

Copenhagen – A play by Michael Frayn

GLOSSARY

Uncertainty Principle -- Discovered by Heisenberg, the principle that the momentum and position of a particle cannot both be precisely determined at the same time. It is arguably the most important fundamental concept behind all of quantum mechanics.

Complementarity Principle -- Discovered by Bohr, the complementarity principle holds that objects have certain pairs of complementary properties which cannot all be observed or measured simultaneously. An example of such a pair is position and momentum.

Plutonium -- By-product of the splitting of Uranium atoms. Almost exclusively man made. It is most important because of its use as fuel in certain types of nuclear reactors of and as an ingredient in nuclear weapons.

Speer (Albert) -- Minister of Armaments and War Production in Nazi Germany during most of World War II.

Otto Hahn -- German chemist, and a pioneer in the fields of radioactivity and radiochemistry. Hahn is referred to as the father of nuclear chemistry and godfather of nuclear fission.

Fission -- When an atom splits into two parts, either through natural decay or when instigated within a lab, it releases energy.

Elsinore -- The Castle where the play *Hamlet* takes place is referenced often in the play alluding to the dark corners of the Human Soul.

Cloud Chamber -- A particle detector used in Nuclear Physics for visualizing the passage of ionizing radiation.

N.B.: In 1941 The Nazi Axis is all but undefeated and controls most of Europe. America is not in the war yet. Hitler is invading Russia. The London Blitz is in full swing, hoping to bring Great Britain to its knees without an invasion.