

Overall, Chat GPT did an “OK” job answering the question of how people's experiences in the primary sources reveal the nature of historical change from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and explaining what has been revealed about modernity and how people respond to social, economic, and political changes in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. However, Chat GPT's answer lacks evidence or citations and is very generalized. Still, with its generalized answer, it does manage to summarize the emotions and path the world had taken throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Chat GPT's answer also lacks the talk or effects of war on people, greed as a driving factor, and the role of the elite in any of the sources.

In Chat GPT's analysis of *Abina and the Important Men*, the Chat GOPT offered quite a hollow answer and a very general and vague answer. Abina's journey cannot be partially comprehended without explaining how she got to Salt Pond and ultimately to the Cape Coast in search of freedom. It is essential to discuss that Abina, once a free member of African society, had been taken as a slave by royalty in the aftermath of British colonization, which had broken up the Asante empire, which ruled the Gold Coast in somewhat of a stable manner. Even though the British had colonized and abolished slavery, it perpetuated a system of indentured servitude in harvesting Palm, and the hands used were primarily women and children as “the new enlightenment ideology had excluded certain groups – children, those deemed insane or criminal, and women, for example – from enjoying equality.”<sup>1</sup> Though the family she ended up with did not beat her as her previous masters had, she was still subject to unfair treatment and ridicule. She freed herself by running away, seeking help on the rumored free coast of Africa, but through trial and tribulation, she could not gain a ruling in her favor.

Even though the judge was highly sympathetic to her situation, the jurors, all wealthy community men, determined the case's outcome: Quamina was not guilty. The majority of the jurors were slaveholders and had sway in African society when it came to interactions with the West. Melton wanted to keep these relationships intact and make the right moves to make sure he would support his financial and political growth. This story is highly illustrative of the actual global situation, that commerce and capitalism were the new King, and any direction the new world would take would be greed.

Chat GPT's analysis of the short film depicting Paris in the 1890s was correct in determining that it visually represents the urbanization and industrialization that characterized the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Still, it strays from its claim that the video demonstrates the tension between “tradition and modernity.” I would argue that this video has no demonstration of tension or struggles whatsoever and could be argued that the film captures a perfect and serene moment in modern history, almost as a form of propaganda to sell the idea of modernization. A utopia, if you will.

When looking at “the evidence” in Chapter 12 of “Discovering the Global Past, ” Chat GPT completely misses the points and offers a lucid answer to Chat GPT's strict censorship. Documents within the evidence do not illustrate the “complexities” of nation-building but rather the lethality and sheer inhumanity of “nation builders.” As the authors

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<sup>1</sup> Getz, Trevor R, *Abina and the Important Men* (2012) P. 123

had explained, *Total War* “could no longer be confined to battlefields.”<sup>2</sup> War now selfishly included the civilian populations, much if a result of Western greed for money and power. Through the greed and power of Western aristocrats, the toll was primarily worn on the general population, both men in battle and the women and children at home alone, subject to constant bombardment. Most notably, “the evidence” gives us a glimpse into the life of warriors fighting in trench warfare throughout the total war, “there is no thinking mind, however wise or educated we imagine it, that can flatter itself with control over this affliction, or escape from this impression of darkness, or measure the likely duration of this troubled period in the vital exchanges of humanity.”<sup>3</sup> Through this evidence, we see that war has many victims and few that reap the rewards, rewards meaning resources to be exploited or populations to be controlled. The general population bears the mark of war for life, while the wealthy bask in their plunder, rung from the blood of warriors.

When analyzing *Socialism is Great*, Chat GPT offered a worthy analysis of state policies, navigating ideological shifts, and economic reforms but missed the mark again in the role and sphere of influence exerted by the Military Industrial Complex. Zhang’s employment is that of an industrial worker, romanticized by communist propaganda in China, much like that of global propaganda, which perpetuated the “killing machine.” Zhang’s life in a post-revolutionary world illustrated a movement toward gender equality in China, but mainly so that there would be more workers for the new industry of war and manufacturing. Many excerpts from the book offer a glimpse of the communist perspective of Western “freedoms” and their origins. As Zhang explains, Wang “blamed capitalism for any negative fallout from the reforms, such as declining morals, growing money worship, and hedonistic youth.”<sup>4</sup> The West was still very much viewed by China as a corrupt, greedy, and barbaric tyrant determined to rule through exploitation and money magic.

Overall, Chat GPT did an ok job offering up an essay that is written entirely in generalities and lacking any direct citations while seemingly tiptoeing around the elephant in the room, that of greed and Western capitalism and how it led to the decay of many societies by instigating division and break up of culture and families. The actual crimes were that of “total war,” which required the labor and effort of every man, woman, and child under harsh propaganda influence. Still, even under these harsh circumstances, there will always be individuals who stand up in the spirit of revolution and, no matter the outcome will fight for the cause of humanity against capital exploitation and greed. A fight that grips us to this day.

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<sup>2</sup> Wiesner, Wheeler, Doeringer, Curtis, *Discovering the Global Past* (2011)

<sup>3</sup> Paul Valéry, *The Crisis of the Spirit* (1919)

<sup>4</sup> Lijia Zhang, *Socialism is Great, A Workers Memoir of the New China* (2009) P. 194