



The Man in the High Castle
Worksheet 1
chapters 1 and 2
pages 9-34

You should soon begin reading the Introduction to the Penguin edition of *The Man in the High Castle*, pp.v-xii.

Dedication: “To my wife Anne, without whose silence this book would never have been written” (2 pages after p.xii). What does this tell you about Philip Dick’s marriage (his 2nd)?

Chapter 1: pp. 1-21

Characters: We meet some important characters in these two chapters. List the characters. Robert Childan, Mr Tagomi, the Kasouras (husband and wife Betty), Frank Frink, and we hear about Mr. Wyndham-Matson, Juliana (Frink), and Mr Baynes

Mr. R. Childan: what business is he in? Where is his shop (American Artistic Handcrafts)? Why is he anxious?

Mr. Tagomi: who is he? What kind of person is he? What’s his relationship to Childan? What do the comments about the War Cabinet, i.e. ‘War Cabinet days’ (p.11) tell you about him, and about the power structure in the occupied US (if it can be called that)? What makes Wyndham-Matson (p.14) ‘a power’ ?

Dialogue: what can you learn about characters’ relationships from the dialogue, especially between Childan and Tagomi?

Rules: are relationships allowed between Americans and ‘yanks’ (pp.11-13)? What is ‘the code’? And drugs (p.13) Is this realistic?

Frank Frink: p.14: What kind of person is Frank Frink and why has he been fired? ‘His original name was Frank Frink’ seems somehow an odd sentence... any thoughts? Frank is a Jew: how does this affect his attitude to the Nazis? How does Frank feel about the Japanese?

Situation: What are the Pacific States of America? What are the Rocky Mountain States? Why does Frank Frink hesitate to escape to the South (p.14). ‘Capitulation Day was in 1947’ – what happened?

Historical note: p.16 ‘the Co-prosperity Pacific Alliance’: this refers back to the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere [Daitoa kyoiken / 大東亜共栄圏] part of the Japan’s Nov. 1938 plan for a ‘New Order’ in Asia ~ [Toa shinchitsujo / 東亜新秩序]. The Co-prosperity sphere included China, Manchoukuo, Dutch, French and British colonies in Southeast Asia, the Philippines – and some Japanese spokesmen extended to Australia and New Zealand. If Japan had won the Pacific War, creating a ‘Co-prosperity Pacific Alliance’ would have been a logical step.

Herr Krupp: (p.17) German armaments manufacturer, employer of wartime slave labour.

Japanese and the Germans: (pp.17-18) How do the Japanese compare with the Germans?

The I-Ching: pp.18-21. What does Frank want to decide?

Juliana: Frank’s ex-wife. What sort of picture do you get from this: “Her rubbery, soundless walk’ and ‘ of no reason, Juliana greeted strangers with a portentous, nudnik, Mona Lisa smile that hung them up between responses, whether to say hello or not’ (20) [Nudnik? Yiddish = a boring pest, a clod.]

Summarise this chapter in less than 50 words.



Chapter 2: pp.21-34

Technique: there's a standard film technique here between the last paragraph of chapter 1 and the first of chapter 2. What is it?

Historical query: Tagomi's suite of offices is 'on the 20th floor of the Nippon Times Building on Taylor Street overlooking the Bay'. What was the name of the *Nippon Times* before 1943 and after 1953?

Problem: Why is Tagomi consulting the I-Ching? What does he need guidance on?

Characters: Mr Baynes, Swedish, 'neutral', 'not what he seemed' (p.26); Miss Ephreikan, secretary; Mr Ramsey in 'natty' Midwestern clothing, anxious to please, Caucasian.

The Pacific/Japan-German rivalry: Plastics (p.25). German technology is way in front in plastics, but Baynes may make some Swedish techniques available and allow the J'se to catch up. Hence the need to impress him. What sort of picture are we getting of Mr Baynes now?

The *chink*: Childan catches a pedecab and tells 'the *chink*' to take him to the Nippon Times Building (p.27). What might a '*chink*' be?

Rules and hierarchy: Childan's concerns about using the right modes of address at the NT building. His thoughts on 'the pinocs. A nebulous area'. Why? And 'blacks' and 'black slaves'? What is the hierarchy of the Pacific States? J'se at the top... Childan can't be seen carrying his own bags – why not?

Technique: Childan is thinking, and his thoughts become the narrative. This is an interior monologue, a PKD speciality. Does it work?

Germans since victory: what do we learn about the Germans? What have they been up to around the world – Eastern Europe, Africa - since their victory? (pp. 28-30).

Historical note: The kempei [憲兵] tai, like the tokko, [Tokubetsu koto keisatsu] – distinctive features of 1930s police state in Japan.

Major Humo: Childan recalls meeting the Major and learning about Japanese interest in collecting US pop culture and (p.31). How would you explain it? Does it connect to otaku? In Britain the expression ‘anorak’ is used for people who collect in a nerdy way.

Japanese ‘yipes’ Childan has difficulty ‘telling them apart’. He has categories. What does this tell us about him? And (p.33) he speaks to ‘the black’ porter ‘in his harshest voice’. Does Childan need to show him who is boss?

And then ~ “When the elevator let him off on the twentieth floor, Childan was already bowing mentally...” Why might this seem ironic in this context?

Summarise this chapter in less than 50 words.

Next week: Worksheet 2: chapters 3, pp.34-38, and 4: pp.48-63 – 29 pages.