

Hey guys and welcome back to Back To the Past. The alternative podcast I'm Nick and my other co host is Ron. After two month long hiatus were finally practicing, the more what if of history. But before we get into our newest episode, I must first apologize on behalf of the Back to the Past crew for the untimely ending of season three. And this was due to our chaotic schedules at the time and we just couldn't get together to put out another episode. Nonetheless, today's episode is what if Russia never sold Alaska? So here's some background. Alright, so around the 1730s Russian Hunter started arriving in Alaska to Hunt for fur like for example, sea orders, because during the time they are plentiful through Alaska, no colony was necessarily established, but missionaries were sent. And overall at the end of the day around 700 Russians enforced sovereignty new territory that was twice the size of Texas. So after the Crimean War Rush starts realizing that Alaska is a heart defend place and their arch enemy, the British Empire was right there in Canada in case the British were able to take control of Alaska, Russia would have the arch enemy right on the board across the Bering Sea. And Russia wasn't very keen on this idea. So bizarre the time Alexander and decided to sell it in order to protect Russia from the British Empire. So after negotiating with the Secretary of State William severed after the end of the Civil War, they finally decided on treaty on March 30, 1867 to purchase Alaska for \$7.2 million. So some opponents as purchase label to purchase as useless land because in reality Alaska is very just plain and DeLand at the time they didn't really know that there was plenty full of resources under the ground. For example, in 1896 the Klondike gold rush happened and tons of people started moving to Alaska. And I've actually oil was also discovered too in Alaska. So at the end of the day Russia sold Alaska because they didn't want the British Empire on the board. But really it kind of ends up hurting Russia because of the plentiful of resources that were in

Alaska. So now the scenario is what if Russia never sold Alaska like stayed in the introduction before. So what if Zare Alexander a second didn't like the amount the Americans were willing to pay for? Maybe he wanted more money. But overall the Russia in the United States couldn't agree to a deal. And now Russia has Alaska. So how is it looking at with the aftermath aftermath of the Crimean War or really British like coalition? British led alliance consisting of France in the Ottoman Empire against Russia. How is Alaska now going to look because Alaska is right on the border with the British with British Canada? Well first it's important to recognize that the Crimean War happened around 15 years earlier, around 1851. It ended in 1853. Of them correct on the dot so it was about 15 years after in 1866 on Williams, we purchased it from Russia. And so I think in this scenario, for example, we're going to talk about immediate consequences for Russia, Britain and the United States. The United States would lose out in a pretty good amount of land. And there's also it was useless at the time. It was actually called Seward's ice box, as a matter of fact, because there's a waste of land, just ice. That's really it. But I think it's going to be more tensions against Canada and Russia, or really just the UK and Russia in general. And that's just immediately because at the time period, actually Russia and was pretty pro Union, actually, because this is right after the Civil War, as Russia surprising, is probably the one who did the most for the Union. As I know now, I could be wrong, but I'm pretty sure I'm correct. But overall, I think the immediate consequences are not going to be so much as so say, a little bit later, per se, especially once they find or black gold oil. And that's really all I have for just I think immediate tensions between Canada, the UK and Russia. What about you? Yeah. I feel like it's just going to cost tension. There might be a potential skirmish here and there, but at the same time, there's so little people in that area. I don't think anything's going to happen until migration

starts with the Quanta gold rush. Then as soon as that happens, I think the tensions are going to start flaring up. Yeah. I'm just saying with the tensions in general, I'm not talking about what the found like gold Russian general, because that's definitely tensions will definitely flare up as a result. But I'm saying more. So since Britain and Russia are not the greatest friends at the time period, that's what I mean. It's just more so tension on that border because at least with America. While there was definitely tensions between in the United States, there was a, though going on between the relationship which would culminate in World War One. Yeah. No, you're right. What I was essentially saying is that there's so little people in the area that there's going to be tension between Russia and the UK, but there won't be any actual skirmish unless one of them decides to take military action. But I think let's move on to the gold rush and what's going to happen there. So the gold Russia, I think, is still going to happen. So in case you don't know, it's in the Yukon region, which means Canada and Southern Alaska. So Tom and people are going to move up north. So Russia is going to be now face it, huge amount of Americans and British and essentially non Russians moving to Russian territory. And I don't think Alexander a second is going to really like that because one of these notes, actually of this purchase before was that if gold was discovered here like it was in San Francisco, the Russian population in Alaska, we overwhelmed, and he really wasn't particularly keen on that. Alexander a second, didn't really want foreigners in a Russian colony per se. He didn't want these different cultures and stuff met mixing with the Russian culture because he wanted the last going to be more of a Russian colony. So now when Gold has discovered here, you're going to have all these different forms rushing in. So I think personally that Alexander second might potentially block these foreigners from coming in. He might promote Russia to go to Alaskan set in order to populate it. What

do you think, Nick? I actually like that idea in a sense, because I do think that would probably make sense in terms of Alexander the second promoting Russians to go to Alaska, especially because Alaska and Russia has a lot more of a similar climate than, say, like a Midwestern state like Ohio, for example, in Alaska. And I think the Russians probably better adapt to Alaska quicker for but at the same time, we also have to take into effect that they're effectively banning immigrants not only to just Alaska. But I think it would honestly have to affect the entirety of Russia itself, per se, like banning immigrants from, like the UK or in the United States. And heck, I would assume, for example, China would probably be a big part of this as well, because it would be a big thing. But I don't think he'd really want especially Americans and British people to go to Alaska. Yeah. No, I definitely agree with that point. And then I just also want to add into Chinese, for example, because the Chinese are pretty important, especially within our gold rushes. For example, it was a huge Chinese community that moved in during the time period. Typically children actually as well who worked in the mine because they have small hands and whatever, and they could just pick up the gold or place an explosives. And they're really useful person, unfortunately. But getting back on topic here, there's also the case where it's going to cause just geopolitical issues in general, between the UK and the between UK and Russia and the US and Russia now, will this affect, say, World War One? No, I don't think it will because they're more United in a common threat, with Germany being a common threat to the entirety of to the stability of the world. But otherwise, let's actually move on towards after World War One, because after the gold rush, there's going to be from Russia after the gold rush, the next major event. I'd have to say that that would happen in Russian history Besides the Russian Revolution, the 19 five, which would not affect Alaska during the time for your own, which would not

affect Alaska would be the Russian Revolution. So how do you think the Russian revolution would play out? I think it still succeeds in. I'm just going to give my opinion first quickly, but I think it still succeeds the Russian revolution. But I don't know what would happen with Alaska per se. Maybe Britain occupies it. I don't think America would occupy it personally, but what do you say? So what I think is going to happen is the Russian promotion. Obviously the communists are still going to win. I think the white army might try to hide out in Alaska, but, uh, I think the Soviet unit is going to exert its sovereignty over Alaska and try to maintain it, but it probably could have a big insurgency problem, but I think it'll be swept up over time. But I think now this is going to cause issues with the British Empire in America. Now, this Communist state is literally right on their own continent. I mean, for the British, just right in their borders, if the Soviets wanted, they consist March into Canada. I mean, who's going to stop them in Northern Canada? They wouldn't even know until it's too late to stop the momentum. You know, I think that's just going to cause a lot of tension in military buildup in Northern Canada because the British and the Americans are both not keen on having a Soviet state nearby. The a Communist state. No, I don't think there will be like, I don't think the USSR would be able to reach Alaska per se. So I'm going to go with because I know what you were pulling there. You're talking about like an alternate history type of scenario there because he's done this type of video before. But my take on it, I think, is a bit more interesting person, because I think it's a more interesting take to it. And I'd say that I think Britain probably would occupy Alaska. Number one is right next to it is right next to Canada. And so basically it'll be easily incorporated into Canada, in a sense. And then it's also easy to provide refuge in Alaska per se, as Alaska would probably be Russian man would be a Russian majority region, almost like how Arizona, New Mexico are predominated

by his Mic, dominated by Hispanic culture somewhat. And there is also Oklahoma that was majority, and I believe it still is majority Native American and the only state in the Union that actually is majority Native American. I believe that Alaska and this scenario because I believe the the British annexing is probably the more realistic scenario to me, at least if the British were to annex it. I don't think the Russians would be happy per se, but I think it would be the more realistic take here. I think Russia would almost be like a special injury scoop similar to how the the Epica are in Canada as well. So it would be funny, too, because I don't know if you know this, but in Canada, for example, they have to actually learn French and English in order to become an important politician per se, just in Tudents, both English and French, but including Russia, it'd be hilarious to see them speaking three languages all at once because I think maybe a similar situation, maybe not as rebellious to say, Kabaka, who wants to leave. But I think Alaska would be more like a chemical, like a special interest group. What do you say? That's definitely an interesting scenario. I mean, it's funny having the kids and all the foreign and the politicians have to learn Russian, but I don't think that'd be a really big thing because not not many people live in Alaska, converted Quebec, but moving on, I think that's definitely an interesting take, but my issues with it, despite the minimum defenses that are in Russia and minimum Soviet troops that are I don't know if the British public would be seeming keen with invasion or an incursion to foreign territory, especially after the Great War, especially because Europe got hit really badly with a great war over the United States, even though it's going to be minimumly defended. Just more of walking in. The fact that it's an incursion or an invasion of foreign soil isn't going to look good in the British media, and the public aren't going to be happy. So it's definitely a viable scenario, and I definitely could see it happening. I don't know if

the public would be contempt with it. I think in the case where if there was a red threat per se because there was a red scare during the 1920s, and I think if they were to post propaganda and say, yeah, if we don't take it, the red Russians are going to take it. If they push that, I believe that the public would probably be more favorable to that in that case. Yeah, definitely. I think it'd be more favorable. This will be a thing. It's still going to be very like, contested and very a lot of opposition to it, but it's definitely a viable scenario. I feel like a very plausible one. Yeah, that's my take on it, really, because I think that would probably be the best case scenario. I think that is most favorable to it because I think Britain most likely, but I move on. But I think Britain would be most likely to take on Canada to take on Alaska instead of like the white Russians taking it for themselves. Now let's move on to how that affects relations between, say, the United States, Britain and Soviet Union, especially because they become allies in a sense of World War Two or just a friend of the enemy of your enemy. In that case, how do you think that would affect British a Russian relationship specifically during this time period?

Because, as we know in actual history, for example, let's look at World War Two, for example, Churchill and Stale were not the best of friends here overtaking the entirety of Europe, and Stalin was always paranoid about everything and thought, actually, that Churchill work for Hitler. And this is true, actually, because Stalin was so paranoid about Churchill saying that, oh, yeah. Hitler's going to invade you. He was so paranoid about that. He thought that Churchill was just working for Hitler, and he was actually more furtherly convinced about when Rudolf has actually flew over to England. So how do you think this would affect USSR and UK relations? I think it's only gonna get worse because as you mentioned, Stalin had this mistrust of the west to begin with. Then there's actually. So I've been reading a book on the KGB recently, actually. And then it's been saying about how during the

1920s and thirties, the Soviet Union started doing a lot of essentially what our illegals or sleeper agents and a lot of agents in foreign soil because they did not trust the west. Stalin did not trust the west one bit, and he wanted to know everything what they were doing. Soviet Union invested a lot of resources into his spine, particularly in Britain, France. So now having Britain owned essentially what is Russian claimed territory isn't gonna look good. And I don't think Stalin and Russia in Britain, and I can be friends at all in the world. And even though they're gonna be finding the same ally, think they're going to consider each other in the same side, if you get. I mean, I think the United States will have to be like this mediocre. I think the United States all to be the middle man between the two of them. But I don't think, like, let's just say, like, for example, I don't think they're going to look each other in the face to give, like, a way to describe it per se. It's not going to look good. It's not going to be pretty. And although it's not going to change the course of the war a field, it's not going to be great for either side now, because with this mistrust, the Soviet Union, for example, although they didn't get much British supplies, they did lack it. And the British and Soviet proposed invasion of Iran that's not going to happen either. So the burden is not going to try to find a way to get supplies to the Soviet Union as well. So, like you were saying, though, one thing you said, of course, was that the United States have to mediate the Soviet Union and the UK and an actual history. They were really the mediator and actually a criticism that some people have for FDR during his presidency that he was a bit too sympathetic to the Soviet Union. And this was seen, for example, or this is believed really during the Yalta conference, for example, where Franklin Delano Roosevelt basically gave them half of Europe. And I think, for example, Dr, I think, will still be present in the scenario. I don't think anything is really going to change as a result of that overall, I think that I

think we'd have to have, I think Harry S. Truman, for example, when he comes in around, I believe July April 1945. I think he honestly would definitely be a lot more favorable to the United States in terms of how he treats the Soviet Union. And he also treats Britain. He treats them almost more fairly than FDR, being a bit sympathetic in a sense. But overall, that's really my take on it. And I really agree with what you say. Basically, like there's no criticism. Yeah. As I mentioned, I think the war would really change, but just those relationships, I think overall, really the big takeaway we can get from it. Besides, for example, the UK eventually would hit oil, and that would be pretty interesting as well, because, for example, let's move on to oil real quick before we end this episode off. We also mention oil because Alaska is pretty prevalent in oil nowadays. And I would actually like to see how oil would turn out in this scenario because the UK was actually privatized oil beginning in the 1980s as a result and committing tax cuts, for example. So I don't think that even with the extra reserves outside of the North Sea in Alaska, I think still, we would see the UK nowadays instead of pulling a Norway, for example, in investing in their citizens and social programs, et cetera, et cetera. And what I mean specifically is, for example, if you look at Norway, for example, they're pretty regulatory towards a lot of the foreign companies, and they actually have a pretty good amount of stake in their own state owned company. The state you company has a pretty good stake in the oil market in the North Sea, at least in Norwegian territory. While Britain, for example, they actually privatized some of the industries, some of their oil companies that were actually part of the North Sea, for example, the BP British Petroleum was privatized, and I believe, 1986. So how do you think how do you think would work? I think there would really be no change per se, especially compared to the modern day bride. And I don't think that especially with Margaret facturing charge and providing tax cuts. I don't think

that it really would change. What about you? I mean, first of all, now Britain has what is essentially a much more domestic source of oil compared to having to import it from the Middle East. I think that's only going to help British. I think that's only going to help to British Empire, because now they don't have to rely on the Middle East, their price guzzling and stuff like that. But now moving on to our point, I think it's still going to be privatized it in day, and if anything, it might be privatized earlier. Now, with essentially oil on bridge soil, the British government might end up privatizing it earlier because now they've got plenty of oil and stuff in Alaska. I mean, if you look at the Alaska oil industry in Alaska right now, the American oil industry is pretty huge. It's not as big as Texas, for example, the Gulf, but it's still pretty huge because there's a good amount of oil up there. So I think if anything, you might get private test earlier. Yeah, like I said, I don't think I would be privatized earlier, but overall, we still would agree to be privatized, but otherwise, that's going to be it for this episode of Back To the Past. The Alternate Podcast thank you very much for watching this first episode, and we're very glad to be back. And please go follow our Instagram back to the Past P One along with our Twitter, which is the same at Back To the Past P One and also check out cloud. Org the watch episodes of Back to the Past, along with learning about more about the creators of it, me and Rohan otherwise have a great day.