

Distant Voices

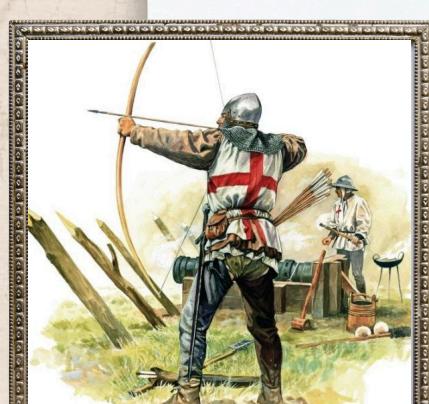
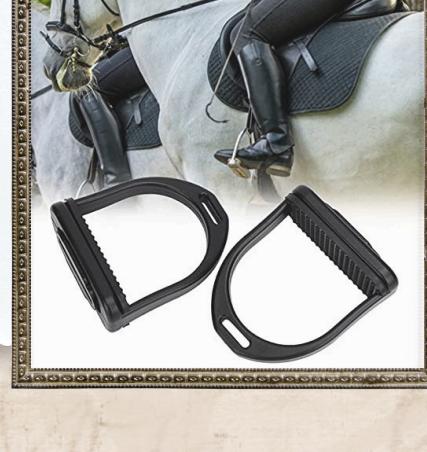
An interpretation by Adam Draai

[Se; I ep 3]

Modern telecommunications exist because of a series of interconnected events, starting with the Normans use of stirrups for horse ridings.

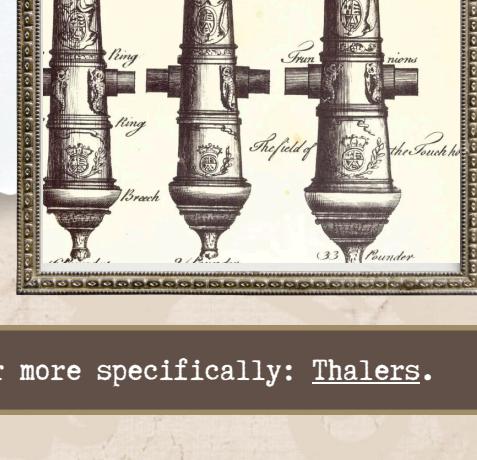
Stirrup

The first development in human history that we begin our journey with is that of the stirrup. The stirrup allowed horse riders to remain stable atop their mounts giving rise to knights which decimated warfare for 400 years.



Welsh Longbow

The Welsh longbow was a devastating weapon. Requiring years of training, archers were able to fire powerful arrows from far away. This dethroned the stirrup as the dominant war technology. The welsh longbow was able to knock knights off their horses from miles away.



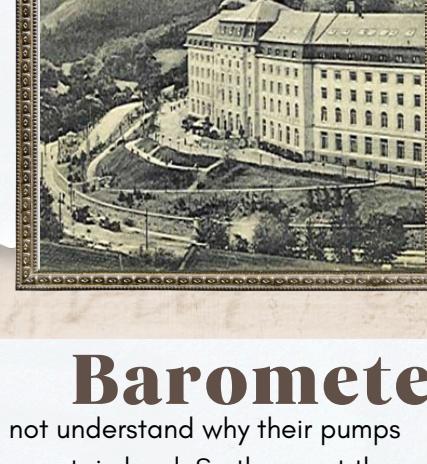
Cannon

Meanwhile in China gunpowder was used for fireworks, yet the importing of it through Arabia led to the development of cannons. Typically used as a peaceful signal, church bells were transformed into a weapon of war; the first cannon.

But making war is expensive, so we need money, or more specifically: Thalers.

Jáchymov

Jáchymov was where the biggest silver mining strike in history was made. In 1517 this town was where the first Thaler's were minted (the origin of the word dollar). This availed a lot of money to make cannons which were quite expensive. Yet miners encountered a problem in getting water out of the caves, little did they know this problem would lead to the discovery of the barometer.



Barometer

The miners in Jáchymov could not understand why their pumps would only pump water up to a certain level. So they sent the problem over to Galileo who created a mercury barometer.

In cooperation with other scientists they then deduced that at higher altitudes and hence higher pressures, the behaviours of liquids would change. In order to measure this they created the barometer. Yet on one evening a french inventor noticed his barometer acting strangely. It was producing static electricity.

Electromagnetic Signals

The exploration of static electricity by many inventors eventually led them to accretion that which linked all these strange forces: electromagnetism. Utilizing the electromagnetic signals, inventors were able to create rapid advancements in the world of technology. It is with these inventions that we have arrived at the creation of the telephone and the telescope. Allowing us to observe the far reaches of outer space.

