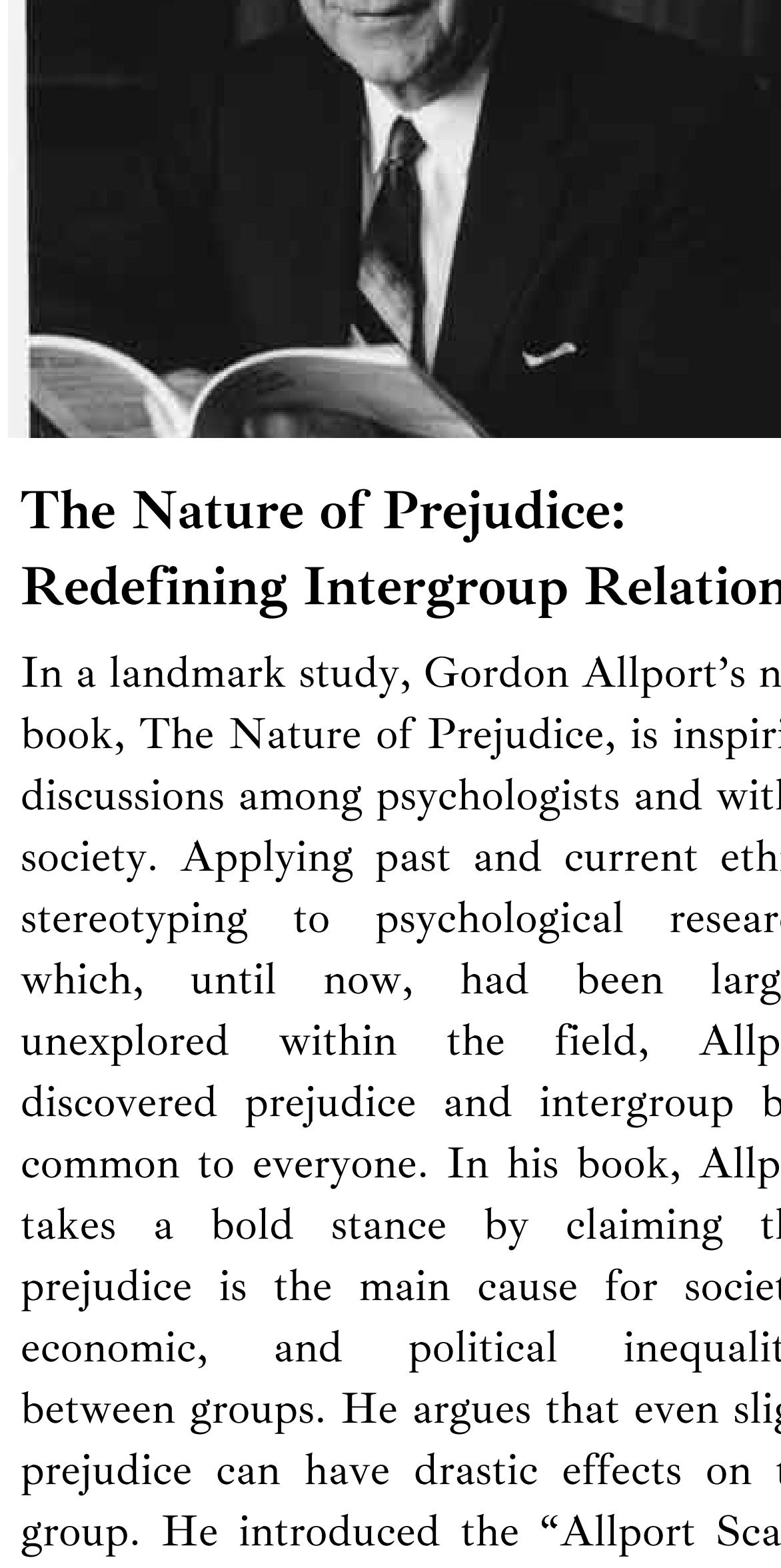


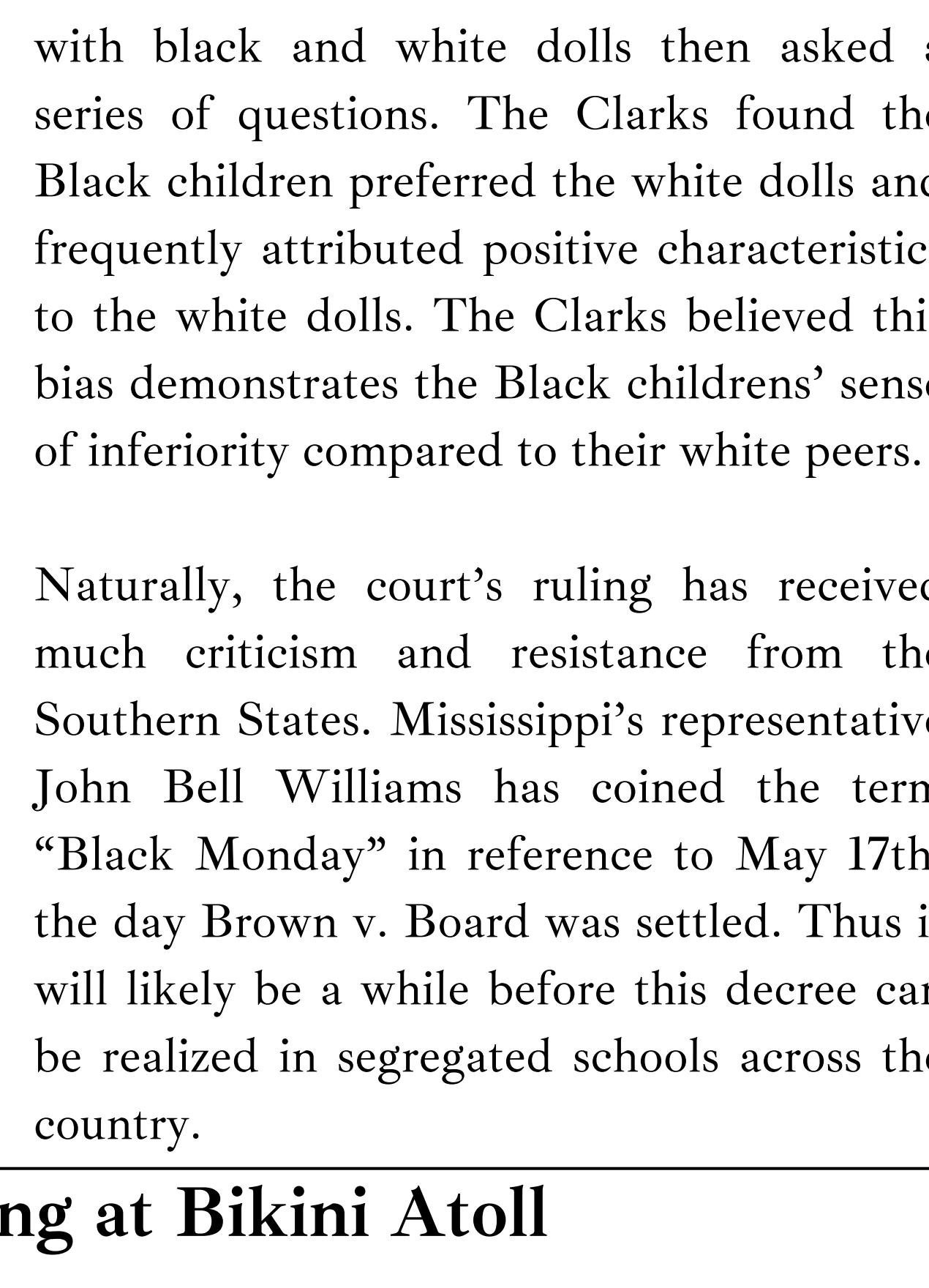
# PSYCHOLOGY & SOCIETY



## The Nature of Prejudice: Redefining Intergroup Relations

In a landmark study, Gordon Allport's new book, *The Nature of Prejudice*, is inspiring discussions among psychologists and within society. Applying past and current ethnic stereotyping to psychological research, which, until now, had been largely unexplored within the field, Allport discovered prejudice and intergroup bias common to everyone. In his book, Allport takes a bold stance by claiming that prejudice is the main cause for societal, economic, and political inequalities between groups. He argues that even slight prejudice can have drastic effects on the group. He introduced the "Allport Scale" as a means to measure prejudice. The scale ranges from Antilocution, typically perceived as "harmless" by most, to the extermination of a group.

To support his many claims throughout the book, Allport provides a thorough evaluation of recent and modern prejudice across the world. In light of the second World War, Allport centers much of his evidence around the escalation from simple anti-semitic practices to the Holocaust and implications we still see today. In the 14th chapter of his book, he also touches on the current White-Black tension in the United States. Considering the fraught history between the groups and the scale of the rising tension, Allport does not believe White-Black prejudices are likely to improve any time soon. Even so, he listed 4 ways to improve intergroup relations within society. He believes equal status, common goals, intergroup cooperation, and support of laws are all necessary steps to remove bias and promote intergroup harmony.



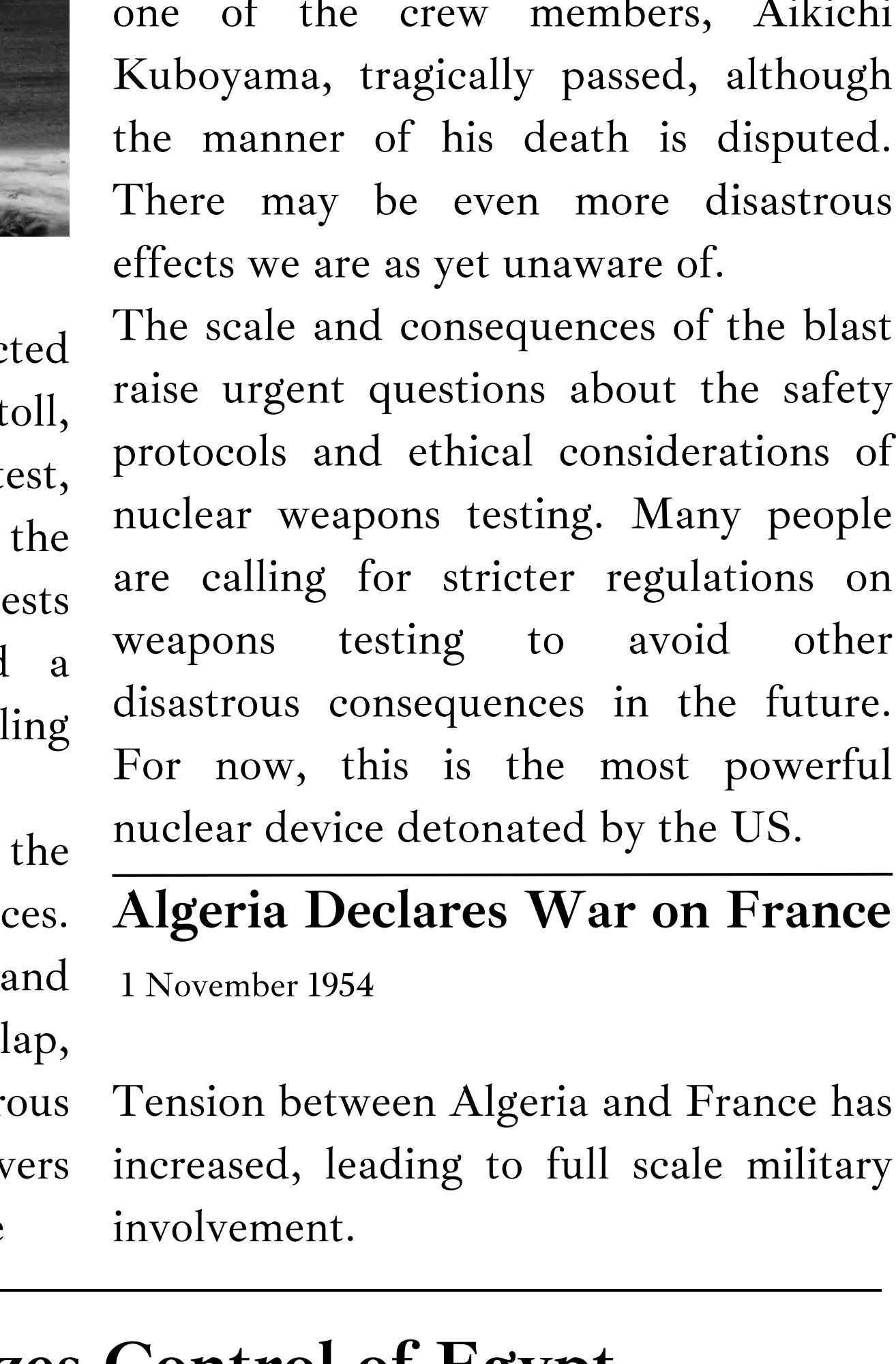
**Boy Scouts of America  
Desegregate Based on Race**

## Supreme Court Bans Segregation in Schools

17 May 1954

On May 17th, the Supreme Court unanimously declared racial segregation in schools as unconstitutional. *Brown v. Board* has appeared in court three times over the last three years and the court has finally finalized the ruling. Until recently, the United States had been upholding the "separate but equal" doctrine, decided in the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896). This new ruling could completely change the entire schooling system.

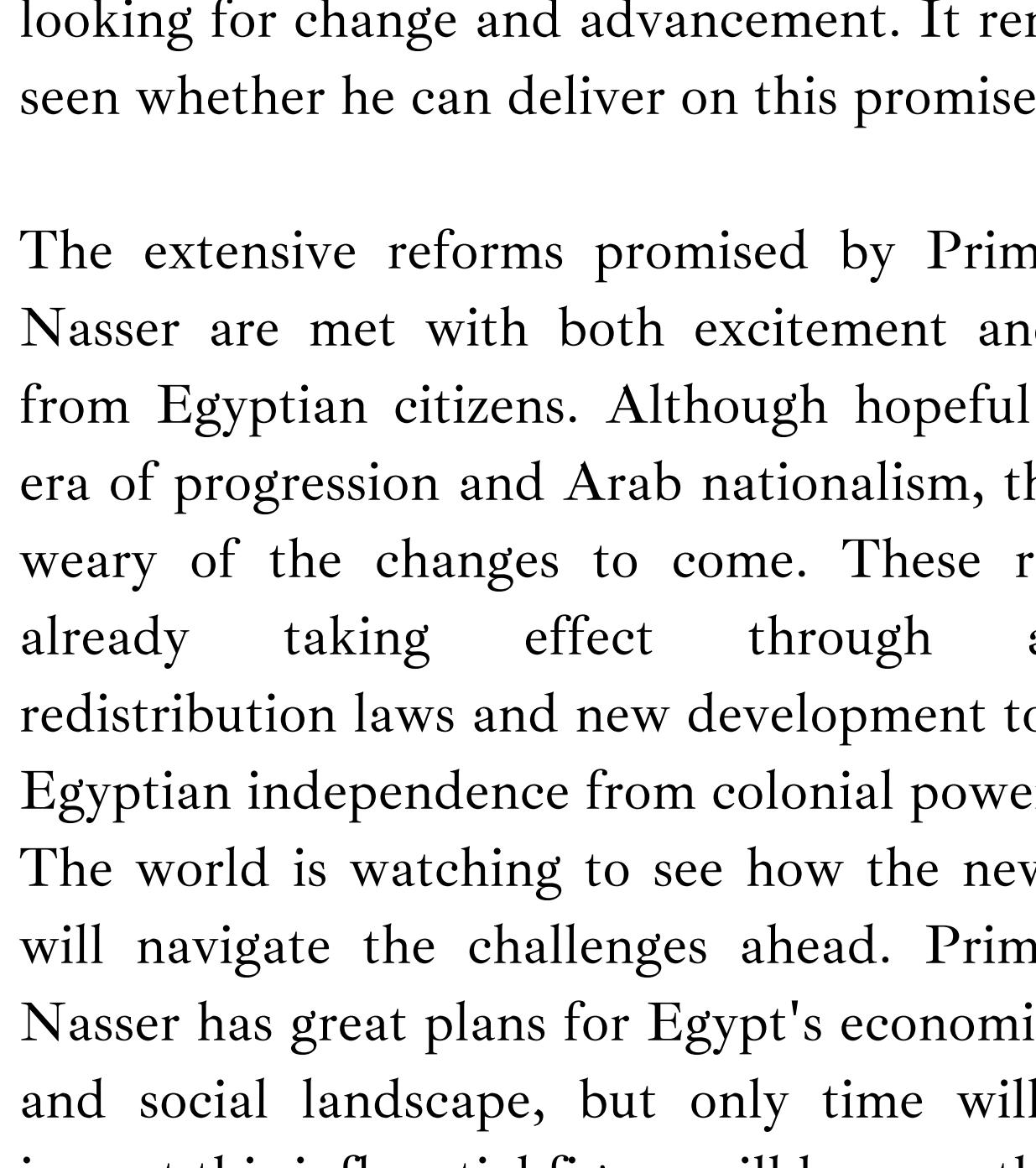
On behalf of 20 Black children, 13 parents from Topeka, Kansas, filed a class-action lawsuit against the Topeka Board of Education in 1951. The plaintiffs provided research from psychologists Kenneth and Mamie Clark's Doll Test experiment and historical evidence from John Hope Franklin. The Doll Test, conducted in 1947, investigated the impact of segregation on black children. The children in this study were presented



with black and white dolls then asked a series of questions. The Clarks found the Black children preferred the white dolls and frequently attributed positive characteristics to the white dolls. The Clarks believed this bias demonstrates the Black children's sense of inferiority compared to their white peers.

Naturally, the court's ruling has received much criticism and resistance from the Southern States. Mississippi's representative John Bell Williams has coined the term "Black Monday" in reference to May 17th, the day *Brown v. Board* was settled. Thus it will likely be a while before this decree can be realized in segregated schools across the country.

## U.S. Hydrogen Bomb Testing at Bikini Atoll



1 March 1954

On March 1st, the United States conducted its first Hydrogen Bomb test on Bikini Atoll, a coral island in the Pacific Ocean. This test, nicknamed "Castle Bravo", is set to be the first of many high-yield nuclear-weapon tests on the island. The explosion created a 130,000 feet tall mushroom cloud, tripling the expected yield of the blast.

The miscalculation of the scale of the detonation had far reaching consequences. The cloud was visible from miles away and caused residents of nearby islands Rongelap, Ailinginae, and Utrik, to suffer the disastrous radioactive fallout. Sailormen and observers at Rogernik Atoll were also exposed to the

blast. The contamination encompassed a far larger scale than anticipated and also impacted ships miles away. The Japanese fishing vessel Daigo Fukuryū Maru or "Fifth Lucky Dragon," although 80 miles away from the island, suffered severe exposure to radiation and has left many crew members with acute radiation sickness. On September 23rd, one of the crew members, Aikichi Kuboyama, tragically passed, although the manner of his death is disputed. There may be even more disastrous effects we are as yet unaware of.

The scale and consequences of the blast raise urgent questions about the safety protocols and ethical considerations of nuclear weapons testing. Many people are calling for stricter regulations on weapons testing to avoid other disastrous consequences in the future. For now, this is the most powerful nuclear device detonated by the US.

## Algeria Declares War on France

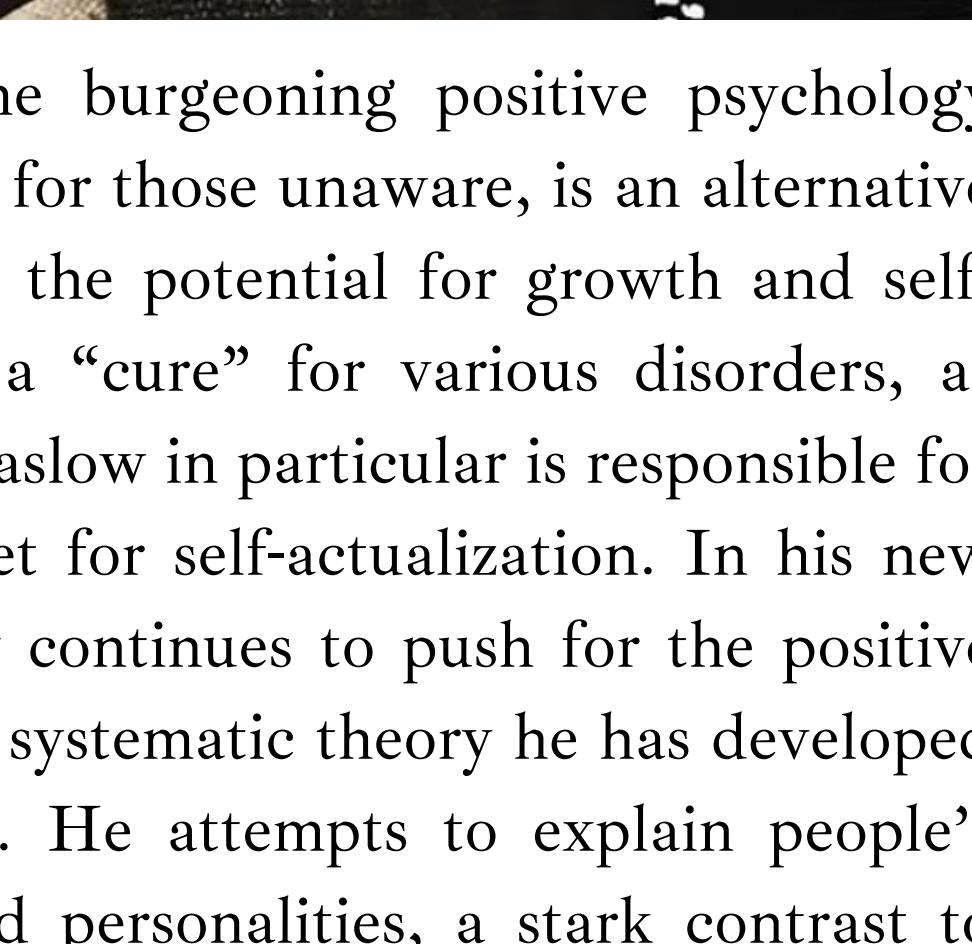
1 November 1954

Tension between Algeria and France has increased, leading to full scale military involvement.

## Prime Minister Nasser Seizes Control of Egypt

In a swift development, Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser has established himself as Prime Minister of Egypt, marking a new chapter in the country's development after the revolution and coup d'état in 1952. President Mohammed Naguib's resignation on February 25 and house arrest on February 26 effectively created room for the new leader, who wasted no time in appointing himself prime minister.

A short while ago, hundreds of protestors took to the streets to call for Prime Minister Nasser's imprisonment. But after a failed assassination attempt, Prime Minister Nasser has inspired the masses and now faces little resistance from the Egyptian population. After many moving speeches advocating for Arab nationalism and economic independence, the charismatic leader has won the hearts of Egyptians looking for change and advancement. It remains to be seen whether he can deliver on this promise.



Prime Minister Nasser paraded in Cairo, Egypt

## Best-Selling Media

Rising star Elvis Presley releases debut single "That's All Right"

William Golding publishes "Lord of the Flies" to universal critical acclaim

The first volume of J. R. R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings", set in the universe of "The Hobbit", is already an instant bestseller.

## Maslow's Humanistic Psychology



Abraham Maslow has been at the forefront of the burgeoning positive psychology movement in the past few years. Positive psychology, for those unaware, is an alternative approach to the field of psychology that focuses on the potential for growth and self-actualization in individuals as opposed to seeking a "cure" for various disorders, as several clinical psychologists today are wont to do. Maslow in particular is responsible for the idea of a hierarchy of needs that need to be met for self-actualization. In his new book *Motivation and Personality*, Abraham Maslow continues to push for the positive psychology's typical normative approach of researching what people generally seem to do and identifying those who stray from this majority path as aberrations. Maslow instead focuses on the individual personality of each person, an idea that might seem revolutionary in the current psychological research environment. It is not quite as surprising as it seems, however, since it appears that 13 of the 18 chapters in Maslow's new book represent revised, edited versions of previously published articles. While Maslow does present several intriguing new ideas in this work, it seems his ideas are founded in theories that have been around for some time. It remains to be seen the broader impact this book will have.

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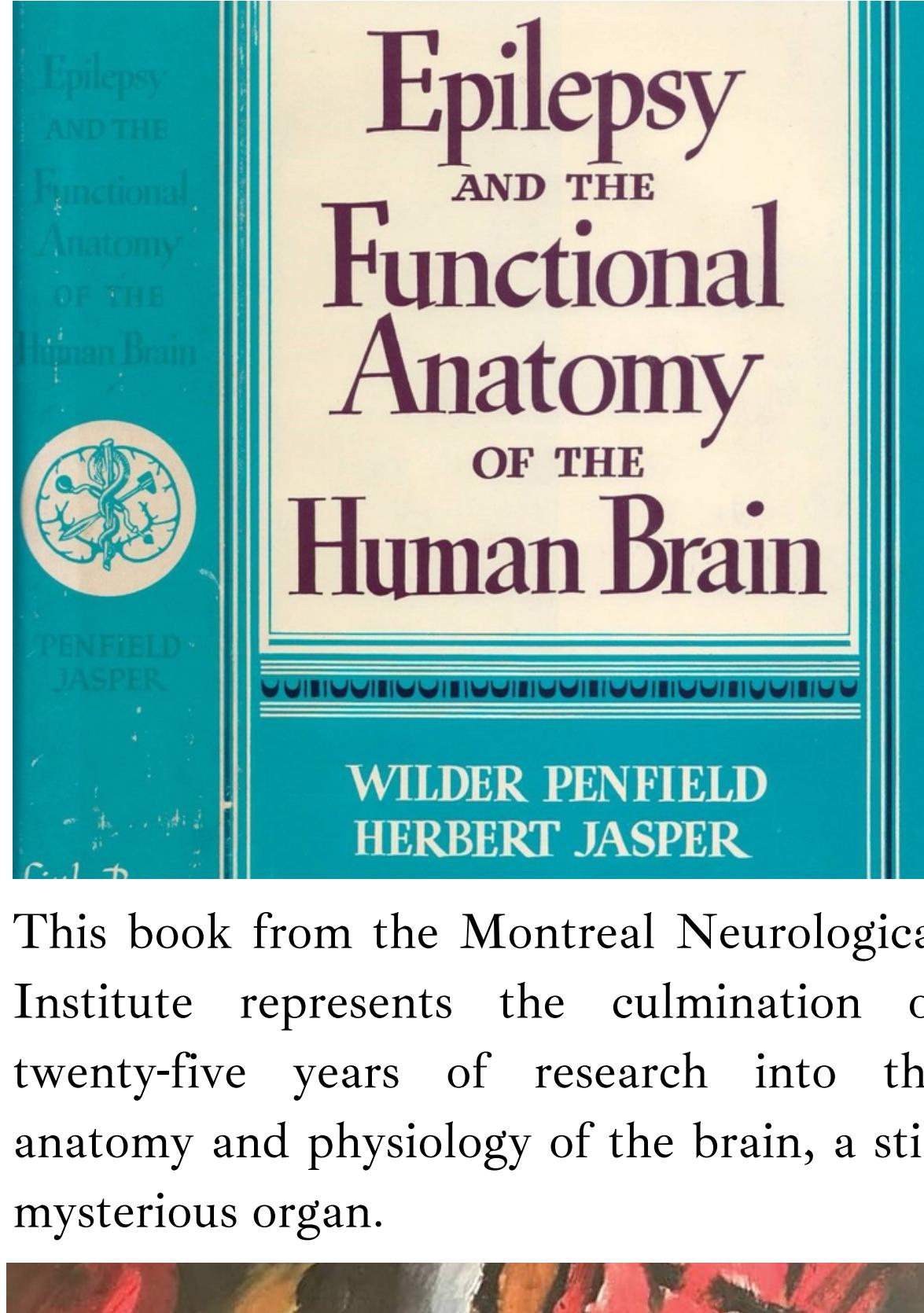
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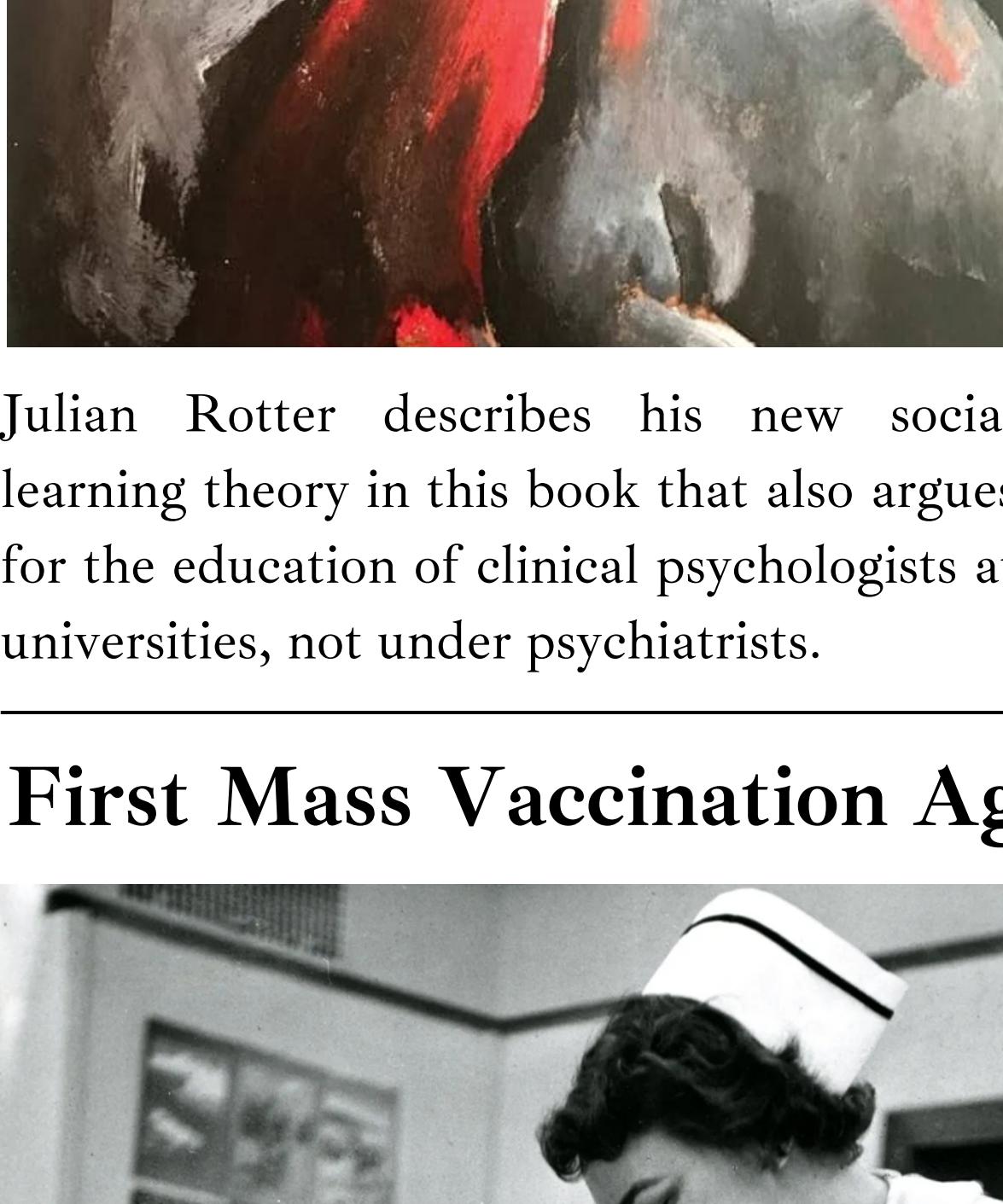
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## Psychology Books with Major Breakthroughs



This book from the Montreal Neurological Institute represents the culmination of twenty-five years of research into the anatomy and physiology of the brain, a still mysterious organ.



Julian Rotter describes his new social learning theory in this book that also argues for the education of clinical psychologists at universities, not under psychiatrists.

## First Mass Vaccination Against Polio Underway



## Psychoactive drug Doriden approved by FDA

In March, the FDA approved the use of glutethimide as a treatment for insomnia. Swiss pharmaceutical conglomerate Ciba Specialty Chemicals filed the patent for this drug under the brand name Doriden back in March, but it wasn't approved for use in the US until August. Barbiturates, the foremost treatment for insomnia currently, are known to cause addiction and withdrawal symptoms, so the introduction of Doriden as an alternative is an exciting prospect. Doriden has been classified as a Schedule III drug, meaning it has a useful medical purpose and less potential for abuse or addiction than a Schedule I or II drug. While the drug bears chemical similarities to psychoactive drugs, no link has yet been found to any adverse psychoactive effects of taking the drug.

## Reward Systems in the Brain

James Olds and Peter Milner, psychologists from McGill University, Canada, accidentally discovered the function of a brain region. In their experiment, rats would press a lever to send electrical stimulation to specific regions of their brains. After misplacing an electrical stimulation device (or electrode) in a rat's brain, the psychologists discovered that stimulation in a specific brain region would reinforce the lever-pressing behavior. Olds and Milner infer this brain region is likely involved with behavior reinforcement.

## Viet Minh Take Control of Northern Vietnam

Tensions continue to rise in Vietnam as the rebel Viet Minh wrest control of the north from the current government.

## World's First Successful Kidney Transplant



In the past year, 1.6 million children have been vaccinated against polio in Canada, Finland, and the US. The vaccine was developed by American physician Jonas Salk. It is a killed-virus vaccine, part of a new wave of vaccines that uses killed, inactivated versions of a disease to inoculate patients against future infection. It is currently still in the testing phase, but the results are very promising. Millions of children have received the vaccine and seem to be immune to polio, with little to no adverse effects observed. While there may still be some hesitancy around this relatively new technology, it appears that using the killed version of polio doesn't impart any of the symptoms that come with being infected with the live version. These encouraging responses mean the vaccine is expected to be licensed for use in the United States within the next year.

This is incredible news for the millions of people suffering from the effects of this disease. Polio epidemics and outbreaks have been rampant in the past decade, with about 16,000 cases occurring annually in the US. The disease leaves many of its victims paralyzed, with some forced to wear torturous devices called iron lungs to help them breathe. This has created an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty as parents have even started resorting to avoiding public gatherings and crowds in order to protect their children. The successful use of this vaccine in millions of subjects has great promise for the future of fighting this disease.

## Energy from the Sun: The First Solar Battery

April, 1954

Solar batteries are a groundbreaking achievement set to change the notions approach to renewable energy. Developed by Bell Laboratories, scientists have discovered a new way to convert the sun's energy into electrical power. By combining solar power with the function of a battery, natural energy can now be stored for future use. The device uses an array of several strips of silicone to capture free electrons and convert them into electrical current.

Dr. Gerald Pearson, one of the lead scientists behind the study, has great aspirations for this new environmentally conscious, sustainable energy. However, the public remains hesitant and confused.

As it stands, the solar battery is only 6% efficient. Clearly, there is still much room for improvement before the broad applications of this new energy can be realized.

