Why are artists never satisfied?
Zach Rogers

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Editor's foreword

2024 Issue 6

As a new school year comes around, people across the school will be starting exciting sections of their education which matches with this issue 6 of the Humanities magazine of Wilson's Intrigue in its rebrand. Over the summer, I redesigned the look of the Humanities magazine so that it feels professional and elegant but also readable and approachable. Despite that, this issue has in fact been a year in the making, with last year's chief editors Gabriel Gardiner and Edwin John having worked tirelessly to organise the magazine. And so I have to thank these two in particular as well as the team of editors last year and the many brilliant writers who submitted articles. There were many great pieces from all these contributors, some of which have since left our school, so I hope they enjoy seeing their article finally published after waiting for so long. Sadly, due to the limited length of the magazine, among other reasons, not all the articles could be published in this issue. They will be published in the next issue.

The voted star article in this issue is by Zach Rogers, who wrote about the reasons that propel visual art forwards, forever changing in this modern day. This is a creative, in-depth article with analysis into various artworks. I hope that if you took the effort to open this magazine, that you read not only your interested topics but also other articles from our amazing writers.

I must also thank Mrs Fletcher for overseeing the production of this magazine as well as all the teachers who worked to help improve each article. Again, I want to thank last year's team of editors who worked closely with the writers to ensure each article is as best as can be, as well as formatting the article, which sadly was lost in this rebranding. I hope that everyone reading this issue will feel inspired by the fascinating world of the humanities and social sciences and, perhaps, would also want to write their own article in the next issue. Not only that, but anyone wanting to contribute in anyway would be amazing as I hope for the magazine to expand in its variety of work shown.

So, if you want to submit some of your photography, submit a poem, help in the visual design of the magazine, help edit articles, write a review of a film or music performance, write up an engaging summary of new research that's released, or do anything else, try and apply! Email me at WONGO@ wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk or look out for notices about Google Forms to apply. Making a magazine is a long, extensive process that means only around one or two magazines are published each year so if you have an idea, please apply!

I hope you enjoy reading,

Oscar Wong, 2024/5 Chief Editor

Cover design by Oscar Wong.

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Is it Sportswashing OR Is it a Football Revolution in the Middle East?

Dino speculates on the sudden rise in popularity that football has seen in the Middle East.

Written by Dino Specter; Edited by Vedang Pandit; Photo by Ludovic Péron

When Cristiano Ronlado first joined Saudi Arabian club, Al-Nassr, in December 2022, people ridiculed him for [10] joining a 'farmer's league' and assumed he was doing it to get a final payday aged 37, before his eventual retirement, earning a reported £173m per year[1] with his contract. Clearly he knew something we didn't when he claimed that the Saudi Pro League will become one of the best leagues in the world (it was ranked 67th in the world at the time). Since then, around $1bn[2] has been spent on player transfers into Saudi Arabia, and there are now many more recognisable names in the league. But why is this happening? Why are Saudi Arabia exploring the world of football all of a sudden and how is it affecting football as a whole?

As mentioned previously, around $1bn[2] has been spent by Saudi Arabian clubs since Ronaldo joined, which is a sensational amount. Players like Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino, Neymar, Karim Benzema, and Jordan Henderson, just to name a few, have all made the move over to the Middle East. Furthermore, the wages which these players are receiving are huge, and is probably the sole motivator to make the switch for many. There are ten players currently earning over £20m[1] a year in Saudi Arabia, which is around £400,000 per week, and the top players are earning a lot more, like Rondaldo and Benzema, who both earn over £170m a year[1] (around £3.25m a week). This may seem good on the surface, as European clubs will be receiving more money and the players are getting higher wages.

However, this only benefits the big clubs with the best players, who will attract interest from the Saudi clubs. This will lead to bigger clubs becoming richer and richer, whilst smaller clubs won't and the financial gap between them will continue to widen. It may make football as a whole a less competitive sport, especially at the top level, and makes it very hard for the poorer clubs to ever be successful where there are financial giants who can easily spend millions on players to maintain their level at the top. The high transfer fees in Saudi Arabia may also cause fees to rise elsewhere in the footballing world. Clubs can demand higher fees for their players, and they can use the fees in Saudi Arabia to justify this. Again, it puts more pressure on the teams who aren't as rich and makes it harder for smaller

clubs to compete. The inequality in football is already a massive issue, and the high transfer fees in Saudi Arabia are likely to worsen it.

Saudi Arabia has often been accused of sportswashing, which is when individuals, groups, or governments use sports to improve their reputation around the world, often due to controversial things that have happened in the past. A similar example to what Saudi Arabia has done is China, who recently attempted a similar venture into the world of football. In 2015, China released a 50 point plan[3] to develop football in the country, which aimed to popularise it all over the nation, not just by developing the top league in China, but also by improving grassroots opportunities and facilities, including the idea to put football into the school curriculum[4]. Ultimately, by 2021 many of the biggest clubs in China had disappeared and this gamble seemed to have failed due to a lack of money, especially during the covid era, which left players and staff unpaid, and so the project ended up collapsing. The Saudi attempt, however, is being funded by Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, who has been making changes since he was crowned in 2017. One reason why he could be trying to stimulate passion for football in his country is to try and reduce Saudi Arabia's dependence on oil. As a founder of OPEC (an international oil cartel), it could be argued that Saudi Arabia is very lucky with the abundance of oil in the nation, but the resource is expected to run out approximately by 2050 according to many experts, and the Saudi Arabians will need something else to stimulate their economy. Whilst this is important, many people, including me, believe that the main motivation to expand into football is the desire for a better worldwide reputation.

Closer to home, Newcastle United were taken over by a Saudi-led consortium[5] after an 18 month saga during which the Premier League investigated the takeover, but eventually concluded that Newcastle wouldn't become a state-run club, which is against Premier League rules - although this is still widely debated online as the PIF (Saudi public investment fund) have an 80% stake in this £305m takeover[5]. At the time of the takeover,

Newcastle were 7 games into the Premier League season, without having yet registered a win. They went another 7 games without a win until the 4th December 2021, when they beat Burnley 1-0. Going into the January transfer window, where the new owners could finally make their mark on the squad, Newcastle were sitting second from bottom with only 11 points after 19 games. During the January transfer window, around $100mn was spent[2] on bringing in players, including Bruno Guimarães and Kieran Trippier. Newcastle went on to finish 11th, gaining 38 points from their final 19 games. Newcastle are now a top Premier League club, who are expected to be fighting for the top places in the division and reaching the latter stages of the Champions League, especially after beating French giants, PSG, 4-1. Since the takeover, Newcastle have spent almost £400m[2], and there is a strong sense of support for Saudi Arabia among Newcastle fans, who often wave Saudi Arabia flags at games, and occasionally dress up as Saudi princes. The Saudi Arabian government may want to replicate this adoration for their country all over the footballing world.
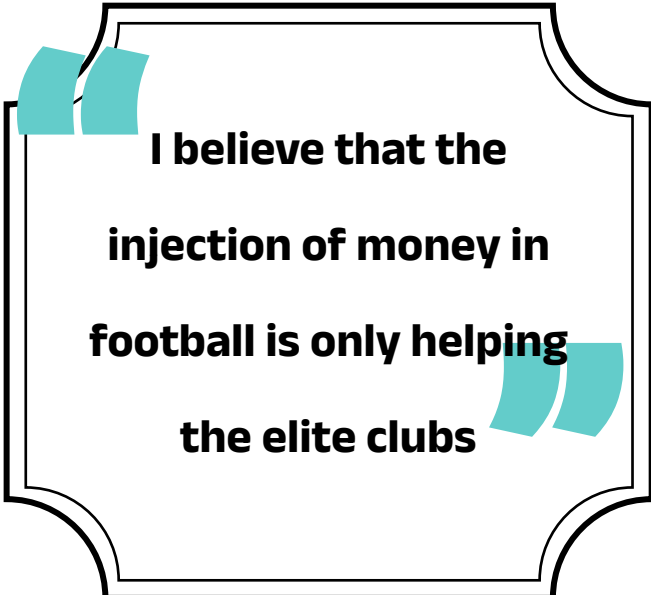
Elsewhere in the Middle East, Qatar hosted a World Cup in 2022, and I'm sure many of you remember this event, and have fond memories of celebrating England's win against Iran in the JJ Hall, but there was a lot of controversy surrounding the tournament. The main concern was about life in Qatar due to the strict laws, especially on same-sex relationships, alcohol and behaviour in public. Also, reports revealed in February 2021 claimed that over 6500 foreign workers had died[6] in Qatar since its winning world cup bid, with Qatar dubiously claiming that only 3 of the deaths were work related[6]. The other main controversy is the manner with which Qatar won the bid to host this world cup. They became the first ever Arab country to host a World Cup and beat the US, South Korea, Japan and Australia to become the 2022 hosts. The all important vote was held between the 22 executive members of FIFA, but allegedly, Qatar paid around £3m in bribes[6] to certain officials to gain their vote. In the end, they won by 14 votes to 8 beating the US, and this was a massive shock at the time. Sepp Blatter, who was the FIFA president at the time of the awarding of this World Cup, has since resigned from his position as he was caught doing other unrelated fraudulent activity, and he is now banned from any involvement in football related activities by FIFA[6]. Since this scandal, his name has been surrounded with controversy online, with countless accusations of him intervening to tip the vote in Qatar's favour. The event itself was seen as a success by the majority of fans, with

many praising Qatar for how it welcomed fans and minimised violence from the fans. It will always be remembered for the historic final, which consisted of 6 goals, a penalty shootout, and an incredible storyline which will always have Qatar's name attached.

Saudi Arabia has also put money into developing grassroots football for everyone, with around 50,000 girls being estimated to be playing for school leagues in Saudi Arabia in 2019[7]. They also aim to improve their national team and this can be done by improving the standard of the domestic leagues to help the future generations of Saudi Arabian players develop at a higher level. However, most experts still agree that the aim is to improve the country's reputation, along with security for the future, after oil runs out. Many also believe that the country has been trying to distract people from issues such as its human rights record and political controversies. In terms of the big player transfers, some argue that England did the same thing. In the past few years, the English Premier League has become the biggest and most prestigious league in the world, without much competition, but when you look at how much has been spent by English clubs, it is clear to see why. This summer, Premier League clubs spent a total of £2.44bn[2] on transfer incomings, and have been the highest spenders in the world (as a league) since the turn of the century. Since 2000, the clubs of the Premier League have spent over €25bn[8], whilst the Serie A (Italian league) has spent around €15bn, being the closest competitors to the Premier League. La Liga (Spanish league) has spent around €11.5bn [8], whilst the German Bundesliga and French Ligue 1 have both spent around €8bn[8]. Some critics have argued that what English clubs have done over the last 20 years is similar to what the Saudis are doing now. This is an understandable argument, but the English clubs could be said to have earnt the right to spend this money. Most of the money that English clubs have spent has come from revenue from sponsors, TV rights, player sales, merchandise sales and ticket sales. Being one of the first countries to popularise the sport, it

feels as if it is more acceptable for a lot of money to be spent by English clubs rather than Saudi clubs, who are mostly funded by the PIF.

To conclude, I believe that the injection of money in football is only helping the elite clubs, and the desire for more events to be held in the Middle East is helping the people in power, such as FIFA board members, who have bribes

> **I believe that the injection of money in football is only helping the elite clubs**

entering their pockets. In the future, I think that the Saudi league will grow, but I doubt they will ever become a top 10 footballing nation in the world, as they have previously said, and they won't be able to compete with European clubs and leagues, purely due to the location and lack of fans. The fact that these Asian clubs cannot play in European competitions means that foreign fans will not take much of an interest, and eventually the Saudi project will slow down. I also think the gap between the richest and biggest clubs and the not so rich clubs will continue to widen, and the idea of a 'super league' will continue being mentioned. This is an idea proposed by the world's elite clubs to make a European league containing only the best clubs around, which involves a lot of financial benefits. It will never materialise in my opinion, due to the very strong opposition from football fans, especially in England.

‹‹ Geography ››
E-Bikes: The Latest Form of Greenwashing

Written by Arjun Bhatt

Edited by Yuzhe Oh

It was a late summer evening. My brother and I had spent most of the day running errands around London, but at the end of it all, a cricket match would be awaiting us at Lord's Cricket Ground. After a quick stop in Oxford Street, we had about 20 minutes left before the game started and had to find out how to reach there. The grounds themselves are close to Oxford Street, so the Lime bike appealed to us. A convenient, comfortable way to reach the stadium on time, all while skipping traffic and not overexerting ourselves. At first glance, this was the "perfect" solution to our transport needs, but the problems presented themselves from the start. A scavenger hunt began to find the enigmatic bikes, a more arduous task when trying to find a pair. After a complicated sign-in process, with the app freezing during every click, the bikes were finally unlocked and we were ready to leave, slightly disgruntled. However, the biggest problem faced us: a faulty e-bike that was being surpassed by ordinary bicycles. A bike that was supposed to feel like an upgrade was lagging, even though the LED screen was emphasising the battery being full. The speed was so slow, that any effort to reach the stadium on time would have been in vain. Our only option was to find a parking spot, the closest being ten minutes in the opposite direction, and we ended up taking an Uber to the cricket ground just to reach there on time.

On the surface, the e-bike may be seen as the saving grace for sustainable transportation, however, with growing demand and outdated technology, it is important to consider whether the successes that have been heralded are concealing larger problems. Introduced in November of 2018, the Lime Bike was first brought to the UK in Milton Keynes, as an emission-free alternative to cars and taxis, running off its successes in the USA and Europe[1]. However, the idea was met with some initial scepticism from transport authorities within the UK but was adopted nonetheless and has skyrocketed in popularity ever since. Here is where the problems start to arise. The rate at which the use of e-bikes such as Lime or other brands has grown exponentially, has meant that the companies cannot keep up. The infrastructure of the software used across the apps cannot keep up with these high demands and therefore deters people from ever using the bikes. These processing times affect how long it takes to end a ride, ultimately charging people more as the app cannot register these times. Inconveniences like these contribute to the larger public opinion on Lime bikes being a negative one. Unnecessary charges and long waiting times will just make the company and product's image worse.

An inconvenience to use?

For those who brave the waiting time, now a game of chance is afoot. Before renting a bike, there is no indication to the condition of the motor and you hope that the stars have aligned and your bike is not stuck, dawdling behind the pedal cyclists. While the bikes may display full batteries, the motors tell different stories, essentially increasing the time it takes for you to reach your destination. Safety concerns about going at faster speeds are completely justified; but these slow speeds start to beg the question "Is it this slow on purpose?" It is important to remember companies like Lime are profit-driven and these small increases in time just means you must pay more to ride the bike. These small inconveniences are what

deter people from using the service in the first place, and with growing public disinterest, billions of pounds and hundreds of bikes would go to waste. With smaller schemes like the Forest bike now copying the somewhat successful model, people are left waiting longer for an inadequate ride and are unlikely to return to the service again.

Once celebrated for their unique solution to fossil fuel emissions by vehicles in built-up areas, bikes have now come under public scrutiny and are now

While the majority of users park their bikes responsibly, unfortunately many dockless bikes are simply dumped in the middle of the pavement all over

considered an "urban blight" by the very same people who promoted the new era of transport. We have all seen a Lime bike carelessly put on the pavement, almost reaching out onto a road, and have most likely thought "How can this be allowed?" [2] With the rise in popularity, this experience is becoming all too common, and the e-bikes now pose a greater risk to our cities. The idea of the bikes being 'dockless' was an appealing one at first, however, they now have greater consequences for our streets and how accessible they are. The crowding of electric bikes on pavements now means there is even less space in already crowded areas for wheelchairs and pose a huge risk to the visually impaired, by obstructing pathways and in some

cases crossing indicators, making many mislaid bikes an immense safety risk when crossing streets. [3] Alongside this, the bikes are usually filled with someone's garbage and are usually covered in graffiti two days after being on the streets. With more electric bikes crowding our streets, this negative view of electric bike hire schemes will eventually lead to many bicycles being left to waste.

The future of E-Bikes

To combat this issue, councils alongside companies like Lime are now considering the option of abandoning the dockless features of the bike and instead start implementing parking bays. Not only does this fundamentally change the model of the service but will also require lots of construction all over boroughs like Westminster. [4] The construction of over 200 new parking bays will result in many pavements being further crowded full of bikes, making it even harder for people to navigate around the city safely. With vandalism on the rise in urban areas, these parking bays would serve as another "urban blight" in our streets and could easily become a nuisance for many residents. While local councils may see these bays

benefiting the areas, many fail to consider other biking infrastructure like bike paths in car-centric areas

While the E-bikes may be revered as a clean, green form of transport, the reality behind this manufacturing can be shocking. For an E-bike to successfully run, lithium batteries make up the bulk of the motor. Sourcing the lithium has been a highly contentious topic for many years, with unethical mining practices and environmental damage being overshadowed by the lack of emissions the bikes produce.

For years, miners have been mistreated by the lithium companies that most electric vehicle manufactures source the raw metal from. Miners are forced to work long hours in dangerous conditions while companies barely pay them a liveable wage, showing the ruthless and unethical side of lithium mining, and subsequently the electric vehicle industry. With growing demand and shrinking deposits, workers are not only going to be overworked but left in more dire working conditions as companies drill deeper into the Earth to make their pockets deeper. [5]

When arguing for the environmental benefits of the E-bike, people fail to mention how the lithium sourced for the millions of batteries in use today destroy the natural habitats of many species. The mining process is extremely resource-intensive with some companies accused of depriving freshwater sources in rainforests to line their own pockets. In Chile's Salar de Atacama region alone, 65% of the region's water is dedicated to the mining of lithium from local salt flats. [6] In other parts of the world, where people live closer to these mines, their daily lives are now being affected by the hungry thirst for these new electric vehicles. Toxic chemicals used by the

Ganzizhou Rongda Lithium in Dartsedo, eastern Tibet, have found their way into the Lichu River on more than one occasion, killing fish and farm animals belonging to the community of Minyak Lhagang. In the end, the local population had to face the loss of local wildlife and the degradation of a local water source and lithium mining continued in the area. [7] With e-bikes on the rise, more land will be destroyed, and more communities will be displaced, hidden by the small environmental benefit they provide in return.

As the climate crises continue, it is important to re-evaluate how ethical and environmentally beneficial schemes like the Lime Bike truly are. We must consider issues such as unethical mining practices and the greater environmental impact they have and smaller, more local negative views of the bikes in recent years. If the E-bike were to be the solution to efficient, clean transportation, it would take a lot of investment from both governments and companies like Lime to create sustainable, accessible transportation that truly achieves the tag of 'carbon-free'. Until then, we either have to brave the sign-up journey or cave in and book an Uber.

Picture by

Jasper Garratt

"Lithium represents a route out of our reliance on fossil fuels - it is most famous for powering electric vehicles."

Why are artists never

satisfied?

How do you define the human form? Perhaps your mind immediately leaps to the anatomical - the literal organs, muscles and features that make up the human body. Alternatively, you might think of the journey that a human conscience takes: the people, places and experiences the human mind collects, like the trophies of an avid hunter; the heads of memories proudly displayed in the glass case of consciousness. Maybe, you take the eclectic choice of describing humans as their raw emotion, the most resonating string of the human violin striking with you as the natural impulses that have evolved over centuries. The animality of humanness we have long abandoned in civil society.

Just as a variety of people take a variety of stances, so too have artists each strived to represent these aspects of the human experience, it would seem ceaselessly, for in the journey to picture our species, Odysseus has yet to return to Ithaca. So just as Odysseus toiled against the monster of

Homer's Iliad, I too wish to take you along the peaks and troughs of drawing, painting, and a host of other methods, through which artists have cultivated none other than our own image. I hope to dissuade the common notion that the limitations of historical methods is what has driven the direction of art, but fundamentally to answer the ultimate, underlying question: why are artists never satisfied with the human image?

To begin, it is pertinent to prevent the aforementioned belief that the art is evolved with the methods. Whilst it is undeniable that the first hands placed on the Chauvet Cave (some of the oldest and well-preserved examples of early human art) were limited by the brutish brain that primitive genetics allowed them, and that cognitive and technological developments came hand in hand with refined artistry, I find this trends to plummet at the Renaissance. At a time when the old masters - such as Leonardo, Michelangelo, and Raphael - had perfected

Often overlooked, this article dives into the history of the human form. It aims to explore abstraction and justify contemporary visionaries at times when frequently met with negativity - perhaps undue?

Left: The Creation of Adam (cropped), by Michelangelo.

Written by Zach Rogers
Edited by Oscar Wong

would artists stray into what - at face value - was an apparent less accurate depiction of a person? Quite to the contrary, Fauvism, Impressionism and abstraction formed more wholly a *person* than what any of the old masters achieved - the use of vibrant colour, brushstroke and flat perspective opened an avenue into the memories, feelings and associations the mind makes to people and places without, "perfect," realism. This only progressed into the later 20th century as abstraction delved into its extremes: an infamous example being, "My Bed," by Tracey Emin in 1998, in which a period of a person's life was captured in the evolving mess of her bed and later displayed at the Tate Gallery. It is clear what early Fauves, and fellow abstractionists, started, had evolved into complete abandonment of any resemblance of a body.

So, in the modern era, with all technological tools at an artist's disposal, we don't see almost any reference to the Renaissance in popular artists. This leaves us to conclude only one thing: artists cannot seek only the physical. As for how much of a role their available techniques play, anomalies remain in the history of art that bolster the rebuttal abstraction makes to this argument. Primarily, I want to highlight that of Classical Greece, which had even more limited methods than that of Renaissance, but again chose to abandon the typical human form. On this occasion, it was due to the intertwinement of Greek mythos in their subject's figure, with fantastical animal lower halves or heads found on huge amounts of Greek pottery. This would not categorically be considered abstraction in the same way contemporary work is, but from some of the oldest societies we see cultural and religious reference emerging in artwork. Overall, it is a stark demonstration through history that we as a species are inseparable from our emotions, culture and thoughts.

Typically glazed over by the general consumer of art, is what I suggest to be the most important factor of all when creating the vision of the mind's eye - philosophy. Not in the grandiose and inaccessible way that is often thought, but rather the philosophy by which people of the day lived by. Underpinning all emotion, experience and memory is the perspective which a person's current climate afforded them. Take for instance, post-World War One

their craft of realism with sketches, charcoal and oil paintings, it seemed impossible to improve upon apparent perfection. Alas, the advancement of art marched onwards. Indeed, this idea of improving techniques thereby improving our ascertainment of the human image has a very limited scope that focuses only on one of the three branches outlined in the beginning - the physical. The basic failure of the theory is then brazenly dragged to light with the creation of Fauvism, Impressionism (to name only a couple) and abstraction as a whole. For why else, if we only wished to recreate the human body,

Clockwise from top left: San Giorgio Maggiore at Dusk, Venice (1908), Claude Monet, "My Bed" (1998), Tracey Emin, Landscape No. 25, Marsden Hartley, "The Ice Hole" (1908), Marsden Hartley
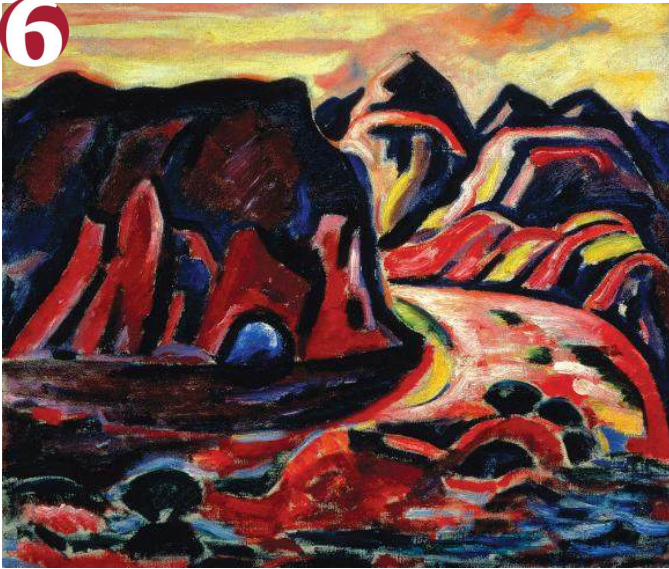
artists. As the Tate Gallery describes this particular body of work, "The future was experimental and bold, a symbol of hope and rebirth after the devastation of war,"[3] beliefs that are made abundantly clear through the artwork. In particular, Marsden Hartley's course of work acts as a personification of this change, accompanying the adopted outlook after the war.

To the right are two landscapes by Hartley - on the left a more traditional piece, with naturalistic colours but employing short strokes typical of an Impressionist, and on the right, he delves into the abstract colours but remains mostly true to the form of the subject he is capturing. These marks work to imitate the fleeting motion of water and wind rippling across the natural world, free of human construction or body, yet no less an expression of Hartley's feelings, thoughts, and desires. The subtle palette change between the two betrays in itself the state of his mind from day to day, but remains underpinned regardless by the philosophy of the time. No doubt, the hallmarks of abstraction are clear, but this is only an echo of preceding Impressionists (appearing circa. 1870 - 1890); he remains constrained by the social standard, chained to the precedent before the war is able to bust open the locks. Hartley is yet to come into his own.

In heavy contrast, one would be hard pressed to attribute these three paintings to the same artist as those prior, as Hartley undergoes an overhaul to his style following the years after the war. Paintings [6] and [7] scarce appear to be landscapes, with overpowering colour and strokes dominating the canvas as Hartley forms what appears to be vague shapes: perspective, light, texture, form, realism - all fall to the wayside so that abstraction may leave its hefty signature upon his brush. To identify oneself, Hartley does not need anatomy, rather he weaves the two complementary strands of human nature (outlined at the beginning) to craft emotion and memory into his pieces; especially apparent is [6] - "Eight Bells Folly: Memorial to Hart Crane", that features titles through image of the poet's greatest works as a commemoration to his tragic suicide, and the end of a friendship[9]. Finally, [8] reintroduces portraiture, but again with the emblematic symbolism of abstraction. Imagine now how Michelangelo or Raphael would look upon this work, perhaps as a bastardisation of the sacred human figure? Or would they relish in a world that freed them from the rigid rules of art academies in Renaissance Italy - the philosophy dictated to them, and that in turn formed the masterpieces we know today?

If these vivid displays are not enough to convince you that societal perspective rules all, yet another trend arises from post-war periods with an even more obvious philosophical link. Alberto Giacometti - working in the opposite to Hartley, he both created three dimensional forms and focused not on the hope, but the suffering of the human condition. The sculpture, "L'Homme au doigt" - "The man with the Finger" - deploys twisted bronze, rough and cobbled together to create a diminished, almost malnourished looking figure. It is not alone in this, as Giacometti uses the same method for animal and human sculptures alike with one common trend: suffering. Hand in hand does this strong recurring emotion walk with nihilism, which is the belief that life is meaningless and at its extreme, that life itself is suffering. Indeed, it would be almost common sense to assume that one with such a depressing philosophy creates colourless, agonised artwork. And thus, what else can dictate emotion but this overpowering factor of philosophy, a factor that can pivot the direction of an artist to miles from his origin and has consistently rendered even those perfectionists of the Renaissance powerless to its will.

So, to conclude, the common masquerades of technology, emotion and realism, that seem to so often purport themselves as the will of an artist, remain puppeteered on the strings of philosophy - emerging as the commonly accepted, societal outlook on life. Therefore, the question I sought to provide an answer for reveals itself to be, too, a misnomer - artists have no end goal. There is no satisfaction to be achieved from the "perfect piece," if you will. As society constantly evolves with contemporary events, it induces a personal change in the artists of the time, to tame the thoughts and cage them with an image.

Instead of a progression, we should see art as a record of each stage of humanity - caging a bygone ethos through the lens of individuality; appreciating each piece for what it is, not what it builds to be.

"a factor that can pivot the direction of an artist to miles from his origin"

Catastrophic Build Up of Overheating Pressures:

The Asian Financial Crisis 1997

Ashutosh explores the debilitating effects and the successful recovery of the Southeast Asian economy due to the devastating Asian Contagion.

Written by Ashutosh Chauhan

Edited by Ishan Dey

The Asian Financial Crisis, also known as the 'Asian Contagion', was a series of devastating decisions in South-Eastern Asia during 1997, which led to a series of currency devaluations.

Causes

Main Cause

After the US (United States) recovery from recessions during the 1990s, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates due to inflation. An increase in interest rates attracted hot money in the US – hot money is currency that regularly moves between financial markets, to earn the highest amount of interest as possible. Hot money initially attracted investment into the US from Asian markets, causing an appreciation of the US dollar. Consequently, this lead to the appreciation of currencies pegged to the US dollar. A pegged currency means that the value of one currency is fixed to the other. This appreciation of currencies in Asia caused exports to be more expensive and less competitive, hurting the growth of export. When a country's currency appreciates, the prices of its goods and services in terms of other currencies also increase. This makes the country's exports more expensive

for foreign burs. The increase in export prices due to currency appreciation can make a country's goods and services less competitive on the global market. This caused panic within foreign Asian investors as governments struggled to keep exchange rates fixed to the dollar, known as the collapse of the *'hot money bubble'*.[1]

Subsequently, on July 2, 1997, the Thai government ran out of foreign currency and therefore were unable to support the fixed exchange rate between the Thai Baht and the US Dollar, causing *'The Asian Contagion'*. Therefore, Bangkok unpegged the Thai Baht from the US dollar, leading to currency devaluations and massive flights of capital. Unpegging a currency means one currency is no longer tied to another and therefore there is no stable exchange rate between the currencies. The Thai Baht collapsed almost immediately.

Other Causes

Excessive bank lending: Banks in many Asian countries had lent too much money too quickly, often to politically connected firms that were not creditworthy. Political connections and favoritism led to improper lending practices, where

loans were often given based on relationships rather than creditworthiness. This resulted in non-performing loans and unsustainable debt levels for both banks and corporations.

Poor debt-servicing ratios meant that many firms and individuals in Asia were unable to service their debts, which put pressure on banks and other financial institutions.

Impacts

Short term

Before the crisis, the Thai Baht was trading at 26 to the US Dollar (USD), which fell, by over 50 percent, to 53 in June 1998. The South Korean Won fell from 900 to the USD by about 50 percent to 1695 at the end of 1997. The Indonesian Rupiah fell from 2400 to the USD by a staggering 80 percent to 14900 in June 1998. Additionally, the Malaysian Ringgit fell by 45 percent. Economies saw a drop in capital inflows of $100 billion in first year of crisis.

Several Asian GDPs were severely affected by the crisis: Indonesian GDP growth fell from 4.7% (1997) to -13.1% (1998), South Korean GDP growth fell from 6.2% to -5.1% in the same period and the Malaysian GDP

growth fell from 7.3% to -7.4% in the same period. [2]

Major political consequences included the collapse of the three-decade-old-dictatorship of Indonesian President Suharto in 1998 and the resignation of Prime Minister Yongchaiyudh of Thailand.

Long Term

Bulk of investment and significant amount of economic influence was shifted from Japan and ASEAN to China and India. 10400 people committed suicide in Hong Kong, Japan and South Korea due to the devastating effects of the crisis. Indirectly (turbulence created by Asian Contagion in financial markets) caused the Long-Term Capital Management of US to collapse due to US losing $4.6 billion in four months. [4]

Recovery?

IMF Interventions - Many of the affected countries sought assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stabilize their economies. The IMF lent roughly $118 billion in short-term loans to Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea. These bailouts were conditional; the governments had to raid taxes, cut spending, and eliminate many subsidies. These bailout packages were aimed to stabilize the countries' economies and restoring investor confidence. [3]

Chiang Mai Initiative - Asian countries established the Chiang Mai Initiative, a multilateral currency swap arrangement, to provide financial support and stabilize regional economies during times of crisis. This enhanced regional cooperation and financial stability.

The recovery from the Asian Contagion was seen as a success as it forced multiple economic reforms in countries such as banking sector

restructuring, increased transparency and improved governance. These reforms created more stable and resilient financial systems. During the recovery, some governments liberalised their economies to further integrate with the global economy in order to increase trade volume and economic growth.

However, there were problems with the response to the crisis. There was great social and political unrest due to dissatisfaction due to austerity measures such as increasing interest rates to control inflation. Furthermore, some countries accumulated significant levels of debt to finance their recovery efforts. Managing this debt burden limited fiscal flexibility.

Thailand

In the early stages, the Thai programme concentrated on the liquidation of finance companies, government intervention in the weakest banks, and the recapitalization of the banking system. In 1998, the reform effort accelerated, with a focus on privatizing the intervened banks, disposing of assets from the finance companies and restructuring corporate debt. Thailand's economy returned to positive growth in late 1998; GDP grew by over 4% in 1999, and 4.5-5% by 2000. [5]

South Korea

The restructuring effort aimed at resolving the problem of non-performing loans, recapitalizing banks, and strengthening the institutional framework by bringing prudential regulations and supervision in line with international best practices. Korea's restructuring sought to restore stability to the financial system quickly. Korea recovered very strongly. and the policies adopted under the IMF-

supported program helped to successfully restore external stability, rebuild reserves, and initiate reform of the financial and corporate sectors. Korea stopped drawing from the IMF; it repaid part of the stand-by drawings nine months ahead of schedule.

Indonesia

GDP grew by 5.8 percent in the last quarter of 1999, enabling a small growth in calendar 1999. Consumption and de-stocking were the main engines of the emerging recovery.

South Korea and Hong Kong responded very strongly to the crisis and saw quick economic growth, whereas countries like Indonesia saw slower growth due to the corrupt Suharto government, who had monetary and fiscal mismanagement, and therefore little reforms and transparency in the

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"The Financial crisis is a stark reminder that transparency and disclosure are essential in today's working place"
- Jack Reed

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short term.

The Asian Financial Crisis highlights the importance of prudent financial system regulation, transparent economic policies and careful management of international capital flows. Otherwise, we will witness another catastrophic build-up of overheating pressures. This leads to my final message: consumers, like you and I, should be wary of asset bubbles, as they have a terrible habit of bursting.

<< Politics >>

The 'African Spring' & its Origins

Daniel discusses the political struggle that has affected the African continent.

Written by Daniel Swanzy-Essien   Edited by Vedang Pandit

The African Spring, unlike the similarly named Arab spring, is defined by the constant struggle for supremacy on the continent between native and foreign powers who have often created instability - abusing their powers to force concessions from African states to ultimately establish dominance and control over the countries politically and economically. This is by no means a condemnation of the West which despite operating dubiously, has also provided benefits to the African continent. However, it is also impossible to declare that African leaders have always been faultless as such a narrative is completely wrong and discounts the nuances in the ever-evolving relationships between Africa and the West. The African spring is characterised by a series of protests, uprisings and social movements across various African countries.

The Rwandan Genocide of 1994 was a catastrophic event fuelled by a complex set of factors, including historical tensions and the failure of the international community, particularly Western nations, to intervene effectively. The Western failings leading to the genocide can be attributed to several key factors.

Firstly, despite clear warnings and indicators of the impending crisis, major world powers, including the United States, France, and the United Nations, largely overlooked or downplayed the escalating tensions in Rwanda. This is demonstrated through a lack of consideration for a possible two-state solution - even when the 1959 Hutu Peasant Revolution occurred causing hundreds of Tutsi deaths and 120,000 refugees by independence in 1962. Their inaction and reluctance to intervene significantly contributed to the unchecked buildup of ethnic animosities between the Hutu and Tutsi populations. This was a serious failing of both ethnic groups as it demonstrated a lack of consideration - a disregard for the prosperity and safety of the people the colonial powers were meant to be taking care of.

Although the argument is often made that colonialism was meant to bring stability or even for the gain of the powers, one must realise that Rwanda was a failure on all counts and signified to the people that the West, who claimed to be benevolent in freeing and 'civilising' was no more than a coalition of almost sadistic overlords. Moreover, there was a lack of decisive action when the genocide began, as the international community failed to respond promptly or with sufficient force to halt the massacre. Over the course of 100 days, between 500,000-1,000,000 Tutsi and Hutu were murdered in heavy part due to the inaction of foreign powers. This failure to act swiftly and decisively remains a stark reminder of the West's shortcomings and the devastating consequences that can result from their inaction in the face of such humanitarian crises. It also demonstrated to many Africans that they had little value to the West which had shown no care when care was required, but was happy to exploit natural resource deposits within the continent - leading to a rise in anti-western sentiment. Rwanda demonstrates the fundamental problems of Empire in that whole nations were controlled with scant regard for the 'insignificant' lives affected.

Western powers have a complex history of supporting and, in some cases, installing African dictators. During the Cold War, many Western governments saw African leaders as pawns in their geopolitical chess games, supporting those who aligned with their interests, regardless of their authoritarian tendencies. Consequently, leaders such as Mobutu Sese Seko in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Idi Amin in Uganda came to power - both of whom ruled with an iron fist and inflicted significant harm on their countries - the latter killing 300,000. These alliances often came at the expense of the African people, as Western nations prioritised political stability and resource access over human rights and democracy. The consequences of such support have had a long-lasting impact on the political landscape of Africa, contributing to cycles of instability and corruption that persist in some regions to this day.

The involvement of Shell, a multinational oil company, in Nigeria has been marred by longstanding allegations of corruption, environmental degradation, and human rights

abuses. Shell's operations in the Niger Delta have been a focal point of controversy. The company has faced accusations of collusion with corrupt Nigerian governments, leading to severe environmental damage through oil spills such as the 2008-9 Bodo oil spills which destroyed upwards of 963 hectares of land, gas flaring, and destruction of local communities' livelihoods. Reports and investigations have highlighted instances where Shell allegedly made payments to Nigerian officials and security forces, often resulting in human rights violations, including violent crackdowns on peaceful protests against the company's activities. The company's alleged role in the Ogoni crisis, particularly the execution of environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni leaders, further intensified global scrutiny and condemnation of Shell's operations in Nigeria. The company's actions in Nigeria have continued to raise questions about ethical conduct and corporate responsibility in the extractive industry and also demonstrate the power of Western companies to act unpunished for their exploitative actions so that division is sown in a country - destabilising it through protests which often fall on deaf ears lobbied by the same companies.

The history of the West's involvement in ousting African leaders is complex. Throughout various periods, Western nations have interfered in African politics, sometimes supporting the removal of leaders for a variety of reasons—ranging from geopolitical interests to concerns about human rights abuses and governance. In some instances, Western intervention has led to the removal of leaders perceived as oppressive or corrupt, with the aim of fostering democratic change and stability. However, these interventions often appear to have selective application, often serving the geopolitical agendas of Western powers rather than the best interests of the African nations involved. Examples include the toppling of leaders such as Ghanaian Kwame Nkrumah in 1966, Patrice Lumumba in 1961 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Muammar Gaddafi in Libya in 2011, among others. These interventions have at times left power vacuums, having knock-ons of prolonged instability, civil conflicts, and, in some cases, exacerbating the suffering of local populations. The complex history of the West's role in ousting African leaders underlines the need for a more nuanced and cautious approach to international intervention, considering the long-term implications on governance and stability within the affected nations rather than short-term selfish gain by those nations. The African Spring is being caused by unjust invasions and interventions with flagrant disregard for the needs of Africans - focusing rather on the needs of the West.

Western interventions have sometimes shifted economic dynamics in the region, leading to the influence of external powers and creating regional imbalances. In 2022, Ghana and Ivory Coast, the world's two largest cocoa producers, had trading disputes with multinationals over the Living Income Differential being set up at $400 per tonne and charged on top of world prices in relation to cocoa. This has led to difficulties in boosting internal growth in chocolate manufacturing as farmers cannot afford to sustain themselves - living in poverty which has knock-on effects ultimately on the quality of life as farmers are left unable to afford basic necessities. This culminates ultimately in a vicious cycle where there cannot be upward mobility as the quality of produce from increasingly poor farmers depreciates. The African Spring is being caused by the plight of workers.

Although it could be argued many of the issues in Africa are caused by governments themselves which as sovereigns are under no obligation to follow the demands of the West, such a view is lacking in nuance in that it does not consider the historical dire consequences of disobeying the West as was demonstrated in CIA knowledge of and arguable sponsorship of the coup against President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana in 1966 and even the French Operation Persil which devalued the new Guinean Franc of Ahmed Sekou Toure with fake notes as punishment for democratically deciding to leave the French Community. It could be argued that there is a parasitic relationship between the West and Africa; as the former grows and destabilises the other, the latter's people are subjected to a series of protests, uprisings and social movements, with the aim of removing what many Africans see as Western babysitting.

The RISE of A.I.

Written by Theo Nguyen

Edited by Vedang Pandit

Is the exponential growth of the A.I. industry a step forward in technological development or a curse that we've brought upon us?

In the vast expanse of time, humanity once again finds itself pinned on the brink of a turning point into a new era. It has witnessed the age of the wheel, the age of the sword, the age of the car, the age of the phone. Yet now, it prepares itself for the uprising of a new dawn; a new face arises from the technological advancements in the past decade. As artificial intelligence begins its momentous ascension to make its mark on our world, it is both awed and feared by many. Its limitless capabilities show path to a tool of beyond our knowledge, and its potential stretching far into the horizon of the future. For this, the topic of AI sparks an exciting question: will its rise unlock humanity's potential, or unleash a new Pandora's Box?

What is A.I.?

A.I., or artificial intelligence, is the ability of a digital computer or computer-based robot to perform tasks and logical thinking similarly associated with humans. For example, the way ChatGPT can reply to your messages in a meaningful way, or how chess bot Stockfish can play chess to the level of a grandmaster, is considered artificial intelligence [2]. Fundamentally, AI adapts its knowledge through progressive learning algorithms – which is merely a series of instructions the program follows whilst saving the information - to let the data do the programming. It finds structures, patterns and regularities in the data so that the algorithms can teach itself to do the skills. So essentially, AI intakes sample input information and attempts to process it with human-like cognitive functions. However, the long winding journey taken to innovate this idea was not simple.

Its history stretches back far into the roots of the ancient world, but its seeds begun to be planted by Greek philosophers [3], attempting to encapsulate the process of human thinking into the mechanical manipulation of mere symbols. These concepts were toyed with from century to century, gradually evolving in theory rather than in practice. But it wasn't until the 20th century when many individuals - such as Alan Turing [4], Allen Newell [5], John McCarthy [6], just to name a few - sought out to unearth its possibilities for it to emerge as a plausible and potentially era-defining field of study, researching thoroughly into the field of reasoning and logic. And then, in the previous decade or so, the three "Godfathers of AI" [7] – Geoffrey Hinton, Yoshua Bengio and Yann LeCun – pioneered their work to begin to shape the face of AI as something that would change our futures forever.

A New Phase in the Information Age

Throughout history, humans have ridden the waves of change, development and growth, from Stone and Iron Ages to Industrial Revolutions. However, in the current

Information age we stand upon, technological advancement has begun to plateau where a new phase takes order: one that is dictated by artificial technology.

One of the prominent problems of A.I. is that it weaves tightly into the growing network of information and misinformation. Many AI algorithms are on duty to eliminate fake news and bots from social media, yet paradoxically it is AI-driven algorithms that generate them as well. Its influence of fake news, fake accounts, and AI-generated comments on social media can change our perception of information and exacerbate problems, such as the hijacking of the 2016 US presidential election [8], social media polarisation, or misleading deepfakes – deceptive and manipulative videos by which faces are digitally changed so realistically that mass audiences can be deceived. A well-known example was the viral "This is not Morgan Freeman" video on YouTube in 2021 highlighting the level at which AI can [9].

Furthermore, the grappling hold AI has on global information means that AI can very easily begin to manipulate and alter human behaviour. Through the many complex intelligent algorithms it involves, companies and individuals can utilise this to their advantage through the use of advertising, social media loopholes, and content recommendations. Think about it – how increasingly addictive is your YouTube shorts feed becoming? How is Google firing more targeted ads at you that feel biased to your recent search history? As AI learns and becomes more thoughtful and sophisticated with the information it draws from the population, its reinforcement learning models can begin to affect human decisions and

influence our preferences, and soon will be pulling the puppet strings of humanity's civilisations before we can no longer control it and let it control us. The devastating impact this could bring to us – even as small as those in our Wilson's community – sees not only our lives being mangled by A.I but by future jeopardised generations as well.

The New Humans

As we see the trend in AI usage continue to grow, we begin to see the dramatic increase in self-operative work taking over some job industries. AI is said to potentially "replace the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs in future years", according to a report by the firm Goldman Sachs [10]. As perhaps predicted by many, the ever-expanding algorithms and reliably efficient work seats A.I. right into the hotspot of many repetitive, data-filled jobs such as data collection and procession, factory and physical work, and telemarketing. This has led to unemployment rates soaring – and A.I. is the culprit.

Additionally, A.I.'s progression towards seamlessly completing tasks for us, such as helping to sift through hefty workloads, brings forth the concern of fostering laziness. As AI algorithms become more sophisticated, the temptation to delegate tasks to these intelligent systems grows. How detrimental could this become? It destroys everything Wilson's students stand for – *non sibi sed omnibus*. Not for oneself, but for all. Working to learn and thrive, not to finish assignments. Similarly, in professional settings, employees might rely heavily on AI tools to sort through workloads, reducing the necessity for hands-on engagement and problem-solving. This shift, while undoubtedly enhancing efficiency, raises ethical

questions about our increasing dependence on technology and our degrading work ethic and value of personal effort and accomplishment.

In fact, the previous paragraph above was mostly written by ChatGPT itself. To a reader, this may have been hard to distinguish, but for writers it is incredibly easy to simply copy and paste the illustrative words of an A.I. bot into one's work. This means that hard work, effort, and creativity are being undermined by the way artificial intelligence algorithms are developing day by day to become increasingly human-like in behaviour and creativity, shown in new innovations such as AARON[11] (an A.I. algorithm written by Harold Cohen able to produce some form of "art"), or the more familiar ChatGPT[12] developed by OpenAI. Even in schools nowadays, a survey conducted that 38% of a random group of students had used ChatGPT for a school assignment without their teacher's permission [13].

And that takeover goes for everywhere, all around our daily lives. We ask Siri to search something up on the Internet for us. We use Apple FaceID to unlock our phones. Robot-cleaners literally clean our floors for us. We make our daily lives less effortful by making the A.I. doing the boring work for us. This correlates well with the fact that humans have spent less time on physical activities and work since the industrial revolution and the development of modern entertainment. And to be fair, there's nothing wrong with this machinery assistance till we ask ourselves: how do we spend this free time? The chances are low that we will sit down to read, learn a new language, or spend time with loved ones. Instead, it is more likely we would hop onto Netflix or scroll endlessly through

social media.

On a global scale, the integration of AI into our daily lives is affecting every day and business productivity, desire for self-development, and discipline. All the hard work and laborious jobs and errands will be carried out by robots and A.I. so that we can live a more "carefree" life – but at what cost? Sooner or later, it will not be us that are living the lives of human beings on earth. It will be artificial technology, the new "humans".

Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining

Now don't get me wrong – A.I. is not a completely devastating tool that should be eradicated, otherwise it would not have existed in the first place. Like all things, A.I. too has a bright side but it should still be used with caution in our modern world.

AI is a technological creation capable of thinking (almost) like a human. So why not use AI robots in dangerous tasks and situations unsafe for humans? AI can be the arm extension humans need when facing perilous restrictions. Exploring the mysterious depths of the ocean, extracting minerals deep in the earth, or traversing the surface of Mars: these have been put into practical use and have emerged an evident success, such as the Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover [14] or the ROV Jason [15].

AI is one of the pinnacles of our optimization. In manufacturing, it has the ability to reduce production costs by maintaining the same quality of goods and improving the speed of delivery. Alternatively, human error in this field results in much more failures and delays. So which method seems more appealing? Modern e-commerce bows at artificial intelligence's feet as it finds ways to optimise prices and

overcome competitors in faster, less flawed, and efficient fashion that even the most skilled_humans cannot compete with. Emerging AI-driven advancements have shown to revolutionize healthcare, aiding in early disease detection and personalized treatment plans. In education, AI can create tailored learning experiences, enhancing accessibility and quality of education for learners worldwide. In environmental conservation, AI algorithms can optimize resource management, offering sustainable solutions to ecological problems.

Every time humanity faced a new era, of course there were doubts and fears, but how did they all turn out? How incredibly has the car evolved? How incredibly has the smartphone evolved? With every great new innovation brings out a blinding light from which humanity's potential unlocks to push the boundaries of intelligence shines bright. AI is simply the next stage, the next era, the next great leap that we should open our arms to – but only if we can be sure, that we aren't leaping out of the pan and into the fire.

A Future We Must Shape Ourselves

As the sun sets on the horizon of the present, we are faced with a decision. Will we succumb to the allure of the uncontrolled technological advancements exponentially growing in knowledge, and forsake humanity for good? Or will we, as stewards of the past, present and future, nurture the creation we have grown beside us to let it weave into our lives for the good? The answer of whether artificial intelligence will herald a utopian dawn or a dystopian twilight lies not in algorithms and codes but in the hands and responsibilities of all those tied in the rise of AI – from

its creators to its users.

For in this delicate balance between progress and prudence, between innovation and introspection, we discover the true potential of AI – not as a force that eclipses our humanity but as a beacon that illuminates the path toward a future where the brilliance of the human ingenuity shines ever brighter, transcending the boundaries of the digital realm and echoing through the corridors of eternity.

The choice is ours. The future is ours to shape. For the destiny of AI is entwined with our own.

Will we succumb to the allure of the uncontrolled technological advancements exponentially growing in knowledge, and forsake humanity for good?

Why did Europe Come to Dominate the World From the 16ᵗʰ to the 19ᵗʰ Century?

Written by Yusuf Azizi

Edited by Nikhil Hegde

Azizi presents a thorough deep-dive into why European hegemony spread across the globe, shaping the world order of today.
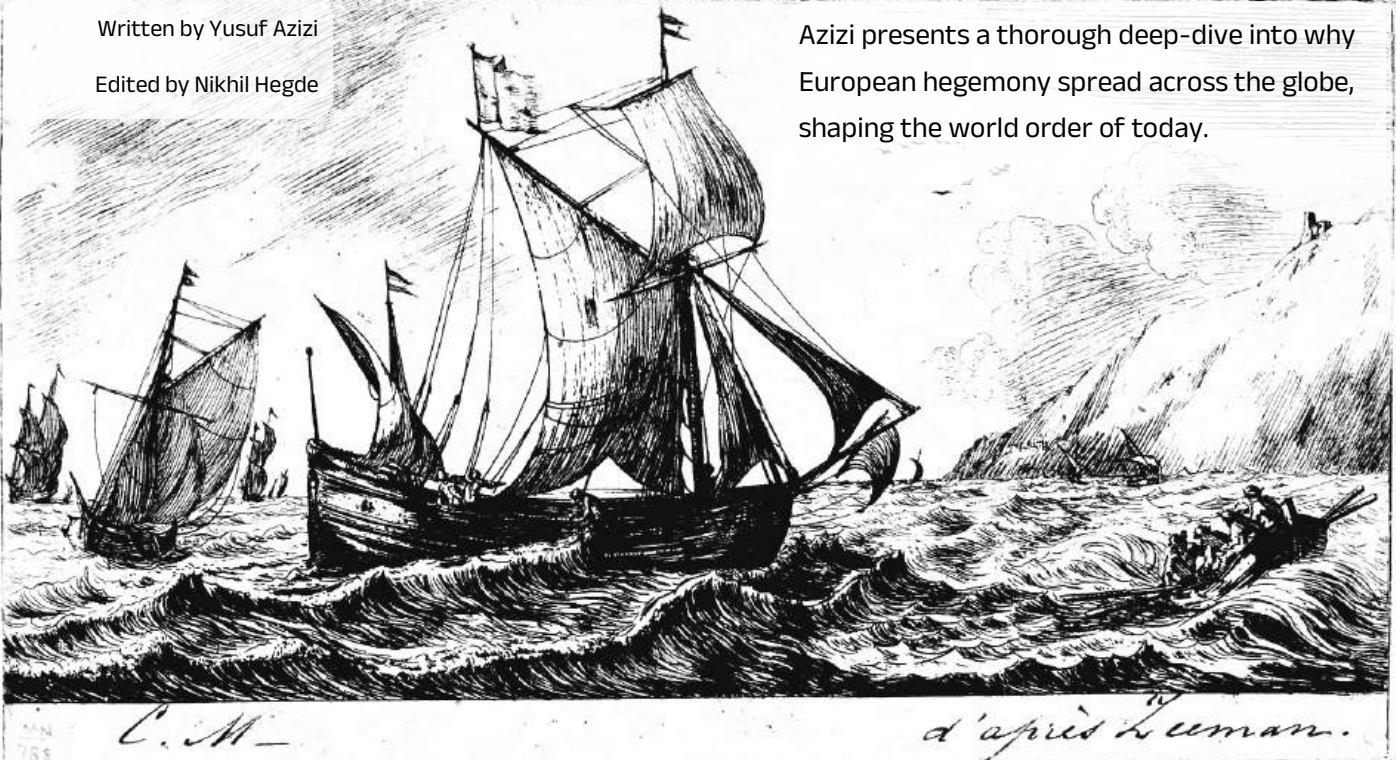
In the 21st century, Western political analysts lament the inability of Europe to exert the control and influence it is so used to around the world. Leaders of countries from across this continent, which once dictated international politics, watch with fear and apprehension as China extends its influence across the globe, pushing back Europe to a place of relative insignificance. Meanwhile, India increasingly outperforms the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution when it comes to manufacturing output. Today, as the USA limps on in its pursuit to uphold the global hegemony begun by the now-declining Europeans, and Asia's star rises in the field of global politics, it is more important than ever to look back and try to understand why Europe was able to rise above and dominate every other

region from the 16th to the 19th century, establishing itself as the political and economic centre of the civilised world.

In 1492, while England was reeling from the effects of the War of the Roses, and Christendom bemoaned the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople which ended the Byzantine Empire, a virtually unknown Italian named Cristóbal Cólon set out to sea to find an alternative trade route to the East Indies for the fledgling Spanish empire. Better known to history as Christopher Columbus, his accidental discovery of the Americas, coupled with its conquest and looting by the Spanish and Portuguese empires soon afterwards, began the European Golden Age. Europe became militarily and economically dominant over the rest of the world, reversing its centuries-long position

as a relatively unimportant area. Whilst previously it was seen as a poor backwater area of little relevance, the European empires now set about conquering and subjugating almost every other nation. This dominance led to an influx of wealth for the rulers of these empires, which is still evident today from Europe's economically privileged place in the world. Eventually, European hegemony would come to an end through the two World Wars that devastated the continent, resulting in the deaths of around 80 million people [1]. These World Wars drastically weakened the Europeans' previously indomitable militaries and lessened their ability and willingness to fight for the retention of the colonies they
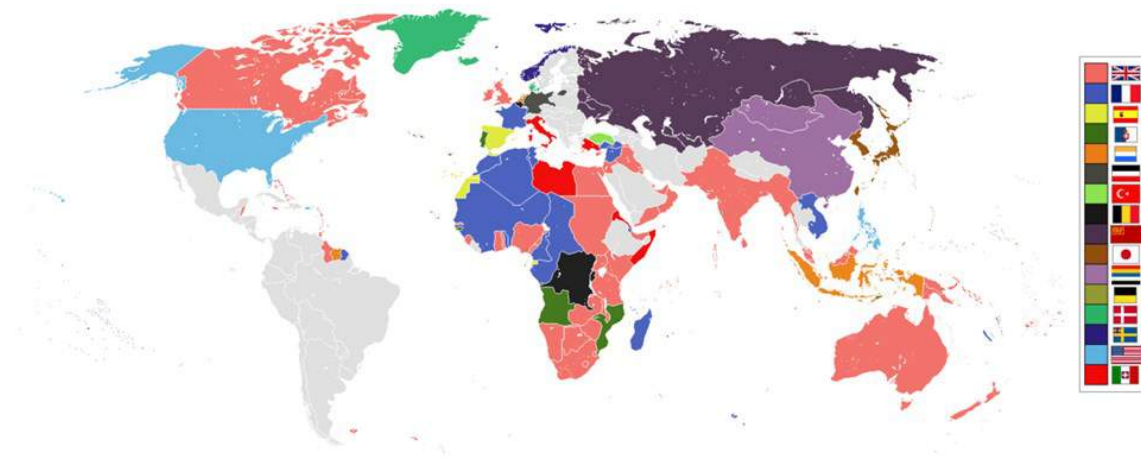
Map of European empires and their colonies in 1920, just after WW1. [2]

had obtained over the years, just as their overseas subjects came to fervently desire independence and freedom.

When asked why Europe rose to such dominance during this era, historians and analysts will often speak of events such as Columbus' discovery of the Americas or the Industrial Revolution. However, this does not really answer the question, because to understand Europe's rise to power we must understand why the Industrial Revolution occurred *in Europe* rather than in China, and why it was *Europeans* who colonised the Americas rather than the Ottoman or Safavid empires. This is the fundamental question when it comes to comprehending the global order which has shaped the world for the past five centuries.

One of the most important factors in the development of European military superiority was the fact that the various European states and empires were constantly at war. Unlike Asia, where periods of massive expansion such as those undertaken by the Mongols or Islamic Caliphate were followed by decades of relative peace and prosperity, Europe was almost constantly in a state of warfare during the Middle Ages. Tellingly, all seven of the longest conflicts in human history involved at least one European power, with some of these lengthy wars going on for almost a millennium. For example the Anglo-French wars lasted an unbelievable 706 years [3].

This incessant warfare led to the constant development of weapons and refined battle tactics, as each state fought an arms race with its neighbours on which its very survival hinged . For centuries, the greatest minds of Europe were focused on the invention of gunpowder, rifles, cannons and so on, all in the aim of conquering their neighbours. Meanwhile, the peoples of Asia, Africa and the Americas lived in peace and prosperity, with rare wars interspersing periods of
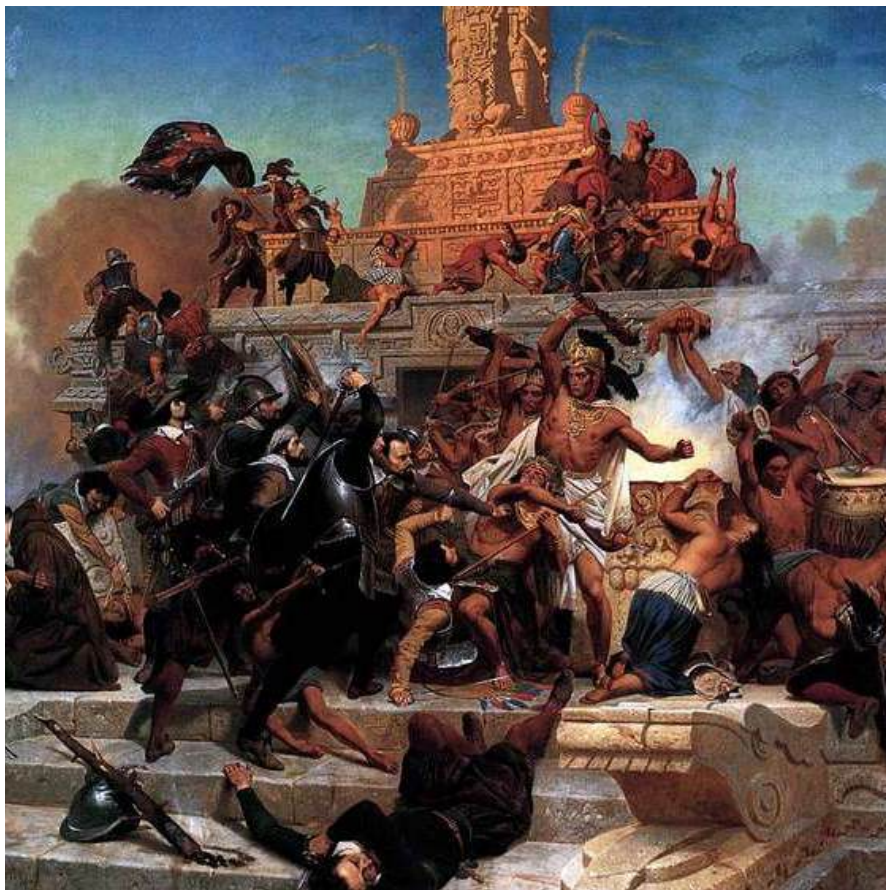
A painting showing the Spanish storming an Aztec Temple with their steel swords against the Aztecs' wooden clubs - Emmanuel Leutze, 1848 [4]

> *"For centuries, the greatest minds of Europe were focused on the invention of gunpowder, rifles, cannons and so on"*

calm, and little developments being made in military technology. Eventually, around the 16th century, Europe naturally began to eclipse all other continents when it came to military prowess, and it gradually dawned on European rulers that it would be easier and more profitable for them to invade and colonise states from other continents, rather than fighting a battle to the death amongst themselves. When they began to invade the rest of the world, these Asians, Americans and Africans were left helpless against the vastly superior military technology of the Europeans [5]. This imbalance in power is best illustrated in perhaps the most famous European conquest of all, when the Spanish annihilated the Aztec Empire in less than two years from 1519 to 1521. The Aztecs, armed with wooden clubs and stone blades,

were no match for the Spaniards with their sharp steel swords, state-of-the-art handguns and protective armour, despite greatly outnumbering them [6].

However, the Europeans of the early modern era were far from the only people who had ever had the capability to invade and colonise lands beyond those neighbouring them. For instance, at around the same time that Columbus' fleet of three ships and 120 sailors set off, Admiral Zheng He of the Chinese Ming Dynasty led seven huge armadas from China in order to explore Asia and Africa, with 300 ships, each of whom were many times larger than Columbus' little trio of vessels [7].

Thus, it is clear that despite the centuries of conflict and development of weapons in Europe, this did not set them apart from the rest of the world, and in fact on the eve of the discovery of the New World Asia still vastly outperformed Europe when it came to technological and military strength, due to its much longer history of civilization and human inhabitation.

Instead, what distinguished the Europeans from their contemporaries and all those who came before them was their thirst for knowledge and conquest which, according to Yuval Noah Harari in his book 'Sapiens', "drove them to sail to distant and completely unknown lands... take one step on their beaches and immediately declare, 'I claim all these territories for my king'" [9]. This was what separated them from other civilisations in history, as Harari notes: "although they might have had the ability, the Romans never attempted to conquer India or Scandinavia, the Persians never attempted to conquer Madagascar or Spain, and the Chinese never attempted to conquer Indonesia or Africa" [10]. The Europeans' desire for knowledge also led to the Scientific Revolution of the 16th to 18th centuries which significantly widened the gap between Europe and the rest of the world, due to the crucial technological advantage it gave them over the peoples they conquered [11].

Another often-overlooked factor in Europe's success is the unique climate and geography of the region. When looking at the world map, one of the most striking details is the differences in the layout of Eurasia and the Americas. While Eurasia is largely horizontal, the Americas are more vertical in nature. This means that the Americas encompass practically all the climates on Earth, making only certain parts, such as modern-day Mexico and the Andes region on the West coast of South America, conducive to human habitation and civilisation. This greatly limited the potential of American civilisations to create an inter-connected continent with the
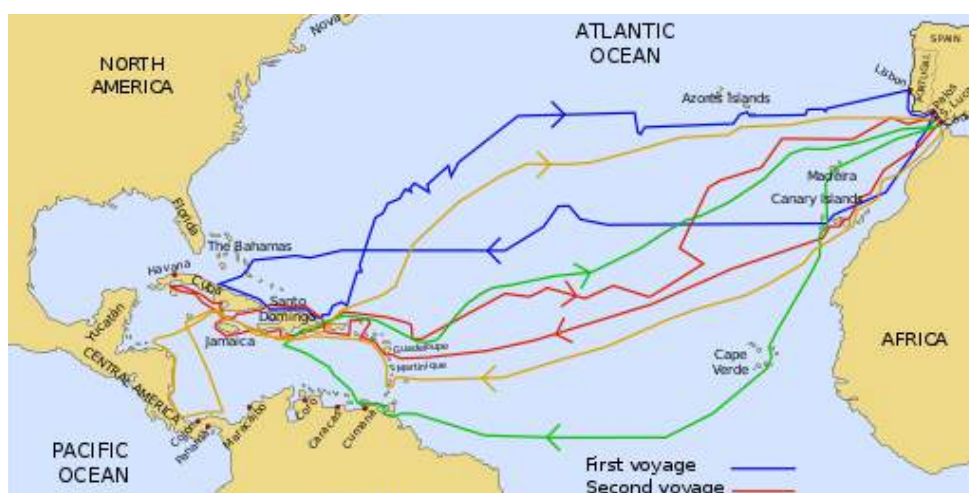
Map showing Christopher Columbus' four voyages of discovery to the Americas [8]

exchange of ideas and inventions helping to form and support various powerful empires. In fact, the Mexican and Andean civilisations didn't even know about each other's existence! Similarly, Africa and Australasia, with their dry desert lands, were unable to sustain large civilisations and strong empires to rival those of the powers in Europe, and instead had many small tribes, who were weaker than the larger states and empires which began to form in Europe, because the often barren land could not support larger empires. In contrast, Eurasia largely spans areas with temperate, mediterranean and steppe climates, with the notable exception of Siberia, allowing a larger number of vibrant and dynamic cultures and civilisations to form in these habitable regions, exchanging ideas and inventions and constantly trading with each other. This led to the mutual strengthening of Eurasian civilisations, while American, African and Australasian civilisations' progress was limited by their unfortunate locations and climates. Eventually, this allowed empires from Eurasia to overpower and dominate those of other regions with their superior knowledge, technology and military strength, creating a global hierarchy which largely still exists today [12].

Of course, Asian civilisations also benefited from Eurasia's climate. However, it is Europe that contains the higher proportion of temperate and mediterranean climates, which are most conducive to agriculture and production and therefore civilisation, whereas Asia has greater variation between habitable and inhabitable regions, such as Siberia and the Arabian desert. In time, this led to Europe eclipsing Asia as the most productive area in the world, particularly after the Industrial Revolution, allowing it to fund and support military expansion to a greater extent than the neighbouring empires in Asia. As President Roosevelt came to understand in WW2, manufacturing is a crucial factor in being able to sustain long periods of war and conquest[13], and thus Europe, rather than Asia, was able to dominate the rest of the world, despite the fact that both had clear advantages over other continents when it came to climate and geography.

These different characteristics and advantages of the Europeans manifested themselves from the 16th to the 19th century, during which Europe conquered over 80 percent of the rest of the world, bringing unprecedented wealth and influence to those in the corridors of power. Decisions made by the leaders of Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary, the main imperial European powers, had a huge influence on the lives of people on the other side of the world. Sometimes, this influence could be positive, for example when the British banned the slave trade in 1807 [14], while at other times the decisions made by these rulers could have catastrophic consequences, such as the decision to colonise Bengal, which led to the Great Bengal famine of 1770, killing around 10 million people in an area which had previously been the most wealthy in the Indian subcontinent [15]. Even today, almost all of these European countries, as well as the European Union, have significant power and influence over the politics and economies of countries around the

"What distinguished the Europeans... was their thirst for knowledge and conquest"

world in the 21st century, although their dominance is now waning in the face of a new challenge from their former subjects in Asia, Africa and South America.

Therefore, understanding the factors which led to this balance of power are more crucial than ever for those who wish to change the global order, as well as for those who wish to maintain it. For countries such as China, India, Russia and Brazil, understanding how Europe's curiosity, desire for power and development of new and groundbreaking military technology allowed it to conquer the rest of the world can provide a blueprint for their own hoped-for dominance. For the West, which naturally seeks to maintain the current order, utilising these factors and its climatic advantage over other continents, which helped make the Europeans masters of the world in the first place, is vital in order to be able to prevent its usurpation by other nations and regions. The battle for global supremacy between the Western nations and the "Eastern" ones will be settled on how well each side can adapt, utilise and modernise this game plan for dominance drawn up by the Europeans of the 16th to 19th century.

Rock and Roll in the Soviet Union: a Brief History
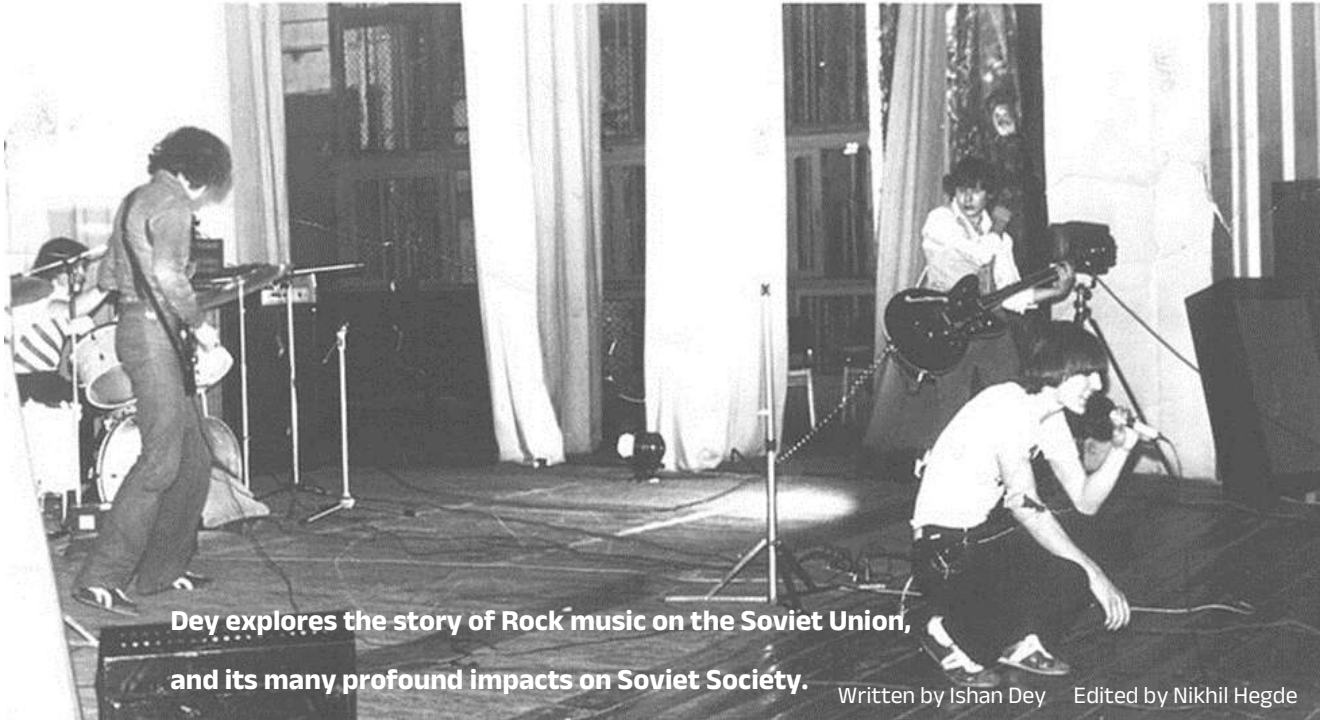
Dey explores the story of Rock music on the Soviet Union, and its many profound impacts on Soviet Society.

Written by Ishan Dey   Edited by Nikhil Hegde

For most of its history, the Soviet leadership has tried to restrict the distribution and creation of rock music. Despite this, rock music proved to be popular among the youth of the Soviet Bloc and had profound effects on society. A Soviet citizen who regularly listened to rock music spent less time on state approved radio stations or watching propaganda films in cinemas, and therefore had less enthusiasm for communism. Rock offered an alternative, un-official view of the West, one of creative and innovative musicians wearing blue jeans and wild haircuts, one that produced modern music. This undermined the efforts of propagandists to present the Soviet Union as a progressive and utopian society, and the Capitalist world as backward, unjust and as following an outdated system of governance. A citizen who idolised and followed a

Western rockstar was much less likely to admire the architects of the Soviet Union as zealously as one who did not, as the architects were no longer the *only* influential figures for them to look up to. In other words, a big fan of Lennon was less likely to be a big fan of Lenin.

Rock music was also far more accessible to the average Soviet citizen than, say, George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' as listeners did not have to understand a foreign language to appreciate a form of music, which allowed rock music to penetrate into very diverse sections of Soviet society. Some subgenres of rock expressed values of rebellion and individualism, values that directly conflicted with Soviet values of collectivism and loyalty to the state. NATO correctly identified the potential power of rock music and set up radio stations which broadcasted anti-Soviet propaganda

and rock music, such as 'Radio Free Europe' and 'Radio Luxembourg' [1].

Other than the radios, there were other ways to access rock music. Music from the West was widely pirated and distributed, a process referred to as *magnidazdat* (lit. 'Tape recorder culture') [1]. At first, 'vinyl' records were replicated on discarded X-Ray plates from hospitals, creating records that had scans of bones on them, like the one pictured below.[2.]

From 1960, the state started

manufacturing tape recorders, on which music could be replicated more easily and reliably than the old 'bone records', making pirated music even more widespread [1].

Creating or listening to pirated records was illegal, and therefore an act of resistance. This passive form of resistance against the state was highly potent; demonstrators could easily be rounded up and imprisoned, but the same could not be said for a teenager who listened to rock music on pirated records in the 'privacy of their bedroom' [3]. In the words of historian Timothy Ryback, '[This] secret rebellion gnawed relentlessly at the fabric of socialist society' [3].

From the 1950s, Rock music infiltrated the Soviet Union slowly but surely, and led to the development of an underground rock music scene. As early as 1966, more than 250 rock bands were present in Moscow alone [1], which was achieved despite the severe restrictions placed on rock bands by the Soviet government. While the playing of rock music was never strictly banned, rock bands were frequently denounced as playing 'unrevolutionary sound', and were sometimes imprisoned as a result [1]. Additionally, it was illegal for rock bands to sell any merchandise or albums, which meant that band members could not play music full time [1].

Furthermore, the Soviet state did not produce much of the equipment and

sound systems used in the production of modern rock, such as electric guitars and drum kits. This meant that bands had to either buy smuggled equipment at extremely high prices or improvise by building their own using any components they could find. Some bands took components from public pay phones to turn acoustic guitars into electric ones [1]. This level of improvisation was necessary in a state unwilling to accommodate independent musicians, and it is remarkable that bands were willing to go to such steps in order to play rock music.

Due to the high popularity of rock amongst the youth, some rock bands were granted 'Vocal instrumental ensemble' (VIA) status by the Soviet government from 1966 [2]. Some examples of VIAs include Tsvety ('Flowers') and Poyushchiye Gitary ('Singing guitars') [2]. VIAs were given legal access to Western instruments and could do tours of the Soviet Union and abroad [1]. The purpose of the VIA was to utilise the popularity of rock music among the youth to further pro-soviet ideology and to reduce the prevalence of Western rock and rock from the underground [1]. While this allowed for rock music to appear on soviet radio stations, music produced by VIAs could not be very bold or experimental. Music by VIAs had to be approved by the Soviet government and always had a pro-soviet message, leading to songs celebrating high steel production and anti-fascist solidarity [1]. Sometimes the VIAs' songs were composed by the 'Union of Soviet Composers', a state appointed body that was largely unenthusiastic about rock music [1]. Music critic Artemy Troitsky describes the VIAs' music as a "castrated version" of rock [1].

Meanwhile, the underground scene of the 1960s and 1970s mainly imitated Western rock music and

occasionally experimented upon their styles. [3]. In particular, The Beatles heavily influenced the band Mashina Vremeni ('Time Machine'), which was formed in 1969 [4].

The 1980s was a golden era for Soviet rock. A rock festival was organised by the Soviet government in Tbilisi on the 8th of March 1980 and was a crucial turning point for rock in the Soviet Union [3]. Some bands from the underground, like the aforementioned Mashina Vremeni and Akvarium ('Aquarium') were allowed to play at the festival, which was organised as a competition [3]. Mashina Vremeni, a band with underground origins, won the competition and even defeated the VIAs which benefited from official recognition. Akvarium were however disqualified following an incident during their performance. The band's leader, Boris Grebenshikov, fell onto the floor and continued to play his guitar, which was below him. The band's cellist then played his instrument in a sexually suggestive manner on top of Grebenshikov's backside [3]. This was a bold move in a country where homosexuality was illegal.

The 1980s was an era of innovation for Soviet underground rock music, who created new styles of music. Some punk rock bands of the USSR, such as Akvarium and Kino, heavily used acoustic guitars, developing a 'post punk' style different from mainstream western punk rock bands, such as the Sex Pistols, who tended to heavily use electric guitars

and screaming vocals to emphasise their rebellious nature, which may have been a result of the lack of electric guitars in the USSR. This emphasis on acoustic instruments can be seen particularly in Akvarium's *'Gorod'* ('City'). Egor Letov sang with an aching and painful emotional voice, a style ahead of its time in that it is akin to the 'emo' genre that emerged in the USA 20 years later.

The Leningrad Rock Club, founded in 1981 [3], was crucial in fostering this innovation in rock music. The venue was intended for amateur rock bands. It was introduced by the Soviet government to better control the rock movement, as, prior to the club, concerts were largely informal and held in flats, and therefore were difficult for the state to control [3]. The rock club attracted bands from both inside and outside Leningrad (modern day St. Petersburg) and became the 'home' of rock music in the Soviet Union.

With Mikhail Gorbachev becoming the leader of the Soviet Union by 1985, rock music was able to thrive even more [3]. Gorbachev extensively reformed the Soviet Union through the principles of *Perestroika* ('Restructuring', mainly of the economy) and *Glasnost* (Openness) [3]. The reforms meant bands could sell concert tickets and albums. They could now also buy music equipment from the West and, crucially, derestricted rock music and their lyrical content. The underground band Avtograf were even permitted to perform in the 1985 live aid concerts in London and Philadelphia, which were viewed by an estimated 1.5 billion people on television [3].

The reforms allowed for the underground bands to become popular, and arguably the most influential of these was Kino, headed by Viktor Tsoi [3]. The band toured across the Soviet bloc, and even went to Western Europe and the United States to play in concerts [3]. Kino's music was noted for its lyricism and its political songs, such as *'Gruppa Krovi'* ('Blood type') [5], the lyrics of which are about the fear of getting conscripted into the army, and *'Khochu Peremen'* [6] ('We want change'). This resonated with the youth, who were born into a deeply flawed society with low standards of living. Simultaneously, there was also a fear of the future and the changes it implied. Afterall, Gorbachev's reforms brought down an old, strictly socialist society and introduced elements of Capitalism. A system that schools and propaganda had always presented as progressive and utopian seemed to be exchanged for one that was regressive and unjust. The Soviet youth grew up in a complex time of immense change, and this is reflected in the music of the time. Kino released songs expressing both uncertainty for the future, such as *'Pachka sigaret'* ('Pack of cigarettes') and *'Konchitsya Leto'* ('Summer is ending') and songs demanding change. Rock music represented the complex feelings of the youth who were both fearful of and eager for change, and collectively strengthened their collective voices and their convictions on their views of society.

Such songs were, and remain, influential to the former soviet bloc. 'Khochu Peremen', for example, was used by protestors in Belarus against President Lukashenko following a rigged election as recently as 2020 [7]. Such songs continue to be powerful anthems for dissatisfied people, more than 30 years after they were written. Viktor Tsoi, the leader of Kino, gained a very dedicated following and was highly influential. A 'Tsoi wall' was created in Moscow's Arbat Street after he suddenly died from a car crash on the 15th of August 1990. The wall is filled with graffiti that pay tribute to Tsoi, and continues to be a pilgrim site for his fans, even more than 3 decades later [8].

While it would be an exaggeration to say that rock music single handedly brought down the Soviet Union, it played an immense role in making the youth unenthusiastic about Communism. The influence of Tsoi, and other such rock musicians, were and continue to be immense; they represented the hidden voices of the youth who were largely unrepresented in the organs of the vast Soviet state and bureaucracy even after Gorbachev's reforms. The stories of rock music in the Soviet Union are also inspiring; individuals continued to create music despite severe restrictions from the government and even innovated to create new styles. The unrelenting passion and improvisation of musicians, seen in such acts as the building of electric guitars themselves and the usage of 'bone records' to make up for the shortage of vinyl, is astounding and reflects positively on the human's ability to adapt and overcome, and is truly inspiring. There are numerous stories of the Soviet underground rock scene, only a fraction of which I have covered in this article.

How Flashy 'War On' Policies Represent the Dangers of Concentrated Power — The War on Drugs

Arjun criticises the long-lasting and impactful consequences of 20th Century American policies and evaluates the lessons learnt

Written by Arjun Deepak

Edited by Haayed Aslam

America's War on Drugs and its War on Terror have something in common with each other, despite one being a domestic policy in reaction to America's drug-fuelled youth culture, and the other a foreign policy in reaction to one of the greatest ever incursions on American soil in modern history. Both share the same determination to scapegoat, dehumanise and persecute, and to conceal real problems; not those of Richard Nixon's evocations of drugged-up louts, or George Bush's images of terrorist-sympathising Arabs, but of a lack of societal and political responsibility among politicians. These policies identify a supposed malady in society – drugs and terrorism - and aim to quash the symptoms of these maladies rather than acknowledging responsibility for the diseases themselves.

For a leader, it is easy to blame and target rather than change and solve, especially when the blaming and targeting is, most disturbingly, what can bring in the votes. Preying on disenchantment and malaise by rallying the public to crusade against some vague "great evil" can spur fleeting national unity and make any society rally together against this evil. Even the world's richest and largest democratic society can fall prey to such failures of politics, and that fallibility is what I wish to examine, in this article, through the lens of the Wars on Drugs.

The War on Drugs and the Dangers of Amassed Political Power

The American presidency's War on Drugs began in 1971 with Nixon's flagship speech declaring the growing rates of drug misuse to be 'public enemy number one', heralding in an era of fervent anti-drug policy [1]. Nixon's most significant moment was, however, not the War on Drugs - it was the Watergate Scandal. Nixon was caught spying on his political rivals, the Democratic Party, and lied to the public, showing a complete lack of presidential integrity - an unfitness for presidential office exemplified by his use of foul language and disrespect for the presidential post in the White House tapes. From this, it is clear that Nixon was fixated upon keeping the presidency, whether it sacrificed his integrity or not.

Nixon's favourite group of Americans was his Silent Majority, with whom the War on Drugs may have aided his popularity; after all, a silent majority is merely a group of people discontented with the status quo. The War on Drugs was therefore a symbolic shake-up of 1960s America's status quo of hippies, anti-war protests, leftism, rock music and Black upliftment through civil rights movements and through Black American culture, such as the blues and jazz, becoming increasingly popular. Especially in the 'Jim Crow' South, there existed an America that wanted to preserve what they viewed as the right America, and thus they voted for Nixon's broadly conservative ideals and promises of stability. Outside the South, concerned middle-aged Americans feared for their children's moralities - the emerging counterculture in young America of drugs, rock 'n' roll, *beatniks*, antiheroes and sexual promiscuity, a counterculture which was deeply unpopular with older, more conservative Americans. The supposed immorality of young, leftist Americans, whose cinemas were seen as 'passion pits', whose habits were seen as sinful, and whose political views were seen as un-American in the time of unpatriotic Vietnam War protests and the Cold War, would easily create a Silent Majority of discontented Americans. Add in the South's discontent following the overturning of the Jim Crow laws in 1964 and 1965, and it is conceivable that a policy aiming to curb the increasing proliferation of anti-segregationist Black and

nonconformist, rebellious young Americans would prove a popular one. This provided Nixon with an incentive to create a policy that targets both these groups and amass a massive coalition of Americans under his wing.

What is not clear is whether the War on Drugs was just this ideal election-winning policy merely created for votes or deliberately crafted to target his campaign's political opponents with malice and efficiency, as alleged by John Ehrlichman, a former aide of Nixon, in 1994. In a statement to journalist Dan Baum, he explained: "The Nixon campaign in 1968, and the Nixon White House after that, had two enemies: the antiwar left and black people… We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt those communities. We could arrest their leaders, raid their homes, break up their meetings, and vilify them night after night on the evening news. Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did [2]".

Whilst Ehrlichman may have grown resentful toward Nixon after being punished in the aftermath of the Watergate Scandal, providing him with a reason to slander the disgraced President, the visible repercussions of the War on Drugs point towards his statement at least being partly true. Black America was at odds with - and was intentionally left out of - Nixon's Silent Majority. Nixon's 'southern strategy', aimed at wooing white Southern *Dixiecrats* or *Wallace voters* to the Republican Party, was a strategy that inherently went against the interests of Black civil rights.

Civil rights activist and lawyer

Michelle Alexander and, separately, the American Civil Liberties Union reporter Graham Boyd even termed the War on Drugs' methods of imprisonment of mostly young and male Black Americans as 'the new Jim Crow' [3]. As highlighted by Boyd in 2001, 'the population of this vast American Gulag, if brought together in a territory of its own, would rank as the 35th most populous state, just surpassing Nevada's 1.99 million residents (in 2001)' [3]. Today, 32% of those incarcerated are Black Americans, whilst only being 14% of the population [4]. The capability of politicians to change the fates of their political enemies for generations is a dangerous one. Nixon's War on Drugs targeted Black Americans and hippie communities and, whilst crucial in his southern strategy and popular in the American heartlands of the Midwest and Near South, this would have a lasting impact on youth culture and upon Black communities across America.

Black and white Americans have similar rates of illicit substance usage and dealing, but Black Americans are currently about two-and-half times more likely to be arrested and about six times more likely to be serving a prison sentence for drugs, and this disparity, whilst already showing clear unfairness in a so-called justice system, is worsened further by the sentencing gap in crack and powder cocaine – 5 grams of crack cocaine, generally associated with Black users, could trigger a 5 year sentence, while a huge 500 grams of powder cocaine, more associated with white users, delivered the same sentence, a ratio of 100:1 [5]. Even though this ratio was decreased to 18:1 in 2010's Fair Sentencing Act, this is still unequal and the damage created in the 41 years of the War on Drugs prior to 2010 imprisoned

hundreds of thousands of Black Americans and this, in turn, meant fewer Black Americans in the community - less funding for schools and hospitals in Black neighbourhoods, more shops in there without workers, more Black parents with incarcerated children, and more Black children with incarcerated parents. Black areas were already segregated by mandate before 1964, but now they were also kept underfunded and understaffed, deprived of resources that white neighbourhoods had. There is a clear link between absent parents and crime, and between poor education and crime. The War on Drugs alleged greater criminality in Black communities, but it created the need for criminality by denying Black America opportunities.

> "We knew we couldn't make it illegal to be either against the war or black, but by getting the public to associate the hippies with marijuana and blacks with heroin, and then criminalizing both heavily, we could disrupt thos communities… Did we know we were lying about the drugs? Of course we did."
>
> - John Ehrlichman

Even if Nixon's War on Drugs was in part driven by his personal hatred for substances, it certainly seemed to conveniently marginalise those most in opposition to his presidency. The Nixonian government shirked its societal responsibility to serve all Americans, and instead sought out to claim another Silent Majority through a flashy War on Drugs that could be thrown around as a buzzword. Nixon's lack of principle in his policymaking was predictable, as was shown most clearly in the *Watergate tapes*. Nixon's

determination that he deserved the presidential post, so much so that tampering with the democracy of America was necessary, makes it not just believable, but probable, that Nixon was merely vote-mongering, aiming for a Silent Majority through unprincipled policies. These policies would cause huge damage to Black and nonconformist communities, rather than creating a vision for a new America as a president ought to do. The War on Drugs was a policy that took advantage of the disenchanted, silent populace at large, and used this to target political dissidents and the societally disadvantaged.

Conclusion

The War on Drugs continues today, with Ronald Reagan having intensified it and furthered its effects in creating an American socioeconomic caste system through incarceration and supposed justice, using the War on Drugs to grow his popularity just as Nixon did - anti-drug policy became part of Reagan's great cult of personality. The frivolity with which both Nixon and Reagan treated the War on Drugs, despite it repressing the disadvantaged, shows a complete disregard for the most vulnerable in American society. Garnering votes and fabricating a cult of personality would always prove more important than protecting the vulnerable.

And in 2023 it is our role to evaluate the 54-year-old War on Drugs. If it were even effective in curbing the drug crisis, then it could be at least viewed as a somewhat successful policy passed to gain voters, inhibited by some mildly disastrous side effects - yet it was not effective at all. Drug overdose death rates went from 2.5 per 100,000 in 1969 to 27.9 per 100,000 in 2020, a tenfold increase [6]. This shows a complete

and abject failure in the entire mission of the War on Drugs.

Economically too, the War on Drugs was a complete disaster: since 1971, it has cost the United States an estimated $1 trillion [7]. That is a sum that could have been spent on rehabilitation, saving the lives of the 27.9 Americans whose lives are lost to overdoses per 100,000, yet it was squandered on repressive incarceration [6]. Today, San Francisco's homeless, who inhabit the city's centre, suffer from an opioid epidemic. The price of drugs for sale in America, since the War on Drugs, has dropped, whereas the potency has risen. Especially among the poor and the disadvantaged, America faces a burgeoning opioid epidemic, adding to the pre-existing societal drug-affiliated underclass of addicts and convicts.

The relatively impoverished nation of Mexico, bordering the U.S., is now consumed in its own drug war, albeit against the cartels that hold it in their chokehold. Inner-cities across the U.S. are now either deserted such as Detroit or are populated by drug-addicted homeless Americans such as San Francisco's Misson District, with white flight and recently Black flight stripping inner cities of the much-needed investment that they require. The Black residents of these inner cities are incarcerated at higher rates, receive poorer educations, and face worsening job prospects. All these disastrous consequences were sown at least in part in 1969, the advent of the War on Drugs.

The dangerous capability of politicians to create generational, community - or even country-spanning damage persists too. Thus, the lesson from the War on Drugs is a bleak warning that a concentration of political power in an individual

can lead to disastrous consequences in the name of garnering votes: the fundamental vote-harbouring systems of democracy can fail, and even turn malicious. This is what makes such policies so dangerous; societies can be easily mobilised to despise on mass: for example, drugs, which by extension implied young rebellious and/or Black Americans. But what makes this dangerous is that discontent in society can be taken advantage of to rally the disenchanted toward a purpose. In the modern world, where more and more feel as though they lack a purpose in life, the ease at which politicians could convince us to follow causes with consequences that would seem outlandish in our imagination is terrifying.

In the next issue of the Wilson's Intrigue Humanities, I will outline how this terrifying potential for political failure has come true in our lifetimes during America's War on Terror.

Glossary

Beatniks – the participants in the nonconformist social movements of the 1950s/60s which aimed at empowering self-expression, and rejected the conventions of traditional society

Dixiecrats - the members of a right-wing Democratic splinter group in the 1948 U.S. presidential election organized by Southerners who objected to the civil rights program of the Democratic Party

Wallace voters - the voter base of pro-segregation American Independent Party candidate and former Governor of Alabama George Wallace, who stood against Nixon in 1968

Watergate tapes - during the investigation into Nixon during the Watergate Scandal, the recording tapes that were operating in the White House were requested as evidence. After giving in doctored tapes, Nixon eventually submitted the original tapes as evidence, in which he used foul language and admitted to improper conduct in his campaign

<< Geography >>

The Effects of Sea Levels Rising

As an imminent danger to our earth, combatting sea level rise is top of many governments' priority lists. But what actually can be done?

Written by Gautham Subramanian

Edited by Yuzhe Oh

An Introduction to Climate Change:

I am sure that most of you reading this will have an idea of what climate change is, and The United Nations defines it as the "long -term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns."[1] When we think about climate change, we tend to think about the human factors that negatively affect the climate of our planet. These factors are known as anthropogenic causes of climate change. All of these causes can either contribute to the enhanced greenhouse effect or reduce the storage of greenhouse gases in carbon stores.

Examples of both factors are listed below:

◊ Transportation – it accounts for about 25% of carbon dioxide emissions globally.[2]

◊ Factories and fossil fuel power plants - In fact, in 2021, electricity production generated about 25% of greenhouse gas emissions in the USA.[3]

◊ Deforestation – around 450,000 km² of the Amazon rainforest has been destroyed for cattle ranching. [4]

◊ Animal agriculture – this is responsible for about 18% of global greenhouse gas emissions due to animal waste and just one cow can produce 250 to 500 litres of methane per day.[5]

While there are natural processes that affect our climate, such as volcanic and solar activity, these alone do not usually have damaging and lasting effects compared to that of human actions which can deteriorate the climate on a global scale - an example is how human actions affect rising sea levels.

Rising Sea Levels:

The Earth has been getting warmer since the industrial revolution due to the use of factories and power plants which emit greenhouse gases that contribute to the enhanced greenhouse effect. Due to these warmer temperatures, water molecules in the seas start to expand and take up more space. This is due to the particles beginning to move around more as the temperature increases. This process is known as thermal expansion and accounts for about half of global rising sea levels. [6] A consequence of this may be that water in our seas and oceans may take up more space and proceed to overflow onto land, which could lead to the loss of this land.

The oceans are warming up due to human-influenced global warming...
What happens when the oceans warm up?

COLD OCEANS

WARM OCEANS

Increasing heat energy → increasing distance between molecules

Decreasing heat energy → decreasing distance between molecules

[7] **This is called 'thermal expansion'.**
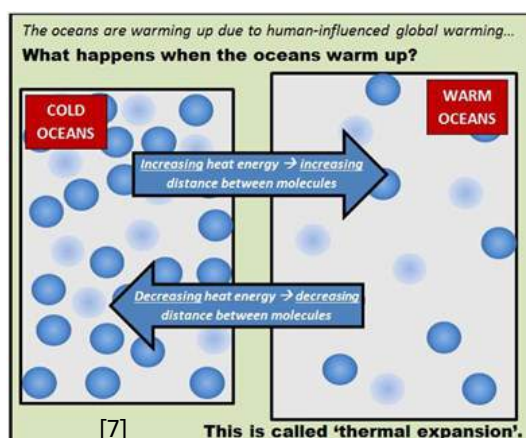
Additionally, glaciers and ice sheets are melting also due to warmer temperatures. In Antarctica and Greenland, 150 and 270 billion tons of ice mass is lost per year respectively.[8] Moreover, Arctic sea ice now covers 40% less area at the height of summer melt season than it did in the late 1970s and 1980s.[9]

The melting of ice in turn leads to greater climate change through global warming. This is due to the albedo effect - the way different colours reflect heat from the sun. The darker the colour, the more absorption and less reflection there is. Therefore, where the white sea ice has melted and would normally have

reflected heat from the Sun back into space, the dark blue water surface does the opposite and absorbs this heat. This further melts the ice around the uncovered water so, even more water is uncovered, creating a cycle until all ice there has melted.

One example of where we see the detrimental effects of rising sea levels is in Bangladesh.

Flooding and Bangladesh:

Bangladesh is a country in South Asia, with a population of around 169 million people.[10]

In Bangladesh, the population faces a great vulnerability to rising sea levels with the average height above sea level being only 9m.[11]

Some human-caused factors have affected Bangladesh's vulnerability to rising sea levels. For instance, deforestation in highlands due to processes like logging lead rainwater being able to reach the sea faster rather than being slowed down by processes like plant interception which leads to more water entering the sea faster, so sea levels rise.

Additionally, most of Bangladesh's population live in low-lying areas due to their high dependence on the rice crop they need to grow to live. This crop requires paddy fields on low-lying ground to grow, meaning that there will be a higher population density in these areas making more people vulnerable to flooding because of rising sea levels. This could lead to challenging secondary problems such as homelessness or displacement.

Additionally, the adult literacy rate in 2020 and GDP per capita of Bangladesh in 2021 were only about 74.91% and 2,457.92 US Dollars respectively.[12][13] This could potentially make Bangladesh's population less prepared for a hazard like flooding as they may not

be able to fund planning activities or response programs.

These factors mean that Bangladesh's population are extremely vulnerable to rising sea levels, and its potential consequences, and as a result more people are likely to be affected and at risk of death from them. For instance, on the 28th of June 2022, record-breaking floods due to torrential rainfall and upstream water that was in Bangladesh from early in June that year caused about 7.2 million people to be affected and in need of emergency help and shelters.[14]

This means that should a hazard caused by rising sea levels, like flooding, occur, the effect on the population of a low income country could be painful and brutal on a national scale for the reasons outlined above.

We can also find that the countries that suffer the worst from these types of hazards usually don't contribute that much to causing them and are usually low-income countries. For instance, in 2021, Bangladesh emitted 93.18 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels or cement production.[15] However, a country like the United Kingdom which is in Europe, and has a population of around 68 million people,[16] has a literacy rate of 99% now and had a GDP per capita of 46,510.38 USD in 2021 emitted 346.77 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2021 from these same processes.[17][18] [19] Although, the UK seems to be at a much smaller risk due to rising sea levels with the major effect of it only happening at around 2100.[20]

Due to their increased vulnerability often as a result of their geographical positions like latitude and altitude, lower income countries like Bangladesh may be more likely to face the consequences of climate

change first and more severely.

It is also interesting to note the great population difference between the UK and Bangladesh, as Bangladesh has a population of almost 100 million more people than the UK. As a result of this we would probably expect Bangladesh to emit more annual carbon dioxide, however, this is evidently not the case. This could mean that the level of economic development of a country has a greater effect on carbon emissions than the size of its population.

However, what if these lower income countries wanted to develop themselves economically or socially through industrial means that may contribute to climate change? This then begs the question: if many high income countries have developed themselves through the means of industrialisation, can anyone stop newly emerging economies from doing so, even if it saves our planet?

One side of the argument could be that it is morally acceptable to let a country develop themselves in a way that induces more climate change as any country should have their own individual freedom to do whatever they wish with their resources. For instance, if a country were to decide to burn all their fossil fuel reserves today and massively accelerate the rate of pollution there, nothing could really be done to stop that country as it is their resources. Hence, this idea would suggest that a country can allocate their resources however they want.

On the contrary, utilitarians who advocate for the greatest happiness would probably condemn the actions that have already been done by those many higher income countries, as many people would have probably had to suffer, from the negative environmental impacts of industrialisation. Therefore, whilst

events of the past cannot be altered, the future can be altered, and the long-term and potentially global scale suffering caused from an accelerated rate of climate change seems to outweigh the shorter-term and smaller scale economic or social gains of that country. Therefore, this belief would advocate against industrial development for the newly emerging economy due to the great suffering it causes globally in the future.

Personally, I believe that higher income countries should help newly emerging economics by funding initiatives to give sustainable development opportunities to them and help find renewable sources of energy ton both fund their development and save the planet.

Potential Solutions to climate change:

Overall, climate change can destroy ecosystems and the delicate interdependence of all its inhabitants to each other - so here are some small changes we can all make in our lives to thrive in our world.

Mitigation Strategies:

◊ Using public transport more often to avoid additional greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere.

◊ Driving electric cars to reduce your carbon footprint.

[21] A hydrogen bus

◊ Eating less meat to reduce the negative effects of animal agriculture, such as the high methane emissions from animal waste.

◊ Investing our time and money into tree-planting campaigns to increase the carbon storage we have available.

Adaptation Strategies:

◊ Taking showers instead of baths to save water.

◊ Reusing wastewater for cleaning tasks such as flushing a toilet.

Success Stories:

Finally, as we saw earlier in this article, Bangladesh suffers from rising sea levels due to natural and human causes. However, the people there are using adaptation techniques by developing new strands of salt resistant rice and moving into a shrimping business so that there is less reliance on this rice. This makes the population is less dependent on just one food source so they can survive on another if one fails.

In summary, climate change is dangerous, and is being catalysed by human actions.

Climate change is not going to be easy to deal with and there will be challenges along the way, but it is not all over yet and new inventions, technologies and ideas could pave the way to solutions to climate change. As economist Ester Boserup believed, "necessity is the mother of invention" which shows how our need for survival can spark some great ideas to help us mitigate climate change.[22]

Was the Cold War really that 'Cold'?

Join Luo as he answers the question : 'Was the Cold War an era of distant political rivalry or one that saw some of the bloodiest warfare in recent history?'

Written by Felix Luo   Edited by Nikhil Hegde

The Cold War – the struggle between left and right. Communism and capitalism. Unlike what the name suggests, the 'Cold' War wasn't a war that was fought in blizzard conditions or specifically through the winter (although the USSR in the winter was definitely very cold – just ask Napoleon or Hitler!) but instead is used to describe the lack of direct conflict between the USA and the USSR who were the two global superpowers at the time. However, it could be argued that the war was rather 'heated', from the close calls to nuclear annihilation to the brutal and bloody proxy wars that were endorsed by the two sides in order to spread their spheres of influence. So why should we call the Cold War this - is it a perfect description or, in fact, the complete opposite: a bloody series of conflicts which impacted and ended the lives of millions worldwide?

What was Containment?

Before we look into some of the proxy wars that took place during the cold war, we have to understand why the US intervened in the first place. Containment was a policy that was put forth by the Truman Doctrine which President Harry Truman introduced in March 1947 [1]. Containment was based on the idea of the **Domino Effect** – the idea that if one country were to fall to communism, other neighbouring countries would follow suit. Containment meant that the US would intervene in foreign affairs in order to 'contain' the spread of communism, no matter the cost.

The Korean War (1950-53) [1]

The first proxy war of the Cold War was the Korean War. The creation of North Korea and South Korea. The cause of the divide of a once unified Korea. But when you think of North and South Korea, what do you think about? Perhaps, an authoritarian dictatorship in one half and a free, diplomatic country in the other. You may have concluded that the South was good and the North was bad during the Korean War, but you would be mistaken. Yes, the North was led by Kim il-Sung (the grandfather of Kim Jong-un), the tyrannical dictator as we all know, but the South was not free from the leadership of its own dictator – Syngman Rhee. Syngman Rhee was responsible for the brutal punishments of suspected communists and political opponents and oversaw many massacres during his rule, one of which being the Jeju Uprising which had a reported 14,373 victims [3].

But let's look at the war itself. The North was a communist regime whereas the South was a capitalist regime. After WW2 the North and South were divided along the 38th parallel and on 25 June 1950 [4], the North, backed by China and the Soviet Union, launched an attack on the South who were later supported and reinforced by the USA. Both rulers of each of the sides claimed to be the legitimate ruler of Korea and both viewed the 38th parallel to be a temporary border, hoping that Korea would be reunited under their own rule. As a result, this led to civil war, claiming the lives of 2 – 4

China Korea Vietnam Laos Cambodia Thailand Malaysia Indonesia Burma

million [4] people in the course of 3 years . Furthermore, the Korean war was one of the deadliest conflicts in the 20th century in terms of the civilian death tolls experienced as 70% of all deaths consisted of innocent civilians [2]. In WW2, it is estimated that there were over 38 million civilian deaths[5] out of the estimated total of 70 – 85 million [6] deaths. If you compare that to the proportion of civilian deaths during the Korean War, the percentage of innocent civilians who died during WW2 was around 10-15% less. Although a truce was signed on 27 July 1953 [7], no formal peace treaty has ever been signed and the two nations still remain, technically, at war[7]. Moreover, the long-term impacts of the war still resonate with us today with North Korea threatening world peace with its nuclear arsenal and the splitting of millions of families due to the divide which still remains. The Korean War was the first instance of military intervention by the USA in the name of containment and the first of many nations to have suffered from the effects of the Cold War.

The Vietnam War (1955-75) [2]
Probably the most infamous of all the proxy wars during the Cold War, the Vietnam War. Most of you who do or have done GCSE History should know a bit about this conflict already. Let's learn about and delve deeper into this conflict.

In 1954 [8], the Geneva Accords divided Vietnam along the 17th parallel[8] where the north was led by the Vietminh under Ho Chi Minh and was a communist regime while the south was led by the corrupt dictator Ngo Dinh Diem who was non-communist. Both Ho Chi Minh and Diem wanted to reunite Vietnam with themselves as ruler – sound familiar? However, when does the USA come into this? President Lyndon B. Johnson wanted more direct military action in Vietnam and he was in luck. When the US first became involved in 1955 up until 1964, no military action had yet been taken. Under president Kennedy, Operation Ranch Hand (1962)[8] was implemented where chemicals such as Agent orange and Napalm were used to defoliate the thick jungle to flush out the Vietcong.

The Strategic Hamlet Operation (1963)[9] was also implemented which horribly failed and possibly led to more of the South Vietnamese supporting the Vietcong as a result. These had already caused mass suffering throughout Vietnam with defoliants such as Napalm causing the extreme suffering of innocent people as it burned their skin – a famous image of this being the '*Napalm Girl*' in 1964. The Gulf of Tonkin Incident on 2 August 1964 was the perfect excuse for Johnson. During this incident, the US Destroyer, *USS Maddox*, was fired on by North Vietnamese patrol boats [8] and Johnson used this to influence

congress into giving him the power to take whatever action was necessary in response. What followed was US troops landing in Vietnam in 1965 [9].

Many atrocities were committed in Vietnam which ruined the livelihoods of many, including US soldiers who were forced to go to Vietnam through the policy of conscription. The use of 'search and destroy' killed many innocent civilians from 1965 – 68[9] in villages that were suspected to be housing the Vietcong were burned to the ground and the villagers were killed by US forces.

What was worse is that unreliable information often meant villages were wrongly burnt down and many more South Vietnamese civilians turned towards the Vietcong. For example, in March 1968, 347 innocent men, women and children were massacred by US troops in an incident known as the My Lai Massacre [9].In 1995, Vietnam released its official estimates of the casualties of the Vietnam War – it estimates that as many as 2,000,000 innocent civilians had been killed and in 1982, over 58,200 American soldiers who had died in the war were commemorated on the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington DC.[10]. They were unable to defend against the skilled Vietcong who used guerilla warfare, using the natural surroundings to camouflage and ambush US soldiers, making their elite weaponry obsolete. They would often run into traps and their mental health greatly deteriorated, many resorting to drug use which resulted in erratic violence.

These horrors were broadcasted to the USA and greatly affected US foreign policy in the following years, with the Nixon doctrine being issued

stating that the US would no longer aid foreign conflicts and that belligerents were to defend themselves without help. Moreover, this led to increased public outrage in America – for example, in November 1965, Norman Morrison (a pacifist Quaker), set himself on fire in front of the Pentagon in protest, similar to Thich Quang Duc (a Buddhist monk) who protested in the same way in Vietnam in 1963 [8]. However, it also changed the course of the Cold War as more diplomatic means were searched for and détente became the new policy, moving away from the disastrous nature of containment which led to the first US defeat in Vietnam.

> *'The Cold War isn't thawing; it is burning with a deadly heat. Communism isn't sleeping; it is, as always, plotting, scheming, working, fighting.'*

Afghan-Soviet War (1979-89) [11]

Now we will look at a proxy war of the USSR, which you may have also recognised from studying the US course at GCSE. Sometimes regarded as the 'Soviet Union's Vietnam', this war also played a huge role during the Cold War. Before the conflict had occurred, a revolution had occurred in April 1978, instating the PDPA (Communist People's Democratic Republic of Afghanistan) with Nur Mohammed Taraki as PM [12]. In the first 18 months of the PDPA's rule, a communist-style reform program was imposed along with further reforms with aims to separate Mosque and State eradication of illiteracy (standing at 90%), emancipation of women and much more which you might think seems quite progressive[12].

However, this was seen as very un-Islamic by the mostly Islamic population, especially with an estimated 30 million Muslims in the Soviet Union,[9] and traditional practices that were deemed feudal (such as forced marriage) were banned along with Sharia Law. Furthermore, many anti-Muslim laws were passed and the government launched new campaigns of repression between April 1978 and December 1979 with estimates of around 27,000 people being executed at Pul-e-Charkhi prison [12]. The USSR saw religious fundamentalism (such as Islam) to be a threat to communist ideals. This led to growing outrage, eventually leading to the establishment of the Mujahideen – an Islamic Guerilla Movement who declared Jihad on the followers of Hafizullah Amin who had deposed Taraki in September 1979 [9], leading to more political instability.

In order to restore order, on 24 December 1979, 30,000 Soviet Troops were sent to Afghanistan [13]. The Red Army quickly captured and killed Amin to replace him with the more moderate Babrak Karmal. The US soon intervened, providing weapons for the Mujahideen who were committed to combat Soviet Intervention in order to restore Afghanistan as an Islamic and independent country. The Mujahideen used guerilla warfare to do so. This made it so that despite the successes of the Red Army and their search and destroy tactics, for every victory their defeat seemed more and more imminent. In 1985, stinger missiles began to be supplied which began to cripple the Soviet Union's abilities. At the same time, Gorbachev became the new leader of the Soviet Union and his new reforms rapidly shifted opinions in the Union about Soviet Intervention in the country.

In 1988, Gorbachev signed the Geneva Accords along with the US, Pakistan and Afghanistan[13] which finally led to the withdrawal of Soviet troops, ending the war in 1989 and leaving a total of 15,000 Soviet soldiers killed [13]. Ultimately the Soviets were unable to recover from their financial losses and public relations and played a huge role in the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991. Furthermore, this led to the establishment of terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda (Osama Bin Laden being involved in the conflict himself) and has led to instability in Afghanistan that can still be seen today. This can be seen as a failure of American foreign policy at the time, especially their support of corrupt regimes such as Ngo Dinh Diem, as the Mujahideen would slowly develop into the Taliban (the terrorist group now in charge of Afghanistan) and Al-Qaeda, who would later be known as the orchestrators of the 9/11 terrorist attack in America.

The Ogaden War (1977-78) [14]

Moving onto Africa, the Ogaden War was another African conflict which, although short, was very impactful. Also known as the Ethio-Somali War, this conflict had a very strange series of events. Initially the Ethiopians were supported by the USA under the Emperor Haile Selassie but were eventually overthrown in a coup led by 'The Derg' – a communist group. The Somalians were held under the Soviet's sphere of influence under the regime of Siad Barre.

Eventually, the Somalians began their invasion of the Ogaden Region in July 1977 [14]. However, the Soviets turned their support towards the Ethiopians instead and, alongside troops sent by Cuba under Fidel Castro, they began to repel the Somali invasion of the region. The USA also switched their allegiance to the Somalis and used their military bases to not only help to fight back against the Soviet-supported Ethiopians but to spread their sphere of influence as well along with China. The Somalians suffered heavy casualties as they tried to retreat from the Ogaden Region and left it on 15 March 1978 [14]. This ended the war with the total death toll estimated to be 60,000 people, 25,000 being innocent civilians and caused 500,000 ethnic Somalis in the Ogaden Region to be displaced. [15] This has led to political instability in Somalia, and is a direct cause of the Somali Civil War that still rages on today as a result, leading to the deaths of 350,000 to more than 500,000 deaths and 2 million to 3.8 million people being displaced. [16]

'No other "civilized" people have done more damage to the world than the Europeans, and yet, on the pages of history books their glory of conquest is still packaged as glory, not as atrocity.'

In Conclusion...

So, was the Cold War really that 'cold'? Although the USSR and US never engaged in direct combat between one another, the war was very much 'heated' where the impacts of the proxy wars they fought have had long-term devastating impacts which still remain to this day, especially in those countries that had experienced the worst bloodshed and devastation. Many atrocities were committed during this time, especially against innocent civilians, changing their livelihoods and the control of their governments today. Perhaps this idea of a 'cold' conflict stems from the idea of Eurocentrism - a worldview centred on the idea of Western civilisation. This bias has led to us not recognising the full picture but instead a more narrow and centralised view, focusing more on the Cold War's impacts in Europe rather than in Asia and Africa and other parts of the world that we seemingly neglect. The Cold War shouldn't be remembered as a 'cold' conflict but instead as one that saw some of the deadliest conflicts that changed the course of history.

<< Geography >>

The Race to the Bottom of the Ocean

This article delves into the very foundation of human nature: our ability to explore. It looks at the desperation of countries and corporations battling it out to get their hands on resource-rich oceans.

Written by Srijan Vathaluri

Edited by Oscar Wong

The Space Race, the race to the top of Everest, and the Nuclear Arms Race are some of the world's most competitive and sought-after challenges. We have always been hungry for things beyond our reach, and we as humans desire to be better - traits imbued into us since the start of our time on Earth. Curiosity is humanity's puppeteer, forcing us to stick our heads into every nook and cranny there is: we have always been competitive and curious . Competition and the urge to know more have been the pinnacles of human existence, coursing through our veins and making us push the boundaries of knowledge and understanding of our incredible world. We have never rested, and we will never rest, always craving for more until there is nothing more to devour or explore . We have always found a way to overcome an impossible feat, and to find a break-through that no one knew existed. To fuel our never-ending desires, we need resources, and we are heading off on an exploration in search of these. But this time it is the race to the bottom of the ocean.

As humans, we have created marvellous things and brought futuristic pieces of equipment into existence we wouldn't have dreamed of even two hundred years ago: cars, phones, and rockets to space. These things are truly wonderful, but in order to continue to keep up with the ever-rising demand for these innovations, we need a vast source of metals and minerals. So far, we have managed to use existing land deposits, but to keep producing high-value goods and to fully decarbonise, we need clean energy, which, in turn, requires six times the metals we have right now. The solution to this is deep sea mining, a process by which minerals found in depths between 200 and 6500 metres are mined. There are vast deposits of minerals and metals to mine underneath our ocean floor, and to be more specific, the Clarion-Clipperton Zone. This area in the Eastern Pacific Ocean contains more metals than all land deposits put together, worth billions of dollars and covering over 6 million square kilometres of ocean. Not only this, but there are exploration licenses being given out to mine millions of kilometres of oceans

in areas including the Indian and Atlantic oceans. The ISA (International Seabed Authority) was created, with its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica, and was established to manage and control seabed mining. Any country or company that wants to enter the area for research or mining purposes must first get a permit from the ISA. [1]

However, this has raised several legitimate questions: are the devastating effects of seabed mining worth it in our fight against climate change and the Olympic task of helping our oceans? Is it fair for rich corporations and countries, who have more readily accessible and quickly deployable resources to get to the deposits, to take a considerably large share of it just because they got there first? Countries like the US, Japan, and Australia descended on this zone as soon as they realised its potential, which means that less well-off countries are deprived of the opportunities to get their hands on such resource-rich areas, adding to the wealth deprivation that is quite clearly present in our world. Arvid Padro, Malta's representative to the UN, compared this operation to the mistakes of colonialism, describing how the "strong only get stronger", since developing nations do not have the resources to follow such exotic quests. [1] This means that the span of disparity between the rich and the poor just gets larger and larger, minimizing the chance for those countries to get out of this cycle.

Although the process of ocean mining has been rapidly developing, it is never too late to realise our mistakes of the past and take steps towards fixing the damage already caused. Countries like Kiribati, Nauru, and Tonga have already sponsored, through investments, major seabed mining companies to study the Clarion Clipperton Zone; countries that are in close proximity to the ocean and its mineral deposits. They have eagerly acted in an attempt to seize control over these areas to secure their future supplies of energy. Canadian company DeepGreen Metal, which is at the forefront of deep seabed mining, has urged the ISA to finalise its laws on seabed mining so that it can be undertaken by countries willing to do so. If we give control to power-hungry, greedy corporate companies like this, which have aims directing to mere profits, and not the greater wellbeing of humankind, this would mean that we are merely creating a more detrimental future for ourselves. Instead of moving on to deep sea mining, which devastates aquatic species and the environment, we could focus on alternatives like circular economies, which involve recycling and reusing metals. For example, there are between 20 and 50 million metric tonnes of e-waste a year, which includes precious metals like palladium and gold. Since we are in need of more natural resources to meet our future requirements, we could instead put further work into exploiting natural and renewable resources that are more accessible to us, instead of going for something further from our reach. For example, India gets over 3000 hours of sunlight a year, which is utilized using solar panels to cover its energy needs until 2030. [1],[2],[3],[4] This would allow for more cleaner and resource-efficient and efficient energy, as well as preserving deep-sea life, which we still know little about.

Overall, there is no doubt that we are clearly trying to scrape the floor of something that is meant to be inaccessible and protected from the grasps of man. However, we should instead be taking steps to help improve the environment and better utilize it to ensure that we don't further destroy our earth more than we already have. We are finding ways to further worsen the situation of climate change by going after something well beyond our reach. Perhaps we should, just this once, not give into our ambition and prevent ourselves from making the same mistake we made hundreds of years ago, through our unsustainable actions but instead use our curiosity and ambition to develop sustainable solutions for the future.

"The strong only get stronger"

That's that and this is this

Written by Atonio Non   Edited by Oscar Wong

Tranquillo

Suppose all lives formed a library,

Each person parsed into a book.

"That's that, and this is this," a Librarian once said,

As he looked through the stories he took.

Some poor soul's eulogy testifying their tale

One of too many to ever stand out,

Among the sea of safekept, but forgotten, works

"That's that, and this is this," as he walks about.

Towers of hardbacks pile higher with each day

But that answer can never be found

What brings height and meaning to the human life

That's that, and this is this;

The Librarian's worldview is bound.

Curious souls wander onto the floor

Enticed by a promise of insight-

Chronicles of war surround them, continue endlessly

"That's that, and this is this,"

The Librarian mutters at the souls' plight.

How little the patron librarians knew

That each one sought differently, yet the same;

A book of their own, to answer their past

That's that, and this is this,

The Librarian wallows in his shame.

How many lives had already been taken,

Those books to answer to another's bidding?

But that's that, and this is this,

A black, silent motto,

That by its hand, the Librarian was ridding.

To that enslaved patron of the general works

What did it matter should a few lives were taken?

"You must suffer, like I have," with each and every clash

In vengeance of a love unforsaken.

A mindset that spoke,

Live, fleeting and fragile as a book,

The one held so dear to him

So quickly, so harshly, took. Thus

In his rage he donned

A mask of a black silence

"That's that, and this is this," he said,

As he chaptered those books in his violence.

The pages run by,

Adrift in a stormy breeze.

To what did it matter,

Of the pages of these

'Sinners' and 'Fools'

For those the Librarian could not care

But for the one that he held so dear

Were those pages ever to be there?

Like gone angels so tarnished

A patron chapters each guest,

Arranging memories after memories

At the Director's sole request.

"That's that, and this is this,"

Applied to reminiscences of his own past,

Once the foundations of his own tale,

Now the fuel of contempt behind his mask.

Furioso

The pages of a book gain progressively more meaning

As its story develops and twists into a tale of great wonders

Entailing the complexity of a single life so bittersweet and short,

So intricate,

Yet merely a copy of so many others of the sort.

A descent into madness shows pages in an unorthodox way

Perhaps rips and tears to paper - or lines and scribbles of incoherence

That no other could bring themselves to understand or find pattern in

As those pages attempt to faithfully recall emotion-blurred events in another life that cannot be rationalised.

   A growing lack of structure. Maybe irregularity in word employment, sentence flow, formatting

Inconsistencies heralding chaos and confusion among both author and reader

As the pages are, without warning,

Cut into scraps, suspended in the disturbed air,

Without any trace but black-white cuts of lines

Without any sound but the slicing of paper as fragile and fleeting as life.

Nothing but another mere story concluded and stored in the library that accepts all tales however ruined,

Just another task undertaken by a patron Librarian, a force incomparable to those poor guests that attempt to attain great knowledge.

And yet, the Librarian knows his own fate will be written on paper one day,

Following in the footsteps of so many he cared not for,

And in the way of a loved one long gone.

What else can he do? It is merely the process of the library.

To life, an intrinsic fact, truth and premise,

A mantra is muttered as he dons his black mask

"That's that, and this is this."

‹‹ Politics ››

Why we should lower the voting age to 16.

Gautham writes about the reasons for and against lowering voting age to 16.

Written by Gautham Murali   Edited by Ishan Dey

I t's Election Day. The day where people get to vote for who they want to be the representative for their local area. Your local community centre has been transformed into a voting poll, where many locals you may recognise are queueing up to vote for their political party. You may walk past, on your way to school for another day of lessons. You may ask yourself why you are not in the queue, voting for who you want to represent your local area. You realise you and I are too young to vote, even though you may believe you have enough political knowledge to do so. Here, I will address this issue and argue why the government should lower the voting age to 16 for future elections.

To begin, young people under 18 already have adult responsibilities. There are many 16 and 17 year olds not only in the UK but also worldwide who have undertaken adult responsibilities – whether they be forced or not. Such responsibilities include being in employment (to take care of their family), doing volunteering work for charities, or even running a business. Also, 16 and 17 year olds have further adult responsibilities such as receiving their National Insurance Number or applying for their driving license. So let me ask this question. If 16 and 17 year olds already have to deal with these adult responsibilities, then why not allow them to vote? Surely it would make sense for that to be the case?

Furthermore, decisions made will have a much greater impact for 16 and 17 year olds than everyone else who can vote. If future decisions and laws are passed, then surely everyone will be affected by them at some point. The younger people will be affected the most as they will be around for longer than the older people. For example, let's suppose a political campaign promoting a nationwide ban on the consumption of alcohol is successful and the government decide to make this a law. It will affect the teenagers who have no say in the vote the most, so there will be a new generation of teenagers who are affected. Not only will this affect the youth but this will affect all adults who were previously allowed to drink alcohol. Therefore, by lowering the voting age, younger people can have a greater say in what they want and how they want it.

Moreover, lowering the voting age will engage more people in politics from a younger age. Right now, young people are severely underrepresented in the world of politics, and wrongly so. I'm sure anyone reading this can agree there are many issues young people are affected by, whether they be related to poverty, bullying or even homelessness. At this point we are accustomed to seeing articles on different media related to youth, whether it be a stabbing or drug dealing. As a result of us young people being underrepresented,

some of the issues affecting us also end up underrepresented. By lowering the voting age, younger people, especially 16 and 17 year olds can engage more in politics, such as through conversations at the dinner table or watching the news every morning before another uneventful day of school. Over time, this will lead to a newfound or greater interest in politics among younger people, who will understand their political views and have the freedom to express them to people around them. As a result, they may be more willing to vote more often when they are older.

On the other hand, it is possible that there are drawbacks to lowering the voting age to 16. After all, younger people are very easily to manipulate. Lowering the voting age to 16 may lead to teenagers being manipulated by political parties and possibly parents. 16 and 17 year olds may be weaker in the face of peer pressure and influence so are persuaded easily. They can easily be targeted and swayed by political campaigns that have simplified or emotionally charged messages which do not fully address the issues at hand. Moreover, teenagers can easily be deceived by catchy slogans without fully understanding the policies that are promoted. On top of that, they may face parental pressure to vote in a particular way, not only restricting the free choice of young voters but also undermining their autonomy, which plays a huge part

Imagine heading to one of these as a sixteen year old

in voting.

A further reason why lowering the voting age to 16 may not be a good idea may be as a result of people not taking the process seriously enough. One of the more obvious differences between adults and teenagers is the level of maturity. I'm sure those of you reading spend your evenings scrolling through TikTok or YouTube Shorts and failing to resist laughter whenever dark humour can be seen. The process of voting is serious as you are voting for who you really want to be the MP for your local area (in the case of general elections), not someone who you think it would be funny if they won. The main source of this is when celebrities or influencers with zero political experience think it would be funny to go for mayor or for prime minister for a publicity stunt. In the last mayoral election in 2021, a well-renowned Youtuber, Niko Omilana, decided to run for mayor. As someone whose content targets teenagers and young adults, it would not be surprising that this announcement spread through social media like wildfire. Although he only came 5th, that did not stop him getting 49,628[1] votes, most likely from the 18-25 age range. If the voting age was lowered to 16, that number would have increased significantly, possibly enough to break into the top 4 and resulting in someone as politically inexperienced as Niko

representing a borough. My point is, if a publicity stunt like this were to happen again and 16 and 17 year olds were allowed to vote, then there is a small chance a celebrity or influencer who has no political interest at all ends up representing a local area. Would you rather have someone with over 20 years of political experience who cares for your local area or have a famous person with no political experience whatsoever? Therefore, lowering the voting age to 16 may not be a good idea.

To conclude, we should lower the voting age to 16, mainly because of the huge long-term impact it will have on the youth, who can vote on the many issues facing us. 16 and 17 year olds will have a say in the solution to anything that needs fixing. Although there is potential for manipulation when it comes to the voting, at the end of the day, there are no wrong votes. Every political party has different aims and objectives which have different effects on people. Some of us may have left-wing views, whilst others may have right-wing beliefs. Regardless of these differences, it does not mean what you believe in is wrong. Even if you may end up facing parental pressure on who to vote for, then remember this. It's your vote. Not theirs.

The Rise and Fall of

SUBWAY

Shabd explores the history of Subway, and suggests why it has cemented its status as one of the world's largest restaurants whose time in the market appears to almost be up.

Written by Shabd Goyal   Edited by Haayed Aslam

It all started in 1965, when Dr Peter Buck "accidentally" changed 17-year-old Fred DeLuca's life by saying: "let's open a submarine sandwich shop", thus creating, "Pete's Super Submarines" in Connecticut, USA [1]. The goal was not to create a sandwich empire, but for the humble reason of paying tuition for DeLuca's school [1]. As the business continued growing, it finally rebranded into the shop we all know and love today, Subway, in 1968 [1]. But how did it go from a small sandwich shop, owned by two aspiring young men, to one of the most well-known fast-food chains in the whole world?

In my opinion, the hardest stage of a company is the start-up, as it is the period where the most risks will be taken and the period most likely to be the company's downfall - so how did Subway survive this stage? Well, the answer is quite simple. Once they made enough revenue, they started opening new stores around Connecticut. But as they started realising that they could not get to their 32-store goal in time, they began franchising (allowing a company to use your brand image to sell goods) [1]. This strategy was probably employed to spread out

risk by opening multiple stores, so if one failed, they would have many others to work with.

As the world entered the new millennium, Subway became a force to be reckoned with as they became exponentially more popular. This was largely thanks to their spokesperson, Jared Fogle, who was largely commended as the person who skyrocketed Subway's sales. For example, he claimed that he lost 200 pounds just by eating Subway alone [2]! This changed the public's view of Subway as an unhealthy fast-food restaurant, but instead, an organic, cheap and healthy source of nutrition. Fogle further backed up this claim by showing his huge trousers (see right) to prove that he did lose all that weight. Fogle was responsible for around 50% of Subway's growth, which was the equivalent of it tripling in size [2]. Subway is also well-known for its marketing campaign, holding several promotions during its reign. An interesting one is when they placed their products in popular USA shows such as Family Guy and Chuck, promoting their sandwiches to the whole country through light-hearted television.

In my opinion, the reason why they are so successful is because of how different it is to other popular restaurants. This is because alongside their pre-made menu, they also allow the customer to make their own product, which means the customer will never be unsatisfied as it will be "their fault" if they do not enjoy the food. Not many fast-food restaurants do this and benefit from pre-made items, which are easily supplied to the customer through automation. Higher-skilled staff would be needed to make a customized sandwich at Subway and it would satisfy the customer more as

Fogle proving his weight loss

to them, the product is perfect as it's specialised to their tastes. Furthermore, a "healthy" fast-food restaurant is unheard of, so Subway is playing in their own league by satisfying the target-market of health-conscious people, especially in modern times where obesity rates are rising. Fogle was deeply connected with this and worked hard to combat it. Notably, he started a foundation named after him which worked to raise awareness on childhood obesity, which is especially important as he was once obese himself [3]. Thus, a change in fast-food incentives could be a prominent factor in tackling this crisis.

Alongside with other successes, Subway proved to be an up-and-coming competitor in the giant market of fast-food work as they were ranked #1 and #3 as the "Fastest Growing Franchise" and "Top Global Franchises", respectively [2].

However, despite all this success, it was not going to be a perfect story for long. In 2015, Fogle was charged with possession of child pornography and illicit sexual contact with a minor, causing Subway to quickly cut ties with Fogle and their sales plummeted as a result [2]. Adding to the domino effect, in 2016, Subway closed hundreds of restaurants for the first time due to losses in sales and revenue. The subsequent year, they closed more than 800 of its locations and in 2018, the chain announced it would be closing 500 more [2].

In my view, overpromotion also caused overall profits for Subway to fall, as cuts to prices will affect the overall revenue that Subway generates at the end of the day. Although this can increase sales, most people do not have the luxury to buy Subway regularly, and

> *"Subway... ranked #1 and #3 as the 'Fastest Growing Franchise' and ''Top Global Franchises', respectively... However, despite all this success, it was not going to be a perfect story for long"*

normally just buy meals occasionally. This means that Subway will only be getting a one-time purchase from most customers, therefore meaning the promotions do not really mean much as people would still be willing to pay full price for a product.

Furthermore, there are not many product choices at Subway, with normal items being just sandwiches and wraps. This contrasts with competitors such as McDonalds and Burger King offering a larger variety of menu items, such as burgers, fries, nuggets and more.

According to the product-life cycle, I would say that Subway is at a maturing stage. This is because they are far from a small business and have already experienced rapid growth. All well-known brands go through this stage, as managers become lazier and more become comfortable with their position. Entrepreneurs would stop taking risks as it would only lead to increased profits to their already inflated pockets. Right now, they are still doing well in the industry and steadily growing but in my view, it does not look like they will be expanding at the rate that they once

did, due to competition from other fast-food firms such as KFC.

There are some suggestions that I would make to Subway's firm to make it better. For example, Subway could try satisfying more people by offering a larger variety of menu items, such as their own drinks options. However, it could be hard to think of and implement a healthy alternative to some products sold in the fast-food industry, such as fries and burgers. Subway could also try launching a delivery scheme, so they can sell their products on a wider scope - McDonalds are doing exactly this through their McDelivery service.
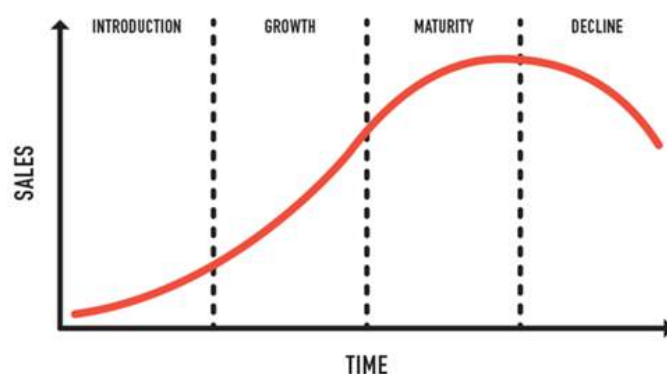
In conclusion, Subway is a prime example of a firm which thrived due to its unique brand image and being different. However, they also showed that pushing too much money into one part of the business, in this case promotion, can incur major long-term backlash.

Net Zero won't be built in a day - We have to start now

Written by Alexander Rasheed   Edited by Ishan Dey

[8]

A bead of sweat trickles slowly down your cheek. The blistering heat brings dreams of the balmy spring days that are not long past. Living through the hottest day in the history of England is not the idyllic paradise you imagined it would be, with cold drinks flowing like a waterfall and lively music blaring out of the old speaker you found in the corner of your room. Rather, it is a wearisome day of passing time whilst your house built for the insipid English winters becomes your personal sauna.

This was the experience of many, including myself, in the Summer of 2022 when the temperature reached 40.3 degrees Celsius on the 19th of July, the highest temperature ever recorded in the United Kingdom. According to Imperial College London this rare extreme heatwave event was made 10 times more likely by human caused climate change.[1]

Climate crisis is a phrase often thrown around. We have been seeing activists battling for increased action for many years and yet by now climate change has become normal to us, an everyday occurrence the politicians haven't dealt with yet. However, following the former Prime Minister's speech on the 20th of September 2023, the obscene lack of thought put into reaching net zero by the Conservative government has come to light.

So, what is meant by 'net zero'? It is defined as a target of completely negating the amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activity and the Conservatives have pledged to reach it by 2050. This goal being 27 years into the future certainly leaves them plenty of time however we should have started heading

towards net zero yesterday, not 10 years from now when the Conservatives decide it is time. We can see the effects of climate change already and they will only become worse given time to fester.

You may have heard of some of the policies Sunak claimed to have scrapped in the past year in relation to climate[2] : "a government diktat to sort your rubbish into seven different bins" , "taxes on eating meat" and "compulsory car sharing if you drive to work". It could be argued that in order to make it seem as though he is looking out for "hard pressed British families" he has pulled policies out of nowhere which have been directly opposed by two government departments - the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said it was never the case household's would need seven bins, while the Business Department said two years ago it had no plans to introduce a tax on meat.[3]

Furthermore, the former PM pushed back the 2030 ban on petrol and diesel car sales saying that these policies would "impose unacceptable costs", "costs that no one was ever told about". This latter part is some truth in his speech - we really were

[7]

never told about many of these ideas. Our former government pushed away our collective responsibility to do something about the state of our planet whilst pretending to help the poorest in our country by doing so. These people are having to live through a cost of living crisis — thanks in no small part to the negligence of our leaders and their short-sighted decisions.

And then, at the Conservative Party Conference in 2023, rather than focusing on the many troubles afflicting our country, Sunak instead spread transphobic rhetoric by saying "a man is a man and a woman is a woman, it is just common sense". [4] Do we truly want our country's highest authority to be someone so unaccepting of others and who doesn't tackle the climate threat we are all facing?

These show us that our cabinet does not truly care to help us reach net zero. Their nebulous claims for ages in the future and shabby attempts at appearing to care for the average citizen only reinforce many of the other scandals the Conservatives have gone through.

So, what other options do we have? The Labour Party have attacked Sunak's policy U-turns - claiming that they will help tackle the cost of living crisis by dealing with the climate crisis such as by implementing improved home insulation to reduce the cost of heating and also save on energy [6]. By delaying climate policies, England will be left in a cycle of cost of living crises and climate stagnation. Ed Miliband, secretary of state for energy security and net zero has supported Labour's stance and said "Every family is paying the price in higher energy bills. After Sunak's track record as chancellor with the disastrous green homes grant, this is another

shortsighted decision that will cost families money." [5]

This rebuttal has placed the Labour party in a better position than the Conservatives in terms of reaching net zero - especially considering Keir Starmer's promise to reach net zero electricity in Britain by 2030 at the 2023 Labour Party annual conference.[6] However this has been met with some apprehension, with experts believing that it is infeasible due to the slow start the UK has had to reduce our climate impact. Achieving this goal will mean the production of electricity in Britain - previously dominated by coal and gas — no longer contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. To get to this point, wind, solar and nuclear power must produce almost all of the U.K.'s electricity. Any CO_2 produced during electricity production will have to be balanced out by expensive, not fully implemented carbon capture technology to meet the goal. Should Starmer's goal be achieved, the stars would have to align.

What we have seen in the recent past is that the Conservatives and our other parties lack a concrete plan on what to do with our country. It could be viewed as a consequence of the rapid changes within parliament over the last year - no truly impactful policies can be put forward in time. To create a world that our grandchildren will still be able to live in we have to turn to watch the disaster that we have begun to bring down upon ourselves instead of running from it, before it becomes too much to be dealt with and a terrible reckoning shows us just how powerful our planet can be - rather than a mere heatwave.

<< Geography >>

Challenges to Sustainable Development in Canary Wharf

Written by Yuzhe Oh   Edited by Edwin John

We are living in a rapidly developing world. From the development of global air travel to reduced wealth and gender inequality, our quality of life in developed nations such as the UK has improved drastically. This is seen very clearly in London - we have abolished slum neighbourhoods from the 19th century and, more recently in the 21st century, allowed for regeneration and the development of East London to improve the quality of life for residents in that area. The recent appearance of Canary Wharf in East London as a regeneration project in the UK has been seen as a vast success - it's viewed as a booming financial district with clean streets and an increasingly thriving neighbourhood with tourist attractions which Londoners flock to.

However, Canary Wharf is far from flawless. In fact, increasingly difficult challenges have gotten in the way of continued sustainable development - our ongoing development has a secondary effect of compromising the needs of future generations. With such fast paced economic growth and prosperity in the region it is easy to forget to consider the longer-term effects and possible outcomes of current choices.

Most importantly, Canary Wharf faces social sustainability issues of high housing costs and costs of living, which is amplified by the prominence of foreign property buyers. Current housing prices place Canary Wharf properties at an average of £720,000 today: a staggering figure compared to the average UK property standing at £360,000 as of February 2023 (Bloomfield, 2022). This has gentrified the area, driving lower income households out of surrounding Poplar and the Isle of Dogs, but also making it even harder for local young first-time buyers to purchase a property in the area. Young local residents and lower income households are struggling to purchase locally (Martinson, 2018) and instead, young wealthy professionals from abroad and across various other areas in the UK are living in property in Canary Wharf. Statistics published by the real estate company Savills (2020) shows that 1/3 of Savills buyers in Canary Wharf were international, and just over 33% of households earned more than £100,000 per year – a staggering figure indicating the volume of gentrification Canary Wharf has undergone.

Foreign investment in London in general has been problematic: over 40% of London's prime property market has been bought up by foreign investors (MacFarlane, 2020), which has led to increasingly vacant properties and excess demand of Canary Wharf properties. Baltimore Tower, just south of Canary Wharf, has had 80% of its apartments purchased, despite having much more affordable properties starting at £400,000 (Booth, 2017) – still a largely unaffordable price for local lower income Tower Hamlets residents who rely on social housing. Foreign investments are crowding out the first-time buyer market and affordable properties such as the ones in Baltimore Wharf are increasingly difficult to get hold of by young British property buyers. Many more locals are also now worried about being "priced out" of their area - sustainability is threatened here as some residents now resort to HMOs in the Isle of Dogs or, as Wilkinson (2022) spoke about, people are "being forced to move from the neighbourhood [they] know and love." Communities full of engagement and activities are disbanded and instead a mundane, individual society is formed.

To combat this, tariffs and quotas could be implemented on foreign investment into the UK property market. Countries such as Canada and Switzerland have already put these in place, with Ontario imposing a 20 per cent annual tax on the value of any land owned by foreign investors (WOWA, 2022). If this was to be implemented in the UK, it could discourage foreign property buyers from buying up homes in London, reducing property demand and therefore prices of East London homes. In turn, social sustainability could be achieved as local residents would have a more certain future in their current residences

and would not worry about being priced out of the Isle of Dogs in the near future.

A reduced volume of social housing has also been seen as property developers, such as Berkeley Group in Canary Wharf, aim to maximise profits in their investments into Canary Wharf. This is best achieved by using the available space in buildings to construct much more luxurious penthouses and apartments rather than social housing, which will not have nearly as large a return in investment. Ferguson (2022) highlights the lack of social housing in her investigation by stating "The London Tenants Federation found that across London, over the last decade, just under 23,000 social-rented homes were demolished, while only 12,050 were built." This is problematic as it has resulted in a lack of affordable properties in Canary Wharf despite the increasing rate of property development in the area. It also threatens socially sustainable development all across London as social housing has been increasingly demanded, with a waiting list of around 10,000 tenants in Tower Hamlets alone. This shows the scale of the demand of social housing – more should be done to reduce the gap between available social housing and how much social housing is needed.

The Canary Wharf residential group has increased the volume of social housing constructed in response to this. In Wood Wharf, 300 affordable apartments to rent have been built in the Harbord Gardens complex which are at 80% of local market rates. This would help increase sustainability - it allows lower income households to access Canary Wharf property at a reduced rate and therefore reduce the impacts of gentrification in Canary Wharf.

In addition to support social and economic sustainability in the area, the Canary Wharf group also needs to provide job opportunities in the secondary sector in the surrounding area to achieve sustainability by increasing diversity going forwards. Gentrification of lower paying jobs is bound to take place with increasingly fast development and, as Canary Wharf aims to be the main economic hub of an already global city, the expansion of the finance sector in Canary Wharf is its main focus instead of providing other tertiary or secondary sector jobs. However, Tower Hamlets remains one of the most deprived boroughs of London. In the IMD analysis of Tower Hamlets (2015), it was stated that "deprivation is widespread in Tower Hamlets: more than half (58%) of the borough's 144 Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the most deprived 20% of LSOAs in England, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation." Also, sectors such as the education sector and small businesses who do not work in the office are being forced out of Canary Wharf, meaning that a lack of schools is plaguing the younger population of the Isle of Dogs: according to Martinson (2018), "There is one 11-18 school on the Isle of Dogs, George Green comprehensive." Local residents are unable to get a job in Canary Wharf due to the lack of education.

Further to this, non-financial sector jobs are being increasingly provided and encouraged by Canary Wharf group. 179,000 jobs in the Isle of Dogs are provided by Canary Wharf including in areas such as catering and construction; the retail sector has particularly been focused on not only as a form of diversification of sector away from finance but also to sell food for over 180,000 people who are in walking distance of the Wharf

(Carnegie, 2022). The effect of having a booming retail sector is evident - many workers and local residents flock to Jubilee Place Mall or Crossrail Place during lunchtimes and evenings, and this has created a vibrant atmosphere. Retail of not only food but clothing has appeared recently too: JD, Asics, Lululemon have all opened outlets in Canary Wharf. It is a clear indication of a sustainable scheme which has been successful in creating job diversity and a culture in the district, whilst not hindering the level of financial development in the area. This shows that it is possible to be economically sustainable whilst not hindering the main sector of a local economy.

In conclusion, increasingly rapid development has posed numerous challenges and opportunity costs to areas. In Canary Wharf, new issues threatening sustainable development have demanded the attention of the Canary Wharf group, and the sustainability problem of the affordability crisis is further amplified by the current economic situation: inflation has drastically increased cost of living in the previous years, and this has accelerated gentrification and worsened inequality in East London. On the other hand, extremely successful solutions taken by Canary Wharf have shown that sustainable development is achievable by focussing on what is most important to local residents. By aiding local social issues such as rising costs of living and gentrification, a diverse thriving community is created which transcends all financial benefits a business district may bring. Sustainable development is conquerable - social and economic challenges to development can be overcome.

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