

1. Introduction

In December 2017, Luis Elizondo made headlines around the world (Watkins & Todd, 2017). The former employee of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence (OUSDI) and former head of the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program—a classified UFO study funded by the United States Department of Defense—stated, “My personal belief is that there is very compelling evidence that we may not be alone.” Subsequently, on December 16, 2017, *The New York Times* released two videos depicting a United States Navy pilot’s close encounter with an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) (Cooper, Blumenthal, & Kean, 2017). Three months later, another video was released revealing F-18 fighters’ encounters with UFOs (Eltagouri, 2018). The release of these videos was orchestrated by Elizondo, who left the head of the program and the Pentagon in 2017 due to the “bureaucratic challenges and inflexible mindsets” present in every level of the Department (History, 2019).

In response to one of the videos, U.S. Navy Commander David Fravor acknowledged witnessing a UFO while piloting an F/A-18 Hornet on a training mission in 2004. He stated, “I have never seen anything in my life, in my history of flying that has the performance, the acceleration – keep in mind this thing had no wings” (ABC 10 News). Navy pilots were, in fact, witnessing UFOs on an almost daily basis from the summer of 2014 to March 2015 (Cooper, Blumenthal, & Kean, 2019). Regarding the recent disclosure, Christopher Mellon, the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence stated, “We know that UFOs exist. This is no longer an issue.” He questions, “The issue now is why are they here? Where are they coming from and what is the technology behind these devices that we are observing?” (Hopkins, 2019). On September 18, 2019, the Navy officially admitted that all previously released UFO footage taken by Navy pilots is authentic (Martinez, 2019). Furthermore, on April 27, 2020, the Pentagon officially declassified the leaked videos taken by Navy pilots (Weisberger, 2020). In recent years, news reports related to UFOs have dramatically increased, often involving personnel from organizations such as the Navy, the Pentagon, Congress, the Senate, and NASA (Specktor, 2020; Colombano, 2018; Bender, 2019; CNN, 2019; Letzter, 2018; McMillan, 2020) (see [Supplementary Video File](#)).

The idea that UFOs are of extraterrestrial or interdimensional origin has been speculated by government officials and scientists (Kean, 2011; Grossman, 2019). This link between Unidentified Flying Objects and intelligent alien life is an interesting yet controversial possibility. As such, there have been unverifiable sightings where individuals claim to have encountered aliens and UFOs. In regards to hoax-like cases, such “witnesses” are often motivated by financial gains through books or publicity from their “alleged experiences” (Hagi, 2017; Holden & French, 2002). For cases that cannot be dismissed as simple fabrications, psychologists assume that the alleged individuals’ alien encounters result from out-of-body experiences or sleep paralysis (McNally & Clancy 2005; Wolchover, 2011).

Consequently, the gap between verified UFO records and individuals’ obscure and disputable alien encounters complicates whether one believes that there may be something substantial behind the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

(UAP), or if the possibility of alien aircrafts is simply a product of one's mind. However, cases exist in which young children and groups of adults have witnessed strange entities emerge from UFOs, rendering it difficult to attribute such an anomaly to human psychology. This article aims to examine the connection between UFOs and aliens by first reviewing selected accounts from young children, followed by those of adult group witnesses. As these cases have been largely overlooked by the mainstream scientific community, this article seriously considers the possibility of UFO and alien encounter claims by identifying the key characteristics of each case. This research involved selecting only those alleged alien encounters involving children witnesses and adult groups that had been reported by major media outlets or other reputable sources. Furthermore, the continuous and extensive history of UFO sightings comprising reports by pilots, scholars, and credentialed witnesses is reviewed in conjunction with the ten alleged alien encounters. Finally, the article examines the official stance of the government, military, and scientists before outlining all existing evidence to assess the possible connection between UFOs and alien life forms.

2. Child Witnesses and Unidentified Flying Objects

The following section will focus on cases in which young children were witnesses in alleged alien spacecraft cases. This witness group is important because young children are statistically the worst of all age groups at lying (Debey et al, 2015). Children lack the ability to place themselves in an observer's position, and their deception is poorly concealed due to their early stages of cognitive development and muscular control (Feldman & White, 1980; Charlesworth & Kreutzer, 1973). The following five incidents do not include stories of adults that claim to have encountered alien ships when they were kids.

The Voronezh Incident

The Voronezh Incident was an alleged UFO sighting reported in Voronezh, Soviet Union. First reported by Tass, the largest Russian news agency, this paranormal event and its witnesses were examined by various major outlets around the world, such as *ABC* (Madrid's oldest daily newspaper), AP, EFE (the world's fourth-largest news agency), *The New York Times*, and TVE 1 (the first Spanish Television channel) (EFE, 1989; Frías, 1989; Sotillo 1989; Fein, 1989). On September 27, 1989, a group of 5th- and 6th-grade children, including Vasya Surin, Zhenya Blinov, and Yuliya Sholokhova, allegedly observed a red ball in the sky that turned into a disc. They claim they then witnessed a silver-suited humanoid with a robot escort emerge from the hatch (Fein, 1989). The head of the Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory, Genrikh M. Silanov, requested that the three children draw what they had witnessed. Despite being separated from one another, their drawings were quite similar. TVE 1 interviewed Volodya Startshev, another 12-year-old witness who had seen the same and felt very scared at the time. Sergei A. Matveyev, of the Voronezh district police station, stated that although he had not seen the aliens themselves, he did see the strange object on the same day (Fein, 1989). He stated, "It was certainly a body flying in the sky, moving noiselessly at a very high speed and very low altitude" (Fein, 1989). While an above-average presence of the radioactive isotope cesium was found, investigators remained

unconvinced (Afp, 1989). The UFO was also reported by several local inhabitants during this time (La Vanguardia, 1989) (see [Supplementary Video](#)).

The Broad Haven Primary School Incident

A class of students playing football at the Broad Haven Primary School in Wales reported a peculiar sighting to their teachers and headmasters on February 4, 1977. A group of 10- and 11-year-olds allegedly witnessed a cigar-shaped aircraft, and some claimed to have seen a figure in a silver suit emerge. The incident was published in the *BBC* and *The Independent* (Barnett, 2017; Herd, 2012; BBC, 2017). In an interview with the *BBC*, 10-year-old David Davies said, “I was a natural born skeptic so after the bell rang, I decided to go to the area that the children said they had seen it.” Teachers, in disbelief, separated the children and asked them to draw what they had seen; their drawings were all very similar (BBC, 2017). The two headmasters at the school agreed that the children were not lying and that they must have witnessed something.

According to the UK National Archives, one family claimed to have witnessed UFOs and silver-suited creatures within a week of the incident at the Broad Haven Primary School (Bourton, 2007). The owner of the Haven Fort Hotel, Mrs. Granville, also reported being woken late at night and seeing a saucer and silver humanoids through her window (Herd, 2012; ITV Report. 2016). Investigators, however, suspected pranksters behind these alien sightings (see [Supplementary Video](#)).

The Kofu Incident

In 1975, two 7-year-olds’ alleged encounter with “aliens” in Kofu, Japan was reported by the *Yamanashi Daily News* (山梨日日新聞); several witnesses involved in the incident were later interviewed by Nippon Television Network (1982). This famous incident was revisited by Fuji TV, one of the five largest commercial broadcasting stations in Japan (Yamanashi Daily, 1975; Fuji TV, 2018). On the evening of February 23, 1975, two grade-school boys, Masato Kono (河野雅人) and Katsuhiro Yamahata (山崎克博), were roller-skating near the Hinode Housing Estate in Kofu, Yamanashi. They noticed a pair of bright orange objects in the sky: the larger of the two objects flew toward Mt. Atago, and the smaller object descended to the ground. From its hatch, a silver humanoid allegedly emerged. Yamahata fell down, as he was frightened by the creature that approached him, and Kono ran toward home carrying Yamahata. The terrified children relayed the wild story to their parents and took them to the location of the alleged incident. The children’s mothers and Kono’s father then witnessed an orange light in the sky. Similarly, 8-year-old Ichiro Minegishi reported a shiny object flying toward Hinode Housing Estate a half-hour before these two boys claimed to have encountered the object (Yamanashi Daily, 1975). Overall, there was not enough evidence to verify the UFO landing; however, higher than natural levels of radiation and traces of artificial radioisotope were detected near the site (see [Supplementary Video](#)).

The Cussac Incident

On March 22, 2007, the French Space Agency CNES voluntarily disclosed its UFO files to the public (Tagliabue, 2007). One particular UFO case

involving two children in Cussac, France was revisited by *The Washington Post* and *Le Figaro*, the oldest newspaper in France (Suply, 2007; Moore, 2007).¹ On August 29, 1967, a 13-year-old boy and his 9-year-old sister, François and Anne-Marie, spotted “four small black beings” while watching over their family’s cows. They observed them enter the spherical space ship and depart into the air. The sphere emitted a bright light and gave off the smell of sulfur. After the sphere disappeared with a whistling sound, the scared children raced home. The father of these children, Mr. Depleuch, was also the mayor of Cussac; he immediately alerted the gendarmerie (La Montagne, 1967). On the spot, the gendarmes noted the smell of sulfur and the drying of the grass where the sphere had landed (Suply, 2007). Investigators further confirmed that the account given by the frightened children was consistent with other details such as a strange whistling noise heard by the rural guard. Overall, this particular incident was labeled by the investigators and the French government as “most credible,” and “one of the most astonishing observed in France” (Moore, 2007).

The Ariel School Incident

On September 14, 1994, a group of private school students were involved in an “alien” encounter in Ruwa, Zimbabwe (Grant, 2016; Coan, 2008). This incident was examined by Tim Leach, BBC bureau chief for Southern Africa, and the head of the Foreign Correspondents’ Association in Zimbabwe (Ariel Phenomenon, 2019). The 62 children, who ranged between the ages of 8 and 12, were left unsupervised in the schoolyard while the teachers participated in a staff meeting during school morning recess. The children allegedly witnessed a silver aircraft and aliens, and they ran screaming back to the teachers. The teachers at the school initially ignored the student’s fearful cries, assuming that they were nothing more than a schoolyard prank. However, children went home and told their strange stories to their parents, and their parents came to the school wanting to know what had happened. Later, children were asked separately to draw pictures of what they had seen. Their drawings were identical.

The children were interviewed by John E. Mack, the head of the department of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Their interviews, along with other interviews of the headmaster, teachers, and BBC reporter Tim Leach, are available for review (Ariel Phenomenon, 2016; Bobby Gooner, 2016). Notably, some of the children involved in the sighting also claimed that an “alien” communicated to them without words, but the children were too young to grasp the concept of telepathy. The alleged telepathic communication can be only implied from their words in their interview. The following are quotes from one of the interview clips (see [Supplementary Video](#)).

Child: “What I thought was maybe the world is going to end maybe they telling us the world’s gonna end.”

Mack: “Well why do you think they might want us to be scared.”

Child: “because maybe because we don’t look after the planet and the area”

¹ The archived page is accessible through Wayback Machine.

https://web.archive.org/web/20070709035253/https://www.lefigaro.fr/sciences/20070322.WWW000000292_letrange_rr_de_cussac.html

Mack: "Is this an idea that you have had before that we don't look after the planet properly or the air or did this idea come to you when you had this experience?"

Child: "When I had this experience."

After investigating this incident, Leach claimed, "I could handle war zones, but I could not handle this" (Ariel Phenomenon, 2019). There were also several reports of alien sightings around the same time: a young boy and his mother reported a daylight sighting, and a trucker had seen strange beings on the road at night (Mail & Guardian, 2014).

Miscellaneous Sightings by Children

There are other notable sightings reported by children where only Unidentified Flying Objects are involved: the 1966 Westall Primary UFO incident in Australia, the 1967 Crestview Elementary School incident in Florida, and the 1973 Nakdong Elementary School Case in Korea. These cases will be briefly discussed here, as there is not enough information to conclude a connection between these UFO sightings and alien intelligence.

On April 6, 1966, the Westall Primary UFO incident had hundreds of witnesses, including many young children. In this instance, onlookers noticed a flying saucer playing a "game of cat and mouse" with jets (National Geographic, 2017; Studio 10, 2016; Foster, 2018). A similar incident occurred on April 7, 1967 at Crestview Elementary School in Florida, where a flying saucer witnessed by teachers and children was explored on Quest TV (2020). On April 13, 1973, the case of two silver Unidentified Flying Objects accelerating and disappearing near Nakdong Elementary School in Korea was widely publicized; witnesses in this case included 22 elementary school children and a school teacher (Dong-A Ilbo, 1982; Monthly Chosun Magazine, 2007) (see [Supplementary Video](#)).

The existence of many cases of young children around the world witnessing UFOs and aliens does not automatically guarantee that these findings are valid; however, these stories are unexplainable. Young children are capable of lying, as studies have shown that kids and children learn to lie progressively as they age; in this case, however, they would need to be quite specific and act realistically amazed or frightened while making up such vivid stories about UFOs (Talwar, 2018). Adults and teenagers may fabricate stories about aliens for their own benefit, but there seem to be no real motives for a group of young children to act this way. In addition, scientific studies that investigate lying in children involve simple lies related to toys and puppets that are not nearly as extravagant or strange as these stories of UAP and alien visitors (Talwar & Lee, 2008). It is also difficult to explain the matching drawings of children that were put in separate rooms, third-party witnesses other than these children, and the children's detailed answers to interviewers' questions. An alternative scientific clarification to their improbable stories requires an explanation of why the young children and third-party witnesses would tell uniform, vivid recollections of UFOs and "aliens."

3. Group Witnesses and Alien Encounters

It is necessary to examine the following cases of adult groups around the world witnessing “alien aircrafts” because such accounts lead to the dichotomy of whether witnesses are lying about their “experience.” While psychological factors can account for an individual adult’s paranormal experience, it is unlikely, if not impossible, for a group of adults to experience the same exceedingly wild “alien encounter” phenomenon simultaneously (McNally & Clancy 2005; Wolchover, 2011). In other words, adult groups are either fabricating stories or sharing their experiences. Nevertheless, any group of adults can easily lie, and claims or reports from adults will be less reliable than those from young children. If, however, enough evidence can be presented to support the group’s account, their cases may be worth examining. The following events all satisfy at least several of the following criteria.

1. There were third-party groups other than the encounter group that testified.
2. Witnesses passed the polygraph test and their stories were extensively examined for consistency.
3. Investigations reported traces of physical evidence.
4. The witnesses did not profit from the event.
5. The case was taken very seriously by the investigators or the government.

The Pascagoula Incident

The Pascagoula Incident is an alleged alien encounter published and revisited by various media outlets and news agencies such as the Associated Press, *Hattiesburg American*, *Tampa Bay Times*, United Press International, and *The Washington Post* (Brockell, 2019; CBS, 2019; Nelson, 2018; Amy, 2013; AP, 1973a, 1973b; UPI, 1973). On the evening of October 11, 1973, 42-year-old Charles Hickson and 19-year-old Calvin Parker Jr. were fishing near the west bank of the Pascagoula River. They noticed a blue light reflecting on the water and saw an oval-shaped object unlike any aircraft that they had ever seen. After a blinding light, strange creatures allegedly appeared, took them aboard the object, examined them, and eventually released them. “They were frantic. They told authorities they had just been abducted by aliens. Each had a puncture wound in one arm,” writes *The Washington Post*. The officers at the sheriff’s department thought that they were either lying or drunk, and deputies secretly taped them. Jackson County Sheriff’s Captain Glen Ryder says, “We did everything we knew to try to break their stories.” He continued, “If they were lying to me, they should be in Hollywood” (Brockell, 2019). Ryder notes that there were several related sightings of unexplainable lights during and before the night of the incident. The two men would pass sobriety tests and polygraph tests. Subsequently, Calvin Parker Jr. avoided media attention for decades, and neither became rich from the story. While it is difficult to conclude that their experiences were genuine, there were several third-party witnesses to corroborate the strange sighting (Watkins, 2018). Mike Cataldo, a former petty officer of the Navy in Rotonda West, Florida, reported that he saw “a very strange object on the horizon” late that afternoon when he was driving on U.S. 90 between Pascagoula and Ocean Springs. Many other witnesses that came forward were interviewed by *The Clarion Ledger* and WLOX television station (Keeton, 2019; Broom, 2019) (see [Supplementary Video](#)).

The Kentucky Women Incident

WLEX-TV, Lexington's first television station, and the *Lexington Herald-Leader* revisited an alleged alien encounter case involving three women: Mona Stafford, Louise Smith, and Elaine Thomas (LEX18 News, 2011; Copley, 2012). The case was previously explored in several local papers such as the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Kentucky Advocate*, and *The Advocate-Messenger* (Mabley, 1977; Brown, 1997; Edwards, 1997). On January 6, 1976, three women were driving a car on Route 78 after celebrating one of the women's birthdays at Redwoods Restaurant near Stanford. Between Stanford and Hustonville, the women allegedly saw a domed shaped object emitting blue light, and their car began to malfunction as the glowing object approached. The three women experienced memory loss, inflammation, and burning sensations when they reached Hustonville. Noting that it took more than two hours to arrive at their destination, which normally should have only taken 30 minutes, the women reached out to the police. Their claims were held up by polygraph tests administered individually by the Lexington Police Department. Aside from amnesia, the three women also suffered swollen eyes, headaches, anxiety, and red welts on the backs of their necks (Edwards, 1997). Therapy sessions involving hypnosis revealed that the women were taken aboard metallic, disk-shaped aircraft and examined by "aliens."

While their claims pertaining to this "alien encounter" cannot be verified, the women did not cash in from their stories (Brown, 1997). Two of the three women were, in fact, grandmothers, and they were all respected members of the local community (Edwards 1997). Independent witnesses also gave credence to their claims. On the same day, Donna Coffrey and her family reported seeing a "small object with blue lights" (Brown, 1997). In 2011, Mona Stafford, the only woman currently alive out of the three women, decided to speak out and was interviewed on WLEX-TV (LEX18 News, 2011) (see [Supplementary Video](#)).

The A70 Incident

Reported in *The Scotsman*, a daily morning newspaper published in Edinburgh, and *The Herald*, the longest-running national newspaper in the world, the A70 incident is one of the most well-known documented UFO cases in Scotland (The Newsroom, 2012; Swarbrick, 2018).² On August 27, 1992, Garry Wood and Colin Wright were on their way to deliver a satellite TV system to the village of Tarbrax when the alleged "alien encounter" occurred. While driving, they noticed a disc-shaped object hovering over the A70 road. Hoping to get away from the object, Wood put his foot down on the accelerator. Wood and Wright were temporarily enveloped in a black void when a mist emitted from the object allegedly reached the car. When they regained control of the car, they realized that they were late to drop off a satellite TV system at their destination. Similar to the Kentucky Women case, it took about two hours to arrive at Tarbrax when the trip would normally have taken about 30 minutes (*The Scotsman*, 2019).

²The archived page is accessible through Wayback Machine.
https://web.archive.org/web/20180722063520/http://www.heraldscotland.com/life_style/16367637.scotlands-greatest-ufo-mysteries-is-the-truth-out-there/

Declassified government files reveal that Garry Wood contacted the police, a doctor, a university, and a psychologist to seek an explanation. Several months later, the two men went through hypnotic regression, and therapy sessions revealed that the “aliens” had abducted, examined, and communicated with them (McCue, 2018). Garry Wood went on to pass a polygraph test organized by the BBC, and the pair defended their claims (Farrimond, 2018). Rather than being regarded as Hollywood fiction, the 1992 case was serious enough to be investigated by the Ministry of Defense (Urquhart, 2012).

The Varginha Incident

This “alien encounter” occurred in Varginha, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The events were reported by the Grupo Record, the third-largest media company in Brazil; Empresa Brasil de Comunicação, a public broadcasting company in Brazil; and Grupo Globo, the largest mass media group of Latin America (Globo.tv, 1996; Moffett, 1996; Silva & Melo, 2016; Pedrosa, 2016; Augusto, 2019; G1, 2017). On the afternoon of January 20, 1996, a red-eyed “alien creature” was allegedly seen by three women aged 14 to 21: sisters Liliane and Valquíria Fátima Silva, and their friend Kátia Andrade Xavier. The sisters and Kátia immediately fled and told Silva’s mother that they had seen the “devil.” The mother and the girls returned to the area where they supposedly saw the creature. The older woman noticed a strong odor of ammonia, a dog sniffing the location of the encounter, and a mark on the floor.

Prior to this encounter, Oralina and Eurico de Freitas, owners of a farm in the city, claimed to have seen a UFO hovering over their cattle and heading toward the Fernão Dias highway. On January 13, 1996, Pilot Carlos de Souza reported seeing an object that passed by Fernão Dias. In 2010, an official inquiry led by the Brazilian military authorities, however, concluded that witnesses had actually come across a mentally unstable homeless hobo nicknamed “Mudinho” covered in mud (Pedrosa, 2016). He remains a part of their neighborhood in Varginha, and the girls, who know him, have always denied this conclusion. Regardless, the lives of these women were all negatively impacted by this alleged event. One pregnant woman separated from her husband, and another dropped out of school. In 2012, the case was revisited by National Geographic, and the three witnesses were interviewed (National Geographic, 2012) (see [Supplementary Video](#)).

The Kelly Cahill Incident

The alleged “alien encounter” in Australia was reported by *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the oldest newspaper in Australia; the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Australia’s national broadcaster; and News.com.au, Australia’s most popular news website (Brown 2016; Miletic, 2016; Lambert, 2016). On August 8, 1993, a couple from Melbourne witnessed an object with orange lights floating over Belgrave-Hallam Road as they were driving through the Dandenong Ranges in Victoria. Kelly Cahill (pseudonym) and her husband stated that the object accelerated like nothing that they had ever seen, and a blinding light appeared in front of the road. Like a “cut to scene,” the couple suddenly felt confused and sluggish. The disoriented couple realized an hour and a half had been lost when they returned home. The time loss was identical to that of the Kentucky Women Incident and the A70 Incident (Cahill, 1996). In this specific case, however, there

were three independent groups of witnesses in three separate cars. Kelly Cahill later recalled details of the night, such as getting out of her car to inspect the light in the middle of the road. She also reported “aliens” emerging beneath the lights and approaching them. Multiple witnesses in the other two cars described the same experience, illustrated images similar to the sketches of Ms. Cahill, and recalled being taken on board “some kind of object” (Lambert, 2016). Kelly Cahill and two other female witnesses also reported similar markings on their bodies near their navel (see [Supplementary Video](#)).

Miscellaneous Cases

There are many notable UFO encounters around the world involving single witnesses, including the 1964 Lonnie Zamora incident, the 1965 Valensole UFO Encounter, the 1967 Falcon Lake incident, the 1980 Rosedale Case, and the 1981 Trans-en-Provence Case. The 1964 Lonnie Zamora incident involving a New Mexico police officer was listed as “the best-documented case on record” in *Studies in Intelligence* (CIA, 2016). This particular case persuaded Dr. J. Allen Hynek to seriously consider the possibility of “alien ships” (Hynek, 1977). Dr. Hynek was a professor of astrophysics who served as a scientific advisor to an Air Force project that assessed UFO reports; he had originally explained UFO phenomena as “swamp gas” to Congressman Gerald Ford (Fordlibrarymuseum, 1966). Furthermore, the 1965 Valensole encounter in France left physical evidence, as nothing grew for two years in the location of the encounter (Hars, 2015; Quilici-Orlandi, 2019). The 1967 Falcon Lake incident in Canada left the witness with unexplainable burns in a grid-like pattern, and a radioactive piece of metal was recovered (Bernhardt, 2017). The 1980 Rosedale encounter in Australia left a circular brown mark with a diameter of approximately 30 feet and emptied a 10,000-gallon water tank. In addition, it was impossible to move livestock into the paddock where the mark was (Cavanagh, 2015; Gippsland Times, 1980). In the 1981 Trans-en-Provence case, a follow-up investigation by the French government ruled out the possibility of military activity or an aircraft (Wilson, 2001; *New Scientist*, 2007). While the specific details of these sightings were reported by single witnesses, additional independent witnesses reported the alleged objects, particularly in the Lonnie Zamora and Rosedale cases.

While such single witness cases are well-documented and not considered simple hoaxes, these incidents were all omitted from the current research; this article deemed that any incidents involving single witnesses were too weak to effectively dismiss skeptics’ possible arguments against such single witnesses. Understandably, there will always be skeptics aiming to disprove every UFO case and exclude the possibility of “alien” visitors due to numerous infamous hoaxes. While their approach may help filter out such hoaxes, their methods carry the predetermined assumption that all “alien” visitations are 100% fake.

4. Modern History of UFOs

If any one of the cases described above are accurate descriptions of real events, the implications would be overwhelming; however, these noteworthy cases alone cannot lead to the conclusion that humans have been visited by aliens. Undoubtedly, suspicion may surround these notable cases based on the large number of hoaxes related to Unidentified Flying Objects and alleged alien

encounters. Others may question why aliens are not choosing to appear now if humans have allegedly encountered them in the past. Consequently, it is only logical to doubt UFO accounts and investigate how, when, and where these stories of Unidentified Flying Objects or “alien ships” originated regardless of the recent video disclosure by the Navy. In order to address this, the extensive history of UFO phenomena will be explored in this section.

Modern Pilots and UFOs

On April 12, 1969, two pilots in Pori, Finland named Jouko Kuronen and Tarmo Tuveva reported seven plate-shaped objects in a formation that flew at “*ällistytävällä*” (incredible) speeds; the objects were later detected via radar nearly 200 kilometers away in Vaasa. This particular sighting was acknowledged by the Finnish Air Force and published in *Ruotuväki* (2012), the Finnish Defense Forces’ magazine. Comparably, on November 11, 1979 in Manises, Spain, the crew of TAE-SE 210 and the Air Force Captain of Mirage F1 testified that they witnessed red dome-shaped objects that accelerated and vanished in the sky (Guardian, 2015; COPE, 2019; Cuatro, 2019).

Other similar testimonies have come from pilots around the world. On March 31, 1980, four Korean pilots were given orders to chase an Unidentified Flying Object during Team Spirit, a joint military training exercise between the United States and South Korea. Korean Air Vice Marshal Im Byungsun spoke of closely witnessing an object flying at a trajectory that was rendered impossible by the limits of man-made technology (Jung, 2016; JTBC Culture, 2019). He stated, “The Unidentified Flying Object was disc-shaped and as big as three McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom IIs. It was strongly emitting sparks and lights from the core. The color was similar to what one would see in oxy-fuel welding.” The sighting was further corroborated by Air Force colonel Lee Seungbae and Air force colonel Park Osang. On July, 31, 1995, near Bariloche Airport in Argentina, witnesses such as Captain Jorge Polanco from a Boeing 727, Air Force Major Jorge Luis Oviedo, and the crew of the GN705 (Argentine National Gendarmerie) including Juan Domingo Gaitán and Rubén Cipuzak, reported an intense light that “did not move according to the laws of physics that we know” (*se mueve bajo como reglas físicas que nosotros no manejamos*) (AFP, 1995; Crónica, 1995; Investigación X, 1996; El Coldillerano, 2013). The observers from the Boeing 727 noted that the object had two green lights at the end (see [Supplementary Video](#)).

Although a number of UFO sightings by modern pilots around the world are well-acknowledged, official records are not synonymous with every encounter. *Air & Space Magazine* (2015) explains that for a pilot, “filing a UFO report can potentially hurt one’s career.” Christopher Mellon, a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence in the Clinton and Bush administrations, explains that pilots tend not to speak up about UFOs and worry that reporting such events will adversely affect them (Paul, 2019; Koren, 2019). Well-known examples are the Milton Torres UFO encounter and the Japan Airlines Flight 1628 incident. In 1957, Milton Torres, the pilot of an F-86D Sabre jet, was ordered to fire at an Unidentified Flying Object (Griffiths, 2008; Spangler, 2008). This particular object that was “not made of this Earth” vanished before the pilot could shoot, and Torres was debriefed that he would be breaching national security if he were to discuss what happened. Similarly, in 1987, the Japanese crew of a JAL Boeing 747

reported three Unidentified Flying Objects, one of which Captain Kenju Terauchi nicknamed the “Mothership” (UPI, 1987). The follow-up investigation concluded that the crew was “normal, professional, rational, (and had) no drug or alcohol involvement.” The Captain, however, was grounded for talking to the press openly about UFOs even though he was a veteran pilot with 29 years of experience (UPI, 1987; Lean, 2001).

Furthermore, pilots themselves often avoid unwanted publicity and any stigma associated with aliens (Phelan, 2019; Ruppelt, 2011). Richard Haines, a former senior research scientist at NASA’s Ames Research Center explains that only a small percentage of incidents are ever reported, in part because professional pilots fear ridicule and potential damage to their careers (Morella, 2012). Joseph Gradisher, spokesperson for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, clarifies that the term “UFO” itself discourages pilots from reporting incidents for fear of being ridiculed (Rodriguez, 2019). Nevertheless, a number of pilot encounters with UFOs are verifiable and well-established. They have been witnessed by military pilots, commercial airline pilots, two pilots in different planes, pilots and passengers in the same plane, a U.S. Navy pilot commander, and a veteran pilot that worked with former President Obama (Cot, 2007; Danziger, 2018; Rohrer, 2007; CBS News, 2018; AP News, 1985; Specktor, 2018) (see [Supplementary Video](#)).

5. Before Modern Pilots

Did the UFO phenomena exist before modern pilots? Allied aircraft pilots used the term “Foo-Fighter” in World War II to describe numerous UFOs or UAP seen in the skies over the European and Pacific theaters of operations (Krasney, 2016; Robertson, 2006). *TIME Magazine* published an article titled “Foo-Fighter” in its January 15, 1945 edition, where it reported that “balls of fire” had been following U.S. night fighters for more than a month; the pilots referred to them as “Foo-Fighters.”³ The color of the fire varied, but the witnesses concurred that their plane was closely followed by the strange lights at high speed. Generally, pilots have assumed that the Foo-Fighters were classified weapons used by enemy forces (NYT, 1945). However, it was discovered that this was not the case; identical sightings were also observed by German and Japanese pilots (Rutledge, 1981; Haines, 1997).

Similar anomalies were observed in the subsequent wars in Korea and Vietnam (UPI, 1973; Dong-A Ilbo, 1952; Haines, 1990). Originally, many researchers assumed the sightings were Soviet experiments built on German engineering and anti-gravity technology (Haines, 1997). In the following years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, a number of Soviet reports also revealed UFO sightings and discredited these assumptions (Edwards, 2013). UAPs were, however, not exclusively limited to post-World War II Periods. Historian Denis Winter (1982) writes in his book, *The First of the Few: Fighter Pilots of the First World War*,

³The archived page is accessible through Wayback Machine.
<https://web.archive.org/web/20080420074058/http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,775433,00.html>

...green glowing balls which twisted about like live things and seemed to chase an aeroplane, turning over end on end in a leisurely way yet, as Bishop observed, terrifying because moving just too fast for an aeroplane to take evasive action. Part of their terror was that no one knew what they were, or has found out even today.

In 1916, Flight Sub-Lieutenant J.E. Morgan reports firing at an airship “whereupon he says that ‘the lights alongside rose rapidly’ and disappeared” (Morris, 1969). Even before the advent of military airplanes in 1909, UFO sightings existed. One verifiable sighting comes from Lieutenant Frank Schofield, later to become Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Battle Fleet. On February 28, 1904, the anomalous sighting was witnessed by three crew members on the USS Supply, 300 miles west of San Francisco (Richland Shield and Banner, 1904). Schofield reported, “that at first their motion was rapid and the color a rather bright red. As they approached the ship, they appeared to soar above the clouds at an elevation of about forty-five degrees” (NYT, 1904).

Sightings Prior to the 20th Century

Prior to the modern tales of UFOs and the Foo-Fighters reported during World War II, stories of mysterious lights and phantom airships existed between the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Guardian, 1913). These stories are attributable not only to the contemporary development of effective airships during the aerial age, but also to anomalous sightings observed during this time. The following section will introduce two types of pre-20th century UFO sightings that are not mutually exclusive:

- A. Verified firsthand accounts from scholars and professionals with credentials related to UFOs, and
- B. Reports that match videos of UFOs or modern accounts of “alien ship” encounters.

The 19th-century sightings listed here pertain to both categories, with the exception of two cases that are recorded in the Dianshizhai Pictorial and Annals of Songzi County.

1893 “An Atmospheric Phenomenon in the North China Sea” –Nature (Type B)

Captain Norcock of H.M.S. Caroline writes,

During a recent wintry cruise in H.M.S. Caroline in the North China Sea, a curious phenomenon was seen which may be of interest to your readers. The ship was on passage between Shanghai and the western entrance of the famous inland sea of Japan. On 24th February, at 10 p.m., when in latitude 32° 58' N., longitude 126° 33' E., which, on reference to the map, will be seen to be sixteen to seventeen miles south of Quelpart island (south of the Korean peninsula) some unusual lights were reported by the officer of the watch between the ship and Mount Auckland, a mountain 6,000 feet high. It was a windy, cold, moonlight night. *My first impression was that they were either some fires on shore, apparently higher from the horizon than a ship's masthead, or some junk's “flare up” lights raised by*

mirage. To the naked eye they appeared sometimes as a mass; at others, spread out in an irregular line, and, being globular in form, they resembled Chinese lanterns festooned between the masts of a lofty vessel. They bore north (magnetic), and remained on that bearing until lost sight of about midnight. As the ship was passing the land to the eastward at the rate of seven knots an hour, it soon became obvious that the lights were not on the land, though observed with the mountain behind them.

On the following night, February 25th, about the same time, 10 p.m., the ship having cleared Port Hamilton, was steering east, on the parallel of 34, when these curious lights were again observed on the same bearing, at an altitude of 3 or 4° above the horizon. It was a clear, still, moonlight night, and cold. On this occasion there was no land in sight on a north bearing when the lights were first observed, but soon afterwards a small islet was passed, which for the time eclipsed the lights. As the ship steamed on at a rate of seven knots an hour, the lights maintained a constant bearing (magnetic) of N. 2°W., as if carried by some vessel travelling in the same direction and at the same speed. The globes of fire altered in their formation as on the previous night, now in a massed group, with an outlying light away to the right, then the isolated one would disappear, and the others would take the form of a crescent or diamond, or hang festoon-fashion in a curved line. A clear reflection or glare could be seen on the horizon beneath the lights. Through a telescope the globes appeared to be of a reddish colour, and to emit a thin smoke.

I watched them for several hours, and could distinguish no perceptible alteration in their bearing or altitude, the changes occurring only in their relative formation, but each light maintained its oval, globular form.

Captain Castle, of H.M.S. Leander, informed me that, not long ago, the officers of his ship saw lights in the same locality which they thought at first were caused by a ship on fire. The course of the vessel was altered at once with a view of rendering assistance, but finding that the lights increased their altitude as he approached, he attributed them to some volcanic disturbance, and being pressed for time, resumed his course. The background of high land seen on the first night dispels all idea of these extraordinary lights being due to a distant volcano. The uniformity of the bearing renders the theory of their being fires on the shore most improbable. I am inclined to the belief that they were something in the nature of St. Elmo's fires. It is probable that there are travelers among the readers of your interesting journal who have seen or heard of this phenomenon, and will be able to describe its origin and the atmospheric conditions necessary for its appearance (Nature, 1880).

(See Supplementary Video - [Ocean Flash UFOs](#), [Moving Lights UFOs](#).)

1892: "Flying Red Flame" (赤焰騰空) - China: Dianshizhai Pictorial (China's earliest pictorial) by Wu Youru (吳有如 Wú yǒurú)

On September 28, 1892, a large egg-like red object sailed very slowly from the West to the East before eventually disappearing from sight. This incident in Nanjing City had hundreds of witnesses, and many tried to speculate the nature of the phenomenon. Some thought it was a meteor, but it was too slow (stagnant). Others thought that it was a sky (Chinese) lantern, but the direction of the wind suggested otherwise. One witness pointed out that the object made a subtle noise when it arrived.

九月二十八日，晚间八点钟时，金陵(今南京市)城南，偶忽见火毯(即球)一团，自西向东，型如巨卵，色红而无光，飘荡半空，其行甚缓。维时浮云蔽空，天色昏暗。举头仰视，甚觉分明，立朱雀桥上，翘首跼足者不下数百人。约一炊许渐远渐减。有谓流星过境者，然星之驰也，瞬息即杳。此球自近而远，自有而无，甚属濡滞，则非星驰可知。有谓儿童放天灯者，是夜风暴向北吹，此球转向东去，则非天灯又可知。众口纷纷，穷于推测。有一叟云，是物初起时微觉有声，非静听不觉也，系由南门外腾越而来者。嘻，异矣！



(Dianshizhai Pictorial, 1892; People.cn, 2014; Shanghai Archives, 2008)

1880 "A Strange Phenomenon"- Nature (Type B)

The article, "A Strange Phenomenon," was published in *Nature* on February 26, 1880. R. E. Harris, Commander of the S.S. *Shahjehan*, writes,

The most remarkable phenomenon that I have ever seen at sea was seen by myself and officers on the 5th instant between Oyster Reef and Pigeon Island (Malabar coast). At 10 P.M., we were steaming along very comfortably; there was a perfect calm, the water was without a ripple upon it, the sky was cloudless, and, there being no moon, the stars shone brightly. The atmosphere was beautifully clear, and the night was one of

great quietude. At the above-named hour I went on deck, and at once observed a streak of white matter on the horizon bearing south-south-west. I then went on the bridge and drew the third officer's attention to it. In a few minutes it had assumed the shape of a segment of a circle measuring about 45° in length and several degrees in altitude about its centre. At this time it shone with a peculiar but beautiful milky whiteness, and resembled (only in a huge mass, and greater luminous intensity) the nebulae sometimes seen in the heavens. We were steaming to the southward, and as the bank of light extended, one of its arms crossed our path. The whole thing appeared so foreign to anything I had ever seen, and so wonderful, that I stopped the ship just on its outskirts, so that I might try to form a true and just conception of what it really was. By this time all the officers and engineers had assembled on deck to witness the scene, and were all equally astonished and interested. Some little time before the first body of light reached the ship I was enabled, with my night glasses, to resolve in a measure what appeared, to the unassisted eye, a huge mass of nebulous matter. I distinctly saw spaces between what again appeared to be waves of light of great lustre. These came rolling on with ever-increasing rapidity till they reached the ship, and in a short time the ship was completely surrounded with one great body of undulating light, which soon extended to the horizon on all sides (Nature, 1880).

(See Supplementary Video - [Moving Lights UFOs](#), [Ocean Flash UFOs](#).)

This is similar to the account written by Shen Kuo in 1088.

1880 Annals of Songzi County (Type B)

《松滋縣志》(Annals of Songzi County) of Hubei Province records a strange story of a local farmer in Xiyanzui on May 8, 1880 (Chinese Lunar Calendar).

There is a farmer who went for a walk in the mountain forest behind the house in the morning. There was an object in the woods, which was emitting a strange, colorful light. He went near it and felt his body being lifted off the ground as if he was floating on clouds. The sound of whistling wind kept ringing in his ears. His mind was confused, and his body could not move completely. He suddenly falls, and he is on a mountainous hill. He is very surprised as if he had just woken up from a dream. A woodcutter then comes and asked him where he was from. The farmer replied that he was from Songzi County, Hubei Province. The woodcutter said in a curious way: How come you are here? This is Guizhou Province. It is five or six hundred kilometers away from your hometown. The farmer came down the mountain as he was told. He returned home, and 18 days had already passed.

晨起信步往屋後山林，見叢薄間有一物，光彩異常，五色鮮艷。即往捕之，忽覺身自飄舉，若在雲端，耳旁颯颯有聲，精神懵昧，身

体不能自由。忽然自高坠下，乃一峻岭也。覃某如梦初醒，惊骇非常。移时来一樵者，询之，答曰：余湖北松滋人也
樵夫诧曰：子胡为乎来哉？此贵州境地，去尔处千余里矣！
指其途径下山。覃丐而归，抵家已逾十八日矣

(Annals of Songzi County, 1982; Chinanews, 2013; Shanghai Archives, 2008; Wang, 2008).

(See the Kentucky Women Case, the A70 Case, and the Kelly Cahill Case.)

1879 Henry Murray (Type A, B)

Sir James Augustus Henry Murray, the primary editor of the Oxford English Dictionary from 1879 until his death, reported a strange phenomenon.

Sir,—On Saturday evening last I was walking northward on the eastern pavement in St. Giles's, Oxford, and, having just passed the entrance of St. John's, was still within the enclosed area in front of that College when my eyes were arrested by a brilliant luminous body which suddenly emerged over the tops of the trees before me on the left and moved eastward across the sky above and in front of me. Its appearance was, at the first glance, such as to suggest a brilliant meteor, considerably larger than Venus at her greatest brilliancy, but the slowness of its motion, as it sailed or floated majestically across the field of vision, as if driven by a strong wind, made me doubt whether it was not some artificial firework. Expecting to see it explode or go out, I watched for a second or two till it neared its culminating point and was about to be hidden from me by the lofty College building, on which I sprang over the corner of the low stone wall of the enclosure and, walking sidewise and backwards across St. Giles's, I was enabled to see it through the space between the old and new buildings of the College, as it continued its course toward the eastern horizon. It did not explode, emit any spark, or leave any train or track; but it became rapidly dimmer and fainter as it approached the horizon, and finally disappeared behind a tree seen through the space in question, leaving me quite uncertain as to its nature (Bailey, 1991).

(See Supplementary Video - [Moving Lights UFOs](#), [Flashing UFOs](#).)

1853 Scientific American (Type A, B)

We have received a letter from Professor A. C. Carnes, of Burritt College, Tenn., with the following account of a singular phenomenon, that was seen by a number of the students, on June 1st., at 4 A. M., just as the sun was rising :— “Two luminous spots were seen, one about 2 north of the san, and the other about 30 minutes further in the same direction. When seen, the first had the appearance of a small new moon; the other that of a large star.— The small one soon diminished, and became invisible; the other assumed a globular shape, and then elongated parallel with the horizon. The first then became visible again, and increased rapidly in size,

while the other diminished, and the two spots kept changing thus for about half an hour. There was considerable wind at the time, and light fleecy clouds passed by, showing the lights to be confined to one place.” The students have asked for an explanation, but neither the President nor Professors are satisfied as to the character of the lights, but think that electricity has something to do with it. The phenomenon was certainly not an electrical one, so far we can judge, and possibly was produced by distant clouds of moisture.

(See Supplementary Video - [Flashing UFOs](#).)

This sighting is similar to one observed in [Nature 15, 451 \(1877\)](#).

1825 Diary of Andrew Bloxam (Type A, B)

Andrew Bloxam was the naturalist on board the H.M.S. Blonde and a noted mycologist and botanist. The following is written in the *Diary of Andrew Bloxam: Naturalist of the “Blonde” on Her Trip from England to the Hawaiian Islands (1824-25)*.

August 12. About half-past three o’clock this morning the middle watch on deck was astonished to find everything around them suddenly illuminated. Turning their eyes to the eastward they beheld a large, round, luminous body rising up about seven degrees apparently from the water to the clouds, and falling again out of sight, and a second time rising and falling. It was the color of a red-hot shot and appeared about the size of the sun. It was only visible for a few seconds and after its final departure some rays of light were seen in the same direction. It was probably a meteor or fireball. No sound was heard. It gave so great a light that a pin might be picked up on deck (Bloxam, 1925).

(See Supplementary Video - [Moving Lights UFOs](#), [Ocean Flash UFOs](#), [Red Light UFOs](#).)

This sighting is similar to one recorded in [Philosophical Magazine v35 \(1868\) p.61](#).

Sightings Prior to the 19th Century

Vallee and Aubeck (2010) list as many as 127 anomalous sightings in the 19th century. They note that the number of recorded sightings may have significantly increased during this time period due to encouragement in natural philosophy and growth in scientific education. The increased number of sightings during this time, however, is also attributable to contemporary technological advances. The improvement of the life of an average person from mass-production and labor-saving inventions would have provided more opportunities to watch anomalies in the sky. Additionally, technological advances such as steamboats could have helped more people witness anomalies near the ocean.

Nevertheless, these abnormal aerial sightings predate the start of the Industrial Revolution in the mid-18th century and the invention of the first hot air

balloon in 1783. The absence of technological advances from industrialization, combined with a lack of astronomical knowledge at the time, may explain why there were fewer sightings reported during the 17th and 18th centuries. More importantly, a large portion of sightings from this period were located in the two most populated and thriving nations, France and Great Britain. It is also worth noting that in the 17th century, Paris was the largest city in Europe; in the 18th century, the largest city was London.

1799 - The London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science (Type B)

Currently known as *Philosophical Magazine*, it is one of the oldest and longest-running scientific journals. One article states, “In July 1799, Dr. Forster’s father saw a meteor cross the sky from south to north, then return southward, and finally bend to the north-west.” It further writes, “And Dr. Forster himself saw a whitish globe stationary for two seconds, and then turn a fine red” (Brewster et al., 1847).

(See Supplementary Video - [Moving Lights UFOs](#), [Flashing UFOs](#), [Red Light UFOs](#).)

1775 The Annual Register (Type B)

The Annual Register, or A View of the History, Politics, and Literature for the Year 1775, is an essential reference that recorded major events around the world. The work stated,

A meteor, resembling a nebulous star, appeared just above the moon, passed eastward, with a slow motion, parallel to the ecliptic, through an arch of about 5 or 6 degrees, and then disappeared. It subtended an angle of 6 or 7 minutes, and was of the same brightness and colour with the moon (Burke, 1776).

(See Supplementary Video - [Moving Lights UFOs](#), [Flashing UFOs](#).)

1758 London Magazine (Type B)

The following letter was published in one of England’s oldest periodicals.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman at Colchester, December 31.

On Friday evening, about seven or eight o’clock, a few miles from this town, as I was riding gently home, on a sudden I was surrounded with a very glaring light, which at first I imagined might be a flash of lightning; but on its continuing some, seconds of time, I quickly turned myself round, and raw a great ball of fire (apparently about the bigness of a common foot-ball) descending from the heavens. Its direction was north east, its motion much like what is vulgarly called the shooting of a star. It vanished in the same manner as a squib that makes no report. There were several people close by me, who were greatly terrified et this unusual phenomenon. And the same account was related to me the same evening by a person who was about six miles distant another way (Kimber, 1758).

(See Supplementary Video - [Moving Lights UFOs](#), [Flashing UFOs](#), [Ocean Flash UFOs](#).)

1740 Histoire de l'Académie royale des sciences, avec les mémoires de mathématique (Type B)

The following sighting in Toulon, France was recorded by the French Academy of Sciences.

During the night of 23 to 24 February, a purple globe of fire was seen that rising gradually, plunging into the sea and rebounding. After reaching a certain height, it burst and spread several balls of fire, which appeared to fall into the sea and the mountains.

La nuit du 23 au 24 Février on vit vers la Rade de Toulon un Globe de feu comme violet, qui s'étant élevé peu à peu, plongea ensuite dans la Mer, d'où il se releva comme une Balle qui réfléchiroit, après quoi étant parvenu à une certaine, après quoi étant parvenu à une certaine hauteur, il creva, & répandit divers globes de feu, dont les uns parurent tomber dans la Mer, & les autres sur les Montagnes (Académie royale des sciences, 1740).

(See Supplemental Videos - [Ocean Flash UFOs](#), [Red Light UFOs](#).)

1701 Histoire naturelle de l'air et des météores (Type B)
(Natural History of Air and Meteors)

M. le C. de Forbin (Tom. II of his memoirs, the year 1701):

He tells that being near the cape of Passaro, on the coast of Sicily, they came to warn him during the night that there was a new sun. "I went up on deck," he said, "and I saw indeed a great fire which burned in the air, and which lighted up so that I could read a letter. Although the wind was very violent, this meteor did not move; it burned for about two hours and disappeared, slowly fading away. The pilots, the sailors, and all the frightened crew looked at it as the unmistakable mark of a storm that threatened us; there was no way to get them out of there."

M. le C. de Forbin (Tom. II de ses mémoires, an. 1701):

Raconte qu'étant près du cap de Passaro, sur les côtes de Sicile, on vint l'avertir pendant la nuit qu'il paroisoit un nouveau soleil. Je me levai, dit-il, sur le pont, & je vis effectivement un grand feu qui brûloit en l'air, & qui éclairoit assez pour pouvoir lire une lettre. Quoique le vent fût très-violent, ce météore ne branloit point; il brûla environ pendant deux heures, & disparut en s'éteignant peu à peu. Les pilotes, les matelots, & tout l'équipage effrayé, le regardèrent comme la marque infaillible d'une tempête dont nous étions menacés; il n'y eut pas moyen de les tirer de-là" (Richard, 1771).

(See Supplemental Videos - [Ocean Flash UFOs](#), [Red Light UFOs](#), [Flashing UFOs](#).)

1684 Histoire de l'Academie Royale des Sciences (Type B)

The following sighting in Toulon, France was recorded by the French Academy of Sciences.

The Father of Lannion reported that he saw an extraordinary phenomenon on the 17th of November near S. Aubin in Brittany; it was a teardrop-shaped flame as big as one's hand, coming down from the sky slowly for about 7 to 8 minutes. We could see this flame clearly enough, it was a little bluish; Its tail threw off sparks of some kind, and it was opposite the sun.

M. l'Abbé de l'Anion a rapporté qu'il avoit vû un Phénomene extraordinaire le 17 Novembre vers les ro heures du matin étant proche de S. Aubin en Bretagne; c'étoit une flamme en forme de larme , grosse comme la main qui decendit du Ciel assés lentement pendant l'espace d'environ 7 à 8 minutes. On voyoit cette flamme assés clairement, elle paroissoit un peu bleuë; la queuë jettoit des espèces d'étincelles, & elle étoit opposée au Soleil (Histoire de l'Académie royale des sciences depuis 1666 jusqu'en 1699, 1733).

(See Kentucky Encounter, Pascagoula Encounter, Blue Domed/Tear Drop UFO.)

1676 "Disc-like" object, Italy (Type B)

Considered one of Florence and Tuscany's greatest mysteries, the first possible use of the word "disc" to characterize an Unidentified Flying Object is written in "Succinta relazione di un insolito lume apparso per tutta la Toscana, e in molti altri luoghi d'Italia la sera del 31 marzo 1676 (A succinct report of an unusual light which appeared throughout Tuscany, and in many other places in Italy on the evening of March 31, 1676)" (Barzini, 1676; Toscanalibri, 2015). The report states,

On the evening of March 31, 1676, a luminous "disc-like" object appeared in the Tuscan skies and was seen crossing from the Adriatic Sea to the Mediterranean with one or more bursts.

La sera del 31 di marzo del 1676 è comparso nei cieli toscani un corpo luminosissimo a forma di disco – o sacco di grano, o covone ma alquanto più rotondo – che in meno tempo di dire un miserere, si vidde traghettare dal mare Adriatico al Mediterraneo, con uno o più scoppi.

(See Supplementary Video - [Disc Shaped UFOs](#)).

1639 Journal of John Winthrop (Type B)

This account parallels one written in the Annals of Songzi County in that they both reported missing time and a UAP. For 350 years, Governor John Winthrop's journal has been recognized as the central source for the history of Massachusetts in the 1630s and 1640s. On March 1, 1639, it reports,

In this year one James Everell, a sober, discreet man, and two others, saw a great light in the night at Muddy River. When it stood still, it flamed up, and was about three yards square; when it ran, it was contracted into the figure of a swine: it ran as swift as an arrow towards Charlton, and so up and down about two or three hours. They were come down in their lighter about a mile, and, when it was over, they found themselves carried quite back against the tide to the place they came from. Divers other credible persons saw the same light, after, about the same place (Winthrop, 2009).

(See Kentucky Women Case, A 70 Case, and Kelly Cahill Case.)

1603 Narration historique et topographique des convens de J'ordre de St-Francois (Type B)

In the year 1603, being in Besangon for the duties of my charge as Visitor to Sainte Claire monastery, it happened that on a Thursday, the 23rd day of January, between 7 and 8 P.M., we were told that all the people were assembling in the streets, terrified. I went out, and like the others, I saw a great light in the air over the cathedral, covering the whole of Mount Saint Etienne with a round-shaped, heavy cloud, reddish in color, while all the air was clear and the sky so devoid of fog that the stars were seen shining brilliantly. This light remained quasi-motionless over Mount Saint Etienne, and from there we saw it coming so low that it nearly touched the houses and lit up the nearby streets, but with a motion so slow that it was hardly noticeable, and it halted for at least a quarter of an hour over Saint Vincent Abbey, where some pieces of relics of two glorious Saints are kept. Then, escaping over the Grande place of Chammar to the Doubs river, it went away through the Grande rue that goes to the bridge, and straight to the cathedral where it vanished, but as we said before, with such a slow-motion that its travel lasted until 9:30 at night, which is to say at least two hours (Vallee, Trans.).

(Original Text [Link](#), see Supplementary Videos - [Ocean Flash UFOs](#), [Red Light UFOs](#), [Flashing UFOs](#).)

1578 Ming Dynasty, Wanli Emperor (China) (Type B)

A "comet" spins like a wheel and illuminates the sky. Time passes and the light goes out.

"明神宗万历五年十二月初三夜，尾星旋转如轮，焰照天，逾时乃灭"

(南澳县志, 2000; Acta Astronomica Sinica, 2003).

1520 Annals of Joseon Dynasty (South Korea) (Type B)

In 1520, the Joseon Dynasty of Korea, after a red “Qi” in the sky was reported by an astrologer, two members of the Royal Secretariat also witnessed the same red “Qi” that was flickering like a torch. It was moving irregularly for hours. The particular phenomenon was reported to King Jungjong. He feared that it could be an ominous sign (Annals of Joseon Dynasty, 1520).

(See Supplementary Videos - [Moving Lights UFOs](#), [Flashing UFOs](#), [Red Light UFOs](#).)

Sightings Prior to the 17th Century

Around 1450, Gutenberg introduced the movable metal type in Europe; subsequently, religious texts such as the rationale *Divinorum Officiorum*, Mainz Psalter, and the Bible, were the first to be published. The first newspapers (1605), magazines (1663), and academic journals (1665), on the other hand, were not printed until the 17th century. The contemporary lack of a scientific method and professional journalism obfuscates the identification of UFO sightings. Specifically, most records of “UFOs” before the 17th century’s Scientific Revolution contain a substantial amount of astrological or religious explanation, making sightings debatable. For example, the Byzantium historian George Sphrantzes writes about the fall of Constantinople in 1453: “Every night a fire descended from the sky, stood over the City, and enveloped her with light all night long. Their first interpretation of this heavenly sign was that God was expressing his wrath against Christians, indicating that the City would be burned and that her inhabitants would be enslaved to the Turks” (Marios, 1980). Other unreliable sightings describe a “cross” appearing in the sky (Fincelius 1556; Christian, 1981). Despite these controversial records, objective sightings, such as vanishing globe in 1296 or a glistening globe in 1547, still exist (Vallee & Aubeck, 2010; Garratt, 1894; Goulart, 1600).

Additionally, several important UFO sightings that predate this time are found in the Song Dynasty of China. It is worth noting that this golden age in China had unrivaled levels of social development, prosperity, and technological advances that are comparable to those at the peak of the Roman Empire. The earliest use of compasses, gunpowder, paper money, and the metal printing press prior to Gutenberg are all attributed to this period. One sighting comes from a Leonardo of Song Dynasty, Shen Kuo (1031–1095); this genius was best known for his first use of the magnetic compass for navigation and discovery of true north. In Shen’s book, *Mengxi bitan*, he explains the first geometrical and quantitative workings of a camera obscura, the use of the magnetic compass for navigation, a solar eclipse, a lunar eclipse, the geological process of land formation, and gradual climate change (AAAS, 2012). In this same book (1088), he describes a UFO (China.org.cn, 2010).

During the Chia-yu reign-period [1056–1064] there was a huge “pearl” in Yangchow, seen frequently at night. At first, it appeared out of the marshes in T’ien-ch’ang county; later it moved to Pi-she Lake; finally, it settled at Hsin-k’ai Lake. For more than ten years residents and travelers saw it often. A friend of mine had a retreat by the lake. One night he

noticed that the “pearl” was very nearby. At first, it opened its door just slightly. A bright light emerged from its “shell,” like a single ray of golden thread. A moment later the “shell” suddenly opened to about the size of half a mat. Inside there was a white light like silver. The “pearl” was as big as a fist, so bright one could not look at it directly. Shadows cast in the forests for more than ten tricents [one tricent 300 paces] distant were just like those cast by the first rays of sunshine in the morning. In the distance one could see only a red sky, like a forest fire. Quickly the “pearl” sped far off, as if it were flying, floating above the waves, bright and brilliant as sunlight (V. Mair, Trans.).

嘉祐中，揚州有一珠，甚大，天晦多見。初出於天長縣陂澤中，後轉入甕社湖，又後乃在新開湖中，凡十餘處，居民行人常常見之。余友人書齋在湖上，一夜忽見其珠，甚近。初微開其房，光自吻中出。如橫一金線。俄頃忽張殼，其大如半席，殼中白光如銀，珠大如拳，爛然不可正視。十餘里間林木皆有影，如初日所照；遠處但見天赤如野火；倏然遠去，其行如飛；浮於波中，杳杳如日。(Gutenberg, 2020)

The phenomenon was observed again in Jinshan Temple, located near Yangchow. This sighting in 1071 was recorded by Su Dongpo (Su Shi), the polymath of the Song Dynasty, and a pre-eminent figure in East Asian literature, art, and culture. He states,

The fire shines in the middle of the lake. The flying fire lights up the mountain and scares a crow. Bewildered, I return home in bed and my mind is puzzled. It's not a work of man or ghost. What is it?

江心似有炬火明 飛焰照山樓鳥驚 悵然歸臥心莫識 非鬼非人竟何物
(胡懷琛, 1978).

He further adds in the end that he himself has witnessed the event (原註: 是夜所見如此).

NASA Scientist Richard B. Stothers (2007) notes that Unidentified Flying Objects have even been recorded in Ancient Rome. He classifies historical sightings in the Roman Empire into two subgroups: “flying armaments,” in which sightings are recorded in military language, and “fiery globes” that are explained in meteorological and astronomical language. The subgroup “flying armaments” reflects the tendency to associate the most contemporary advanced military technology in modern UFO reports. He provides historical descriptions that would fall into the same categories as modern UFO reports, such as “round shields” (parmas) seen in the sky in 217 BC and “a round shield” (clipeus) burning and emitting sparks in 100 BC (Stothers, 2007).

Thus, it may be difficult to pinpoint the beginnings of the UFO phenomenon. Despite their controversy, UAP or UFOs are historically well-

documented and have been reported by scholars and others that hold valid credentials. Furthermore, objective records of anomalies that correspond to modern UFO sightings can be found in most flourishing and populated parts of the world throughout history. Long before they became a phenomenon in the United States, these sightings existed in the Roman Empire, the Song Dynasty, France, and Great Britain. Nevertheless, a number of arguable records of UFOs that predate the Scientific Revolution of the 17th century are not discussed here due to people's widespread lack of astronomical knowledge at the time and their tendency to consider the aerial phenomena a religious omen. Therefore, their hyperbolic descriptions are often superfluous in exploring the possible connection between UFOs and alien intelligence.

Unfortunately, the discussion of historical UFOs has been abused to attract people's attention, including exceedingly wild and unverified speculations of how ancient aliens influenced human civilizations. Consequently, this over-representation has tainted any effort to analyze UAP with a "lunatic fringe" and successfully prevented actual scientists from exploring this topic.

6. U.S. Government's Stance on UFOs

In 2006, a UFO was reported at Chicago O'Hare International Airport: a metallic, saucer-shaped craft was witnessed by pilots, airline personnel, and mechanics. United Airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) initially denied that they had any information on the O'Hare UFO sighting (Hilkevitch, 2007). After the *Chicago Tribune* filed a Freedom of Information Act request, the federal agency "quickly reversed its position" (Hilkevitch, 2007). Following their request, an internal FAA review of air-traffic communications tapes revealed a call by the airline supervisor to an FAA manager concerning a "mysterious elliptical-shaped craft."

The effort to underplay UFO sightings is not a recent trend. In the 1940s, Project Grudge was instituted by the U.S. Air Force to investigate and debunk UFOs. The director of Project Grudge, Captain Edward J. Ruppelt (1956), writes, "Everything was being evaluated on the premise that UFOs couldn't exist. No matter what you see or hear, don't believe it." In 1966, a growing number of sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects were reported in Michigan, and people were alarmed. Future President Gerald Ford, who was a congressman at the time, was not satisfied with the laughable "swamp gas" explanation of the sightings and declared that people deserved a better explanation (Fordlibrarymuseum, 1966). Ironically, astrophysicist scientist J. Allen Hynek, who delivered the "Swamp gas" explanation to Gerald Ford, would later become a believer in UFOs and alien aircrafts from another dimension (Kelly, 2019).

Furthermore, the effort to classify UFO sightings is not a new movement either. According to pilot Bill Paynter and Norman C. Miller, the Washington Bureau chief for *The Wall Street Journal*, President Ronald Reagan witnessed a UFO (Alexander, 2012; Ramasseul, 2015). In 2009, Gorbachev revealed that Reagan asked him point-blank during the 1985 Geneva Summit, "What would you do if the United States were suddenly attacked by someone from outer space? Would you help us?" (Orr, 2009). Likewise, President Carter himself reported a UFO in 1973 before he became president (O'Toole, 1977). Nevertheless,

throughout their office terms, the release of UFO files by government agencies was denied due to national security concerns (Sinclair, 1981; Hansen, 1984). In 2015, John Podesta, a one-time chief of staff to Bill Clinton and an outgoing advisor to Barack Obama, wrote, “Finally, my biggest failure of 2014: once again not securing the disclosure of the UFO files.” He was also the chairman of Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign. One of Hilary Clinton’s campaign promises was, in fact, declassifying records and revealing the truth about UFOs (Watkins, 2016; Chozick, 2016).

Recent publicized disclosures made the government agencies’ ambiguous stance on UFOs even more evident. In 2016, the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) was revealed as a classified program funded by the Department of Defense to investigate UFOs. The former head of AATIP, Luis Elizondo, arranged the release of UFO footage; Joseph Gradisher, a spokesperson for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, responded that the public was never supposed to see the videos (Rodriguez, 2019). Following the 2016 disclosures, the Navy admitted that the UFO videos are authentic. The Navy does not associate UFOs with evidence of alien life, but witnesses consisting of more than 120 former or retired military personnel testified to witnessing UFO activities and their capability to deactivate missile sites (PR Newswire, 2010; Adams, 2016; CBS, 2010). When some voiced their concerns to superiors, they were told it was “top secret” or that it “didn’t happen” (CBS, 2010). In 2019, Navy officers were directed by their chain of command to erase the evidence of a 2004 UFO Encounter due to pressure from “unknown individuals” (McMillan, 2019). In 2020, the Navy announced that releasing top-secret UFO files would “Gravely Damage” U.S. National Security (Daniels, 2020) (see [Supplementary File](#)).

The reason American government agencies are not comfortable with UFOs is not as strange as one might assume. It cannot be emphasized enough that the United States has by far the strongest military force in the world, spending more money on defense than the next seven countries combined (Peter G. Peterson Foundation, 2019). The most advanced military on Earth absolutely knows when an object is unidentifiable, and that such aircrafts can easily outperform the fastest jets of the most powerful and largest military force in the world. In this regard, UFOs are seen as a threat to the current world order, national security, and particularly the United States itself because it challenges the belief of American supremacy (Bender, 2019). More importantly, the United States is the most religious wealthy country in the world, and the existence of aliens may create various complications (Fahmy, 2018). To further elaborate, more than 70% of Americans are Christian, and the existence of alien intelligence would impact lay people and professionals alike. One employee at Chicago O’Hare International Airport, for example, “experienced some religious issues” after witnessing the UFO in 2006. Likewise, some Pentagon officials opposed the AATIP based on religious grounds (Knapp & Adams, 2019).

7. Conclusion

Since the Scientific Revolution in the 18th century, a number of unexplainable anomalies have been carefully recorded by professional astronomers (Vallee & Aubeck, 2010). As expected, these 18th- and 19th-century records of anomalous sightings are consistent with modern findings. In 1977, astrophysics

professor Peter Sturrock sent 2,611 UFO sighting questionnaires to members of the American Astronomical Society (Wald, 1979). He received 1,356 responses from which 62 astronomers (4.6%) reported unexplained aerial phenomena being observed or recorded. Among the 1,356 responses, 80% expressed modest or strong approval of whether UFOs merit scientific study.

An unusual double standard exists regarding the ambivalent public perspective on “paranormal” experience. Alleged witnesses or believers of ghosts or angels are casually regarded as religious or spiritual, but belief in the possibility of “alien” visitors is ridiculed and disparaged. Unidentified Flying Objects, however, are not “paranormal.” They are well-documented phenomena that have a long history of sightings. The scientific community has been hesitant in making any assertions due to the over-representation of hoaxes in the media and effective attempts to rule out or obscure UFO records. The most rational answer regarding UAP that may have continued from ancient times to date is that they are not demonic entities, as some Pentagon officials and many other religious groups have believed (Costa, 2018; Knapp & Adams, 2019; Hamill, 2018).

The following supporting evidence has been discussed in this paper to further substantiate UFO and alien encounter claims.

- 1. Unexplainable encounters of child witnesses,**
- 2. Noteworthy groups of adult witnesses,**
- 3. Modern pilots as witnesses,**
- 4. Long history of UFO sightings, and**
- 5. Government and military’s stance on UFOs**

Upon examining such factors, two possibilities remain:

- a) Numerous groups coordinate the use of children, trained actors, reporters, and third-party witnesses, and possibly manipulate the military, government officials, generals, pilots, or presidents to promote the belief in UFOs and alien life. These UFO-related groups have been in operation for several centuries, and even date to ancient times. Or,
- b) Objects created by non-human entities whose technologies may be far superior to our own have already visited Earth.

There exists modern footage from pilots and military generals, as well as historical evidence, of UFOs or UAP that confirms such objects in sightings were not man-made. This coincidentally dovetails with stories presented by child witnesses and notable group witnesses in the past. The governments’ classified UFO studies (AATIP), and verified statements from pilots, scientists, government officials, and the military, only work to strengthen this conclusion. Needless to say, skeptics will always find ways to fault the UFO or “alien ship” encounters that are mentioned here; however, dismissing all notable cases would make this article less of an objective assessment of the possibility of “alien visitors” than a skeptic’s attempt to explain them all away.

The aforementioned events witnessed by young children and groups of adults, in conjunction with UFOs that have been reported by commercial and

military pilots, scientists, and astronomers, written about in ancient times, recorded during wartimes, and witnessed all around the world, can only mean that there is some truth to this phenomena. Associating Unidentified Flying Objects with aliens has seldom been regarded as taboo or as a conspiracy theory; however, an alternative, “scientific” explanation that there are a group of organizations working to falsely promote the existence of alien aircraft for their unknown agenda is an even larger conspiracy theory. The fact that truly unidentified UFOs are maneuvered by “aliens” is the simplest explanation that connects the five previously mentioned pieces of the puzzle; it is impossible to deduce an alternative explanation that denies this fact and offers a solution to all five aspects. Assuming that verified UFOs (e.g. reported by Navy pilots) are not the work of “aliens” would require a nonsensical, convoluted “conspiracy theory” that would backfire elsewhere. This does not mean that all reported accounts of “aliens” or “alien ships” are true; however, a small portion of alien encounter reports are worthy of serious examination.

With the advent of smartphones, ubiquitous security cameras, high-speed internet, and increased population density, any close encounter with “alien ships” or “aliens” would now equate to official contact. If these “alien ships” were to make contact now as they supposedly did with children in the past, humanity as a whole will be forced to accept their existence. Any discussion on ethics, philosophy, or religion would be reexamined, and it would fracture the minds of many that are dependent on the contemporary paradigm. Why these aliens have not yet chosen to reveal themselves to mankind should not be used as an argument against the possibility of “alien visitors”; there are still indigenous populations in the Amazon, African rainforests, and South Asia that remain untouched by outside visitors and the advent of modern civilization (Čirjak, 2020).

Skeptics that are unwilling to consider the slightest possibility of “alien visitors” may be over-glorifying human civilization as a whole. While this is not to underplay any literary or scientific works, discoveries, or technological inventions that have benefited mankind, *homo sapiens* are still responsible for global warming, deforestation, desertification, forest fires, the extinction of countless species, the genocide of their own kind, and the extinction of the closely related *hominins* (Lejeune et al., 2018; Dirzo et al., 2014). Moreover, a depressingly large number of people choose to remain “skeptical” of vaccines, global warming, evolution, and the spherical Earth despite the developments from the greatest minds that have ever lived (The Guardian, 2019; Pilkington, 2019).⁴

Further Discussion

Alien life has been speculated by many scholars; going one step further and claiming that aliens could have visited Earth, or relating UFOs to alien intelligence, has been regarded as taboo. Noteworthy claims have been ignored by scientists and scholars because there have been notoriously boundless controversies regarding UFO cases. Hoax-like cases are often overrepresented due to one’s desire to seek attention or profit, while respectable witnesses are less willing to discuss details of the events in public out of fear of being ridiculed, thus jeopardizing their career. Unfortunately, attention-seekers and scammers in

⁴ Please read the author’s note at the end of the article.

tabloids and social media platforms that present extremely far-fetched stories of aliens are likely the ones that easily catch people's attention, and they have contributed to discrediting other cases that should not be dismissed. The extensive history of UFOs and noteworthy cases from modern witnesses have been ignored when it comes to the scientific examination of alien intelligence and UFOs.

Furthermore, while the idea of intelligent alien visitors may seem wild and modern, the foundation for belief in "alien" life can be traced back to ancient Greek philosophers. Infinite worlds forming and disintegrating were first speculated by Anaximander, the 6th-century BC philosopher who also conceptualized the evolutionary view of the world prior to Darwin (Nardo, 2010; McKirahan, 2001). This idea of an infinite number of worlds, or multiverse, was later adopted by notable atomists such as Leucippus, Democritus, and Epicurus (Rubenstein, 2015). Plato and Aristotle disagreed, however, as they felt that the Earth is unique and that there can be no other such worldly systems; this idea, along with Ptolemy's geocentric model, neatly fit in with later anthropocentric Christian ideas (Perry et al., 2015). Similarly, in the 3rd century BC, Greek philosopher Aristarchus was the first to theorize a heliocentric view of the solar system, but his ideas were relinquished in favor of the geocentric model of the universe. It was not until Galileo's conflict with the Church and the invention of the telescope that the heliocentric model began to be accepted in favor of Ptolemy's geocentric model.

Throughout history, scholars progressively overcame their traditional beliefs and outdated ideas in favor of more scientific answers and logical explanations. We are in a transitional stage where the possibility of alien visitors will supersede the belief in angels, demons, or ghosts. Even though it is often believed that science-fiction novels or films are largely responsible for belief in UFOs as alien aircraft, this is somewhat misleading. What innovative Sci-fi films and novels actually did was make the idea of alien aircraft and the possibility of alien intelligence easily accessible to the public. Before ingenious works from science-fiction writers existed, people who have closely encountered UFOs or aliens have resorted to religious or spiritual explanations, including ghosts, angels, demons, or God(s). It is only because the concept of "alien" was popularized in the late 20th century that modern UFO witnesses were able to accept the unusual events as a non-spiritual experience and consider the possibility of "alien" visitors.

Prospects for Humanity

Public acknowledgment of "aliens" and the disclosure of classified files would be beneficial for removing the taboo associated with aliens and UFOs in the science community. This official revelation would inject more information into the public and encourage scientists to study these subjects, as our current knowledge is incomplete. People will be curious, and thus, scientists will feel obliged to investigate the subject instead of simply dismissing sightings as an anomaly or a hoax. More declassified information, combined with knowledge gained from questioning aliens' purpose, their composition, and their origin, would ultimately help scientists better grasp the concept of the universe and humanity as a whole.

More importantly, although seemingly unrelated, the acceptance of alien life would be helpful in persuading religious groups to accept climate change.

Studies have shown that belief in conservative religions is correlated with doubts of climate change and evolution; conversely, religiously unaffiliated people account for the highest percentage stating that climate change is driven by human activities (Barker & Bearce, 2013; Pew Research, 2015; Rosenau, 2015). Similarly, the belief in the existence of alien life and religion is inversely correlated, with the highest percentage being the religiously unaffiliated group (Salisbury, 2014). In other words, alien intelligence is difficult to explain from the perspective of anthropocentric religions. The possibility of alien intelligence is, however, something that can be predicted or backed by science (Colombano, 2018; Sousa-Silva et al., 2020; Levin et al., 2019). If anything, the seemingly frightening existence of aliens can help people accept science before religion and mitigate people's strict textbook-based religious beliefs, thereby helping people realize that global warming is caused by humans.

Finally, official disclosure on these strange beings would help us to objectively discern, analyze, and ultimately reassess our current infrastructure and systems. Realizing that while we are the most intelligent animals on Earth, we are not the center of the universe, can encourage us to reexamine things from a third-person point of view. The disclosure and official recognition of these intelligent beings would help mankind grow internally and provide a chance to reassess ourselves rather than clinging onto an outdated, unscientific idea. It can reduce the irrational supremacism traced to religion, nation, interest groups, and institutions. It may even help us overcome a sense of superiority, exclusivity, and prejudice that fuels meaningless and wasteful conflicts to this day. In the end, the existence of alien intelligence is more about us rather than them. Thus, humans would have another chance to reexamine our thoughts and realize that the universe does not "revolve" around us.

Implications and Limitations

The terms used for UFO/UAPs may have changed over time; however, they have been observed throughout history. Their different names are, in fact, reflective of the contemporary technological developments at the time of their origin. They were called "Foo Fighters" during World War II and "airships" in the early 20th and late 19th centuries. Before this period, they were often referred to as comets, meteors, balls of fire, shields, or balloons. The development of aerial technology has allowed us to objectively discern that these objects, whose names have changed throughout history, exhibited capabilities beyond the realms of man-made technology. Only then were these objects finally labeled as UFOs. Interestingly, the same theory may also apply to aliens as well.

There are some historical accounts of ghosts involving strange lights from the early 20th and late 19th centuries, which precede the modern alien encounter stories of the mid and late 20th century ([St. Louis Globe-Democrat, 1876](#); [The Salt Lake Herald, 1897](#); [Hutchinson News, 1913](#); [The Springfield Leader, 1927](#)). However, genuine UFO encounters were uncommon, and the number of genuine alien encounters throughout history is likely to be even lower. For one, there would not have been as much controversy or debate surrounding UFOs, aliens, or "ghosts" in the first place if people commonly and frequently encountered UFOs. Therefore, further research is required to determine if aliens or UFOs are directly responsible for the origin of myths related to ghosts or evil spirits. An example of

this is the worldwide superstition related to whistling. Several Eastern and Western cultures believe that whistling can attract ghosts or evil spirits; coincidentally, UFOs are often reported to be accompanied with a low humming or whistling sound.

Ultimately, this article discussed the possibility of ten alleged “alien” encounters in detail along with two possible alien encounters from the 17th and 19th centuries. Some of these stories involve telepathic communication, erasing memories, and possible teleportation; moreover, some specific details of noteworthy alien encounters may still seem too paranormal to be true. Nevertheless, such strange phenomena may be occurring within the scope of science. In 2014, scientists successfully created computer-mediated brain-to-brain “telepathic” communication of simple two words—“hola” and “ciao”—with the help of widely used medical technologies (Grau et al., 2014). In 2017, scientists succeeded in selectively erasing memories of *Aplysia* (sea snail) by blocking one of two types of the protein Kinase M; the researchers were encouraged by the fact that the same principle can be applied to human patients who have suffered a traumatic experience (Hu et al., 2017). In 2019, researchers were able to teleport a qutrit in a three-dimensional quantum state for the first time, and now aim to extend this work to the quantum teleportation of the entire quantum state of an atom (Luo et al., 2019). In other words, although supposed alien technological capabilities may be unachievable, they are not unthinkable.

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About the Author

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UUNwJ_KK4pdMe6-LtuyLXbyTPVXBzkCu

Author's Note

“I had the impression that this object could foresee what I was thinking. This is an experience that has changed me for the rest of my life,” says Captain Jorge Polanco, one of the witnesses in the 1955 Bariloche Incident ([see Supplementary Video](#)).

If UFOs already possess the technology to dwarf the jets of the U.S. Navy, they most likely have the data on recent man-made technologies like the internet and smartphones. Now, with smartphones, the internet, and surveillance cameras everywhere, even one very clear video of an alien encounter and UFO landing would equate to official contact. To put it simply, we lack close-up footage of UFOs because that is not what they want us to see.

Thus, assuming that these aliens may be choosing not to contact us for now, one might wonder why they chose to appear before some children in rural areas in the past. A logical guess as to why these aliens might have appeared to children but not to credentialed professionals might have to do with Earth's own internal level of development. Specifically, if such alien encounters were to happen to a notable person, it would disrupt the person's original “intended” course of life. Specifically, they might have become **ufologists** instead of achieving feats in their relevant field as an aftermath of a life-changing experience. All things considered, if aliens are making any contact with us, they want to minimize their impact on humanity while gradually helping us realize that we are not alone.

Nevertheless, in recent years, UFOs appeared in front of U.S. Navy pilots to the point where the Navy and Pentagon were officially forced to acknowledge their existence. The United States had effectively denied the existence of UFOs until now. Its sudden change in stance has rendered government agencies questionable and suspicious in the eyes of the general public. To me, it seems these UFOs are aware of humanity's censorship of alien life, and they are not “comfortable” with the with the **elites or media corporations currently governing mankind**.

Due to recent political and media polarization, the American public is more divided than ever. These UFOs will appear more frequently as the mainstream media becomes even less trustworthy and the mainstream scientific community fails to explain them. Specifically, the aliens themselves will appear when society's cynicism toward human nature is at its peak. For this reason, I suspect something worse than the recent COVID-19 outbreak is awaiting humanity.

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