

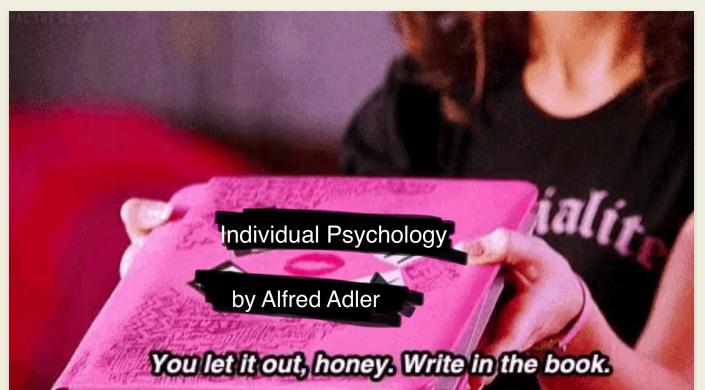
James Cameron's *Titanic* made the eponymous ship a household name implying a tragedy of global proportion, but in numbers alone, the 1500 killed in the sinking of the RMS *Titanic* is negligible compared to many lesser conflicts that have much greater mortality. But the *Titanic* survives in the modern cultural zeitgeist because it straddles the metaphor and the reality of the end of the aristocracy. 1500 is not much in objective terms, but a tiny fraction of the concentration of the aristocracy which is by definition already a tiny proportion of the general population) 1500 has the power to knock out an entire social class. The *Butterfly Effect* of the *Titanic* is that A significant portion of the 1% who held a vastly disproportionate amount of national wealth were removed from the equation. What events in subsequent history can be traced back to what they didn't do? We'll never know!



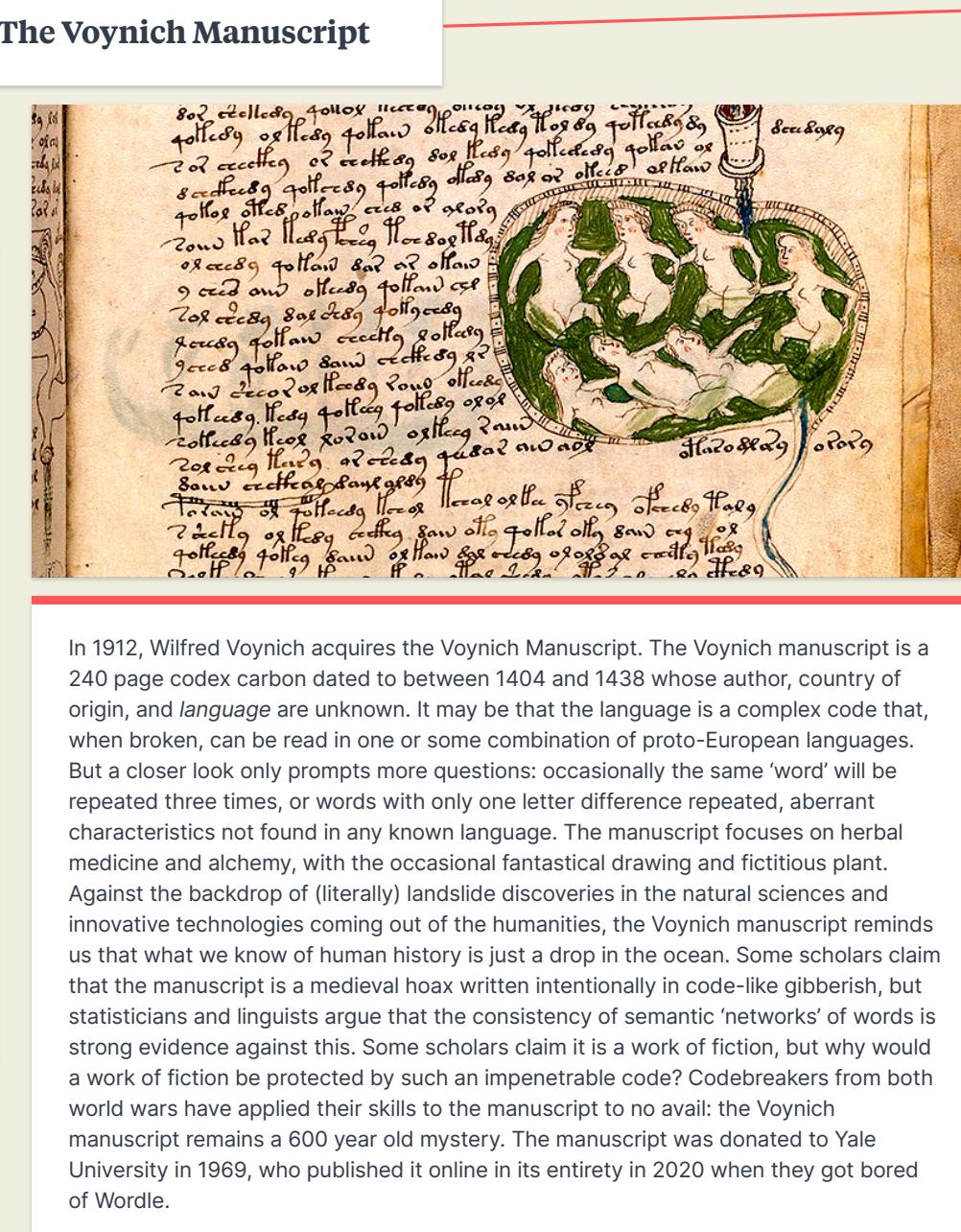
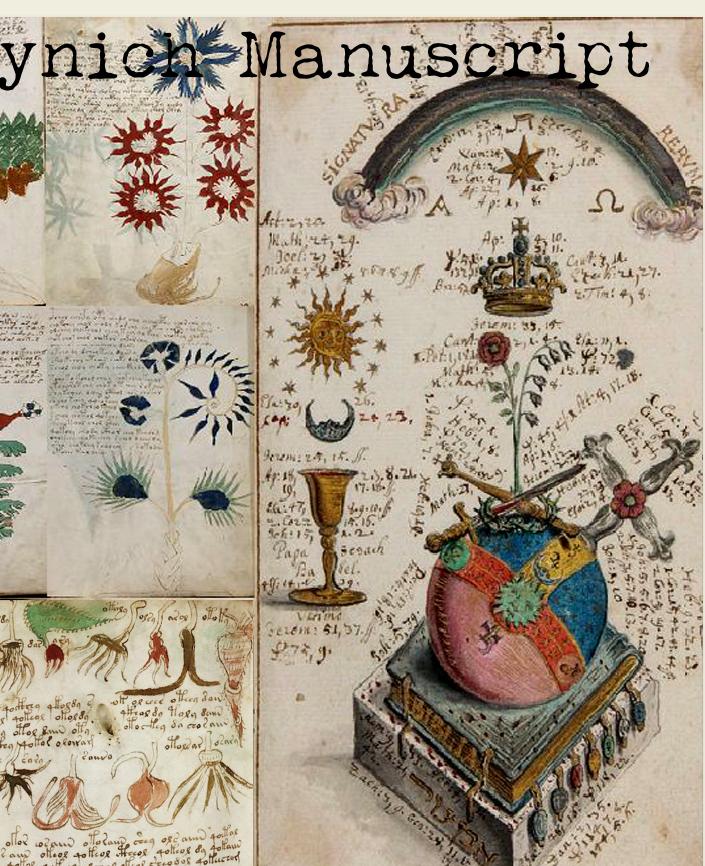
#### The Titanic Sinks



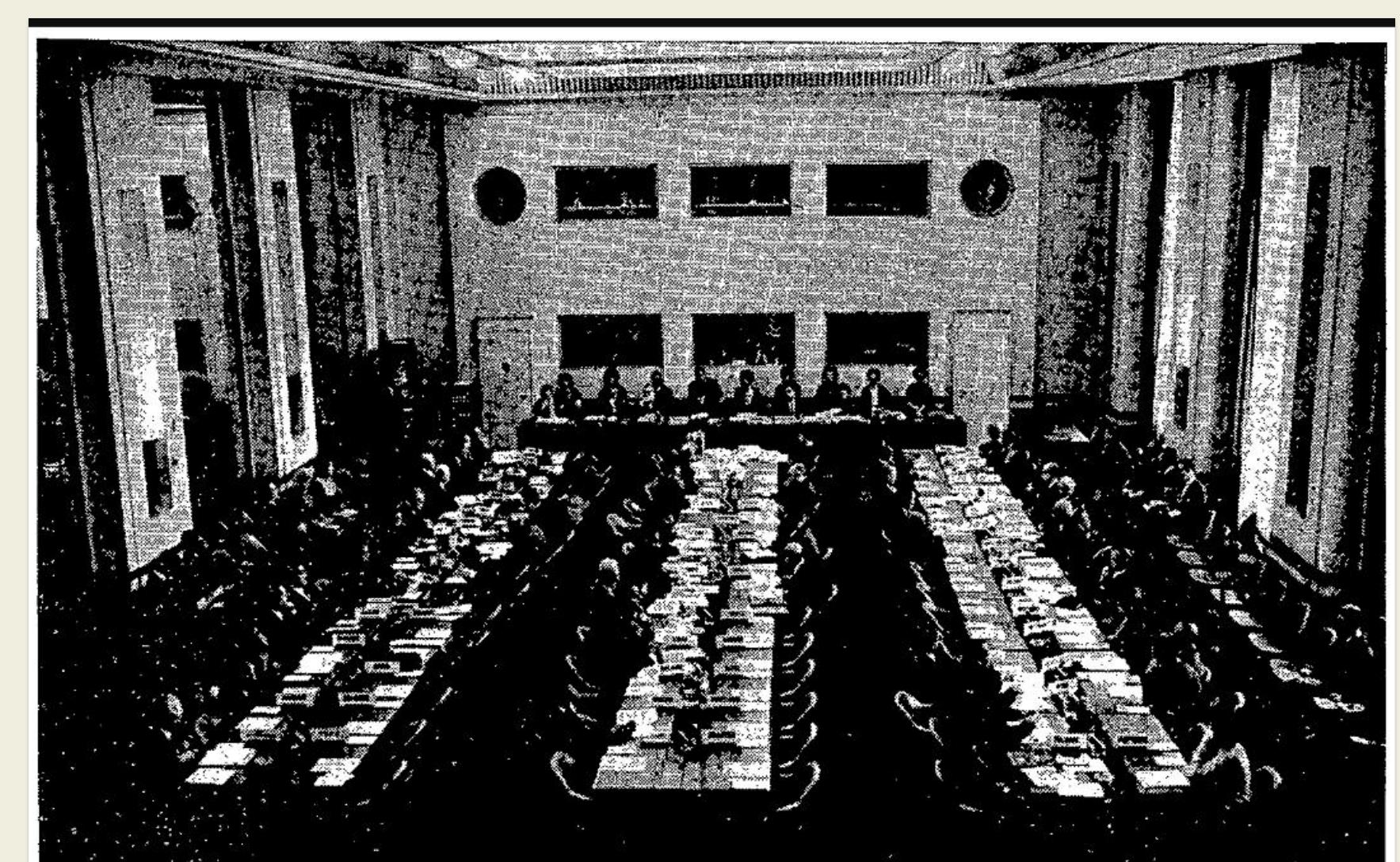
#### Adler Breaks From Freud



In 1912 Alfred Adler forms the Society of Individual Psychology to promote his theory of Individual Psychology, which stepped purposefully away from Freud's binary psychosexual drives and toward defining individual as family-related, social and vocational. Adler's view was instrumental in the formation of neo-Freudianism and closely resembles the humanist psychology that would sweep the field later in the same century. Like Adler's work, humanistic psychology and psychotherapy survived but diminished in relevance in the research sphere. Theories like Adler's that emphasize individual differences, by definition, can never produce results attractive to publish, how much theoretical diversity are we missing out on?



In 1912, Wilfrid Voynich acquires the Voynich Manuscript. The Voynich manuscript is a 240 page codex carbonated to between 1404 and 1438 whose author, country of origin, and language are unknown. It may be that the language is a complex code that, when broken, can be read in one or some combination of proto-European languages. But a closer look only proves more that the language is actually the same. Voynich uses regular words and regular grammar, with only one letter difference to regular letters, absent characteristics found in all known language. The manuscript focuses on herbal medicine and alchemy, with the occasional fantastical drawing and fictitious plant. Against the backdrop of (literally) landslides discoveries in the natural sciences and innovative technologies coming out of the humanities, the Voynich manuscript reminds us that the world of science and history is just a drop in the ocean. Some scholars claim that the manuscript is a medieval hoax, but others believe it is actually in code-like gibberish, but statisticians and linguists argue that the consistency of semantic 'networks' of words is strong evidence against this. Some scholars claim it is a work of fiction, but why would a work of fiction be protected by such an impenetrable code? Codetakers from both world wars have applied their skills to the manuscript to no avail; the Voynich manuscript remains a 600 year old mystery. The manuscript was donated to Yale University in 1969, who published it online in its entirety in 2020 when they got bored of Word.

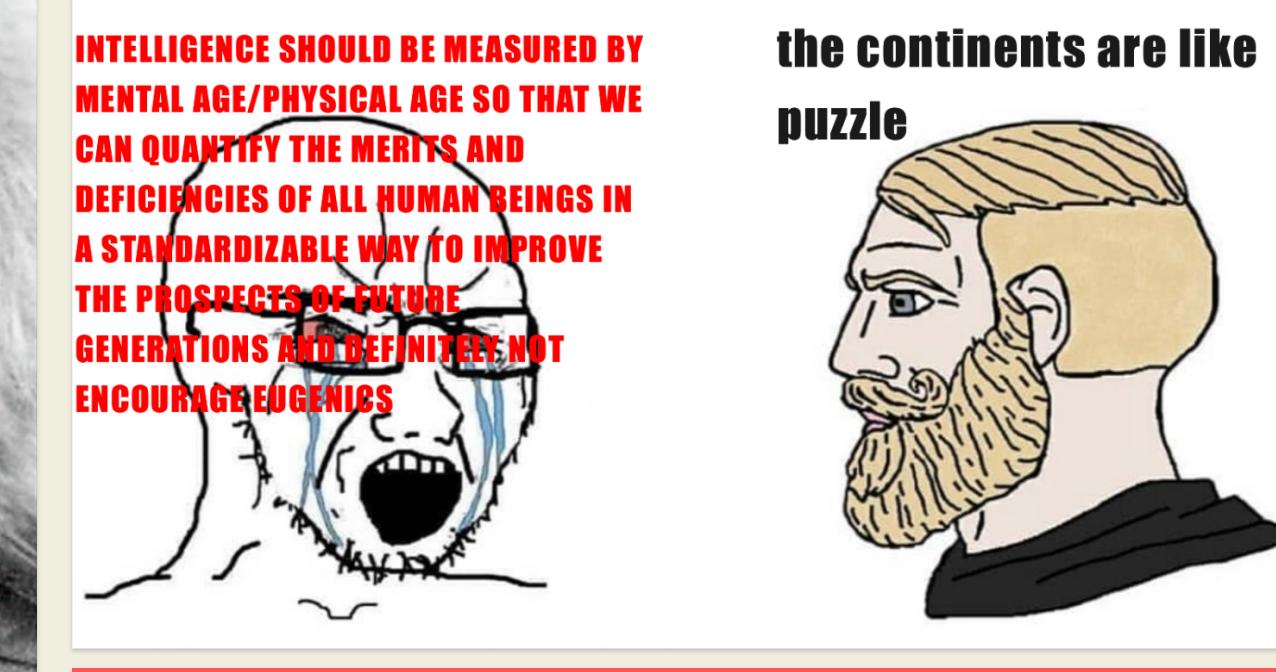


#### The International Opium Convention

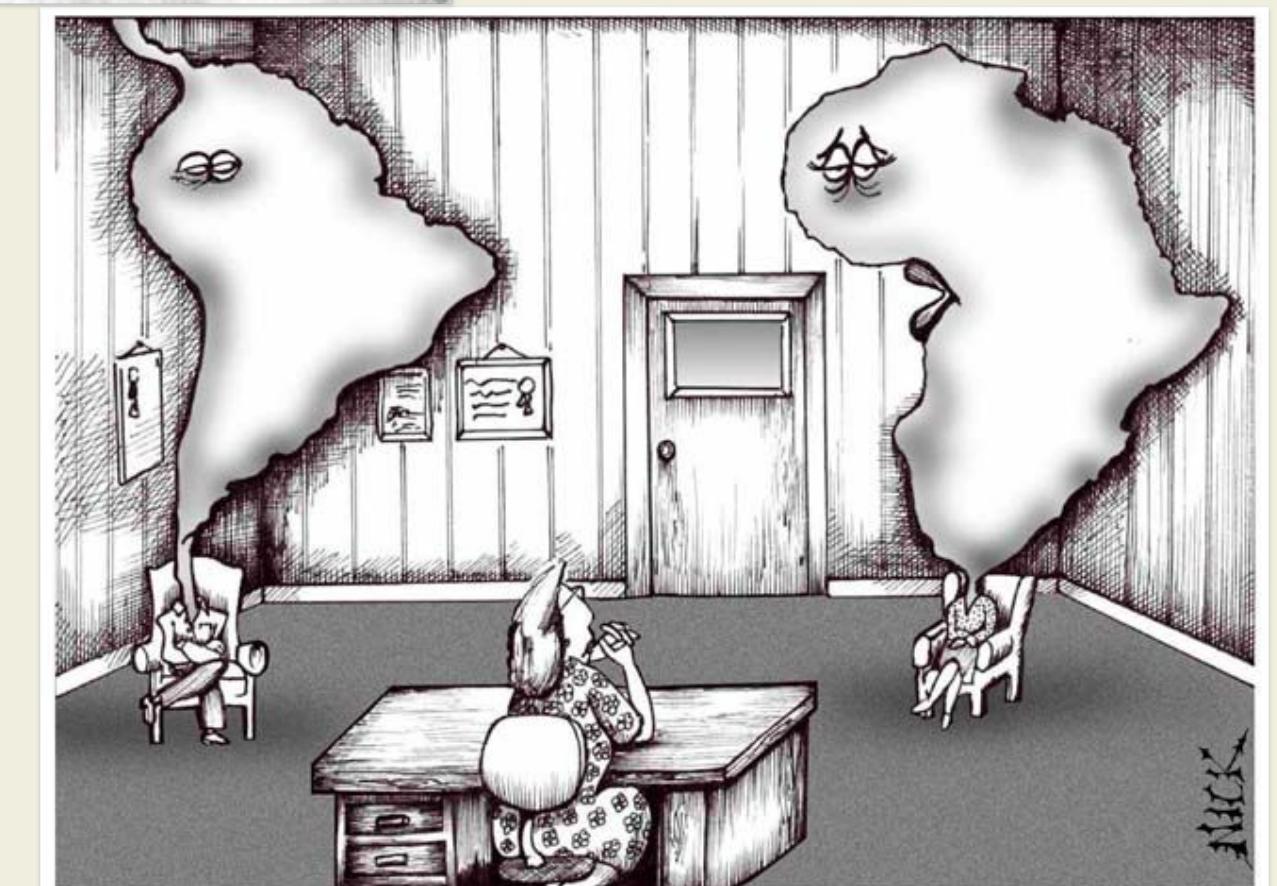
The International Opium Convention was a treaty signed by twelve countries, including Germany, the United States, and China. Though it was only intended to restrict exports and not to criminalize any substances, it was the first legal form of international drug control, and can be interpreted as the beginning of the war on drugs. That there was ever a time when drug exports were not controlled is difficult for most people to imagine. This convention is a precedent for subsequently significantly more stringent laws revolve around drug regulation. Pablo Escobar, cocaine baron, it is also the first time that the perspective of human rights that access to controlled substances can be restricted by the state. It is also the first time that an individual is inherently prone to addiction and a populace who cannot be trusted to protect their own welfare. Neuroscientists seem to agree. Millions of dollars in research funding are poured into isolating neurological substrates to synthesize the diverse groups of drug addicts, sex addicts, even exercise addicts all under one parsimonious category: dopamine addicts. But addiction really isn't that simple: if they both take amphetamines and experience withdrawals, why is a user of meth an addict but a user of Vyvanse not? If addiction is caused by an innate flaw in dopamine regulation, how is spontaneous remission so common? Is the biological theory of addiction the culmination of meticulous science, or is it simply the result of a chaotic chain of events stretching across culture and time? Is that the direction where the truth lies, or is it just the direction we've been looking?



#### Wegener Proposes Continental Drift



Wegener proposes his theory of continental drift, wherein all the continents of the world were originally part of a super-continent called Pangaea that eventually separated, and its constituent pieces drifted into the positions we know today. A theory that explains the formation of the world as we know it in small shifts over hundreds of thousands of years to help the capricious nature of psychology in perspective. While uppy psychologists step all over each other to discover and pin some new aspect of human nature, Wegener reminds us that most of nature isn't human at all.



"Well looking back I suppose it's been going on for quite some time, but I only noticed we were drifting apart during the last 50 million years..."