

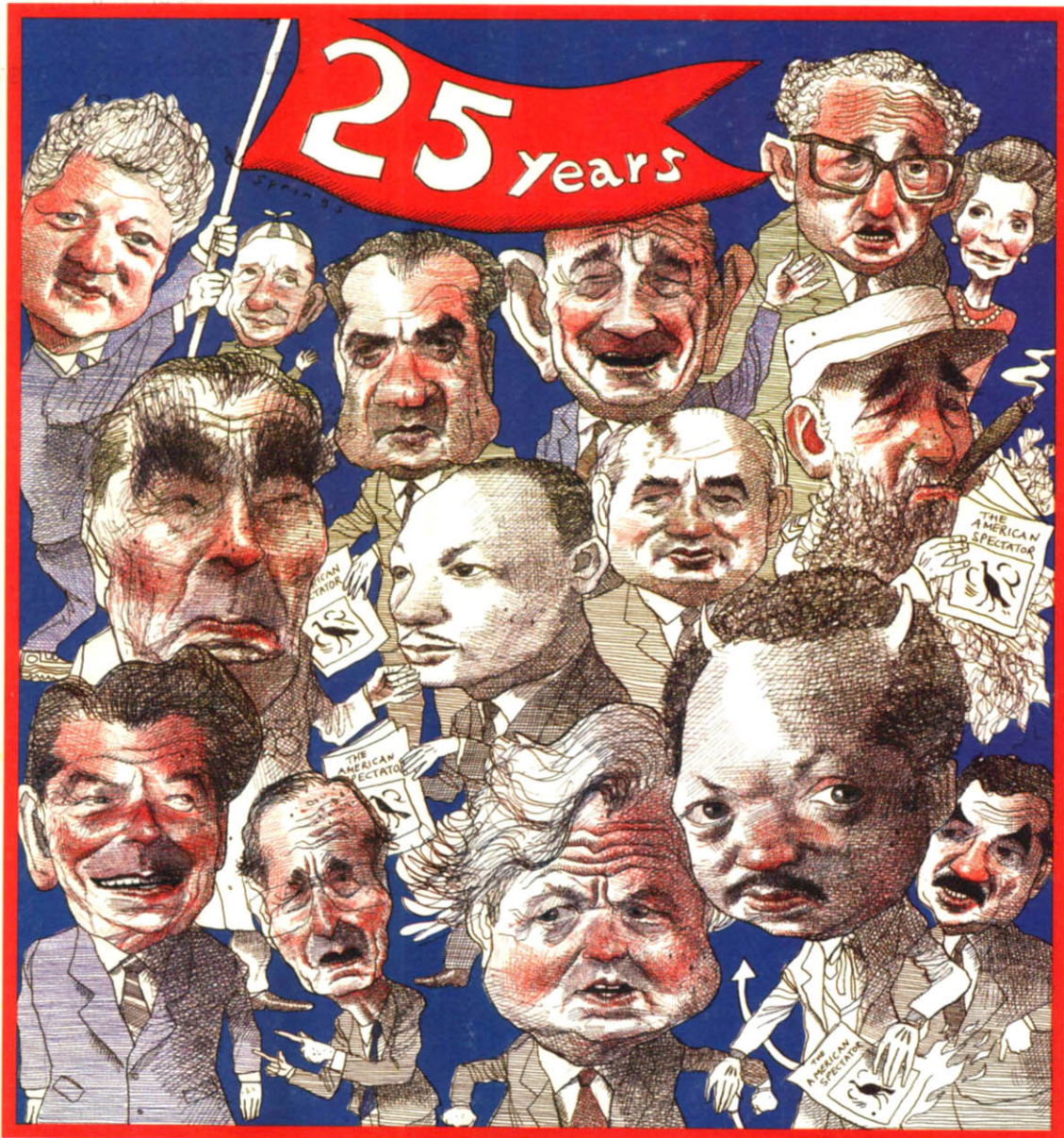
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... And Life After Bush



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# HENRY V AND AIR SUPERIORITY

In 1415, Henry V, while defending his claim to hereditary English lands, was blocked by a mighty French host near the small chateau of Agincourt.

The English "band of brothers," outnumbered over four to one, made a defensive position by anchoring each flank on dense woods and preparing the ground to their front with sharpened stakes.

Expecting an easy victory, 25,000 French knights thundered down upon the English, intending to sweep aside what they considered a mere rabble of some 5,000 archers and then dispatch the 900 English knights. The "rabble," however, loosed a storm of armor-piercing arrows on the attackers; stopping the attack

cold. The English, virtually untouched, were able to move out and apply the *coup de grace*.

Those English bowmen kept themselves and their knights safe; exactly as today's modern air superiority fighter controls the skies so the battle can be won on the ground and at sea.

Their ability to destroy an aggressor's military power long before our ground troops must engage is so great that in the mind of an adversary, the battle would be lost before it is ever fought.

Thus, the ultimate value of air superiority is not just in winning a war, but in preventing one from breaking out at all. A permanent peace, guaranteed by the shield of modern air power, is, after all, the perfect victory.

15th century battle scene, Froissart Chronicles, Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris

 **Lockheed**



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