

#### Manchester Country Club, Bedford, NH Sessions: June 19 – June 22, 2014

### The Atlas Society

Objectivism in life and thought

# Connecting the Dots: "Atlas Shrugged" Top Secret

Part I
"Who was John Galt?"

By Michael W. Brakey, Engineering Physicist, Inventor, Business Owner



Do you see the old Lise Meitner or the young Dagny Taggart?

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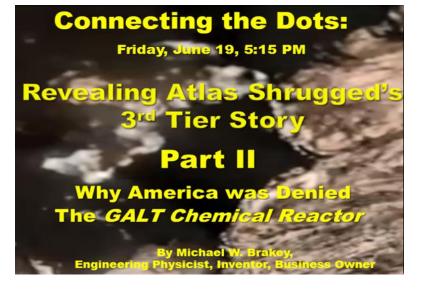
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## Part 1 of 8

#### Coming in 2015, Part II





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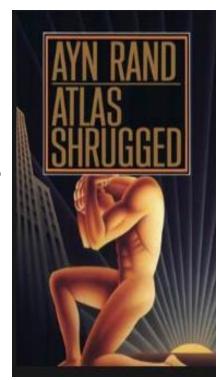
#### Objectivism in life and thought

## Connecting the Dots: "Atlas Shrugged" Top Secret



- Brief Bio inside the Energy Industry
- II. A Lifetime of 'Connecting Energy Dots'
- III. Did "Atlas Shrugged" Rise from the Ashes of the 'Manhattan Project' Screenplay, "Top Secret"?

**IV. Q & A** 



## Part I Bio – Last 40 Years

- University of Maine, Orono-B.S. in Engineering Physics, Nuclear Minor, 1975
   Thesis Another Yesterday Impact of a Nuclear Accident on Future World Events, 1976
   Thesis Cosmic Orphan Sequel—1979 again with focus on importance of abundant, cheap, clean energy
- Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio EMBA, 1988, Strategic Planning & Marketing
   Thesis Big Oil dictates prices whenever they hit 90% production capacity
- Forty years in the energy industry, plus International Joint Ventures
- □ Six U.S. and international heat exchanger design energy patents
- □ Founder of Brakey Energy, Inc., a Ohio energy consulting firm—1999
- Winner of the University of Maine Francis Crowe Society award as a lifetime distinguished engineer—May, 2014

#### Speech about Connecting Dots throughout my life.

My life's history in the sciences stresses the importance of finding abundant cheap, clean energy to grow Capitalism. I have done presentations all over the country on energy efficiency and conservation.

Reading "Atlas Shrugged" I was fascinated about the author's inclusion of a 1950's story line associated with John Galt, who turned his back on an incredible invention that offered America abundant, clean, cheap energy for mankind's future.

In recent years, a NASA physicist, Kirk Sorenson, uncovered a reallife story line involving a <u>Manhattan Project scientist/inventor</u>, from the 1940's and 1950's, who, it was said, turned his back on an incredible invention (*Thor's Hammer*)—the *molten salt Thorium reactor*, that actually had been built and worked. If true, it could have offered America abundant, clean, cheap energy for mankind's future. Instead it was padlocked and hidden away for forty years!

John Galt Inventor

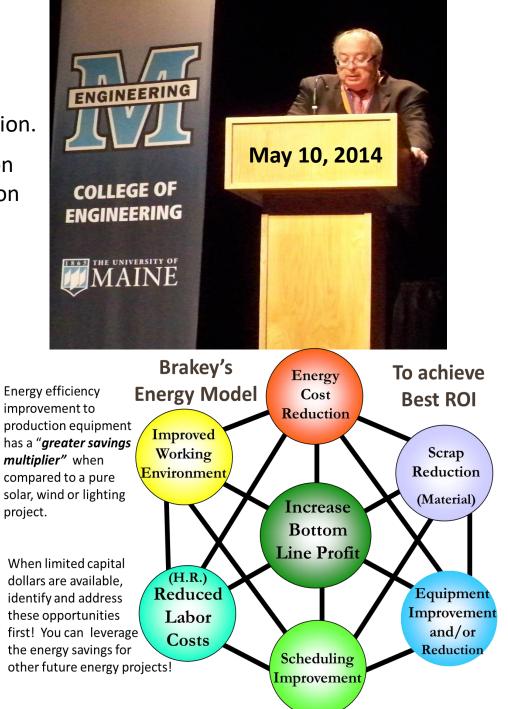
1940s

Manhattan Project Inventor

& 50s

Energy technology that can change the world.

Is this merely a coincidence or might there be more to the story?



## Connecting the Dots: "Atlas Shrugged" Top Secret

Part I "Who was John Galt?"

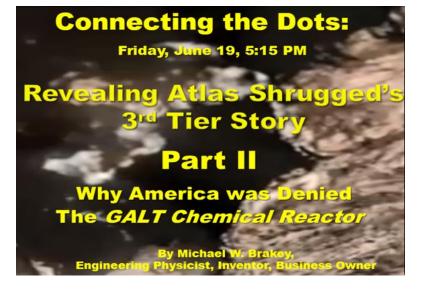
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Do you see the old Lise Meitner or the young Dagny Taggart?

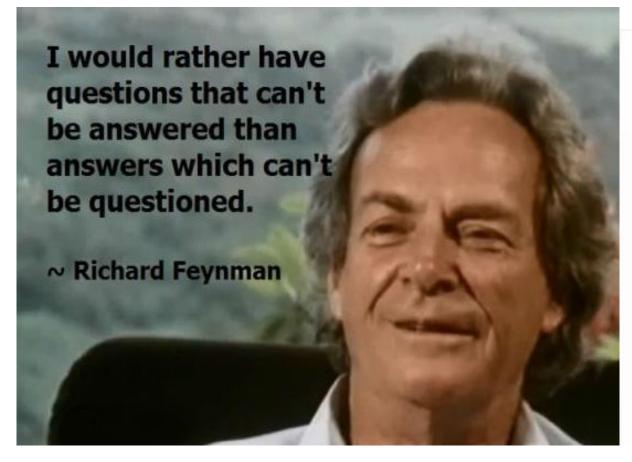
Part 2 of 8

#### Coming in 2015, Part II



I am going to propose two "**theories**"\*. The first theory addresses the unanswered question AR first penned on September 2, 1946...

It is up to each of you to weigh my evidence and conclude if my theory is feasible or flawed. Before I present my first theory, and the evidence to support it, Manhattan Project scientist and college professor, Doctor Feynman reminds us about the simple rules of formulating a theory or Law...

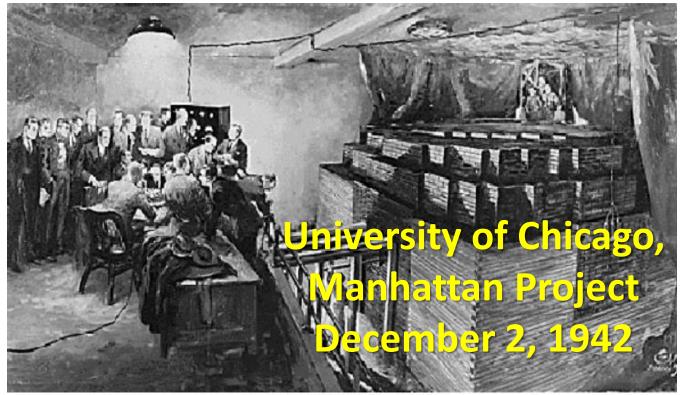


Early life of Manhattan Project (Atomic Bomb) Scientist American Physicist, Richard Phillips Feynman was born on May 11, 1918, in New York City, the son of Lucille (née Phillips), a homemaker, and Melville Arthur Feynman, a sales manager. His family originated from Russia and Poland; Richard was one of the youngest geniuses to work on the Manhattan Project.

\*The second working theory, for a later presentation, "Why America was denied 'Thor's Hammer' (*Molten Salt Thorium Reactor*).

In Part I, due to my extensive knowledge of the Manhattan Project (making of the Atomic Bomb during WWII)—including the scientists that worked on it, my working theory is that many of Atlas Shrugged's general themes and characters, including John Galt himself, were extracted and then camouflaged from a real life setting so as not to infringe on an atomic bomb movie made by MGM at the time, titled "Is this the Beginning...or is it the End?"

If my theory is determined not to be 'flawed' the Manhattan Project scientist—who came up with the concept of the light water nuclear reactor in early 1943, and the 'Thorium Hammer' (the molten salt Thorium reactor), around 1948, was the real life John Galt, namely, Alvin M. Weinberg.



Painting of CP-1 going critical

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

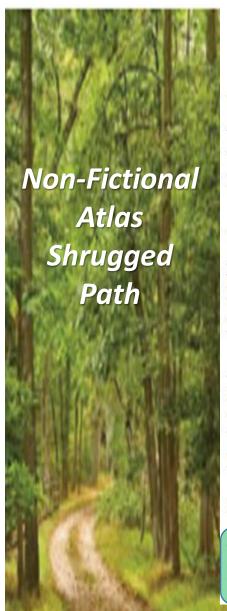
For several years I have been investigating the life of an important American scientist. It was only through an old archived interview, few have likely ever seen, that to my surprise, I began speculating a theory that Ayn Rand had actually challenged us with the question, "Who is John Galt?"

In this video the elderly man commented his father was always good with his hands and had wanted to be an engineer or garage mechanic!

The boy, not quite 12, was living in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago back in 1926. Those fortunate enough to spend any time with this lad knew he was bound for greatness.

Four years later, at age 16, the lad graduates at the top of his high school class and goes on to the University of Chicago. Penniless, he depended on academic scholarships and part-time jobs to get through school. He finds 10 cent meals to live on.

The lad's studies include physics, philosophy and several others similar to his two young friends and classmates who are also bound for glory.



### The Road Not Taken Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveler, long I stood And looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair, And having perhaps the better claim, Because it was grassy and wanted wear; Though as for that the passing there Had worn them really about the same,

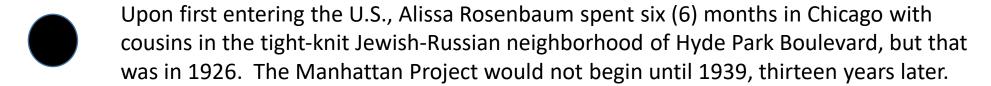
And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

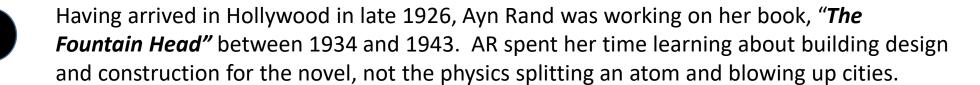
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.



## The theory is proclaimed! Recognizing I initially knew very little about Ayn Rand I began my in-depth research of her and discovered the following:

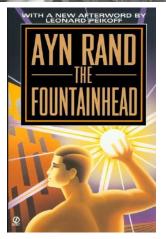
Alissa Rosenbaum (Ayn Rand) was a brilliant 21-year-old woman, who graduated with a history major, spoke and wrote in three different languages but knew no English prior to first hearing about and escaping to America (she discusses this in her autobiography DVD, "Ayn Rand, In Her Won Own Words").





Between 1939 and August 9, 1945, everything associated with the Atomic Bomb, including all the Manhattan Scientists, became 'Top Secret' and isolated from public access. Ayn Rand officially began her full time work on "Atlas Shrugged" (initially called the "Mind on Strike") April 1, 1946. That only leaves a window of nine months for Ayn Rand to have gain such expertise on the Manhattan scientists and to have been inspired enough to use one of them for the John Galt character.







The theory is not very promising at this point! Is it time to thrashy Allerta to the city. The

## Connecting the Dots: "Atlas Shrugged" Top Secret

Part I "Who was John Galt?"

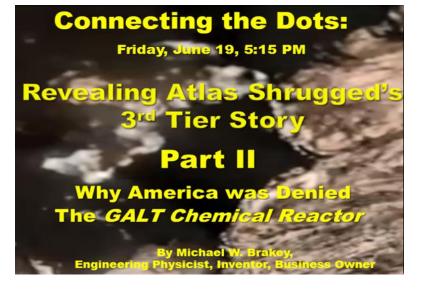
By Michael W. Brakey, Engineering Physicist, Inventor, Business Owner



Do you see the old Lise Meitner or the young Dagny Taggart?

## Part 3 of 8

#### Coming in 2015, Part II



#### Theory gets a reprieve → Reference: <u>"Letters of Ayn Rand"</u>

I purchased the book, "Letters form Any Rand" to zero in on those nine remaining months between when the Atomic Bomb became public knowledge, and when she put pen to paper for Atlas Shrugged.

#### Two different letters in the book provided my theory a life-line.

The first was in the form of a short note on page 221 of the book, to her cousin, Esther Stone, in Chicago, about her present assignment, the screenplay for a picture of the Atomic Bomb (see letter to right)? (*Note: Was this fake letter?* –or date should be 1946 not 1945.)

The second letter is found on page 253 and 254. It is written to a man named Leonard on February 13, 1946. In the sixth paragraph she writes...

I am working very hard on the screenplay about the atom bomb. I would appreciate it very much if you would get me any information they care to give from the industrial concerns who were connected with the bomb project, such as DuPont, Stone & Webster...

While the letter mentions that she has read, "Science and the Planned State" [by John Baker] and "Manifesto for the Atomic Age" by Virgil Jordan, to enrich her background on the subject, the <u>Theory only remains on life support</u>. There is no mention of the Manhattan Project scientists, how long she has been working on the screenplay—there is less than two months before she drops this project and begins work on "Atlas Shrugged".

#### From 'Letters of Ayn Rand' page 221

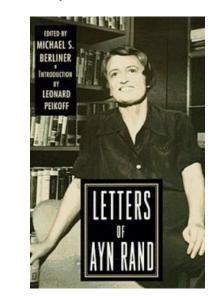
February 15, 1945

#### Dear Ester:

I am working now on an unusual assignment the screenplay for a picture about the Atomic Bomb. It is the most difficult writing job I have ever attempted. And it keeps me chained to my desk as usual.

Please give my regards and best wishes for the success of the store in Momence to Mr. and Mrs. Stone.

Ester Stone, wife of AR's cousin Burton, part of the family with whom she stayed in Chicago upon her arrival from Russia in 1926.



#### Theory strengthens → Reference: <u>"Journals of Ayn Rand"</u>

Page 311



#### TOP SECRET

In 1944, AR was hired as a screenwriter by Hal Wallis, the producer of Casablanca. Wallis had just opened his own production studio, and she was the first screenwriter he hired. Her contract called for her to work for him six months a year for the next five years.

In late 1945, Wallis suggested that AR write an original screenplay about the development of the atomic bomb. Although she was interested in the project, she recalled years later:

I told him I wouldn't because we would probably disagree politically.... I told him that I couldn't undertake such a thing unless I had an agreement with him that nothing would be put into the picture that clashed with my political ideas. If he were willing to do that, then I would do the script.

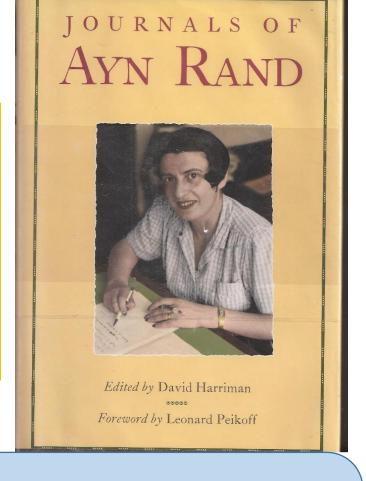
AR wrote a paper for Wallis explaining the essential ideas that her script would contain. The paper, entitled An Analysis of the Proper Approach to a Picture on the Atomic Bomb, is presented below.

Wallis did agree to AR's approach, and she began her research. She interviewed several of the key men who worked on the bomb, including Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the scientific director. AR's notes from these interviews are presented here, followed by her synopsis of the proposed screenplay.

Regrettably, the movie was never made. When Wallis began the project, he knew that MGM was already working on a movie about the bomb. After AR had completed about one-third of the script, Wallis sold the rights to her work to MGM. But MGM had no interest in her script; apparently, it simply wanted to terminate a rival project. So AR stopped work on Top Secret in March 1946 and began full-time work on Atlas Shrugged.

Speaking to David Harriman, editor of <u>"Journals of Ayn Rand"</u> at the June 21, 2014 conference, he shared with me that he had discovered Ayn Rand's <u>"Top Secret"</u> screenplay documents in a cardboard box in the back of her garage.

We should all be deeply appreciative that Ayn Rand cared enough to leave these documents behind to be rediscover and shared with future researchers 40 years later.



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#### From "Journals of Ayn Rand" Chapter 9, 'Top Secret' page 330-331,

In a 1961 interview Ayn Rand discussed a series of interviews she had in late 1945 and early 1946 with military and scientists associated with the Manhattan Project and the dropping of the Atomic Bomb.

It was for a screenplay she was writing at the time called "Top Secret".

She interviewed with Robert Oppenheimer twice for this 'Work for Hire.'

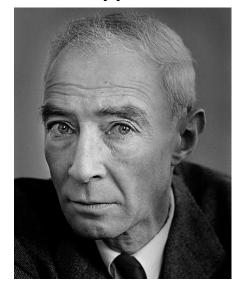
Ayn Rand has completed all her interviews and was about a third through the screenplay, prior to March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1946 when the project was canceled.

In the 1961 interview she recalled:

"Oppenheimer set the character of Stadler in my mind, which is the reason for the first name of Robert. It's the type that Oppenheimer projected—that enormous intelligence, somewhat bitter, but very much the gentleman and scholar, and slight other-worldly. Even his office was what I described for Stadler that ostentatious simplicity."



**Robert Oppenheimer** 



#### **Brief History Lesson before Continuing:**

Reference: "Journals of Ayn Rand"

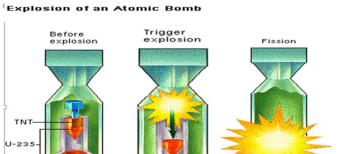
In late 1945, AR was requested to create a screenplay about the story of the Atomic Bomb for her part-time movie producer, boss, Hal Wallis. It would be a 'work of hire'. This means her screenplay would be solely the producer's property to do with as he wishes.

AR initially declines to work on a screenplay—unless specific conditions and demands were met. She fears producers and directors would seek a telling of the 'atomic' story that would be, as she wrote in her journal, "the *greatest moral crime in the history of civilization*". AR would only offer her talents for the screenplay she would call, "*Top Secret*", if and only if, 'it were only an honest, noble work of truth as she sees it'.

AR is so committed to writing the right screenplay that she goes to the effort of writing a long document and presents it to Hal, on what her reasons for these political demands are—if he agrees to her concerns, she will produce Hal the greatest screenplay.

Hal accepts these political demands. AR gets immediately to work on the screenplay having already setting up interviews with key Manhattan Project military and scientists. A.R. writes that she knows she is creating a screenplay that would truly be an immortal achievement, an event of such historic importance AR would consider this effort as one of the greatest accomplishments in her life.







#### Journals of Ayn Rand, page 312

But if greatness, nobility, patriotism, and the salvation of mankind are not mere sentences to spout in public, if we mean any part of it—this picture could be an opportunity seldom offered to any man. It could be *truly an immortal* achievement, an event of historic importance and a great act of patriotism.

#### Journals of Ayn Rand, page 314

The essence of Statism is the idea that government must be all powerful and must control the existence of men.

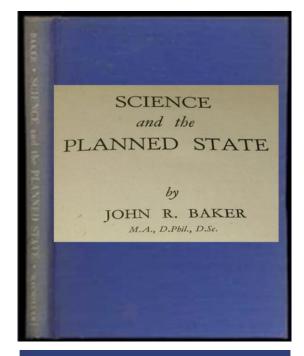
Now, in our day, the basic issue of the world—the **crucial conflict—is between Statism** and **freedom**. Specifically: between an **all-powerful government and free enterprise**.

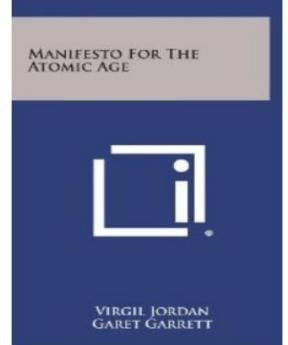
#### Journals of Ayn Rand, page 315

When we say "men must be free or perish," let us be honest about what "free" means. It means *free from compulsion*; it means free from rule by force; it means free from government control of enterprise.

#### Journals of Ayn Rand, page 318

We must show how *Statism destroys, exiles and paralyzes men of genius*—why these men could not work under compulsion—why they could produce what they produced only in a free country. Will anyone object to our showing that dictatorships do things at the point of a gun, by force, by decree, by orders in the name of the State? A person who objects to that, deserves to have every returned soldier spit in their face.





## Connecting the Dots: "Atlas Shrugged" Top Secret

Part I "Who was John Galt?"

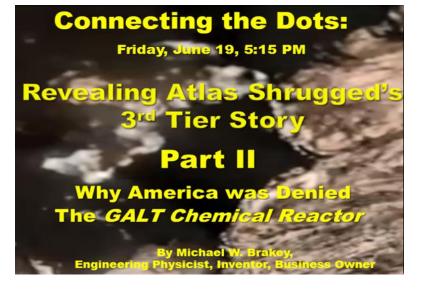
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Do you see the old Lise Meitner or the young Dagny Taggart?

## Part 4 of 8

#### Coming in 2015, Part II



#### A powerful scene from Ayn Rand's "Top Secret", page 339, second paragraph.

1939: We fade to Germany—to the laboratory of Otto Hahn and Lise Meitner. We see the experiment in which uranium atoms are split for the first time. Hahn and Meitner are puzzled by it- they do not understand the significance of their own experiment-the presence of the element barium. They attribute it to some impurity in the material or some mistake on their part.



Lise Meitner is forced to leave Germany. On the train going to the frontier, she is snubbed and pushed around by arrogant Nazi brown-shirts, the Nazi State has damned her on three counts: the old are useless; women are useless; Jews are useless.





She sits all alone in a corner of the train, her mind intent on the inexplicable experiment; she makes calculations on a piece of paper.

At the frontier, Nazis search her luggage: they take from her an old camera, a typewriter, and other such physical objects;

"Nothing of value to the State," they declare, "can be taken out of Germany".





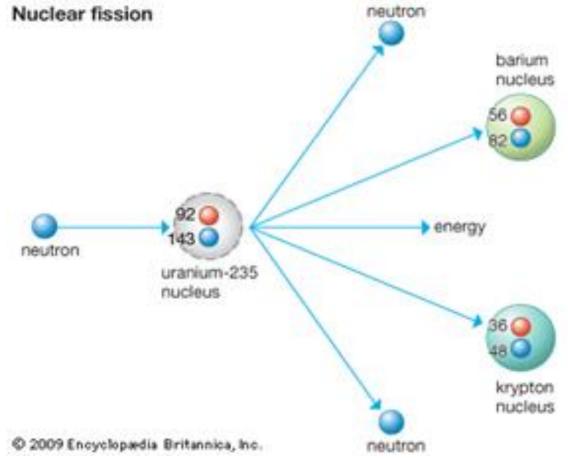
We see a close-up of Lise Meitner the broad forehead, the intelligent eyes. What she is taking out is in her mind In Denmark, Lise Meitner explains her solution— that the uranium atom was actually split in half – to Dr. Otto Frisch, another refugee scientist.





"No-one really thought of fission before its discovery."

Lise Meitner



ATOMIC BOMB USED ON JAPAN

"Scientific Gamble Won"

RESULT OF YEARS OF RESEARCH

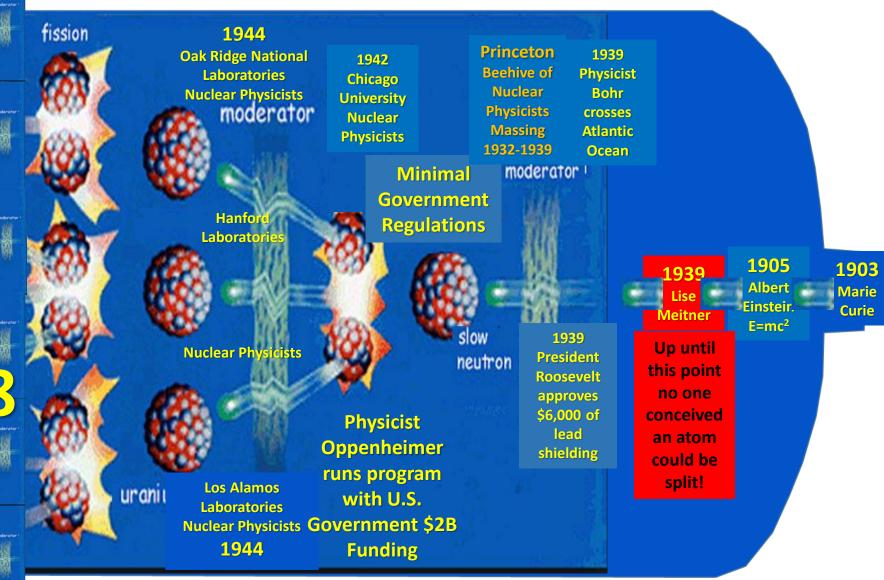
The Most Deadly Weapon

The first atomic bomb has been dropped on Japan. It is 2,000 times more powerful than the R.A.F.'s ten-tonner, which was previously the most powerful bomb in use. Thus British and American scientists have achieved what the Germans were unable to do and have won the greatest scientific gamble in history."

President Truman, in announcing this yesterday, said that the researches went on all through the war. President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill agreed that they should be carried on in the United States so as not to be hampered by bombing.

The Potsdam ultimatum to Japan was issued just before the bomb was used, the President said, in order to give the Japanese people a hance to escape "utter destruction."

Mr. Stimson, the War Secretary, says that the discoveries will be used to peace-time advantages and that in time still greater discoveries all follow from the experiments. AR theme states the "Critical Mass" of free Nuclear Physicist 'minds' coupled with unlimited U.S. funding and minimal Government Bureaucracy & Controls would proved pivotal in the race for the Allies to be first in constructing the Atomic Bomb.



1945 - 44,000 free minds working on the Atomic Bomb!

#### Reference: "Letters of Ayn Rand"

Upon completing her research on all the Manhattan Project scientists; having completed a number of one-on-one interviews; having written about 70 pages of the screenplay for the movie, the greatest work AR believes she has ever done at this point of her career—

...On Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 1946 she is informed that a competitor, MGM, had bought up the screen rights for \$20,000 from her employer, Hal Walis.

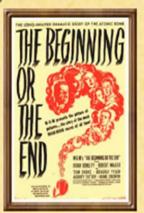
AR learns that the MGM screenplay was already written. Filming on the MGM production was beginning in a little over two weeks, in early April, 1946.

MGM has no intention of using any part of "Top Secret"; Hal may have 'played AR' to make a quick profitable buck!

Hal likely knew MGM would purchase his partial screenplay as a defensive strategy to prevent any competition to their own movie on the Atom Bomb, <u>"The Beginning or the End?"</u>.

#### Press Kit (1947)

MGM distributed a publicity brochure to accompany its 1947 film, The Beginning or the End. This brochure is fascinating to look at. It is also historically important because it seems to be the source for a lot of uncorroborated "facts" in the critical and scholarly literature.



Rather than scan the brochure and use images of the printed pages, we have reproduced it in HTML specifically for viewing on this web site.

Though the size or numbers of pages on your monitor do not correspond exactly to the pages in the brochure, we have preserved the content and organization of the chapters, the text, and the images.

Jerome F. Shapiro

#### Think hard about your own personal experience on creative loss.

Have you ever poured a large amount of time into a great short story or business report? Everything was clicking between your mind and the universe—

You feel so inspired and creative—almost an out-of-body experience as you pound away on the computer keys. Your fingers continue to pound as quickly as possible because images and character voices are flooding your mind. The only release valve are your fingers continuing to pound away on the keyboard. In many ways it is similar to a runner's high. Time has little meaning as the mind enjoys this euphoric state.

Then it happens. The computer screen goes black. A computer crash has possibly wiped every thing on your computer. When was the last time I backed up your hard drive? Reality sets in—you realized you might lose all your inspired work!

You're enraged with yourself and the world; you even get depressed. Can you ever get those inspired words and creative images back or are they lost forever? You have to wait until the experts examine your hard drive. Will there be outrage at the universe or relief if most, if not all your work, can be saved?

Now imagine what might be going though AR mind with respect to her last eight months someone purposely crumpled up her work and said, "Never mind...forget about it!"

Ask yourself how you would react depending upon either discovering:

#### Does Hal live or die?



Still mad at me, honey pumpkin?

Harold Brent Wallis September 14, 1898
Chicago, Illinois, USA
October 5, 1986 (aged 88) Rancho Mirage, California
Diabetes

Hal actually outlived Ayn Rand by 4 years.

Software 'AutoSave' Recovered all Work **OR** Eight months of brilliant creativity are lost forever!

#### Reference: <u>"Letters of Ayn Rand"</u>

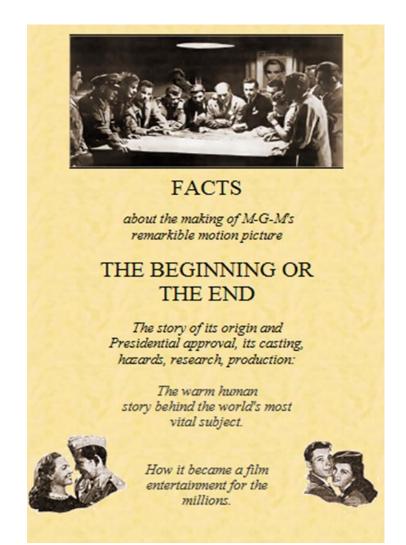
As passionate as AR was on the major importance of the "<u>Top Secret</u>" screenplay—coupled with the likelihood that her producer/boss intended all along to make a quick dollar on a partially completed screenplay...

...we learn from the book, "<u>Letters of Ayn Rand</u>", page 262, from a letter dated March 19, 1946 (Tuesday) to her boss, Hal, AR did not complain in the least about the loss of this epic screenplay. In the body of the letter, only towards the end does she write, as item 9 of 10 items addressed:

"9. Whenever you have something *important* to tell me (like last Saturday)—please tell me yourself, not through a third person."

Remember that as important as Ayn believed "<u>Top Secret</u>" was—it was not her intellectual property. It was a 'work for hire' and belonged to her part-time boss—to do with as he pleased—and so he sold it for a quick buck.

What is even worse, all her words, themes and ideals were likely taken out a back door of the MGM production studio and deposited in the nearest dump.



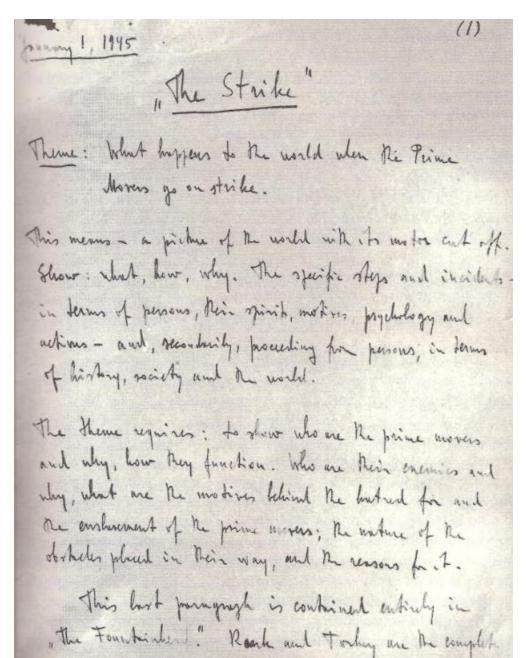
#### John Galt Revealed?

The reason Ayn was not visibly upset at this loss can be found on page 389 of the book, "Journals of Ayn Rand", under Chapter 11— "<u>The</u> <u>Mind on Strike"</u>. The last paragraph on the page reads...

"....she did not begin to begin to make notes until January 1, 1945 (see image to right) Note: Just as she dated her cousin's letter Feb 15, 1945 instead of 1946, I believe the same error was made here based on her writings in Top Secret. I believe it was January 1, 1946.)

...and only **began full-time work on the novel in April 1946**. The notes in this chapter are largely from this last month—the **most prolific month of journal-writing in her life."** 

This *prolific writing*, for the book, <u>"The Strike"</u>, that was cited above, began 12 days after "<u>Top Secret</u>" was cast aside onto a dump heap of discarded manuscripts at MGM (April 1, 1926). AR was comforted to know that *any future creative writing on* <u>"The Strike"</u> belonged to her personally.



### Part 5 of 8

"Top Secret" or Atlas Shrugged" it was still her mind at play?

Let's quickly review the chronology of "Atlas Shrugged"



#### From "Journals of Ayn Rand" Chapter 11, 'Mind on Strike'

Characters needed

page 405, written—April 10, 1946



John Galt—energy. Activity, competence, initiative, ingenuity, and above all intelligence. Independent rational judgment.

The man who conquers nature; the man who imposes his purpose on nature.

Therefore, Galt is an inventor, a practical scientist,

a man who faces the material world of science as an adventurer faces an unexplored continent, or as a pioneer faced the wilderness

—something to use, to conquer, to turn to his own purposes.

In relation to the creators —he is the avenger. (He is "the motor of the world.")

**Experts have never been able to anchor "Atlas Shrugged"**, to any fixed year in time. Major book events are measured over 40 year span, around the central character John Galt (birth year set at year "X").

John Galt's **Inspiration?** 

Once John Galt's birth year is set, all other characters (birth years) and events are reset automatically to

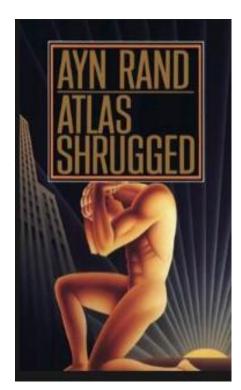
maintain identical time lines.

Years	Atlas Shrugged Chronology	_
	Event	1
		(
-38	Hugh Akston born approx. 65 years earlier Henry University.	'
-17	Paul akin in b rn.	
	A little later we will be	
-16	hese fictional charact	e
-15	Richard Halley is born.	
	vears to Manhattan Pr	
	years to ivialillattall i	
-13	Scientists to see if	
		-
-11	Avear Get Ayra a sy 1 - 30 f ISd Journal	
-9	Hank Rearden is born.	
-8	Floyd Ferris is born.	
-7	Floyd Ferris is born.	
-5	Lee Hunsacker is born.	
-3	James Taggart is born.	$\vdash$
-2		╙
-2	Phillip Rearden is born.	

A potential movie in the mid-70s, was going to use John Galt's birth year as 1935 (thus ending the story in 1975).

The most recent movie (Part III—September, 2014), as late as 1975 to make the times more contemporary ending in 2015).

	o	o John Galt Birth Year will be X?						
	Francisco d'Ancerva is born							
J	CO Lagr Do Gadkjudish S							
┪	2	Dagny Taggart is born (Champion Rail Roads).						
H	or'c	hirth						
<u> </u>		Line Wyatt Shorn.						
_	_4	Eddie Willers is born.	J					
ľ	ojec	Hank Rearden takes a job working in iron mines in Minnesota	. /					
	6	Wesley Mouch (not listed)						
	9	Francisco spends the winter in Madrid, at the home of the Dul	ke of Alba.					
		Francisco spends the winter in Madrid, at the home of the Dul	ke of Alba.					
	Francisco spends the winter as a cabin boy on a cargo steamer carrying d'Anconia copper.							
	16							
╝	<b>2</b> 7	Galt begins the strike.						
	27 Galt goes to work as a track laborer for Taggart Transcontinental.							
	28 Ellis Wyatt develops a way to retrieve oil from previously exhausted wells.							
-	30 Lee Hunsacker's Amalgamated Service, Inc. sues Midas Mulligan over denied loan to buy TCMC.							
┪	40	Story Ends Year X + 40						
4		Story Lilus Teur A + 40						



Investigating the rumored <u>Manhattan Project scientist/inventor</u>, from the 1940's, who supposedly turned his back on an incredible energy invention-the <u>Molten Salt Thorium Reactor</u>.

We start off with an interesting coincidence. Born in 1915, to Jewish Russian parents that were likely helped to America in 1905 by the same cousins that brought Ayn Rand to America in 1926. Alvin Weinberg, raised in the Hyde Park Boulevard area that Aye Rand resided in for her six month stay in Chicago, was eleven.

Alvin Weinberg, one of the youngest physicists on the Manhattan Project, first came up with the concept of the light water uranium reactor around March, 1943 (at age 27); replacing expensive and scarce Uranium 235 with abundant and safer Thorium 233 in 1944 (age 29). The use of non-nuclear weapons grade Thorium in a *Molten Salt Thorium Reactor*, first arose in the late 40s for navy ships (Alvin was 32).

Alvin Weinberg (48), was President John F. Kennedy's scientific advisor. Based on the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), 1962 "Report to the President", JFK had great plans for Alvin Weinberg's peace time *Molten Salt Thorium Reactor* technology should he be re-elected to the White House for a second term in 1964.



#### Alvin M. Weinberg

AKA Alvin Martin Weinberg

Born: 20-Apr-1915 Birthplace: Chicago, IL Died: 18-Oct-2006

Location of death: Oak Ridge, TN Cause of death: Heart Failure

Gender: Male

Race or Ethnicity: White Sexual orientation: Straight Occupation: Physicist

Nationality: United States Executive summary: Nuclear scientist

Coined the term "Faustian bargain."

Father: Jacob Weinberg

Mother: Emma Levinson Weinberg

Sister: Fay Goleman (b. 30-Nov-1910, d. 21-Sep-2010) Wife: Margaret Despres Weinberg (m. 1940, d. 1969) Son: David Robert Weinberg (b. 25-Jun-1943, d. 20-Jun-2003)

Son: Richard J. Weinberg

Wife: Genevieve DePersio Weinberg ("Gene", m. 1974, d. 2004)



Now if AR truly did base her powerful Atlas Shrugged character, John Galt, on someone born in 1915...

John Galt's Inspiration?

...we can see if there is any validly to this theory that Alvin Weinberg might have been the inspiration for some portion of the John Galt character by comparing the chronologies of 'Atlas Shrugged'.

Let's substitute the year 1915 for John Galt's "year zero" to determine the birthdays of the remaining cast members of Atlas Shrugged.

Based on the 1915 date, AR is writing about contemporaneous times around her in 1946.

Confirmed in 'Journals of Ayn Rand", Chapter 11, 'The Mind on Strike', pages 390-391...

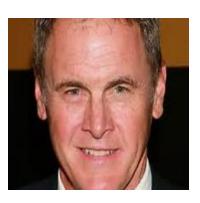
...and only began full-time work on the novel in April, 1946...the most prolific month of journal writing in her life.

	Years	Atlas Shrugged Chronology	1915	O	John Galt is born.
		Event	1915	0	Francisco d'Anconia is born.
1877	-38	Hugh Akston born approx. 65 years earlier Henry University.	1915	О	Ragnar Danneskjöld is born.
1882		Trught Tikston both approx. Of years earner them's Chiversity.	1917	2	Dagny Taggart is born (Champion Rail Roads).
1884	-33				
1890	-31		1918	3	Ellis Wyatt is born.
1090	-25		1919	4	Eddie Willers is born.
1898	-17	Paul Larkin is born.	1920	5	Hank Rearden takes a job working in iron mines in Minnesota.
			1921	6	Wesley Mouch (not listed)
1899	-16	Robert Stadler is born.	1924	9	Francisco spends the winter in Madrid, at the home of the Duke of Alba.
1900	-15	Richard Halley is born.			Francisco spends the winter in Madrid, at the home of the Duke of Alba.
			1926	11	Francisco spends the winter as a cabin boy on a cargo steamer carrying d'Anconia copper.
			1931	16	
			1942	27	Galt begins the strike.
1902	-13	Dan Conway is born.	1942	<b>2</b> 7	Galt goes to work as a track laborer for Taggart Transcontinental.
<i>y</i> -	-0		1943	28	Ellis Wyatt develops a way to retrieve oil from previously exhausted wells.
1904	-11	Hank Rearden - Per Ayn Rand 1961 Page 330 of Rand Journal	1945	30	Lee Hunsacker's Amalgamated Service, Inc. sues Midas Mulligan over denied loan to huy TCMC.
			1946	31	Midas Mulligan shuts down his bank and disappears.
1906	-9	Hank Rearden is born.	1946	31	Jim and Dagny's father dies. Jim becomes president of Taggart Transcontinental.
1907	-8	Floyd Ferris is born.	1946	1	The Taggart Transcontinental Board of Directors authorizes construction of the
1908	-7	Floyd Ferris is born.		31	San Sebastián Line.  Two members of the Taggart Transcontinental Board of Directors resign, as
1910	-5	Lee Hunsacker is born.	1946	31	does the Vice-President in Charge of Operation.
1912	-3	James Taggart is born.	1946	31	Taggart Transcontinental's chief engineer resigns.
1913	-2		1946	3	Work begins at the San Sebastián Mines.
1913	-2	Phillip Rearden is born.	1946	31	Orren Boyle starts Associated Steel using a government loan for most of the capital.
1915	O	John Galt is born.	1946	31	Judge Narragansett retires.

<sup>\*</sup>Note coincidence of her screenplay being shut down and first action listed in 1946

	Years	Atlas Shrugged Chronology			Top Secret Chronology
		Event			Brief Bio, Birth and Death
			Using a John Galt		,
1877	-38	Hugh Akston born approx. 65 years earlier Henry University (retires in 1942).	birth year of 1915,	1899	Robert Maynard Hutchins (Started UC Classical Enrichment) (January 17, 1899 – May 17, 1977), was an educational philosopher
1896	-19	Midas Mulligan (No date given)	lets see if we get any "DIRECT HITS"	1896	Lewis Lichtenstein Strauss (Jan 31, 1896-Jan 21, 1974), WallStreet Banker, Involed with Matthan Project, fought for Capitalism by breaking nuclear energy away from government monopoly in 1954
1898	-17	Paul Larkin is born. (Traitor to Hank)	DIRECT HITS	1921	Emil Julius Klaus Fuchs - Russian Spy (29 December 1911 – 28 January 1988)
1899	-16	Robert Stadler is born.	against AR's "Top Secret."	1899	Nicolas Rashevsky (November 9, 1899 – January 16, 1972) was an American theoretical physicist who pioneered mathematical biology, and is also considered the father of mathematical biophysics and theoretical biology
1900	-15	Richard Halley is born.	Secret.	1925	Tom Dowd, physicist, Rockhall of Fame, music producer & engineer, Born Oct 20, 1925 Died Oct 27, 2002
1902	-13	Dan Conway is born.	My definition of a	1902	Carl Henry Eckart (May 4, 1902 in St. Louis, Missouri – October 23, 1973 in La Jolla, California) was an American physicist, physical oceanographer, geophysicist, and administrator
1902	-13	William Hastings (likely born)		1902	Eugene Wigner, engineer, physicist, chemist, inventor, NoblePrize, Physics 1902 - 1996
1903	-12	Mr. Thompson is the "Head of the State" for the United States	"DIRECT HIT"	1903	Chester Earl "Chet" Holifield California Legislator (December 3, 1903 – February 6, 1995)
1904	-11	Hank Rearden - Manufacuturer of Rearden Metal	is not only typically	1904	Robert Oppenheimer (Physicist, April 22, 1904 - Feb 18, 1967) Manufacturer of Atomic bomb
1905	-10	Alissa Rosenbaum (AR) born	the same 'birth year'	1905	Ayn Rand (technological historian/writer) Born Feb 2, 1905 - died March 6, 1984
1908	-7	Floyd Ferris is born.	but there is at least	1908	Edward Teller (Jan-15, 1908 to Sept. 9, 2003) Battled Oppenheimer
1910	-5	Lee Hunsacker is born.			
1912	-3	James Taggart is born.	two additional	1912	Glenn Seaborg (Born Apr 19, 1912 - died Feb 26, 1999)
1913	-2	Phillip Rearden is born (younger brother to Hank).		1913	Frank Oppenhiemer (Born 1912) Younger Brother to Robert
1915	O	John Galt is born.	<u>characteristics</u>	1915	Alvin WeinbergManhattan Physicst, Inventor of Light Water Reactor and Molten Salt Thorium Reactor (1915-2006)
1915	0	Francisco d'Anconia is born.	similar between the	1915	Paul Samuelson, Noble Prize Economist 1915-2009 - Classmate Friend
1915	0	Ragnar Danneskjöld is born.	real and fictional	1916	Herbert A. Simon, Noble Prize Economist (1916-2001) Classmate Friend
1917	2	Dagny Taggart is born (Champion of Rail Roads).	Tear and netional		Ayn Rand became involved in Manhattan Project through "Top Secret" screenplay. Loves trainsinserts herself into story
1918	3	Ellis Wyatt is born (Getting every ounce of oil).	character!	1918	Richard Feynman, Physicist, (Born May 11, 1918 Died Feb 15, 1988) (U235)
1919	4	Eddie Willers is born.		1919	(John X, from AR's screenplay "Top Secret" is born. (Served same role as Eddie Willers)
1921	6	Wesley Mouch (not listed)		1921	Navel Officer - Milton Shaw, Jewish - (Oct. 5, 1921 - Nov 26, 2001)

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1896	-19	Midas Mulligan (No date given)		1896	Lewis Lichtenstein Strauss (Jan 31, 1896-Jan 21, 1974), WallStreet Banker, Involed with Matthan Project, fought for Capitalism by breaking nuclear energy away from government monopoly in 1954		
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1902	-13	William Hastings (likely born)		1902	Eugene Wigner, engineer, physicist, chemist, inventor, NoblePrize, Physics 1902 - 1996		
1903		Mr. Thompson is the "Head of the State" for the United States		1903	Chester Earl "Chet" Holifield California Legislator (December 3, 1903 – February 6, 1995)		
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1913	-2	Phillip Rearden is born (younger brother to Hank).		1913	Frank Oppenhiemer (Born 1912) Younger Brother to Robert		
1915	0	John Galt is born.		1915	Alvin WeinbergManhattan Physicst, Inventor of Light Water Reactor and Molten Salt Thorium Reactor (1915-2006)		
1915	0	Francisco d'Anconia is born.		1915	Paul Samuelson, Noble Prize Economist 1915-2009 - Classmate Friend		
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1921	6	Wesley Mouch (not listed)		1921	Navel Officer - Milton Shaw, Jewish - (Oct. 5, 1921 - Nov 26, 2001)		



Midas Mulligan is played *Mark Moses* in the latest Atlas Shrugged, Part III Born (-19?) 1896



Was Lewis
Lichtenstein
Strauss, the
inspiration for
Midas Mulligan
Born (-19) 1896



In his long career, he had ignored all the public attacks on him, except one. His first name had been Michael; when a newspaper columnist of the humanitarian clique nicknamed him Midas Mulligan and the tag stuck to him as an insult, Mulligan appeared in court and petitioned for a legal change of his first name to "Midas." The petition was granted.

Mulligan has a lot of similarities to another outrageous figure in the book: the bold, legendary Nat Taggart. In this way, he ties in to themes of the past, like Richard Halley and Hugh Akston do. He seems to belong to an earlier age of industrial giants, and his disappearance also appropriately has a touch of the epic to it:

**Lewis Lichtenstein Strauss** (January 31, 1896 – January 21, 1974) (pronounced "straws" / 'strɔːz/) was an American businessman, philanthropist, public official, and naval officer. He was a major figure in the development of nuclear weapons and nuclear power in the United States. [1]

In 1947, the U.S. transferred control of atomic research from the <u>Army</u> to civilian authority under the newly created <u>Atomic Energy Commission</u> (AEC). Strauss was appointed by President <u>Truman</u> as one of the first five Commissioners. He served on the AEC until 1950.

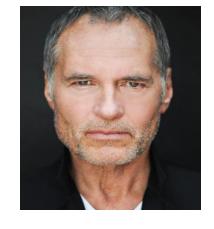
Strauss became a financial adviser to the <u>Rockefeller</u> brothers, but continued to take an interest in atomic affairs.

In 1953, President <u>Eisenhower</u> appointed Strauss as chairman of the AEC. Strauss was by this time one of the best known advocates of atomic energy for many purposes. At Eisenhower's request, Strauss had the AEC develop the "<u>Atoms for Peace</u>" program which Eisenhower announced in December 1953.

In 1954, Strauss predicted that atomic power would make electricity "<u>too cheap</u>

to meter." He was referring to Project Sherwood, a secret program to develop power from hydrogen fusion, not uranium fission reactors as is commonly believed. [7] [8]

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Actor Neil Dickson: Robert
Stadler was John Galt's
graduate physics professor at
the University who was lured
to the Dark Side over time.
Born (-16) 1899



Was Nicolas Rashevsky,
Alvin Weinberg's
graduate professor, the
inspiration for Robert
Stadler?
Born (-16) 1899



2 Hour interview @ Age 79—<a href="https://ieeetv.ieee.org/player/html/viewer?dl=#larson-collection-interview-with-alvin-a weinberg">https://ieeetv.ieee.org/player/html/viewer?dl=#larson-collection-interview-with-alvin-a weinberg</a>

Weinberg: "My career took a rather curious turn because I got interested, in fact I was enchanted I suppose by a strange Russian who was a Rockefeller's fellow at Chicago and then became professor. His name was Nicholas Rashevsky, and Rashevsky was the one who was proposing to create a theoretical structure, a mathematical, theoretical structure for biology...

So I became a mathematical biophysicist. I helped Rashevsky start the field of mathematical biophysics along with other people of course. That meant that along with my physics degree I had to have a degree in biology. So I went back and took courses in experimental physiology and botany and oh, I must have taken four or five courses in various aspects of physiology. I spent the years I guess from 1936 until about '41, '42, as a mathematical biophysicist. A future Rashevsky student would utilize some of Weinberg's original equations to win a Noble Prize in Physics.

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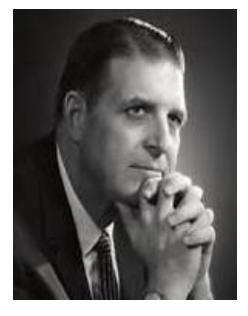
Dan Conway is the middle-aged president of the Phoenix-Durango railroad. Running a railroad is just about the only thing he knows. When the Anti-dog-eat-dog Rule is used to drive his business out of Colorado, he loses the will to fight, and resigns himself to a quiet life of books and fishing.

Born (-13) 1902



Carl Henry Eckart was another Alvin Weinberg graduate professor of oceanography. Carl would eventually introduce Alvin to nuclear energy and later to the brilliant Eugene Wigner.

Born (-13) 1902



2 Hour interview @ Age 79— <a href="https://ieeetv.ieee.org/player/html/viewer?dl=#larson-collection-interview-with-alvin-a weinberg">https://ieeetv.ieee.org/player/html/viewer?dl=#larson-collection-interview-with-alvin-a weinberg</a>

Alvin Weinberg: "I decided by then that I would go into physics and by that time I also became friendly with professor **Carl Eckart,** who later became one of the foremost oceanographers, theoretical oceanographers and head of the Scripps Institute [of Oceanography] and he of course had a great influence on my, on my future career.

I worked with him on a problem in theoretical physics on, well, it was a quantum mechanical, the Hamiltonian of the carbon dioxide molecule, which again it's sort of funny that it proves again that anything you do in the past, later on it will be helpful to you, no matter what it is. It's sort of funny that this was in 1935, 1936...

"But the work that I did with Rashevsky was done also in collaboration with **Carl Eckart**. He followed my work very closely and so when, well shortly before the war broke out, I think this was in late 1941... At the time I was a research associate working for Rashevsky *I was asked by Carl Eckart if I would join him for six months half time to work on this very farfetched possibility of making nuclear energy.* 

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William Hastings is only described by his widow. In real life he lived to 93 not 45 if, like Wigner, he was only 13 years older than John Galt. Born (-13?) 1902



Was Eugene Wigner, Alvin Weinberg's boss, the inspiration for William Hastings? Born (-13) 1902



## http://www.shmoop.com/atlas-shrugged/mr-mrs-william-hastings.html

We only hear about **William Hastings** from other people, since he died before the novel started. Hastings was Galt's boss at the Factory and one of the earliest people to join Galt's strike. From what we hear from Mrs. Hastings, William was an honest, hard-working man. What's really interesting about him, though, are the things that remain inferred and unspoken

First off, we know Mr. Hastings must have been a pretty incredible guy for John Galt to work under him and invite him to join his strike in its early days. Second, Hastings didn't just jump at the opportunity to join the strike. We hear about his struggle from Mrs. Hastings, who apparently never learned anything about the strike or those involved, and from Midas Mulligan.

From 1942 to 1945 **Eugene Wigner** supervised twenty theoretical physicists (including Alvin Weinberg, 13 years his junior) in office space at the University of Chicago, under the Manhattan Project. The two became close friends and Alvin enjoyed working with this 1963 Noble Prize winner of Physics. They co-published a major physics book, and worked together after the war, at Oak Ridge National Laboratories. Due to Wigner's strength in engineering, as well as physics and chemistry, he was America's secret weapon in finishing first in bomb development over the Germans during World War II.

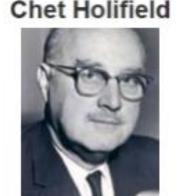
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Actor Peter Mackenzie: plays the very powerful Mr. Thompson—Head of State—of the U.S. Born (-12?) 1902



Was powerful Chester
Holifield—Alvin Weinberg's
#1 political enemy, the
likely inspiration for Mr.
Thompson?
Born (-12) 1903



Mr. Thompson is the "Head of the State" for the United States. He is not particularly intelligent and has a very undistinguished look. He knows politics, however, and is a master of public relations and back-room deals. Rand's notes indicate that she modeled him on President Harry S. Truman, and that she deliberately decided not to call him "President of the United States" as this title has "honorable connotations" which the character does not deserve.

As a 15 year-old dropout, Chester Holifield ran away from an abusive Alabama home to the oil fields of **Montebello**, **California** in 1917. 25 years later, with the backing of powerful stakeholders; with a gerrymandered District 19, Chet enters congress in 1942—and would be automatically re-elected to Congress for the next 30 years with up to 90% of the votes. By 1946, Congressman Holifield to been positioned become the most powerful politician in Washington D.C. as AR begins penning "<u>Atlas Shrugged</u>". In 1948 President Truman would win his own term in office but, unknown to the public, he was only the second most powerful man in D.C. This sets up the greatest battle, on American soil, between Statism and Capitalism beginning in 1946 and not ending in 1972. The outcome of the battle would never be reported in the media or newspapers due to 'Cold War' secrecy laws at the time. The reign of Head-of-State, Chet Holifield, would quietly end thanks to California Governor Reagan.

#### Then-Governor Ronald Reagan quoted in the Los Angeles Times, Jan. 21, 1972

"With sophisticated computer programs, politicians can draw lines to maximize precisely their party's representation and minimize the other's. The result is sham legislative elections in which fewer and fewer seats are competitive and moderates of both parties get squeezed out of office."

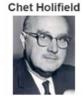
California's modern redistricting wars started in 1971 redistricting. Governor Ronald Reagan twice vetoed plans passed by the Legislature and, in 1973, sent the issue to the state Supreme Court. District 19 was merged with more conservative District 13. Holifield declined to run in 1974 and retired.



Actor Peter Mackenzie: plays the very powerful Mr. Thompson—Head of State—of the U.S. Born (-12?) 1902



Was powerful Chester Holifield—Alvin Weinberg's #1 political enemy, the likely inspiration for Mr. Thompson? Born (-12) 1903



## Might Ayn Rand have been aware of the "Real" Mr. Thompson?





All government funding must be approved by Chet Holifield due to specific committees he chairs. That also includes the A.E.C.



Congressional District 19, created by 1942, encompassed communities benefiting from the huge 1917 oil boom around Montebello that continued for 60 years!





Panorama of oil fields, Los Angeles, California, around 1906. Old wooden derricks were a common sight in the Los Angeles area up through the 1930s. *One-half of a stereopticon view by E. W. Kelley, The Library of Congress.* 

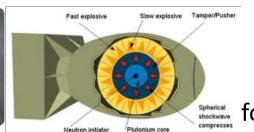
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Hank Rearden is played *Rob Morrow* in the latest Atlas Shrugged, Part III Born (-11) 1904

## Design and manufacture Design and manufacture





Was Robert Oppenheimer, the inspiration for Hank Rearden Born (-11) 1904



## Henry "Hank" Rearden[edit]

Henry (also known as "Hank") is one of the central characters in Atlas Shrugged. Like many of Rand's capitalist characters, he is a self-made man. He owns the most important steel company in the United States. He invents Rearden Metal, an alloy stronger than steel (with similar properties to stainless steel). He lives in Philadelphia with his wife Lillian, his brother Philip, and his elderly mother, all of whom he supports. Hank Rearden knows something is wrong with the world but he is unable to define the problem.

He has a kid brother, Philip has completely bought in to the intellectual and moral system of the looters. He remains on the fringes of the looter power system and seems to spend his time asking Hank for handouts, insulting Hank, and reciting ridiculous ideology at parties.

As director of the Manhattan project, American physicist Robert Oppenheimer was responsible for collecting, coordinating, and leading the team that developed and detonated the first atomic bomb. He was also one of the principle proponents of using the bomb against an actual military target -- a recommendation that ultimately resulted in the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the unconditional surrender of the Japanese in World War 11.

He has a kid brother, Frank, born in 1912 (-3). During his childhood, he studied painting and then the flute under Barrera, becoming competent enough at the instrument to consider a career as a flautist. [2] Frank eventually followed his brother's encouragement and became a physicist as well. After the war, Oppenheimer's earlier involvement with the American Communist Party placed him under scrutiny, and he resigned from his physics position at the University of Minnesota. Frank created problems for his older brother, Robert, that led to security clearance losses in 1954.

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Actor *Greg Germann*: plays the very James Taggart Born (-3) 1912



James Taggart, with the death of his father, becomes the President of Taggart Transcontinental railroad, as the first born by five years, oppose to Dagney, his younger, more capable sister. She continues her attempts to save their railroad business from both his lack of action on time sensitive issues and, disasters from the poor decisions James does make. James is an expert influence peddler who, in spite of all the wealth around him, has the moral philosophy of the looters.

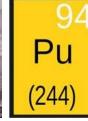
It is not surprising when in the first chapter, that takes place on September 2, 1951—as Eddie Willers attempts to enter James Taggart's office door, James cries out... "Don't bother me, don't bother me, don't bother me."

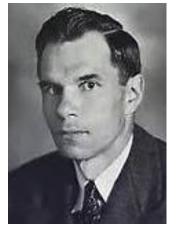
"It's important Jim", Eddie said not raising his voice.

"All right, all right, what is it?"

Was *Glenn Seaborg* the likely inspiration for James Taggart? Born (-3) 1912







Thanks to standing in for a friend during a research project when he was called out of town, **Glenn Seaborg**, ended up sharing the 1951 Nobel physics prize with this researcher. On February 23, 1941, Glenn confirmed what his friend suspected, the new element, plutonium, had been created. **Glenn** would use this fame to get involved in the Manhattan project (1942-45). In 1946 he served as Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) advisor, presidential advisor in 50s, and finally, as chairman of AEC from 1961 to 71. He was a dreamer that could never make timely decisions and when he did make poor and deceptive decisions, he almost destroyed the nuclear industry.

It is not surprising whenever the question of nuclear safety concerns arose by the AEC nuclear engineers, any time they tried to warn him he cried... "Don't bother me, don't bother me, don't bother me."

"It's important Glenn", the safety committee said quietly fearing the public might over hear. But Seaborg, AEC historian, Richard Hewlett\* noted in an interview, "In fact, he [Glenn] might be the epitome of the elitist attitude—that Daddy knows best." Glenn believed Nobel Prize winners knew more than good physicists, and thus know more than the general public.

\*Cult of the Atom, Daniel Ford, page 76

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# Connecting the Dots: "Atlas Shrugged" Top Secret

Part I "Who was John Galt?"

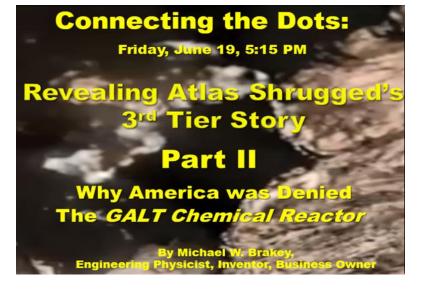
By Michael W. Brakey, Engineering Physicist, Inventor, Business Owner



Do you see the old Lise Meitner or the young Dagny Taggart?

## Part 6 of 8

## Coming in 2015, Part II





John Galt is played by 6'3" **Kristoffer Polaha** in the latest Atlas Shrugged, Part III



Was
Alvin Weinberg
Ayn Rand's
inspiration for
John Galt?



In 1926, living with her Russian Jewish cousins around the 53<sup>rd</sup> and Hyde Park Boulevard area of Chicago, AR would first meet the brilliant Weinberg siblings. Six months later, Alvin was shy of 12, when AR stepped on a train to Hollywood to make her way in the world. In late 1945 and through March, 1946, AR worked on an Atomic Bomb screenplay she called "Top Secret". Before the effort was cancelled, AR had interviewed many of the Manhattan Project participants and researched the background of dozens more. I believe it was during this research, to AR's pleasant surprise, the brilliant lad she had left behind twenty years earlier had grown into an amazing inventor who not only conquered nature's deadly use of the atom, but its peaceful use too by inventing the light water nuclear reactor by age 27. The concept for the Molten Salt Thorium Reactor would occur at age 32. Alvin's inventions could provide electric power for all the motors of the world! On April 10, 1946, less than a month after "Top Secret" was cancelled, an inspired AR wrote (*Journals of Ayn Rand*, page 405):



**John Galt**—energy. Activity, competence, initiative, ingenuity, and above all *intelligence*. Independent rational judgment. The man who conquers nature. The man who imposes his purpose on nature. Therefore, Galt is an inventor, a practical scientist, a man who faces the material world of science as an adventurer faces an unexplored continent, or as a pioneer faced the wilderness—something to use, to conquer to turn to his own purposes. In relation to the creators—he is the avenger. (He is "the motor of the world.")

## 'Atlas Shrugged' Book III, Chapter II THE UTOPIA OF GREED, revealing John Galt

#### John Galt Revealed?

Dr. Hugh Akston shares John Galt's story with Dagny Taggart

"...Actually, he was the son of a gas-station mechanic..."

"...—they were sixteen at the time I learned later."

"...John had nothing...held part-time jobs to earn their own experience & money."

"...majoring in two subjects: physics and philosophy."

"...They got the highest grades."



"Actually physics, philosophy, biology and mathematics & speaks 5 languages"

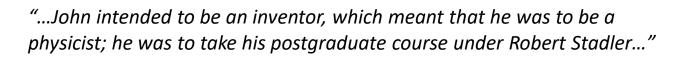
"...we loaded them up with nothing but the hardest tasks..."



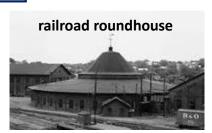
These three were the most intelligent in an extraordinary class of students.



"...John worked in a railroad roundhouse, and Ragnar—no, Miss Taggart, Ragnar was not the least, but most studiously sedate of the three—he worked as clerk in the university library."



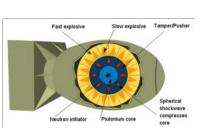


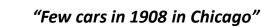


"John Galt's two classmates will win Nobel Prizes"





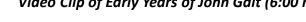




"one was 16...other classmate 17 years old"



Video Clip of Early Years of John Galt (6:00 min)



## 'Atlas Shrugged' Book III, Chapter II THE UTOPIA OF GREED, inspiration for John Galt

Dr. Hugh Akston shares John Galt's story with Dagny Taggart

"...and he had left home at the age of twelve to make his own way—" AR left Chicago just prior to Alvin turning 12.

"...at some forsaken crossroads in Ohio,"



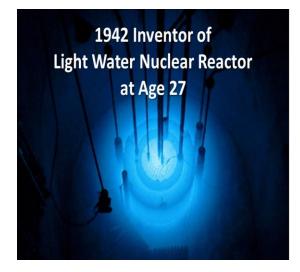




Video Clip of Early Years of John Galt (0:53 min)

Finally, we know from Atlas Shrugged, John Galt becomes an engineer at the Twentieth Century Motor Company, where he designs a revolutionary new motor powered by ambient static electricity. This carbon free technological invention could eventually supply our entire planet with *all the abundant*, *clean*, *cheap energy* we would ever need!





Until the Atomic Bomb is dropped in August, 1945—all this is TOP SECRET!

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Actor Joaquim De Almeida: plays Francisco d'Anconia Born (0) 1915



Was Alvin's classmate, *Herbert Simon* the likely inspiration for

Francisco d'Anconia?

Born (1) 1916



Francisco d'Anconia is one of the central characters in *Atlas Shrugged*, and owner by inheritance of the world's largest copper mining empire.

A child prodigy of exceptional talents, Francisco was dubbed the "climax" of the d'Anconia line, an already prestigious family of skilled industrialists. He attended Patrick Henry University and was a classmate of John Galt and Ragnar Danneskjöld and student of both Hugh Akston and Robert Stadler. He began working at a young age, while still in school, proving that he could have made a successful career on his own merits without the aid of his family's wealth and power.

Francisco is one of the strikers and is slowly destroying the d'Anconia empire to put it out of the raiders' reach. His actions were designed both to "trap" looters into relying upon his worthless ventures in order to disrupt their schemes and to try to show the inevitable consequences of looting.

Won Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, 1978.

My most important mentor at Chicago was the econometrician and mathematical economist, Henry Schultz, but I studied too with Rudolf Carnap in logic, *Nicholas Rashevsky in mathematical biophysics*, and Harold Lasswell and Charles Merriam in political science. *I also made a serious study of graduate-level physics in order to strengthen and practice my mathematical skills and to gain an intimate knowledge of what a "hard" science was like, particularly on the theoretical side. An unexpected by-product of the latter study has been a lifelong interest in the philosophy of physics and several publications on the axiomatization of classical mechanics* 

I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on June 15, 1916.

Herbert Simon remains as one the most famous and powerful figures of the last century, acclaimed highly for his innovative ideas, intelligence and personality. This academic scholar and Nobel Prize winner spent his life making groundbreaking discoveries like importance of human decision-making concepts in dynamic environments, artificial intelligence, information processing, attention economics and many more.

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P

Actor Eric Allan Kramer: plays Ragnar Danneskjold Born (0) 1915



Was Alvin's college classmate,

Paul Samuelson the likely

inspiration for

Ragnar Danneskjold ?

Born (0) 1915



#### Focus on Economic Re-Distribution

One of the original strikers, he is now world famous as a <u>pirate</u>. Ragnar attended Patrick Henry University and became friends with John Galt and Francisco d'Anconia while studying under Hugh Akston and Robert Stadler. Danneskjöld seizes relief ships that are being sent from the United States to The People's States of Europe. As the novel progresses, Danneskjöld begins to become active in American waters. *Danneskjöld's action is to restore to other creative people the money, in gold, which was unjustly taken away from them—specifically, their <u>income tax payments</u>. He explains this is not <u>altruism</u>; his motivation is to ensure that once those espousing Galt's philosophy are restored to their rightful place in society, they will have enough capital to rebuild the world.* 

Won Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, 1970.

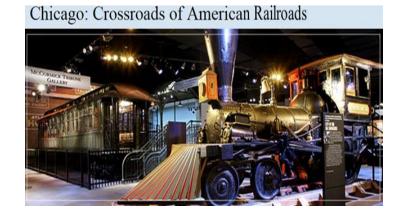
He was born in Gary, Indiana, in 1915. *He received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Chicago University in 1935*, and the degrees of Master of Arts in 1936, and Doctor of Philosophy in 1941 from Harvard University. He was a Social Science Research Council predoctoral fellow from 1935-1937, a member of the Society of Fellows, Harvard University, 1937-1940, and a Ford Foundation Research Fellow from 1958-1959. He received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from Chicago University and Oberlin College in 1961, and from Indiana University and East Anglia University (Eng.) in 1966.

Even while a graduate student at Harvard, he had already won international renown and had made significant contributions to economic theory.

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Dagny Taggart is played Laura Regan in the latest Atlas Shrugged, Part III Born (+2) 1917



Was
Ayn Rand,
herself, the
inspiration for
Dagny Taggart?
Born (-10) 1905







Since American's new immigration restriction act took place in 1924, Russian Jews were practicable barred from coming into the United States legally. Two years later, with the aid of her Chicago cousins, AR crossed the Atlantic Ocean, under false pretenses, and landed in New York City. Thereafter, AR would disappear into the interior of America via the Russian Jewish underground railroad. Railroads meant the difference between life and death her first few years in America.

The Underground Railroad was not a figure of speech...but actually railroads of America. When AR traveled west on the train, she would feel safer as she journeyed deeper into the interior!"

AR used the American train system to travel all over the country over the next three decades. It is during this time that Chicago is known as the 'Crossroads of American Railroads'. The national highway system would not be fully developed until 1955.

On April 14, 1946, less than a month after "Top Secret" was cancelled, an inspired AR wrote (*Journals of Ayn Rand*, page 417):

**Dagny Taggart**— Her hunger for her own kind of world. She works so fiercely because she knows she can have her world only by creating it— Her attempt (or desire) to be "the spark of initiative and the bearer of responsibility form a whole collective."

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Ellis Wyatt was played by **Graham Beckel** in Atlas Shrugged, Part I Born (+3) 1918

**Ellis Wyatt** is the head of Wyatt Oil. He has almost single-handedly revived the economy of Colorado by discovering a new process for extracting more oil from what were thought to be exhausted oil wells.

When first introduced, he is aggressive towards Dagny, whom he does not yet know and whom he blames for what are, in fact, her brother's policies which directly threaten his business. When the government passes laws and decrees which make it impossible for him to continue, he sets all his oil wells on fire, leaving a jeering note: "I am leaving it as I found it. Take over. It's yours."

One particular burning well that resists all efforts to extinguish it becomes known as "Wyatt's Torch". Later Dagny meets him in Galt's Gulch.



Was Richard
Feynman the
inspiration for
Ellis Wyatt
Born (+3) 1918



## **Manhattan Project**

At Princeton, the physicist <u>Robert R. Wilson</u> encouraged Feynman to participate in the <u>Manhattan Project</u>—the wartime <u>U.S. Army</u> project at <u>Los Alamos</u> developing the <u>atomic bomb</u>. Feynman said he was persuaded to join this effort to build it before <u>Nazi Germany</u> developed their own bomb. He was assigned to <u>Hans</u> <u>Bethe</u>'s theoretical division and impressed Bethe enough to be made a group leader. He and Bethe developed the <u>Bethe–Feynman formula</u> for calculating the yield of a <u>fission bomb</u>, which built upon previous work by <u>Robert Serber</u>.

#### Early life[edit]

Richard Phillips Feynman was born on May 11, 1918, in New York City, [5][6] the son of Lucille (née Phillips), a homemaker, and Melville Arthur Feynman, a sales manager. [7] His family originated from Russia and Poland; both of his parents were Ashkenazi Jews. [8]

The young Feynman was heavily influenced by his father, who encouraged him to ask questions to challenge orthodox thinking, and who was always ready to teach Feynman something new. From his mother he gained the sense of humor that he had throughout his life. As a child, he had a talent for <u>engineering</u>, maintained an experimental laboratory in his home, and delighted in repairing radios. When he was in grade school, he was able to create a home burglar alarm system while his parents were out for the day running errands. [14]

In 1933, when he turned 15, he taught himself <u>trigonometry</u>, <u>advanced algebra</u>, <u>infinite series</u>, <u>analytic geometry</u>, and both <u>differential</u> and <u>integral calculus</u>. Before entering college, he was experimenting with and deriving mathematical topics such as the <u>half-derivative</u> using his own notation. In high school he was developing the mathematical intuition behind his <u>Taylor series</u> of <u>mathematical operators</u>.

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# Connecting the Dots: "Atlas Shrugged" Top Secret

Part I "Who was John Galt?"

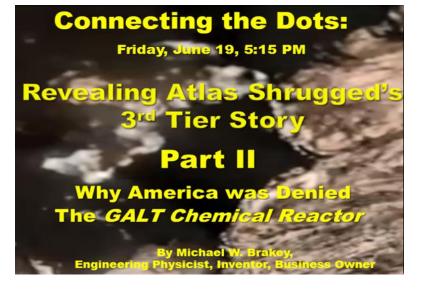
By Michael W. Brakey, Engineering Physicist, Inventor, Business Owner



Do you see the old Lise Meitner or the young Dagny Taggart?

## Part 7 of 8

## Coming in 2015, Part II





Eddie Willers is played by actor Dominic Daniel.
Born (+4) 1919

Edwin "Eddie" Willers is the Special Assistant to the Vice-President in Charge of Operations at Taggart Transcontinental. He grew up with Dagny Taggart. He is completely loyal to Dagny and to Taggart Transcontinental.

Willers is the first character introduced to the audience and is generally assumed to represent the common man: He is 32, on September 2, 1951. A flash back takes him back to 1926, when he was 7 and a mighty Oak tree up on a hill was struck down by lightening. He discovered the core of the tree had

rotted out over time.

Oak Tree located high up on a ridge.

In "Top Secret" Ayn Rand created a character she had not finalized a last name for prior to project cancellation. He was only 'John X'. Three weeks later, had this fictional character found a home as Eddie Willers with the identical birth date?

Born (+4) 1919.

John X was the only fictional character in Ayn Rand's literary work, "Top Secret", the telling of the Atomic Bomb. Ayn Rand shares with her boss, Hal Wallis, that John X, born in 1919, represents the common man and through his eyes (lenses), the audience with see subtle themes more clearly. All other participants are real life individuals either *associated* with the Manhattan Project, or were working with the Axis Powers in their attempts to beat up to the build of the bomb.

In an odd coincidence—with respect to play on symbolism, Alvin Weinberg, helped build and grow *Oak Ridge* National Laboratories, (ORNL) in *Oak* Ridge, Tennessee beginning in 1943. He served as its Director from 1948 to 1972. Chet Holifield attempted to corrupt ORNL's energy mission from within for decades. Failing to do so, he finally fired Alvin Weinberg in 1972 along with most of the scientists working on 'Thor's Hammer' (molten salt Thorium reactor).

	Years	Atlas Shrugged Chronology			Top Secret Chronology
		Event			Brief Bio, Birth and Death
1877	-38	Hugh Akston born approx. 65 years earlier Henry University (retires in 1942).	Coincidence - Philosophers	1899	Robert Maynard Hutchins (Started UC Classical Enrichment) (January 17, 1899 – May 17, 1977), was an educational philosopher
1896	-19	Midas Mulligan (No date given)	DIRECT HIT	1896	Lewis Lichtenstein Strauss (Jan 31, 1896-Jan 21, 1974), WallStreet Banker, Involed with Matthan Project, fought for Capitalism by breaking nuclear energy away from government monopoly in 1954
1898	-17	Paul Larkin is born. (Traitor to Hank)	Coincidence - Traitor	1921	Emil Julius Klaus Fuchs - Russian Spy (29 December 1911 – 28 January 1988)
1899	-16	Robert Stadler is born.	DIRECT HIT	1899	Nicolas Rashevsky (November 9, 1899 – January 16, 1972) was an American theoretical physicist who pioneered mathematical biology, and is also considered the father of mathematical biophysics and theoretical biology
1900	-15	Richard Halley is born.	Coincidence – Music Great	1925	Tom Dowd, physicist, Rockhall of Fame, music producer & engineer, Born Oct 20, 1925 Died Oct 27, 2002
1902	-13	Dan Conway is born.	HIT	1902	Carl Henry Eckart (May 4, 1902 in St. Louis, Missouri – October 23, 1973 in La Jolla, California) was an American physicist, physical oceanographer, geophysicist, and administrator
1902	-13	William Hastings (likely born)	DIRECT HIT	1902	Eugene Wigner, engineer, physicist, chemist, inventor, NoblePrize, Physics 1902 - 1996
1903		Mr. Thompson is the "Head of the State" for the United States	DIRECT HIT	1903	Chester Earl "Chet" Holifield California Legislator (December 3, 1903 – February 6, 1995)
1904	-11	Hank Rearden - Manufacuturer of Rearden Metal	DIRECT HIT	1904	Robert Oppenheimer (Physicist, April 22, 1904 - Feb 18, 1967) Manufacturer of Atomic bomb
1905	-10	Alissa Rosenbaum (AR) born	<b>Author of both Works</b>	1905	Ayn Rand (technological historian/writer) Born Feb 2, 1905 - died March 6, 1984
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1912	-3	James Taggart is born.	DIRECT HIT	1912	Glenn Seaborg (Born Apr 19, 1912 - died Feb 26, 1999)
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Actor Louis Herthum: plays Wesley Mouch Born (6?) 1921



Was *Milton Shaw*the likely inspiration
for Wesley Mooch?
Born (6) 1921



Wesley Mouch probably has the most appropriate name in the book, since he's basically a moocher. He rides other people's coattails into positions of power and influence, then proceeds to do a terrible job.

Mouch is sort of the captain of the looters. Which may be the point – the country is in upheaval and it makes sense that the corrupt regime of the looters would feature lots of backstabbing and power shifts. We need to get a sense of the huge number of people involved in the corrupt system and the speed with which they can fall out of favor.

But Mouch has staying power. He shows up at the very beginning and is here to stay. He's one of the three who tortures Galt at the end of the novel, along with fellow long-staying looters James and Ferris. He's also one of the only looters to get an actual backstory.

Was Milton Shaw the inspiration for Wesley Mouch? Beginning in the 1940s, Milton rode coattails of power as well as Tarzan handled jungle vines. When allowed, Milton did not hesitate to implement cruel and ruthless methods to get his tasks accomplished.

While in the Navy, he became a mindless Tasmanian Devil to get his assignments accomplished. Within the military that might get you praise and promotion—and fortunately there is oversight. For more than a decade Shaw was under the control of a strong Captain—later Admiral, Hyrum Rickover. It was another matter all together, when he joined corrupt politicians later in his career.

'Head of State" Congressman, Chester Holifield, admired Milton's methods for of getting tasks accomplished with no questions asked. Over the eleven years Ayn Rand worked on her book, she could easily follow this epic battle between Statism promoted by Holifield and Shaw verses Capitalism promoted by the director of Oak Ridge National Laboratories, Alvin Weinberg (John Galt?).

But Milton had staying power. He shows up soon after the Atomic bomb was dropped in 1945 and he is around with Chet Holifield and Glenn Seaborg after the assassination of a U.S. President with the goal of torturing Capitalism into submission. Only time will tell us if America will one day overcome insidious actions taken in behalf of Statism 40 years ago.

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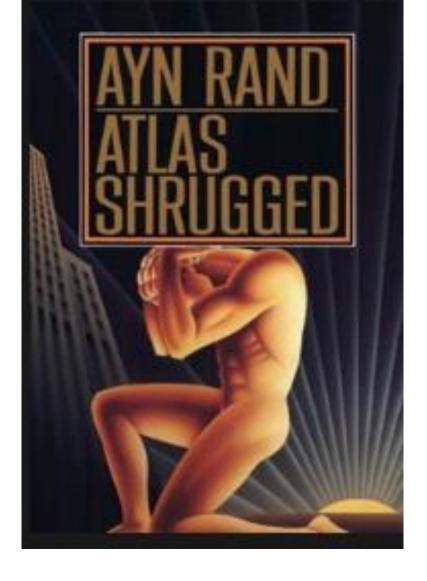
Ayn Rand typically based her novels on current events around her.

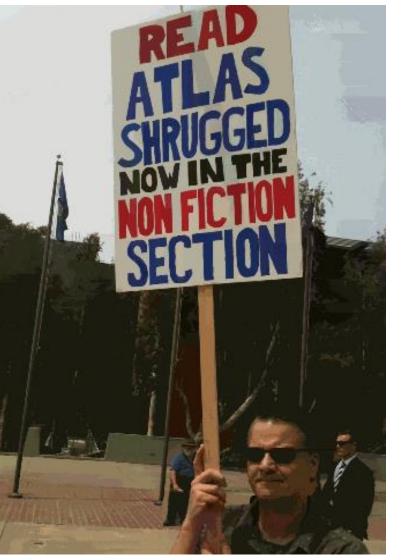
Due to her practice of not putting a Julian calendar date in the chapters, critics and readers alike typically didn't link to current events—they assume her stories take place in the future.

Ayn Rand began the actual writing of this book, '*The Mind on Strike*' in April of 1946. It would later be renamed, '*Atlas Shrugged*'.

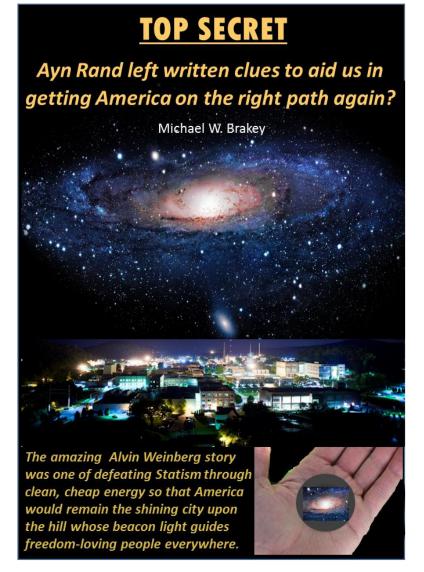
Ayn Rand was seeking a vehicle to strengthen her theme concerning individualism—and man as his own moral ideal. But before she could put pen to paper on this concept, her boss wanted her to write a screenplay about the building of the first Atomic bomb as you have learned today.

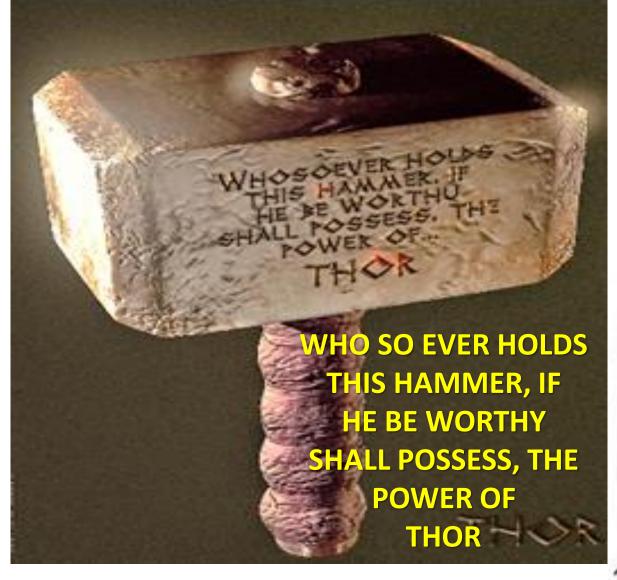




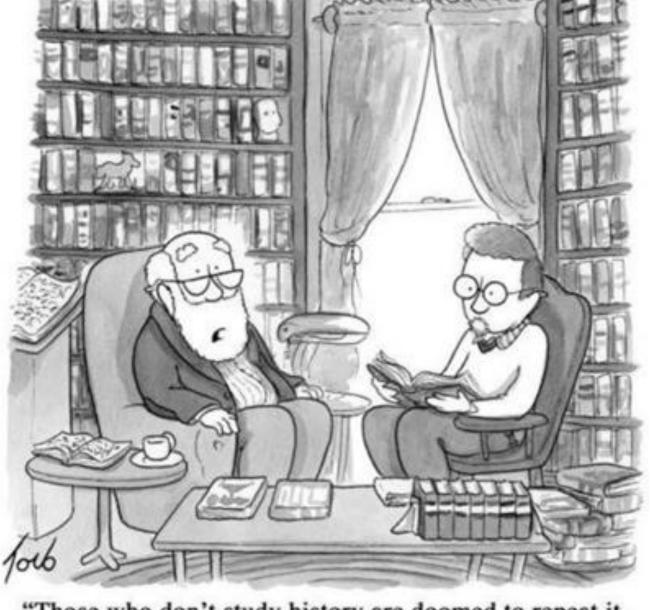


I continue to work on both a historical nonfiction book (span 1903-2015) and a novel that will attempt to tie all the lose ends together to finish this remarkable story!





We have now come to the crossroads of my 1<sup>st</sup> theory of 'Who was John Galt'. Theory 2, for another time, is "Why America was Denied the "Thorium Hammer" (Molten Salt Thorium Reactor)!"



"Those who don't study history are doomed to repeat it.

Yet those who do study history are doomed to stand by
helplessly while everyone else repeats it."

# Connecting the Dots: "Atlas Shrugged" Top Secret

Part I "Who was John Galt?"

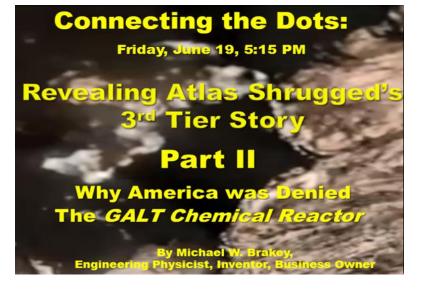
By Michael W. Brakey, Engineering Physicist, Inventor, Business Owner



Do you see the old Lise Meitner or the young Dagny Taggart?

Part 8 of 8

## Coming in 2015, Part II



# Questions and Answers



## Manchester Country Club, Bedford, NH Sessions: June 19 – June 22, 2014

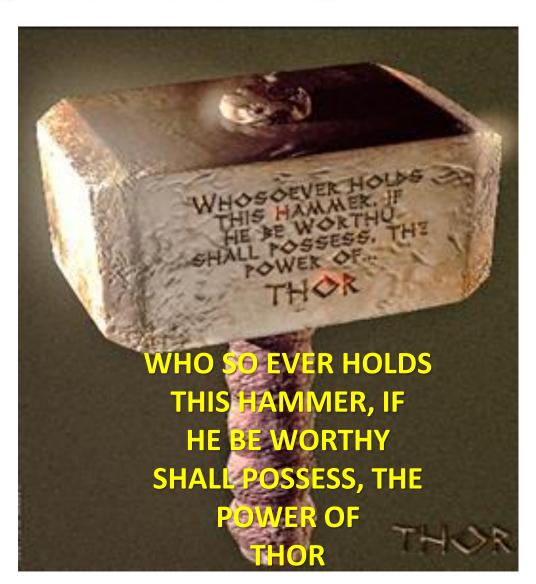
## The Atlas Society

Objectivism in life and thought

## Connecting the Dots: "Atlas Shrugged" **Top Secret** Part II Why America was denied "Thor's Hammer".

(Molten Salt Thorium Reactor)

By Michael W. Brakey, Engineering Physicist, Inventor, Business Owner





### Manchester Country Club, Bedford, NH Sessions: June 19 – June 22, 2014

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## Objectivism in life and thought

## Connecting the Dots:

## "Atlas Shrugged"

## **Top Secret**

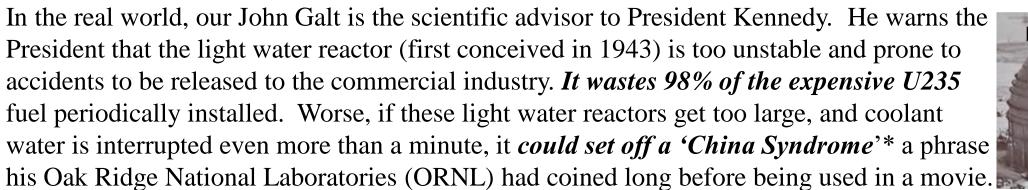


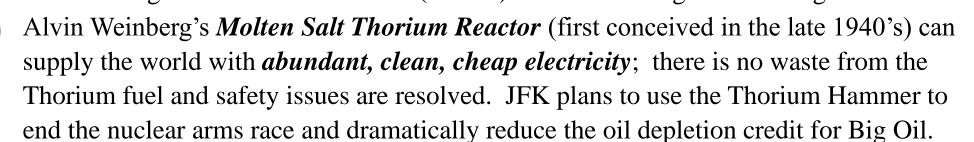
- II. A Lifetime of 'Connecting Energy Dots'
- III. Who would benefit most if John Galt's fictional '*Electrostatic Air Motor*' or Alvin Weinberg's *Molten Salt Thorium Reactor* were kept from the Public? How far might stakeholders go to achieve this end?

IV. Q & A









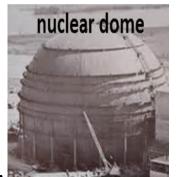


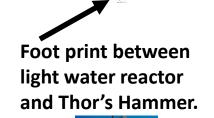
- successful construction and operation of a 10 megawatt (10,000 kWh) Molten Salt Thorium Reactor at Oak Ridge National Laboratories while Dr. Alvin Weinberg served as Director, by the late 1960s;
- commercial installation of a *Thorium Breeder reactor at Shippingport*, *Pennsylvania* in the late 1970s. b)

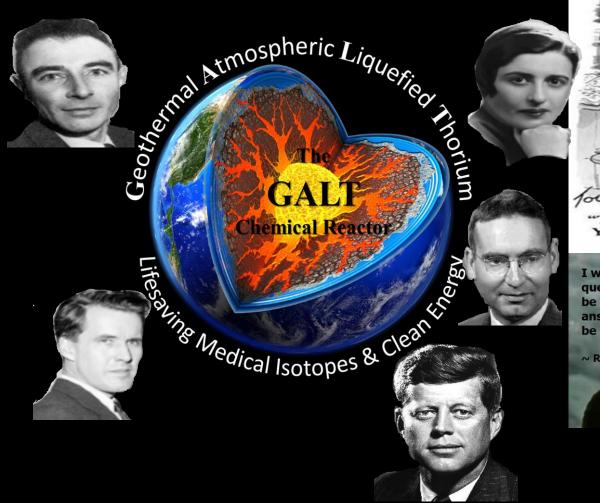
Both Thorium projects proved highly successful and yet the world was given the Light Water Nuclear Reactor that led to Three Mile Island (1979) and Fukushima (2011), confirming Weinberg's worst fears.

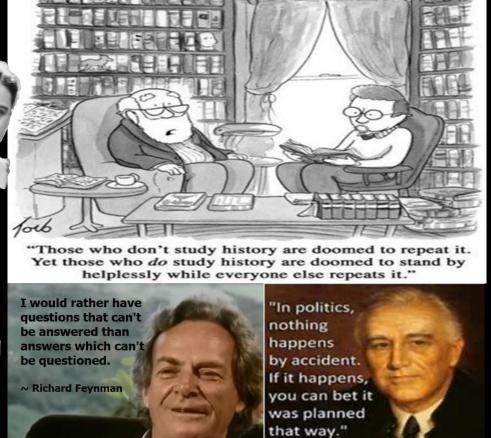
Why was the Thorium Hammer shutdown, padlocked and hidden from the public for 40 years?

\* From the book, "Cult of the Atom", Daniel Ford, 1982, pp. 67, 81-82, 87, 109, 125









Roosevelt