

DOORS: wars not fought

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 04 Feb 2003

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Michael Andre-Driussi — 04 Feb 2003, 00:19

It is a given that the American Civil War did not happen in Otherworld, and as a result there is still slavery. (I think this also suggests that the O-USA is far more agrarian, less industrialized, than E-USA, but I'll be getting into that in a second.)

The strange flags in the hotel suggest, iirc, that the Austro-Hungarian Empire still exists (two headed eagle on flag); if true, then there was no General War in Europe (i.e., WWI), or if there was it was softer and shorter. If there was no WWI as we know it, then there was almost certainly no WWII; with no WWII, there would be no USA cranking up the factories to help win an industrial war; without a victorious post-war industry there would not be the creation of the booming consumer state, with color televisions, ice making refrigerators, and snazzy automobiles (just three of the items lacking in O-USA).

Aside from the technology side (i.e., how much of our everyday technology stuff is a result of leaps and bounds made during wartime R&D), there is also the issue of Germany: Germany, German people, and things German play a strange part in TAD. Our perceptions of the Germanophonic world are altered by and fixated upon the Nazi period . . . what impact, if any, does this have upon our reading of the text? That O-Germany perhaps had no Nazis, no Hitler, no need for any of that? The text uses standard Nazi imagery ("Hogan's Heroes" is one example), but how might this be a complete red herring (aside from showing a typical E-American mindset on E-Germany)?

I mention this in part because, having finished WILL, I can report that Liddy has had a deep interest in Germany and Hitler, beginning from his childhood days when he heard Hitler's speeches on the radio, up through his incarceration when he did little German/Nazi riffs in his own adventures.

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