

★ Packing to Leave ★

What you need

paper and pencil
a small box or suitcase

What you do

1. Imagine that you are leaving home to go to a new country. You are allowed to take only one small box or suitcase.
2. With paper and pencil, make a list of what you want to take with you.
3. Gather the items on your list.
4. Try to arrange everything so it all fits in your box or suitcase.
5. If everything does not fit, decide what you will leave behind.
6. Ask your friends and family what they would take, and compare their lists with yours. Talk about why you decided to bring the items on your lists.



Passengers had to transport their luggage from their homes to the port cities where they boarded ships to go to America. Haywagons piled with suitcases, boxes, and baskets were a common sight in many German cities during the late 1800s. Children were able to bring only as much as they could carry by themselves.



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Suitcases full of Socialism

Immigrants and the Socialist Vision for America



Course Description

- Ignited by Karl Marx, German, Jewish, and Finnish immigrants brought their best books with their best clothes to America and set about to make their new home a more equitable place to live.
- Joseph Weydemeyer, Abraham Cahan, and Antero Tanner, organized industrial, garment, and mine workers for fair wages and workplaces. They were ideologically similar but ethnically distinct in their missions to evangelize Marxism in their communities.
- In this three-session course, we'll see how the groups of socialist immigrants catalyzed the American labor movement, only to fracture under the pressure of political and ideological forces at home and abroad.



Class schedule

Date	Theme	Topic
1-Jun	How it began	Introduction About socialism Newspapers in their own languages
8-Jun	What happened	Joseph Weydemeyer and the German immigrants Abraham Cahan and the Jewish immigrants Antero Tanner and the Finnish immigrants
15-June	How it ended	Closing the gates Conclusions





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Course materials:

<https://queenlake.com/wise/wise-summer-2026/suitcases/>

About yours truly



Suitcases-1

Socialism is a scare word they have hurled at every advance the people have made in the last 20 years.

Socialism is what they called public power. Socialism is what they called social security.

Socialism is what they called farm price supports.

Socialism is what they called bank deposit insurance.

Socialism is what they called the growth of free and independent labor organizations.

Socialism is their name for almost anything that helps all the people.

– President Harry S Truman, Syracuse, New York, 10-Oct-1952

What bring you to this class?



Disclaimer

- This is a course about immigration history. I will do my best not to express any ideological views that could get in the way of our studies.





About AI



Suitcases-1

COMMUNISM, n. [Fr. *commune*.] Community of property among all the citizens of a state; a new French word, nearly synonymous with *agrarianism* or *socialism*.

convivial; festive.
SŐCIAL-ISM (sō'shal-izm), n. A social state in which there is a community of property among all the citizens; a new term for agrarianism. See COMMUNISM.
SŐCIAL-IST (sō'shal-ist), n. One who advocates socialism among all the citizens of a state.
SO-CIAL-I-TY, n. Socialness; the quality of being social.

Webster's International dictionary of the English language (1848)

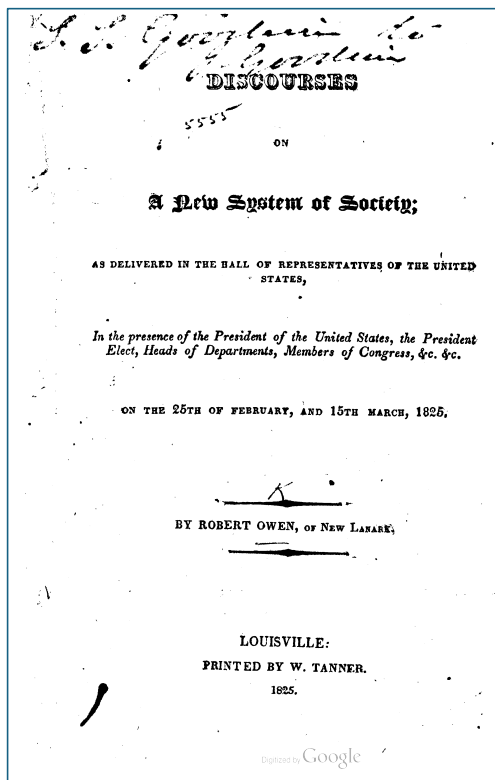




PBS: History of Socialism in America



Suitcases-1



Types of socialism



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And there was temperance



Suitcases

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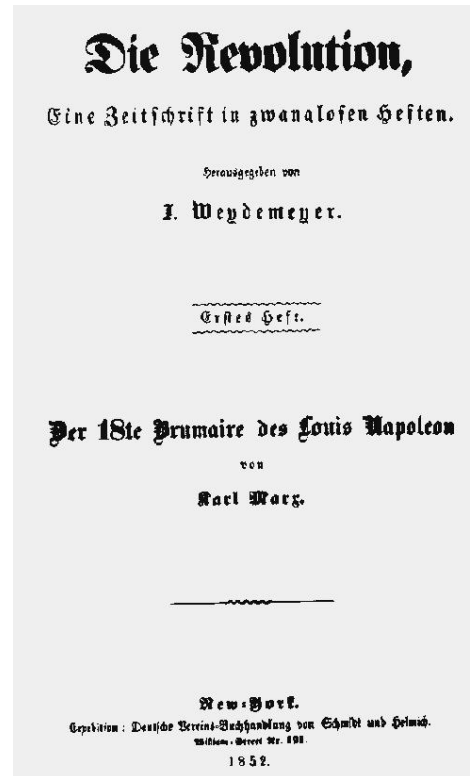
Karl Marx, born in Trier in 1918

The oldest city in Germany

Karl Marx House



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Marx and Weydemeyer



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About *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*



Suitcases

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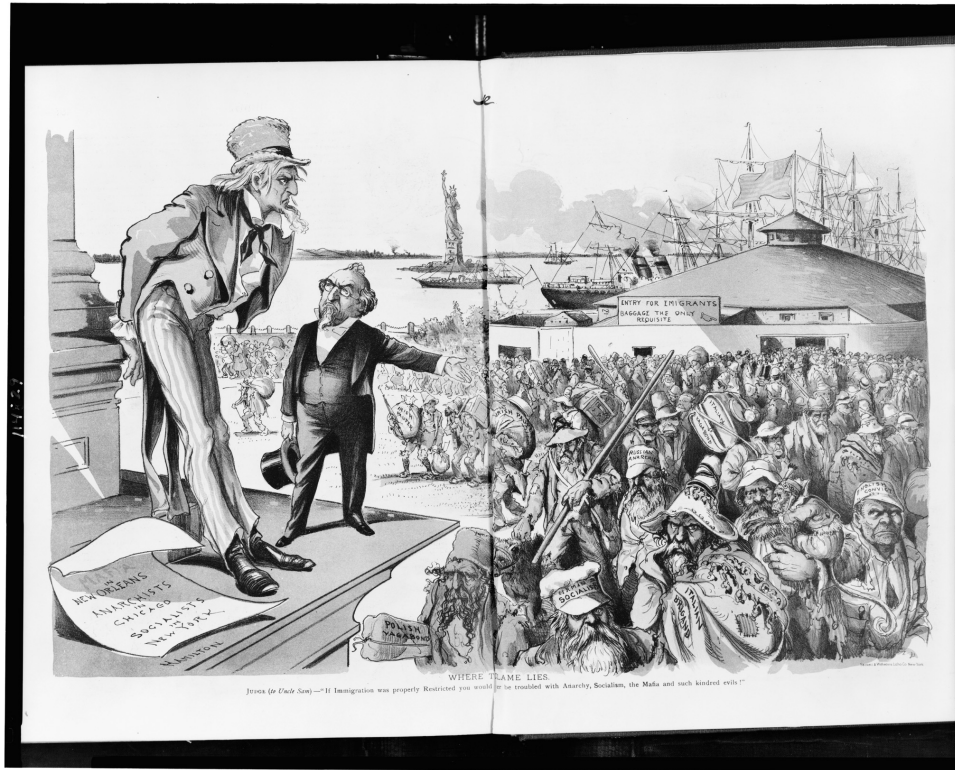
“On the 14th of March, at a quarter to three in the afternoon, the greatest living thinker ceased to think.”

Frederick Engels at the Grave of Karl Marx, Highgate Cemetery, London.
March 17, 1883



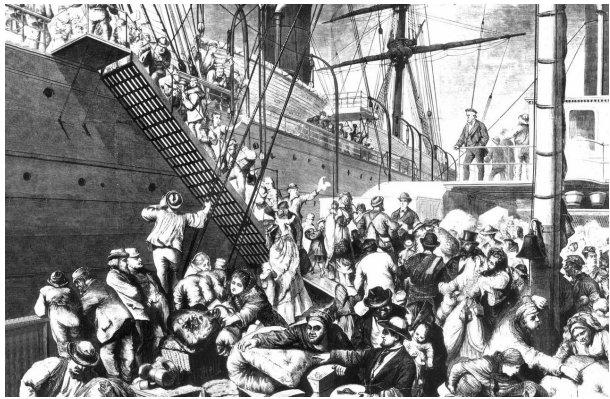
Immigration in the 19th century





"If Immigration was properly Restricted you would no longer be troubled with Anarchy, Socialism, the Mafia and such kindred evils!" (1891)





Why did they come here?



Suitcases

About U. S. Census records prior to 1920

- Finland was typically counted as Russia, but specific instructions to record “Finland” began in 1900.
- Poland was usually recorded as Poland, even though it wasn't an independent country. 1910 instructions often pushed for “Russia,” “Germany,” or “Austria”
- Lithuania was generally counted as Russia, but enumerators began noting "Lithuania" as a region.
- See [1910 Census Instructions to Enumerators](#)



socialism, anarchism, Zionism, and other radical secular political movements flourished among the East European Jews, particularly among those who moved to the cities from the small towns. There were Zionist socialists who wanted to set up a socialist state in Palestine; national socialists who wanted socialism with minority rights for the Jews in eastern Europe; and antinational socialists who simply wanted socialism and assumed, following Marx, that the Jews, as a decadent caste of merchants tied to capitalism, would disappear once socialism was established. Then there were Zionists of various persuasions: those who were socialists, those who were religious, those who wanted a Jewish state because it would revive Jewish culture, and those who simply wanted a Jewish state in Israel and did not care about religion one way or another. Then there were the Diaspora nationalists, those who wanted to see the Jews legally established as a separate nation with rights as a minority in Europe.

Glazer, Nathan. *American Judaism*. University of Chicago Press, 2019.



TABLE A.1 (Continued)

Country	1881-1890	1891-1900	1901-1910	1911-1920	1921-1930	1931-1940	1941-1950
All countries	5,246,613	3,687,564	8,795,386	5,735,811	4,107,209	528,431	1,035,039
Europe	4,735,484	3,555,352	8,056,040	4,321,887	2,463,194	347,552	621,124
Albania ^j	—	—	—	—	—	2,040	85
Austria-Hungary ^{a b}	353,719	592,707	2,145,266	896,342	63,548	11,424	28,329
Austria ^{a b}	NA	NA	NA	453,649	32,868	3,563	24,860
Hungary ^{a b}	NA	NA	NA	442,693	30,680	7,861	3,469
Belgium	20,177	18,167	41,635	33,746	15,846	4,817	12,189
Bulgaria ^k	—	160	39,280	22,533	2,945	938	375
Czechoslovakia ^l	—	—	—	3,426	102,194	14,393	8,347
Denmark	88,132	50,231	65,285	41,983	32,430	2,559	5,393
Estonia ^l	—	—	—	—	—	506	212
Finland ^l	—	—	—	756	16,691	2,146	2,503
France	50,464	30,770	73,379	61,897	49,610	12,623	38,809
Germany ^{a b}	1,452,970	505,152	341,498	143,945	412,202	114,058	226,578
Greece	2,308	15,979	167,519	184,201	51,084	9,119	8,973
Ireland ^c	655,482	388,416	339,065	146,181	210,024	10,973	19,789
Italy	307,309	651,893	2,045,877	1,109,524	455,315	68,028	57,661
Latvia ^l	—	—	—	—	—	1,192	361
Lithuania ^l	—	—	—	—	—	2,201	683
Luxembourg ^l	—	—	—	—	—	565	820
Netherlands	53,701	26,758	48,262	43,718	26,948	7,150	14,860
Norway-Sweden ^d	568,362	321,281	440,039	161,469	165,780	8,700	20,765
Norway ^d	391,776	226,266	249,534	95,074	97,249	3,960	10,665
Sweden ^d	176,586	95,015	190,505	66,395	68,531	4,740	10,100
Poland ^b	51,806	96,720	—	4,813	227,734	17,026	7,571
Portugal	16,978	27,508	69,149	89,732	29,994	3,329	7,423
Rumania ^e	6,348	12,750	53,008	13,311	67,646	3,871	1,076
Spain	4,419	8,731	27,935	68,611	28,958	3,258	2,898
Switzerland	81,988	31,179	34,922	23,091	29,676	5,512	10,547
U.S.S.R. ^{b f}	213,282	505,290	1,597,306	921,201	61,742	1,356	548
United Kingdom ^c	807,357	271,538	525,950	341,408	340,780	31,572	139,306
England	644,680	216,726	388,017	249,944	157,420	21,756	112,252

Immigration Trends (*Ethnic Americans : a history of immigration*)



Yiddish newspapers were material documents of life on the Lower East Side. They were guidebooks to old-world communities and to new-world assimilation. They taught immigrants how to be American, but they did so in foreign languages. They tied people together, tied people who didn't know one another together in the common experience of reading about the day's affairs. You didn't have to be face-to-face with your neighbors to feel connected to them. But as much as they were read, these newspapers were also spoken compositions. They were public events where Jews would gather together and collectively receive words they weren't literate enough to read.

“Listening to the Lower East Side: The History of Yiddish Spoken Newspapers in NYC,” Mabel Rosenheck





Why aren't talking about the Irish?



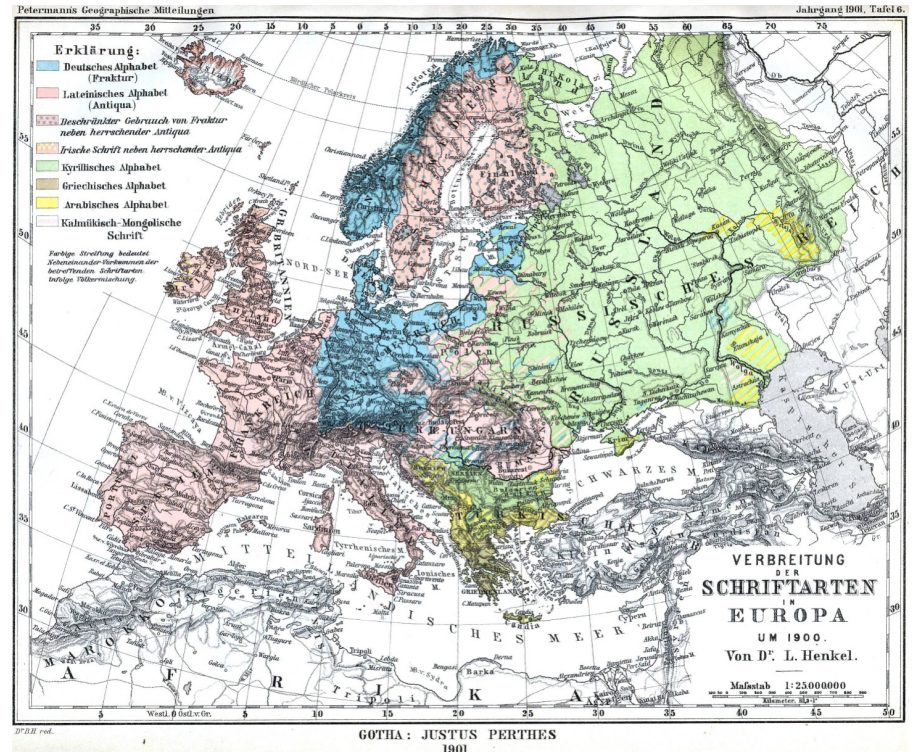
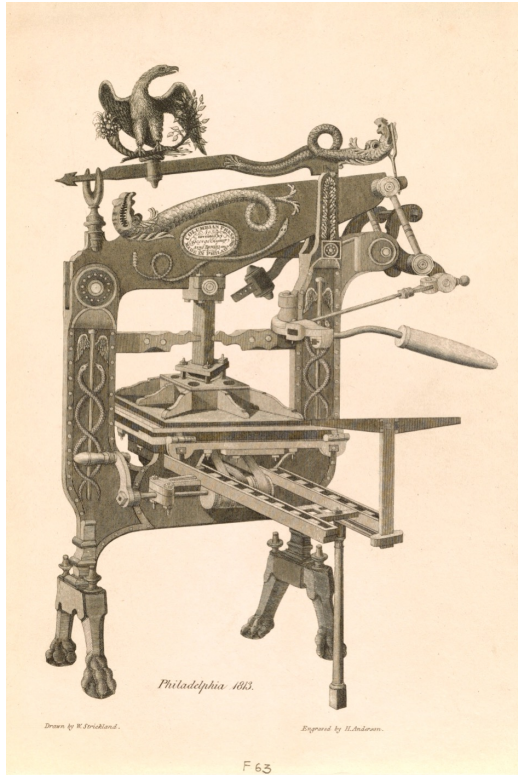
Suitcases



Literacy

Varied widely, depending on nationality, political stability in home country, urban vs. rural, early vs. later immigration.





About printing presses and typefaces





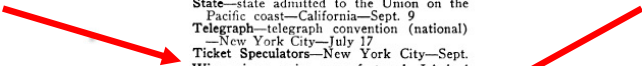
Richard Hoe's Rotary Printing Press (1851)



Suitcases

1850

Adding Machine—adding machine to employ depressible keys—patented—Du Bois D. Parmelee—New Paltz, N.Y.—Feb. 5
Birds—sparrows—imported—Brooklyn, N.Y.
Car—private railroad car—used—Jenny Lind
Catholic Bishop—native bishops of the south—ordained—Mobile, Ala.—Aug. 15
Clock—watch (eight day)—manufactured—A. L. Dennison—Roxbury, Mass.
Cork Manufacturer—William King—Brooklyn, N.Y.
Desk—with roll top—invented—Abner Cutler—Buffalo, N.Y.
Elevator—platform elevator—installed—Henry Waternman—New York City
Gas Mask—gas mask with a self-contained breathing apparatus—patented—Benj. J. Lane—Cambridge, Mass.—July 2
Hat—jerby hat—manufactured—South Norwalk, Conn.
History Instruction—American history chair established—University of Pennsylvania—Philadelphia, Pa.
Hospital—homeopathic hospital—Homeopathic Hospital of Pennsylvania—Philadelphia, Pa.—incorporated—Sept. 20
Lighthouse—iron pile lighthouse—operated—Minot's Ledge, Mass.—Jan. 1
Magic Lantern Slides (glass plate)—patented—F. Langenheim—Philadelphia, Pa.—Nov. 19
Mint (U.S.)—private mint authorized by the United States Government—Moffat Assay Office—Mt. Ophir, Calif.
Money—double eagle coinage—double eagles coined
Museum—college museum—Charleston Museum—Charleston, S.C.—F. H. Holmes—elected curator—Dec. 28
Newspaper—German daily newspaper—*New Yorker Staats-Zeitung*—published—New York City—Jan. 26
Photograph—photograph of a star—excluding the sun—*Voigt*—Cambridge, Mass.—July 17
State—state admitted to the Union on the Pacific coast—California—Sept. 9
Telegraph—telegraph convention (national)—New York City—July 17
Ticket Speculators—New York City—Sept.
Wire—piano wire—manufactured—Ichabod Washburn—Worcester, Mass.
Woman Suffrage—convention (national) of women advocating woman suffrage—National Woman's Rights Convention—Worcester, Mass.—Oct. 23-24



Famous First Facts
A Record Of First Happenings, Discoveries And Inventions In The United States



Expansion of newspapers

Year	Total Publications (Approx.)	Key Milestone
1850	2,526	The "Penny Press" era expands readership.
1860	4,051	Civil War demand spikes news consumption.
1870	5,871	Post-war reconstruction and westward expansion.
1880	11,314	Boom in local weekly newspapers.
1890	17,616	Emergence of "Yellow Journalism."
1900	20,000	Peak saturation; nearly every small town has a paper.
1910	22,141	Highest number of individual titles in U.S. history.
1920	20,483	Consolidation begins; rise of radio and cinema.



118. Jahrgang, No. 106. DIEBUT
 New Yorker Staats-Zeitung und Herold
 An American Newspaper Printed in the German Language
 Mittwoch, den 2. Juli 1934
 Preis 4 Cents

Gegner der Nazis bilden hier einen Ausschuss für ein demokratisches Deutschland
 Von Zentrum bis die Richtlinien des Komitees für das Nachkriegsdeutschland darin vertreten

Angestelltenwahl bei Ward & Co. von greift Truk sowie NLRB angesetzt zwei Vorposten an

Alliierte Offensive gegen deutsche Bahnnotenpunkte unablässig weitergeführt

Alliierte einigen sich den Spanien; das Olenbargo fällt auch wieder gegen Pas-de-Calais vor

Liberaler gehen auch wieder gegen Pas-de-Calais vor

Johnston fordert Steuer-Reaktion
HLO-Programm für Sozial-Feldman

FBR's Vorgehen bei Japaner verächtlich
Kriegsschritte der Japaner verächtlich

Die Japaner greifen Die Nazis erwarten südlich Inghats an dreifache Invasion

Ernährungs-schwierigkeiten im Reich; 'Nährstand' gegen Bauern

Ergebnis Kongress der 'middle class' gegen

Wagner und Hill gehen in Paris und Albanien

Ein reich Reichsleiter, keine 'Hitler' Stadt

Forward. Vorwärts.
פארװערטס
 זאמטאג איינמאנץ
 Vol. I, No. 10. New York, Sunday, July 4, 1937. Price 2 Cents.

דאָ קיבאַט
 פון בעריכטונגן פארשידענע איינמאנצער
 אומקומענע פון אומקומענע
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1. נאציסטישע
 2. דאָ ווען שלאָסן און פאָרן
 3. דאָס פּאַר
 4. דאָס נאָע אומקומענע
 5. דאָס נאָע אומקומענע
 6. בעלזשעס נענד בוד
 7. מוכאלי אומקומענע פאר קינד
 8. פאָר אומקומענע
 9. פאָר אומקומענע
 10. פאָר אומקומענע

מאָס און בלאַסעו
 Moss & Blassow
 Solicitors & Adjusters
 277 B'way, Room 42.

Korttinnne evel maaltinnale. No vaatimattomasti valotavat Raekokkunik samalla ullailla. EIKÄ NIILÄ HYÖTYJÄN HAITTAA

RAIVAAJA
 Lauanlinna Helsingissä 21 pöytä - Sääntö, July 31. KOKKALISTON AANTORVI No. 81, 1937. - Hinta viikkokortti, Vol. 9

L. K. LITTON 17 VUOSIKOKOUS
KAPINALLISET ESPANASSA
TÖYKÄKI JA KAPITALISTI

RAIVAAJA
 Raivaaja on ainoa suomalainen lehti, joka on omistettu ja toimitettu kokkaloissa. Sen tarkoituksena on edistää kokkaloissa olevien miesten ja naisten yhteistä etua ja saada heidän mielipiteensä esille. Raivaaja on kokkaloissa olevien miesten ja naisten yhteinen lehti. Sen tarkoituksena on edistää kokkaloissa olevien miesten ja naisten yhteistä etua ja saada heidän mielipiteensä esille.

About the non-English newspapers



Suitcases

Historical trends

- In the 1880s, German papers accounted for nearly 80% of all foreign-language publications in the U.S.
- The Swedish-American press was the second-largest foreign-language press by circulation in 1910, reflecting strong settlement patterns in the “Swedish Triangle” of the Midwest.
- While fewer in number of titles compared to German, Yiddish papers like *The Forward* (*Vorwärts*) had massive daily circulations that rivaled major English dailies.
- Steady but localized, often serving Franco-American populations in the textile towns of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.
- The decline seen after 1910, particularly for the German press, was accelerated by the Trading with the Enemy Act of 1917, which imposed strict censorship and translation requirements on foreign-language publishers during the war





Next week



Suitcases

Questions?



Suitcases-1