



Wilson's
Intrigue

Humanities
Issue 5

Foreword

Welcome to the Wilson's Humanities Intrigue, where we explore the world through the lenses of the social sciences. Some may wonder, in the era of technological advancement and scientific innovation, why bother with the humanities? Well, we may not be able to program a robot to appreciate poetry or teach a computer to analyse the nuances of human behaviour, but we can learn from the stories of our past, interpret the present, and envision a better future. The humanities are essential to understanding ourselves and others, empathising with diverse perspectives, and creating a more compassionate society.

And in the midst and aftermath of global crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, political polarisation, and the Ukraine war, we may need the humanities more than ever. We need to learn from the lessons of history, appreciate the value of discourse, and seek solutions that address not only practical problems but also ethical dilemmas. The humanities may not provide instant answers or quick fixes, but they offer us a sense of purpose, meaning, and connection.

As we look ahead to the future of the humanities, we are optimistic about the role they will continue to play in shaping our world. With the rise of AI and language models, there may be some who fear that creativity and the humanities are under threat, but we believe the opposite is true. As technology advances, the need for human empathy, creativity, and critical thinking only becomes more pressing. The humanities provide a foundation for these skills, and we are confident that they will continue to be essential in the years to come.

With that said, we are thrilled to present the fifth edition of the Wilson's Humanities Intrigue.

Amongst an excellent crop of articles, Gabriel's insightful discourse on loneliness was voted the best of this issue. We hope that this and the many other demonstrations of the enterprise and imagination of Wilson's students within this magazine will inspire you to reflect on a broad range of matters, from neo-colonialism to solipsism, and to see the world around you from the unique lenses of the humanities.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Ormonde, Ms. Grant, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Denison, and Mr. Gore who generously shared their expertise and guidance within the editorial process.

We are also excited to announce that we are handing over the reins to Gabriel Gardiner and Edwin Joyas John, who will be the new chief editors for the upcoming year. We have no doubt that they will continue to uphold the standards of excellence and creativity that have defined this magazine and take it to new heights. We would like to offer them our congratulations and support for this rewarding role.

We want to thank everyone who has contributed to this magazine, from the writers who have put so much effort into their pieces, to the teachers who have provided feedback, and to Mr Lissimore who effortlessly tackled the logistics of publication. Without each and every one of you, and your passion for the humanities, this magazine would not be possible.

Thank you and enjoy the magazine.

Sincerely,

Eeshaan Iyer and Atticus Fear

If you would like to be part of future editions of the Wilson's Humanities Intrigue, please email GARDINERG@WILSONSSCHOOL.SUTTON.SCH.UK or JOHNE@WILSONSSCHOOL.SUTTON.SCH.UK.

The sleek covers of the magazine were designed by alumnus Shahzeb Ahmed.

Though he left the school last year, we are grateful that Shahzeb generously offered to continue his contributions to the Intrigue.

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Contents

Economics

Universal Basic Income	6
The Rise of Online Retailing: An Opportunity or Challenge?	8

English

<i>Before I Leapt in Through Your Soul's Wide-open Wind</i>	12
Shakespeare Crossword	14

Geography

Neo-colonialism: the 21st-Century Struggle for Global Influence	16
Conquering the Summit of Mount Everest	18
Picture Quiz	20

History

The Red Dawn	22
True or False Quiz	24

Philosophy

Is Beauty Really in the Eye of the Beholder?	26
Does the World Revolve Around You?	28
What is Loneliness?	30

Politics

The Permanent Constitution	34
Attitudes to Human Rights Worldwide	36
The Tucano	38

References	42
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ECONOMICS



**Should the government give us all free money?
Find out from Madhav Chippada's article.**

ARTICLE

MADHAV CHIPPADA Y12

Universal Basic Income

Page 6

ARTICLE

HAAVED ASLAM Y11

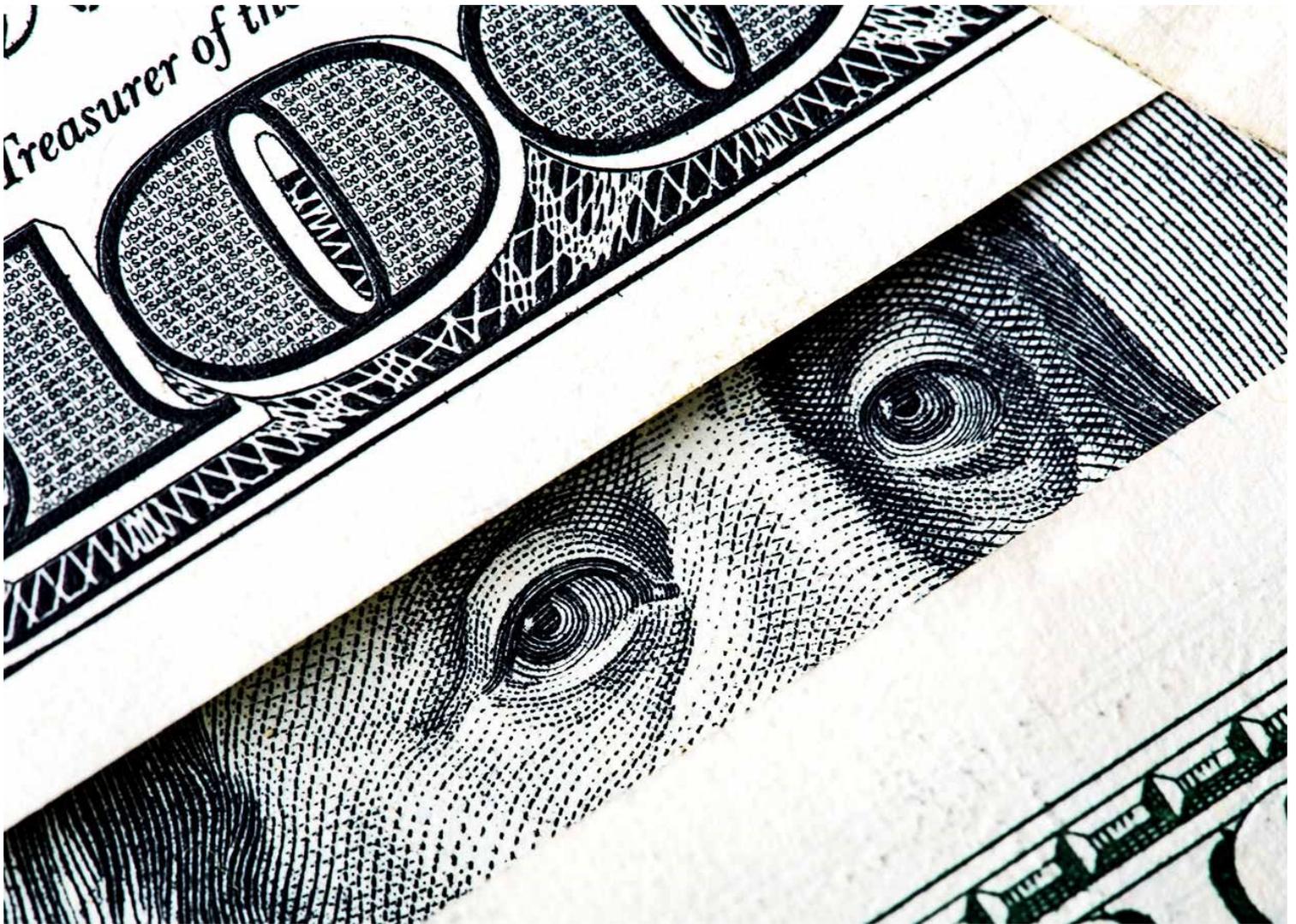
The Rise of Online Retailing: An Opportunity
or Challenge?

Page 8

Universal Basic Income

An evaluation of the benefits of the economic system of universal basic income to explore discuss whether it is a worthy idea to be implemented in current day economics.

MADHAV CHIPPADE Y12



Universal Basic Income is a fixed sum of money that would be distributed amongst individuals for them to spend as they please. However, as it has taken many forms and variations, many disagree on the implementation of such a policy despite the concept of a basic income being more accepted in recent years. Some of the core criticism surrounds issues such as whether it would replace a welfare state and what the moral implications would be.

What are the advantages of using Universal Basic Income?

Many benefits are promised by such a policy, namely, improved financial security. This would allow people to be more willing to pursue higher education, and take more time to explore different jobs and not settle for a less enjoyable career simply to avoid financial ruin. This would ultimately lead to, in theory, more fulfilling lives for people, as they don't settle for a career that they think they must have. It could also allow people to be more willing to start businesses and invest in their own

Nations would also benefit from increased consumer spending due to the rise in disposable income, ultimately creating more economic growth

unique ideas, which both benefit themselves as well as the national economy and industry.

Advocates have also proposed it as an alternative to the welfare state, as those who earn less but do not qualify for benefits would receive support equal to oth-

ers, under a basic income system, allowing for a safety net for all individuals. Additionally, there would be much less bureaucracy surrounding welfare, as the



universal basic income system would act as a single system without conditions, making it a simpler solution than the much more complicated welfare system in place today, leading to people having greater support regardless of their own unique issues.

What challenges does it face?

However, there have been questions raised as to whether having a financial safety net would cause some not to work at all. This could be damaging to unpopular industries that are required to keep society running, including sanitation, waste management as well as dangerous jobs such as construction. Whilst this problem could be solved by setting a universal basic income that would be high enough to support people's incomes but not replace them, there remain many who do not believe in a basic income system, due to interfering with contemporary ideologies like the free market and the idea of people only earning what they have worked for.

A more pressing question would be how the state could achieve such a large financial endeavour. Implementation of a universal basic income would add up to billions of pounds, if not more, paid out annually in government spending. The only apparent solutions to this would be to either abolish the welfare state, making all domestic government spending be through this basic income, or by greatly increasing taxes, especially on the highly

wealthy elite and rich businesses. However, both of these proposed solutions have drawn criticism as it would require a major societal shift.

Moreover, with the true nature and value of the benefits provided by a universal basic income still being contested, many see it as a policy not worth being widely adopted.

Implementation in modern society

There have been many trials conducted around the world, especially during times of economic crises such as the recent pandemic, requiring greater support to ensure people do not fall into poverty. One such trial includes the 850,000 households given 1,015 euros every month by the Spanish government to support them through the pandemic. There has been growing support for such a system, with trials being carried out in many other countries, such as Finland.

Despite this, fierce debate still remains over the full nationwide introduction of a uni-

versal basic income. Do you think it is a good idea? The question that surrounds universal basic income is much more complex than it seems on the surface, and choosing to adopt it would mean that, as a society, we would have to be prepared to decide the kind of basic income system we would want and be ready to give up what is needed to pay for it. There will be conflicting issues like whether higher earners will receive higher taxes due to the extra income. Additionally, there may be other important effects of a basic income, including an increase in the multiplier effect due to higher disposable incomes. Ultimately, it could either end up as one of the most significant and beneficial changes to modern society, or a costly system to be ignored as a fringe idea that was never destined to work.

EDITED BY GABRIEL GARDINER



The Rise of Online Retailing: An Opportunity or Challenge?

Considering the impact of recent events, Haayed explores the role of e-commerce in an ever-changing economy.

HAAYED ASLAM Y11



The many persistent challenges faced by the commercial aviation sector over the past three years are well documented, and a multitude of these issues are continuing to pose long-term headaches for all key stakeholders in this industry. The Coronavirus pandemic shook the entire travel sector to its knees, while early last year, air route diversions had to be made to avoid Russia following its invasion of Ukraine. More recently staff shortages at airlines and airports have plagued most of Europe. While it was certainly obvious from the start of COVID-19 that commercial passenger airlines would be unduly impacted, there is one sub-sector which has seen exponential growth at an unprecedented level: air cargo. Highlighting the need for online retail in today's constantly evolving global landscape, this assessment will weigh up the opportunities and difficulties to determine the potential future of internet shopping.

The boom in air cargo comes without much surprise: with most of the global population restricted to their homes, naturally more people will order goods through digital means via the internet. This pronounced trend, which comes because of several lockdowns imposed by governments from all corners of the world, has brought about a radical shift in one of the four key elements of a business' marketing mix: place. Traditionally, pre-pandemic ways of delivering the product from the manufacturer to the consumer may have involved one of these methods of distribution: direct from manufacturer to consumer, setting up regional distribution centres (RDCs), or through the use of intermediaries (e.g. wholesalers and retailers); the latter method is especially useful at "breaking the bulk". Previously, businesses would have had a choice of which method to use depending on the

type of product; but thanks to the almost overnight change at the start of 2020 most businesses found it viable to only sell their products online. This relatively new method is commonly referred to as e-commerce".

The concept of e-commerce is the buying and selling of goods via the internet. Before the onset of Coronavirus, many of us were familiar with purchasing certain items on the web, usually products that we could not find on our local high street. Indeed, *Amazon* needs no introduction to anyone who has ever used their computer to order goods! Now fast-forward to mid-2020 and there was almost no other possible option than to buy online and have the good/service delivered straight to your door. This drastic adaptation to the worldwide virus situation consequently changed the way the logistics departments of many retailers and airlines handled this mode of cargo.

André Majeres, manager of cargo mail and e-commerce operations at the International Air Transport Association (IATA), had this to say about the significant behaviour shift in consumer habits which has led to the exponential rise of e-commerce^[1]:

Majeres is not the only one who possesses data to support this rapid increase. Leading a study in changes to online shopping behaviour of UK respondents, D. Tighe, a research expert for leisure retail at global data platform Statista, reported that in March 2020, about 41% of UK shoppers said they had been shopping more online, compared to be-

fore the onset of COVID-19; by February 2021, this percentage has risen to about 75%, an increase of about 34% in just under a year. Conversely, the percentage of UK shoppers who said they had been buying less online than before has fallen (from 11% in March 2020 to just 5% in February 2021). Furthermore, the percentage of those buying as much online as before the pandemic has also decreased, from 49% to 24% in March 2020 and February 2021, respectively [2]. Therefore, it is evident that most consumer habits have changed, thus forcing businesses to implement the newer online distribution channels as opposed to the less safe and contact-heavy traditional channels in the midst of Coronavirus.

But what does this mean for airlines, provided they were already struggling



with the passenger side of commercial operations from COVID-19? As e-commerce became the driving force of global supply chains at the start of the pandemic, demand exceeded supply for airlines to deliver such vast amounts of cargo efficiently to consumers, wherever they may be.

Fortunately, a new option arrived as the result of a scale-back from passenger flights. The outbreak of COVID-19 resulted in the grounding of approximately 95% of passenger fleets. Thanks to quick thinking from several airline bosses, many of the leading carriers opted to re-configure their passenger aircraft into dedicated freighter planes capable of carrying a greater capacity of cargo - aptly dubbed the 'freighter', each aircraft would have their seats removed across the entire cabin, which opens up the

availability of the upper deck, and with the pre-existing lower deck hold this has allowed for an increased volume in which to transport cargo in.

This concept proved to be lucrative even for airlines that already had their own dedicated cargo division with specialised freighters, including Lufthansa Cargo, who at the start of the pandemic converted their Airbus A330-300 passenger aircraft to 'freighters' to perform emergency trips to and from Asia, transporting valuable personal protective equipment (PPE) as part of their pandemic relief operations. They are not the only carrier who have inducted this idea into their revamped business structure: Qatar Airways have been utilising their Boeing 777-300ERs for their vital cargo-only flights, complementing their existing dedicated fleet comprising Boeing 777-200Fs and Boeing 747-800Fs. Furthermore, airline manufacturers such as Airbus, Boeing, and Embraer are now offering their airline customers specialised passenger-to-freighter (P2F) conversions; one example of this is the first Airbus A321P2F converted freighter, the maiden example delivered to launch customer Qantas in October 2020 for services operated under Australia Post [3].

Many of these conversions have been justified by the need for short-term air cargo rotations during COVID-

19, but what about the long-term rise of e-commerce post-pandemic?

The key that links air cargo operations and e-commerce is the digital platforms



and technology that are widely available to billions of potential consumers across the world. This has certainly accelerated previous logistics trends that have been found to be significantly less efficient than the use of our devices to order items. Today, rather than using the outdated channels of distribution (as mentioned earlier), manufacturers can advertise and sell their entire stock on the internet, and this can then be delivered directly to the buyer, via an improved cargo system involving air and road transport as well as warehouses and regional distribution centres. This massive step in logistics and transportation has not only proven to be cheaper for all the businesses involved (e.g. goods manufacturers/producers can use social media to advertise rather than expensive television or radio adverts, for example), but also it is markedly more convenient for the consumer.

With these large-scale improvements to the way businesses distribute their products, it seems as though the rise of e-commerce is set to remain prominent globally. The use of computers has brought with it the revolutionary concept of automation (technologies that are able to independently complete certain tasks without the need for human intervention) which has helped speed up the process as well as reduce the time from initial purchase to final destination. Despite this development, additional staff are still required beyond the auto-

"The e-commerce landscape is changing rapidly. 'E-tailers' everywhere are continuously assessing their level of control over their logistics operations. The efforts to counter the effects of the pandemic are bringing in new trends into e-commerce logistics".

— André Majeres

mated handling systems at every relevant touchpoint inside the dedicated facilities to ensure smooth operation and to fix temporary machine and packaging errors.

While the benefits of online selling to the business producing the goods may seem profitable, due to its ease of set-up there has been increased competition to maintain market share at a global level. Additionally, e-commerce may not work for a business whose target market mostly does not have access to the internet (e.g. in developing countries where access to online sites is limited). These are the main disadvantages that businesses now need to overcome to make way for their growth in a global, 24/7 market via online retail.

But it is also clear that much of the



current difficulties in effective e-commerce distribution comes down to the modes of transport that operate the cargo journeys. It is believed that both maritime (ships) and air (plane) transportation will play a crucial role in this huge effort, particularly air as consumers are now beginning to desire quicker delivery times from the moment they place their online order, and since most aircraft are faster than standard cargo ships, large e-tailers are looking towards efficient travel to the right place at the right (or even earlier!) time using modern freighters.

Perhaps this jeopardises the future of cargo ships and their role in time-efficient e-commerce deliveries. So are cargo planes taking traffic (and thus demand) off of cargo ships? There is

still one advantage to maritime means that is colossal with some specialised ships but miniscule on aircraft: size and space. As an example, before its destruction in Ukraine last year, the Antonov An-225 (once the world's largest cargo aircraft) had a carrying capacity of up to 250 tonnes, which pales in comparison to the world's largest ships that can handle upwards of half-a-million tonnes^[4]. This gives businesses a decisive winner for shipping products in mass supply where time spent in dispatch is not relevant, such as toys manufactured in China.

There is also the increasingly prevalent question of sustainability. There has been extensive criticism towards aerospace manufacturers and airlines for failing to address environmental concerns, particularly now due to the air cargo boom. Research from another Statista report found that despite the drop in global aeroplane fuel consumption in 2020, this figure is once again rising year-on-year to the point where 2022 concluded with an excessive 60 billion gallons of fuel used for that year^[5]. To combat this, several companies are collaborating to develop smart initiatives to minimise such an impact; for example, Airbus have been researching initiatives to minimise such an impact; for example, Airbus have been researching alternative methods of air power with their ZEROe demonstrator programme that will allow their aircraft to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2035^[6]. This includes hydrogen propulsion and the use of synthetic fuels such as sustainable aviation fuel (SAF)^[7], citing the main hurdle to their slow widespread introduction to the market being its high cost.

The opportunity for expansion through e-commerce is evident, but there is still work to do to cement it as the mainstream distribution method for most businesses. Certainly, much of the im-

provements needed will fall to the airlines that already exploit this new concept. IATA identified the main pain points for airlines, as part of a research study in 2021, and developed five key strategies for these airlines to surmount them and capitalise on this area:

1. Focus on e-commerce products and services to build your market share
2. Digitise to increase speed
3. Build into your own system
4. Shift to cargo
5. Compete through responsiveness and value-added services

Despite the rising challenges for businesses and aviation stakeholders, e-commerce will be a trend that remains at the forefront of the pandemic and beyond: Majeres notes that, during the past 18-24 months, sales of home appliances, PPE, and food and health products grew by more than 200%.

Within our unpredictable and rapidly changing world, e-commerce across borders continues to accelerate with no signs of slowing down within the next few decades at least. The changes over the last three years have been remarkable, and it will definitely be interesting to see how this incredible concept continues to grow and develop. Most of all, it will be worth glancing at the aviation industry occasionally, for without the unprecedented advancements in air cargo and technologies, nothing achieved within e-commerce would ever have come to fruition.

ENGLISH



Explore identity with Shuayb Mohammed.

ARTICLE

SHUAYB MOHAMMED Y12

Before I Leapt in Through Your Soul's Wide-open Window

Page 12

GAMES AND PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

Shakespeare Crossword

Page 14

Before I Leapt in Through Your Soul's Wide-open Window

SHUAYB MOHAMMED Y12

I stopped and sweetly asked you for your name.
You drew me closer in till I could hear the racing
of your heart like children desperate in the dark
and said that you would have to find it first,

"The wind carried it far away that night I let it go.
But it is worthless. They all sound the same
(a hollow noise) before the echoes of our chasing
after who we are until you make it an art
to bury even deeper my worst part."

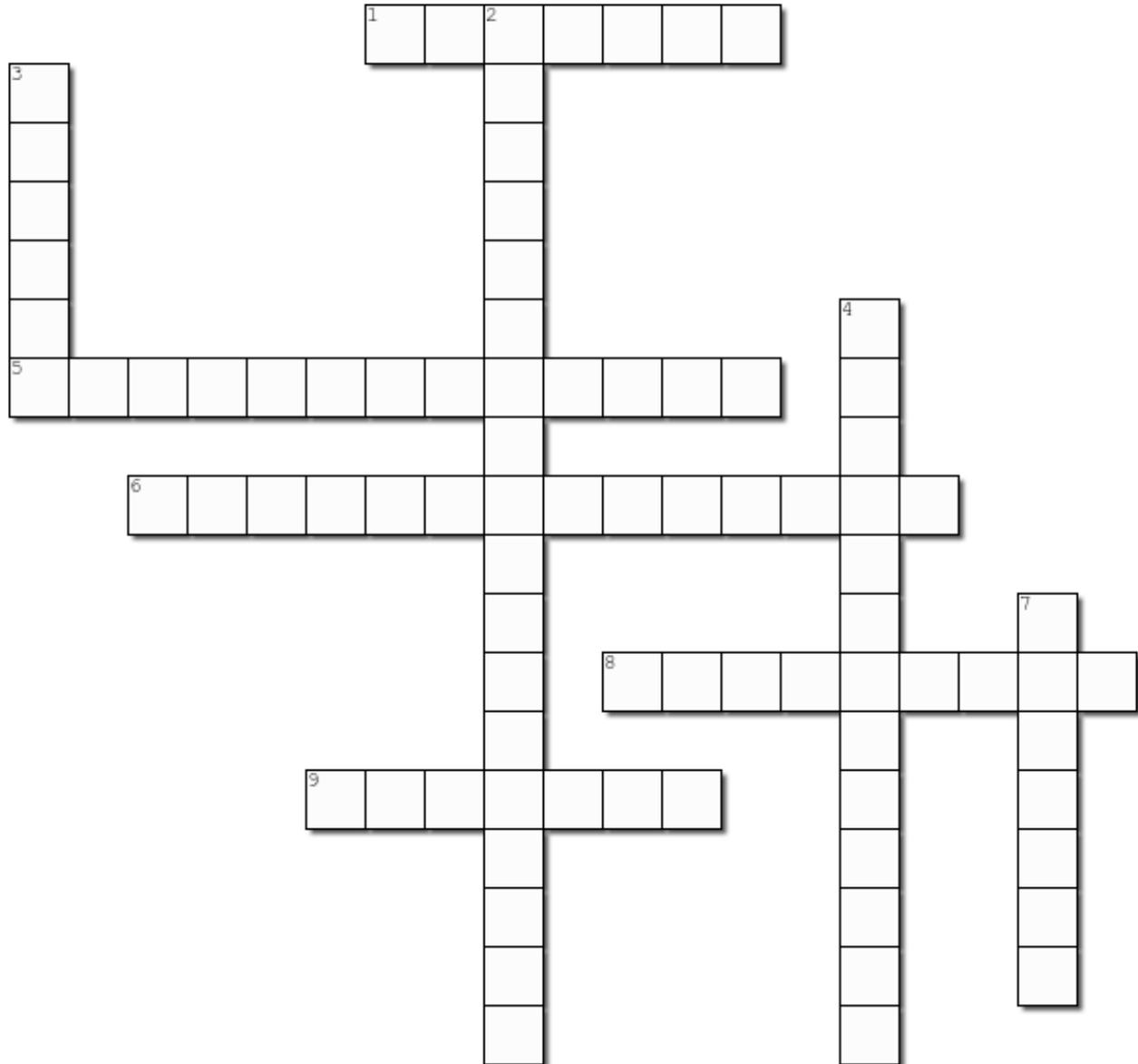
"What good are names? A word to scream into the rain
after I'm gone, hoping the wind brings it to me.
A title to present with each sculpture,
perfect image of who you wish I could be.
A final word when there is nothing else to say,
because I am no more a dream. It's all too real.
A faded mark of what should be my culture,
but is a faint shadow I no longer see."

"Take my hand, and know me by my beating heart.
Let the world wonder who we were, the timeless youth."



Shakespeare Crossword

How well do you know the works of 'The Bard'? Have a go at this crossword to identify his plays from the famous quotes provided. The answers can be found at the back of the magazine.



Across

- 1. Hell is empty and the devils are here
- 5. If music be the food of love play on
- 6. The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool
- 8. Nothing will come of nothing
- 9. It is the green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on

Down

- 2. Let me play the fool
- 3. To be or not to be, that is the question
- 4. But for my own part, it was Greek to me
- 7. What you egg

GEOGRAPHY



**How is China threatening the United States' global political hegemony?
Read Daniel Song's article to find out.**

ARTICLE

DANIEL SONG Y13

Neo-colonialism: the 21st-Century Struggle for Global Influence

Page 16

ARTICLE

SRIJAN VATHALURI Y10

Conquering the Summit of Mount Everest

Page 18

GAMES AND PUZZLES

AMERICAN LANDMARKS

Can you identify these famous places from across the pond?

Page 20

Neo-colonialism: the 21st-Century Struggle for Global Influence

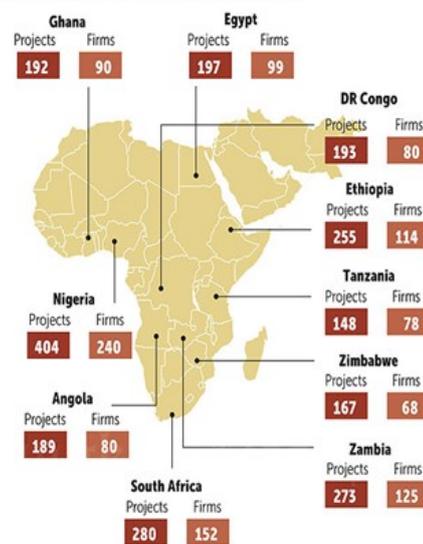
DANIEL SONG Y13

The United States' era of global dominance is over, and with it, a struggle for power has spread across the globe. Multiple superpowers now hold significant influence and it is no surprise that China has emerged as one of the greatest threats to US global hegemony. Where in the past imperialism was synonymous with intimidation, coercion and violent force, the superpowers of the modern world have been forced by the post-war anti-colonial consensus to exercise a more subtle form of domination: neo-colonialism. This term commonly refers to the concept of indirect control of newly independent countries through mechanisms such as foreign direct investment, military alliances or general tied aid. Although the term 'indirect control' suggests a greater freedom, this could not be further from the truth. Neo-colonialism means power without responsibility: a pernicious relationship that will leave a clear socioeconomic winner and loser in the future. As China aims to continue its rise to the top, it has employed this policy in countries all over the world, particularly focusing on the African continent. It is therefore important to analyse the true impacts it will have on Africa's future

military aid to vast amounts of foreign direct investment (FDI), all in search of ways to strengthen economic and cultural power on a global scale. It is common knowledge that China has enjoyed sustained and rapid economic growth in recent decades, with an average growth rate of 10% between 1978 and 2005.^[1] However, it has also been clear that the downsides of growth have also followed to a similar scale. In 2021, carbon dioxide emissions from domestic manufacturing reached nearly 11.5 billion tonnes.^[2] Domestic resources remain accessible, but they are not as plentiful as they were during China's early days of growth. Pollution of vital water sources have also resulted from industrial production, with 85% of the water in Shanghai's major rivers being deemed undrinkable in 2015.^[3] The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) remains focused on continuing high levels of growth and its solution to this agenda has been to search for resources abroad. This has been particularly noticeable in Africa, which has been the centre of Chinese Foreign Direct Investment as part of its Belt and Road Initiative.

CHINA IN AFRICA

Top 20 destination countries for overseas direct investment



Source: EY Attractiveness Programme, Africa 2017

BANGKOK POST GRAPHIC

Projects have ranged from oil refineries in Nigeria to railway projects in Ethiopia, all of them motivated by the potential for repatriated profits, resources, commodity goods and political control. Although it is undeniable that they have improved the standard of living in these countries in the short term, having built 13,000-plus-km-long railways, nearly 100,000 km of highways, about 1,000 bridges,^[9] malignant hidden intentions exist behind every investment project. The size of investment in recipient countries has been overwhelming in its scale, leading to close economic dependence between China and these countries. For instance, exports to China make up more than 60% of total exports for Angola, the Republic of Congo and Zambia^[5] African export industries have become reliant on Chinese demand and with agricultural cooperation mecha-

Economic dependence

In order to analyse these impacts, it is prudent to also consider China's incentives for using a huge scale of neo-colonialist actions in Africa. China's neo-colonialist policies have ranged from

Neo-colonialism means power without responsibility: a pernicious relationship that will leave a clear socioeconomic winner and loser in the future.

nisms existing between China and 23 African countries,^[6] China is able to control the level of production of goods it needs, often at the detriment of environmental protection and local livelihoods. Pollution has been deemed a problem within China's own borders, and so by offshoring or outsourcing production to African nations and firms, the issue of environmental protection has not been solved. It has merely been shifted to its trading partners that cannot refuse the investment in fear of losing important financial support that has been responsible for recent standard of living improvements. This is the new dissembling face of imperialism. Western colonisers in the past may have seized control of their subjects through direct rule and military conflict, however China's neo-colonialist policies have been proven to show the same effect: a clear economic power imbalance between the coloniser (investor) and the colonised (beneficiary).

Neo-colonialism is restructuring geopolitics to create greater political divides between the allies and enemies of China.

Political control

In addition to economic dependence, there has also been dangerous political outcomes of neo-colonialist policies that have stemmed from this reliance. Economic dependence has also resulted in African nations having to align themselves with Chinese geopolitical views. A key example recently has been the refusal of African nations linked

economically with China to accept the sovereignty of Taiwan. Following the withdrawal of the support of Burkina Faso in 2018, Taiwan was left with only one African nation formally recognising it as a country - Eswatini.^[7] This has become increasingly dangerous for global relations between the American-backed Taiwan, and China due to the refusal to recognise Taiwan spreading to China's allies across other continents, such as South America's Dominican Republic.^[8] Neo-colonialism is restructuring geopolitics to create greater political divides between the allies and enemies of China. Alongside Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February, unrest in South-East Asia and the South China Sea has only risen. There is rising support for China's territorial claims from developing nations across the world and peace with the West may become more difficult to navigate as IGO laws are ignored and therefore global consensus weakened.

Necessary change

Systems of global power have constantly evolved, and it appears that neo-colonialism will continue to spread as a result of a multipolar world. Therefore, it is imperative to analyse the effect of these foreign policies in the long term to prevent Africa from falling into the clutches of distant imperial masters once again. Foreign Direct Investment may improve standards of living in the short term but will inevitably become a long-term constraint on true development that does not allow one major economic partner to dictate the economic and political policies of the other. Dismantling parts of the existing relations may seem controversial and even impossible, however these neo-colonial policies must be replaced in order for today's developing nations to be truly independent and therefore achieve sustainable economic and social development.

EDITED BY ATTICUS FEAR



Conquering the Summit of Mount Everest

Srijan explores one of humanity's greatest achievements, the pinnacle of our desire for exploration

SRIJAN VATHALURI Y10



Humans have one of the greatest gifts in the world: our curiosity to explore. We have shared an instinctive trait ever since *Homo erectus* and the migration from Africa more than 200,000 years ago – the urge to discover and explore. Exploration has always been part of us, even if we don't notice it: that urge to see what's in that cave; that urge to see what's behind those gates; the urge to travel. Exploration of our magical world has enabled us to grow our knowledge of it, harness it to help ourselves and the many species we have discovered along the way. Exploration gives us a thrill, when we risk our lives, achieve something, and feel that sense of adventure we so long for in our daily lives. There have been many valiant ex-

plorers throughout our history who have persevered through the Sisyphean task ahead of them and have embraced the danger, the pain, and the fear of the unknown and turned it into a feeling of thrill. One such task of exploration is conquering the mighty, infamous summit of Mount Everest,

Summitting Mount Everest requires you to be at your utmost physical and mental fitness to persevere through the daunting task to be on "top of the world"

looming at an impressive 8849m, it was unconquered by man for almost 60 million years (which is when it was

formed) until Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay summited it in 1953.

The expedition started off under the military style leadership of John Hunt. It required an immense number of resources: 350 porters, 20 sherpas and many tons of supplies, all for only 10 climbers. The plan was to aim for two attempts to summit the beast, each with a pair of climbers and a third attempt would be planned if both previous ones failed. Summitting Mount Everest requires you to be at your utmost physical and mental fitness to persevere through the daunting task to be on "top of the world".

As you go higher towards the summit of Everest the oxygen available to breathe

decreases, which increases the susceptibility to issues like cerebral and pulmonary oedema, frost bite and blood clots in arteries, all of which can be life threatening. Many people require supplemental oxygen above the height of 23,000 feet, although some valorous mountaineers have done it without it, like Reinhold Messner in 1978 with Peter Habeler.

A strong Swiss team, which had the fa-

This paved the way for Tenzing Norgay, a skilled sherpa, and Edmund Hillary who reached the summit at 11:30 am on May 29, 1953.

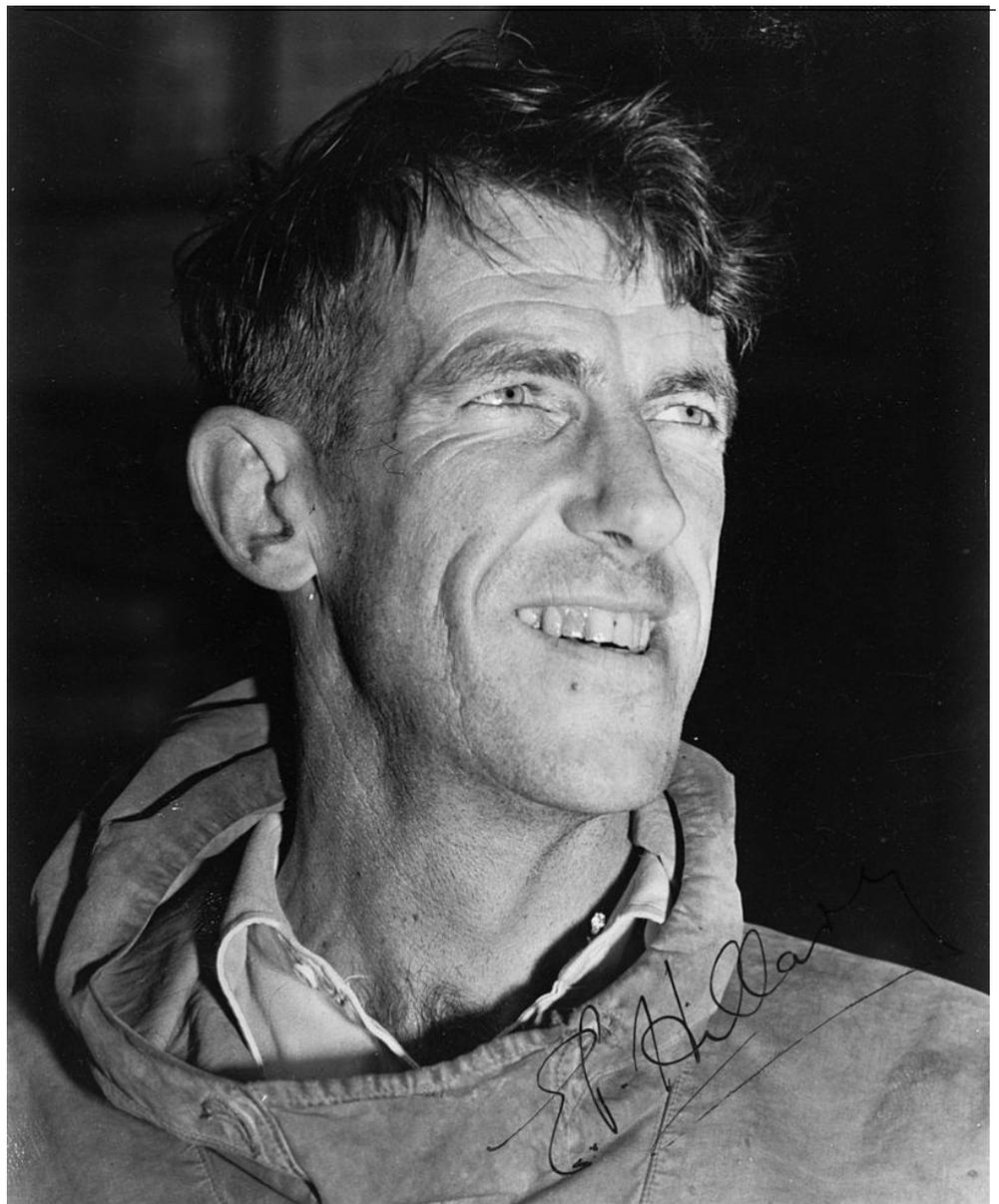
bled alpinist Raymond Lambert and the legendary Tenzing Norgay, in 1952 took the Lhotse face and reached the South Col, and it was first thought that they would claim the title of being the first country to reach the "top of the world". However, Lambert and Tenzing Norgay had to retreat after pushing through to 8,598 metres. Now that the Swiss had failed in their mission to reach the summit, the British had their eyes set on the prize. They increased their chances of summiting Everest by hiring Tenzing, who was on the expedition with the Swiss, as their Lead Sherpa.

Out of the 4-6 slots available, Edmund Hillary, a New Zealand climber, was strongly fixed on being part of it. He was at the peak of his fitness, through training in the peaks back at home in New Zealand and further put his mark on the world, when he led a team by forcing a route through the Khumbu Icefall (on the slopes of Everest). The first pair to set off in 1953 had Tom Bourdillon and Charles Evan who ultimately did not make it to the top. Due to problems with Evan's Oxygen set and a late start they reached 8,748 metres, 101 metres away from the top, before they turned back because they both knew they would

not make it with the oxygen they had. This paved the way for Tenzing Norgay, a skilled sherpa, and Edmund Hillary who reached the summit at 11:30 am on May 29 1953. The pair only spent 15 minutes on the peak, exhausted due to issues with their oxygen cannisters. As they were descending Everest their fame already had begun to spread, and they were received by a flock of journalists from India and Nepal asking about which of the two had summited first. Not until much later did Tenzing's autobiography, "Tiger of the Snows", reveal that Hillary had summited first due to a pact Hunt, Tenzing and Hillary had made to not tell who stepped on the summit first.

The summit of Everest by Tenzing and Hillary paved the way for decades more of climbers putting themselves through the challenge of trying to reach the top of the world, and many unfortunately losing their lives in the process. Many may wonder: why do these people risk their priceless lives for climbing mountain and putting themselves through this Olympian challenge makes them feel truly alive, like their lives actually mean something and to just embrace the thrill of being on 'top of the world'.

EDITED BY SHUAYB MOHAMMED



Picture Quiz

The Americas are full of amazing landmarks both physical and man-made. Do you know what these seven landmarks are and which country they are located in? The answers can be found at the back of the magazine.

1



2



3



4



5



6



HISTORY



How did two revolutions in Russia change the world forever?

Find out from Ashutosh Chauhan.

ARTICLE

ASHUTOSH CHAUHAN Y11

The Red Dawn

Page 22

TRUE OR FALSE?

BRITAIN THROUGH THE CENTURIES

Test your knowledge of British history

Page 24

The Red Dawn

How the Two Revolutions of 1917 Upended Russian Society and Transformed World History

ASHUTOSH CHAUHAN Y11

1 917. A year of massive adjustments to Russia's ruling system. Two revolutions occurred in February and November to overthrow the imperial government, which had been in charge for 300 years, and placed the Bolsheviks in power.

Causes

The strain placed upon the people of Russia by costly wars and harsh famines had induced by 1917 an atmosphere ripe for revolution. The primary causes included costly wars and harsh famines. A huge 'baby boom' at the end of the 19th century saw the population of major Russian cities like Moscow and St Petersburg double. This ultimately led to overcrowding and destitute living conditions for a new class of Russian industrial workers, sparking controversy and opposition. This was aggravated between 1891 and 1892, when a great famine was estimated to have killed up to 400,000 Russians and the devastating Russo-Japanese War of 1904-5 further weakened Russia, leading to a loss of faith in their ruler, Tsar Nicholas II. Additionally, Russia's involvement in World War I in 1914 proved to be calamitic for the Russian Empire. Russia, by 1915, had a drained economy and inflation had skyrocketed upwards. Eventually, this resulted in the February revolution in 1917.

February Revolution

The February Revolution (noted as February 23 1917 on the Julian calendar, which was used by Russia until 1918) began on March 8, 1917. Uproars and protests occurred on the streets of Pet-

rograd where demonstrators, involving industrial workers, clamoured for bread, clashed with the police and refused to leave the streets. Over 130,000 men were on strike, claiming for higher wages. On March 10, the strikers applied an aggressive approach by raiding police stations in the industrial districts. On March 11, regiments opened fire at demonstrators, but the protesters continued to stay on the streets and the troops began to falter. Due to the ineffective approach by the troops, on March 12, a provisional government was formed to save the monarchy and on March 15, Tsar Nicholas II abdicated the throne, ending centuries of Russian Romanov Rule.

Bolshevik Revolution

Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924) was a left-wing revolutionist and founder of the Russian Communist Party, known as the Bolsheviks. Lenin was instrumental in the success of the Bolshevik Revolution in November 1917. He wanted to 'persuade the workers, peasants, and soldiers' to retrieve state power for the Soviets from the Provisional Government.

In July 1917, the Bolshevik uprising suffered a failure and another opportunity to overthrow the provisional government was identified in November 1917, as Lenin's supporters were increasing at a faster rate, where both the Petrograd and Moscow soviets had Bolshevik majorities.

On November 6 and 7, 1917, Lenin launched a bloody coup against the

provisional government. Lenin called for a Soviet government that would be ruled directly by councils of soldiers, peasants and workers.

Bread riots broke out in Petrograd, and in the villages, throughout the country, the demand was for land. In the countryside, peasants began expropriating land, driving off cattle, burning down landowners' dwellings and barns, and demolishing agricultural machinery. Many landowners who didn't flee were captured, tortured and murdered.

However, now the ministers were helpless and they lacked military support needed to suppress this violence by force.

As a result of this gory coup d'état, the Bolsheviks and their allies occupied government buildings and other strategic locations in Petrograd, and soon formed a government with Lenin at its head. Lenin became the dictator of the world's first communist state.

Effects of the Russian Revolution around the world

After World War I, Germany was in economic crisis and was on the brink of revolution after inspiration from the success of the Bolsheviks.

The Russian Revolution paved the way for the rise of communism as an influential political belief system around the world, ultimately setting the stage for the rise of the Soviet Union as a world power that would go head-to-head with the capitalist USA during the Cold War.

EDITED BY GABRIEL GARDINER



ПОЧТА
СССР

1968

4
КОП

True or False Quiz

Good at history? Have a go at this true or false quiz about Britain through the centuries and determine the fact from fiction! Answers can be found at the back of the Magazine.

True or False?

1. Colchester was the capital of Roman Britain
2. King Alfred is the only English monarch to boast the moniker 'the Great'
3. William the Conqueror's jester was the first casualty of the Battle of Hastings
4. The Hundred Years war lasted 100 years
5. Oxford, founded in 1096, is the world's oldest university
6. The Tudor King, Henry VIII, was outlived by 1 of his wives
7. William Pitt became the youngest PM at the age of 24 in 1783
8. Spencer Perceval is the only Prime Minister to ever be assassinated
9. Winston Churchill declared war on Germany in 1939
10. The UK left the European Union in 2016



PHILOSOPHY



Could you be the centre of the universe after all?

Learn about solipsism with Roze Rajput.

ARTICLE

ATEL RASSOLI Y12

Is Beauty Really in the Eye of the Beholder?

Page 26

ARTICLE

ROZE RAJPUT Y12

Does the world revolve around you?

Page 28

ARTICLE

GABRIEL GARDINER Y12

What is Loneliness

Voted Best Article

Page 30

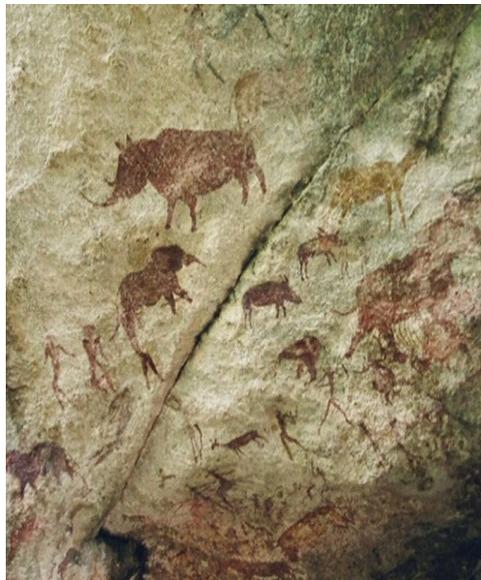


Is Beauty Really in the Eye of the Beholder?

What is beauty? Is beauty subjective? Has society ruined what we class as beautiful? - A celebration of beauty and modern art.

A TEL RASSOLI Y12

The concept of beauty is, and has been, one of the most enduring and controversial themes in philosophy and, along with the nature of art, one of the fundamental concepts in the history of philosophical aesthetics. This article will aim to not only highlight controversies and queries around the nature of beauty (and whether beauty is purely subjective, or if elements of objectivity lie within it), but also to encourage you to question what you consider as beautiful, be it the sights of the Ama Dablam, situated in the heart of Everest's Khumbu Region, or the beauty in the simplicity of the Satukunda Rock Paintings in East Bhopal.



What is beauty?

The Cambridge dictionary provides two definitions for beauty: [1]

“The quality of being pleasing, especially to look at, or someone or something that gives great pleasure, especially when you look at it.”

“A quality that makes something especially good or attractive.”

It is unclear, within both of these definitions, whether beauty is an objective quality that some objects, people, and places hold, or whether the quality of beauty is something that is assigned to them within our minds - due to our own personal criterion, which begs the question:

“Is there something, somewhere or someone that every being sees beauty within?”

I think, along with ideas such as goodness and truth, it is practically impossible to fathom a universal definition for “beauty”, for, who is to discern what beauty means to every individual? Is beauty constrained to the visual, or does it go deeper than what the eye perceives, and involve a psychological and moral attachment?

Why does beauty matter?

Why should we care as to what beauty is? And why should beauty be valued? Simply put, as stated by Kahil Gibran (a Lebanese-American writer) “beauty is life and life is beauty.” In a world so consumed with suffering, pain and chaos, only one remedy has been presented. ‘Beauty’.

Philosopher Roger Scruton stated that, “the great beauty of art brings consolation in sorrow, and affirmation in joy.” Scruton argues that beauty is a universal human need that elevates us and gives meaning to life. As society progresses from the merely aesthetic, we have seen a shift into a more utility-centred way of life, in which the quality of usefulness is valued solely, as shown through the development of architecture from beautiful buildings of religion and grandeur, to bland buildings of monotony. Beauty liberates us from the tyranny of the useful, as society places utility on a pedestal and renders all other

The lack of an idealistic beauty exposes us to the monotony and depressive nature of common life, unpaired with beauty.

qualities of moral value useless, and satisfies our need for harmony and tranquillity. Beauty reminds us that, as humans, we are more than just governed by our animal appetites to eat and sleep - we have spiritual and moral needs. Beauty is a visitor from another world - the world of higher spiritual beings. It is not to be used or exploited, but to be observed and contemplated, captivating our minds. It is without this moral captivation; this spiritual activation, that life becomes worthless.

Without beauty, life would be meaningless

For me, although I appreciate the beauty in these facets, beauty does not reside in art, nor in music or literature. For me, the purest form of beauty resides in the power of relationships and love. As Socrates, himself, stated "One word frees us of all the weight and pain in life. That word is Love." The beauty in relationships is not something explicit, and some may not ever recognise it, yet it exists as a force that compels us to overcome all sorts of fears, reach all sorts of heights and achieve all sorts of accomplishments.

Has society's view on beauty tarnished, or merely evolved?

In his documentary film, "Why beauty matters", English philosopher Roger Scruton introduces the idea that beauty is disappearing from our world. The philosopher implies that art has become ugly, as well as our physical surroundings, manners, language, and music. At present, the main aim of art is to disturb and break moral taboos. It has now lost its initial duty and is used to show solely the ugliness of our world, instead of taking what is most painful in the human condition and redeeming it in the work of beauty, which according to Scruton is the main purpose of art.

Although I agree with Scruton's proposition



that beauty is necessary for life to hold value, I disagree with his criticism of the "lack of beauty in modern art." I believe that art has evolved, not tarnished.

For example, in the picture above, a piece by Tracey Emin called "My Bed" (1998) can be seen. In 1998, British artist Tracey Emin spent several days languishing in bed as the result of depression. When she finally emerged from her downward spiral, Emin gazed upon what her drunkenness and depression had wrought. The bed spoke volumes. The rumpled and stained sheets were a testimony not to a good night's sleep, but to despair. Next to the bed, lay piles of junk from her daily life: empty bottles of vodka, a pair of dirty slippers, cartons of cigarettes and other trash, a pair of underwear soiled with menstrual blood, a container of birth control pills, and condoms.

The artwork was quickly denounced as filthy, disgusting, and immoral, and pronounced as a derision of art. Some declared the work as a sign of art's demise, and perhaps even civilisation's demise. It was boring and self-absorbed; an act of pointless sensationalism, and an attempt to "ruin" art - or what some considered art.

A philosopher such as Scruton would claim that this piece holds no beauty and is merely ugly and solely autobiographical, likening his views to that of some commentators.

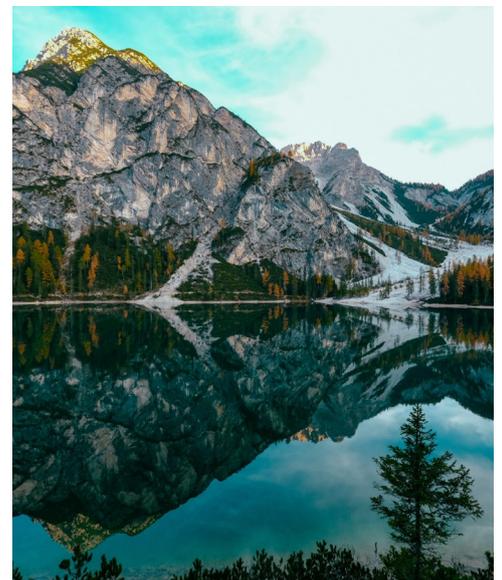
However, I would disagree completely. Although the piece of art is about Emin's personal experience, I believe that it was purely an allegory for human suffering. As previously mentioned, "The rumpled and stained sheets were a testimony not to a good night's sleep, but to despair" - human despair - which is felt universally. This piece of

art, although not the most aesthetically pleasing, holds value deeper than merely the aesthetic. It holds moral value. Humans from all over the globe have the ability to relate to this piece of work and its realism; its ability to captivate our minds as we too think about times where the harsh, chaotic nature of the world imposed the depressive feelings which Emin felt, upon us.

I believe that the beauty in this piece of art stems from its ability to relate to each and every one of us individually, in different manners. There is no human upon this planet that hasn't faced adversity and depressive feelings, but each one of us reacts differently.

As you reach the end of this article, I hope that I have motivated you enough to appreciate the world around you, with greater insight and perspective of the beauty it provides us. When you next see something that you class as beautiful, be it the sights of the Ama Dablam, or the simplicity of the Satukunda Rock Paintings, or the next book you read, or the next human interaction you have, I want you to ask yourself: "Why do I think that's beautiful?"

Is it the aesthetic value that you appreciate, or the moral and spiritual meaning behind it? Either way it does not matter what you find beautiful, but why you find it beautiful. For, beauty is not objective. Beauty is something subjective to each and every one of us.



Does the World Revolve Around You?

An exploration of solipsism

ROZE RAJPUT Y12

There is one fact that we all know, which is perhaps also the first that we all learn. It is the fact that we are alive. The philosopher Rene Descartes's most famous quote—“je pense donc je suis”, or *I think therefore I am*—is this simple fact. But this is not all it means. The quote could also be interpreted as meaning, that you might be the only thing that is.

Solipsism is a theory that is thought to be first written about by the Greek philosopher Gorgias. He realised that everything that exists is observed through one's own mind. All our senses—such as your vision, right now, that is letting you read this—are perceived through the mind. The mind is how we perceive of all our senses, our knowledge, our thoughts, our emotions. Our mental state is all that can be known to exist, and this birthed the theory of solipsism.

In the last few decades, the idea that we

are living in a simulation has become more mainstream. Some people would say that there is a high chance all our lives are being generated by a super-computer, like something from *The Matrix*. Imagine now that we are in a simulation, but instead of a computer, your brain is creating reality.

Another example of this in media is *The Truman Show*: a movie about a man named Truman Burbank; since birth, he has been the star of a reality TV show, and all his family and friends are actors. His entire life is being broadcast to the world via hidden cameras. Our lives, for all we know, may be just like *The Truman Show*: but the cast, crew and set are projections of our own consciousness.

One of the biggest issues with this theory, comparable to the problem of free will, and the question of whether there

is a God, is that it is impossible to empirically test. If I were to somehow attempt to conduct an experiment about whether my mind is the only mind that exists, my mind itself would tell me about any observations I made. It is a test that is inherently logically impossible to conduct, just like any test on free will.

Believing in solipsism, like the denial of free will, is an uncomfortable experience for most people. It says that it is impossible to know if we are all alone in the world and might be pathetic enough to have created imaginary friends past the age of about five. Not only that, but it also implies that we do not even control our own minds; the mind is like a computer simulating our conscious reality, so should be capable of anything, but we could not, for example, go back in time, resurrect a dead person, or achieve some other impossible feat. But does it matter, even if the theory of solipsism is correct? I would argue not. Even if all our experiences are false, the fact is that we probably won't ever know. For the sake of retaining sanity, and not becoming insufferably egotistical, it is best to believe you are not the star of your own movie.

EDITED BY SHUAYB MOHAMMED





What is Loneliness?

Have we misunderstood what it means to be lonely

GABRIEL GARDINER Y12

Voted best article



“It is a great and liberating moment, this anxious first lie”
- Ernest Becker, in *The Birth and Death of Meaning*

Not many people ever truly experience the frigid cold at its most extreme. And yet, we all fear it - should fear it - whether consciously or not. Imagine that excruciatingly slow but inevitable loss of life, of which the cold is indifferent to what it destroys. Of all the things we can imagine and dread, their fear does not compare with the fear of the cold. The cold is nature's most fearsome executioner. It is the absence of energy - the absence of life. It encroaches and surrounds us before we know it. It enforces solitude. It is loneliness.

Often, you will notice in many films, books or artwork, that wherever you find the cold, there is always a pervading sense of loneliness. The feeling of emptiness portrayed by that cold winter night, contributes to that uneasy and yet relatable feeling of loneliness.

I am sure all of you have felt this feeling of loneliness, especially having come out of the pandemic just recently. We have been isolated from others and have experienced a severe level of solitude. I know I have.

Recently, I watched the film, *Blade Runner 2049*. Every slow shot and every long scene meticulously crafted in service of the themes of the film, are excruciatingly lonely, and it felt all too real. All too personal.

This is a film about what it means to be human. It chooses to both subtly and directly force upon and confront its viewers with our deepest pain. The pain of loneliness. The struggle to be who we are, human, is to accept our loneliness.

Existentialist philosophy views loneliness to be essential to every human. When born, we are a blank slate. Everything that defines us is one. We only have one identity. But as we grow older, we start to form two separate selves. One external, and one internal. The external self is what the outside world sees. And the inner self is formed the moment we realise we can lie to them. Inner thoughts and feelings we can hide from prying eyes. As Ernest Becker puts it in his

book, *The Birth and Death of Meaning*, 'it is a great and liberating moment, this anxious first lie'.

But this ability to hide from the world is not without repercussions. Our inner self is hopelessly separated from everything and everyone; it is the conception of loneliness.

Every human desires to connect with others. To love and be loved. To understand and be understood. But we are all unique. All fundamentally different in how we think and feel. Ultimately, our desire to be understood will never be fully achieved. The inner self is too complex for anyone other than yourself (and even you may not fully grasp yourself) to truly understand, and that is where loneliness lies.

However, this inability to understand is not loneliness. Loneliness is the acknowledgement that we all share the same painful reality, that we can never truly understand each other. We pursue this dream to be understood, despite knowing it cannot ever be realised. Ironically, that is perhaps one of the only things everyone can understand about one another.

Films, books, music, art, even this article you are reading, are all desperate attempts to overcome loneliness. Burning with the desire to convey our emotions and feelings, we scream out to be heard, and to be seen. Self-expression is an artist's wish to be understood. However close we get to truly connecting with one another, there is always something missing. This ephemeral connection is never whole. Momentarily, we may understand how someone was feeling, but we can never fully understand others in all their complexity. True connection must be meaningful, not just present.

Indeed, many of you reading this may feel as though it is possible to achieve such a connection as to overcome loneliness in its entirety. Perhaps some of you may even believe in soulmates; destined partners who you can connect with more so than anyone else. I too

would love to believe in such a romantic thing - a soulmate who can connect with you at the deepest level. Ultimately, I believe the ideal connection is forged rather than found. But unfortunately, even if there was a singular person you could connect with infinitely more so than any other, you would still face the barrier of time and language. Too much to say, yet far too little time or ability to say it.

Our inner self is not static, ever flowing, and shapeless like water. Inarticulate as we are, the inner self cannot fully be conveyed, and will be lost with time, like tears in the rain. We know what we need to fix it - human connection - but we can never fully get it. That is the tragedy of loneliness.

But why? Why do we feel loneliness? Why do we want to be understood; to connect with others?

Humans are social creatures, needing each other to propagate as a species but also to prosper as a society. The painful feeling of loneliness is our defence mechanism. It's the body's response to isolation, telling us to seek social interaction. We are programmed with this as a survival mechanism.

Loneliness kills. Just like the cold, as you are exposed to it, you will slowly but surely succumb to its silence.

It's a depressing feeling, loneliness is. And it is only ever made worse by the fact we cannot escape it. It is not possible to evade that empty feeling in your heart. Or is it?

Throughout this article, I keep mentioning just how important connection is. Connection is both the solution and the cause of loneliness. But what if we never had connection, or even conceived of connection in the first place?

Imagine you were born into a world in which you are alone. You are the only person that you know exists, and you have no memories or knowledge of other human beings. There is no wildlife to speak of, and you live in solitude. There is nothing but silence outside of your



world, and nothing but silence within your world too.

If you did not know there were other people to connect to, would you still claim you are lonely? That is a question I'm sure many can debate. Perhaps you are not lonely because you are the only thing that exists as far as you know. Or perhaps, regardless of if you know it, you are undeniably lonely. But the latter perspective is only held by us who know what they are missing; because we know what connection is. To claim you are lonely in this scenario is circular.

Loneliness is a feeling. Solitude is a state of being. Would we still feel lonely if solitude is the only state we know? Would it be better that way? If we never felt lonely because we were always alone? Or would we still be dying from the frigid winds, regardless of if we have felt the warmth of a fire before? Indeed, perhaps it would be easier, to never know loneliness but always be in solitude, over knowing loneliness and never truly breaking free from that solitude.

Ultimately, this hypothetical scenario is the epitome of human tragedy. For, if no

one else existed, there would be nothing for you to hide. No inner self, or external self. Just you, whole. And maybe then we could truly understand one another and have a connection that overcomes loneliness. We could overcome loneliness in a world where human connection doesn't exist, but never prevail against loneliness in a world where so many people exist, who are all searching for the same thing.

We are all separate bodies, and being separated means being alone. It is the burden of our species more so than others, to be alone, and to know we are alone. Such is consciousness, that is both a blessing and curse.

But despair is not the lesson that should be taken from this. We have acknowledged that it's impossible to overcome the loneliness we all fear. But, with acknowledgement, comes acceptance. It's okay to feel lonely because everyone does. Loneliness is a feeling, just like sadness and happiness. We can never be fully rid of it, but conversely, it's a feeling that comes and goes. Just like a blizzard, the storm will eventually die down.

Without loneliness, we cannot enjoy the happiness we feel in whatever fleeting moments of connection we feel.

Once we accept our loneliness, we must also accept ourselves. We seek connection to validate who we are through others. But if we can feel compassion, and learn to love ourselves, we can bear our human burden.

There is a radiant beauty in being comfortable in our loneliness. After all, a single star in the night sky will shine brighter than an array that blur into one. But nonetheless, we all prefer a shining night sky to illuminate the way.

Even if we cannot fully connect with one another; even if it feels inadequate, those moments of connection are still genuine and meaningful, and that is all they need to be.

What is loneliness?

Loneliness is what it means to be human.

EDITED BY ROZE RAJPUT

POLITICS



The constitution of the United States of America was ratified in 1788, and has remained, for the most part, permanent since.

Philip Piekarski asks - is it time for a change?

ARTICLE

PHILIP PIEKARSKI Y12

The Permanent
Constitution

Page 34

Article

SOHAM DEV Y12

Attitudes to Human Rights
Worldwide

Page 36

ARTICLE

ARKO MUKHERJEE Y12

The Tucano — How the World's
Greatest Trainer Aircraft Was
Influenced by Politics

Page 38

The Permanent Constitution

Why is the US Constitution so controversial?

PHILIP PIEKARSKI Y12

Constitutions serve to keep both the people and politicians under one rule to prevent corruption and to safeguard the rights of the population. Despite this, the US constitution continues to promote outrage and controversy throughout the country, because of its semi-permanent status, and must be changed to engender a fair social and political landscape. Some recommended changes would include easing the conditions necessary for an amendment to be adapted or having committees to review the Constitution every 50 years or so, changing it in accordance with public opinion via voting in the House of Representatives.

The constitution was ratified (given a formal sanction) on June 21 1788 when nine out of the then thirteen states that then made up the USA had ratified [1]. The first state to ratify was Delaware in late 1787; the last was Rhode Island, only ratifying in May 1790 [2]. To this day, the United States' constitution remains the oldest codified constitution in the world [3]. The initial ten amendments (known as the Bill of Rights) were passed by the seven "Founding Fathers" with amendments including: the right to freedom of religion or speech; the right to a trial by jury; due process for criminals; and the



contentious right to bear arms. Amendments such as the right to bear arms, are still active today. Unlike the US, all members of the EU (an alliance of 27 countries) fully prohibit the possession of automatic weapons [4]. Although the sale, possession and use of firearms is somewhat regulated, last year in 2021, there were 12,520 gun homicides in the US [5]. Though 49% of Americans would favour stricter gun control (for example, by banning automatic weapons), the action could be deemed unconstitutional by going against the second amendment and, therefore, the law could not be put in place [6]. This is because the second amendment directly protects the right to bear arms and any attempt to limit this could be in violation of this ruling.

In simple terms, to even have an amendment merely considered to be added to the constitution, two thirds of representatives in the House of Representatives and Senate must agree to it and then three quarters of the 50 existing US states must agree to the proposed amendment by vote to have it ratified [7]. With no US president receiving an electoral college majority of three quarters since Ronald

Reagan in 1984, passing a new amendment is incredibly rare, not to mention the impact of the polarising agendas involved in the United States' two-party system [8]. In fact, out of 11,500 proposed amendments, 33 have been passed through the House of Representatives and Senate and been sent to the states to vote on. Out of those, only 27 have been ratified by the three quarters of the states necessary [9].

Although, the Constitution having an almost permanent status could be beneficial. It is plausible to argue that this was vital to the existence and survival of the United States – for example, during the 18th century. After all, from 1775 to 1783, American soldiers fought for independence from Great Britain and had only signed their Declaration of Independence just over 20 years prior to the Constitution [10]. As a result, the citizens of the United States had to know their rights were protected and that tyrants couldn't impose rule over them again as the British once had.

Due to the impracticality of

changing the constitution, the role of manipulating and interpreting the constitution falls onto the judicial branch of the US government: the Supreme Court. Far from being a diverse, representative group of non-biased individuals, acting in the interests of the nation, justices bring their parties' agendas into the law-making process, creating the possibility for laws to be passed that the US public disagree with. Selected by the President, US Supreme Court justices serve for life; to have laws pass that favour the President's agenda, the President picks those most aligned with their own ideals. For example, former President Donald Trump selected the ideologically conservative Amy Coney Barrett to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a liberal justice, tipping the political scales in the Supreme Court. This translates into legislative consequences with revolutionary rulings such as *Roe v. Wade* being overturned by the Supreme Court due to being deemed 'unconstitutional' despite remaining effective for 50 years prior. The Supreme Court is responsible for judicial review (revising laws previously passed by Congress) and *Roe v. Wade* was overturned through a five-four decision. This made abortion a state matter, whereby laws are passed by the state without public input. The results often may not reflect the attitudes of the population as over 60% of the US population supports abortion for at least the first trimester [11].

Those in favour of the change would most probably be those on the political left; the Constitution impedes them from passing legislation pertaining to the limitation



of arms or legislating social change. In contrast, those with interests in preserving the status quo and maintaining rights such as the total freedom of speech, would tend to benefit from an unchanged Constitution.

Even Thomas Jefferson, a man pivotal to the passing of the constitution believed it ought to be altered to tailor to the needs of the people at any point in time. In a letter to James Madison in 1789, Jefferson wrote that a constitution, "naturally expires at the end of 19 years" and that "if it be enforced longer, it is an act of force, and not of right^[12]." With no knowledge of today's almost 50/50 split in party politics, Jefferson still foresaw problems in how new rulings could be made.

Necessary changes to the constitution will be achieved, but only once the amendment in question causes enough problems for the US people that an almost unanimous decision is made that it must be altered. Bringing the US onto a constitutional system like the UK, for example, could be seen as stripping US citizens of their rights and

would cause outrage. As a result, America ought to have systems in place to block rulings of the Supreme Court that are deemed extreme and cause outrage from the public. Perhaps its members should be more representative of the diverse make-up of the US population, so the opinions of many different groups can guide the decisions that affect the public.

Overall, in the times following revolutionary war, the advantage of an unchanging constitution was clear for the protection of rights. Certainly, in the United States, a nation divided into two polarising factions, the idea of a permanent Constitution gives stability: it prevents abuses of power and guarantees the maintenance of democracy. However, in the modern day, it is not feasible to be living under almost permanent laws imposed almost 250 years ago, which will impede the capacity for change in the United States for centuries to come.

EDITED BY EDWIN JOHN

Attitudes to Human Rights Worldwide

How do different legal frameworks around the world approach and violate human rights

SOHAM DEV Y12

Although the term constantly evolves and changes, human rights fall into the hot food category of privileges, where their absence is devastating but their presence is often overlooked and taken for granted. Coincidentally, both are also seen as rare privileges in poorer nations. But why is this? Why do some nations view human rights as less of a mandatory obligation and more of an optional suggestion whereas others view them as a sacrosanct duty? In this article I shall endeavour to explore this through the lens of differing legal attitudes to human rights, dissecting where the law and human rights overlap but more importantly, where they deviate from each other.

However, before we begin to explore these legal attitudes, we must first establish what exactly underpins them, which is where we turn to The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an internationally ratified set of commands outlining what constitutes a human right. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was first adopted in 1948 with the support of the vast majority of countries, barring some notable absentees including South Africa (who thought it

threatened the concept of apartheid), Saudi Arabia (who weren't fond of the marriage rights and religious freedom promised in the document) and the Soviet Bloc nations (who unsurprisingly thought the declaration did not go far enough in its condemnation of fascism) ^[1]. Nevertheless, despite these abstentions and certain criticisms, the Universal Declaration has been adopted in most nations worldwide, at least in theory.

One such nation is France. A nation steeped in rich history and fascinating culture, France serves as an intriguing case study, namely in the realm of religious freedom. Religious freedom, a contentious point in France after the murder of Samuel Paty, is a guaranteed right under the constitution sent forth in the 1789 Declaration of the Right of Man and of the Citizen. One of the first European nations to guarantee religious freedom in theory, France's interpretation of religious freedom differs from most contemporary understandings of the word. Whereas the freedom of religion in private spaces is absolutely guaranteed, the same cannot be said for in

the public square. Expression of religion, such as the wearing of a cross or a hijab is against the law. This law banning the demarcation of oneself as the member of a certain religion first came about in 2004, with "conspicuous" religious symbols being banned ^[2]. Needless to say, this has not been a very popular law, with many Muslims considering it trespassing on their freedom of religion ^[3]. Where does this leave us? Freedom of religion or belief has been a guaranteed right under Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) since 1966. However, is what France is doing detrimental to freedom of religion as defined by the ICPR or the UN declaration? It only takes a cursory read of the UN declaration of human rights to see that whereas France does guarantee "freedom of thought, conscience and religion", where it falters is in the very next part of Article 18, which mandates that an individual must be allowed to "manifest" his religion, in public or in private ^[5]. When looked at from this perspective we can see how France can be perceived as wa-

vering in its commitment to human rights, not necessarily through outrageous and grievous violations, but just a nuanced transgression against Article 18.

Next, I would like to cover a different human rights violation altogether, painting a much bleaker picture of an already bleak topic. For that I am going to look at China. The state of human rights in China has been in decay for some time now ^[6], however the genocide of Uyghur Muslims in China has gone leaps and bounds what anyone could imagine as acceptable in the 21st century, with the situation hitting new lows every day. Even more worrying, however, is the comparative silence of prominent Muslim nations to the situation. Relations between Saudi Arabia and China get ever warmer ^[7]. Pakistan (who appear obsessed with alleged human rights violations in neighbouring India ^[8]) go strangely quiet when asked about a much worse situation in the form of the genocide of Muslims in China ^[9], with Muslim majority country Indonesia going as far as voting against a UN Rights Council Debate on Abuses in Xinjiang ^[10]. Evidently the international community has made up its mind on the stance to be taken in regards to the Uyghur population, but nevertheless, let us see how the situation overlaps with the current international legal framework in Human Rights Law. To say China is breaking a few

laws would be an understatement, as China is treating the UN declaration with wanton abandon, giving it more or less the same respect that a vegan would give to a Whopper burger. The Articles China breaks include but by no means are limited to, Articles 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,18 and 22 ^[11]. Ultimately, China's actions against the Uyghur Muslims are abhorrent, and constitute a despicable form of mass murder.

Focus once on the Pakistani reply to the Chinese mass murder machine. By turning a blind eye not only does Pakistan preserve considerable trade relations with an ally, they also successfully call out a regional rival. Do not make the mistake of thinking this is an exclusively Pakistani issue either. The subtle weaponization of and hypocrisies around human rights are evident elsewhere on the world stage, for example the silence of the so-called "progressive West" to America's actions in Afghanistan ^[12]. This presents us with a worrying problem; if the international outcry about violations of human rights can be marred with self-interest and hypocrisy, where does that leave the society as a whole? To put it simply, when do economic interests begin to take precedence over human life?

Through the examples of France and China, we learn that the law and human rights are undeniably linked. The influences of the law and hu-

man rights on one another are widespread, with the commands of a court now dictating what can and cannot constitute a human right as opposed to intuitive human morality. Whereas in the case of France the violation in human rights appears a minor infringement and it is more up to the individual to ascertain whether it is an actual human rights violation occurring, the more nefarious example of China leaves one no such doubt. The unfortunate fact is that from the most developed nations to the most authoritarian, human rights are rarely always guaranteed and are never entirely safe. The meaning of the term is often twisted and manipulated into what suits the powers that be best, in order to further whatever, the political agenda of the time is. Be it an "upholding of France's secular values" or "countering extremism" in China, one thing is certain; as the world moves ever further in the direction of development, human rights and how they are treated pose an ever-larger problem.

The Tucano – How the World's Greatest Trainer Aircraft Was Influenced by Politics

How does politics affect the technological development of a country?

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“I like the concept of the article. There is a story to be told about the growth of a country, plagued by political interference for almost a century, before producing something truly great, by itself.” Those were my editor’s first reactions to this article, and I don’t believe that I could have put it any better myself. One of the aspects that make the Tucano one of my favourite aircrafts, apart from its striking looks, is its history which allows us to venture into the niche area of politics influ-

encing engineering, or, in other words, I realized that this is the humanities magazine and am desperately trying to link my passion for aviation with the humanities. Please bear with me as I describe the events that led to Brazil being backed into a corner, and the truly amazing plane that came out of it.

State of the Brazilian Air Force before and after WW2

The formation of the Brazilian air force was actually influenced by the

formation of the RAF [2], when a few Junior Brazilian military officers, influenced by the principles of Lord Trenchard (the father of the RAF) and other military theorists, began advocating to their seniors the advantages of having a combined aerial unit, rather than simply Naval air and Army air branches, a dream which was fulfilled on January 20 1941..

Initially, the equipment at the disposal of the newly formed Força Aérea Brasileira (Portuguese for Brazilian

Air Force) was very outdated. In 1942, Brazil joined the war on the side of the US, enabling it to receive US aircrafts via the Lend and Lease act passed by Congress, which allowed the US to arm allies deemed "vital to the defence of the United States."^[3] It effectively cancelled the US Neutralities Act of 1930. In fact, Brazil was the only South American country to commit troops abroad on the side of the allies, sending a fighter squadron and infantry division to the Italian front as part of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force. This helped strengthen ties between Brazil and the US which lasted through to the Cold war.

Cold War

In 1949, US Congress passed the Mutual Defence Assistance Act, aimed at reconstructing the depleted arsenal of the US and its allies following the Second World War, to curb the growing threat of communism. This led to the Mutual Defence Assistance Programme (MDAP)^[4] which Brazil joined in 1953. Under this programme, in 1966, Brazil ordered 65 Jet trainers (T37s) manufactured by the American company Cessna, (a smoking-hot aircraft in its own right!) however Brazil was forced to retire them early in 1980 as Brazil-American relations soured, forcing Brazil to manufacture an advanced trainer of its own, culminating with the Tucano which we all know and love today. The following timeline explains what... stalled... in the relationship between our main players here, Brazil and the USA, and threw diplomatic proceedings between them, into a (wait for it...) tailspin. (After those terrible aviation puns, I'll see myself out...)

Events leading up to 1980

1950: The Brazilian National Research Council^[5] is set up to research ways to increase energy security - Brazil was heavily reliant on foreign imports at the time^[6] including of energy and consumer goods.

1964: The US backed military coup-d'état occurs, with the aim of transforming Brazil into a modern capitalist economy and a military power, along with replacing João Goulart as the head of state (due to accusations of him being a communist by right wing adversaries). Naturally, this worried the USA, with John F. Kennedy, Richard N. Goodwin, and Lincoln Gordon meeting in secret to discuss this concern^[7]. This resulted in a military dictatorship with the speaker of the house sworn in as president, despite João Goulart still being in the country while this occurred.

1960-1970: The Brazil National Research Council continues research into diversifying and domesticating energy sources under the military rule, and partnered with West Germany to research nuclear sources, signing a treaty with them in 1975^[8]. The US has to send lobbyists to attempt to bar Brazil from developing military applications for such technology^[9], despite supporting the military rule in 1964, even going as far as having the Vice President of the US lobby West Germany in 1977 to pull out of the treaty^[10]. However, despite all US efforts, Brazil does not sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) citing sovereignty, only signing much later in 1998^[11].

1977: The Carter administration pressures Brazil to amend nuclear

policy. Brazil retaliates in March 1977 by withdrawing from MDAP, and the US retaliates by pressuring Cessna to stop supplies of T37 spare parts from reaching Brazil, with Cessna citing "programming and production issues."^[12] The fact that Cessna had to invent such an excuse hints that the American government did not pressure Cessna via formal channels and this was likely done via back-door lobbying.

This long chain of events incentivised the creation of an indigenously developed trainer that mimicked jet-like performance by Brazil- in short, it created the demand, nay, necessity for the Tucano!

State of Embraer

Embraer was formed in 1969 as a state-owned aviation manufacturer to reduce dependency on foreign exports. Despite this, in 1970, their first move was to acquire a production licence for an Italian aircraft, to familiarise themselves with military designs,^[13] and their first produced aircraft used American engines. The Tucano would be their first military trainer aircraft.

However, in 1980, Embraer took over their rival Aeronautical Neiva^[14], gaining the brilliance of Joseph Kovács, who had been involved in designing FAB's basic trainer- Neiva Universal (however these did not offer jet-like performance like the T37s the FAB was trying to replace).

How did the 1970s oil crisis directly influence the Tucano's design?

Following the outbreak of the 1973 Yom Kippur war, President Nixon requested Congress to provide \$2.2 billion in aid to Israel, leading to the

Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) reducing exports and placing an embargo on oil exports to the US.^[15] Also, during the 1978 Iranian revolution, where the monarch of Iran was overthrown to form a theocratic republic, protests by oil workers led to halted oil production- a loss of 2.5 million barrels per day. When the new regime did resume oil production, it was at a lower capacity and was inconsistent.^[16] These factors led to the price of oil rising from \$3 per barrel in 1973 to \$36 per barrel in 1980.^[17]

In response, the Tucano's cockpit was laid out in a tandem seating configuration (with the instructor sitting behind the student pilot) so that the aircraft's profile could be narrower and therefore more aerodynamic and fuel efficient, in contrast to side-by-side seating, which would make it easier for an instructor to supervise the trainee and correct them. Also, the tandem seating arrangement would be more similar to the seating arrangement in most jet aircraft, allowing pilots to easily transition from the Tucano to jet aircrafts. To improve the visibility from the back seat, however, it was raised above the front seat. In fact, its engine itself- a turboprop- was chosen over a jet engine as it was less gas-guzzling!^[18]

Oh, the Irony!

In December 2011 the US awarded its \$355 million contract for a Light Air Support (LAS) aircraft to the Super Tucano, despite it being the US who wanted to deny Brazil of an advanced trainer by cutting off supplies of T37 spare parts! The contract was cancelled in February 2012 over procurement concerns; however, the US then placed an even more expensive order of \$427 million for 20 Super



Tucanos to arm the Afghan Air Force!^[19] During the fall of Afghanistan, 2 pilots of the Afghan air force fled to Uzbekistan in such a Super Tucano, accidentally crashing with an escorting Uzbek Mig 29. The Taliban had demanded the wreckage of the aircraft be returned; however, this has gone unheeded.^[20] Domestically, Brazil uses the Super Tucanos as part of its SIVAM project to monitor illegal logging in the Amazon, with Super Tucanos having taken part in Operation Agata, bombing an illicit dirt strip used as a runway by narcotics smugglers, and routinely patrolling the Amazon area, intercepting the aircraft of smugglers.

The Tucano continues to serve reliably in a multitude of roles. It may not be the flashiest aircraft out

there, but it does its job, and then some, at less than half the cost! It may not be a complex flying-wing or delta winged, but sometimes we become so seduced and infatuated with more complex technology, that we take that as the sole benchmark for improvement, and fail to observe actual effectiveness- does it serve its purpose well? We forget that sometimes the best way forward is to return to basics. After all, it's not the plane, it's the pilot! The ignorant voices calling it "just a normal plane" and "nothing special" fall to notice the stash of tricks the Tucano has up its sleeves! In the end, I think we can all agree that we would not want to find ourselves at the wrong end of the fiery wrath it is more than capable of delivering.

Picture Quiz Answers

1. Mount Rushmore, USA
2. Machu Pichu, Peru
3. Chrysler Building, New York, USA
4. Washington Monument, Washington, USA
5. Easter Island, Chile
6. Iguazu Falls, Argentinian-Brazilian border

True or False Quiz Answers

1. **True!** The Romans called the city Camulodonum. London ("Londinium") replaced it as capital after its sacking by Boudicca
2. **True!** This comes despite Henry VIII's attempts to ascribe the sobriquet to himself
3. **True!** William's jester taunted the English by juggling his sword in front of them before the battle, and was promptly killed for this slight
4. **False!** A classic misnomer, this war between the French and the English lasted 116 years, spanning across 5 generations
5. **False!** The University of Bologna in Italy was founded in 1088
6. **False!** While most are aware of his 6th wife Catherine Parr outliving him, his 4th wife, Anne of Cleves, also died 10 years after Henry's death
7. **True!** While most Becoming MP at the age of 21, Pitt was reluctantly made PM by George III in 1783 at the age of 24, a record that continues to this day
8. **True!** He was shot by a lunatic businessman in the House of Commons
9. **False!** Although Winston Churchill was PM at the end of the war, it was Neville Chamberlain, who declared war on Germany
10. **False!** Although the referendum was held in 2016, the UK only left the Eu in January 2020

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS

- 1: TEMPEST
 5: TWELFTH NIGHT
 6: AS YOU LIKE IT
 8: KING LEAR
 9: OTHELLO

DOWN

- 2: MERCHANT OF VENICE
 3: HAMLET
 4: JULIUS CAESAR
 7: MACBETH

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