coins, to make a die for stamping them either as an original engraving or a very high quality mold from a mint condition original.

And while you might think there is not much return in counterfeiting coins in the 1950's, you would be wrong. In 1957 there is actually a big black market in counterfeit gold sovereigns (British). In certain parts of the world (mostly the Middle East), coins and precious metals still have more appeal than banknotes, and the sovereign is, no pun intended, the gold standard. Unfortunately they stopped making them in 1913, so there is a limited supply. So much so that the street value of a sovereign exceeded the value of the gold in it. Which meant that you could make a counterfeit sovereign with the same gold content as the real thing and sell it for more than the cost of the gold in it. Which people did. You could go to a money-changer's market in Damascus in 1957 and buy genuine sovereigns, Italian counterfeits, Swiss counterfeits and Syrian counterfeits, each of the fakes with slightly different gold content and quality (Swiss were the best, naturally). And it was difficult to even prosecute anyone for this, even in Europe, since the sovereign was no longer used as actual currency, therefore it was not actually 'counterfeiting'. In 1955 there were an estimated 300 million sovereigns (real and fake) in circulation, with a 2018 adjusted market value of about 3.5 billion dollars (2.8 billion pounds). As it turns out, the solution to this was that British government started minting sovereigns again. A plentiful supply of the real thing drove prices down to about their actual gold value, making counterfeiting no longer a profitable business (and also, prosecutable again, since they were currency).



However, that side note, while interesting, is not what the adventure is about. This is about Operation Bernhard, a German World War 2 counterfeit operation that produced so many British banknotes by the end of the war that Britain decided to redesign its currency rather than try to sort out the bad from the good. The Germans had also perfected the artwork for US dollars, but had not started producing them. And the plates for printing United States \$20 bills were never found.

Until now. Someone, somewhere is printing nearly flawless US \$20 bills and flooding certain markets with them. In particular, areas where the United States is trying to increase its support and its anti-communist efforts, in large part by bribing people with briefcases full of cash (for reference, a briefcase full of US\$20 bills will be about 10 kilograms and contain US\$200,000, or about US\$2,000,000 in 2018 terms). And if any of this cash turns out to be bogus bills, there is a problem.

And a problem there is. If Agents work for someone who has been affected by this, the briefing will contain a higher-up saying:

| "Williams survived, barely. After General Hassan discovered some of his |  
| payoff was counterfeit, Williams got dragged into an alley and had 3 |  
| bullets put in his spine. Not his back, his spine. He'll live, but he'll |  
| never walk again. Whoever did it knew he was an Agent or was instructed |  
| exactly how to shoot him by one. Gentlemen, someone wanted to send us a |  
| message. Your job is to find the sender and give our reply." |

**Setup** - Because we do not know how you are setting up your 1957 campaign it is hard to say "this is what your Agents have to do". Their skills and any group they are part of is going to play a part in how they view the situation and how they could go about solving or resolving it. There is an assumption that Agents will have some degree of cooperation from local US officials, either as part of their job or because someone there is an Agent and he will, even if unhappy to do so, cooperate with Agents working for the same people he is working for. This is a case where 'the West' as an overall loyalty trumps any individual dislikes or rivalries. So, an Agent who is working directly for the US government might be instructed to cooperate with Mercantile or the Mafia. Even so, knowledge is going to be compartmentalized. Agents will know only what their local contact wants them to know, which may be less than what they need to know.



| "You're here over my express objections. You do not know these people or |  
| the culture and I think you stand a good chance of making things worse. |  
| That said, I have my orders and you will have the cooperation of this |  
| office to the exact extent of those orders. If you mess this up I will put |  
| you on the next tramp steamer back to the States. Keeping you out of |  
| someone else's operations for a few months would be the best thing I can |  
| do for the country. Short of sinking said steamer, anyway." |

Having good social skills or maybe even a little blackmail material on their local contact may help Agents get the full level of information they need to make progress.

It is important to note again that 1957 is not a fast-paced world. Things, even in a single location, can take weeks to unfold. If you need to have some documents traced or records found, you put someone on the task and move on to something else, since it could take a while for the query to bear fruit and you cannot just sit idly about waiting for it. So, there is a lot of time and room for social interactions, and new information showing up from past queries just about the time it is needed for dramatic purposes.

**note:** While we touch a lot on the real history of 1957, this particular counterfeiting scheme did not actually happen, but Operation Bernhard was a real thing and you can look it up.

**Agents on the ground:** If we say there are 2 active Agents per million people, the Middle East and Near East in 1957 would look a bit like this:

India:	715	Syria:	7
Pakistan:	79	Saudi Arabia:	6
Egypt:	44	Israel:	3
Turkey:	42	Lebanon:	3
Iran:	34	Palestine:	2
Sudan:	18	Jordan:	1
Afghanistan:	16	Kuwait:	1
Iraq:	10	United Arab Emirates:	1
Yemen:	9	Oman:	1



Remember that the gender balance is equal, so half of these Agents are going to be women, and may actually be the power behind the throne in some countries (literally, since many of them are monarchies). The countries with single-digit amounts probably have a few more than this, simply because freelancers or Agents displaced from more populous regions might gravitate there for the potential opportunity. Similarly, Israel probably has more because Jewish Agents may be more likely to want to be part of founding and defending the new Israeli state.

These numbers are good in general, but also for figuring out who you want your bad guys to be. One angry Palestinian in cahoots with a Nazi Agent trying to get revenge on the USA for supporting Israel? A somewhat larger group that was the power behind former Prime Minister of Iraq (Mohammad Mossadegh, now under house arrest), after his government was ousted in a US-backed coup? A group under President Nasser of Egypt trying to minimize US interference in his Pan-Arab League? Maybe the Soviets are using spy Kim Philby (currently in Beirut) as a go-between or facilitator? You decide.

**Funny money:** Whoever is generating these banknotes is being too clever about it (more clever than Scenery would be). There are three separate types of fake \$20 bills. All are of excellent quality and would pass a magnifying glass test, a 'feel' test for the raised printing and are on a sufficiently good cotton/linen paper to crumple and wear like the real thing. The first two items will limit the number of places the money could be printed, since it requires a high-quality press and skilled pressmen, and the latter is a specialty item. Either the counterfeiters have a source for the actual paper or they are making their own, complete with the addition of the tiny red and blue fibers used in US currency. After this, the counterfeits vary:

**version 1:** As good as the real thing, but if tested it will show traces of bacon fat (and pork is verboten for Muslims). In addition, some number of genuine US\$20 bills seems to have been pulled from circulation, treated in this way and then re-introduced.

**version 2:** Made with a humidity-sensitive ink. Looks and works just fine in a dry Middle Eastern environment, but get it sweaty or damp or wet and a few days later the ink starts to smudge. So, you cannot test it quickly with a damp cloth, but it will soon be found out once the bill gets into common circulation.



**version 3:** The paper has been soaked in a compound that causes the paper to brown and crumble within a day or two after exposure to temperatures above 80°C (176°F). This is much hotter than anyone carrying the money will be exposed to, but just about right for a briefcase full of money inside a locked car (or trunk) on a summer day in the Middle East.

Clearly, whoever is doing this has a specific axe to grind with the United States and is using the money not to profit, but to make the US look bad. Conspiracy theories are just as rife in 1957 as in 2018 and there is no shortage of people willing to believe that the US is the one responsible for the counterfeits and is doing so for anti-Muslim reasons.

**Deployment:** Pick a city somewhere in the Middle East that has a port and some degree of US activity to influence the government (or desire to do so). Good choices would be Port Said (Egypt), Beirut (Lebanon), Latakia (Syria), Kuwait City (Kuwait) or even Istanbul (Turkey). That will be the place that seems to have the greatest concentration of banknotes that are being discovered as tainted. Agents can figure this out with a bit of legwork or whoever they work for might have already determined this so that in-game action has a starting point to work from.

It may take some investigation to uncover, but it can be figured out that at least some part of the distribution chain needs an inside man somewhere in the US diplomatic or intelligence community. The money handled by the crippled Agent Williams had an unbroken US chain of custody. It went from the US Mint in Philadelphia straight to the airport, flown to (insert city name), unloaded and driven to the US Embassy, and distributed from there. Which means that somewhere in this chain, a full crate of US\$20 bills (about US\$20,000,000 in 1957) went astray and was replaced with a crate of fakes. So, not only was an Agent crippled and anti-communist efforts undermined, whoever did it also absconded with US\$20,000,000 of the real thing. This has to be replaced, an expense which is quite embarrassing to the people in charge of the operation ("Um, we seem to have lost the first 20 million you sent us, can you send some more please?"). The size of the substitution means that it would have required several people. While not all of them would need to know exactly what was going on, some would. We are talking guards being paid to look the other way, a forklift operator to unload it, a truck driver to haul it off and someone at the receiving end to unload it.



The gamemaster can make this as active or dead a set of leads as they want, and can be driven by ideology, greed or use of Agency on the those involved. But the people doing it would clearly be smart enough to anticipate this avenue of investigation. The key person to investigate (the truck driver) seems to have 'accidentally' stepped out into traffic two days after their likely involvement, so where he drove and who he met is unknown. Where this truck driver was is important. If it was in the destination city, then the counterfeits had to have been delivered there or produced there. If it was at one of the refueling stops (Keflavik, London, Rome), then the money trail starts in that city. It is up to the gamemaster to figure the local color they want. If the latter case, we recommend that you not use Keflavik, since Iceland is very limited in scope and there will not be a lot of ways to hide things.

**Other interactions:** There is no way of knowing who in the local area a person is ultimately loyal to. Creative or aggressive use of Agency may be able to root out Scenery who are simply working for whoever is paying the most, but this general lack of loyalty makes it difficult to intimidate them.

| "Effendi, so you tell my boss I take some money on the side and report to |  
| the general. So what? He knows this already. The general knows that I |  
| tell my boss the things that he tells me and that my boss pays me for this |  
| as well. How else do you think they send messages to each other? Is the |  
| way things are done here. I tell them both the questions you ask of me |  
| and both of them will pay me for doing so. Unless you maybe want to pay |  
| me as much as the two of them put together would? |

What will become clear is that whoever is involved in the funny money is an Agent and there may be more than one. And there is a whole cast of Scenery in the production and distribution of the counterfeits. There are two main possibilities for where it ultimately leads. The first is that the money is being produced locally. This makes things easy for the gamemaster in terms of keeping the Agents in one place. There are only going to be a few places in the city where the counterfeits could be produced in a climate controlled environment, each of which has something that can bring it up as suspicious. If you want to make life difficult for the Agents, more than one of these can be in play, or one can be set up by the conspirators to look like it is the source.



For instance, the Kyrenia might fail as a source for the counterfeits if it were closely investigated, but time pressure might preclude such an investigation and then the Agents' superiors might think the matter is closed and end the investigation even if the Agents remain suspicious (and have to act outside the authority they have been given to actually solve the case).

place 1: The government mint. Perfect facility for doing this, built with money from the British government in the late 1940's. Air-conditioned, modern, and all the necessary supplies could be diverted with a little baksheesh and Agency. This could link the plot to the government itself, which could make for a sticky situation. Either the conspirators will turn the force of government loose against the Agents, or they will play it as an American plot to overthrow the current government (and give the Agent-led counterfeiters an opportunity for a coup).

The bacon-infused bills would definitely require a separate, non-government facility and a non-Muslim staff, which is another line of investigation, and one which could also go awry if the plotters have set up a way to make it look like there is US involvement. In fact, several US diplomatic personnel might go missing and not be found until a building fire turns them up (dead from smoke inhalation and quite identifiable), along with barrels of pork fat, industrial sprayers and a few million in genuine US\$20 bills. This would cause riots and wholesale attack on American interests in the area.

place 2: SS Kyrenia. A Greek-registered refrigerated ship that has been sitting in port for the past three months. Originally stalled here when it limped in three months ago with a dying engine, repairs or parts have yet to materialize and its owners are defraying operating costs by renting out compartments in the refrigerated hold. And not asking too many questions if the money is right. There is no direct evidence that anything is going on here, but more than one person of interest in the case has had business there.



And while it may take a few weeks to track it down, the registry of the Kyrenia is somewhat unclear, but it seems to be with a corporation formed in Athens in July 1945 (for those unfamiliar with the significance, World War 2 ended in Europe in May 1945). It is also worth noting that in 1957 Greece is firmly under the control of the National Radical Union Party, a right-wing and strongly anti-Communist party (the actual Communist Party is currently banned). In 1960, the current (1957) President of Greece (Konstantinos Karamanlis) will be accused by a Nazi war criminal of having profited from Nazi persecution of Greek Jews during World War 2. No conclusive evidence was found, but it was a big scandal.

Ultimately there is no way to determine if anything suspicious is going on upon the Kyrenia without getting on board and investigating every hold. If it turns out there is a printing facility on board, it would be found from its design and layout that the ship sailed from its previous port with the facility already in place. And if so, it is likely to be guarded. Unless the full printing run has already been done and the money transported elsewhere. In which case breaking into its climate controlled compartment will trigger a timer on a bomb that will rather spectacularly sink the ship in its berth about 3 minutes after entering the compartment. More than enough time to find the bombs by sheer chance (oops!), realize they cannot be defused in time and flee. The Kyrenia is not going to wreak havoc on the docks or anything, but it will have the bottom blown out of it, catch fire and insulation in the hold will smoulder and smoke for days. But, these things happen and the Scenery will read the headlines, comment on it and move on to other things.

place 3:

Al-Arabi Magazine. Historically first published in Kuwait in December 1958, seeking to propound the ideology of Pan-Arabism and emphasizing Arabic literature. In 1957 you can put its building and printing plant in the adventure location, and say that it is structurally complete but not yet fully staffed. Specifically, only a few of the key management and professional staff has access to the facilities. All this has been mentioned on and off in a few newspapers.



As a high-quality color publication, they want to make sure the first issue is of the highest caliber, both from a journalistic and production standpoint. So it is not unusual that the press staff (some of whom were hired directly from Heidelberg in Germany) is working out the bugs in the brand new Heidelberg presses. Because the magazine is a monthly, the presses will have their costs offset by doing private jobs and they are already doing very nice work on intaglio wedding invitations (intaglio is a high-pressure print process that gives depth to the printing and which is often used in currency).

Al-Arabi was historically a government-sponsored publication. In 1957 and the context of the adventure, it does not mean that the government is part of the plot, only that someone in the government or who can influence the government is part of it. Most likely an Agent was involved to influence one or more decision-makers in key aspects of Al-Arabi, like hiring German pressmen. This way, if things go sour, the actual instigator is just a minor and likely anonymous figure and someone more important (but merely Scenery) takes the fall for something they had no idea about.

**Conclusion:** This adventure can involve footwork, skullduggery, wheeling and dealing, use of Agency, outgunned fights against hordes of Scenery, hostile governments, Cold War tensions, gender and race and religious issues, diplomatic turf wars and the occasional large explosion, so there is something for everyone.

In the event that Agents can link outside agitators or internal traitors as a smoking gun in the plot and not making a big public stink over it, the government (which is leaning pro-West) will be keen on covering it up, punishing the 'guilty' and privately thanking the US (or even the Agents) for not publicly embarrassing them in front of the rest of the Arab world. Of course, there is still the matter of all that counterfeit and possibly pork-tained currency floating about. This is going to require a complete withdrawal and replacement of all US currency whenever it hits a bank, which will be done at US expense of course, along with the temporary hiring of however many non-Muslim staff are needed for the duration.



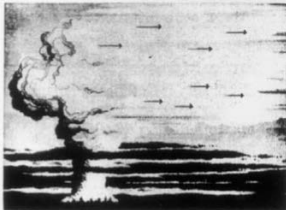
Agents would get a Favor from the local government, and grudging praise from the local US officials who may have resented them being there in the first place. These officials will also spin any official reports to note their own 'leadership' in directing the Agents and foisting any reverses or negative side effects onto the Agents. If the Agents are actually working for a different group, their higher-ups will know the truth of the matter (for better or worse), and Agents will have their future assignments measured by the standard of their success in this one. That is, the way in which the solved (or failed to solve) the problem as a group will be taken into account.

Final notes - From here we go straight to the gear list, which mostly just updates the firearms and other items to 1957-specific items. If you want to do your own background research on the era via the miraculous and not at all 1957-like Internet, Wikipedia has a lot of useful resources. A search for a topic and '1950' or '1960' will give the best results, as intermediate years like 1957 may not be as well represented. Advertisements or news headlines and articles are best found on a Google Images search, which you can do by year or topic or both, like '1950s television ads' or 'sexist advertisements'. If you come across something interesting but it is in 1956 or 1961 or whatever, go with it. You are in now way required to stick to 1957 for inspiration. All the important things going on in that year were still going on a few years later. Civil rights, women's rights, the Cold War, the Space Race are all multi-year or multi-decade phenomenon. You can even go 'Man in the High Castle' or 'Fringe' and have more than one 1957 in play, with Agents (and their foes) having the ability to move back and forth between the two, and the overall plot is each side trying to manipulate the other side's 1957 to make it more like their own. We obviously have not provided any info on this, but it is just another example of how you can tweak the setting to do some very meta stuff.

**Gear note:** All gear costs are in modern terms. The easiest conversion to 1957 is to simply divide all costs by 10.

**The Grand Rapids Herald**  
SEVENTH SECOND YEAR          SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1956          PUBLISHED IN BATTLE CREEK

# 16,200 DIE AS H-BOMB LEVELS GRAND RAPIDS



**DEADLY PATH OF H-BOMB FALLOUT**

In fact it was known, the photographer who might have caught the historic shot even before the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. The picture, which is believed to be the first ever taken of an atomic explosion, was taken by the Associated Press staff at the time of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. The picture was taken from a height of about 100 feet above the ground. The cloud is still seen in the area of the atomic bombing museum in Hiroshima.

### 25,500 Injured; Fast Evacuation Saves 136,000

City's Business District Is Wiped Out; Heavy Damage Extends Outward a Mile

Deadly path of Grand Rapids came at 12:03 p. m. on Friday, July 20, 1956. At that moment, an enemy bomber dropped a single bomb, which exploded over the business district of the city, killing 16,200 people and wounding 25,500. The business district was completely destroyed, and the city center was a mass of rubble. The explosion was heard for miles around, and the ground shook for miles around. The city was a scene of horror and confusion. The death toll was the highest ever recorded in a single atomic bombing. The damage was the most extensive ever recorded in a single atomic bombing.

### Radioactive Dust Imperils West State

Residents of a 1,800-square-mile area in West, Middle and North Carolina are being ordered to evacuate as fallout from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima is expected to reach the area. The fallout is expected to reach the area in the form of a thick, radioactive dust. The dust is expected to be most concentrated in the area around the city of Raleigh. The dust is expected to be most concentrated in the area around the city of Raleigh. The dust is expected to be most concentrated in the area around the city of Raleigh.

### Avoid Panic - Listen Only to Official CB Bulletins

Among the services are many families which were separated at the start of the evacuation. Don't be panic get the information. Your radio should now be able to pick up the radio waves which are being broadcast from the city. The radio waves are being broadcast from the city. The radio waves are being broadcast from the city. The radio waves are being broadcast from the city.

What would your Agents do if they woke up and this was the headline? Aside from wondering how the Grand Rapids Herald was still in any condition to publish this...



And one more thing -----

There's a chance you bought 1957 because of its mention in the main Agency sourcebook. And you made it all this way and have not gotten any closer to the mystery that is implied in that short entry there. Well, it is time to get a little closer, but you still will not get all the way there.

You can either end your 1957 campaign with a big mystery, or start it with one. The former is easier, but takes longer. You start with a few plot threads in mind sometime around the start of the year, and run through things in an unhurried fashion. Agents do not need to be defying death and probability each and every week, if for no other reason than some of the places they need to go might take more than a week to get there. Eventually, whether the plot they are chasing resolves or not, the end of 1957 will roll around. It might happen at the stroke of midnight on January 1, 1958. It might be at 3:52pm on December 28, 1957 or 9:01am on January 4, 1958. But it will be near the close of the old year and start of the new one, and it will happen to all the Agents at the same time. One moment you are doing what you are doing, and the next you are exactly where you were at the moment the campaign started, in the clothing you were wearing at that time, with the possessions you had at that time. Your body, however, is neither here nor there. You appear to be the same age you were when the campaign started, but if you have any scars or bodily changes that happened in 1957, you still have them. And, you have your full memories of the year.

For now.

But not for long.

You can feel details slipping from you almost as fast as you can try to grasp them. You grab a pen and paper and start frantically writing things down, not bothering to read what you are writing, just writing.

The gamemaster gives each player a sheet of paper and a pen and says "You have 60 seconds to write down anything you want about the campaign to date." And when that 60 seconds is up, it is "pens down". What is on these sheets is the cumulative memory of the players about everything they did in the past year, the year that has not happened yet.



From the point of view of the Agents, this is very confusing and very unsettling. They fully remember writing these things down just a few moments ago, and remember that it was very important they do so, but from their perspective in the here and now, what they wrote reads like it was written by someone else. Notes about events that happened to someone else, warnings about things that never happened.

And yet it makes a strange amount of sense, and it is in their handwriting, with a pen they are still holding. So clearly it is important and means something. You just do not know what, yet. Agents who are together when this happens will no doubt compare notes and share bewilderment at WTF is happening or has already happened or is going to happen. Agents who did not meet for the first time until after the starting moment will have to feel their way around the conversation to see if these new people had the same experience. As it will turn out, all of the player Agents did, and none of the Agents that they encounter early on did. Odds are they will run into someone like themselves later, and the circumstances of that will be important because everyone who remembered 1957, even fleetingly, will have some sort of common factor that has yet to be determined. Maybe they were all in the same city on the same day. Maybe they were all outside at the same moment, or deep underground, or in the middle of the ocean or on an airliner at least 8,000 meters up. But there will be a common factor, and the gamemaster has to figure out why it will be important.

Because 1957 is going to happen all over again. Except this time the player Agents and anyone else who temporarily remembered it have their notes to work from. This may be of extraordinary use in some adventures, but some adventures may not have been mentioned at all. The gamemaster needs to play out encounters that happened before slightly differently. Players need to quickly learn that their foes are not locked into last year's script. They might not know or understand that they are doing this for a second time, but their plans for a particular time or place could be altered by any number of trivial changes in the timeline, so a guard might be at a different post, traffic might be different, the person you need to talk to might be in a bad mood, whatever.

**note:** In practical terms, this means the gamemaster can ignore the one-shots and adventures that had no relevance to the main plot and just concentrate on replaying the ones that had some connection to whatever the hell is going on. So, 1957 part deux will be a bit faster-paced.



The people you have to watch out for are the ones who also remembered, and for whom you were important enough to remember. And it might be very different. Someone who was an enemy the first time around might have left a note to themselves that cooperation is better. Or, the other way around.

| "You, again. Things are going to be different this time..." |

At some point in 1957 part deux the gamemaster is going to have to figure out why this happened, and how it can be ended. Specifically, what the players can do and who they have to interact with to break this loop. Maybe it is aliens. Maybe it is some wierd science project at a secret US base (or Soviet one!). Maybe it some mutant Agent with freakish powers over the Real, hopelessly insane but trying to make something happen or un-happen and the loop will continue until it does.

If you are going to make 1957 happen twice, it is up to you to figure out how it ends. Keep in mind that it does not have to be something that the Agents, the players or even you understand. It just has to be barely plausible and with difficulty, interrupted. Depending on your patience and that of the players, you can do this as many times as it takes to get it right. But just as the Agents quickly forgot the first 1957 and have only their quickly scrawled notes to go on, so will the second 1957 disappear, so if their notes do not include something about the repetition, Agents will treat the third time as the second time, not knowing they have done this twice before.

And this was the ending the campaign with a mystery option. The year ends and you go back to where you started. Beginning the 1957 campaign with a mystery takes a lot more work on the part of the gamemaster. You have to come up with the reason and several plots, and have each player Agent start the campaign with pen in hand and a paper with scrawled notes provided by you the gamemaster, but as written by the Agents themselves.

That is, you start the campaign at the second or possibly third go-through. The player Agents have little choice but to believe that they are doing the year over again and the notes they have are from their future selves. Since these notes are written by the gamemaster, they need to have sufficient clues to steer Agents towards resolution of the mystery, possibly warning them that there are others who also remember but who may want a different resolution to the year.



You have already experienced this year! Watch out for the guy on the left as you enter the room.

You need the man with the eyepatch, but do not trust him.

There are two of them, you need to deal with both or it won't work.

Messina, Thessaloniki, Athens, in that order.

Try not to get acid burned this time.

The hobo knows the way, reward him.

If you think you need to jump, you do.

The timer is off by 5 seconds, dammit I can't remember in which direction.



If you give each player a handout akin to the one just shown, then each has several pieces to a puzzle, but it is a puzzle where they have to put it together without knowing what it is supposed to look like. Maybe they have to prevent the death of someone who a mutant super-Agent is greiving over and replaying events time and again. Maybe they have to convince an alien AI that it has completed its experiment and can go home to analyze the results. Maybe the so-called 'weather machine' being constructed in Alaska has a massively unforeseen side effect and not only has to be shut down, but all the records and science (and scientists) involved in it have to be eliminated. Permanently. Maybe they need to collect the invert matter meteorite chunks from across the globe and launch them into space (which apparently only the Russians can manage in 1957).

Whatever it is, it will be so bizarre, so outside the bounds of known science and Agent belief that no one who was not a first-hand witness will believe it. And so those who survive it to the present-day of a 2018 campaign will be reticent to talk about it, even with other surviving witnesses (who saw it themselves and do not need to talk about it either).

The aftermath does not clear things up. When players resolve whatever the hell is going on, 1957 goes back to normal and reconnects to 1958. All of the 1957s reconnect to 1958. The players get back all of their memories. Events they did multiple times have multiple valid memories of how they resolved. Events where an Agent was in different places on the same day in 1957 will be equally valid in their minds. They could have a memory of falling in love with an enemy Agent and then tragically losing that person, and an equally valid memory of being used and betrayed by that same person in a subsequent 1957. Scenery records will be identical except for places where Agents who remembered other 1957s were involved, in which case there will be multiple versions of newspapers, police reports, etc. Agent-recorded histories will have similar discrepancies. Where Agents who did not remember are involved, things are the same. Where those who did remember are involved, there will be differences.

And this is where you close up 1957. Continuing to 1958 is possible of course. The Cold War is still hot, and plenty of important things are going to happen. But it is going to seem awfully normal to Agents who have just gone through a globe-spanning temporal distortion event. Best to let it become history, and jump back to the intrigues of 2018 and the main book.



**Melee weapons (cut/stab)** -----

name	damage	type	length	weight	cost	armor	hits	notes
Utility knife	strike-1	lethal	short	.2(-)	15(-12)	1d+2	1	lh
Combat knife	strike+0	lethal	short	.4(-15)	30(-10)	1d+2	1	lh, throw
Short sword	strike+1	lethal	medium	1.0(-11)	65(-8)	1d+2	2	lh
Longsword	strike+2	lethal	long	1.6(-9)	250(-4)	2d+0	2	lh

**Ranged weapons** -----

name	uses	Acc	damage	shots	held	weight	cost	armor	hits
Tokarev TT-33	7.62mm Sov.	0	1d+1	8	clip	.9(-11)	250(-4)	1d+2	2
Makarov	9mm Soviet	1	1d+2	8	clip	.9(-11)	250(-4)	1d+2	2
Colt Trooper	.38 Special	1	1d+1	6	internal	1.1(-11)	350(-3)	1d+2	2
Colt Agent	.38 Special	0	1d+1	6	internal	.5(-14)	350(-3)	1d+1	2
Colt Python	.357 Magnum	1	2d+1	6	internal	1.2(-10)	500(-2)	1d+2	2
Browning Hi-power	9x19mm	1	2d+0	13	clip	1.0(-11)	500(-2)	1d+2	2
Colt M1911A1	.45 ACP	1	2d+0 <sup>S</sup>	7	clip	1.1(-11)	700(-1)	1d+2	2
PPSh-41	7.62mm Sov.	1	1d+2	70	drum	5.4(-4)	500(-2)	2d+1	4
Thompson SMG	.45 ACP	1	2d+1 <sup>S</sup>	50	drum	6.7(-3)	2.0K(+2)	2d+1	4
Springfield M-14	7.62x51mm	3	4d+1	10	clip	5.2(-4)	1.0K(+0)	2d+1	4
AK-47	7.62x39mm	2	4d+0	30	clip	4.9(-4)	1.4K(+1)	2d+1	4
M1 Carbine	.30 cal	2	3d+1	30	clip	5.8(-4)	700(-1)	2d+1	4
Weatherby Mark V	.460 Magnum	4	5d+1	3	internal	4.5(-4)	2K(+2)	2d+1	4
Solothurn AT rifle	20mm	6	6d+2	5	clip	40(+5)	2K(+2)	3d+1	7
SVT-40 sniper rfl	7.62mm rfl.	4	4d+1	10	clip	4.5(-4)	700(-1)	2d+1	4
Remington 870	12ga slug	1	3d+1	8	internal	4.0(-5)	700(-1)	2d+1	4
	00 buckshot	1	1d+1x3						
M26 grenade	leth. expl.	0	3d+1	1	internal	.5kg	30(-10)	1d+2	1

**Gear** -----

name	weight	cost	armor	hits	notes
Work/outdoor attire	2.0(-8)	175(-5)	0d+1	4	armor vs. abrasion only
Cold weather attire	3.0(-6)	250(-4)	0d+2	4	0d+1 vs. blunt or cutting
Casual attire	1.5(-9)	90(-7)	0d+1	3	armor vs. abrasion only
Business attire	2.0(-8)	500(-2)	0d+1	3	more for custom work
Formal attire	3.0(-6)	1.0K(+0)	0d+1	3	more for custom work
Suitcase	5.0(-4)	60(-8)	1d+0	3	normal travel luggage
Steamer trunk	20(+2)	175(-5)	1d+0	6	sturdy, stackable
Walkie-talkie	1.6(-9)	350(-3)	1d+0	2	range of 2km
Tape recorder	10(-1)	1.4K(+1)	1d+0	2	reel to reel, vacuum tubes
Two-man tent	3.0(-6)	250(-4)	1d+0	3	nylon & aluminum pup tent
Hiking backpack	3.5(-6)	250(-4)	1d+0	3	new mountaineering pack
Mess/cooking kit	.4(-15)	15(-12)	1d+0	2	basic camping item
Sleeping bag	2.0(-8)	175(-5)	1d+0	3	Korean War down bag



# 1957<sup>1.0</sup>

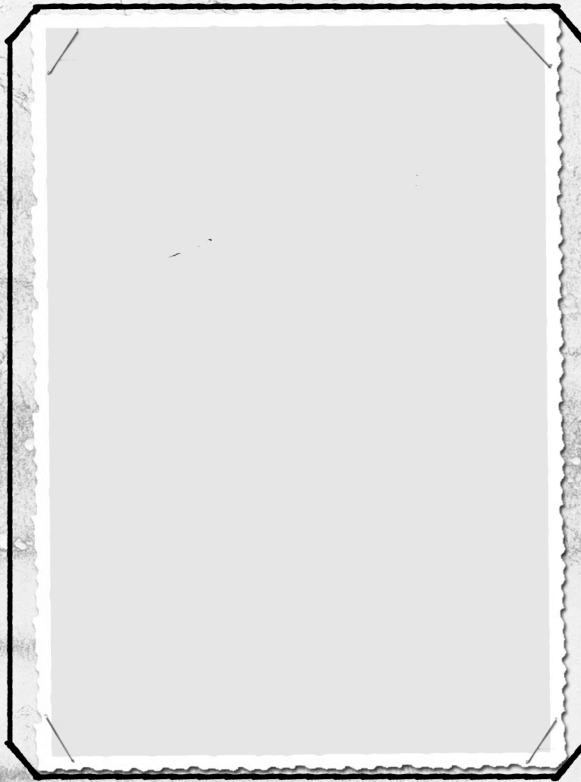
Blacksburg Tactical Research Center

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Background: \_\_\_\_\_

Goals: \_\_\_\_\_

Stam	Hits
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10
11	11
12	12
13	13
+10	14
+20	15
	16
Enc -1	17
-2	18
-3	19
-6	20
-9	21
	22
Exp any	23
A	24
S	25
P	26



<b>Strength</b>	level	roll
		d+
	strike	
	d+	
<b>Agility</b>		d+
	dodge	
<b>Awareness</b>		d+
	spot	
	d+	
<b>Will</b>		d+
	tough	
<b>Health</b>		d+
	walk	run
	sprint	recov
<b>Agency</b>		d+
1 3 5 7 9	luck	
11 13 15 17 19	d+	

head	d+	torso	d+	arm	d+	leg	d+
3-6		9-12		7-8		13-18	
<b>Gear</b>							<b>weight</b>
_____							_____
_____							_____
_____							_____
_____							_____

Skills	Attribute	bonus	skill	roll
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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July 4 2012CE

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