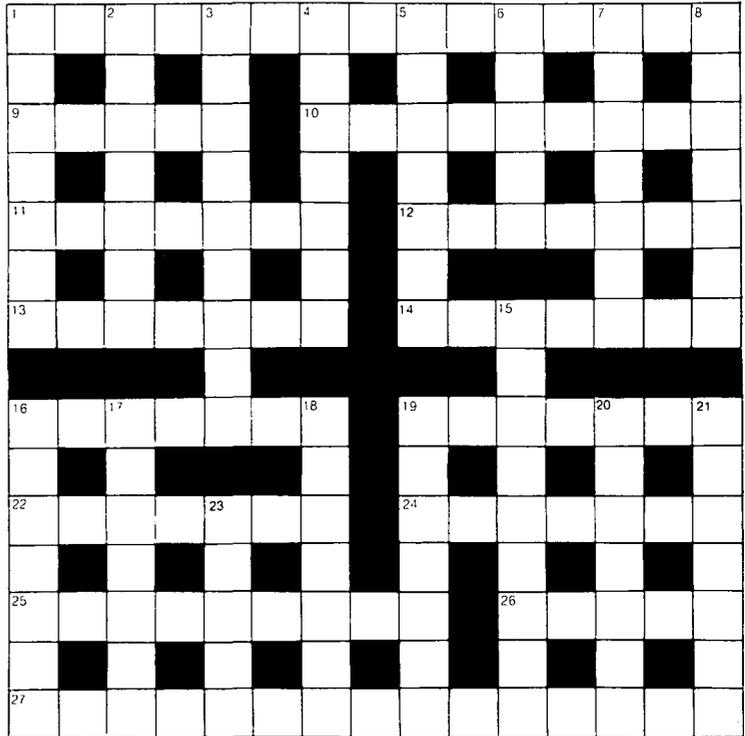


the political puzzle

by John Barclay

The numbers indicate the number of letters and words, e.g., (2,3) means a two-letter word followed by a three-letter word. Groups of letters, e.g., USA, are treated as one word.



ACROSS

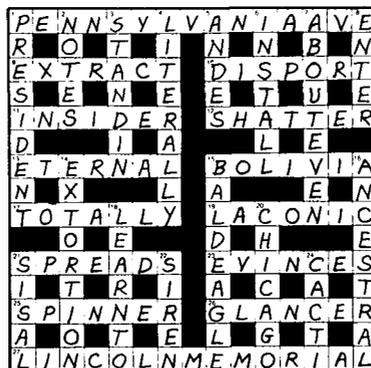
1. Crazy Aleut aired igloo and caused price increase. (3,12)
9. Blackball the G.I. in back. (5)
10. Wore a true wrinkled overcoat. (9)
11. Oration made by a lake. (7)
12. State article back from country. (7)
13. Make riot pay for trimming trees. (7)
14. After snail held dam up? (7)
16. Sort of cinch or enduring. (7)
19. Turn down outrageous fur sale. (7)
22. Fire self-starter? (7)
24. Talk about track event using pole. (7)
25. Teachers sometimes and impresarios always? (9)
26. Punishment after boil gets one lion angry. (2,3)
27. Washington topic: raises for linemen? (7,8)

DOWN

1. Wrinkled top one you unfold. (4,3)
2. Plug hit roughly to display at night. (5,2)
3. Contemplate what some sorts of intent are. (9)

4. Cut-back puts little company in money crunch. (7)
5. Novel future lawsuits? (7)
6. Disclosed a dire arrangement. (5)
7. Repeat Eastern attire combination. (7)
8. Standards to beat the President up! (7)
15. No fair! He's mussed. Do it again! (9)
16. Namath fouled by a hairdresser? (7)
17. Skips for fun's play. (4,3)
18. Train brought in to escort, e.g., Emerson. (7)
19. Material which shifts uncomfortably used wrong way in rip. (5,2)
20. Post Office minus melting dessert. (7)
21. Final stage gets all confused. (4,3)
23. A pain turns North. (5)

Answers to last month's puzzle:



Joseph Nocera on Political Books

Back in 1978, when the two-volume version of *How the Pope Became Infallible** first appeared in German, the reaction from the German Catholic press was swift and violent. "Warped history," wrote one reviewer. "Doesn't stand up to criticism," added another. "Up till now," chimed in a third, in the lowest cut of all, "no one has noticed that Hasler relies on Nazi propaganda."

Now the book is in English and considerably shortened. I have no doubt that it will find in the American Catholic press about the same degree of grace and tolerance that the Germans showed it. Understandably so, for when a book so resoundingly demolishes, in a single stroke, a "truth" that is supposed to be a rock-solid article of faith, what else is there left to do besides slander the author with all the vehemence one can muster, figuring that what he has to say will get lost in the resulting brouhaha?

I hope that doesn't happen. Hasler has written a brilliant work—part polemic, part history, part theology, and surprisingly readable. Hasler believes that the doctrine of papal infallibility was made Catholic dogma by means that were at least suspect, and perhaps fraudulent. He has done an excellent job of mining documents and other sources that lend support to his case (many of which had previously been undiscovered). One comes away from his book convinced that the dogma of papal infallibility (in matters of Catholic faith and morals) is on very thin ice indeed.

The doctrine itself, it turns out, is not one of those religious traditions dating back to biblical times. Papal infallibility is a modern innovation—from 1870, to be exact, during the First Vatican Council. It did not spring spontaneously from the Council, as one might suppose would be the case with a "revealed truth." Rather it was the result of something considerably less ennobling—dirty politicking. The master manipulator in the campaign for papal infallibility was the pope himself, the now-notorious Pius IX, who

Joseph Nocera is a contributing editor of The Washington Monthly.

was, it seems, a megalomaniac, a mystic, a relentless reactionary (he thought the worst thing that ever happened to mankind was the French Revolution), and quite possibly a father to boot. He felt strongly that he was infallible and called the Council for the sole purpose of getting such status approved as official Church dogma.

Since papal infallibility would mean a considerable lessening of power for cardinals and bishops, there was great resistance to Pius IX's idea. But the pope would not be denied. His tactics included berating his opponents, attacking them through the Italian newspapers he controlled, threatening to withhold Vatican funds they depended on, and even forbidding cardinals to leave the city until the dogma had been approved. (At that time the pope still had soldiers at his disposal.) Hasler shows that Vatican I was rigged from the start, with key papal allies dominating all the important committees, and opponents (remember, these are cardinals) often being shouted off the dais when they attempted to speak.

In between the twists and turns in the plot, Hasler stops to examine (and usually devastate) the theological and historical arguments that were used as underpinnings for papal infallibility. Like Hans Kung (who wrote an introduction to the book), he feels that infallibility is one of the crucial issues facing the Church today.

I'm not so sure about that—I can think of a dozen others I would put ahead of it—but I do think the *mind set* that infallibility represents is supremely troublesome for anyone who cares about Catholicism. The infallibility *mind set* expresses itself in ways far more harmful to the Church than disagreements over the niceties of dogma. It tends towards authoritarianism, and a general unwillingness to adapt the Church to serve a changing world. Specifically, both Hasler and Kung point to the role infallibility played in the continuation of the Church's stand on birth

**How the Pope Became Infallible: Pius IX and the Politics of Persuasion.* August Bernhard Hasler. Doubleday, \$14.95.