



## Rhythms of War :: Introduction

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Since the dawn of man, sound and music have been used as a weapon.

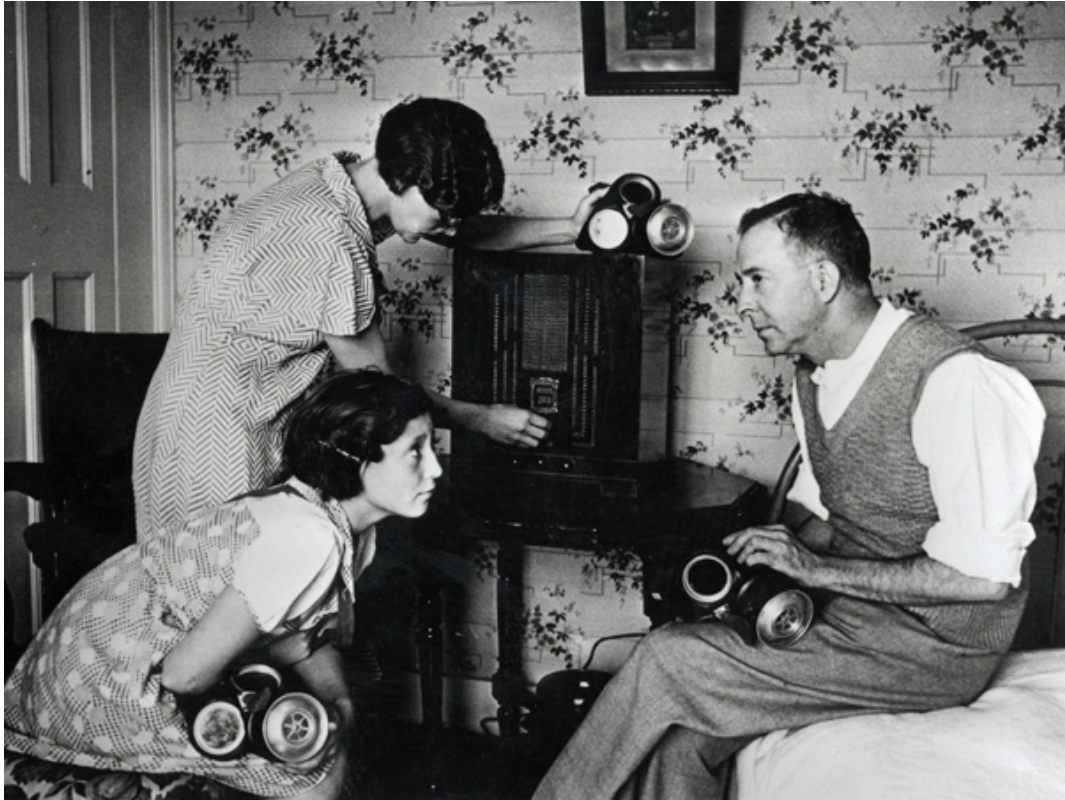
From the Neanderthal to the New World Order, audio has been manipulated, disseminated, denigrated and celebrated.

The Battle of Jericho is a battle in 1400 BC, in the biblical Book of Joshua, the first of the Israelites during their conquest of Canaan. According to the narrative, the walls of Jericho fell after Joshua's army marched around the city blowing their trumpets.



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The radios that Hitler popularized and gifted to the German population in the 1930's – a tool he used to broadcast his propaganda – became the weapon of choice for peaceniks Pete Seeger, Judy Collins, John Lennon et al. Music is still a weapon between East Coast and West Coast gangs as characterized by Biggie and Tupac.

From the Battle Hymn of the Republic, the musket, fife and drum, to the blasting of Wagner's Ride of the Valkyrie by troops in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, there's no doubt the importance that audio has played in sensation, realization, infiltration and domination throughout the epic struggles of mankind.

Nowadays, extremely high-powered sound waves can disrupt or destroy the eardrums of a target and cause severe pain, disorientation and in some cases, even death.



Less powerful sound waves can cause humans to experience nausea or discomfort. The use of these frequencies to incapacitate persons has occurred both in counter-terrorist and crowd control settings. Even police forces used sound cannons against protesters.



So come with us on a sonic journey from 1 million years BC to the modern LRAD (Long Range Acoustic Device) deployments of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **Rhythms of War.**



## **BC - Time Period #1**

Years – 4100 BC

Civilization / Tribe – Dawn Of Man

Key Figure/s - Neanderthal

Geographical Location/s – Europe / Germany

It's likely that the first musical instrument was the human voice itself, which can make a vast array of sounds, from singing, humming and whistling through to clicking, coughing and yawning. The oldest known Neanderthal hyoid bone with the modern human form has been dated to be 60,000 years old, predating the oldest known Paleolithic bone flute by some 20,000 years, but the true chronology may date back much further.

Most likely, the first rhythm instruments or percussion instruments involved the clapping of hands, stones hit together, or other things that are useful to create rhythm.

The noises produced by work such as pounding seed and roots into meal, is a likely source of rhythm created by early humans.

Years – 1400 BC

Civilization / Tribe - Israelites

War / Battle - Battle of Jericho

Key Figure/s - Joshua

Geographical Location/s – Middle East

The Battle of Jericho is a battle in the biblical Book of Joshua, and the first battle of the Israelites during their conquest of Canaan. According to the narrative, the walls of Jericho fell after Joshua's Israelite army marched around the city blowing their trumpets.

Years – 356 – 323 BC

Civilization / Tribe – Greek Empire / Roman Empire

War / Battle

Key Figure/s - Alexander The Great

Geographical Location/s – Middle East / Babylonia / Assyria / Persia

Both the Greek and Roman armies used brass and percussion instruments — including the ancestors of the modern cornet and tuba — to convey information on the march, in the field and in camp. Greek armies on campaign employed musicians to accompany poetic recitations of odes and paeans designed to remind soldier and citizen alike of the valor of past

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heroes. After the collapse of Rome in the West, its' tradition of martial music was preserved and refined by the Eastern empire in Byzantium.

### **AD - Time Period #2**

Years – 629 - 1050

Civilization / Tribe - Saracens

War / Battle – Arab-Byzantine Wars

Key Figure/s - Bartholomaeus Anglicus

Geographical Location/s

Impressed by the Saracens' use of military bands as both a means of instantly transmitting orders to distant formations, and as a weapon of fear and affray, as Bartholomaeus Anglicus expressed it in the 13th century, the Christian Knights soon emulated them.

Years – 773 - 775

Civilization / Tribe - Carolingian Empire

War / Battle – Saxon Wars

Key Figure/s - Charlemagne

Geographical Location/s - Europe / Germany / France / Netherlands

The Frankish emperor Charlemagne took an intense interest in church music, and its propagation and adequate performance throughout his empire. He not only caused liturgical music to flourish throughout his empire in Western Europe, but he laid the foundations for the subsequent musical culture of the region.

The emperor's agents and representatives were ordered to watch over the faithful carrying out his orders regarding music. In this, he was an ally of the Church.

According to Ekkehart IV, a chronicler of the tenth century, the Pope sent two more singers to the Court of Charlemagne. Manuscripts found there were used in the recovery of the original form of the Gregorian chant. It takes its name from Pope St. Gregory the Great.

### **Time Period #3**

Years – 1280

Civilization / Tribe - Maori

War / Battle

Key Figure/s

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Geographical Location/s – South Pacific New Zealand

The Haka is a traditional ancestral war cry, dance or challenge from the Māori people of New Zealand. It is a posture dance performed by a group, with vigorous movements and stamping of the feet with rhythmically shouted accompaniment. Today, the New Zealand rugby team's practice of performing a haka before their matches to intimidate the opponents has made the dance more widely known around the world.

Years – 1298

Civilization / Tribe – Edwardian Era

War / Battle – Battle of Falkirk

Key Figure/s – Sir William Wallace

Geographical Location/s – Scotland / Britain

During the expansion of the British Empire, spearheaded by British military forces that included Highland regiments, the Scottish Great Highland Bagpipe became well known worldwide. This surge in popularity was boosted by large numbers of pipers trained for military service in World War I and World War II. The surge coincided with a decline in the popularity of many traditional forms of bagpipe throughout Europe, which began to be displaced by instruments from the classical tradition and later by gramophone and radio.

#### **Time Period #4**

Years – 1532

Civilization / Tribe – Inca Empire / Spain

War / Battle - Spanish Conquest of the Inca Empire

Key Figure/s - Atahualpa/Francisco Pizarro

Geographical Location/s – South America – Peru - Colombia

The Inca army was the most powerful in the area at that time, because they could turn an ordinary villager or farmer into a soldier, ready for battle. This is because every male Inca had to take part in war at least once so as to be prepared for warfare again when needed. By the time the empire had reached its largest size, every section of the empire contributed in setting up an army for war.

The Incas had no iron or steel, and their weapons were not much better than those of their enemies. They went into battle with the beating of drums and the blowing of trumpets.

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### **Time Period #5**

Years – 1765 - 1783

Civilization / Tribe - Patriots

War / Battle - American Revolutionary War/War of Independence

Key Figure/s George Washington, Samuel Adams

Geographical Location/s – USA

When the first American soldiers manual — compiled by Maj. Gen. Wilhelm von Steuben — was issued to the Continental Army in 1778, it contained a list of beats and signals modeled on those used in European armies. More quickly than in Europe, however, the bugle replaced the fife and drum ensemble in the American ranks. Generally, Von Steuben Day takes place in September in many cities throughout the United States. He recognized the importance of music in the war theater. It is often considered the German-American event of the year. Participants march, dance, wear German costumes and play German music, and the event is attended by millions of people.

During the American Revolution, songs and poems were a very popular form of satire and also served as a medium for sharing the news and gossip of the day. As a result many of the battles and skirmishes between the Americans and the British were retold and celebrated in the form of songs. Samuel Adams utilized music and protest songs in the mass public demonstrations he organized to protest British practices towards the American colonists.

### **Time Period #6**

Years – 1803 - 1815

Civilization / Tribe – French Empire

War / Battle – Napoleonic Wars

Key Figure/s – Napoleon

Geographical Location/s – Europe - Russia

### **Hussar Verbunkos**

[Verbunkos](#) is an 18th-century [Hungarian](#) dance and music genre.

The corresponding music and dance was played during military recruiting, which was a frequent event during this period, hence the character of the music. The verbunkos was an important component of the Hungarian

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hussar tradition. Potential recruits were dressed in items of hussar uniform, given wine to drink and invited to dance to this music.

Years – 1825 - 1826  
Civilization / Tribe – Zulu  
War / Battle – Conflict with Zwide  
Key Figure/s – Shaka Zulu  
Geographical Location/s – South Africa

The figure of Shaka still sparks interest among not only the contemporary Zulu but also many worldwide who have encountered the tribe and its history. The current tendency appears to be to lionize him; popular film and other media have certainly contributed to his appeal. Against this must be balanced the devastation and destruction that he wrought. Certain aspects of traditional Zulu culture still revere the dead monarch, as the typical praise song below attests. It should be noted that the praise song is one of the most widely used poetic forms in Africa, applying not only to gods but to men, animals, plants and even towns.

Years – 1863  
Civilization / Tribe – Confederates / Unionist  
War / Battle – Battle of Gettysburg  
Key Figure/s – Robert E. Lee / Ulysees S. Grant  
Geographical Location/s – USA

### **Songs of the Civil War**

*All quiet along the Potomac, they say,  
Except now and then a stray picket  
Is shot as he walks on his beat to and fro,  
By a rifleman hid in the thicket.  
'Tis nothing, a private or two now and then  
Will not count in the news of the battle;  
Not an officer lost, only one of the men,  
Moaning out all alone the death rattle.  
"All quiet along the Potomac tonight!"*

The Battle of Gettysburg was the largest of the war. This war spawned its own "hits" of the time: Yankee Doodle Dandy, Dixie and The Battle Hymn of The Republic, all of which can still be heard today due to the long-lasting influence of this battle.

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Years – 1890

Civilization / Tribe – Apache

War / Battle – Wounded Knee

Key Figure/s – James W. Forsyth and Spotted Elk

Geographical Location/s – USA

The **Ghost Dance of 1890** was a [new religious movement](#) incorporated into numerous [Native American](#) belief systems. The basis for the Ghost Dance, the [circle dance](#), is a traditional ritual, which has been used by many Native Americans since prehistoric times. As the Ghost Dance spread from its original source, Native American tribes synthesized selective aspects of the ritual with their own beliefs.

The **Wounded Knee Massacre** occurred on December 29, 1890, near [Wounded Knee Creek](#) on the [Lakota Pine Ridge Indian Reservation](#) in S, Dakota. It was the last battle of the [American Indian Wars](#). On the day before, a detachment of the [U.S. 7th Cavalry Regiment](#) commanded by Major [Samuel M. Whitside](#) intercepted [Spotted Elk's](#) band of [Miniconjou](#) Lakota and 38 [Hunkpapa](#) Lakota near [Porcupine Butte](#) and escorted them five miles westward to Wounded Knee Creek, where they made camp.

Contemporary artists who have written or recorded songs referring to the battle at Wounded Knee include: Johnny Cash (1972's "Big Foot,"); The Indigo Girls (a cover of Buffy Sainte-Marie's song); Charlie Parr ("1890" on his 2010 album *When the Devil Goes Blind*); Nik Kershaw ("Wounded Knee" on his 1989 album *The Works*); Uriah Heep; Primus; Patti Smith; Robbie Robertson; and "Pocahontas" by Neil Young.

### **Time Period #7**

Years – 1939 - 1945

Civilization / Tribe – World War II

War / Battle – Various

Key Figure/s – Hitler – Stalin – Churchill – Roosevelt

Geographical Location/s – World

It was during World War II, when both radio and cinema had become mature, ubiquitous technologies, that it became possible for governments to impress the art of music wholly into their service. Marches were still effective in all their customary roles, and the popular song again became

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the vehicle for knee-jerk sentiments. World War II was the first time that classical music was mobilized as a weapon of war.

The Allies co-opted a prize from the Axis by adopting as their trademark the opening notes of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* — three Gs and an E-flat, corresponding to three dots and one dash in Morse code — to signify V for Victory. That musical signature served as a recurring leitmotif in Allied films, concerts and countless other forms of propaganda.

One group who understood the role that music played in spreading their political message was the Nazis in Hitler's Germany. Clearly understanding the link between music and political warfare, propaganda minister Josef Goebbels once stated: "Music affects the heart and emotions more than the intellect. Where then could the heart of a nation beat stronger than in the huge masses, in which the heart of a nation has found its true home?" Hitler made use of music glorifying Germanic legends, such as the works of Richard Wagner. His operas employed imagery of knights, which Hitler then co-opted for images of himself. Music was also used within the Hitler Youth organization as a way to indoctrinate the youth of Germany into the Nazi's ideology. As part of their activities, group singing was a way to educate the young members of the group. According to an internal memo, songs were seen as "possessing the strongest community building power"; Hitler also used oscillators at low levels to disquiet his audience prior to his appearance. Shortly before he took the stage, the stomach rumbling, yet inaudible sounds would be turned off thus bringing the audience to its feet.

**"Lili Marlene"** was perhaps the most popular song of World War II with both German and British forces. Based on a German poem, the song was recorded in both English and German versions. The poem was set to music in 1938 and was a hit with troops in the Africa Corps. Mobile desert combat required a large number of radio units and the British troops in the North African Campaign started to enjoy the song so much that it was quickly translated into English. The song was used throughout the war as not only a popular song, but also a valuable propaganda tool.

### **Soviets**

Nothing generated greater support for the Soviet Union than the dramatic story surrounding the creation and export-under-fire of Dmitri Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 7*, subtitled Leningrad. A frail man with a weak heart, the composer was told that his greatest service to the

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Motherland would be to continue practicing his art, rather than serving in the Red Army. In July 1941, however, with the *Wehrmacht* advancing on Leningrad, he began composing his seventh symphony between shifts as an air raid fireman and while under heavy aerial bombardment. In October the Kremlin ordered him flown out of the city to the wartime capital of Kuybyshev on the Volga River. There, he completed his symphony and dedicated it to Leningrad, which by then was undergoing the most frightful and protracted siege of modern times.

Worldwide interest in the new work ran high. American audiences received it ecstatically. Its opening movement, featuring a hypnotic 13-minute crescendo depicting the relentless Nazi advance, is a gripping musical impression of mechanized warfare, and its concluding movement is a thrilling paean to victory.

Every combatant nation had musicians willing to contribute what they could to the war effort. In the United States, everyone from Frank Sinatra to Leopold Stokowski gave War Bonds concerts and made recordings exclusively for the armed forces. Jazz leader Glenn Miller lost his life en route to play for troops overseas, and cornetist Jimmy McPartland landed on D-Day with the U.S. infantry.

### **Time Period #8**

Years – 1950 - 1991

Civilization / Tribe – The Americans / Russians / Chinese

War / Battle – Korean War – Vietnam War – Cold War

Key Figure/s – Eisenhower / Truman / MacArthur / Atlee / Churchill vs. Kim Il Sung / Stalin/ Kruschev / Mao Zedong

Geographical Location/s – Asia

**The Korean War** saw the re-birth of the use of music as patriotic propaganda via radio. Songs about the Korean War are fairly rare, at least when compared to other American Wars, and were dominated by four main themes: patriotism, the soldier in battle, faith, and emotional pain. A few songs expressed discontent about the war, but none of them opposed it outright. In this context, Korean War songs represent a transitional phase between the patriotic and sometimes naive songs of World War II, and the anti-War songs of the Vietnam era. Most Korean War songs came from the country music genre, just a few years before the advent of rock 'n' roll.

### **Apocalypse Now**

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Ride of the Valkyries is the opening movement of Act 3 of German composer Richard Wagner's opera Die Walküre. The piece is best known for its use in the film Apocalypse Now, during the scene where the American helicopters bombard a Vietnamese village. Despite the film's anti-war stance and negative portrayal of this act, Ride of the Valkyries has come to be commonly associated with one-sided and triumphant battle scenes.

## **National Anthems**

National anthems are used in a wide array of contexts. Certain etiquette may be involved in the playing of a country's anthem. These usually involve military honours, standing up, removing headwear, etc. In diplomatic situations the rules may be very formal. There may also be [royal anthems](#), [presidential anthems](#), [state anthems](#), etc. for special occasions.

## **The Cold War and The Fall of Communism**

West German audio engineers and Deejays were covertly placed into East Berlin and beyond in the 1970's to infiltrate the underground, and highly secret, illegal music club s that would gather in basements. The contact with these young music fans gave them a ripe breeding ground for Western recruits and thus it was their lust for pop culture and musical tastes, which brought them together. We will interview one such "soldier" who now lives in Hawaii.

## **Panama**

Operation Nifty Package was a United States Navy SEALs-operated plan conducted in 1989 designed to capture Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega. When Noriega took refuge in the Holy See Apostolic Nuncio (diplomatic quarter), deafening music and other psychological warfare were used to convince him to exit and surrender himself.

The army turned to psychological warfare, blaring rock music at "deafening levels", gunning the engines of armored vehicles against the Vatican fence, and setting fire to a neighboring field and bulldozing it to create a "helicopter landing zone". Reportedly the song "I Fought The Law" by The Clash was played repeatedly to confuse the enemy.

## **Time Period #9**

Years – 1991 - present

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Civilization / Tribe – USA / Iraqis / Afghans  
War / Battle – Iraq War – Afghan War  
Key Figure/s – George Bush - Barack Obama / Saddam Hussein –  
Taliban – Osama bin Laden  
Geographical Location/s – US - Middle East

## **LRAD**

Plutarch says somewhere that the Spartans used to play the flute to alarm the enemy. Now the Pentagon has found something more effective: the LRAD. A sonic weapon called the LRAD - Long Range Acoustic Device, is now being deployed for with the troops being rotated into Iraq, and it causes severe pain and can cause deafness. It will be used for crowd control, thus the device is not being referred to as a weapon by the San Diego company that makes it, American Technology Corporation. The Pentagon doesn't call it a weapon either. So it's not a "sonic weapon." It's a "long-range hailing and warning, directed acoustic device." Sound recordings have been used as a weapon to confuse the enemy in battle, as part of psychological warfare, and as a means of torture for eons. Culturally inappropriate music has also been used to discourage teenagers from loitering in civilian settings. More recently, LRAD has been used in Somalia to counter piracy.

## **Rhythms of War**

Created by: Martin Nethercutt  
McCartney Studios, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293  
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