



THE WILSON'S INTRIGUE

Humanities Issue 1: Jan 2021

ECONOMICS

Nudges and Grudges

PHILOSOPHY

Sustainable Ethics

GEOGRAPHY

Damming the Sea

POLITICS

Dividing Society

Introduction

The Importance of Humanities

Learning about the humanities is fundamental in helping us understand ourselves, others, and society as a whole, by teaching us about the history and cultures of the earth as well as how to think, argue, and express our ideas. Humanities help us understand and analyse many of the problems we face in our everyday lives and give us the power to solve disputes and make positive change for society as a whole.

Acknowledgements

The magazine could not be the quality that it is without the journalism of the writers and the hours the editors have put in, meticulously combing the magazine so a massive thank you to all students involved.

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If you would like to write in the second issue of the humanities magazine to delve and explore a humanities subject of your choice, please email me (Divy) at DAYALD@wilsonsschool.sutton.sch.uk for more information.

The team of writers and editors is very proud to welcome you to our first issue, written for students by students.



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“All money is a matter of belief.”

- Adam Smith



How Millions are Made in the Stock Market

By Adam Ali (Y12)

We've all lain in bed in the dark, unable to sleep, pondering our future of chasing down a salary year after year and running away from mortgage payments. Of course you can become rich by having a secure job, but by the time that happens, the best part of your life is over. If you type how to get rich quick into Google, you get books from the likes of Trump and other entrepreneurs proclaiming that the secret to getting rich is contained in their very own book; other results include hip and trendy “social influencers” using YouTube to share the secrets behind their economic success. In this article, I will give you some insight on a more concrete way that many people have used to get rich quick: the stock market.

What is the Stock Market?

Wikipedia tells us that the “stock market, **equity** market or share market is the **aggregation** of buyers and sellers of stocks which represent ownership claims on a business” ^[1]. Essentially, being a shareholder means that you have some ownership in the equity of the firm, as well as voting rights at **AGMs** for example. Stock markets are where individual and **institutional** investors come together to buy and sell shares in a public venue. Nowadays these exchanges exist as electronic marketplaces, but brokers may go to a trading floor (a circular building where brokers can go on behalf of the client). Nearly every country has its own exchange because so many countries have their own currency, and so there are multiple stock exchanges, the most notable being the New York

Stock Exchange (NYSE), NASDAQ, and the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE). For those of you who have watched the Wolf of Wall Street, a “pink sheet” listing are companies that are not listed on major exchanges like the ones mentioned. The majority of stocks sold over the counter (OTC) by telephone for example, are low-priced penny stocks, meaning that they trade for prices as low as \$0.05 to \$0.10. OTC stocks are beneficial since they have lower transaction costs and because they are for smaller companies, meaning that each share represents a bigger stake. However investing in these are risky since the companies are going to just be starting out, and might not make you much money at first.

There are three basic investment strategies:

Value Investing: Investors seek stocks they believe are undervalued. They look for stocks with prices they believe don't fully reflect the intrinsic value of the **security**. Value investing is predicated, in part, on the idea that some degree of irrationality exists in the market. This irrationality, in theory, presents opportunities to get a stock at a discounted price and make money from it. Warren Buffet, net worth \$78.2bn ^[2], is the epitome of the value investor, having **positions** in United, American, Southwest and Delta Air Lines that accumulated to somewhere north of \$4bn ^[3], and only recently selling them amidst the coronavirus pandemic. The **price:earnings**



ratio (P/E) has become the primary tool for quickly identifying undervalued or cheap stocks. A lower P/E ratio signifies you're paying less per \$1 of current earnings. Value investors seek companies with a low P/E ratio.

Growth Investing: Rather than look for low-cost deals, growth investors want investments that offer strong upside potential when it comes to the future earnings of stocks. It could be said that a growth investor is often looking for the "next big thing." You may ask, for example, if there's a future for electric vehicles before investing in Tesla. Or, you may wonder if A.I. will become a fixture of everyday living before investing in a technology company. There must be evidence of a widespread and robust appetite for the company's services or products if it's going to grow.

Momentum Investing: These investors ride the wave. They believe winners keep winning and losers keep losing. They look to buy stocks experiencing an uptrend. Because they believe losers continue to drop, they may choose to **short-sell** those securities. But short-selling is an exceedingly risky practice. Short selling is where you borrow a share, let's say priced at \$100. You then sell it, so you gain \$100. The price then reduces next week to say \$60, and you decide to buy back that share, since you have to return the share that you borrowed originally. In the process, you have gained a profit of $\$100 - \$60 = \$40$. This is called shorting, but is risky as the price may increase rather than decrease, so technically your losses are limitless.

Trading Success Stories

Jesse Lauriston Livermore was an American stock investor known for trading his personal account to over \$100 million during the 1929 Great Depression — a feat which earned him the nickname, the Great Bear of Wall Street ^[4]. He was born in 1877 in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts to a very poor family. After his family moved to start an agricultural business, Jesse ran away to

Boston and became involved with stocks at the young age of 14. He enrolled at a **brokerage firm** in Boston posting stock quotes. He would make his own price projections and note them, and compare them with the real value later to see how accurate he was. Convinced of his accuracy, in 1892 (when he was only 15) he started putting his price projections into use by making bets at a bucket shop. In a short time, he was making more money from his bets than he earned from Paine Webber. He quit his job and continued betting. In no time, he has made enough money to move to Wall Street and start his investing career in earnest. His first big profit arrived in 1901 when he bought shares of Northern Pacific and made over 400% profit. From his experiences, he was skilled in identifying stocks that would make great moves and was never afraid to go short on stocks he thought would fall. The authorities caught onto some of his moves, for example when he tried to buy all the stocks in cotton during the 1907 and 1919 **bear market**. But his most notable trade was when he predicted the bear market that would follow during the 1929 Great Depression, and so amassed huge short positions, ballooning his account to over \$100 million.

A more recent success story includes Timothy Kim, who is a self-made millionaire who made his fortune by investing in the stocks. The young millionaire investor simply adhered to the advice of his college professor who also became rich by investing in the stock market. Following the professor's advice, he (a 19-year-old student then) started saving from the little money he was earning as a campus employee. When he saved up to \$1,000, he invested it in stocks. As his initial investments started growing, he continued buying more stocks with any extra money, and he soon hit the \$1 million mark last year.

The Implication of Coronavirus on Stocks

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, it is obvious that many of the stocks have crashed. On Monday, 24 February 2020, the **Dow Jones Industrial Average** and **FTSE 100** dropped more than 3% as the coronavirus outbreak spread worsened substantially outside China over the weekend. On 28 February 2020, stock markets worldwide reported their largest single-week declines since the 2008 financial crisis. Overall, stock markets declined over 30% by March, and **volatilities** of equities and oil have spiked to crisis levels ^[5]. However, many stocks which have plummeted will experience a rebound affect once things start to return to normal, allowing investors to buy stocks at their lowest point and sell them once they increase again. For example, Apple stock completely fell off at the end of March and beginning of April.



It dropped as low as \$224.37 a share ^[6]. Fortunately, it's starting to regain its momentum at the perfect time. As things begin to reopen, more of their stores will be reopening, and with the release of the iPhone 12, the stock price is set to increase. Another American stock that has increased recently includes Home Depot—with more and more people working from home, home improvement projects are becoming more popular.

Has the Stock Market Moved On From COVID-19?

Year-to-date performance of major U.S. stock market indices as of June 10, 2020



Source: Yahoo! Finance



statista

Investing in the stock market strategically is by all means an excellent way to increase your income. Many have done it before and many will do it in the future. It is important to note that you can lose as much as you stand to gain, but by having patience and self-belief you are more likely to succeed. Common traits of the successful individuals mentioned included the idea that they were strict with their spending—many people like to take out a set amount of their salary each year to invest in the stock market, the fact that it is an automated payment means that they are less likely to go wild with their investments. As young people, if you are interested in the stocks, conduct your own research into the world of investment banking, trading etc. There are multiple apps which you can use to get experience, including free virtual simulators that take real time information and allow you to invest with virtual money. Millions are made every day and hopefully this was a useful insight to this new market.

Edited by Shahzeb Ahmed

Glossary:

Equity market—An equity market is a market in which shares of companies are issued and traded, either through exchanges or over-the-counter markets.

Aggregation—compiling of traders

AGM—an annual general meeting, in which board members can be voted in

Institutional investors—a company or organization that invests money on behalf of other people.

Securities—a tradable financial asset (most commonly a share)

Position—the amount of a security, commodity or currency which is owned by an individual

P/E ratio—share price divided by earnings per share

Shorting—investing in such a way that the investor will profit if the value of the asset falls

Brokerage firm—financial institutions that help you buy and sell securities. They act as the middle man between the buyer and the seller.

Bear markets—bear market exists in an economy that is receding, where most stocks are declining in value (opposite of bull)

Dow Jones Industrial Average—a stock market index that measures the stock performance of 30 large companies listed on stock exchanges in the United States.

FTSE 100—a share index of the 100 companies by capital value, listed on the London Stock Exchange with the highest market capitalisation

Volatilities—a reflection of the degree to which price moves



What Is The Socially Efficient Level Of Crime?

By Divy Dayal (Y12)

Shortlisted for John Locke Institute Economics Prize 2020

C rime. Crime is synonymous with deceit, vengeance, and greed. And why shouldn't it be? With 6.3 million crimes recorded between June 2018 and June 2019 in the UK ^[1], too many lives are irreparably marred due to the improprieties of others. To put it simply, quality of life and crime are inversely correlated, and thus for a socially efficient society (thus best living standards), crime should be minimal, ideally absent.

At least, that is the answer most people would give, but I disagree. Crime is fundamental to the wellbeing of the population; crime is the margin, the last resort, the baseline. It sets the standard for the rest of society to better. Having a certain level of crime is just as important as having a modest turnover rate in a business or deadheading rose bushes – all encourage new healthy growth and improve the average.

Do we Need Crime?

Before discussing which crimes are beneficial, a small note should be made to the types of crimes: personal crimes, white-collar crimes, victimless crimes, organised crime, hate crime, and crime against property ^[2]. These six types are usually detrimental - however, in certain instances (see later) they can recoup the damage typically if there is genuine good intention behind the crime.

Talking about crime is incredibly difficult without risking offence to anyone who has unfortunately been a victim to any of them, and all of my sympathies are with them. However, I would like to encourage and discuss alternative perspectives, such as the one I am offering. As Nobel Laureate Robert Lucas put it, "The consequences for human welfare involved in questions like these are simply staggering: once one starts to think about them, it is hard to think about anything else" ^[3].

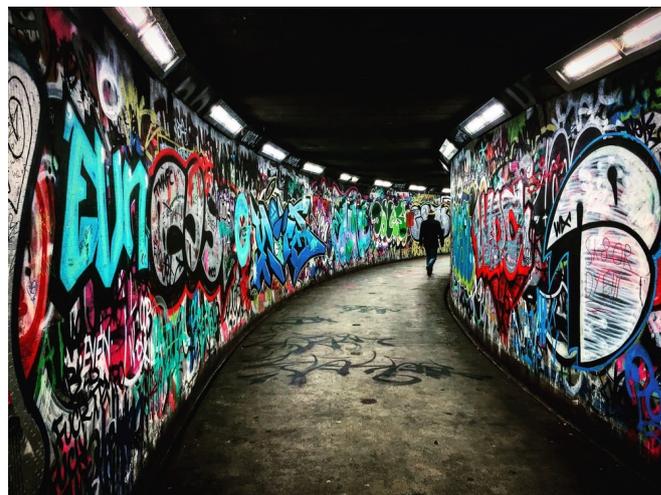
Before we imagine a world with a perfect level of crime, we must imagine a world with no crime. It isn't the utopia you might think it would be. Crime, by definition, is an illegal act that is punishable by law, especially against morality ^[4]. A world of no crime would not be one where everyone adheres to perfect morals, but rather a chaotic world where immoral actions are not punished. Human behaviour is a spectrum, ranging from the immoral to saintly actions, and in a world of no crime, none of the immoral actions would be looked down upon. A world of no crime is a world of acceptance, where every person just accepts the misbehaviour of others as their misfortune. And this is a problem, since the benefits that society reaps from crimes would be eradicated.

Certain crimes are very useful. For example:

- Corporate/loophole crime is fundamental to making a country's legislation stronger and tighter (e.g. tax avoidance), making a more

level playing field for new businesses (providing competition to existing firms so that only the most efficient firms remain – in turn creating a stronger economy).

- If there is a problem with the law that hinders the wellbeing of the public, they will unite to demand change (social benefits such as community spirit help to improve wellbeing) ^[5].
- Throughout history, social reform has taken place only due to rebellious activities that were punishable by law at the time - whether this was sitting at the front of the bus, throwing crates of tea, setting LA ablaze or attacking Bastille ^[6].



Having now determined how useful crimes can be, we need to look at a world with high levels of crime. This is in fact a world of denial, where it is every family for themselves. We don't need to fantasise since we can see it in Cameroon, which Tim Harford describes: "In 1999 it was the most corrupt country surveyed...because Cameroon is massively corrupt at every level and does not just target foreigners" ^[7].



Cameroon is possibly the best example known to a world with sky-high crime, where all types of corruption can be found, and it is a world of denial, irresponsibility, and lack of accountability for corporate, governmental and individual actions. Every taxi driver will alter the fare to squeeze out as much cash as possible; the side effect being that honest drivers simply cannot operate since they do not have a sustainable income. This leads to an even more corrupt nation – an evolution of sorts. As the economist Mancur Olson theorises ^[8], imagine a dictator with a tenure of one week who takes whatever he wishes and leaves. If he is purely self-interested, he has no incentive to leave anything. This is the same with taxi drivers (the dictator) and passengers (the unfortunate nation).

This is also a positive feedback loop, and little can be done to stop it. The main impacts of such criminal behaviour are that there is no stability, there is no trust and there is simply no plan – everything is done on a day to day basis where each person fend for themselves. As Yuval Noah Harari mentions in his book 'Sapiens', "What enables banks – and the entire economy – to survive and flourish is our trust in the future. This trust is the sole backing for most of the money in the world" ^[9]. The real-world implication of this is that there is little economic growth (GDP growth shrank by 13% between 1986 and 1988 in Cameroon) ^[10].

What is fundamental to understand when trying to find the right level of crime is to recognise the distinction between moral and immoral crime ^[11]. Any philosopher will debate this - however, they will agree that the law is not the source of morality, since the law can be fallible. Regardless of whether one considers books and texts or ethical theories as the source of morality, one believes that their source is correct (thus the adherence). Law, on the other hand, does not make something moral or immoral (since it isn't infallible), it simply makes things legal or illegal. Most of us think the majority of the law is moral, but the key is that not all of it is, allowing for moral illegal crimes. These crimes, I believe,



are the only crimes that we need for a socially efficient world to function best. Through the years small tweaks and changes have made the law the best thing we have to a universal, all-encompassing moral code, and thus we need these constant tweaks and changes resulted from moral-illegal crimes to make a better moral code. Simply put, moral crimes demand change, and this change typically increases social efficiency.

Crime tends to make people worse off than they started. I would like to use the story of a robber, successfully thieving from a family home. The immediate conclusion would be to believe that this is not beneficial for anybody – the family must check their security, call the police, file for an insurance claim, check their belonging, trauma and the robber has a lingering fear of being caught. However, this crime could be moral, if the family were, in fact, tyrannical oligarchs who made 1000 people homeless. The stolen item was bread so that the thief could keep his family fed. While philosophers will argue endlessly on the morality of this, this outcome will be more efficient, since the family will hardly notice the missing loaf (and could get another one), whilst the thief's family will be fed for the day. It is a better distribution of resources.

A Focus on Social Efficiency

Socially efficient production is when the level of output is the most efficient; where the marginal social benefit of producing and consuming one more product will be less efficient - i.e. something is improved without harming anybody else ^[12]. How does this apply to crime? A socially efficient level of crime is when the most people benefit from crime, and where one extra crime is going to be worse off for society ^[13]. Current levels of crime around the world are far from ideal and I believe that typical ideas of crime (thuggery, domestic abuse and arson etc.) should be absent - if not minimal - for a socially efficient society. However, moral crimes (as outlined above) should be valid and encouraged since they are the result of strong motive. They demand change and/or are the result of business strategy for which they need to be rewarded (which will encourage businesses to invest greatly into efficient growth rather than rapid growth) ^[14].

'A transaction is socially efficient if it considers costs and benefits associated with the transaction – that is, the social costs and benefits ^[15].' This shows that social efficiency creates the best distribution of tangible resources. Socially efficiency is one of the best concepts economics has, but it has shortcomings. One of them is the time frame in which the efficiency is measured.



Taking the raid at Stonewall Inn ^[16] and the riots and demonstrations that ensued as our example, in the short term there was a lot of pain, trauma and arrests, but if we increase the timescale to modern-day, we can see that people's lives have improved thanks to the initial cost. Playing with the timeframe can make the concept of socially efficient society seem like utilitarianism, but the nuanced difference is that the latter is about utility – the maximum happiness. Suppose an action can make either one person ten (arbitrary) units happy or two people three units happy - utilitarianism will prioritise the one person. On the other hand, a socially efficient society would prioritise the three people since it is a better distribution of resources. There is happiness for greater people; a greater weight on the number of people helped.

What can we do with this?

Kenneth Arrow's (a Nobel Prize winner in economic sciences) solution for social justice ^[17], coined by Tim Harford as the 'Head Start Theorem', ^[7] deserves a notable mention. This theorem is about how to adjust markets such that they are most efficient, avoiding variable taxation since this can deter sales from taking place. Arrow suggests a lump-sum tax and subsidies give equal footing to firms in a competitive industry.

This can be applied to avoid repeated crime: criminals are given incentives (subsidy equivalents) to remain 'clean' and if they do not, harsher sanctions take place. This can be seen in Norwegian style prisons, where everything from architecture to hospitality is regarded highly. Efforts are made for guards to socialise with inmates, and for there to be a healthy atmosphere in the common rooms so that prisoners don't feel startled when they return to daily life. Typical belief would be to think this is a waste of resources, but closer inspection indicates that if people believe that this relative comfort is the baseline, they can and must better this. Moreover, as Gudrun Molden (a prison architect) ^[18] puts it: 'you don't want an annoyed lost criminal to enter back to society'.

For there to be a socially efficient society, there must be a system whereby criminals and society are better off after the crime. Looking from a criminal's perspective, if prisons are like the luxury they are in Norway, there will be an initial rise in crime simply because some criminals who are self-interested (and are criminals due to poverty) will find the living standards better in prisons than their current measures. However, the long-term impacts of this (and this feeds well into our new current long-term perspective) are that more criminals are off the road. They have been rehabilitated and taken care of, such that they now contribute to society

and economy. This benefits society and criminals and is a perfect example of how social efficiency being increased.

Conclusion

Deadheading rose bushes is fundamental to prosper new growth since the removal of spent flowers encourages new growth. However, not all are deadheaded, so that they can form rose hips. Similarly, a socially efficient society would invest resources to minimise crimes by investing in prisons such that they are transformative and help prisoners re-enter society in a better light. However, the base crime rate is fundamental to keep society progressing and evolving. The success of all initiatives done by governments and societies to maintain such a level of crime must be closely monitored, since it depends entirely on the execution of such theories - as well as the fact that while crime and quality of life are correlated, they may not be in a cause-effect relationship, and both may be effects of an independent factor. Moreover, investment in anticrime has diminishing returns if done properly and thus monitoring is needed to ensure that anticrime measures are not equivalent to pouring water into the sea. All in all, the crime rate should be minimal and moral crimes should be encouraged to sustain a society with the best use of resources – social efficiency.

Edited by Aaron Stace

Glossary:

Improprieties – failure to observe standards of behaviour or modesty

Positive feedback loop – a process that occurs such that the result leads to the process repeating but at a greater magnitude

Fallible – capable of making mistakes and being wrong

Stonewall Inn – Riots in 1969, which were a turning point in the provision of rights and services to members of the LGBT community, that were in response to police raids at the Stonewall Inn.



SALE

Nudge Theory: Effective or Not? Ethical or Not?

By Kinshuk Jain (Y12)

It is common practice for manufacturers to plaster reviews and awards across product pages, and mostly people think nothing of it. This seemingly simple action actually elicits a complex decision-making process in the consumer's brain, and it all boils down to a fascinating concept of behavioural economics: nudge theory.

The nudge theory proposes the concept of indirect suggestions, made by a choice architect, influencing the economic decision-making of a group or individual (a choice architect is simply an entity that uses nudge techniques to encourage a certain behaviour).

Nudge theory was suggested by American economists Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein, who defined it as "any aspect of the choice architecture [the different ways that choices can be presented to consumers] that alters people's behaviour in a predictable way without forbidding any options or significantly changing their economic incentives" ^[1]. This theory can be used to showcase and analyse some of the intricacies behind the plainest decisions that we make on a daily basis.

Thaler and Sunstein based the theory largely on the heuristics work carried out by Israeli American psychologists Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky. Heuristics are psychological rules of decision that allow humans to make rapid choices without considering all available information. In other words, they are instinctive choices made by the brain that are often mistaken. Nudging works by either exploiting or overriding these heuristics, of which there are hundreds. Some of the principal examples in relation to nudge theory include:

Heuristic	Explanation
Availability	How common something seems – the greater the perceived commonness, the greater the sense of trust.
Inertia	The avoidance of complex tasks such as reading small print or terms and conditions.
Framing	Information can be presented in ways that change the way we perceive it. For instance, juxtaposition can be used to exaggerate the attractiveness of a proposition.
Conforming	Also known as herd mentality; "following the crowd" as a result of the human need for societal approval.
Feedback	When making a decision, people are often influenced by feedback from other people.
Selective Cognition	The tendency to only absorb facts that fit with our existing ideas.
Risk bias and optimism	Underestimating challenges or costs and overestimating our ability to cope with them.
Temptation	A bias towards short term, as opposed to long term, reward.

Nudge theory was originally intended for the government to use in order to improve society, in particular to positively influence public interactions with financial systems.

Enforced Change	Nudge Techniques
Confrontational	Indirect and technical
Prone to resistance	Likely to yield cooperation
Requires a conscious effort to change by those who are affected	Less disruptive to those who are affected



However, it is also an incredibly convenient tool for businesses, and can be applied both to achieve growth and also to motivate workers, given its considerable advantages over enforced change (where the choice element is removed, for instance a rule change from an employer or a change in law by the government).

Nudge theory has strong links to Maslow's motivational theory and McGregor's XY theory as, unlike enforced changes, any behavioural changes caused occur at the employee's own will, which makes them feel more respected. Using nudge techniques as opposed to enforcing change comes under esteem as a result of the freedom that employees retain.



Real-world Examples of Nudge Theory Used in Public Policy

UK Pension Policy: In 2012, the Government made it compulsory for employers to create an “automatic enrolment scheme” for their pension schemes^[2], in order to tackle low saving rates amongst private sector workers. This meant that workers would automatically be placed onto the workplace pension scheme unless they formally opted out. The logic behind this was that people did actually want to save money for retirement but hesitated from doing this as they feared making complex financial decisions (the inertia heuristic). The result of introducing this opt-out scheme was a sharp increase in membership of private sector pension schemes from 10.7 million employees in 2012 to 18.7 million in 2018^[3].

Organ donation: In France and Spain, organ donation is an opt-out scheme. On 20th May 2020, the UK also made the switch from opt-in to opt-out^[4]. This nudge works in the same way as the pension policy nudge.

Behavioural Insights Team: In 2010, the coalition government formed the Behavioural Insights Team (known informally as the “Nudge Unit”) to use nudge methods in a bid to reduce the impact of social issues. This has resulted in successful nudges of tax payments, charity donations and electoral participation.

Real-world Examples of Nudge Theory Used in Commercial Policy

Up-selling: In fast food restaurants, servers are trained to up-sell by offering additional options with your meal,

including drinks and deserts – these are generally the most profitable part of the meal.

Placement of products: a supermarket may place healthier food items at eye level in order to nudge consumers towards a more nutritional option.

Displaying trust: by prominently displaying positive reviews of a brand or product, businesses can exploit the feedback heuristic to nudge consumers to buy a good.

Sales figures: firms can show how many of their items were sold in a period of time to exploit the availability and conforming heuristics.

Special offers: firms may offer a temporary free subscription, which requires you to provide credit card details for automatic billing once the free period is over. Cancelling the subscription before the end of the free period often requires conscious effort from the consumer, such as by calling the company, which leads to many people putting off the cancellation and eventually being billed.

Advantages of Nudge Theory

The principal advantage of nudge theory is the retention of freedom – the final decision for any proposition lies firmly in the hands of the person or group being nudged, compared to other tactics that enforce changes and can usually create some resentment. The nudge is simply a guide in a given direction that may or may not be heeded. Thaler and Sunstein refer to nudge theory as “libertarian paternalism”^[1], adding that “when [they] use the term *libertarian* to modify the word *paternalism*, [they] simply mean liberty-preserving.”^[1]

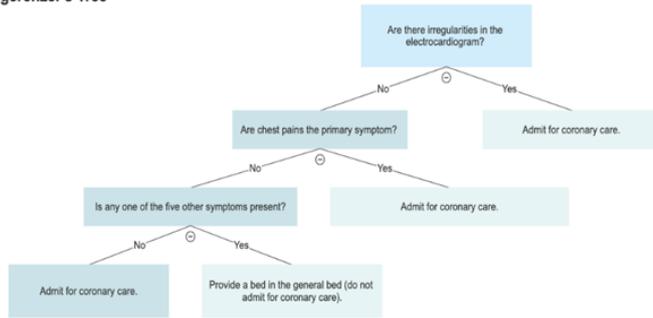
Additionally, nudge techniques are often low-cost methods of reducing the impact of social issues, as exemplified by the work conducted by the UK Behavioural Insights Team.

Finally, any biological characteristic of humans works best in the context for which it evolved – the same applies to heuristics. This means that heuristics are best suited to the context of human life tens of thousands of years ago. However, the human context has dramatically changed even over the last two hundred years – we cannot keep relying on heuristics which are based on an outdated way of life, and we need a nudge in the right direction to help us override these psychological rules where required.



Disadvantages of Nudge Theory

Gigerenzer's Tree



The decision tree devised by Gigerenzer and a team of medics.

The work of psychologist Gerd Gigerenzer highlights a flaw with the concept of nudging:

Gigerenzer gives the example of “fast and frugal” decision making, which is based on the take-the-best heuristic (discriminating between alternatives to estimate which has the higher value). He worked with a team of medics to create a simple decision tree to help doctors use the best information to rapidly assess whether patients should be admitted for coronary care due to a risk of heart attack.

This simple and quick decision tree was proven to be more accurate than a computer programme which considered around 50 pieces of information^[5]. Given this, Gigerenzer thought that we should embrace that we are heuristic men, rather than rational men. This led Gigerenzer to disagree with economists who believed that humans are unable to compute risk as a result of heuristics and need to be nudged into more optimal behaviour.

Gigerenzer believed that overriding our heuristics with nudges is not the way forward, rather we should nur-

The Bottom Line

I believe that there is a fine line between ethical and unethical nudges. Whilst nudges can be criticised as paternalistic, it is difficult to argue that they infringe on freedom, given that those being nudged generally retain full liberty and control over the final decision. It is only when businesses use nudging to target more vulnerable people such as the elderly or children (the classical example being sweets at the till in supermarkets) that I argue it is unethical and leads to some reduction in the consumer’s freedom. It could also be the case that opting out is a difficult or time-consuming process, in which case, once again, a degree of freedom is removed, and I would consider the nudge unethical.

In terms of how effective nudge theory is, I believe that whether it is better to promote “risk-savvy”^[6] heuristic behaviour or behavioural nudges is a purely situational argument. The path ahead lies in a fine balance between the two based on an understanding of the circumstances in which each approach is more effective.

Edited by Nicholas James

ture our heuristics and support them by developing basic skills in risk assessment. He summarised his idea with this statement: “what we need is not just better technology, bigger bureaucracy and stricter laws that limit individual freedom, but risk-savvy citizens^[6].”

Another potential disadvantage is that nudge techniques are not always firm enough to have the desired effect; that is, there are certain situations in which an enforced change would be more beneficial to society. A classic example would be addictive goods, such as cigarettes – if someone is addicted to smoking, no amount of “smoking kills” labels will stop them from smoking. This has led to the use of taxation (tobacco duty)^[7] in order to fund the increased stress on public services including the NHS caused by tobacco use.



Cigarettes are now no longer allowed to advertise, and must have warning labels on the front of the pack

It could also be argued that the nudge theory is a piecemeal approach to influencing socially or environmentally detrimental behaviour. For example, encouraging home insulation is, in itself, beneficial to the environment. However, the money saved from having a more efficient home may be spent on a diesel-powered car, or a cruise, or any other carbon-emitting process which would reduce, or even reverse, the net gain to the environment.



How to Learn from Miracle Economies

By Matthew Mannix (Y12)



Two cities that saw economic miracles: Berlin (left) and Tokyo (right)

An economic miracle is when a period of dramatic economic development is “entirely unexpected or unexpectedly strong” ^[1]. As we can see for each slight variance one key term stands out - the idea of the unexpected.

In the twentieth century, there were two outstanding economic miracles - the post war growth of both Japan (and several other eastern states which used its early model) and West Germany. In each case, although at the time their growth and development looked miraculous, there were certainly key ideas and a mindset that prevailed above all others, and as such we have the benefit of being able to see (albeit imperfectly) the cause of dramatic economic development in this way.

In Japan after the second world war (and perhaps more importantly the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima) there was a collective feeling of guilt and shame, or at least the idea that the country must conform with the west in order to succeed. As such, the entire country was able to embrace the idea of economic success, as opposed to military dominance (Japan has no standing army to this day), and the results speak for themselves. In half a century, Japanese life expectancy went from 52.01 (1947) ^[2] to 81.08 (2000) - for comparison British life expectancy in 1951 was 68.95 whereas in 2001 it was 78.30 ^[3] - increase at a third of the rate.

In post-war Germany, the economic miracle was also quite similar (although perhaps not as extreme). In fact, the German economy had really been booming already due to the massive demand for weapons and other goods in expansionist Nazi Germany, and was one of the first countries to have an industrial revolution. However, after the war Germany was in a state called Stunde Null (Zero Hour) whereby the whole economy had to be rebuilt from scratch - the real miracle was that they effectively recovered and even prospered off the back of this massive hardship.

In each of these cases of an ‘economic miracle’, key ideas were used to cause and maintain growth. One such idea

was some level of (moderate) state control in private sectors which allowed for growth that benefitted the whole country, as opposed to just a company - an idea conspicuously absent from today’s idea of an efficient economy. For example, in Germany the state owns significant parts of major banks (15.6% of Commerzbank ^[4]) which allows for direct control of capital and more say in its usage, which in turn allows for better monitored and more efficiently used capital. Furthermore, some companies are part owned by states in Germany directly - the key example of this is that Lower Saxony owns 12.7% of the entire VW Group ^[4].





Volkswagen T1

This means that the company has a consistent shareholder, no matter what, and thus its economic stability is far greater than that of the competition, and as such (along with excellent business management) it has allowed VW to continue to grow and grow, buying up smaller competitors and increasing its efficiency constantly. This is a key trend when we look at the recent history of the German economy, and one that is repeated in many other examples besides this one.

With a similar idea achieved through different means, the Japanese used cross-ownership of shares between companies in order to main-

tain stability of capital and thus cause stable growth consistently over a long period. This sounds counter-intuitive, yet in fact makes a lot of sense. By investing in their competitors, they forfeit the ability to dominate a market, but ensure the stability and size of the industry by reducing the number of free-floating shareholders – thus, the industry is able to sustainably employ more people and be more efficient, stimulating the economy as a whole. While this is quite a unique example, formed partially due to the cultural history of Japan, it is merely a different facet of the same idea. Reducing free-floating shareholders in a company in favour of those with a greater stake in its outcome, such as those in government, another company in the industry or even the employees themselves, causes slower immediate returns but also allows for much greater

sustained economic development; indeed, what we would call an economic boom.

However, that is not to say that these were the only causes of these economic miracles; there were many factors other than these which had a large influence on the economic success of these two countries. Yet if we look at a large number of countries which experienced such economic success, from the USA in the 1950s to Italy in the 1890s, in each case the country used state intervention to enable more sustained economic development in useful areas of economy - especially the USA, which has had strict tariffs for the extent of its existence, despite the pressure it places on other countries to embrace a fully free market. But that is another article unto itself.

Overall, this article is more to introduce to you the idea that the way we look at economics in the modern era is very focussed, with far too little emphasis on understanding past mistakes or successes, and to encourage you to look backwards, not just forwards.

Edited by Shahzeb Ahmed





BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro

Earthly Powers by Anthony Burgess

A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess

English and MFL

Oktoberfest

How useful traditions really are? **p20**

Glottophobia

Discrimination of the accents **p22**

"We never tire of the friendship we form with books."

- Charles Dickens



Analysing Killing Eve

By Shahzeb Ahmed (Y12)

BBC America's *Killing Eve* is one of the most successful television dramas of recent years, combining interesting character work with gripping, witty story writing and multi-Bafta winning performances.

Based around Eve Polastri, a secret service agent in London, and Villanelle, a prolific assassin who operates internationally, the show has seen three seasons of arresting writing, with each season bringing the pair closer together, as their obsession with one and other only intensifies.

The Obsession

It begins with Eve, her colleagues and her superiors at MI5 learning of a highly skilled assassin operating in numerous countries across Europe. As Eve finds out more about this psychopath and their impossibly effortless murders, she becomes obsessed and it becomes her sole focus, letting it spill into her personal and home life too. Her job and family are shown to be relatively normal but we feel her yearning for more, for a challenge. Her addiction to this psychopath is written in an interesting way, as it's nearly impossible to know where it's rooted. Emphasised as an almost primal

obsession, could this be an admiration of Villanelle's crimes?

Phoebe Waller-Bridge, however, plays it cool, not rushing to a clear explanation even at the end of her tenure in season one. Eve becomes reckless in her pursuit of Villanelle, letting her relationship with her colleagues and her own husband fall as her infatuation rises. Within this obsession we see her distress bleed out as she questions who she is, made even more poignant by how confident and happy she was in her life before learning of Villanelle. As the first season progresses and her obsession interferes with her life, we see emotions intertwine and layer as elements of anger, resentment yet ardent curiosity fuel her desire to meet Villanelle in person.

Meanwhile, in Moscow, Villanelle has found that Eve is trying to track her down and eventually becomes obsessed with her too, playing out particularly strangely when this obsession is combined with her need to evade the attention of the secret services, as a criminal.

Interestingly, despite the many weird and wonderful crimes our psychopath has committed (including her signature 'stabbing-my-victim-with-a-hair-pin-just-



because-I-can' move) her elegance and iconic style as a character outweighs her horrific criminal acts: a very impressive feat of character writing.

Villanelle is written particularly offbeat, with the writers avoiding the black and white straightforward portrayal of the compulsive behaviours of a psychopath so often shown on television. Unlike Eve, she doesn't go out of her way to learn more about the British spy following her crimes, but instead sees it almost as if it were a game. As a trained assassin, the writing is on the wall when it comes to understanding the emotions and experiences that Villanelle isn't familiar with, making it all the more interesting watching her navigate her way through this newfound, volatile relationship with a spy trying to hunt her down.

Through the Seasons

In season one, the obsession is certainly more weighted towards Eve. She hasn't experienced this type of fascination before, nor has she been involved in something so exciting: a far cry from her 'normal' life. However, it's in season two, and a lot more strongly in season three, that we see Villanelle's desire for Eve (for good or bad intention, to kill or not) surface in a stronger way. Psychopaths often

lack empathy, which can be part of the reason why they are able to kill without having to bear any moral consequences on themselves. This is true of Villanelle, but as the seasons progress and her encounters with Eve increase, we see an increased sensitivity to her own savage actions and behaviours.

What would an obsessive psychopath do if the person they were obsessed with was obsessed with them back?

Killing Eve (or rather killing everybody *but* Eve)

Rated 15

Edited By Neel Patel

KILLING EVE



To what extent are Globally Renowned Traditions, such as Oktoberfest, Beneficial in Modern Day Society?

By Alex Topliss (Y12)

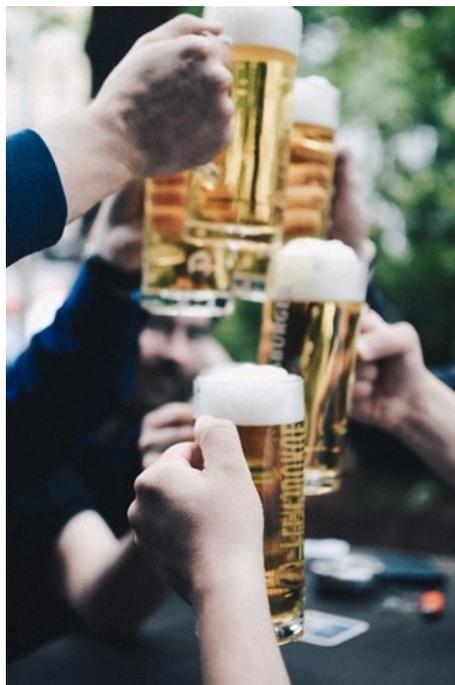
You would have most likely heard of Oktoberfest. Maybe as an enormous festival in the south of Germany? Maybe as the holy grail of beer drinking? Well, it may be both those things, but it also acts as a vital part of life for many Germans— especially in Bavaria, where it is based. Might this world-renowned tradition positively impact mental health as much as physical? If so, why don't more countries adopt such methods to improve the wellbeing of the nation? That perhaps, is a question which other countries' governments should be exploring.



So, what is Oktoberfest? Oktoberfest is a world-famous festival which takes place over sixteen days predominantly in September. Why then is it Oktoberfest? It is named as such is because it first took place in October in 1810 as part of celebrations for Prince Ludwig's wedding to Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen. 200 years later it is known as the most popular Folkfest (celebration of traditional music and crafts) in the world. Last year, the last time it ran, Oktoberfest attracted 6.3 million people to the festival, which covered 34.5 hectares in Munich, and 7.3 million measures (litres) of beer were drunk ^[1]. Traditional food such as *Weißwürste* (white sausages) and *Brathendl* (Bavarian roast chicken) are served throughout the day in the festival's massive tents, further

adding to the unique atmosphere at this festival.

Although Oktoberfests also exist all over the world outside Germany which run on a smaller scale, a national, unique tradition that causes for such celebrations like Oktoberfest does not exist outside Germany. The benefits are many, as Oktoberfest creates a sense of identity for German citizens and provides a time where one can (more or less) forget about stresses and live in the present. Of course, there are many jobs provided by these events – around 13,000 positions are made available by Oktoberfest ^[2]. Not only are



jobs created, but nearby services like hotels, restaurants and shops are boosted due to the sheer influx of people from Germany, but perhaps more importantly from tourists with money to spend. These festivals are often billion-euro events and are a large source of income for the state. This sounds enticing and something in which it is worth investing time and money! Imagine looking forward to a busy, lively event with a delicious aroma wafting throughout the stalls and memorable music ringing in the ears of all the visitors. These festivals would also benefit mental health greatly, as said large events bring people together and increase the sense of community. We know that these events can be a time to be kind and compassionate to others, so surely increasing the number of good-natured festivals would create more opportunities to help others in their time of need? This could be a no-brainer for our own government to establish a similar event, and the addition of an Oktoberfest-style tradition may be the best thing they could do.

It may not be as simple as that however, as there are some drawbacks. For example, the massive number of jobs



created could lead to an over-reliance on them, or perhaps make a business dependent on the guaranteed large income, so if an Oktoberfest is called off, it could lead to a bad situation for some. Also, Oktoberfest can create quite an unpleasant scene after the alcohol takes effect for residents who are not participating in the festival. Frau Berg, a retired resident living in Munich, complained about Oktoberfest, explaining that "I can't possibly stay in Munich anymore when they start Oktoberfest" [2]. In 2019, 600 people ended up in the medical tents for alcohol poisoning, out of a total 6,600 for various other reasons [1]. The extremely crowded, busy atmosphere would suit some people, but at the same time cause a lot of opposition. This negative aspect of the rowdiness of this 'beer festival' (and, maybe in England, this alcohol fuelled discourtesy) could cause more disputes within communities.

This over-reliance on the economic growth caused by Oktoberfest is no more relevant than this year, due to COVID-19. This virus has affected millions of lives and continues to ravage our society, and for Germany, it has caused the cancellation of its biggest festival. It is estimated that the festival provides 1.2-1.3 billion euros for breweries, hosts and showmen [3]. This loss of a large amount of money could destroy businesses, and already one of the biggest beer companies in the world, Heineken, has had its sales re-

duced by 16.4% and profits halved [4]. This pandemic hasn't eradicated the spirit of Oktoberfest in Germany, however, as around 50 pubs and restaurants are opening in Munich as a substitute. According to Gregor Lemke, a spokesperson for the pubs, "Oktoberfest is neither a place nor an event. It's a deep sense of life which is anchored within us" [5]. This emphasises the importance of the event to Germans and justifies these small-scale celebrations, but they still had to be run safely.

This virus has either already cancelled many festivals, not just Oktoberfest, or is looming ominously over those still to come. One annual celebration that is in jeopardy this year is Christmas, one of the most popular times for families to get together and enjoy a peaceful time of giving and reflection. The more the virus continues to spread across the world, this staple of global tradition's chances appear ever bleaker. Not only will families be unwillingly split apart, but popular attractions, like the Winter Wonderland in London or the busy *Weihnachtsmärkte* (Christmas markets) in Cologne will be called off, further worsening the experience of many. At a time where depression is said to be at its highest point (according to an online poll, 45% of men feel that their worries are most troubling at Christmas) [6], this pandemic will devastate those suffering with mental illnesses and could induce a decline in overall mental health. The de-



crease in job availability, income and overall joy this Christmas will be clear and will put pressure on governments worldwide to help.

Now obviously, setting up an Oktoberfest-like event in these current times would be a futile idea to pose to government, but do you not think that it would be a good idea in which to invest for our country, both in a social and economic sense? After coronavirus has been eradicated, it might be worth thinking about the possibility of a festival to unite the nation and potentially improve the mental health of many, either through the new jobs being created, or simply a general sense of enjoyment caused by the festivities.

Edited by Ben Shorter



It's Not What You Say; It's How You Say It: Glottophobia In France

By Matthew Atangba (Y12)



The social and cultural implications of a type of recently coined prejudice, **glottophobia**, are explored in this article. Linguists identify 50 regional dialects in Britain and although France has half this amount, discrimination based on accents is more than double in terms of severity.

Nowadays, phobias are often trivialised. They get placed in the most obscure knowledge quizzes and the majority would deem them too peculiar to be worth learning. After all, meeting a sufferer of *hexakosioihexekontahexaphobia* ('fear of the number 666') would assuredly be a once-in-a-lifetime event.

But it's downright ignorant to say the same for a victim of glottophobia. This can be understood as the 'fear of accents' but sociolinguist Philippe Blanchet offers a more explicit definition:

"contempt, hatred, aggression, rejection or exclusion [towards] certain linguistic forms used by other people [of whom use different regional/local dialects]".

Laetitia Avia, a French MP from Macron's En Marche party, proposed a bill in 2018 to illegalise glottophobia, denouncing it as

reckless and akin to other sorts of prejudice.

« Parle-t-on moins français avec un accent? Doit-on subir des humiliations si on a pas d'intonations standardisées? Parce que nos accents sont notre identité, je dépose, avec des députés, une proposition de loi pour reconnaître la glottophobie comme source de discrimination. »

EN: *"Do we speak less French with an accent? Must we undergo humiliation if our intonation isn't of the standardised kind? Because our accents are our identity, I have put down, with the help of MPs, a bill to recognise glottophobia as a source of discrimination".*

Avia's action was evidently triggered by the doings of far-left politician Jean-Luc Mélançon, who mocked the Toulouse accent of a journalist the day before

the bill was suggested. He dismissed the journalist's question and asked if anyone else had an inquiry in "understandable French".

If we think on a global scale, it become apparent why this appalling behaviour is entrenched in France.

A New Yorker and a Floridian would be able to tell where each other come from, but would have no (or few) difficulties understanding each other; the same can be said for the Glaswegian and the Londoner. Their dialectal differences don't incite "contempt, hatred...exclusion"; they are tolerated and, more often than not, celebrated.

But in France, a convincing Parisian accent generally indicates a good education and upbringing. And to some people, using more obfuscatory dialects categorise





But in France, a convincing Parisian accent generally indicates a good education and upbringing. And to some people, using more obfuscatory dialects categorise the speaker as imperceptive or poorly schooled. This stereotype can sometimes seep into social interaction, discouraging the Parisian to reconcile their differences with the Toulousain.

Glottophobia in France is exacerbated when the identity of the language itself is examined. Latin, Gaulish, Arabic and Norman people groups all left traces of their spoken dialects in areas around the Hexagon throughout history. This led to a 'mutation' in the pronunciation of vowel (and, occasionally, consonant) sounds in some regions of France, which survived up to the present day.

It is unfortunate that French is a language where a change in the pronunciation of a single phoneme (the linguistic term for a unit of sound) can completely change the perceived meaning of the word.

For example, voicing the preposition 'au dessus' using [u] (oo) instead of [y] (a more tense and nasal 'oo' sound) will make the phrase sound like 'au dessous'. You would be conveying 'below' when you intend to describe something that is 'above'. For dialects that relax vowel and conso-

nant sounds, like Québécois, this is just one point of confusion that can arise.

A woman, aged 24 and living in Paris, reported being rejected from a pupillage placement because, although she was highly informed in her field, her employers felt she lacked the professional touch (« l'aspect professionnel »). The following year, having learnt how to elocute in the standard Parisian accent instead of her original southern one, she was successful in her application. She asserted that her interview preparation was no more rigorous than it was the first time around. Food for thought.

Positive discrimination seeks to diversify the race and sex of employees in the workplace, but ought it not advocate a difference

in accents as well? The BBC is consciously biased towards presenters who talk in the Queen's English (RP), but should they not select presenters who speak in a variety of ways to truly represent the country they're informing?

The head of a company will want all of his (or her) employees to be pleasant and accommodating. And what if his clients complain about a troublesome phone call, where they struggled to understand the employee who was trying to aid them? The practical solution is to only appoint the 'well spoken' to maximise his firm's chance for success.

But he could invest in a redirecting service which allows customers to talk to someone else in the office should they encounter problems in comprehension. Or, he could simply give the employee different responsibilities in the office. Being close-minded is no excuse to adopting glottophobic behaviour, even if it is done in a commercial setting where social issues are not at the forefront.

Don't be fooled by the title. What you have to say is far more important than how you say it.

Edited by Shahzeb Ahmed



The Fourth Soul in the Wood

By Arko
Mukherjee (Y10)

At the cover of night,
In a flaming streak
of light,
A bomber tumbles
away from the fight,

Its aileron lost,
And the pilot paying the final
cost,
Slowly,
Painfully,
Blood gushing out of his head,
The first officer already dead,
He steered towards home-
East,
Towards a hero's welcome
and feast,
But he never reached his aim,
And gave up in his deadly
game...

Two farmers saw the plane go
down,
And fell upon their frowns
Cleaning up the wreckage
didn't attract them,
Especially at this time of day
at 7:30 PM,
They tried to trace it,
But failed,
The surviving gunner bit his
lips,
And bailed,
He couldn't afford to die now,
Not in a field full of cows,



For he had to survive,
Which forced his mind to be
as sharp as a knife,
His Regia Aeronautica training
kicked in,
After all,
He had a war to win,
A war for survival,
Which also marked Italy's
arrival,
Into the Battle of Britain,
Their target: Ramsgate, Kent
Where fallen pieces from five
other bombers lay,
All broken up and bent,
His plane was the only one to
hit the marine's barracks at
Deal,
A few miles down the coast,
Where the flak had made the
pilots feel,
The pain needed to be a
ghost.
He had managed to stagger to
the countryside,

Now it was the gunner's turn
to carry on the fight,
So, he entered a dense
woodland,
And had to collect water with
his bare hands,
From an ample stream,
That brightly gleamed,
In the moonlight,
So off he went to dream,
Not near the water,
Not even in his next life or
after,
"For that would be the first
place they would look,"
He figured,
To move in deeper,
Away from the brook.
He opened his eyes,
And met with a surprise,
Two farmers...
He raised his hands in
surrender,
"We come from that big barn,
yonder!"



One man had a flask in his hand,
 But all he could do was stand.
 "Grazie, Grazie millie," he finally uttered,
 And the farmers among themselves muttered,
 "It will be hard to describe him as English."

But under those comic remarks,
 Were two battle-hardened aces.
 No matter how wrinkly their faces.
 They used to fly an Airco Dh.10 named "Mr. Brown,"
 That is,
 Until they were shot down.
 They could have been easily picked off by the Italian Pilot,
 Once they were on the ground,
 But they received a bar of chocolate thrown from the air instead...

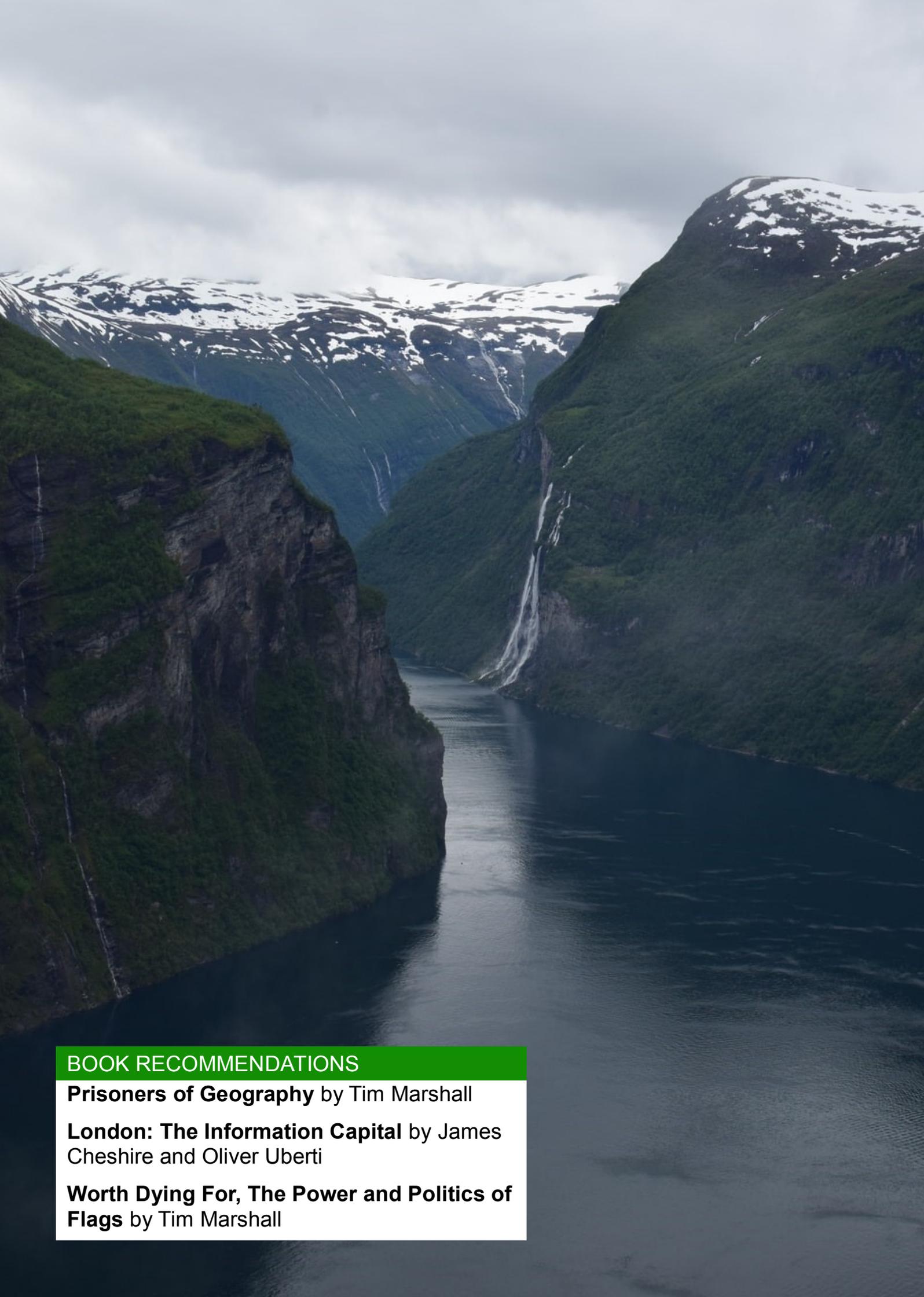
The farmers decided it would be too dangerous to give
 "The foreign tourist a tour,"
 Because of the language, which,
 Upon his tour,
 He bore,
 And he understood without understanding a word,
 And the farmers knew they had heard-
 They couldn't do more.
 They had gone,
 And by the sign the farmers made on their watches.
 They would come back by dawn,
 But with or without soldiers?
 The thought struck his mind,
 He, a safer place, had to find,
 He fought through the woods,
 Getting denser by the mile,
 Was this his trial?

Was he dead and being judged by God?
 The thought lingered in his mind until his head was hot,
 For every turn seemed to lead to nowhere,
 But the woodland looked so small,
 From elsewhere,
 Then in the heart of the wood,
 He saw nothing coming,
 For there was nothing to see,
 The fourth soul, hidden in the woods, had struck,
 It was all over in a flash.

At dawn, the farmers returned as promised,
 But they found no-one,
 For there was no-one to be found.
 A ghost cannot be seen,
 And it finishes its prey in a flash

Edited by Neel Patel





BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall

London: The Information Capital by James Cheshire and Oliver Uberti

Worth Dying For, The Power and Politics of Flags by Tim Marshall

Geography

Damming the Sea

The Dutch struggle against the sea **p31**

Globalisation

How does it endanger sustainability **p33**

“The study of geography is about more than just memorising places on a map. It is about understanding the complexity of our world.”

- Barack Obama



Lost Children: Fleeing a Legacy of Violence in Central America

By Tomás Mayorga (Y12)

In the Oscar-nominated *Sicario* (2015), film-maker Denis Villeneuve creates a quietly harrowing scene in which hundreds of Central American migrants huddle cross-legged on the ground, awaiting buses for deportation; in the 2018 sequel *Sicario 2*, “the true psychological backdrop” as suggested by Matthew d’Ancona in *The Guardian*, “is the phalanx of migrants who trudge through its demented battlefield of sand dunes, rusty houses and flying shrapnel, determined to seek a better life ^[1].” Both films raise significant questions about justice, violence and the moral responsibilities the US people owe to their desperate neighbours over the border, questions which have plagued successive US administrations. Like in the UK, pre-Covid at least, immigration dominated electoral campaigns – and perhaps surpris-

ingly, the hostile rhetoric has even made its way into US legislation, where “any person not a citizen or national of the United States” is referred to as ‘alien’ ^[2].

This language encapsulates an ‘us and them’ mentality and reflects a deeply engrained fear and distrust of the migrant Hispanic population in the US. In 2014, the journalist Sonia Nazario, writing in *The New York Times*, advocated the use of “Refugee Crisis” to describe the huge influx of migrants at the border. ^[3] However, despite the efforts of pro-immigration advocacy groups – even those as powerful as the libertarian-conservative Americans for Prosperity (funded by the media-savvy, highly influential billionaire Koch Brothers) - the term ‘Immigration Crisis’ has remained widespread, oft-used in populist rhetoric. Steven Levitsky

and Daniel Ziblatt, Professors of Government at Harvard University, explain in their best-selling book *How Democracies Die* (2018) ^[4], how, beginning in the 1960s, the US experienced a huge wave of immigration first from Latin America and later from Asia, dramatically altering the country’s demographic map: in 1950, non-whites constituted barely 10% of the population, but by 2014, this had risen to 38% and by 2044, the US Census Bureau projects that the majority of the US population will be non-white. Fears of dwindling influence and loss of cultural identity fuel hostility that is often and highly-visibly replicated in right-wing media and political rhetoric.

President Trump has played on these deep-rooted fears both during his election campaigns and his term in office. In a reiteration of similar, unsubstantiated ‘statements’ dating back as far as 2015 ^[5], Trump claimed during the final presidential debate on October 22nd 2020, that “a murderer... a rapist... a very bad person would come in [from Mexico to the US] ^[6]” under the catch and release policy of Obama’s administration (which allowed migrants into the community, rather than being held in immigration detention centres before their hearings in immigration courts). In reference to policies enacted after statements made in 2018 by the likes of Attorney General Jeff Sessions (“we need to take away children”) and Deputy Attorney General Rob Rosenstein (who added that they should be separated no matter how young) ^[7], moderator Kristen Welker then asked the president about the 500 or more migrant children held at



the US-Mexico border, separated from parents now no longer traceable. To 'defend' his position, Trump could only point out that the facilities the children still found themselves in were "so clean [7]."

The previous year, Mexican writer Valeria Luiselli, after working as a translator in immigration courts, had published her long essay *Tell Me How it Ends* (2017) [8] in which she outlined the plight of over 102,000 unaccompanied children detained at the border between April 2014 and August 2015 [9]. Under the terms of the 'Priority Juvenile Docket', a well-intentioned but fundamentally-flawed policy of the Obama administration, these children had but 21 days to secure the services of a lawyer – a virtually impossible task within such an accelerated timeframe, even with the assistance of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) [9]. Many of these children were deported.

In 2019, Luiselli published her first English-language work of fiction, *Lost Children Archive* [10], which was longlisted for both the Booker and the Women's Prizes for Fiction. She recreates the desperate, dangerous journeys undertaken by those who ride the freight train known as *La Bestia*, (the Beast), so memorably depicted in the 2009 Spanish-language film *Sin Nombre* (winner of the Best Foreign Film award in several US states). Atop the 'gondolas' there are many dangers: gangs, police or simply the risk of falling to the rails below. Amnesty International estimate 60% of women and girls who cross Mexico to the US border are sexually abused; a later *Fusion* report, based on interviews with directors of migrant shelters, puts the figure at closer to 80% [11]. Between 2006 and 2015, around 120,000 migrants died or otherwise 'disappeared' while making this journey [12]. Since 2014, when Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto launched *Programa Frontera Sur*, (Southern Border Programme), which introduced drones, security cameras, fenced and floodlit rail yards, and control centres in strategic locations along the route of *La Bestia*, the journey has become even more perilous, with some migrants even attempting to sail in rafts from the coast of Chiapas, up the Pacific Ocean to the US [9].

Given the dangers, why do they come?

"Why did you come to the United States?" is the first query on the intake questionnaire created by NGOs for unaccompanied child migrants at the federal immigration court in New York City. While Luiselli reports that the answers from fearful children are often "shattered beyond the repair of a narrative order [9]", some patterns still emerge. Many children come from the 'Northern Triangle' of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, fleeing violence whose origins can be traced to civil wars in the region, where in-



urgents battled the US-backed authoritarian governments [13].

Luis Mandoki's 2004 film *Voces Inocentes (Innocent Voices)*, is based on the childhood of screenwriter Oscar Torres, who dedicates the film to all those who were not as fortunate as he to make an escape to the US (one fifth of Salvadorans have fled the country). The film depicts the recruitment of children on their twelfth birthdays into the government army, some of whose leaders had been trained by US personnel. Noam Chomsky (1992) recounts how one American instructor described the soldiers of the notoriously brutal US-trained Atlacatl Battalion as "particularly ferocious...we've always had a hard time getting them to take prisoners instead of ears [14]."

Many of these brutalised children settled in Los Angeles, the birthplace of the gangs MS-13 and Calle18. In the 1990s, anti-immigration programmes in the US led to mass deportations of Central Americans - among them thousands of members of MS-13 and Calle18. This extended the reach of gang violence from the US to Mexico and down into the Northern Triangle. Today, a conservative estimate places membership of these gangs at over 100,000 [9]. Their tattoos and often-gruesome violence create a vivid image of foreign hostiles, exploited by some right-wing media and politicians to instil further terror of the 'alien'.

The increasingly high-profile "Black Lives Matter" movement continues to build on important explorations of the history and legacy of slavery in the United States, from Nobel prize-winner Toni Morrison's ground-breaking novel *Beloved* (1987) [15] to more recent works such as Steve McQueen's Oscar-winning *12 Years a Slave* (2013) and Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer-winning *The Underground Railroad* (2016) [16]. The nature and impact of US government interventions in Latin America, however, remains largely unacknowledged, certainly within mainstream US culture. A weighing of those moral responsibilities is perhaps long overdue, since, as Luiselli reminds us, for all of those child refugees, "it is not even the American Dream that they pursue, but rather the more modest aspiration to wake up from the nightmare into which they were born [9]."

Edited by Neel Patel



The Good and the Bad of COVID-19

By Aditya Jain (Y12)

Coronavirus has hit us all hard. It has affected every one of us in a unique and detrimental way. Even with the enormous government support of paid furlough schemes, the unemployment rate has shot up to 4.8%^[1, 2], leaving millions with no ability to predict when their next paycheque will arrive. 84.2% of British adults said that they are very worried or somewhat worried about the effect of the coronavirus on their well-being, grocery, medication availability as well as their ability to make plans^[3].

Over 15,000 businesses have had their output significantly impacted in April 2020^[4], leaving them with no ability to predict their cashflow over-heads or potential profits. The virus has spread in an exponential way – it is believed that it started in Wuhan, China in December 2019, and by February of 2020 almost every single major country in world had a case of the virus. According to official counts, the coronavirus pandemic has infected more than 76,815,100 people. Moreover, sadly as of December 21st 2020, at least 1,692,600 people have died as a result^[5]. Via globalisation and our interconnected transport systems, the virus has infiltrated borders across the globe rapidly, leaving every country reeling, even the most isolated.

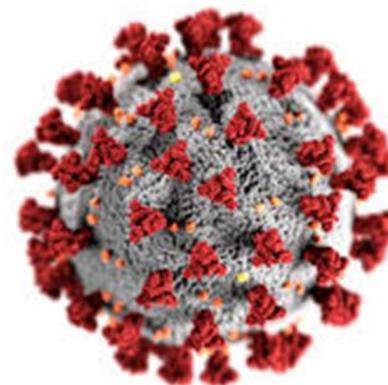
In the past ten months, our lives have dramatically changed. It has been almost impossible for us to visit our friends and family, go to a wedding, or even attend a family member's funeral. Our lives have been thrown off balance and plunged into the deep end. We're experiencing something that we've never experienced before and we are all struggling.

Take a moment to think about the effects on the vulnerable. The people who don't know when or where they will be able to get help and support now that they are self-isolating. The people who haven't seen a soul in months, the people who don't know when they will get their next meal – let alone their children who no longer are benefiting from free school meals. It is terrible and frightening, but millions of

people are living this very existence across the country at this moment.

The pandemic has devastated the economy, leaving us in a precarious position. In the second quarter of 2020, the UK plummeted into a recession with the economy dropping by £121 billion, 20.4% compared to the same time the year before^[2, 6]. Think about the effect this has on your community. Your local business is trying its absolute best to survive, balancing on a knife edge, struggling to see the light at the end of the tunnel, trying to save every single penny - with the possibility of closure looming over its workers' heads. Big businesses are reeling as well. The Arcadia Group fell into administration, putting 13000 jobs at risk^[7]. Debenhams found the same fate just a day later – for the second time in just one year – putting 12000 jobs at risk^[8]. Shockingly, even the workhorse of the capital, Transport for London also had to be rescued from the clutches of administration^[9]. This meant that businesses would have to somehow recover their losses by increasing the prices of goods, having redundancies and carrying out a consolidation of businesses, all of which will result in higher cost for consumers from even basic staples to transport and housing – let alone the human cost of redundancies on all families who are impacted.

All of this has created nationwide fear and uncertainty and an overbearing sense of misery in wait of the inevitable. Every business is interdependent and if one fails, all its supply chains and customers suffer: if one falls, we



all fall. We live in a globally connected world, businesses heavily rely on global supply chains, to source raw products from a supplier in one country to manufacture it in another country. The virus has quickly spread globally thereby adversely impacting global businesses and trade by shutting down trade routes, closing key businesses in the supply chain and causing poorer efficiency in factories due to social distancing.

And let us not forget the impact on the NHS. The crumbling NHS, the NHS that is underfunded, understaffed and overburdened, but will always be there for you no matter what. Now more than ever they are working as hard as they possibly can to help everyone suffering from the virus; lest we forget those working to the almost the limit of what is humanly possible so that we can live a somewhat normal life. Therefore, the virus has had significant social effects on the workforce of the NHS, causing many of them to work day and night under stressful conditions, which could lead to distress, depression and other mental and physical illnesses. However, the coronavirus pandemic has also brought about many social benefits. For many people, the chance to stay home has led to them being able to spend more time with their loved ones. They don't have to experience the stress of commuting to work and are able to spend time previously used for dropping their children off at school - a luxury that they would have never been able to afford previously.



Not only this, but people are able to live their life to perhaps a greater extent than ever before: lockdown has encouraged people to explore the outdoors, experience the benefits of exercise, and spend more time caring for their mental and physical health.

The virus has brought with it massive technological benefits. The government has poured millions of taxpayers' money into the Test and Trace system and the COVID-19 app. However, some people have been sceptical. These systems have raised some concerns around safety of personal data but the government has carefully planned the processing and storage of data after encryption so as to avoid any misuse. The benefits do truly outweigh the potential risks. All of this has helped to support the nationwide effort in quickly identifying the virus locations, asking people to self-isolate who have come in close contact and thereby slowing the spread of the virus.

Without technology, we would have been in a much worse situation than we are now. Think about the benefit that technology has brought you. Children are better equipped to study from home as well as adults being better able to work from home. Technology such as video calling software through Zoom, Teams and Facebook has brought separated families closer - you can now easily talk to and see your family who may live millions of miles away. You can finally find time to share how much your life has evolved since the last time you met them and truly bond with them. These social benefits have truly helped all of us cope better with the mental pressures of the virus.

As well as this, some businesses have actually benefitted from the virus. Businesses such as Mercedes^[13] and Tesla^[14] have been busy innovating and changing their production lines in order to produce ventilators to help people cope with this dreadful virus. Businesses such as Pfizer^[15], Moderna^[16], and AstraZeneca^[17] are all racing to complete decades of work in just a couple of months - completing work day in, day out with eve-

ry second of their time meaning potential life of death for victims of the virus. Their work is almost miraculous and when we can get back to normal hinges on their efforts. Institutions such as University College London are racking their brains to make cost-effective, efficient and easily producible ventilators, to help as many people as possible^[18]. If anything, this virus has helped to unite all of us, people and businesses alike and makes us realise how much we need each other and most importantly fight for a common goal. The best news recently is that more than 137,000 people have received a coronavirus vaccine in the UK as of the 16th December^[19], which will save many lives.

The virus has provided us with a mixed bag of responses from world leaders – on the one hand, some countries have retreated and have become isolationists – for example, the US removed funding from the WHO. On the other hand, many world leaders have been finally brought together and united to fight one common enemy - this dreadful virus, share their resources, and save as many people as possible. For example, China has exported millions of face masks, testing kits, and ventilators to countries around the world such as the Netherlands, Italy, and the UK^[20] in a desperate bid to ensure that we can all deal with this pandemic as best as possible. This kind of co-operation is heart-warming and truly rivals that of the world wars seen in the mid-20th century. This also brings future benefits, as when this pandemic ends, trade and export of people and culture between countries will be encouraged causing local business to boom once again, helping the world to further develop together.

The virus has also brought dramatic (albeit short term) improvements to the climate such as cleaner beaches and less air and noise pollution^[21]. For example, Delhi saw pollution “PM 2.5” levels drop from 125 to less than 65 between March and August 2020. With global lockdowns and travel restrictions, we have seen the resultant



impact of reduced travel and commute in major drop in carbon emissions across the world. Global carbon dioxide emissions fell by as much as 17% as a result of lockdowns imposed around the world in response to the coronavirus crisis^[22]. This was the lowest level in 14 years^[22]. On one hand it has adversely impacted automotive and aviation industry however on the other it may actually be helping us to slow or reverse the adverse impacts of climate change!

I implore you to look on the brighter side of things. Find the positives in these dark times. The coronavirus pandemic has brought us many social, economic and environmental benefits, the likes of which could have never happened before. The crisis has brought out the best in humanity with many countries, politicians, business, scientists coming together to fight one common enemy. COVID-19 has made us deeply appreciate how vital life, family and working as one is. Let us make the most of what we have. Let us work as one single mighty team to fight not just Covid but make the world we live in pollutant free and much cleaner. Let's use this opportunity to give future generations hope of a better life.

Edited by Ben Shorter



The Netherlands: A Race Against Water

By Aaron Stace (Y12)

For a country situated on three major river deltas (the confluence of the Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt) and in which only half of the land rises higher than one metre above sea level ^[1], you might think the people of the Netherlands would be masters of the sea. However - as with so many natural forces around the globe - mother nature finds a way, and thus the nation has been regularly affected by storm surges and floods throughout its history. Over time, various methods have been invented to protect the country from the creeping rise of the North Sea, which constantly threatens to spill over onto its low-lying plains.

Efforts against rising sea levels in the Netherlands must not only seek to protect the 60% of the population that live in at-risk areas ^[2], but also its invaluable fertile farmland which has helped to promote the nation to be one of the world's largest agricultural and foodstuff exporters, accounting for 70% of the Netherlands' GDP ^[2]. The news from scientists, therefore, that the end of the century could witness a two and a half metre rise in sea level ^[3], poses a significant threat to the safety and livelihood of those that live and work in the Netherlands.



Polder Windmill

For more than two thousand years ^[2], inhabitants of the Netherlands have been innovating many different techniques to keep the sea at bay. In some cases, they have even fought back against rising sea levels themselves, reclaiming land from the seabed. One such example was the invention of polder windmills in the 1300s, now a well-known feature of the Netherlands' countryside. Prior to these windmills, people had simply built dykes – shaped walls of mud designed to keep buildings and small sections of land above sea level throughout floods, whilst the land in between the dykes was relatively unused. The invention of polder windmills allowed this land to be reclaimed and put to use as valuable agricultural areas. The windmills aimed to actively take water out of **polders** through a series of pumps and shift it into canals which ran throughout the farmland. This method proved itself to be very effective, allowing vast areas of low-lying land to be reclaimed from the sea in the following centuries ^[2].





Biesbosch National Park

Authorities have also employed ‘softer’ strategies - ones which involve little to no building of structures - to combat rising water levels. One such project was the Biesbosch excavation in the mid-2000s. The Biesbosch is a national park, situated about 20km to the south-west of Rotterdam, near the town of Dordrecht. Through removing dikes and digging extra canals throughout the park, the government’s aim is to mitigate the threat of water penetrating the western defences of Dordrecht by allowing parts of the national park to flood ^[4], thus providing a natural barrier to potential future damaging events with a remarkably simple solution.

However, more complex measures were put in place after the flood of 1953, when dikes and canals were unable to stop a huge North Sea storm surge flooding 9% of the country’s entire farmland ^[5] and killing thousands of people across both the Netherlands and the English east coast ^[6]. More effective barriers were needed and came in the form of the Delta Works - a huge chain of flood protection structures running along the coastline. The system was completed in 1997 at a cost of \$5 billion, composing over 10,000 miles of dykes ^[5]. The largest of the dams - the Eastern Scheldt Barrier - is the largest storm surge barrier in the world, comprising sixty-two steel doors, each nearly 50m wide ^[5]. As a result of these incredible efforts by the Dutch Government, no lives have been lost due to flooding in The Netherlands since 1953 ^[6], and Dutch scientists have come to be regarded as experts in the field of flood management.



1953 North Sea Flood

In a world where sea levels continue to rise at an alarming rate, and with many major cities such as Mumbai, Tokyo and Shanghai situated on the coast, flood management has never been a bigger concern. It is a grim irony that those who are most at risk are now one step ahead of their peers around the world – it may be that the expertise so skilfully employed by scientists of the Netherlands could help the world adapt to this new era. Perhaps, then, the question is not whether the Netherlands itself is secure in its flood management future - the nation’s investment into flood protection has more than paid dividends - but whether the rest of the world will be able to imitate its success.



Hollandse Biesbosch

It remains to be seen whether the great race will be won by man, or by nature. One thing is certain though - the Netherlands and her scientists’ expertise will be at the forefront of it all.

Edited by Ben Shorter

Glossary:

Polder - a piece of low-lying land reclaimed from the sea or a river and protected by dykes



Is Globalisation a Threat to Sustainability?

By Ayush Nagara (Y12)

Over the past 50 years, the world population has tripled to over seven billion (currently standing at 7.83 billion), but the global gross domestic product (GDP) has increased by six times ^[1]. Globalisation is the answer to this massive expansion in the global economy - the interlinking of people, firms and governments on an international scale. It is catalysed by trade, technology and social media, the latter of which has accelerated in the early 2010s, in the form of advertisements and easy connections to spread information rapidly. These factors have subsequently contributed to the Time-Space Compression theory, in which technological advancements lead to the contraction of spatial distances between countries.



Globalisation is also linked with TNCs, whose operation in multiple countries has led to an increase in the production of goods and services. For instance, Coca Cola's headquarters are based in Atlanta, U.S.A, while it employs cheaper labour for goods production in India, and this illustrates that successful internationally-recognisable firms select HICs for service provision, while allocating the manufacturing parts of the business to NEEs or LICs.

Meanwhile, sustainability which is defined as the quality of a society or organisation to carry out services and provide resources at a constant rate for as long as possible, while protecting future generations. It is strongly associated with the protection of the environment but can also refer to the longevity of an economy or society. However, globalisation may be counter-productive to sustainable initiatives, and may take societies a step-back from where they aim to be.

Undoubtedly, globalisation acts as a serious threat to the environment; this macroeconomic process leads to increased level of international trade and demand, and economic producers would naturally increase the supply of their goods and services in order to maximise output and profits. This augmented rate of production inevitably puts pressure onto the environment, via the consumption of fossil fuels to subsidise the rapid rate of manufacturing ^[2]. These finite resources hinder sustainability when used excessively and will lead to shortages of raw materials used in production for the future generations. For instance, India ranked lowly at 168th in the 2020 Environmental Performance Index ^[3], suggesting that their poor result was influenced by the overproduction of goods, emitting large amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

It has been estimated that 20 companies (including BP and Chevron) are responsible for 35% of global carbon emissions since 1965 ^[4]. This staggering figure illustrates that increased production has been and is still aided by the extraction of fossil fuels. However, this over-extraction reduces the earth's ability to continue providing resources at the same or at higher rates, in order to cater to a rapid growth in demand and con-

sumption of goods. The British economist Thomas Malthus argued that if the population grows exponentially while the production of food grows at a linear rate, it will lead to a famine or a war, hence restricting sustainable development.

Furthermore, globalisation imperils socioeconomic sustainability, as it exacerbates inequality between the rich and the poor. HICs are becoming increasingly more dependent on extracted imports, with LICs relying on expensive manufactured imports, which increases the proportion of trade contributing to GDP ^[4]. In particular, this applies to countries with large trade surpluses including China. Prices of manufactured goods and raw materials have decreased since the rise of globalisation (due to increased competition between firms to sell goods), and HICs are now generally purchasing and manufacturing through the use of cheaper imports from developing countries. One positive impact of this shift of manufacturing to LICs is the increase in the incomes of labourers in the LICs where the TNCs operate. However, a reduction in demand of more expensive manufactured goods on a domestic scale in richer countries, leads to relative poverty, in which more workers are financially worse-off than those with more service-based





skills. The low-skilled workers of HICs within primary and secondary sectors, will receive reduced incomes or possibly made redundant, whilst the high-skilled workers in the tertiary sectors will thrive there, where profits are made from cheap labour abroad. This creates a socioeconomic gap in HICs as a result of the outsourcing of low skilled jobs to NEEs and LICs, and the low-skilled workers of HICs will therefore only be able to afford fewer goods and services in comparison to the higher-skilled workers in the tertiary and quaternary sector of the same nation. Globalisation certainly threatens socioeconomic sustainability, because the labourers' unstable livelihood brings about a vicious cycle of decline for future generations, and high-quality education that could help break out of this cycle becomes more unaffordable.

Overall, globalisation has revolutionised the means by which countries interact with each other through the rise of the internet and aviation, and has made the distance between them seem insignificant, largely due to technology and free trade. Nevertheless, it is a menace to worldwide sustainability; the environment continues to endure the impacts of an increase in production and the poorer members of some economies such as the US and the UK have only been pushed further away from their richer counterparts. Globalisation is now an integral part of the world economy, but in order to achieve high levels of sustainability, it is vital that governments and firms prioritise the future, by trying to maintain a healthy and long-lasting environment, economy and society.

Edited by Aaron Stace

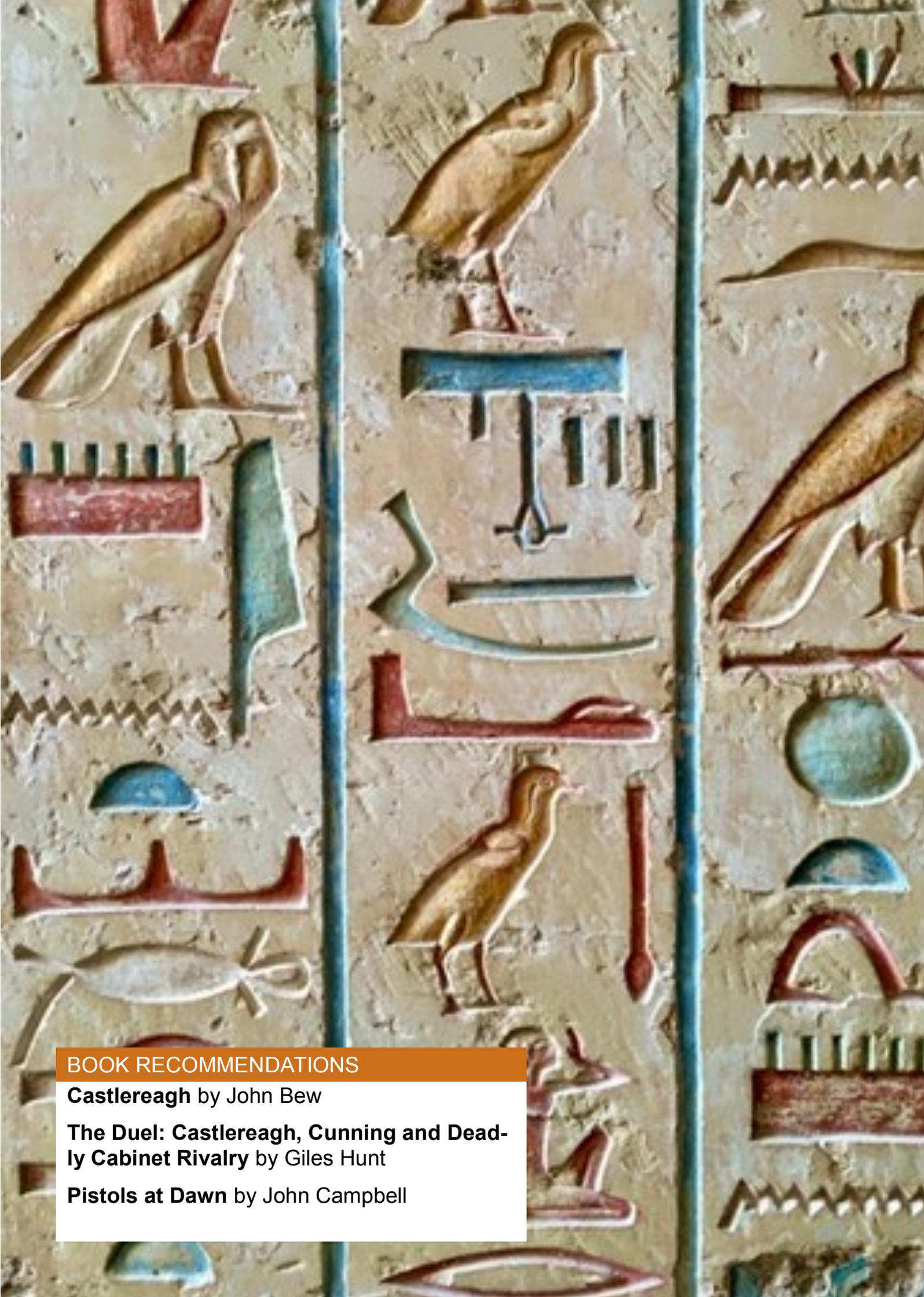
For example, the USA had a Gini coefficient (A statistical measure of the variation of income within a nation) of 0.434 - the highest among all G7 nations in 2018 ^[5], suggesting that lower-skilled workers in the US are less preferable to those of countries with lower incomes to use as workers in manufacturing, and therefore has heightened the level of inequality within this nation. Within the UK, the gradual decline in the coal-mining industry has reached end-point, as the UK's last commercial coal mine in County Durham closed down in August 2020 ^[6], illustrating the bleak employment prospects for less-skilled labour.

Although globalisation may lead to inequality and threatens low-skilled workers in wealthier countries, it contributes to economic sustainability through the rise in competition between firms, which is fuelled by digital advances. Domestic monopolies of a particular market (provide an example) now face competition from abroad, and are pressurised into selling goods at lower prices in order to

compete with them. Globalisation is therefore shifting these monopolistic markets towards ones with near-perfect competition, which diminishes the prices of goods, and as a result benefits the consumer, particularly those on low incomes. It enables them to afford a greater number of products and maximises their utility - the amount of satisfaction gained from consuming these cheaper goods.

Moreover, the internet has made it incredibly easy to compare prices of substitutes or alternatives for goods from different sellers, and therefore has made economies more sustainable through the increased affordability of products. With a lower proportion of an income being spent on goods purchased online, more money can be invested towards improving a household's living standard via purchasing essential goods, and this maximises the response to the number of needs and wants of both the present generation and successive generations making this more sustainable.





BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Castlereagh by John Bew

The Duel: Castlereagh, Cunning and Deadly Cabinet Rivalry by Giles Hunt

Pistols at Dawn by John Campbell

Castlereagh and Canning: Fearless or Farcical?

By Aaron Gillet (Y12)

For the *maintenance of honour* and as an exhibition of courage on September 21st, 1809 Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh (Minister of War) and George Canning (Secretary for State for Commonwealth and Development Affairs) duelled on Putney Heath with intent to kill.

In the 11th Century, William I introduced the idea of the “political duel” to Britain and for the following 800 years they became a customary part of aristocratic existence. Men “fought on the slightest pretext”^[1] and duels were rarely fatal from the early 19th Century. For example in 1809 Henry Paget and Henry Cadogan duelled upon Wimbledon Common over the latter’s ‘mistreatment’ of Paget’s sister and no-one was killed after blanks were decided to be fired. Despite their abolition in 1819, the final recorded British political duel took place in 1852 and ‘The Mensur’ (a form of academic fencing or student ‘duel’) still exists in some German Universities demonstrating how integrated within society this rather absurd display of honour really is. Indeed, students have often showed off scars “as marks of courage”^[1].

It could be argued, especially when considering that duels were common practise at the time, that this was a fearless declaration of honour. Often seen as “an adventurer and opportunist”^[2], it would have seemed cowardly for Canning to turn down such a challenge. Certainly, as a man of status, he would not have wanted this. It is also true that Canning cared immensely about the undertaking, having never handled a pistol in his life and genuinely thinking that he may be killed during the event. He drew up a will and wrote a virtuous farewell letter to his wife^[3]. This seems to present a truly fearless man; one who would place his honour and pride above everything – including those he loved the most. On the contrary, we could see this as selfish and quite the opposite of honourable. The duel that occurred upon Putney Heath in 1809 was one of a serious nature (unlike the Paget-Cadogan duel men-

tioned previously) and this should not be taken lightly. Two bullets were fired by each party and Canning was “shot through the fleshy part of his thigh, a few inches from his femoral artery”^[2] (a direct hit would have resulted in a fatality) whilst Castlereagh’s waistcoat jacket button was hit by the latter of Canning’s two shots. A cartoon of the event that was produced by Isaac Cruickshank at the time^[4] has Canning exclaiming “Oh what A Pity...it did not hit his waistcoat”. The fact that there was evident malicious intent to severely harm (if not kill) offers the conclusion that both men were extremely passionate about their cause. Whether this is justified is unclear yet the seriousness of their pursuit along with the fact that both men cared deeply about it shows how, at least to some extent, they were fearless.

It could be argued that alt-

though both men were seemingly brave their duel was by no means a representation of courage but merely a display of foolery – quite farcical! This argument is first evidenced through the reasoning behind their duel. Canning had asked of The Duke of Portland (the then Prime Minister) for a rearrangement of his ministry in order to aid the British campaign against Napoleon. This included Castlereagh being removed from his position as Minister of War where, according to Hunt his “performance was regarded as *lamentable*”^[2]. When Castlereagh discovered this suggestion via a third party, he was outraged to such an extent he challenged his associate to a duel; this was an invitation that was accepted by Canning. Immediately we see a rather absurd situation. It seems ridiculous (from a modern perspective, granted) that over such a petty cause, two of the country’s most influential individu-





als could end up with loaded pistols pointed in each other's direction. The consequences of the event also show how it was viewed, even by contemporaries, as farcical. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Spencer Perceval, wrote "terrible all this, for public impression" whilst Isaac Cruickshank's cartoon (right) ^[4] saw both Canning and Castlereagh blundering and a surgeon between them smirking ^[4] with the caption reading "Killing no murder, or a new ministerial way of settling the affairs of a nation!". Not only do these interpretations show the embarrassment caused by the event (which was seen as boyish and inappropriate in the eyes of the "public"), but it also undermined Portland's administration. Indeed, this political quarrel led to the resignation of both Castlereagh and Canning, by request of King George III. Indeed, it is also essential to dwell upon

the staggering effect this duel had on both Canning and Castlereagh's careers and personal lives. Under Lord Liverpool's Ministry (which began in 1812) Canning refused to work alongside his rival in the Cabinet and declined the position of Foreign Secretary. It could be argued that until 1822 Canning suffered a period of political wilderness. In 1814 he became the British Ambassador to Portugal but returned a year later; in 1816 he became President of the Board of Control but was forced to resign over issues concerning King George VI's wife: Caroline, and in 1821 he became the Governor General of India. This swift succession of roles surely shows his political instability. Although hard to believe, Castlereagh's future was far worse. He became unpopular from within the House and outside of it. He was criticised by the opposition for supporting repressive

government whilst hated by the public for supporting George VI in his bid to divorce Queen Caroline. On the 12th August 1822, at the age of 51, he killed himself. Though responsibility for the demise of these figures cannot be solely placed upon their 1809 duel, it most certainly would have had an impact. Both politicians' removal from office, coupled with the fact that by the public their duel was seen as rather stupid, shows how their duel was indeed farcical.

Overall, although the duel between Castlereagh and Canning could initially be seen as something of a brave adventure with both parties fighting in the name of honour, the opposite was in fact true. It is clear that from the perspective of those commenting on political affairs at the time, as well as a modern view, that a duel was unwarranted given the situation and reflected poorly on the politicians themselves as well as the wider British administration. Although the bravery and ambition of both cannot be softened, it is without doubt that the 1809 duel between Castlereagh and Canning was far more farcical than fearless.

Edited by Aaron Stace





BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Why Vegan? By Peter Singer

The Ethics Of Giving: Philosophers' Perspectives On Philanthropy by Paul Woodruff

The Life You Can Save by Peter Singer

Philosophy

Singer's theories

Can he save us all with them? p42

"The unexamined life is not worth living."

- Socrates



The Ethics of Sustainability

How much should we sacrifice for future generations?

By Nicholas James (Y12)

As we are all too aware, humanity edges ever closer to environmental disaster each day: we fill our planet with toxic chemicals and greenhouse gases; consume resources that can never be used again; while creating plastics that will create a permanent scar on our planet. All of which is happening at an exponential rate, as the world's population nears eight billion.

In our struggle to reach new heights through industrialisation and technological advancements, we risk everything collapsing beneath us. The data shows us that our current lifestyles prioritise the present and put the future in great jeopardy, citing urgent action to change these habits and reverse our effects on the world.

To be truly sustainable today, in order to save tomorrow's generations would mean burdening ourselves with some heavy costs. A study pub-

lished in 'Environmental Research Letters' found that three most effective ways of fighting climate change were: avoiding one roundtrip transatlantic flight, which could save 1.6 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent per year being emitted into the atmosphere; living car free saves 2.4 tonnes; and having one fewer child saves a colossal 58.6 tonnes ^[1].

If everyone followed these steps, this could help save the planet from environmental disaster and ensure future generations won't suffer from our choices. However, another study by 'The Harvard Study of Adult Development' found that family and relationships were an essential part of our happiness and that men were happiest when they cultivated strong relationships with people ^[2]. Other studies have also found that personal freedom and exploration are key components of our happiness. So, if we lead the most environmentally-friendly life we can, it could have

hugely detrimental effects on our happiness and well-being, leading to the question: how much should we sacrifice today for future generations?

To answer this question, we will look at how three different ethical theories would approach this question and form a judgement on how we should live our lives going forward.

Egoism

The first ethical theory is egoism which was first used by Ancient Greek Hedonists and is based on the pursuit of self-interest. The moral worth of an action to them is judged by how much it advances one's own welfare and wealth. Egoists say we are all self-motivated and that is reflected in our behaviour (punishments and rewards for example), therefore the ultimate goal we should all work towards to fulfil this motivation is to maximise our own personal interests.

At first glance it may appear that egoists will indulge completely in their own pleasures, irrespective of the impact on the environment. However, it could be argued that acting sustainably is, to an extent, acting in our own self-interest. This is especially true if an egoist has children or younger people in their life that they love.

For example, an egoist may have grandchildren they love dearly. By recycling or switching off the light after leaving the room, the egoist is acting more sustainably, which will mean their grandchildren's lives may be easier in the future. Here, the pleasure the egoist gains from knowing their grandchildren will live a happier life because of their actions, who they love dearly, outweighs the small inconveniences the egoist has to endure. Thus, acting sustainability achieves the ultimate end of maximising one's own welfare. Yet, this



is only the case when the egoist has to sacrifice very little – an egoist would still drive a car, fly and have children due to the advancement in welfare this would produce.

However, there are many criticisms to an egoist's outlook on life. The most damaging being their analysis of human motivation. An egoist believes that we are all motivated by self-interests, however, is this always the case? Throughout history, there are many examples of great sacrifices made in the interest of others over oneself, such as Captain Lawrence Oakes, who sacrificed himself on an arctic expedition so that the rest of his team would have a better chance of surviving. To me, egoism's ideas on human motivation seem counter-intuitive. I think sometimes it is intuitive to be selfless, and put other people's pleasure above your own, and it is a lifestyle that doesn't easily compliment with the one I live already.



Egoism suggests that we should act in a mostly selfish manner when it comes to the problem of sustainability.

Therefore, if we are not all motivated by self-interests, how can the ultimate goal in life be to further your own welfare, and consequently should we sacrifice more for future generations?

Altruism

First used in the 19th century by Auguste Comte, Altruists act in the best interest of others, rather than in one's own self-interest. Often, they are motivated by sentimental attachment or a sense of gratitude towards someone or something.

This is certainly true when it comes to sustainability; since we all live on earth and rely on it for our survival, many have a great sentimental attachment to it and a deep sense of gratitude towards it. They are thus willing to act altruistically towards the earth.



Altruism suggests that we should act in the interests of others when it comes to the problem of sustainability.

However, being an altruist to the extreme could have severe impacts on our own welfare, which creates a conundrum: if we are acting sustainably to improve the happiness and welfare of future generations, then it is clear we place happiness and welfare as an important part of life that we are willing to protect. So, is it really worth living miserably and forgoing welfare ourselves

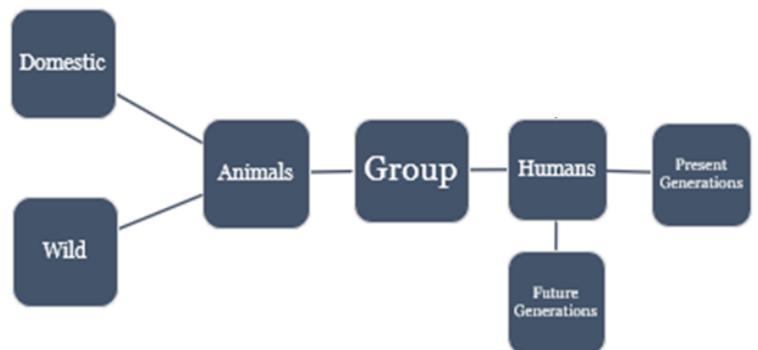
for other people's happiness and welfare – considering the importance we give it in life? I would argue it is not. Pleasure and happiness are emotions core to humanity, and to ignore them completely would be to ignore a big part of ourselves. Thus, it seems wrong that we should live sustainably in order to preserve the species of the human race, when we ourselves are alienating part of what it is to be human.

So, if egoism doesn't sacrifice enough for future generations and altruism too much, what is there in the middle?

Preference Utilitarianism

First used by R. M. Hare (1919–2002), this ethical theory states that the most ethical option is that which satisfies the most rational preferences. For example, saving ten people's lives is more ethical than saving one person's life, because more preferences are satisfied.

In the context of sustainability, how much would preference utilitarianism say we need to sacrifice? To answer this, we must first find out what everyone's preferences to this answer may be. Peter Singer, a preference utilitarian, also contemplated the ethical deci-



sions we have to take about the environment and looked particularly at animal rights. Singer is famous for his views that animals should have more rights, particularly animals like chimpanzees and gorillas, for they too are somewhat rational, self-conscious beings who can have preferences like humans. The different groups with preferences on this issue can be broken down like this:

If we first look at the preferences of the animals, even though they would not be able to communicate it, it is clear wild animals would heavily prefer for humans to act as sustainably as possible. The fewer forests we cut down, the fewer rivers we pollute and the fewer greenhouse gases we emit will all mean the majority of wild animals will benefit greatly. Their lives will be easier and happier because with more space to roam and fewer changes in climate, the easier it would be for current and future generations of animals.

One of the most effective methods of being more sustainable is moving to a vegan or vegetarian diet, there-



fore most domestic farm animals would greatly prefer we live more sustainably, as instead of being confined to cramped living conditions and being subjected to abuse, domestic animals would probably prefer to live a freer life – which could be enabled if we stopped farming them for food.

Many in the present generation are content living only a somewhat sustainable lifestyle, because living unsustainably won't have drastic impacts on their lives directly, but they may prefer to live somewhat sustainably to ensure that their children's lives aren't impacted.

However, future generations would definitely prefer for present generations to live sustainably, as it would make their lives more comfortable and easier.

So, as each preference is weighted equally in preference utilitarianism, and it seems most groups would prefer for us to live as sustainably as possible, would preference utilitarianism have us sacrifice everything?

Not quite, for we have yet to factor something: they must be *rational* preferences. To be rational means to think logically and use reason. If we use this, sacrificing everything leads to a logical contradiction (what's the point in living miserably to create happiness for future generations?) and therefore can't be the rational choice. Also, as history has taught us with events like World War One, the PTSD and horrors the soldiers witnessed also created a great deal of pain and misery for the next generation too, as they could see the pain and sacrifice their parents had gone through. A similar chain of events may happen with sustainability (although perhaps not on the

Selfish Sustainable



Preference utilitarianism suggests we should live mostly sustainably (as that would satisfy the most preferences), however future generations would also prefer us to also have a happy life, so we

same scale), whereby the sacrifices of the current generation take an emotional toll on future generations. So, although they have inherited a healthy planet, able to meet their needs, future generations may still lack the welfare and happiness the present generation is trying to protect, not because of the state of the world, but because of the misery their parents endured from all their sacrifices in the name of sustainability.

Therefore, the rational preferences of most groups would not be to sacrifice everything, but for present generations to also satisfy some of their preferences like having children, taking a few plane journeys in a lifetime and drive a car if it is necessary, in order for the present generation to also be somewhat happy. So, preference utilitarianism would say that we should live mostly sustainably, but allow for some selfish behaviour. Preference utilitarianism would also say that we need to give up some of our

excess wealth and spend it on cleaner fuels and advancing the research of more sustainable methods of production.

However, there are some objections to this ethical theory. One of which is why should all preferences be treated equally? Why is it that the preferences of animals and future generations determine our own actions? Surely our preferences should count for more, since it is us these actions affect directly? Shouldn't we be able to make our own decisions, for going with the majority is an affront to our own free will? If our preferences were to count for more, then our moral obligations to sustainability lessen and our actions should be more selfish than preference utilitarianism says.

Conclusion

So, after looking at all three theories, what is the answer to the question: how much should we sacrifice today for future generations?

One thing that is clear across all three theories is that we all need to do something to help solve this environmental issue. There are plenty of things we can do cheaply with little downside, like recycling; walking instead of driving; and reducing our use of plastics, to name a few.

However, to the question of how far should we go in the name of sustainability, each theory has suggested a different answer. I believe that the approach to preference utilitarianism is correct, because it has the perfect balance of sustainability and selfishness, and it is important to act in the preferences of the majority, rather than the individual. As a young adult, I have seen the damage done when we act in our own interest, and sometimes we need to give up our own desires to prevent disaster, and this is exactly one of those cases. According to preference utilitarianism, we need to sacrifice a large amount of what we do for sustainability, but it should not limit our own happiness and wellbeing by too much. This means that having children and taking plane rides every now and then is still morally acceptable.

Although critics of this view may say that our own free will means that we should make our decisions for ourselves and not conform to the majority of preferences, I think preferences and needs of the whole society overcome that of the individual. We all need to work together and make some sacrifices (that may go against our own free wills) to ensure that we live sustainably because it is more important to look at the preferences of the majority, over the individual. Although we may lose some of our free will if we take a preference utilitarian approach, I think it is a worthy sacrifice to ensure future generations will have some free will, be able to use some of the finite resources we enjoy today and not be left with a polluted, dying planet.

Edited by Neel Patel



Can Singer Save Us All?

By Ben Shorter (Y10)

We live in a society. But what is a society? The word derives from the Latin *societas*, a collective group of *socius*, meaning 'fellow' or 'companion'. A fellow man, by definition, holds the same rights and privileges as you, and a companion walks by your side, not above or below you. In a world in which exist undeniable disparities in wealth, opportunity, and living standards, where is our society? Surely nothing gives us the right to be in any more of a comfortable situation from birth than those living just a few hours' flight away - but we are. Certainly not an equal world. There exists a larger wealth gap in most countries today than at any time since the Industrial Revolution, and that trend only continues to grow^[1-3]. Inequity is the single greatest problem the world faces today, and with governments worldwide freezing pay^[4-7] and dramatically reducing foreign aid^[8, 9], can we really expect to see any true action from those in power? If the state will not act, it is down to us to, and so in this article I will explain the need for you to drastically re-evaluate your approach to wealth and personal luxury.



Australian philosopher Peter Singer posits the argument that “if you are living comfortably while others are hungry or dying from easily preventable diseases, and you are doing nothing about it, there is something wrong with your behaviour”^[10]. Singer further explains that “where world

poverty is concerned, 'giving to charity' is neither charitable nor generous; it is no more than our duty and not giving would be wrong”^[11]. Now, with rising capital disparity, more than ever before is such an ethos carrying with it tangible action as Singer proposes needed in our society. However, while Singer stops short and bases his argument just on the premise that charity is morally obligated, I shall give a more reasoned framework for why charity on such a magnitude as proposed by Singer is not only morally correct, but necessary for any unhypocritical person.

Let us begin on the egalitarian principle that all humans are equal in fundamental worth (I deem this belief a requisite for even approaching sincerity and decency; future realisation of potential cannot be known at birth). This demands **equality of opportunity**. Of course, you alone cannot effect universal equality of opportunity. However, every individual with opportunity to prosper and succeed has the power to contribute to a future in which global equality of opportunity can be achieved, and to provide if not this equality of opportunity to all, then to dozens, perhaps more. Having already established that no human is more valuable than another at birth - until we have universal equality of opportunity - there is no justification for allowing yourself more luxury than those who cannot afford basic essentials. And yes, that means donating the majority of your income to charity.

I can appreciate that diligence, dedication, and effort should be rewarded. However, until it can be known for certain that, with your family's wealth and location, a

young child in – as but one example: Yemen – would not be as successful as you, it is unjustifiable, incredibly narcissistic, and frankly absurd to assume that you are any more intelligent or conscientious than this Yemeni child. While some might argue that it is not the responsibility of the common man but of the politicians and war criminals (who have caused this extreme poverty) to donate, this counterpoint has three great shortcomings. Firstly, it is usually politicians and war criminals of yesteryear rather than today who have caused the poverty now rife. While they could and should – and many do – establish policies, fight this causer of the calamity of human care, it is not as a direct result of most of them that poverty today exists. For those whom it is, my next counterargument stands especially germane. Wherefore would politicians and war criminals donate to charity when there is no demand from the electorate? Out of the *goodness of their hearts*? Really? If those in power do not see action from the common man, they will take no such action themselves. If they do, they are obligated to if they wish to stay in power. And finally, charity from those in power alone will not be enough. The poverty in the world today has amounted to so much that it will no longer be enough for just the 1% to intervene. We must come together, united, as the 100%.

I implore you to rethink how you spend your money. £65 - the price of a videogame - could provide enough vaccines to protect four hundred-and-thirty Yemeni children against polio, a life-threatening disease^[12]. A sacrifice of but a few hours of enjoyment to save lives and prevent countless years of suffering. In Yemen, one hundred-and-thirty children under five die every day from malnourishment and disease^[13]. It would only take £27,141,400 a year to prevent this^[12, 13]. If every working adult in the UK donated just a pound a year to this cause, no preventable deaths would occur for any Yemeni child (with the exception of war)^[12, 13, 14]. The fact that famine and a massive cholera outbreak still exist in Yemen despite such a minuscule amount required to stop its deaths provides testament to the disgustingly selfish attitude to-



wards charity prevalent in higher-income countries. This is only one example. Currently, there exist thirty-two countries in which more than a third of the population is below the extreme poverty line (\$1.90 a day)^[15]. This can be the case no longer. Singer provides us with a viable alternative and the answer to the choice we must make: poverty or no poverty?

I recognise that this is a striking proposal. But if wealth will not be redistributed at a state level, we must do it as individuals. There is enough money in the world for every working adult to have an income of more than \$25,000^[16, 17] – well over the poverty line. Not every working adult has a chance at that money. This is not to say, however, that people should not be rewarded for hard work – *in a world with equal opportunity*. I take no issue with two people being born into families with similar incomes, being provided with similar opportunity, and one advancing further than the other due solely to strength of will and character. But when a person advances over another of equal intellect and character, it is then at which point there exists an inexcusable injustice.

The argument is not without its criticisms, however. One seeming error with Singer's philosophy is whether it is truly practical: could those in more developed countries then get by on their new, lessened incomes? As we give most of our capital to charity, so the counterargument claims, the withdrawal of money from our developed economies will lead to those working in sectors with products now in less demand losing jobs, themselves potentially ending up in poverty. Firstly, I (and I'm sure Singer) would be in agreement that purchases and investments are justified if they would lead to more capital being generated in the future as a result – for example, university tuition fees. This means that a large proportion of those suggested who might have been thought to be affected will not. Secondly – as the criticism outlines – the vast majority of those donating to charity live in economically developed nations. This means, by definition, that the state has the means to provide for its citizens. For example, the UK has both a minimum wage (lower than the \$25,000 that everybody could be earning!^[18]) and a benefits system for those not able to work. While the benefits system is grotesquely underfunded, if we give charitably as I am proposing, it will only necessitate the improvement of said benefits system. We in developed nations will remain better off than those in less developed nations, even after giving the majority of our capital away.

Another issue some point out with the argument is the lack of incentive to work would arise out of a moral obligation to give the majority of one's income away. This idea rests on the false premise that humans are only motivated by money. In reality, money can actually *demotivate* workers^[19]. While seemingly absurd at first, the studies conducted on the matter are conclusive in showing that much larger motivators for most are intangible^[20], such as the sense of satisfaction after completing a

job well done, or (in the case of Singer's argument) the pride in oneself after working hard to save lives. Humans are not machines programmed solely to earn money. We are complex creatures with a variety of motivators, and there is no evidence to suggest that the removal of financial incentives will significantly impact on quality (or quantity) of work.

Even if it is initially difficult to adapt to new lifestyles, it does not take long to settle into change. The **hedonic treadmill** explains how any changes in happiness and life satisfaction are only temporary^[21-23], igitur once the first steps towards giving up luxuries have been made, the next will become much easier. And on the idea that compassion or empathy for others who cannot contribute to society is unnatural – countless times has early man been proven to care for the disabled, young, elderly, and vulnerable^[24-26]. There is the objection posed by some that if poverty decreases through the charity of most, there will be the selfish few who decide not to give and instead reap the benefits of narcissistic apathy. And, unfortunately, this is true. To those few, I can only answer with "shame on them". There have always been and always will be those who disregard any notion of responsibility, who hold a semblance of candour, profiteering off the goodwill of others. These people's assets should face increased taxation, but the state can only go so far before it is deemed to encroach on personal freedoms. Perhaps the social pressure to give to charity and resulting stigma from not doing so will provide enough of a disincentive to these people, but that remains to be seen. And besides, this charitable giving need not be a universal undertaking. Of course, the more charity given, the better, but it would only take fewer than six million adults in the world's twenty richest countries donating half their income to charity to end world poverty in the next twenty years^[27, 28].

I hope you see now what must be done. For any human wishing not to be selfish and hypocritical, charity on the scale that Singer proposes is a requisite. Together, we can effect great change. If the problem of inequity will not be solved by others, take it upon yourself.

Edited By Nicholas James

Glossary:

Equality of opportunity – the state of fairness in which individuals are provided with equal opportunity to succeed, unhampered by artificial barriers or personal prejudices

Hedonic treadmill – the tendency of humans to quickly return to a set level of happiness and life satisfaction despite overwhelmingly positive or negative events taking place





BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

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The Rule of Law by Tom Bingham

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson

Politics

Data Protection

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Devolution

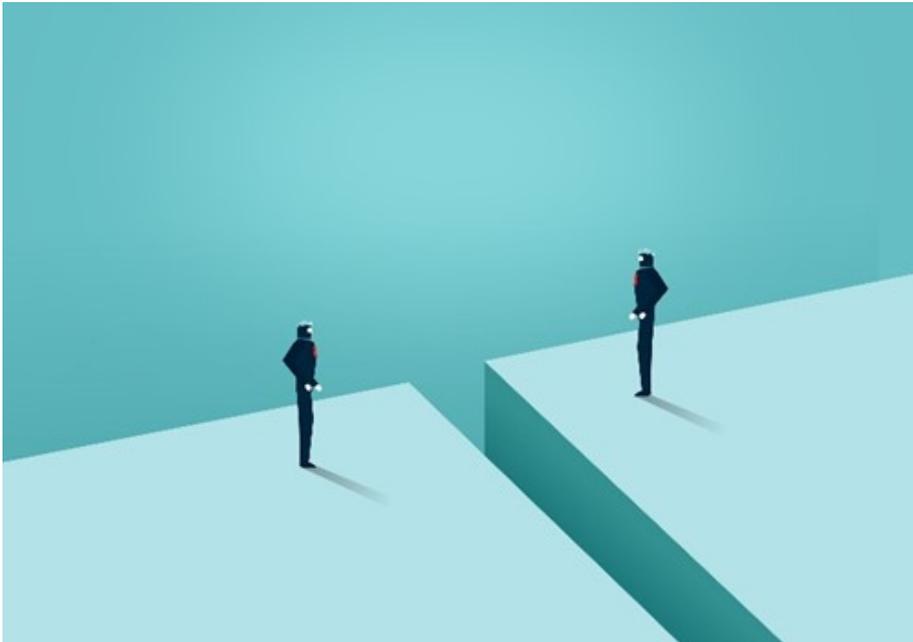
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Left, Right, and Forwards: An Analysis of Societal Division

By Ben Shorter (Y10)

Today's society is more polarised than ever before. In this era, humanity reaches a crossroads: do we return to the path forwards, towards progress and prosperity, or do we succumb to our primeval instincts and take a sharp turn left or right leading backwards, damning ourselves to a fate of disunity and destruction? The last half century has provided us with events long thought impossible, but has through these effected polarisation of the sort unforeseen to their progenitors. In this article I aim to

broaden your understanding as to why this has happened, what it means for us today, and what could happen in the future as a result of this.

Why has this happened?

There are a multitude of reasons for the social division we face today. I will go through those which I feel have contributed the most to this division, beginning with those relating to politics.

Ever since the end of the Cold War, in which two halves of the world fought each other for ideological supremacy, there has been no ultimate nemesis for any one country.

Of course, there have been wars fought since: the war in Afghanistan, the Iraq War, and the Second Congo War, along with countless political rivalries. However, these are all the result of nuanced causes, and there is no longer one ever-present superpower which countries seek to dismantle as their priority - **pragmatic** or not. Where a populace is without a common enemy, disunity is inevitable; its citizens will find a new enemy - their intranational political rivals. Amy Chua discusses this enmity that arises between the political left and right (note that this is a simplification for the purposes of this article) in her 2018 book *Political Tribes*, in which she writes, 'humans are tribal. We need to belong to groups... but once people belong to a group, their identities can become oddly bound with it... the Left believes that right-wing tribalism - bigotry, racism - is tearing the country apart. The Right believes that left-wing tribalism - identity politics, political correctness - is tearing the country apart. They are both right' ^[1]. Here, Chua is attacking the modern ideologue: dogmatic, uncompromising, and unpragmatic. And she is right. Our need for belonging to a group - a tribe - leads us to attack the group's opponents with uncompromising zealotry. As previously alluded to, the end of the Cold War has left a gaping void of an ultimate enemy, but

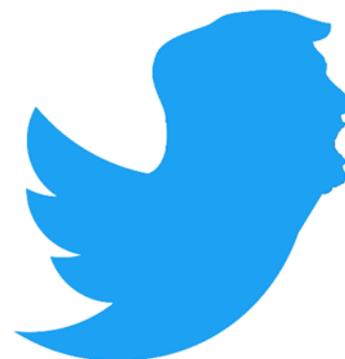


this would not be a problem without the attitude of most politicians: rather than attempting to work together with their opposing number, they will much more frequently pit themselves as an adversary; antagonising rather than compromising. However, this is not an accident: the ballotter demands of the politician hard, opinionated language in strong defence of their principles. If this is not met, the politician in question will be deemed weak and unworthy of their vote. This can be in part attributed to the rise of **populism** over the last sixty years, but it is also a failure of the political systems that govern the world. For the countries that have a democratic structure in the first place, all have a system in which one person is elected to represent the views of the plurality of a certain area, often speaking for tens of thousands. Of these democracies, almost all (with a small number of exceptions ^[2-8]) have politicians representing political parties being ordered to vote with the leader of government or leader of opposition ^[9,10], and often cause controversy and questions to be asked of them if they do not do so.

Naturally, this leads to a situation in which it is up to the most senior party members to make decisions and compromises. Less senior members (think of a backbencher MP) hold little sway over the outcome of a bill being debated besides a convincing speech. This is due to the facts that: a) legislation in every government system must be passed by a majority of some form, and b) that members of a political party-run state's governing body will almost always vote with their party rather than against it. This results in discontentment from the ballotter that their wishes are not being fulfilled should their representative vote against their party, and logically they will vote out their representative. However, producing a brilliant speech can only go so far in inspiring **bipartisan** action. It is this contra-party voting which must take place for compromise to occur, and unfortunately it does not. It cannot, as things are now. This is not dissimilar in international politics, wherein compromise is rare between unfriendly states as it would show acceptance of the other's policies and ideals - something which a modern politician would certainly not want to be found doing.



Another reason for the heightened social division we face today is the existence of **partisan** journalism stemming from the advent of the digital revolution. Channel Four - the fourth television channel - was only released in 1982 ^[11], more recently than man's venture to the moon. Before this, only three TV channels existed (BBC 1, BBC 2, and ITV ^[12]), each broadcasting nonpartisan news as they were required to do by law ^[13]. After this came many more in a short period of time: the number of television channels in the UK has increased almost one hundredfold in just thirty years ^[14]. Satellite television brought with itself the ability, for the first time, to view news for free from a source which was not wholly impartial ^[15]. This has been a large influence in the rise of identity-group politics that now exists today. If given the choice, studies have shown that people will choose to watch, read, or listen to news which align with their personal views ^{[16][17]}.



This then pushes the left and right further away from each other into their respective camps, having to shout ever louder to make themselves heard by the other side. Furthermore, the greatest product to come out of the digital revolution - the internet - also provided a haven

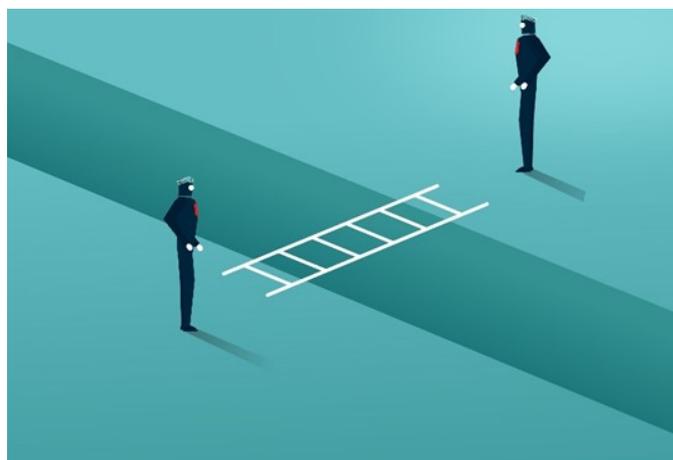


for partisan news. Not only this, but also **misinformation** - and even worse, **disinformation** (or to use the now-infamous term, fake news) – are widely spread. To highlight just how damaging this has been, in the month before the 2016 US presidential election, more than 6.6 million tweets were found linking to fake (unsourced) or conspiracy-linked news publishers^[18]. This misinformation - often disinformation - of course gets re-tweeted and ends up on millions' more devices, frequently on other social media as well^[19]. It is entirely plausible that, due to the fact that there was much more pro-Republican misinformation being spread than pro-Democrat^[18], this could have swung the election in Trump's favour.

The fact that such an important event could have been decided by the spreading of false and damaging claims is worrying enough regardless of your political stance, but the implications of it are even more so. Millions of tweets containing misinformation are still being published monthly^[18] and it is truly frightening to realise that the political landscape of tomorrow could be shaped around misinformation. People believe what they want to believe^[20, 21], so it follows that most will accept false information in line with their personal beliefs, but reject and scrutinise the equally as misinformed claims contradicting their personal beliefs. The decline of journalistic responsibility that we have witnessed in recent decades has been massively beneficial to societal division, and the polarisation it causes will only continue to exacerbate the damaging mindset of 'us, then them'.

What Lies Ahead?

This is a tricky question to answer, for in all honesty, I don't know. However, things can only really go one of two ways. We are at a breaking point; the position that we are in currently cannot be maintained. As political figures become ever more divisive, one of two things will happen. A first possible outcome is that the enmity between disagreeing groups of rival political stances becomes too great for any idea of civility or discussion to exist: societal breakdown and anarchy ensues. Some political commentators even predicted a second American civil war during the height of racial tension in the US^[22] after the murders of Rayshard Brooks, Daniel Prude, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor, among hundreds of others^[23]. While highly unlikely right now, the trend of increasing animus between different groups could mean that this sort of ex-



trema result is plausible in the future. To quote Josianne Petit, a criminal defence paralegal and partaker in Black Lives Matter protests: "At this point the options - the only options available to us are when things go crazy we lie down and die, or we fight back. And I'm sorry, I'm not lying down for anybody"^[24]. The second possible outcome is rather more optimistic. While a monumental ordeal, it is not yet too late for humanity to realise its mistakes and correct them. And this is not a manifesto for radical centrism – I am firm believer that disagreement accompanied by civil discussion is healthy and beneficial for the progression of civilisation. However, this aforementioned civil discussion is not what exists now - if we are to fix this situation we've got ourselves into, it has got to be us *and* them - together. There cannot be left, right, and forwards. The question is: left, right, or forwards?

Edited by Aaron Stace

Glossary:

Pragmatic – Approaching issues rationalistically and practically rather than basing decisions on theoretical considerations or emotion

Populism – A political ideology that attempts to appeal to the average middle-class citizen who feels their concerns are disregarded by the elite

Bipartisan – Relating to the cooperation of two individuals or groups with opposed political views

Partisan – Fervent support in favour of a particular cause

Misinformation – False or inaccurate information

Disinformation – False or inaccurate information spread with deliberate intent to deceive



Data Protection: Our Rights, and What Went Wrong?

By Mann Patira (Y12)

Have you ever been looking at buying something online, only to log into Facebook and get loads of adverts about it? It may seem like magic, but what is actually happening is that your behaviour is being accurately predicted.



The most powerful and the richest companies in the world are all technology companies such as Amazon, Google, Facebook, etc. This is because, as of 2017, data has surpassed oil in value ^[1] - it is the most valuable asset on earth and these companies have become so powerful since they have been exploiting the data of their consumers.

Digital traces of ourselves are being mined into a \$3 trillion-a-year industry ^[2] as our every online interaction; our web searches, likes, locations are harvested and gathered, allowing any buyer direct access to our emotional pulse - our data.

What are our Rights?

In 2018, the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into effect, bringing about a new era of enhanced data protection standards. Under this law, we have the right of access, rectification, erasure, restriction of processing and data portability ^[3]. In the UK we also have a law called the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) which is the UK's implementation of the GDPR and while these are broadly similar, they do have some key differences.

The GDPR was released by the European Union and it manages personal data across the entirety of the EU, however, it has **derogations** which allow members to alter the legislation and the UK decided to extend the GDPR and make amendments to the EU law.

For example, the DPA has parts dealing with immigration as well as provisions to ensure that intelligence services abide by internationally recognised data protection standards. Neither of these fell within the EU law and were additions made by the UK government ^[4].



So, our data rights seem to be pro-

ected by legislation, but this was passed in 2018, no doubt prompted by the actions of Cambridge Analytica who carried out one of the greatest violations of data rights in history and what they did highlights how vulnerable we are to having our data misused.

What did Cambridge Analytica (SCL) do?

Cambridge Analytica began as a military contractor; they trained the British Army, US Army, NATO, CIA, State Department and the Pentagon in a form of warfare called **psy-ops** which is a war tactic that used research and data to influence the behaviour of hostile audiences such as convincing those at risk of brainwashing to refrain from joining terrorist groups using communication warfare ^[5].

However, the issue arose when they began to use information warfare in various elections; in countries like Argentina (2015), Trinidad and Tobago (2009), Thailand (1997), India (2010), Malaysia (2013), Italy (2012), Kenya (2013), and Colombia (2011) ^[6] to name a few. These were simply test-runs to the company as they perfected their methodology and soon, they turned their attention to the bigger countries such as the UK and US.

They first joined American politics

by working on the Ted Cruz campaign and the result was clear as he went from the lowest-rated candidate in the primaries to the last man standing before Trump's nomination and his success was credited to the use of psychological data and analytics ^[7].



Cambridge Analytica

They first joined American politics by working on the Ted Cruz campaign and the result was clear as he went from the lowest-rated candidate in the primaries to the last man standing before Trump's nomination and his success was credited to the use of psychological data and analytics ^[7].

As a result of this success, they could join the Trump campaign for which the company received help from a Cambridge Professor named Prof. Aleksander Kogan who created a survey called "thisisyourdigitallife" ^[8]. This was coded in a way that gave it special permission on Facebook to harvest data not only from the person who used or joined the app, but it would go into their entire friend network and pull all of their friends' data too, who are completely oblivious to their breach of privacy.



Devolution: The Key to Solving Regional Inequalities?

By Ishan Paul Chowdhury (Y12)

As a nation, aspects of leadership, power, inequalities and the extent of democracy are all being questioned and challenged constantly in the UK, but as social advancements are happening at a rate higher than ever before, the answers and amendments to these issues couldn't come at a better time.



The Oxford English Dictionary defines *devolution* as ‘the act of giving power from a central authority or government to an authority or a government in a local region ^[1].’ However, as growth inequalities present themselves to the attention of leaders, the act in itself is debated on a much wider scale. Many would argue that undergoing devolution and transferring certain powers from the England-based central government to the three other countries of the UK (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) is beneficial in resolving the growth-inequalities, providing greater attention to those in need within the other countries and the resources that they have. However, others would disagree, arguing that it isn't the best idea in the long run. Let's have a look at the different arguments.

An argument for the act of devolution to occur is that it is more democratic and representative, meaning the government is brought to the people. It can be insufficient to just have a voice in Westminster,

where local issues don't carry the same importance. With devolution, issues such as the NHS in the other nations can be dealt with in a much more specific approach, allowing and acknowledging the different sectors of the NHS within the UK to give the same medical attention to those regardless of their area.

Economies in devolved areas have also proven a success: in Manchester, employment was set to rise by 22,000 in 2018 ^[2]. This is following increased funding given to Manchester by the central government. Thus, showing that devolution is undeniably in the greater interest of UK parliament and its people.

In addition, devolution could help prevent the breakup of the UK. During the build-up to the Scottish Independence Referendum in 2014, Gordon Brown, followed by the Labour Party argued that, if Scotland voted to remain in the UK, they should be granted *devo max* ^[3], otherwise known as full fiscal autonomy. Devo Max or

“Full Fiscal Autonomy” is a particular form of far-reaching devolution proposed for Scotland. The Scottish Parliament would receive all taxation levied in Scotland; it would be responsible for most spending in Scotland but make payments to the UK government to cover Scotland's share of the cost of providing certain UK-wide services. This would cause greater desire for the union to remain intact as its benefits would be favourable.

However, one could argue the opposite, and that devolution could fuel the desire for independence, as each nation of the union becomes further detached from one another. This could be seen with the Scottish Independence Referendum of 2014. This would mean that the UK would undergo break up which would lead to a weakening of the national government, and its position in world politics.

Also, an argument that proves against devolution is the idea that it actually creates more inequality, delivering the exact



opposite of its aim! Uneven devolved decision-making leads to incredibly harsh financial conditions for individuals, causing postcode lotteries to emerge. A prominent example of this is university tuition fees; a student in England faces debts in excess of £27,000 for fees ^[4], while Scotland has never introduced them. This would lead to further constitutional instabilities, as the conflict ensues between national and regional governments over what is best for specific areas and the country as a whole. Those against devolution would argue that the issues in the long run, following it, will emerge in such horrific ways that dealing with it will be greater than actually undergoing devolution in the first place.

Following Scottish devolution in 1999, health and social care policy and funding became the responsibility of Scottish Parliament. Although this was designed to help improve the Scottish health service, with a greater focus on local issues, it remains less effective than NHS England ^[5]. Many have argued that the root of this problem is funding - an aspect to inequality which could be rectified if further financial devolution was to occur, where Westminster were to distribute funds better. However, critics would argue that this illustrates that devolution does little to help reduce inequality.

There are clear arguments for and against this hugely topical issue and incidents will occur even after this article is published regarding separation of powers within the UK, but what do you think: is devolution the key to solving regional inequalities?

Edited by Nicholas James



To what extent will the Government's Post-Brexit Immigration System be Successful?

By Jasper Heikkila (Y12)

Under New Labour, Britain underwent an unprecedented increase in net migration, from 48,000 in 1997 to 256,000 in per annum 2010^[1]. Ever since, succeeding governments have failed to adhere to David Cameron's net migration target of 100,000 set in 2010, bringing the debate about immigration to the forefront of British politics. As such, immigration was widely cited as the principal concern of Brexiteers during the June 2016 referendum^[2]. The Leave Vote has left Britain searching for an alternative to freedom of movement - in July 2020, the Home Secretary Priti Patel announced a modified 'points-based' system that will begin in January 2021. The system, which encourages high-skilled workers with job offers and English language skills, has been criticised for neglecting 'lower-skilled' workers such as social workers. The system has the potential to be a success, as it seeks to attract talent from across the world, yet the government would do well to ensure vulnerable industries are not left stranded by an exodus of foreign workers amidst a pandemic.

From an economic standpoint, by prioritising RQF3 level jobs (A-level or equivalent qualification required), the new system fosters talent that is likely to benefit the skills pool of higher-tier jobs. Furthermore, a common misconception is that immigrants are parasitic to the public service of Britons, such as the NHS. In fact, recent research suggests that immigrants from both the EU and elsewhere are net contributors over their lifetime, with the average EU migrant arriving in 2016 projected to contribute £78,000 to public finances over their lifetime^[3]. By placing the wage cap at £25,600, the government will be admitting workers that contribute to Britain's growing STEM and quaternary sectors (PhD holders are given fast-track considerations) and indeed help raise wages for those in the upper median of salaries, with EU migration accounting for a 1.6% increase at the 50th percentile and 4.4% at the 90th percentile^[4].

That being said, by introducing a wage threshold the government excludes various lower-paid professions such as construction and social care. The rationale for this is, contrary to higher-paid jobs, lower paid jobs have had

their "wages held down" by "big corporations" who have "unlimited pools of labour from other countries", as was claimed by Boris Johnson in a 2018 speech at the JCB headquarters, a manufacturing firm. Findings do to an extent support this claim, as between 1937 and 2017 wages for the lowest paid would have risen by 5% more if Britain had not been in the EU^[5]. This supports the trope of the Eastern European worker 'flooding' in to Britain's blue collar professions and depressing wages. Despite this, the rise in the minimum wage has offset much of the wage flattening^[6]. So, whilst certainly serving as the chief limitation of low-skilled immigration, it is important not to exaggerate this claim.

To combat concerns about shortages in these occupations the government has lowered the wage threshold to £20,480 for occupations like secondary school teaching. Whilst this is a step in the right direction to safeguard vulnerable industries, the plan is narrow and excludes industries such as social care. 66% of the 115,000 EU nationals currently working in the care sector would be ineligible for a visa^[7]. This pattern repeats itself in other key industries such as transport and retail, which are effectively propped up by migrant workers. The salience of our migrant workers has been

emphasised further throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as we have re-defined what we value in our migrants; half of 'key' worker immigrants would have been denied a visa under the upcoming system. Can we really afford to forego such vital workers to the nation during this time? Whilst not necessarily fitting the traditional idea of 'skilled', industries like social care are beginning to be appreciated again during a time of social strife.

To maximise the economic benefit of the system, the government should adopt one of two options: firstly, following the extension of the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme this year, the government should not only carry this on for future years, but apply the same principle to other industries. Rather than lowering the overall salary level, migrant-reliant industries should be identified and *ad hoc* migrant quotas would help struggling industries while preventing excess immigration. Critics would point out that over-dependence on cheap migration discourages business investment into new technology, thus stifling productivity. So, the government's second, and arguably more sustainable, option is to pour capital into training for



Britons to occupy jobs such as seasonal fruit-picking. Initial programmes have failed, such as the 'Pick for Britain' campaign during summer - a measly 11% of pickers were domestic ^[8]. So far, the governments of the previous decade has been *cutting* funding for these sectors, with real-terms spending on adult social care having decreased by 2% since 2009 ^[9], leaving businesses with no choice but to look abroad. Pre-COVID, Priti Patel recognised this lack of investment by both private and public bodies, and implored businesses to tap into the 'eight million... economically inactive people' without a job in Britain. At the time this was a disingenuous statement, as in reality only 1.9 million ^[10] of those actually wanted a job. However, as the economy enters a recession, with the International Monetary Fund predicting a 10.2% drop in GDP for 2020 ^[11], unemployment is likely to increase as the furlough scheme begins to taper off. This will free up more labour, and means there will be potential for businesses to accelerate the

training of Britons for short-staffed sectors.

The political consequences of the system are likely to be positive. Brexiteers would point out that any liberalisation of policy would betray the wishes of many Leave voters who wished for significant reductions in migration. In truth, the government has room to manoeuvre, as since 2016 there has been a rise in positive attitudes to immigration from Leave and Remain voters alike ^[12]. This positivity has generally been towards skilled workers however ^[13], so a system that attracts talented workers whilst dismissing lower-skilled individuals should resonate well with the public. This is not to say the conclusion on the mood of the public is clear-cut, as other studies show that a desire for increased EU medical staff couples a wish for reduced immigration ^[14]. From this, we can conclude that whilst the nation is not in favour of lower-paid immigration on the whole, it is willing to make exceptions for industries that need support from external labour forces. The new system does well then in attempt-

ing to bring in the highest-skilled foreigners - but to assert that Priti Patel has her hands tied over making exceptions to the system is unconvincing: there has been a shift in the political climate since the 'breaking point' posters of Nigel Farage during the referendum.

Table: Eligibility to migrate to the UK under the government's proposed immigration system by sector - IPPR think tank 2020

Sector	% ineligible	% eligible
Agriculture*	75	25
Manufacturing	74	26
Energy and Water*	55	45
Construction	59	41
Wholesale and Retail	86	14
Transport and Storage	90	10
Hotels and Restaurants	85	15
Information and Communications	22	78
Financial Services	38	62
Business Services	58	42
Public Administration	49	51
Education	55	45
Health and Social Work	66	34
Arts and Other Services	58	42

There is capability for Britain to retain a robust immigration system as we cross into next year, that both appeases the wish for reduced migrant numbers whilst plugging the gaps in our economy. Immigration will tend to decrease naturally due to the restrictions posed by coronavirus though. So, the system will only succeed if either Britons begin working in traditional 'migrant-occupations', or thresholds are lowered for struggling sectors.

Edited by Nicholas James



The Overarching Effects of the US-China Trade War

By Neil da Gama (Y12)

The USA and China have had many well publicised public disagreements over a plethora of issues. However, tensions reached a boiling point in 2018 when an economic spat escalated between the nations who are both increasingly committed to economic protectionism. Since the election of the Trump administration to office, Sino – US relations have slumped due to the bullish strategies and rhetoric educated by both countries regarding one another. This crash in Sino – US relations has been further compounded by the COVID 19 pandemic which originated in China causing a further shift in public and political sentiment against China with many of the US public directly blaming China's lack of oversight and gross negligence for crippling the world with an 'easily preventable' pandemic.

Causes and Events of the Trade War

Both China and the USA, are now reserved to a basic economic ideology of protectionism which entails the imposing of policies that boost domestic production or growth of industries by usually reducing foreign imports into the country so a large proportion of US public expenditure is on US goods within an industry. These policies directly contradict globalisation and cooperation between countries but can be alternatively viewed as a domestic economic stimulus but also a justified international economic sanction on countries that displease them or threaten their national interests. Recent US administrations have strongly favoured the use of economic policies such as sanctions and tariffs against countries who directly threaten their national interests or world peace such as Iran due to their nuclear programme (2010 'CISADA' legislation) or China for long-standing economic manipulation. Furthermore, a key aspect of President Trump's electoral appeal was his promise to reform US-China relations to make it more fair for America. The precursor to the trade war was the relatively diplomatic '100 Day Action Plan' to resolve trade differences between the countries. However, no progress was made between the superpowers which prompted the USA to start imposing tariffs on China. ^[1,4]

A trade war between China and the US began in the summer of 2018 when a series of controversial economic actions perpetrated by China over the past decade threatened America's national and economic interests. Previously, the USA had favoured a more cautious and calculated approach to foreign relations especially with China. However, the USA now favours a more transactional, hard-line and transparent view on foreign relations with China firmly placed in their crosshairs. This bullish attitude paired with numerous years of Chinese economic manipulation, domestically and internationally, exacerbated already inflamed relations. China's ever-expanding economy is now challenging the US economy as the leading world economy and even surpasses it in some industries. In 2018, the US government accused China of a series of grave economic manipulations which included the theft of US intellectual property, unfair 'Foreign Direct Investment' norms and currency manipulation over recent years which cannot truly be refuted ^[4].

Since the turn of the century, Chinese industrial espionage in key sectors of the American economy has increased greatly with many US based firms, businessmen, academics and government officials reporting that their ideas had been 'stolen' and implemented in China, reducing their profitability. The 'Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property' ^[4], an independent bipartisan initiative reported that the theft of American intellectual property solely by China, totally costs the US economy \$600 billion every year. This trend is set to continue in the future. In comparison, the last reported US trade deficit was \$576.9 billion with \$345.2 billion of that deficit solely caused by China. The Chinese industrial espionage in American industry has exacerbated the US' trade deficit even further as it reduces the profitability of each of these ideas as China is more willing to sell for lower prices which pushes US prices for similar goods down and increases the dependence of the US economic agents on Chinese imports while reducing US exports. The USA may be more willing to pursue a more aggressive stance on this front of the economic battlefield due to the Chinese mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic crippling the US economy and their exports as most of US industry has not fully resurged in comparison to the Chinese which further increases the US trade deficit. Industrial espionage also spilled over into threats to US national security as one in five US tech companies have reported that they were victims of Chinese industrial espionage in 2019. Recent examples of Chinese industrial espionage include the 'Unit 61398' Case. In May 2014, federal prosecutors charged five members of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China for cyber-hacking confidential computer files of four prominent US companies such as nuclear power plant producer 'Westinghouse', and solar cell manufacturer 'Solar World' who reported that key proprietary technology that made their solar cells more efficient was stolen and distributed to their Chinese competitor. Such important technologies developed in the USA have been the target of Chinese infiltration and distribution to many state owned competitors to US firms with one in five US based technology firms believing that their intellectual property had been 'stolen' by China in 2019.





Further allegations arose during the summer of 2018 of unfair Chinese foreign direct investment initiatives. These greatly reduced US firms' market access to Chinese consumers because they must agree to merge or enter a joint venture with an already existing Chinese company to start operating and selling in China. This means that US companies must transfer their intellectual properties to their Chinese partners. To make matters worse for their protection of American confidential information is that the Chinese government has mandated the creation of communist party branches or committees in all publicly listed companies. So, private companies in China are still privy to the Party's demands and are not truly private. Even foreign joint ventures are subject to such rules. About 70 percent of foreign-funded companies, or 106,000, have established Party branches. The formation of a communist party branch in public companies is a prerequisite now for any company to operate in China and the companies are expected to follow the rulings of the committee. This also provides a direct route of confidential international information to the Chinese government. As a result, these measures and policies have prevented US firms from truly penetrating the Chinese market whereas it is relatively easy for Chinese firms to do so in the USA. However, the Trump administration has started to hit back at specific highly profitable Chinese companies such as Huawei and ByteDance. Trump banned all American companies from doing business with Huawei due to their theft of American company T-Mobile's intellectual property as well as growing mistrust over a business with such close links to the Chinese government that had easy access and a vital role in the future of US communications infrastructure – 5G.

Following Chinese indirect interference in the American economy to undermine it, the US government threatened to impose 10% tariffs on \$300 billion of Chinese goods. In early August 2019, China retaliated to this threat with the 'People's Bank of China' allowing the 'yuan' to depreciate so that the conversion rate was seven yuan to a single American dollar. This was a historic low. This brazen act garnered international attention with President Trump taking to Twitter (once again) to speak his mind and address the Chinese intentions. He tweeted, '[China is trying to] steal our business and factories, hurt our jobs, depress our workers' wages, and harm our farmers' prices.' Trump viewed this action as a Chinese effort to undermine the economy, undermine imposed tariffs and gain an advantage in international trade. In layman's terms, this made Chinese goods cheaper and reduce the impact of American tariffs on their goods as American goods become less competitive when compared to their Chinese counterparts as the American dollar is much stronger than the Chinese Yuan. Thus, American goods are much more expensive in comparison. China's central

bank has a comprehensive record of undervaluing the yuan to maintain high rates of domestic economic growth vs the US' international currency interaction approach. This has been viewed as an act of premeditated malice from the Chinese government as they allowed the yuan to depreciate relatively steadily in the months preceding until it reached its lowest level in 11 years. Chinese currency manipulation could, therefore, cause wide reaching and numerous problems to the American economy such as rising unemployment caused by a lack of demand for US goods. In December 2019, as further retaliation to American tariffs on \$300 billion of Chinese goods, China imposed new tariffs of 5-10% on key sectors that contribute to a large proportion of foreign export expenditure on US goods especially for US technology, electrical and vehicular exports to China with China adding a 25% tariff on US cars. This was a concentrated yet relatively minor attack on US industry as it was targeted to the US' most profitable exports but was justified by previous US tariffs of \$300 billion on a wide range of Chinese goods. Following Chinese tariffs, the US imposed an increase on existing US tariffs up to 25%. These escalating economic tensions led to a game of economic brinksmanship that was present throughout the trade war.^[2,9]

This system of tariffs greatly reduced the profitability of key aspects and industries of both economies. The US favoured a more wholistic and blunt approach to the trade war by applying 'blanket' tariffs over Chinese goods but at usually lower rates than the Chinese. However, the Chinese favoured a more clinical attack on the American economy with specific profitable industries imposed with increased tariffs to stimulate domestic Chinese growth in these sectors as well as reducing demand for American goods. It has been hard to gauge the successes of each approach as it is a matter of perspective as to which method of imposing tariffs would be more apt as some may favour a more direct and aggressive statement of intent of American readiness to impose wide ranging and comprehensive tariffs on Chinese goods following their numerous trade infractions.

Outcomes of the US-China Trade War (for each country)

President Trump in late 2019 declared that the trade war with China was over following 18 months of tense economic exchanges between the countries. However, firm action to end the trade war was only legislated in early January 2020 by the 'Phase One Trade Deal' in which the USA agreed to cut some tariffs to 7.5% on \$120 billion of Chinese goods while China agreed to increase their purchase of a wide variety of American goods by at least \$200 billion from 2019 – 2021. Both sides have claimed this as a victory over the other as Trump received guarantees from the Chinese government regarding future trade, while China's economic growth was planned to rebound following the reduction of US tariffs. However, it can be argued that the USA actually won the trade war as China willingly accepted terms that weren't in their interests as the USA received substantial guarantees on trade as well as new legislation preventing intellectual theft and kept 25% tariffs on some Chinese goods while China made more concessions in comparison as they were mainly granted tariff reductions.



of US tariffs. However, it can be argued that the USA actually won the trade war as China willingly accepted terms that weren't in their interests as the USA received substantial guarantees on trade as well as new legislation preventing intellectual theft and kept 25% tariffs on some Chinese goods while China made more concessions in comparison as they were mainly granted tariff reductions.

Research conducted by the 'Federal Reserve Bank of New York' and 'Columbia University' stated that US companies lost \$1.7 trillion due to their stock depreciating due to American tariffs being imposed on Chinese goods mainly because investors understood that these firms would have lower profit margins if they needed to buy more expensive Chinese goods. US demand for Chinese goods fell by a third during the trade war. The 'China International Capital Corp' attributed 1.3 million to 1.9 million of lost Chinese jobs to US tariff rises, with exports to the US – China's biggest foreign market – down nearly 22% in September from a year earlier. The trade war, therefore, weakened both economies greatly and its advantages of stimulated domestic production were nowhere close to offsetting the total costs of the trade war for both countries. However, this was expected by both governments when they first escalated economic tensions as it was a matter of principle for each to take a stand against the other following growing tensions.

Has the US-China Trade War Really Finished?

The trade war is not truly over.

The Trump administration made a key campaign promise that contributed to their electoral appeal and success as they constantly made numerous (usually) hyperbolic claims about China and their plans on how to reform their relationship. A similar parallel can be drawn to this day, as Trump continues to barrel down on his campaign and participate in rallies, China has once again emerged as a

recurring key issue in the Republicans' rhetoric and electoral appeal. So, it would be in Trump's interests to continue 'China-bashing' to further his electoral appeal as he can justify that he has been successful in the trade war and can continue to contribute to the US' foreign policy. However, this policy of China bashing is not a great deviation from the Trump administration's recent rhetoric as relations between the countries has once again deteriorated due to the COVID-19 pandemic but the terms of the 'Phase One Trade Deal' are expected to be kept.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has complicated already strained relations between the countries with the Trump administration and many other governments blaming gross negligence, a lack of transparency, conspiracies (only the Trump administration) and inaction on the part of the Chinese government as causing the effects of the global pandemic as seen today. Trump believes that China is solely to blame for the virus due to his aversion to using its actual name and instead affectionately nicknaming it the 'China-virus' at almost every opportunity to perhaps sway the American public mood even further. These notions have been portrayed in recent foreign policy within the last year as Trump and his administration refusing to progress new trade talks with China citing the inadequacies of their handling of the virus. Speaking at an Arizona rally, Trump stated, "I postponed talks with China. "You know why? I don't want to deal with them now. I don't want to deal with them now. With what they did to this country and to the world, I don't want to talk to China right now." He went even further stating that the Phase Two Trade Deal, the successor of the Phase 1 Trade Deal, was no longer 'on the table' which accurately represents the newfound discord between the nations. Other key members of the President's inner circle such as Mike Pompeo – the Secretary of State, stated in a virtual event that the world will 'absolutely make [China] pay a price'



for 'what [China] has done to the world'. Trump may have to double down on his criticisms of China to pawn the blame on China for some of his failings in the handling of the virus in America which have the highest number of cases. This threat could have economic implications due to the recent yet damaging trade war being in the fore of both governments' minds which could be a possible avenue for the US government to follow when the world economy rebounds from the economically destructive pandemic. It would be implausible for both sides to continue a trade war which, on the whole, weakened both economies as well as the world economy as the IMF stated that global economic growth in 2019 fell from 3.6% to 3% and made the crushing blows of the pandemic more impactful on each of their economies. However, if re-elected, Trump will be expected to honour his promise of a more hard-line and aggressive relationship with China than what we have already seen.



Following the pandemic, more protectionist policies will avail in mostly every economy so world trade will be of lesser importance as each country wants to stimulate domestic production before they look to foreign alternatives in an effort to restore their economy. To do this, tariffs may be placed not only on international goods but on other countries' goods to encourage domestic spending on goods produced in that country. A similar policy was employed during the early stages of the 'Great Depression' by President Hoover with disastrous consequences as tariffs were imposed on most foreign (agricultural) goods which topped many countries trading with the USA and worsened the depression and led to global trade falling by 65%. In an effort to avoid further complications to the world economy as well as their own, the USA and China may not favour a full-blown trade war but a more discreet system of economic sanctions and tariffs that are still in

In conclusion, the trade war between China and the USA is not truly over. Although, important legislation was signed between the countries, tensions have once again reached a boiling point due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the proximity to the US election. Some more economic conflicts between the nations have flown under

the radar due to the concentration of Covid 19 reporting in the media and seem seemingly unrelated to one another. For example, in response to the Chinese national security law being imposed in Hong Kong that, in essence, removed most democratic features from Hong Kong's governance, the US congress ratified and imposed the 'Hong Kong Autonomy Act' in June of 2020 which applied 'massive' economic sanctions on China according to Trump. China's foreign ministry vowed that Beijing would impose retaliatory sanctions back on the US. This clearly sets up the battlefield for another economically calamitous trade war with more economic sanctions when each economy is still reeling from the impact of coronavirus. In relation to trade between the two countries, Trump revoked Hong Kong's zero tariffs preferential treatment and will now be treated as mainland China from an economic standpoint via an executive order. Further US sanctions have been threatened over China's illegal territorial claims in the South China Sea. These sanctions and tariffs may not represent a traditional trade war but rather a series of subtle economic skirmishes and games of economic brinkmanship linked together in a web of inextricable foreign policy.

Edited by Shahzeb Ahmed



Popular Conservatism is No Longer Popular

By Neel Patel (Y12)

Democracies around the world are founded on the principle that under law, everyone is equal and must abide by the same rules and regulations. Recently, however, the British government, through the Internal Market Bill, has transgressed this fundamental credo: the rule of law.



In the 19th century, A. V. Dicey identified the twin pillars paramount to the British constitution as parliamentary sovereignty and the rule of law: the primary focus of this article. Rule of law is the idea that “no man is above the law and everyone, whatever his condition or rank is, is subject to the ordinary laws of the land”^[1].

Britain's Conservative party have long revelled in being the party of law and order, but as of Tuesday 8th September, they seem to be the party of ‘very specific and limited’^[2] law and order. In fact, a government spokesperson has openly stated that “if we feel that the laws, we are subject to can be broken, then we retain the right to do so”. Dominic Cummings is even working on rebranding the party to position themselves as the ‘party of laws we care about’.

The controversy stems from an admission by the North-

ern Ireland secretary, Brandon Lewis, that parts of the revised Brexit agreement might be a breach of an international treaty that has been signed by Boris Johnson himself^[2].

The breach in question emanates from the UK government's Internal Market Bill which would give ministers powers to impose regulations regarding state aid and custom procedures for trade from Northern Ireland to Great Britain. The existence of such powers is a contravention of Article

Four of the Withdrawal Agreement, which stipulates that the UK must use primary legislation to provide full effect to the Withdrawal Agreement relative to domestic law. Despite this, Michael Gove has explicitly said that areas of the bill that override provisions in Brexit deal would remain, despite EU requests to remove these parts^[3].

Rebellion within parliament and the government itself is evident: the head of the UK government's legal department,



Jonathan Jones, has become the sixth senior Whitehall civil servant to resign this year. Furthermore, the former advocate general for Scotland, Lord Keen of Elie, has also resigned over the bill ^[4]. Moreover, the House of Lords has come to the conclusion that upholding the law is fundamental and that Parliament (the law-making body that expects people to obey its legislation) would be knowingly endorsing governmental transgression of the law and therefore the peers have inflicted the heaviest defeat to the government in recent times over the bill ^[5].

Scarily, this is not the first time that powerful members of the government have considered themselves to be above the law. The trips of Dominic Cummings, perhaps the most powerful unelected individual in the country, during the coronavirus pandemic, despite the lockdown restrictions, have already demonstrated conceit and arguably some narcissism ^[6]. Boris Johnson's backing of this advisor, who was slated by the media and public, affirms the idea that the executive considers itself to be exempt from laws it foists on the populace.

Elitism has been a prominent issue for a long time in politics, especially because public interest and engagement with politicians themselves has increased, with MPs being forced to be more accountable. Concerns that

the handling of Brexit by the current government is a ploy to cement elitism firmly within the political system, as well as suspicions and criticisms of Tory elitism in general have been ubiquitous, spiralling notions. The party has received significant backlash in the past for not 'practicing what they preach'. In other words, they believe they retain the right to break laws that the general public is subject to.

Some of the checks and balances laid out in the constitution are clearly effective as exemplified by the defeat inflicted by a galvanised parliament on the Internal Market Bill, construing it as an over-ambitious inconsistency with its role, which is to pass laws that it expects the populace to follow. Arguably, however, on account of the bill's plausibility before this defeat, the government is already too unbridled and must face some constraints on its power. In 2019, Prime Minister advised the queen to prorogue parliament to "stymie parliamentary scrutiny of the execu-

tive", according to Scotland's supreme civil court ^[7]. His actions have been dubbed an "egregious" case of failure to comply with the "principles of democracy and the rule of law". Boris Johnson, the leader of this government, is therefore the easiest to blame for the stifling of democracy in recent times. But is he the root of the problem or merely a catalyst in an expansive shift in the political sphere?

Perhaps it is time for change across the political landscape: the fundamental bastion of the constitution – rule of law – and judicial independence, by extension, has been jeopardised, along with Britain's sacrosanct reputation as a respecter and custodian of the law. We are left with the question that has dominated media headlines: is the bill simply a one-off "power grab" or is UK democracy, as a whole, imperilled by the government?

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