Influences on William Golding

- World War I
- World War II
- World War III
- English society
  - Class structure
  - Military order
  - Gendering
  - Social beliefs
- William Golding
- Lord of the Flies
- English & world history
- Literary & historical works
Plotline of *Lord of the Flies*

1. World War III
2. Evacuation
3. Plane crash on uninhabited island
4. Boys spring from jungle "like mushrooms"
5. Boys attempt to create a new society but fail (or do they?)
Interpreting *Lord of the Flies*

- No rules—force dominates
  - No society—life is nasty, brutish & short
    - Ralph fails to monopolize violence
      - Jack takes power & destroys “others”
        - Death
    - Ralph creates monopoly of violence
      - Resistance & civil war
        - Annihilation
      - States make war
    - Order through social discipline
      - Destroy internal threats
        - Counter-terrorism
  - Boys remain subject to social rules
    - Boys choose democracy & Ralph as chief
      - Jack & choir secede
        - States make war
What maintains social order & discipline?

- **Class structure**
  - Hierarchy, family, status, property, wealth
  - Upper classes rule, lower classes work

- **Military order**
  - Public schools, respect, cold showers, stiff upper lip
  - Obey superiors, rule inferiors, destroy enemies

- **Gendering**
  - Women keep house, men make money
  - Keep public & private distinct

- **Social beliefs**
  - God, King, & country make Britain civilized & world ruler
  - War, trade & faith keep order in the world

Know your natural place in the social order, stay there, and ask no questions.