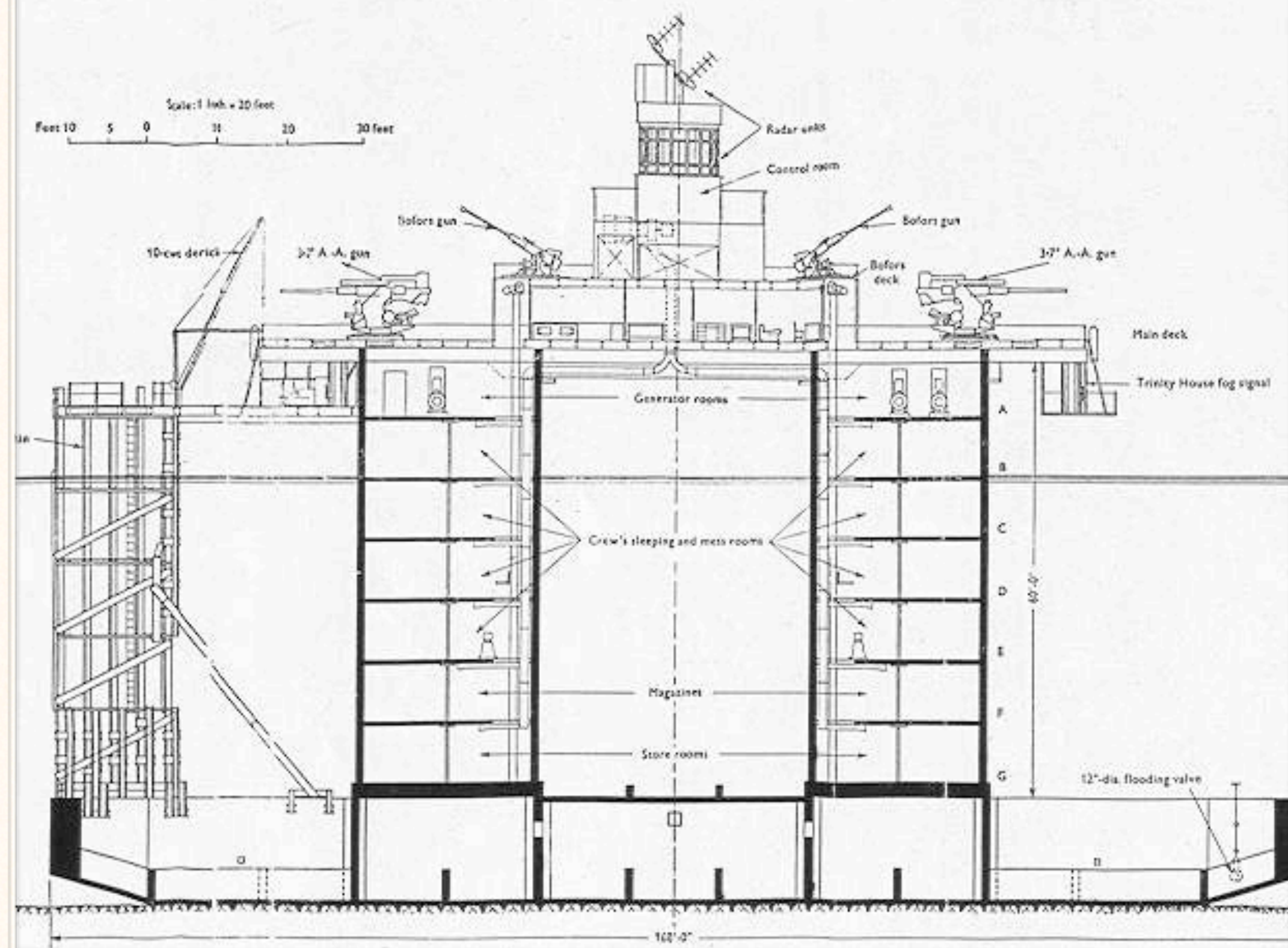


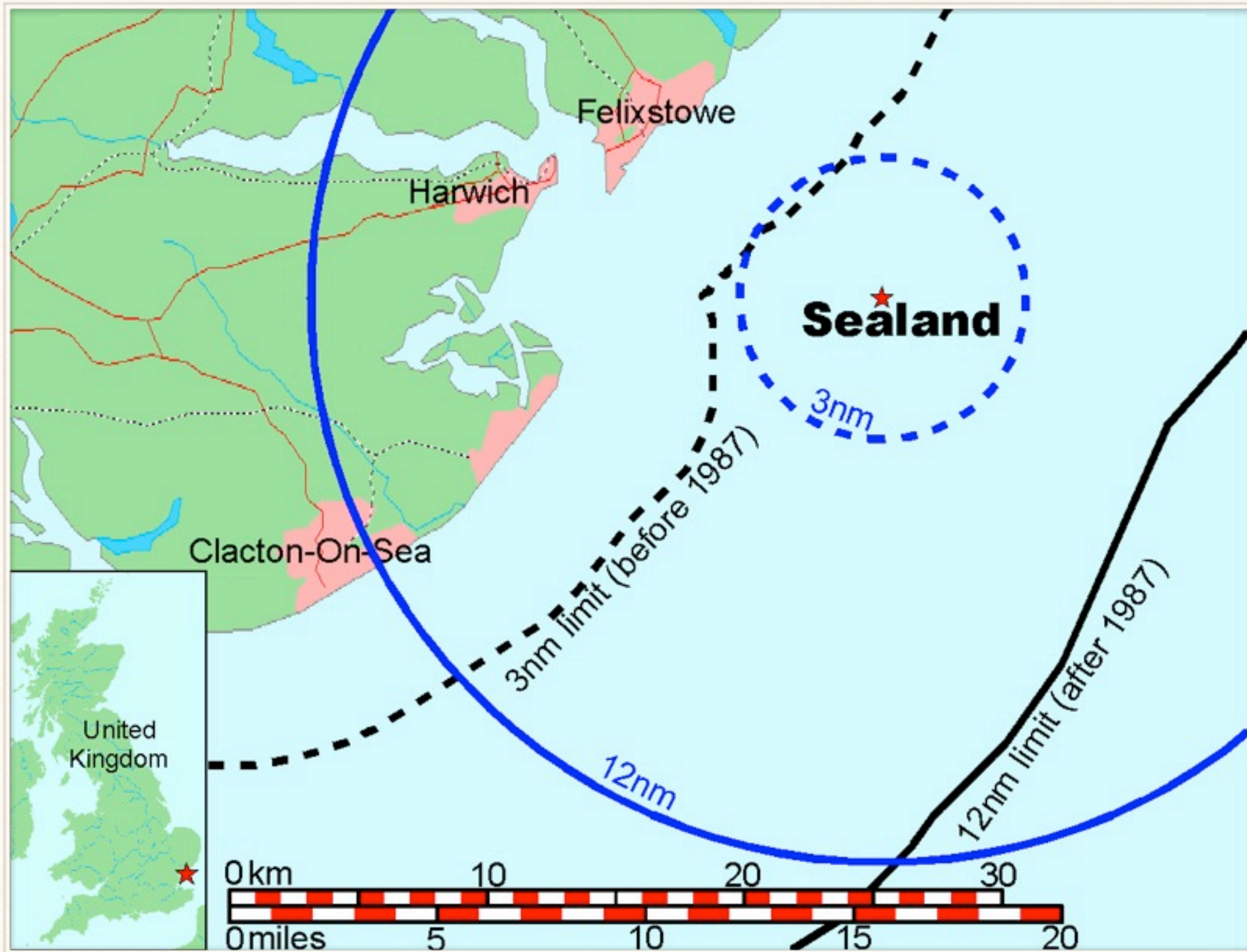
SEALAND AND HAVENCO: A NEW INTERPRETATION

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BITS WITHOUT BORDERS
SEPTEMBER 24, 2010

I. HISTORY















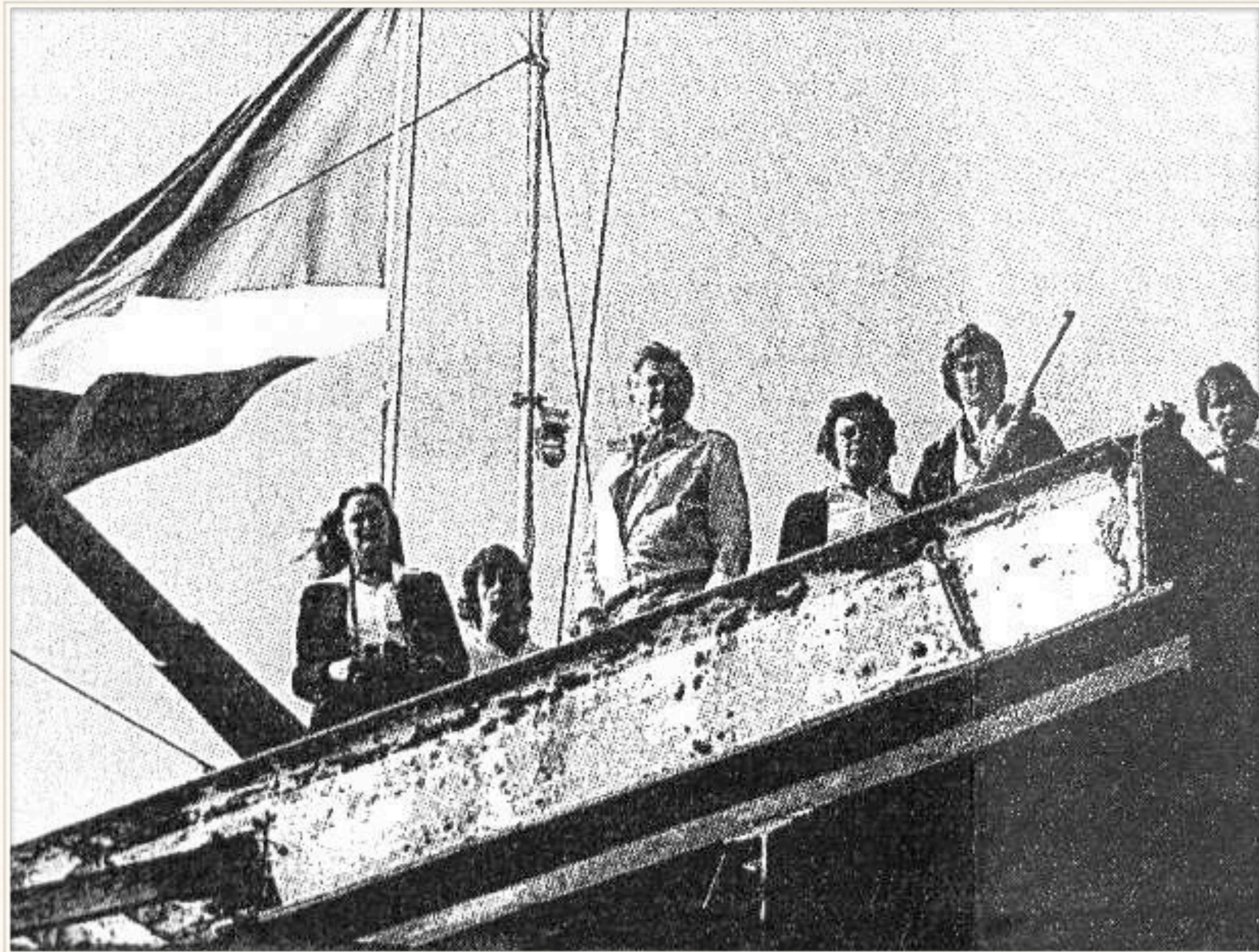


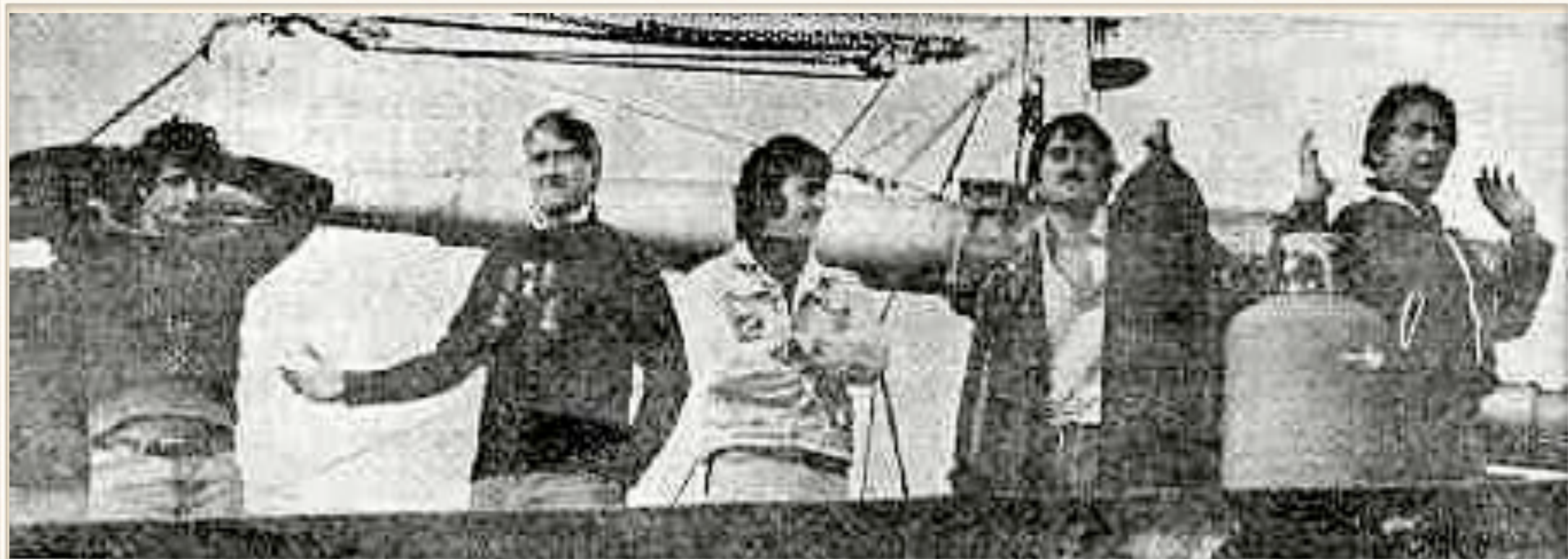












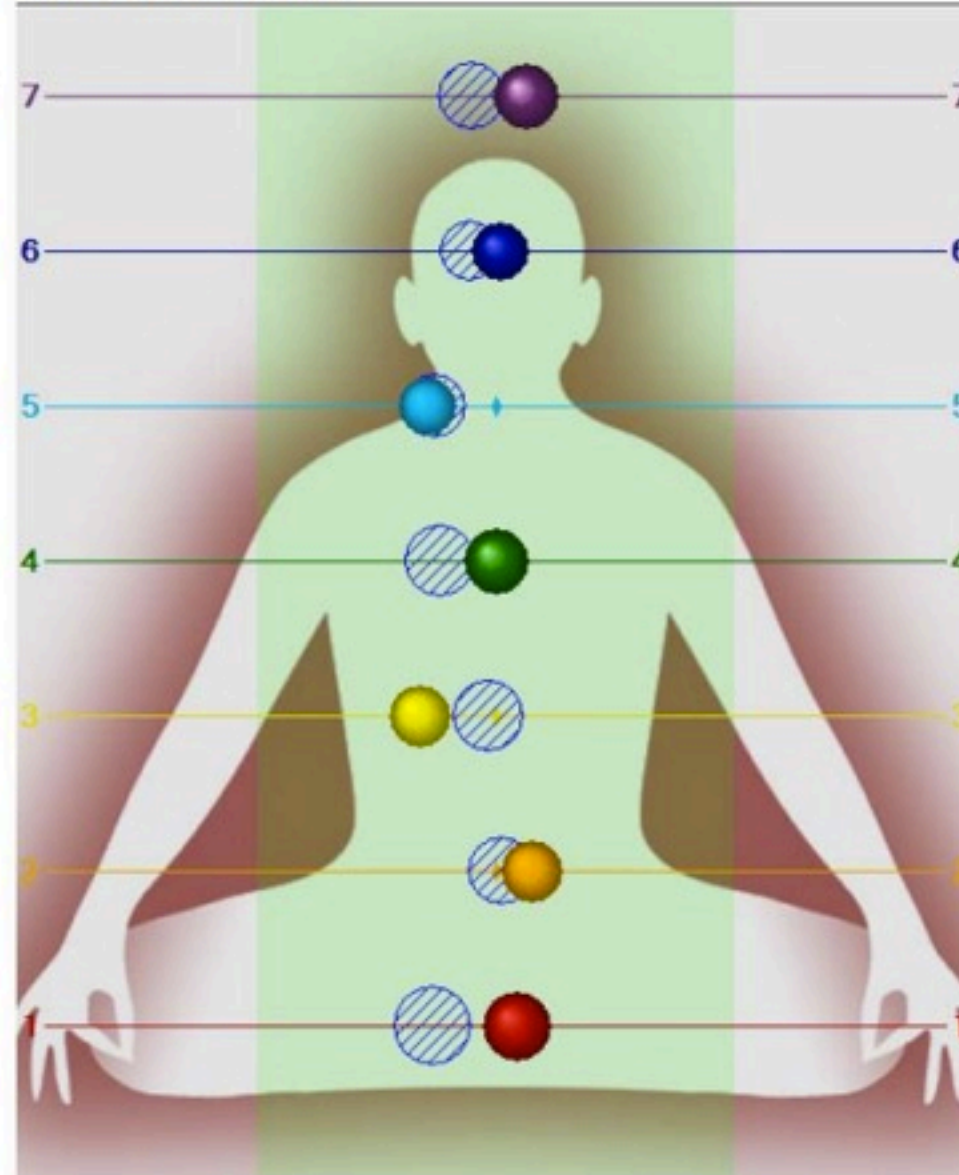


GDV Virtual Chakra - Herrn Johannes Seiger; Alter: 68 Jahre

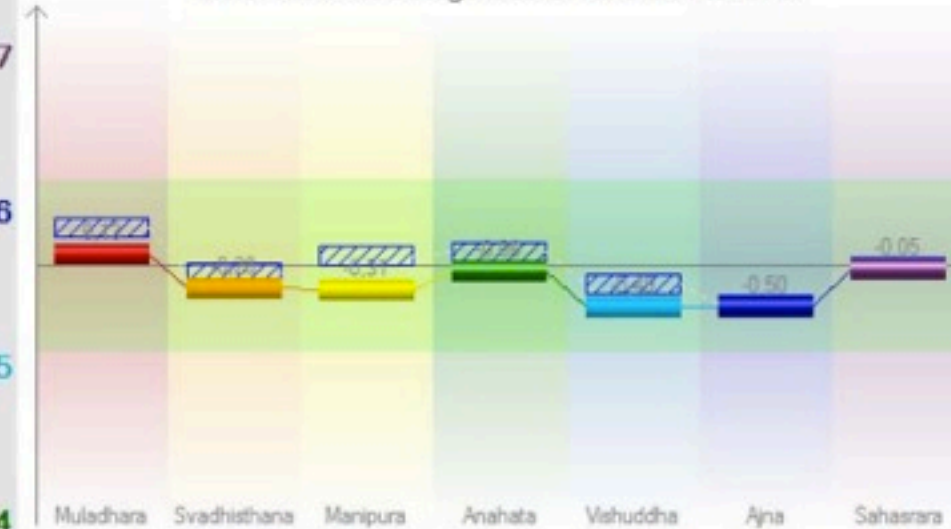


Ergebnisse **VOR** der Einwirkung des Vrilstabes

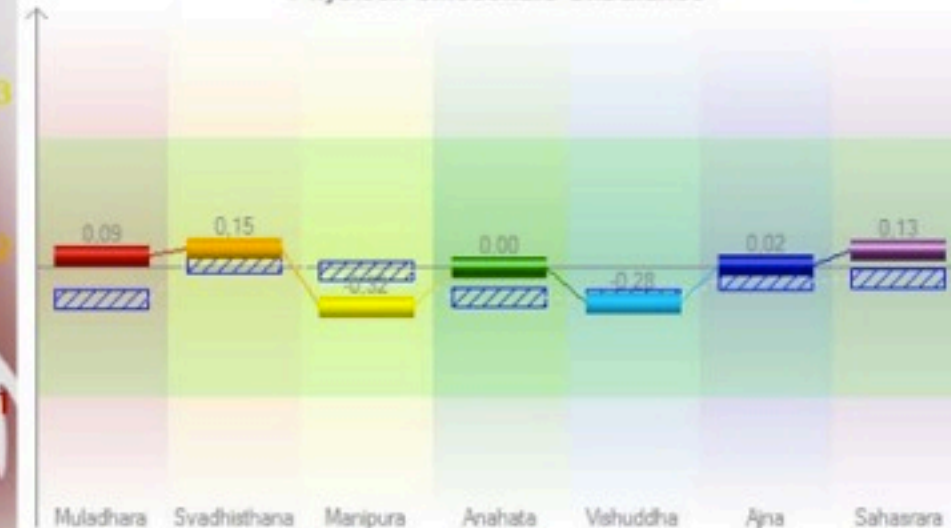
GDV Virtual Chakra



Normalisierter energetischer Wert der Chakras



Physisch-emotionale Unbalance



Anzeige der numerischen Diagrammdatei für:
Seiger Johannes W. F. - 15.05.2009 14:23:55 - GDV-Aufnahmen ohne Filter

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HAVENCO: THE RISE

- ❖ Data haven subject only to (minimal) Sealand law
- ❖ Strong crypto-libertarian *bona fides*
- ❖ First-world infrastructure, third-world regulation
- ❖ Legal sovereignty, redundant links, physical security
- ❖ Launches in 2000 with a *Wired* cover story



HAVENCO: THE FALL

- ❖ Never more than a dozen customers, mostly gambling
 - ❖ The huge server racks were a myth; bandwidth was low
- ❖ Relationship with Sealand deteriorates
 - ❖ Sealand advisors have low tolerance for copyright risks
- ❖ Transition to Sealand control at first amicable, then not
- ❖ “Under new management” HavenCo gradually peters out





II. INTERPRETATION

TWO RELATED QUESTIONS

- ❖ What was HavenCo's relationship to law?
 - ❖ National law
 - ❖ International law
 - ❖ Sealand law
- ❖ Why did HavenCo fail?

NATIONAL LAW

- ❖ HavenCo existed to undermine national laws and policies
- ❖ Its business model was extreme regulatory arbitrage:
“Our customers don’t want to break the law; they want a different set of laws they can comply with.”
- ❖ But arguably, there wasn’t much demand for its product:
 - ❖ Offshoring data doesn’t suffice for real-world businesses
 - ❖ And true scofflaws don’t need the veneer of legitimacy

INTERNATIONAL LAW

- ❖ HavenCo was a reseller of Sealand's sovereignty
- ❖ Clients may pragmatically have concluded that Sealand's claims to independence were unlikely to stand up
- ❖ The one court to face the issue squarely rejected them
- ❖ HavenCo's theory of government was minimalist:
 - ❖ One person suffices for a state
 - ❖ A passport stamp constitutes diplomatic recognition

INTERLUDE

- ❖ HavenCo rejects essentially all forms of national law
 - ❖ But is completely dependent on international law
- ❖ These two positions can be reconciled, *if*
 - ❖ Law is an autonomous system of binding rules
 - ❖ Human, political institutions are normatively irrelevant
- ❖ This is a thin vision of the rule of law

SEALAND LAW

- ❖ In the end, Sealand nationalized HavenCo
 - ❖ HavenCo couldn't object without undermining itself
- ❖ Sealand is a rule-of-law failure
 - ❖ An absolute monarch surrounded by courtiers
 - ❖ Frequent but irregular state violence
 - ❖ No professional judiciary, independent press, parties, etc.

ON THE RULE OF LAW

- ❖ HavenCo got exactly what it wanted in Sealand:
- ❖ A minimal state, shielded by international law from interference, but with no domestic legal system of its own
- ❖ Sealand “law” was as thin and formalistic as it could be
- ❖ But this thin version of the rule of law *doesn't work*
- ❖ Laws don't protect people; people (using law) protect people

III. IMPLICATION

CAN DATA ESCAPE LEVIATHAN?

- ❖ Neal Stephenson's *Cryptonomicon* gets it more right
 - ❖ Kinakuta is large, old, and oil-rich
- ❖ For cyberlibertarians, the physical body is an embarrassment
 - ❖ HavenCo's territoriality was theoretically anomalous
 - ❖ The pure vision imagines wholly online societies
 - ❖ But there is a problem ...

PURELY ONLINE STATES?

- ❖ E.g., virtual worlds present a double problematic:
 - ❖ Leviathan threatens to control them from without
 - ❖ Leviathan reappears inside, in the form of the game gods
- ❖ We can solve either, but never both at the same time
 - ❖ Some form of law is inevitable for online spaces
- ❖ The Internet needs its Madisons

QUESTIONS?