

Most People Catch Omicron This Way Now

Omicron is unfortunately still very much with us.



BY FEROZAN MAST

MARCH 6, 2022

FACT CHECKED BY



ALEK KORAB

Follow the public health fundamentals and help end this pandemic, no matter where you live—get vaccinated or boosted ASAP; if you live in an area with low vaccination rates, wear an N95 face mask, don't travel, social distance, avoid large crowds, don't go indoors with people you're not sheltering with (especially in bars), practice good hand hygiene, and to protect your life and the lives of others.

1 Not Wearing a Mask



2 Not being Vaccinated



3 Delaying Boosters



4 Pandemic Complacency



5 Being Overweight



Don't visit any of these 35 Places You're Most Likely to Catch COVID:

Hanging With a Sick Person, Visiting Your Local Bar, Hugging a Friend, Going to a Wedding, Working in an Office, Dinner at a Friend's House Inside, Going on a Trip With Friends or Family, Eating at a Buffet, Eating Indoors at a Restaurant, An Indoor Baby or Bridal Shower, Going to a House of Worship, Staying at a Hotel, Going to the Gym, Attending a Sporting Event, Playing a Team Sport, Going to a Theme Park, Getting Your Nails Done, Getting a Haircut, During Air Travel, Hosting an Event Outdoors, Shopping in a Retail Store, Visiting a Library, Going to an Art Museum, Waiting in a Doctor's Office, Going Swimming, Taking Your Kids to a Playground, Going to School, Waiting in Line for To-Go Food, Browsing at the Grocery Store, Walking Through Downtown, Shopping at a Farmer's Market, Getting Gas, Going to a State Park or Other Outdoor Areas, Hiking, Taking a Walk.

Violinist plays in bomb shelter for displaced Ukraine residents

The Guardian



Violinist Vera Lytovchenko soulfully playing Ніч яка місячна, *The Night is so Moonlit*

Ukraine

Violinist plays in bomb shelter for displaced Ukraine residents - video



'I don't need pity. I don't need to complain. I just need the bombing to stop then we will rebuild. I need the war to end'

Violinist and teacher Vera Lytovchenko has traded a theatre for a basement and played her violin for fellow Kharkiv residents taking cover from Russian bombing.

Lytovchenko said she was inspired in seeing one of her students play in a makeshift bomb shelter at the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

'It was very difficult to play and think about something that wasn't war. But I decided I must do something,' Lytovchenko said. 'We have become a family in this cellar and when I played they cried. They forget about the war for some moments and think about something else.'

Video of Lytovchenko playing Ніч яка місячна (The Night is So Moonlit) has gone viral on Twitter, but Lytovchenko said she is mainly interested about her friends' and colleagues' reactions on Facebook because that is how she knows they are still alive.

Lytovchenko said she would stay in Kharkiv to rebuild the city. 'I won't just play,' she said. 'This is my land. I want to help rebuild the city with my own hands.'

'I don't need pity. I don't need to complain. I just need the bombing to stop then we will rebuild. I need the war to end'

● **What we know on day 12 of the invasion**

Elena Morresi, Source: Vera Lytovchenko

Mon 7 Mar 2022 09:12 EST

Ніч яка місячна

Ukrainian Folk Song: *The Night is so Moonlit*

<https://youtu.be/po78Z3i1lq0>

<https://danubeonthames.wordpress.com/ukraine/summer-school-2016/ukrainian-folk-song-the-night-is-so-moonlit>



The Night is so Moonlit is a Ukrainian folk song composed by Mykola Lysenko a nineteenth century composer to the lyrics of a poem written by Mykhailo Starytsky, a contemporary of Lysenko's. It has subsequently become one of Ukraine's most popular folk songs and has been performed by some of Ukraine's most reputable singers. The most touching of the existing recordings has to be that of Dmytro Hnatyuk. His rich baritone voice slices through the accompanying bandura to create resonant feeling of reflection.

We join the songs narrator just as he is in the throws of persuading his young lover to come down to the grove, even if only for a minute. He tries to facilitate her impending decision by assuring her that her feet will not get wet against the dew, as he will carry her. She will not be cold, as he will draw her close and warm her with his heart, which is rather fittingly aflame.

Although, this music was eventually composed and written down, it is rooted in the Ukrainian folk tradition of transmission. This song is more than just a symbol the marriage of a love poem and music. It is the culmination of a rich tapestry of history. Maybe this is why it resonates so profoundly even today with Ukrainians and non-Ukrainians alike. There is something essential about this music that means we are drawn to it. One explanation for this is that the music is organic. It has come from the people and is maintained by the people. It is in a sense truly democratic. It is neither entirely joyful, nor entirely sad and encapsulates an area of human emotion that only the best music can capture.

Whilst it is popular today, Ukrainian folk music has had to struggle in recent times to make its mark on Ukrainian identity. In 1934 under the soviet regime the scholarship of musical instrumentation was prohibited because it was deemed to be too particular to Ukrainian national traits. Folk music instruments were considered to be too Ukrainian, a notion that the Soviets where reluctant to foster. However, Ukrainian folk music transcends barriers of nationality. They are an access to higher truths. This song then can be considered to be more than just a song; it is the universal language that touches whoever takes the time to listen to it.

The art of song and indeed of singing plays an important role in this language. Singing when done properly is not just activity of the voice box and throat but an all inclusive bodily activity. Singing properly requires the whole body just as it requires freedom, a sense of interiority and an understanding of self. The singer, when he or she performs, sacrifices his or her self to the audience. It is an act of giving which is universally recognised (when done well!).

Therefore, do not be mistaken into thinking that The Night is so Moonlit is just a pleasant Ukrainian folk song. It marks the culmination and continuation of a culture, an identity and the breaking down of barriers.

Maggie Gyllenhaal and Dakota Johnson Ask Each Other Anything

<https://youtu.be/f1reSEPpxOk>



Dec 27, 2021

WHAT DO MOTHERS OWE THEIR CHILDREN?

01:42 > What do mothers owe their children?

MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL: In the film, my real life husband gives a speech. And at one point, he says, Attention is the purest form of generosity. I guess I do think that it's my job as a mother to pay attention and see who my children actually are instead of who I might imagine they are or what I wish they would be, because it seems like it might be an easier way through the world. A gift to children would to be really seen by their parents.

02:24 > DAKOTA JOHNSON: Yeah, I would say the same thing. It's rare.

02:27 > MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL: Yeah, and you can't do it all the time. Sometimes you're like, I can't pay attention right now. You know? That's the truth, and that's part of what the movie is about is the fantasy that you're going to be a parent who's always able to offer that. It's hard. It's really hard.

Attention is the purest form of generosity.

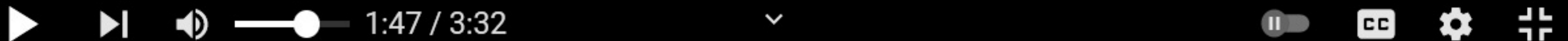


IMDb
396K subscribers

#TheLostDaughter writer-director #MaggieGyllenhaal and star #DakotaJohnson do a 'Freaky Friday' and answer questions from each other, as each other. 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻

Play (k)

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THE WAR IN UKRAINE

More than 2 million Ukrainians have fled as Russia presses its onslaught

That number could double as the crisis unfolds, the U.N. predicts. Also, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will speak to British Parliament by video link and Ukraine says it has killed a second Russian general.



A mother sleeps with her children among many others in a temporary shelter hosting the Ukrainian refugees in a former shopping center near the Polish city of Przemysl



Local militiaman Valery, 37, carries a child as he helps a fleeing family across a bridge destroyed by artillery, on the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, on Wed., March 2, 2022. AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti

Many Ukrainians face a future of lasting psychological wounds from the Russian invasion

Published: March 7, 2022 8.20am EST

Arash Javanbakht, Wayne State University

“Polina came to our bedroom awakened by the sound of explosions. I didn’t know and still don’t know what to tell her. Her eyes today are full of fear and terror; eyes of all of us.” Alina, a family friend who is a marketer and mother of two children from the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv – which is under siege by Russian forces – shared this reflection on her Instagram story. Her daughter Polina is 7 years old.

The unprovoked assault by Russian President Vladimir Putin’s army on the sovereign nation of Ukraine has left the world in disbelief. While it is painful to see the direct impact of this war on human lives and livelihoods, this invasion will also produce less invisible psychological wounds that could linger for generations.

I am a psychiatrist with expertise in post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, and stress. I research trauma and treat trauma-exposed civilians, refugees, survivors of torture and first responders and veterans.

There is abundant research that such difficult experiences can lead to severe consequences including PTSD, depression and anxiety. PTSD symptoms include terrifying and realistic flashbacks of war scenes, intrusive memories of the trauma, panic, inability to sleep and nightmares, as well as avoidance of anything

that resembles the trauma. Prevalence of these conditions is higher in human-caused catastrophes than, for example, natural disasters. For example, a third of U.S. civilians exposed to a single incident of a mass shooting can develop full-blown PTSD.

As of now, about 1 million Ukrainians have fled their homes, cities and jobs for safety to Poland and other Eastern European countries. A larger number of people have been internally displaced. They have limited resources as refugees and are uncertain about the future – chronic stresses that are detrimental to their mental health.

Children are specifically vulnerable. Imagine the terror that a child faces in a dark basement, watching the faces of their parents praying that the next missile will not hit their building. Parents can shield their children against trauma to some extent, but they can only do so much. In my team’s research on Syrian and Iraqi refugees resettled in Michigan, we found that about half of the children experienced high anxiety. Up to 70% of refugee children that our team surveyed experienced separation anxiety after arrival in the U.S. These children often are so scared that they cannot leave their parents’ sides even when they are no longer in direct danger.

Trauma can also be transferred from parents to their current and future children via subtle but heritable shifts to the genome and by way of exposure to their parents’ continuous anxiety caused by the war experience. In this way, the suffering can be passed along for generations. Childhood trauma also increases the likelihood of many mental and physical health problems in adulthood like depression, PTSD, chronic pain, heart disease and diabetes.

Putting human suffering into numbers as I’ve done here is not in any way meant to convert a human tragedy into a cold statistical concept. The purpose is to show the enormous impact of such calamity. Each life or livelihood lost is a tragedy in and of itself.

“The most difficult for me is to accept that I am a refugee,” wrote a Ukrainian woman on Instagram. “My apartment is in Kyiv, and my family is in Kyiv. All my life and my work is there, ... I left for vacation with my daughter. I left without anything. All documents of my child except her passport and birth certificate are in Ukraine, and this is hard to accept.”

But the resilience and determination of the Ukrainian people are formidable. She wrote of her focus, and that of many others who had fled, on returning home to clean up and rebuild. “I want very much to go home.”

Russia arrests nearly 5,000 anti-war protesters this weekend

March 7, 2022 · 2:08 PM ET

RACHEL TREISMAN



Police officers detain a man during a protest against Russia's invasion of Ukraine in central Moscow

Thousands of people turned out in cities across Russia this weekend to protest the war in Ukraine, risking arrest in a country where such demonstrations are illegal. Many of them were detained and some subjected to torture as a result, according to an independent Russian human rights group.

Police detained more than 4,640 protesters in 65 Russian cities on Sunday, according to the monitoring group **OVD-Info**. **It says more than 13,000 Russians in 147 cities have been detained at anti-war rallies since Russia first invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.** "At least 30 instances of protesters being beaten have been confirmed and it is likely that this number is much higher," it wrote in an update on Sunday. "There are many videos on social networks in which police officers are seen beating anti-war protesters." The group also cited reports of torture and mistreatment of detainees at police stations, saying some did not allow lawyers to visit.

At the Brateevo station in Moscow, it said, detainees were "hit in the face and head with bottles, kicked in the legs, kned in the stomach, dragged by their hair and had sanitizer sprayed in their faces." And dozens of people are facing even more dire consequences. OVD-Info says 25 people are facing criminal cases and jail terms over their anti-war actions. The charges against them include vandalism, incitement to extremism, disseminating deliberately false information, and committing violence against police officers.

Thirteen journalists were detained at Sunday's protests, the group added. It also said there have been known cases of police officers "searching for protest videos on the phones of passerby in central Moscow, with reports of detainment."

Anyone who refused to unlock their phone was threatened with an administrative charge of disobeying the police, it added.

"The screws are being fully tightened — essentially we are witnessing military censorship," Maria Kuznetsova, OVD-Info's spokesperson, told Reuters. The State Department tells Americans to leave Russia immediately

Sunday's arrests came days after jailed Russian opposition leader **Alexei Navalny** called on people around the world to stage daily protests against Putin's invasion of Ukraine, praising the Russians who had already done so and writing on Twitter that **"each arrested person must be replaced by two newcomers."**

The following day, Russia passed two laws that criminalize independent war reporting and war protests, with penalties of up to 15 years in prison. Several Western media organizations, like Bloomberg and the BBC, have temporarily suspended their operations inside the country as a result.

Hugh Williamson, Europe and Central Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement that the new laws are part of Russia's effort to suppress dissent and block information that contradicts the Kremlin's narrative about the invasion.

"The Kremlin is wiping out all options for dissent to ensure that brave anti-war protesters do not return to the streets," he said. "When President Putin goes after such a fundamental right — the cornerstone of democracy — with such totalitarian tactics, he is dispensing with any pretense that his government has any respect for rule of law, human rights, or democracy."



POLITICS

Russia's invasion puts a new light on Trump's Ukraine pressure campaign



MIDDLE EAST

What the war in Syria tells us about Russia's use of humanitarian corridors



BUSINESS

Gasoline prices surge to a national record, with prices topping \$4.17 gallon



FOOD

East Africa is responsible for America's favorite morning brew



NATIONAL

Senate passes anti-lynching bill and sends federal hate-crimes legislation to Biden



NATIONAL

Returning to the office is a moment of joy for some. Others would rather stay home

Trump's former vice president, Mike Pence, reportedly took an oblique shot at Trump in a speech before GOP donors Friday. "There is no room in this party for apologists for Putin," Pence said. "There is only room for champions of freedom." He also praised NATO, which Trump has continuously criticized. "Where would our friends in Eastern Europe be today if they were not in NATO?" Pence said. "Where would Russian tanks be today if NATO had not expanded the borders of freedom?" The problem, Republican strategist Kevin Madden says, is that this kind of message isn't being delivered repeatedly across the Republican Party and done so explicitly. "That's one of the things about any sort of counterpoints for Trump within the Republican Party right now is those efforts have never really been broad," Madden said. "They've never really been sustained. They've never been methodical. They've always just been glancing blows. And that's why he still has such a strong command over the party apparatus.

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Russian and Syrian forces were often accused of breaking the cease-fires surrounding humanitarian corridors with continued bombing of the besieged cities. "When they talked about these humanitarian corridors or ceasefires, we never believed them. How can you trust someone to stop who is bombing you all the time?" said Afraa Hashem, a 40-year-old activist who survived the Aleppo siege and now resides in London. Still, tens of thousands of people used the corridors to get out of the combat zones. They make up the bulk of the 3 million people crowded into Idlib province, which is surrounded by Syrian forces and is still hit by Russian airstrikes.

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The Senate unanimously passed a bill on Monday that criminalizes lynching and make it punishable by up to 30 years in prison. It sailed through the House of Representatives last month, and President Biden is expected to sign it.

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For most people in the United States, coffee is synonymous with chains like Starbucks, or third wave cafes boasting Panamanian pour overs — not necessarily the continent of Africa. But the place where coffee originated, and where the most diverse varieties of coffee thrive, is Ethiopia and South Sudan, as recently confirmed by a research team led by coffee genetics expert and president of the International Women's Coffee Alliance Sarada Krishnan.

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US officials reverse course on pesticide's harm to wildlife

By MATTHEW BROWN 20 minutes ago



Endangered Mississippi sandhill cranes stand in their temporary transitional habitat, to be later released into the wild, at the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge in Gautier, Miss.

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — U.S. wildlife officials have reversed their previous finding that a widely used and highly toxic pesticide could jeopardize dozens of plants and animals with extinction, after receiving pledges from chemical manufacturers that they will change product labels for malathion so that it's used more carefully by consumers. Federal regulations for malathion have been under review in response to longstanding complaints that the pesticide used to control mosquitoes, grasshoppers and other insects also kills many protected plants and animals. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined in a draft finding last April that malathion could threaten the continued existence of 78 imperiled species and cause lesser harm to many more.

Wildlife officials reversed their position on the 78 species in a Feb. 28 biological opinion following talks between malathion manufacturers, officials from the wildlife service and the Environmental Protection Agency. **Wildlife service officials now say malathion could cause limited harm to hundreds of species, but is unlikely to jeopardize any of them with extinction as long as labels that dictate its use are changed. Their conclusion depends on farmers, gardeners and other consumers abiding by the instructions on where and when to use the pesticide.**

But environmentalists who wanted more restrictions imposed expressed doubt that the government's collaboration with chemical companies would lead to meaningful changes. They also objected to an 18-month timeline for the EPA to approve new malathion application guidelines, saying there's no reason for further delay.

"This is an enormous punt," said Brett Hartl with the Center for Biological Diversity. "There's not a single endangered species that will see anything change on the ground because of this biological opinion for at least 18 months, but probably never." The manufacturers agreed to use labels that provide extensive guidelines on when and where malathion should be used to avoid killing wildlife. For example, the labels would say not to spray malathion to kill mosquitoes during the middle of the day, when bees and some other insects are more active and thus more likely to be inadvertently killed. "The Service worked with EPA, the malathion registrants and USDA to develop general and species-specific conservation measures that significantly reduce many of the effects of malathion use on listed species and their critical habitats," said Gary Frazer, the wildlife service's assistant director for ecological services. The manufacturers were largely represented by FMC Corp., a Philadelphia-based agricultural chemical company, according to the wildlife service.

FMC spokesman Lars Weborg said the proposed labels and other updates to guidelines for using malathion would be protective of endangered species and their habitats. Weborg said they were crafted in consultation with government officials "and were developed using a standard procedure common to any industry." The species that were found in jeopardy last year included birds such as the Mississippi sandhill crane and various fish, insects, snails and other animals and plants.

Every year almost a million pounds of malathion are used on crops in California, Florida, Washington, Oregon, Ohio and other states, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Close to 2 million pounds is used every year in home gardens, for mosquito control and other uses, according to data from a 2018 government survey. The amount used on farmland has fallen by about two-thirds since its 1998 peak, according to the data.

Malathion is considered highly toxic to insects, fish and crustaceans. International health officials have said the chemical is probably carcinogenic to humans.

The review of malathion's impacts on wildlife came under a legal agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity. The environmental group first sued the EPA two decades ago, for failing to consult with other federal agencies about the risks of pesticides on wildlife and plants, and filed more lawsuits leading up to its 2013 settlement with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 2017, the AP reported a push by Dow Chemical for the Trump administration to ignore government studies on a family of pesticides that includes malathion. The lobbying came after initial findings from the EPA that the pesticides had negative effects on more than 1,000 endangered and threatened species. The Trump administration later that year sought a two-year delay in its review of malathion and other pesticides.

A separate review of malathion's affects is pending from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The agency said in a Feb. 25 draft analysis that malathion could jeopardize 37 species. The draft did not include consideration of the label changes planned by manufacturers, which fisheries service officials said they would incorporate into their final opinion.

SECURITY CONSULTANTS AND GOOGLE CLOUD SALESPEOPLE? —

Google makes second-largest acquisition ever: \$5.4 billion for Mandiant

Besides bulking up in-house security, Mandiant can offer on-premises consulting.

RON AMADEO - 3/8/2022, 9:19 AM



Google has announced a massive \$5.4 billion deal to acquire the cybersecurity firm Mandiant, Inc. The acquisition is subject to regulatory approval, but Google says it expects the deal to close later this year. If it goes through, it would be Google's second-largest acquisition ever, slotting in between the \$12.5 billion deal for Motorola Mobility and the \$3.2 billion purchase of Nest. Mandiant will join the Google Cloud division.

Mandiant was founded in 2004 and does security consultancy and threat research. It makes an automated threat-monitoring system called the "Mandiant Advantage Platform." Mandiant was a key researcher investigating many of the world's biggest security incidents, like the SolarWinds supply-chain attack, the Log4j vulnerability, and the Pulse Secure VPN vulnerabilities.

Google has a ton of experience securing its own cloud. Besides bulking up Google's security staff on its home turf, the goal of this deal is to bring more of that security know-how onsite with security consultancy services.

<https://youtu.be/mYaTCvA2VLQ>



APT1: Exposing One of China's CyberEspionage Units

Mandiant is a publicly traded American cybersecurity firm. It rose to prominence in February 2013 when it released a report directly implicating China in cyber espionage. On December 30, 2013, Mandiant was acquired by FireEye in a stock and cash deal worth in excess of \$1 billion. In June 2021, after 7 years of stagnant growth under parent company FireEye, Mandiant sold the FireEye product line, name, and roughly 1300 employees to Symphony Technology Group for \$1.2 billion. The remaining organization will focus on Mandiant Advantage and services. In March 2022 it was reported that Alphabet Inc. planned to buy Mandiant for \$5.4 billion and integrate it into its cloud computing division.

Kevin Mandia, a former United States Air Force officer who serves as the company's chief executive officer, founded Mandiant as Red Cliff Consulting in 2004 prior to rebranding in 2006.[6] In 2011, Mandiant received funding from Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers to expand its staff and grow its business-to-business operations. Mandiant provides incident response and general security consulting along with incident management products to major global organizations, governments, and Fortune 100 companies. Its 2012 revenues were over \$100 million, up 76% from 2011. The company was acquired by FireEye on December 30, 2013. Mandiant was awarded both the 2012 and 2013 SC Award for exemplary professional leadership in information-technology (IT) security. Mandiant is the creator of OpenIOC (Open Indicators of Compromise), an extensible XML schema for the description of technical characteristics that identify threats, attackers' methodologies, and evidence of compromise.

Mandiant Advantage is a subscription-based SaaS platform designed to augment and automate security response teams. The platform combines the threat intelligence gathered by Mandiant and data from cyber incident response engagements.

APT1 espionage report: On February 18, 2013, Mandiant released a report documenting evidence of cyber attacks by the People's Liberation Army (specifically Pudong-based PLA Unit 61398[13]) targeting at least 141 organizations in the United States and other English-speaking countries extending as far back as 2006. In the report, Mandiant refers to the espionage unit as APT1.[15] The report states that it is likely that Unit 61398 is the source of the attacks. A video was uploaded to YouTube demonstrating one such intrusion by APT. {<https://youtu.be/mYaTCvA2VLQ>}

SolarWinds Supply Chain Attack: In December 2020, Mandiant revealed and investigated the largest supply chain attack on US government infrastructure ever recorded.

Colonial Pipeline Ransomware: In May 2021, Mandiant was contracted to assist in the response to a significant ransomware incident impacting Colonial Pipeline, a fuel pipeline operator that supplies close to half of the gasoline, diesel, and other fuels to the East Coast.

Google Acquisition: In March 2022, Google announced they planned to acquire Mandiant for \$5.4 billion to be part of Google Cloud's cloud-native security offerings.

Mandiant has created a task force & initiated a Global Event to track the escalating crisis in Ukraine. Visit the Ukraine Crisis Resource Center to learn more.

Kevin Mandia

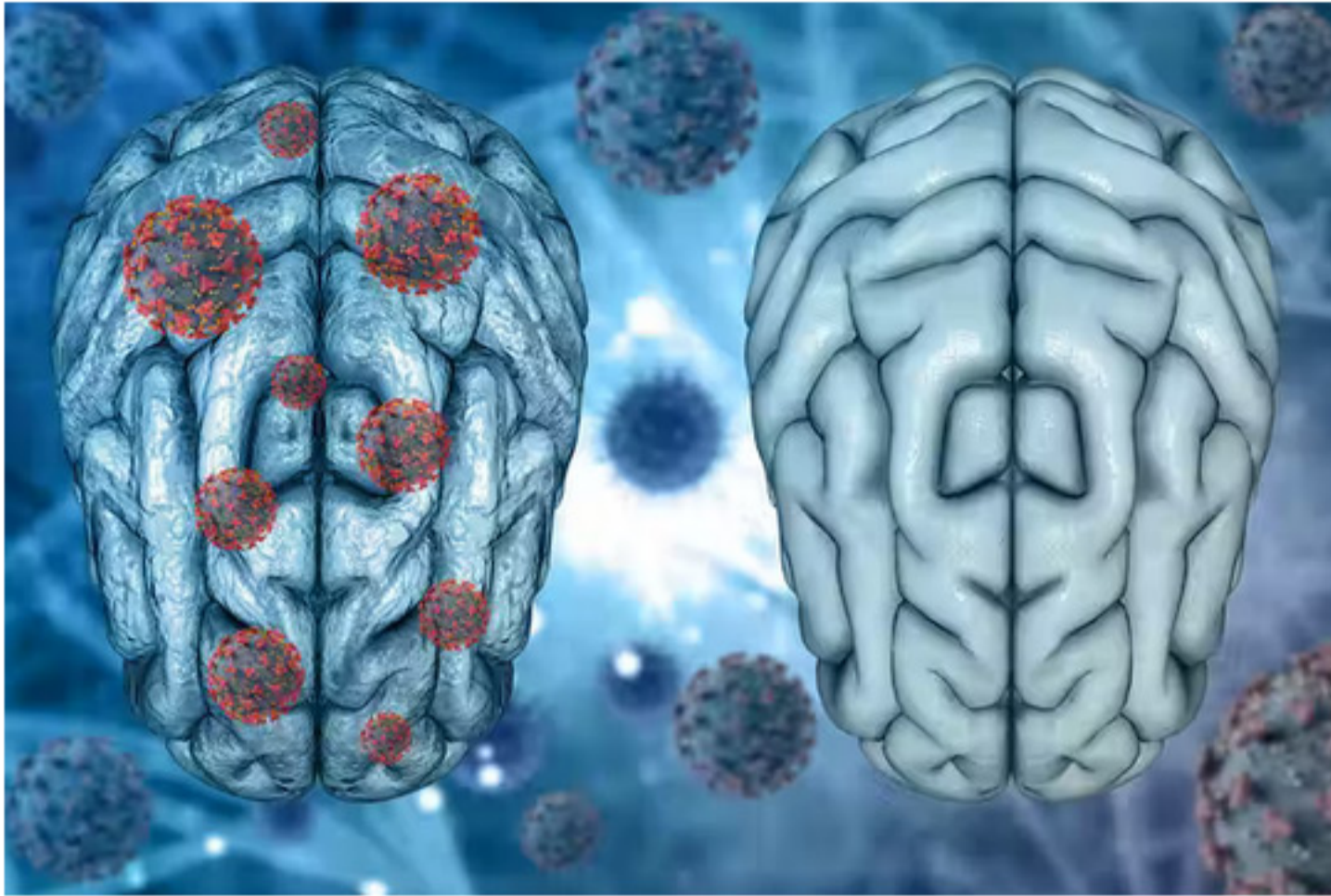
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND BOARD DIRECTOR



Kevin is the Chief Executive Officer of Mandiant and was previously the Chief Executive Officer of FireEye from June 2016 through September 2021. He was appointed to the company's Board of Directors in February 2016.

As CEO of Mandiant, Kevin grew the company to nearly 500 employees and more than \$100 million in revenue. Widely recognized as the leading provider of security incident management products and services prior to the acquisition, Mandiant remains the core of the highly successful FireEye consulting business.

Kevin has spent more than 20 years in information security and has been on the front lines helping organizations respond to computer security breaches. Before Mandiant, he was the Director of Computer Forensics at Foundstone (acquired by McAfee Corporation) from 2000 to 2003, and he was the Director of Information Security for Sytex (later acquired by Lockheed Martin) from 1998 to 2000. Kevin was also a United States Air Force Officer, serving as a computer security officer in the 7th Communications Group at the Pentagon, and a special agent in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI). He holds a B.S. in computer science from Lafayette College and a M.S. in forensic science from The George Washington University.



A new brain-imaging study finds that participants who had even mild COVID-19 showed an average reduction in whole brain sizes. Kirstypargeter/iStock via Getty Images Plus

Even mild cases of COVID-19 can leave a mark on the brain, such as reductions in gray matter – a neuroscientist explains emerging research

Published: March 7, 2022 3:56pm EST

👤 [Jessica Bernard](#), *Texas A&M University*

Early on in the pandemic, one of the most common reports from those infected with COVID-19 was the loss of sense of taste and smell. Strikingly, the brain regions that the U.K. researchers found to be affected by COVID-19 are all linked to the olfactory bulb, a structure near the front of the brain that passes signals about smells from the nose to other brain regions. The olfactory bulb has connections to regions of the temporal lobe. Researchers often talk about the temporal lobe in the context of aging and Alzheimer's disease, because it is where the hippocampus is located. The hippocampus is likely to play a key role in aging, given its involvement in memory and cognitive processes.

The sense of smell is also important to Alzheimer's research, as some data has suggested that those at risk for the disease have a reduced sense of smell. While it is too early to draw any conclusions about the long-term impacts of COVID-related effects on the sense of smell, investigating possible connections between COVID-19-related brain changes and memory is of great interest – particularly given the regions implicated and their importance in memory and Alzheimer's disease.

The study also highlights a potentially important role for the cerebellum, an area of the brain that is involved in cognitive and motor processes; importantly, it too is affected in aging. There is also an emerging line of work implicating the cerebellum in

These new findings bring about important yet unanswered questions: What do these brain changes following COVID-19 mean for the process and pace of aging? Also, does the brain recover from viral infection over time, and to what extent?

These are active and open areas of research we are beginning to tackle in my laboratory in conjunction with our ongoing work investigating brain aging. Brain scans from a person in their 30s and a person in their 80s, showing reduced brain volume in the older adult brain

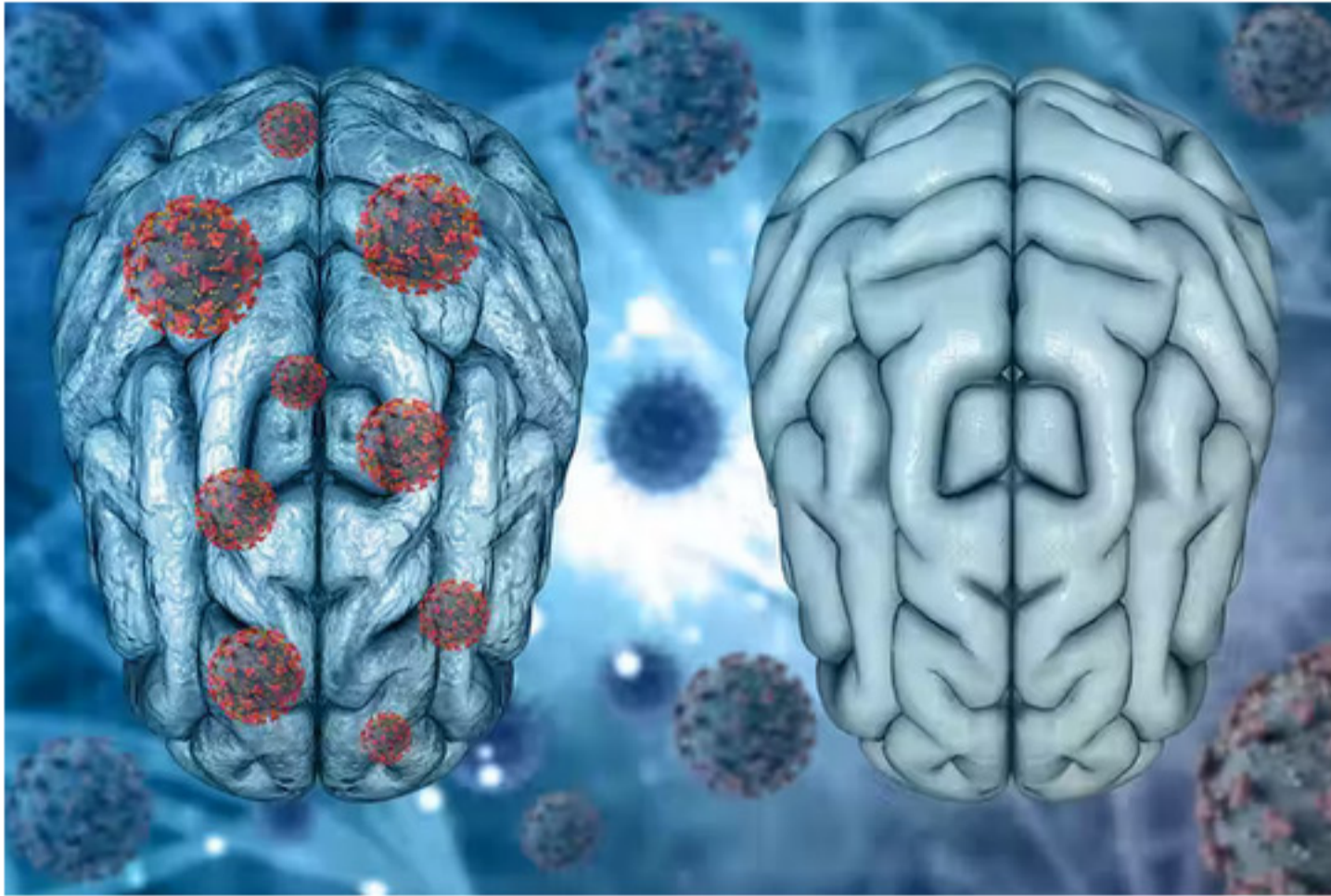
Brain images from a 35-year-old and an 85-year-old. Orange arrows show the thinner gray matter in the older individual. Green arrows point to areas where there is more space filled with cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) due to reduced brain volume. The purple circles highlight the brains' ventricles, which are filled with CSF. In older adults, these fluid-filled areas are much larger. Jessica Bernard, CC BY-ND

Our lab's work demonstrates that as people age, the brain thinks and processes information differently. In addition, we've observed changes over time in how people's bodies move and how people learn new motor skills. Several decades of work have demonstrated that older adults have a harder time processing and manipulating information – such as updating a mental grocery list – but they typically maintain their knowledge of facts and vocabulary. With respect to motor skills, we know that older adults still learn, but they do so more slowly than young adults.

When it comes to brain structure, we typically see a decrease in the size of the brain in adults over age 65. This decrease is not just localized to one area. Differences can be seen across many regions of the brain. There is also typically an increase in cerebrospinal fluid that fills space due to the loss of brain tissue. In addition, white matter, the insulation on axons – long cables that carry electrical impulses between nerve cells – is also less intact in older adults.

Life expectancy has increased in the past decades. The goal is for all to live long and healthy lives, but even in the best-case scenario where one ages without disease or disability, older adulthood brings on changes in how we think and move.

Learning how all of these puzzle pieces fit together will help us unravel the mysteries of aging so that we can help improve quality of life and function for aging individuals. And now, in the context of COVID-19, it will help us understand the degree to which the brain may recover after illness as well.



A new brain-imaging study finds that participants who had even mild COVID-19 showed an average reduction in whole brain sizes. Kirstypargeter/iStock via Getty Images Plus

Even mild cases of COVID-19 can leave a mark on the brain, such as reductions in gray matter – a neuroscientist explains emerging research

Published: March 7, 2022 3:56pm EST

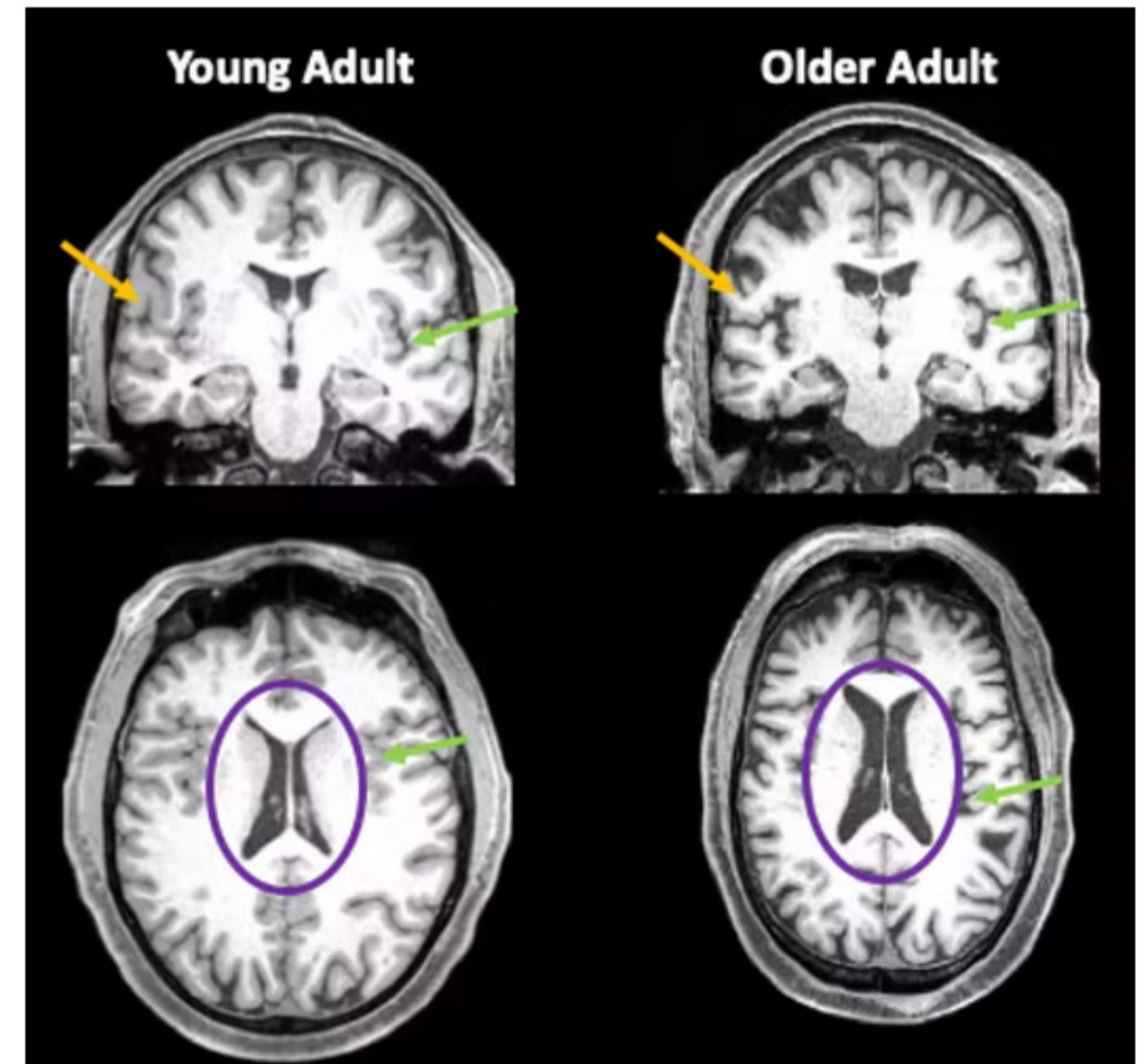
👤 [Jessica Bernard](#), Texas A&M University

The team found marked differences in gray matter – or the neurons that process information in the brain – between those who had been infected with COVID-19 and those who had not. Specifically, the thickness of the gray matter tissue in brain regions known as the frontal and temporal lobes was reduced in the COVID-19 group, differing from the typical patterns seen in the people who hadn't had a COVID-19 infection.

In the general population, it is normal to see some change in gray matter volume or thickness over time as people age. But the changes were more extensive than normal in those who had been infected with COVID-19.

Interestingly, when the researchers separated the individuals who had severe enough illness to require hospitalization, the results were the same as for those who had experienced milder COVID-19. That is, people who had been infected with COVID-19 showed a loss of brain volume even when the disease was not severe enough to require hospitalization.

Finally, researchers also investigated changes in performance on cognitive tasks and found that those who had contracted COVID-19 were slower in processing information than those who had not. This processing ability was correlated with volume in a region of the brain known as the cerebellum, indicating a link between brain tissue volume and cognitive performance in those with COVID-19.



Brain images from a 35-year-old and an 85-year-old. Orange arrows show the thinner gray matter in the older individual. Green arrows point to areas where there is more space filled with cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) due to reduced brain volume. The purple circles highlight the brains' ventricles, which are filled with CSF. In older adults, these fluid-filled areas are much larger. Jessica Bernard, CC BY-ND

Article | [Published: 07 March 2022](#)

SARS-CoV-2 is associated with changes in brain structure in UK Biobank

[Gwenaëlle Douaud](#) , [Soojin Lee](#), [Fidel Alfaró-Almagro](#), [Christoph Arthofer](#), [Chaoyue Wang](#), [Paul McCarthy](#), [Frederik Lange](#), [Jesper L. R. Andersson](#), [Ludovica Griffanti](#), [Eugene Duff](#), [Saad Jbabdi](#), [Bernd Taschler](#), [Peter Keating](#), [Anderson M. Winkler](#), [Rory Collins](#), [Paul M. Matthews](#), [Naomi Allen](#), [Karla L. Miller](#), [Thomas E. Nichols](#) & [Stephen M. Smith](#)

[Nature](#) (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

6554 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

There is strong evidence for brain-related abnormalities in COVID-19^{1–13}. It remains unknown however whether the impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection can be detected in milder cases, and whether this can reveal possible mechanisms contributing to brain pathology. Here, we investigated brain changes in 785 UK Biobank participants (aged 51–81) imaged twice, including 401 cases who tested positive for infection with SARS-CoV-2 between their two scans, with 141 days on average separating their diagnosis and second scan, and 384 controls. The availability of pre-infection imaging data reduces the likelihood of pre-existing risk factors being misinterpreted as disease effects. We identified significant longitudinal effects when comparing the two groups, including: (i) greater reduction in grey matter thickness and tissue-contrast in the orbitofrontal cortex and parahippocampal gyrus, (ii) greater changes in markers of tissue damage in regions functionally-connected to the primary olfactory cortex, and (iii) greater reduction in global brain size. The infected participants also showed on average larger cognitive decline between the two timepoints. Importantly, these imaging and cognitive longitudinal effects were still seen after excluding the 15 cases who had been hospitalised. These mainly limbic brain imaging results may be the in vivo hallmarks of a degenerative spread of the disease via olfactory pathways, of neuroinflammatory events, or of the loss of sensory input due to anosmia.

Whether this deleterious impact can be partially reversed, or whether these effects will persist in the long term, remains to be investigated with additional follow up.

Interestingly, when the researchers separated the individuals who had severe enough illness to require hospitalization, the results were the same as for those who had experienced milder COVID-19. That is, people who had been infected with COVID-19 showed a loss of brain volume even when the disease was not severe enough to require hospitalization.

Finally, researchers also investigated changes in performance on cognitive tasks and found that those who had contracted COVID-19 were slower in processing information than those who had not. This processing ability was correlated with volume in a region of the brain known as the cerebellum, indicating a link between brain tissue volume and cognitive performance in those with COVID-19.



Brain images from a 35-year-old and an 85-year-old. Orange arrows show the thinner gray matter in the older individual. Green arrows point to areas where there is more space filled with cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) due to reduced brain volume. The purple circles highlight the brains' ventricles, which are filled with CSF. In older adults, these fluid-filled areas are much larger. Jessica Bernard, CC BY-ND



Jessica Bernard

Associate Professor, Texas A&M University

The focus of my research is understanding how the brain changes over the course of aging. I focus on a region called the cerebellum and the way that it interacts and communicates with the rest of the cortex. The cerebellum is important for motor skills like balance and learning, but we also know it plays a role in cognition -- things like memory and attention. These are areas that are impacted by the aging process, even in the absence of disease. By integrating our understanding of the cerebellum with the rest of the cortex, we can get a more complete picture of the processes associated with brain aging, and in turn, better insights into why some people may develop age-related pathology (such as Alzheimer's Disease) and others do not.



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Laboratory

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Director of the Lifespan Cognitive and Motor Neuroimaging Laboratory, Associate Prof at TAMU. Opinions my own. Aging, cerebellum, imaging, parent, dog lover

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Don't Forget the Little Brain: A Framework for Incorporating the Cerebellum Into the Understanding of Cognitive Aging

Authors Jessica A Bernard

Publication date 2021/11/19

Publisher PsyArXiv

With the rapidly growing population of older adults, an improved understanding of brain and cognitive aging is critical, given the impacts on health, independence, and quality of life. To this point, we have a well-developed literature on the cortical contributions to cognition in advanced age. **However, while this work has been foundational for our understanding of brain and behavior in older adults, subcortical contributions, particularly those from the cerebellum, have not been integrated into these models and frameworks.** Incorporating the cerebellum into models of cognitive aging is an important step for moving the field forward. There has also been recent interest in this structure in Alzheimer's Disease, indicating that such work may be beneficial to our understanding of neurodegenerative disease. Here, I provide an updated overview of the cerebellum in advanced age, and propose that it serves as a critical source of scaffolding or reserve for cortical function. Age-related impacts on cerebellar function further impact cortical processing, perhaps resulting in many of the activation patterns commonly seen in aging.

Dr. Bernard is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Texas A&M University, and she is also affiliated with the Texas A&M Institute for Neuroscience. She completed her graduate training at the University of Michigan, where she investigated motor and cognitive aging using neuroimaging and non-invasive brain stimulation techniques. She then went on to complete a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she conducted research on the cerebellum in youth at risk for psychosis. Dr. Bernard is especially interested in understanding how the cerebellum contributes to both motor and cognitive changes that occur across the lifespan, as well as in cases of psychiatric and neurological disease. She has received funding for her research from the National Institutes of Health and the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation. In her spare time, Dr. Bernard loves baking, cooking, her two crazy cats, and working out with her husband.

Researchers Discover How the Human Brain Separates, Stores, and Retrieves Memories

By THE NIH BRAIN INITIATIVE MARCH 7, 2022



Researchers have identified two types of cells in our brains that are involved in organizing discrete memories based on when they occurred. This finding improves our understanding of how the human brain forms memories and could have implications in memory disorders such as Alzheimer's disease. The study was supported by the National Institutes of Health's Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative and published in *Nature Neuroscience*.

"This work is transformative in how the researchers studied the way the human brain thinks," said Jim Gnadt, Ph.D., program director at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and the NIH BRAIN Initiative. "It brings to human neuroscience an approach used previously in non-human primates and rodents by recording directly from neurons that are generating thoughts."

This study, led by Ueli Rutishauser, Ph.D., professor of neurosurgery, neurology and biomedical sciences at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, started with a deceptively simple question: how does our brain form and organize memories? We live our awake lives as one continuous experience, but it is believed based on human behavior studies, that we store these life events as individual, distinct moments. What marks the beginning and end of a memory? This theory is referred to as "event segmentation," and we know relatively little about how the process works in the human brain.

How Human Brain Stores and Retrieves Memories: To study this, Rutishauser and his colleagues worked with 20 patients who were undergoing intracranial recording of brain activity to guide surgery for treatment of their drug-resistant epilepsy. They looked at how the patients' brain activity was affected when shown film clips containing different types of "cognitive boundaries"—transitions thought to trigger changes in how a memory is stored and that mark the beginning and end of memory "files" in the brain.

The first type, referred to as a "soft boundary," is a video containing a scene that then cuts to another scene that continues the same story. For example, a baseball game showing a pitch is thrown and, when the batter hits the ball, the camera cuts to a shot of the fielder making a play. In contrast, a "hard boundary" is a cut to a completely different story—imagine if the batted ball were immediately followed by a cut to a commercial.

These findings provide a look into how the human brain creates, stores, and accesses memories. Because event segmentation is a process that can be affected in people living with memory disorders, these insights could be applied to the development of new therapies.

Jie Zheng, Ph.D., postdoctoral fellow at Children's Hospital Boston and first author of the study, explained the key difference between the two boundaries. "Is this a new scene within the same story, or are we watching a completely different story? How much the narrative changes from one clip to the next determines the type of cognitive boundary," said Zheng.

The researchers recorded the brain activity of participants as they watched the videos, and they noticed two distinct groups of cells that responded to different types of boundaries by increasing their activity. One group, called "boundary cells" became more active in response to either a soft or hard boundary. A second group, referred to as "event cells" responded only to hard boundaries. This led to the theory that the creation of a new memory occurs when there is a peak in the activity of both boundary and event cells, which is something that only occurs following a hard boundary.

One analogy to how memories might be stored and accessed in the brain is how photos are stored on your phone or computer. Often, photos are automatically grouped into events based on when and where they were taken and then later displayed to you as a key photo from that event. When you tap or click on that photo, you can drill down into that specific event.

"A boundary response can be thought of like creating a new photo event," said Dr. Rutishauser. "As you build the memory, it's like new photos are being added to that event. When a hard boundary occurs, that event is closed and a new one begins. Soft boundaries can be thought of to represent new images created within a single event."

The researchers next looked at memory retrieval and how this process relates to the firing of boundary and event cells. They theorized that the brain uses boundary peaks as markers for "skimming" over past memories, much in the way the key photos are used to identify events. When the brain finds a firing pattern that looks familiar, it "opens" that event.

Two different memory tests designed to study this theory were used. In the first, the participants were shown a series of still images and were asked whether they were from a scene in the film clips they just watched. Study participants were more likely to remember images that occurred soon after a hard or soft boundary, which is when a new "photo" or "event" would have been created.

The second test involved showing pairs of images taken from film clips that they had just watched. The participants were then asked which of the two images had appeared first. It turned out that they had a much harder time choosing the correct image if the two occurred on different sides of a hard boundary, possibly because they had been placed in different "events."

These findings provide a look into how the human brain creates, stores, and accesses memories. Because event segmentation is a process that can be affected in people living with memory disorders, these insights could be applied to the development of new therapies.

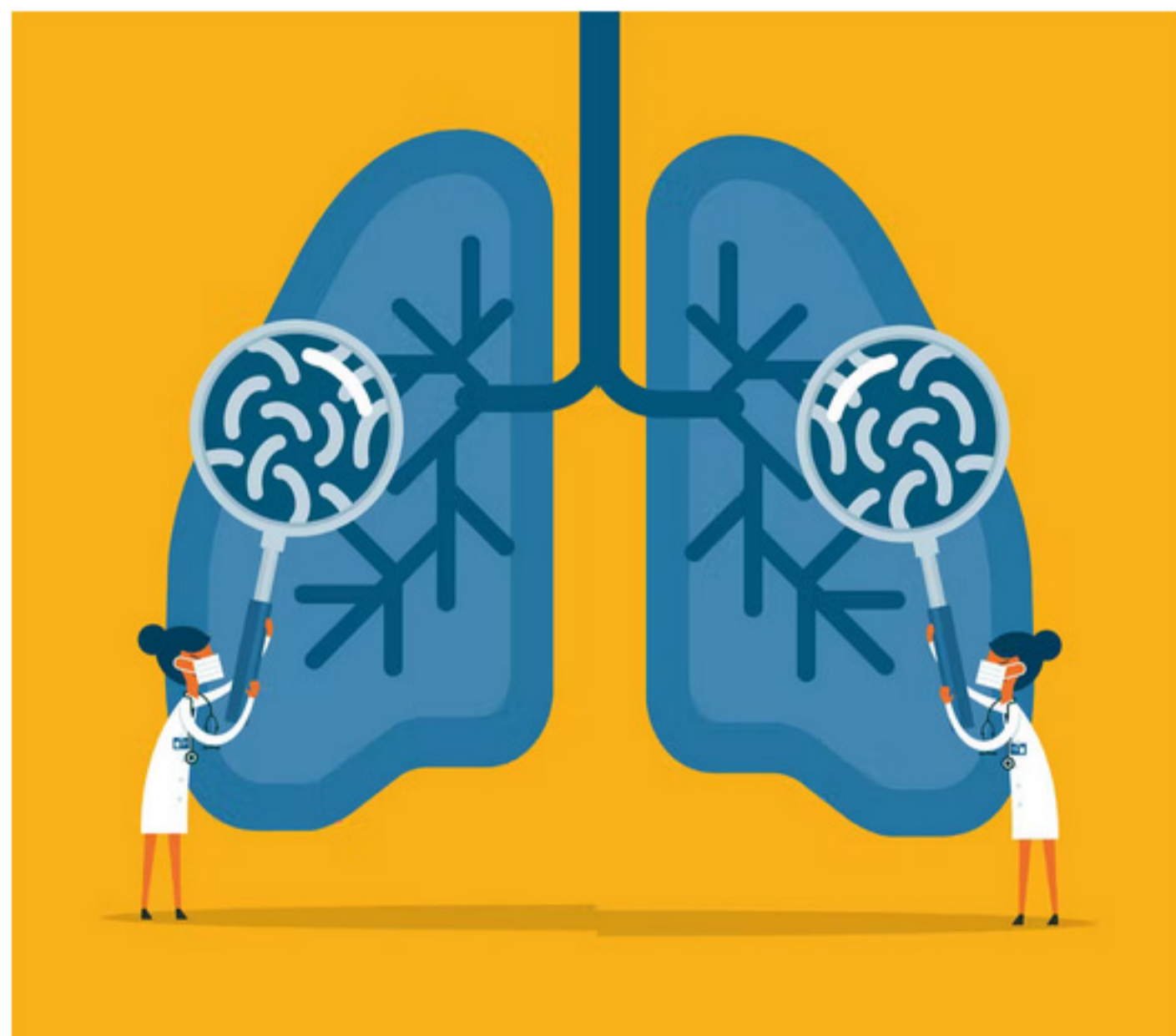
In the future, Dr. Rutishauser and his team plan to look at two possible avenues to develop therapies related to these findings. First, neurons that use the chemical dopamine, which are most-known for their role in reward mechanisms, may be activated by boundary and event cells, suggesting a possible target to help strengthen the formation of memories.

Second, one of the brain's normal internal rhythms, known as the theta rhythm, has been connected to learning and memory. If event cells fired in time with that rhythm, the participants had an easier time remembering the order of the images that they were shown. Because deep brain stimulation can affect theta rhythms, this could be another avenue for treating patients with certain memory disorders.

Lungs have their own microbiome – and these microbes affect the success of bone marrow transplants in kids

Published: March 9, 2022 2:15pm EST

Matt Zinter, University of California, San Francisco



While the gut microbiome has gotten much of the spotlight, the microbes in the lungs also play an important role in health. sorbetto/DigitalVision Vectors via Getty Images

The microorganisms deep in your lungs may play an important role in your overall lung health. And for children undergoing bone marrow transplants, measuring the microbes in their lungs could help predict treatment outcomes, according to a recent study my research team and I published.

What is the lung microbiome? The microbiome comprises all the microorganisms in the human body, including bacteria, viruses and fungi. The more well-known and commonly studied microbiome is that of the gut.

But recent studies show that the lungs also have a complex and dynamic collection of microbes in combination with the mouth, nose and stomach. Healthy lungs have a baseline level of microorganisms that train them how to mount an immune response against their harmful counterparts. Imbalances in the lung microbiome, or dysbiosis, are associated with poor lung health in children and adults, as well as a variety of diseases that include cystic fibrosis, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Lung microbes and bone marrow transplants: Optimal lung health is especially important for children about to undergo a bone marrow transplant to treat incurable blood diseases such as leukemia. Also called a hematopoietic cell transplant (HCT), this procedure offers a “hard reset” that uses chemotherapy to wipe out all the patient’s blood cells before replacing them with a new set of donor blood cells. The problem is that HCT puts a lot of stress on the entire body, and about 12% to 39% of patients develop life-threatening infections and organ dysfunction, often affecting the lungs. Pulmonary disease accounts for 16% of deaths after this procedure in kids. Therefore, making sure the lungs are as healthy as possible before the procedure is important to ensuring success.

My research team and I were interested in discovering how the pulmonary microbiome might relate to lung health in children preparing to undergo this kind of transplant. To do this, we had 104 children breathe into a machine to test their lung function. Then, we measured the composition of their lung microbiome through a bronchoalveolar lavage. This process circulates a saline solution through the lungs of a patient under sedation. We then examine the fluid under a microscope and sequence the genomes of any microbes it contains to identify what types of microorganisms are present.

Bronchoalveolar lavage is commonly used to diagnose pulmonary diseases. We found that patients with lungs depleted of their normal bacteria had higher amounts of potentially harmful bacteria that aren’t usually present in healthy lungs. Patients with depleted lung microbiomes also had worse lung function, including signs of scarring, trouble absorbing oxygen and damage at the cellular level. This study also confirms our previous finding that children with depleted lung microbiomes are two to three times more likely to die from bone marrow transplantation than children without depleted microbiomes. Knowing the composition of the lung microbiome allowed us to more accurately predict who would survive the treatment procedure better than lung function tests alone.

We don’t yet know whether microbiome depletion causes or results from lung disease. But our study suggests that the lung microbiome may be important in predicting bone marrow transplant outcomes. Ultimately, we hope to use this information to develop treatments that restore or strengthen the lungs of high-risk children before they undergo transplantation.

Researcher finds 'stunning' rate of COVID among deer. Here's what it means for humans

March 9, 2022 · 10:31 AM ET

ARI DANIEL



Two white-tailed deer forage in Pennsylvania's Wyomissing Parklands. At the end of 2021, researchers swabbed the noses of 93 dead deer from across the state. Nearly 20% tested positive for COVID.

Did the Pennsylvania deer die from COVID? No. "These are deer that died with COVID," says Andrew Marques, a microbiology Ph.D. student at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. "These aren't deer that died from COVID." Rather, they'd been hunted or struck by oncoming traffic. But **an almost 20% COVID positivity rate is, according to Marques, lead author on the Pennsylvania findings still out for review, "absolutely stunning when we consider the positivity rate in humans," which is much lower. In Philadelphia, for instance, the positivity test rate is currently hovering around 3%.**

Of the 93 samples collected, eight were of high enough quality to have their genomes sequenced, a process that shows which variants were circulating in these wild deer. The results revealed to Marques and his collaborators that the lineages they observed seem to have spilled over from humans. Some of them resembled the delta variant at a time when delta was commonplace among people.

But others resembled alpha, the first variant of concern back in late 2020, "which is strange," Marques says. The samples were gathered months after delta had surged to become the dominant human strain. And that means that the alpha strain, which had largely disappeared in people, was still present in the environment — inside these deer. That's to say, we can't quite forget about variants no longer affecting us.

So how'd the deer catch COVID? We don't know for sure. Marques admits, "Everything is basically speculation at the moment." So let's speculate. [...]

Are there any possible long-term consequences of COVID in deer? If history is any guide, the answer is yes. "I can't think of a single zoonotic disease that has established in an animal reservoir in the wild that we have been successful at eradicating," says Barbara Han, a disease ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. She wasn't involved with either of the two studies but says the work is critical for assessing human risk. And she isn't surprised by the results.

Han says that across mammals (and vertebrates more broadly), "We all share a version of that [ACE2] receptor that the virus is hijacking to get into our cells. But distinguishing between which species are the most likely to shed lots of virus and transmit onward is still really difficult."

In fact, in a separate study, to assess spillover probabilities among 5,400 mammals, Han and her team used machine learning to train an algorithm to recognize the characteristics of species whose ACE2 receptors tightly bind the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The algorithm identified over 500 of these species to be possible suspects, including an array of primates, bats, carnivores (like red fox and spotted hyenas) and ungulates (like deer and gazelles).

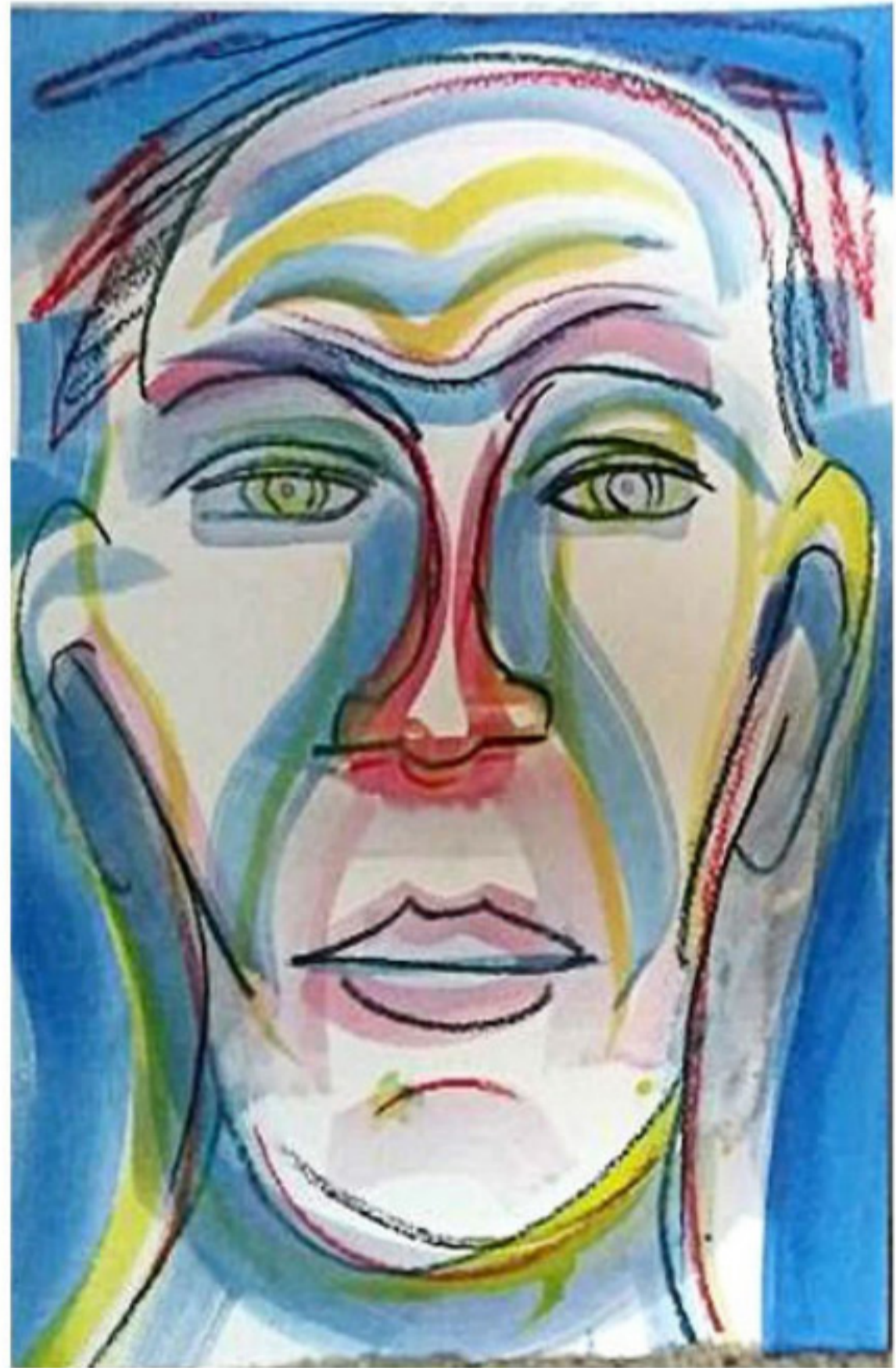
Although researchers aren't sure how deer initially became infected with SARS-CoV-2, the animals do have close proximity to humans in many areas — as well as to other animals known to harbor the virus.

Daniel Slim/AFP via Getty Images

Han says all of this work is critical for helping calculate risk. And she worries that once we see a spillover (like that of the deer), we're in it for the long haul. "So the fact that we now have a semi-permanent reservoir species — and not just in white-tailed deer but in mink and in [laboratory] deer mice — suggests to me that we now have to keep track of how it's evolving in these species and constantly update our calculations of what the risk is for humans."

>> [SAMPLE: Words & Pictures](#) (show/hide)

Hola Allah



(Untitled)
Say Hola, Allah!

Maybe He said Hola!,
Maybe Allah!
I don't know, but
I wanted to treat him
with dignity and respect,
fairness and a night out.

But he died.

An essential worker
in the pandemic
providing for his family.

He loved his family.
He was beloved.

He is beloved
and his wife and children

Say Hola, Allah!



My primary physician is an Ukrainian immigrant. She's a brilliant, salt-of-the-earth, authentically kind person and mother of two preteen special needs children. I went to see her at the beginning of the pandemic, before they closed the medical center to in-person visits. When people were first panicking and buying up all the toilet paper.

I asked my doctor if she felt safe with the new protocols Kaiser Permanente had put in place, and more generally for her family. She said she did, "and besides, we have a large dog, if things get too bad we can eat him." As she said this, she laughed an involuntarily nervous laugh, but she wasn't kidding.





PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE
VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYI

Official website

An Open Letter to the Global Media by Olena Zelenska

8 March 2022 - 22:11

I Testify...

An Open Letter to the Global Media
by Olena Zelenska, The First Lady of Ukraine



Recently, an overwhelming number of media outlets from around the world have reached out with requests for interviews. This letter serves as my answer to these requests and is my testimony from Ukraine. What happened just over a week ago was impossible to believe. Our country was peaceful; our cities, towns, and villages were full of life. On February 24th, we all woke up to the announcement of a Russian invasion. Tanks crossed the Ukrainian border, planes entered our airspace, missile launchers surrounded our cities. Despite assurances from Kremlin-backed propaganda outlets, who call this a "special operation" - it is, in fact, the mass murder of Ukrainian civilians. Perhaps the most terrifying and devastating of this invasion are the child casualties. Eight-year-old Alice who died on the streets of Okhtyrka while her grandfather tried to protect her. Or Polina from Kyiv, who died in the shelling with her parents. 14-year-old Arseniy was hit in the head by wreckage, and could not be saved because an ambulance could not get to him on time because of intense fires.

When Russia says that it is 'not waging war against civilians,' I call out the names of these murdered children first. Our women and children now live in bomb shelters and basements. You have most likely all seen these images from Kyiv and Kharkiv metro stations, where people lie on the floors with their children and pets – trapped beneath. These are just consequences of war for some, for Ukrainians it now a horrific reality. In some cities families cannot get out of the bomb shelters for several days in a row because of the indiscriminate and deliberate bombing and shelling of civilian infrastructure. The first newborn of the war, saw the concrete ceiling of the basement, their first breath was the acrid air of the underground, and they were greeted by a community trapped and terrorized. At this point, there are several dozen children who have never known peace in their lives.

The first newborn of the war, saw the concrete ceiling of the basement, their first breath was the acrid air of the underground, and they were greeted by a community trapped and terrorized. At this point, there are several dozen children who have never known peace in their lives. This war is being waged against the civilian population, and not just through shelling. Some people require intensive care and continuous treatment, which they cannot receive now. How easy is it to inject insulin in the basement? Or to get asthma medication under heavy fire? Not to mention the thousands of cancer patients whose essential access to chemotherapy and radiation treatment have now been indefinitely delayed.

Local communities on social media are full of despair. Many people, including the elderly, severely ill and those with disabilities, have been debilitatingly cut off, ending up far from their families and without any support. War against these innocent people is a double crime. Our roads are flooded with refugees. Look into the eyes of these tired women and children who carry with them the pain and heartache of leaving loved ones and life as they knew it behind. The men bringing them to the borders shedding tears to break apart their families, but bravely returning to fight for our freedom. After all, despite all this horror, Ukrainians do not give up. The aggressor, Putin, thought that he would unleash blitzkrieg on Ukraine. But he underestimated our country, our people, and their patriotism. Ukrainians, regardless of political views, native language, beliefs, and nationalities, stand in unparalleled unity.

While Kremlin propagandists bragged that Ukrainians would welcome them with flowers as saviors, they have been shunned with Molotov cocktails. I thank the citizens of the attacked cities, who have coordinated to help those in need. Those that keep working - in pharmacies, stores, public transportation, and social services – showing that in Ukraine, life wins. I acknowledge those that have provided humanitarian aid to our citizens and thank you for your continued support. And to our neighbors who have generously opened their borders to provide shelter for our women and children, thank you for keeping them safe, when the aggressor has rendered us unable to do so.

To all the people around the world who are rallying to support Ukraine. We see you! We're here watching and appreciate your support. Ukraine wants peace. But Ukraine will defend its borders. Defend its identity. These it will never yield. In cities where shelling persists, where people find themselves under debris, unable to get out of basements for days, we need safe corridors for humanitarian aid and evacuation of civilians to safety. We need those in power to close our sky! **Close the sky, and we will manage the war on the ground ourselves.**

I appeal to you, dear media: keep showing what is happening here and keep showing the truth. In the information war waged by the Russian Federation, every piece of evidence is crucial. And with this letter, I testify and tell the world: the war in Ukraine is not a war "somewhere out there." This is a war in Europe, close to the EU borders. Ukraine is stopping the force that may aggressively enter your cities tomorrow under the pretext of saving civilians. Last week to me and my people, this would have seemed like an exaggeration, but it is the reality we're living in today. And we do not know how long it will last. If we don't stop Putin, who threatens to start a nuclear war, there will be no safe place in the world for any of us.

We will win. Because of our unity. Unity towards love for Ukraine. Glory to Ukraine!

Principles for Dealing with the Changing World Order by Ray Dalio



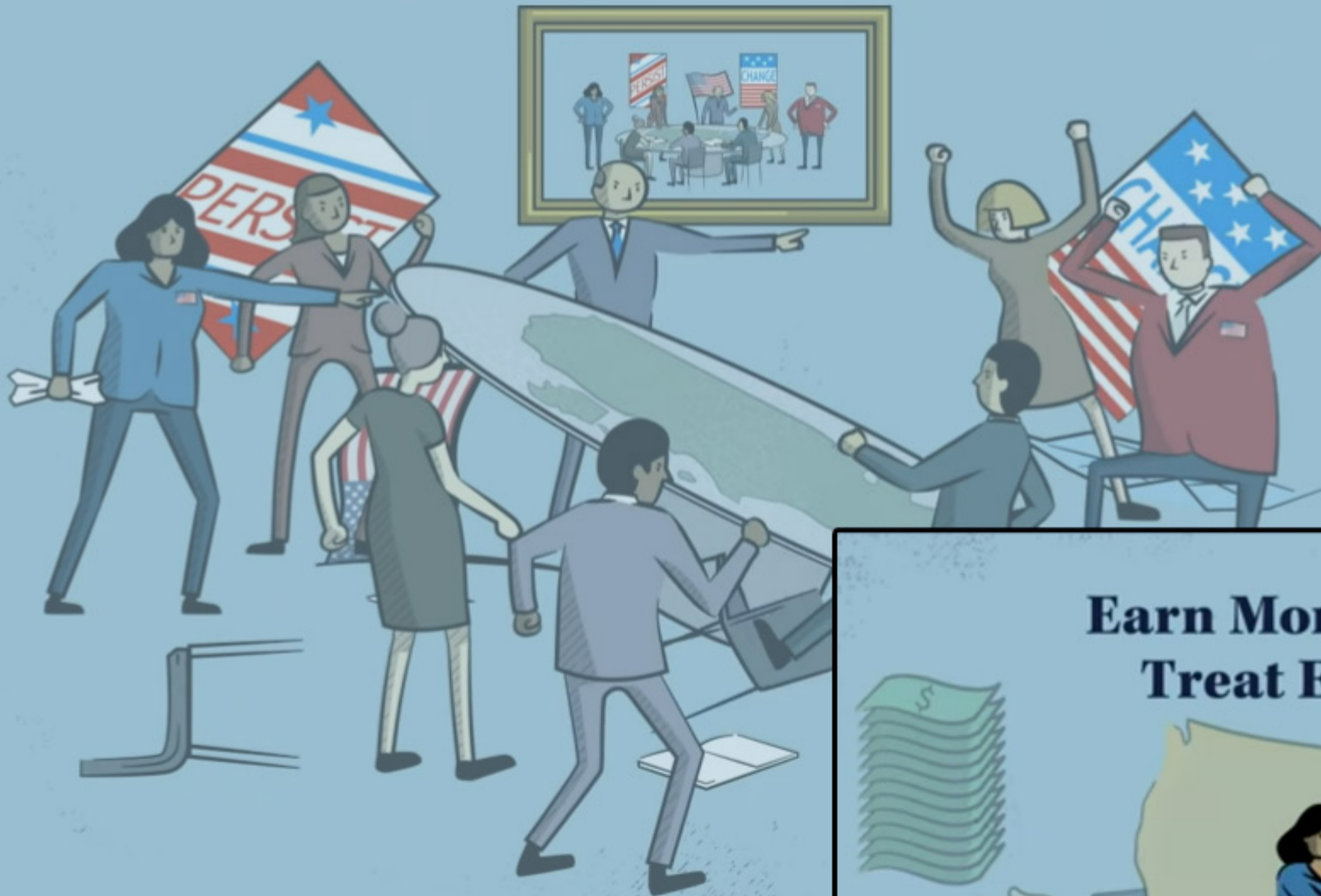
40:58 > it's most often the case that a nation's greatest war is with itself over whether or not it can make the hard decisions needed to sustain success. As for what we need to do it comes down to just two things: earn more than we spend and treat each other well

earn more than we spend and treat each other well

41:19 > all other things i mentioned, strong education, inventiveness, being competitive and all the rest are just ways of getting at these two things <41:29

PRINCIPLE:

A Nation's Greatest War is with Itself

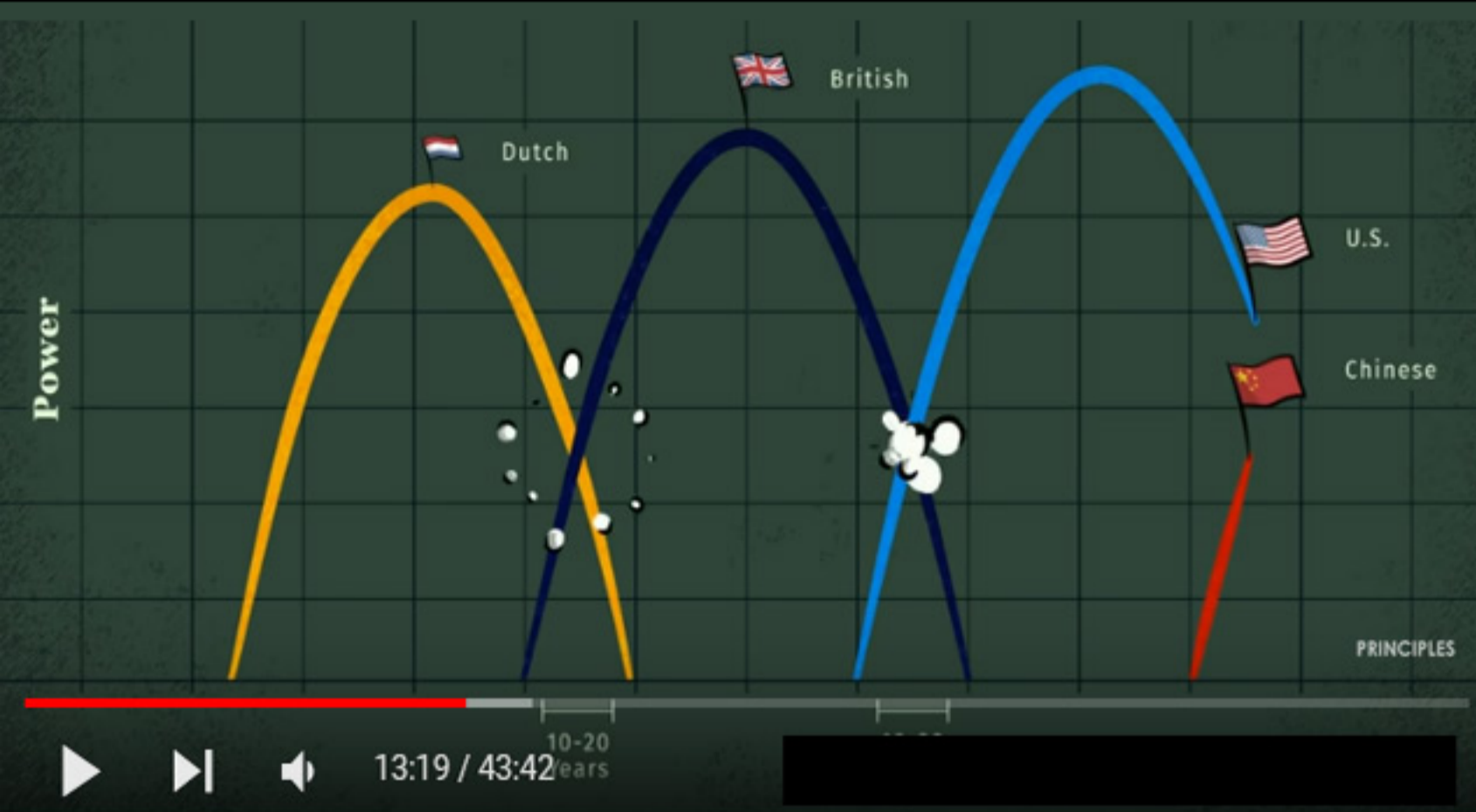


PRINCIPLE:

Earn More Than We Spend Treat Each Other Well

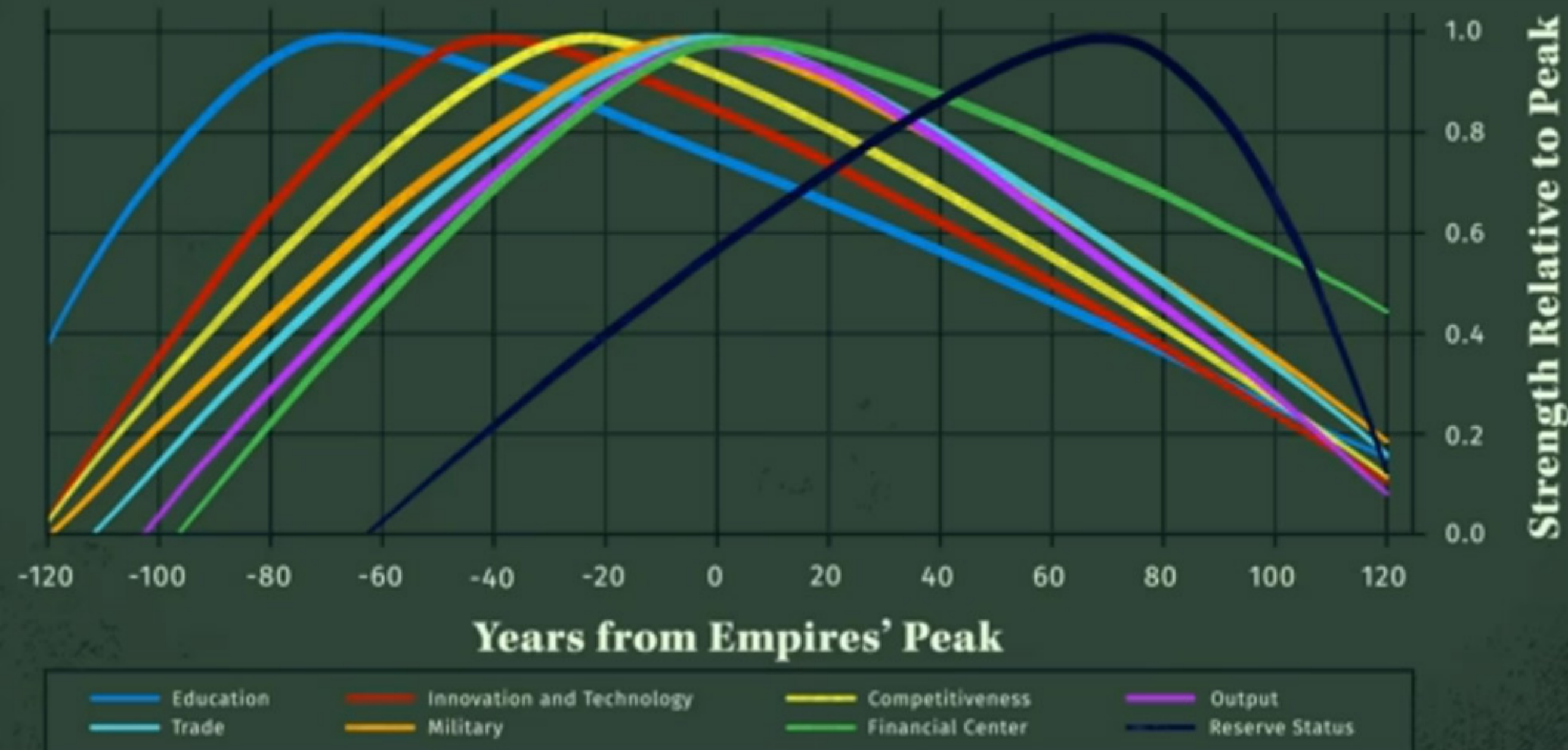


41:06 / 43:42



12:46 > i'll focus on the four most important ones the **Dutch British US and Chinese**. you'll quickly notice the pattern now let's simplify the form a bit > **13:02** > as you can see they transpired in overlapping cycles that lasted about 250 years with 10 to 20 year transition periods between them. typically these transitions have been periods of great conflict leading powers don't decline without a fight so how am i measuring an empire's power? in this study i used **eight metrics**, each country's measure of total power is derived by averaging them together they are: education inventiveness and technology development, competitiveness in global markets ,economic output, share of world trade, military strength, the power of their financial center for capital markets, and the strength of their currency, as a reserve currency because these powers are measurable we can see how strong each country is now was in the past and whether they're rising or declining by examining the sequences from many countries we can see how a typical cycle transpires and because the wiggles can be confusing we can simplify it a bit to focus pattern of cause effect relationships that drive the rise and decline of a typical empire > **14:27** > as you can see, better education typically leads to increased innovation and technology development and with a lag the establishment of the currency as a reserve currency you can also see that these forces then declined in a similar order reinforcing each other's decline. < 14:49

The 8 Strengths

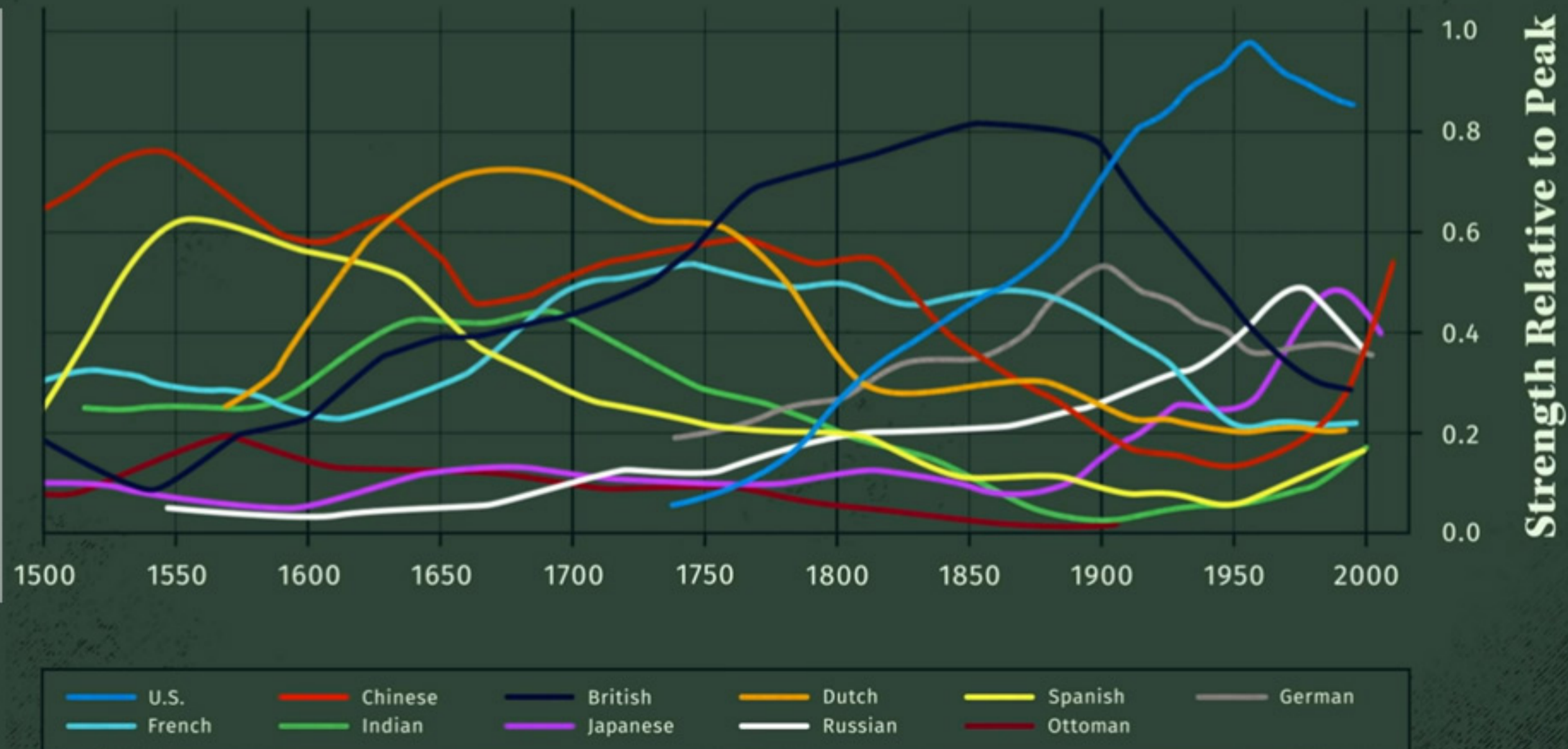




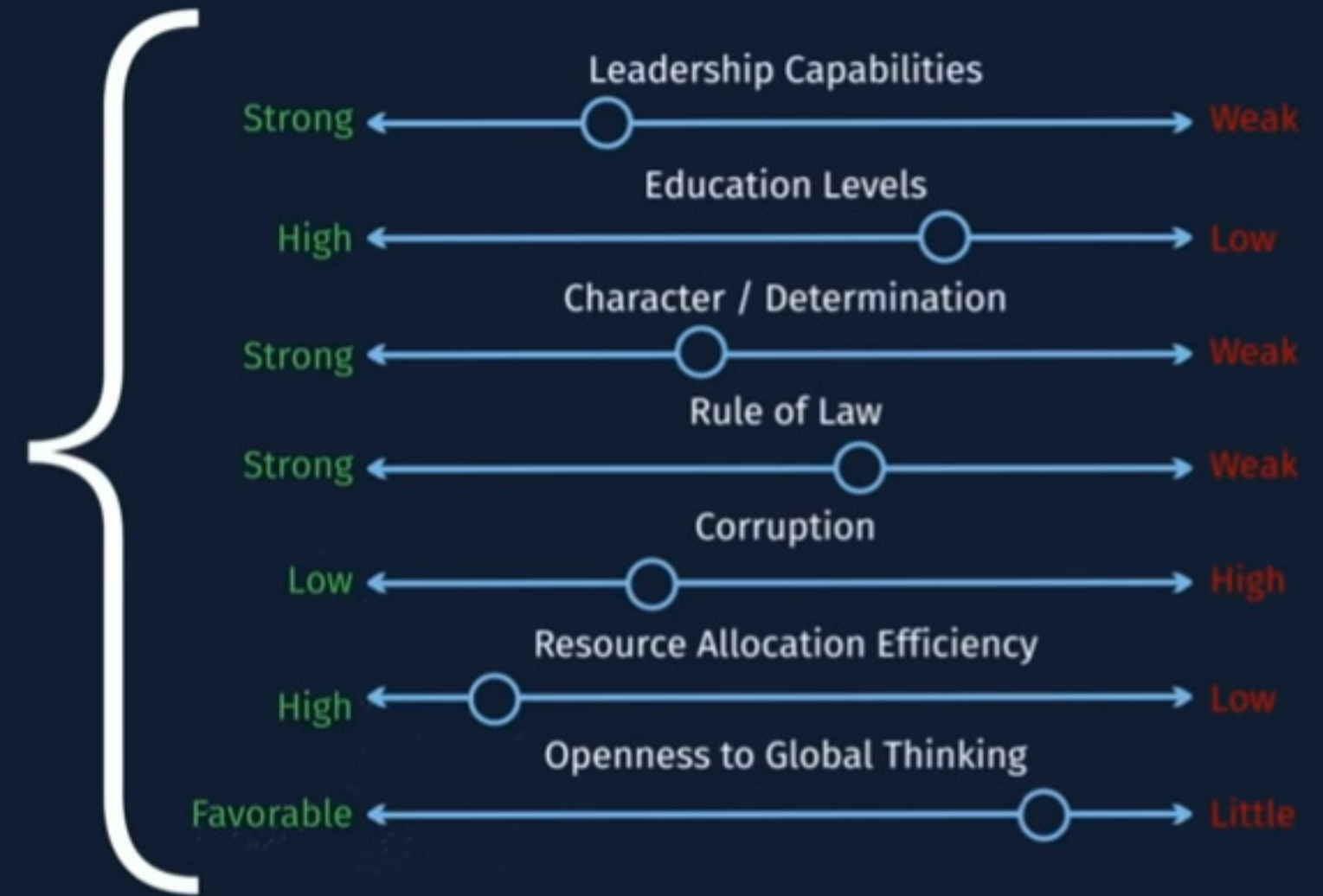
14:49 let's now look at the typical sequence of events going on inside a country that produces these rises and declines. in a nutshell the big cycle typically begins after a major conflict often a war establishes the new leading power and the new world order because no one wants to challenge this power, a period of peace and prosperity typically follows as people get used to this peace and prosperity they increasingly bet on it continuing, they borrow money to do that which eventually leads to a financial bubble. the empire's share of trade grows and when most transactions are conducted in its currency it becomes a reserve currency which leads to even more borrowing at the same time this increased prosperity distributes wealth unevenly so the **15:47 > wealth gap typically grows between the rich haves and the poor have-nots** eventually the financial bubble bursts which leads to the printing of money and **increased internal conflict between the rich and the poor which leads to some form of revolution to redistribute.** While this can happen peacefully or as a civil war while the empire struggles with this internal conflict its power diminishes relative to external rival powers on the rise when a new rising power gets strong enough to compete **with the dominant power that is having domestic breakdowns, external conflicts, most typically wars, take place. Out of these internal and external wars come new winners and losers. Then the winners get together to create the new world order. And the cycle begins again** < 16:45

16:50 > cycles of rises and declines all the way back to the Roman Empire. I saw how the stories of each one of these cycles blended together with others before during and after in the same way as each individual story blends with others to make **the epic 500 year story** that is our collective history.

The Great Empires



17:49 at health indicators
17:51 one can do that with empires and they're
17:54 vital signs too
17:56 i found that by watching the indicators
17:58 of power change i was able to see what
18:01 stage a country was in which helped me
18:03 to anticipate what was likely to come
18:06 next



Principles for Dealing with the Changing World Order by Ray Dalio



now i'll take you through the big cycle in more detail

18:11 > give me 20 minutes and i'll give you the last 500 years of history and show you the similar patterns across the Dutch, British, US and Chinese empires .

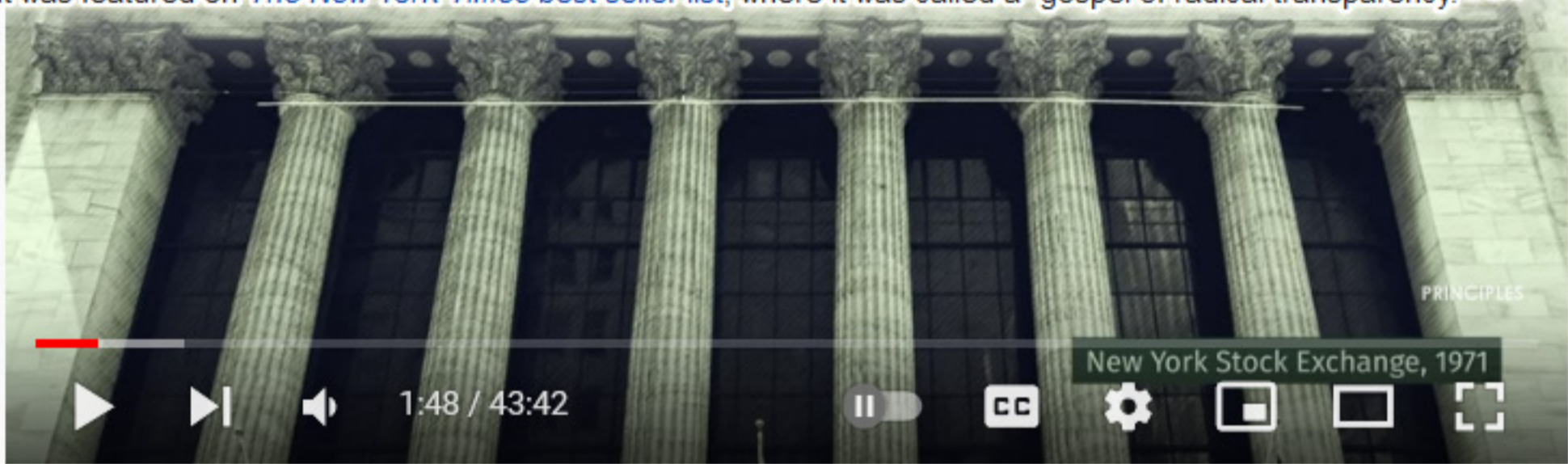
<https://youtu.be/xguam0TKMw8>

The Big Cycle Behind Empires' Rise and Declines




Raymond Thomas Dalio (born August 8, 1949)^[1] is an American billionaire investor and [hedge fund](#) manager, who has served as [co-chief investment officer](#) of the world's largest hedge fund, [Bridgewater Associates](#), since 1985. He founded Bridgewater in 1975 in New York. Within ten years, it was infused with a \$5 million investment from the [World Bank's](#) retirement fund.^{[2][3]} Dalio is regarded as one of the greatest innovators in the finance world, having popularized many commonly used practices, such as [risk parity](#), [currency overlay](#), [portable alpha](#) and [global inflation-indexed bond management](#).^[4]

Dalio was born in New York City, and attended [C.W. Post College](#) of [Long Island University](#) before receiving an MBA from [Harvard Business School](#) in 1973. Two years later, in his apartment, Dalio launched Bridgewater. In 2013, it was listed as the [largest hedge fund in the world](#).^{[5][6]} In 2020 [Bloomberg](#) ranked him the world's 79th-wealthiest person.^[7] Dalio is the author of the 2017 book *Principles: Life & Work*, about [corporate management](#) and [investment philosophy](#). It was featured on [The New York Times best seller list](#), where it was called a "gospel of radical transparency."^{[8][9]}



Principles for Dealing with the Changing World Order by Ray Dalio

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 **Principles by Ray Dalio** ✓
1.36M subscribers

I believe the world is changing in big ways that haven't happened before in our lifetimes but have many times in history, so I knew I needed to study past changes to understand what is happening now and help me to anticipate what is likely to happen.

I shared what I learned in my book, Principles for Dealing with the Changing World Order, and my hope is that this animation gives people an easy way to understand the key ideas from the book in a simple and entertaining way. In the first 18 minutes, you'll get the gist of what drives the "Big Cycle" of rise and decline of nations through time and where we now are in that cycle. If you give me 20 minutes more to watch the whole thing, and I will show you how the big cycle worked across the last 500 years of history—and what the current world leading power, the United States, needs to do to remain strong.

Ray Dalio



Born Raymond Thomas Dalio
August 8, 1949 (age 72)
New York City, U.S.

Education Long Island University, Post (BS)
Harvard University (MBA)

Occupation Hedge fund manager

Known for Founder of [Bridgewater Associates](#)

Spouse(s) Barbara Dalio

Children 4 sons, including [Paul](#)

- 01:35 [Music]
- 01:47 in 1971 when i was a young clerk on the
- 01:50 floor of the new york stock exchange the
- 01:52 united states ran out of money and
- 01:54 defaulted on its debts
- 01:57 that's right the u.s ran out of money

Principles for Dealing with the Changing World Order by Ray Dalio

Mar 2, 2022 [Youtube: 43m42s]

.....
<https://youtu.be/xguam0TKMw8>

earn more than we spend and treat each other well



40:58 > it's most often the case that a nation's greatest war is with itself over whether or not it can make the hard decisions needed to sustain success. As for what we need to do it comes down to just two things: **earn more than we spend and treat each other well**
41:19 > all other things i mentioned, strong education, inventiveness, being competitive and all the rest are just ways of getting at these two things < 41:29

As gas prices surge, here's how to get the most out of your tank

March 9, 2022 · 12:00 PM ET

RACHEL TREISMAN



A man pumps gas at a Giant Eagle GetGo in Mount Lebanon, Pa., on Monday.

Gene J. Puskar/AP

Global crude oil prices have been on the rise following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with U.S. gas prices hitting a new national record on Tuesday.

"The average cost of a gallon of regular fuel is now \$4.173, according to AAA, after jumping 55 cents in the last week alone. That's the highest ever recorded, not accounting for inflation, surpassing the \$4.114 high-water mark set in the summer of 2008. (That would be about \$5.37 in today's dollars.)"

Behind the wheel

Avoid high speeds.

stay at or below the speed limit, driving at a consistent rate of speed.

Keep your tires properly inflated.

Cut down on the A/C, and keep windows closed.

Don't accelerate or brake too hard.

Lighten your load.

Avoid idling.

Get your car serviced regularly.

Combine short trips.

Warm engines run more efficiently than cold ones, so experts advise running multiple errands at once rather than making shorter, separate trips from a cold start.

At the gas station

Avoid overfilling your tank — stop at the first "click" of the fuel nozzle.

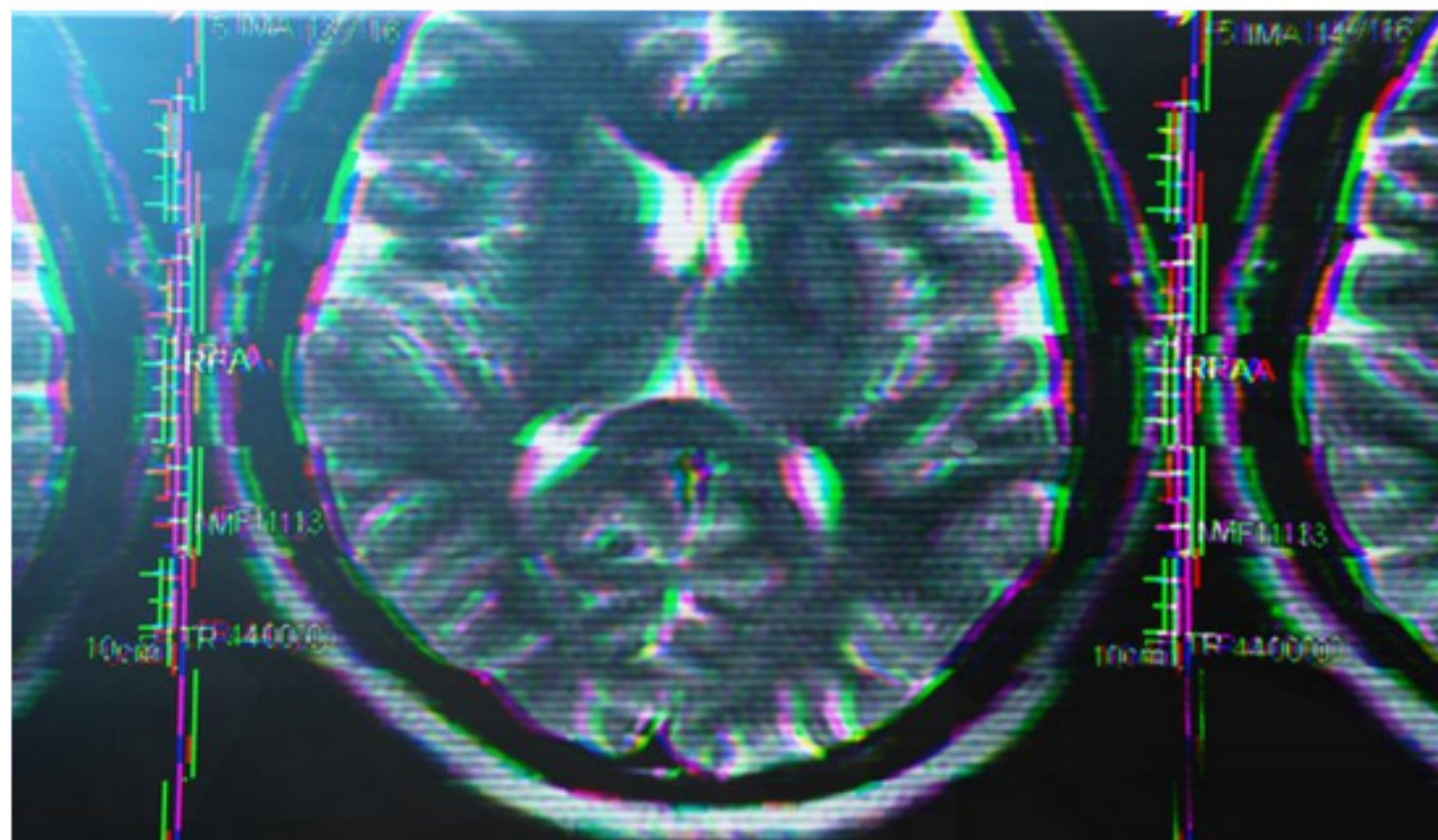
Make sure the gas cap clicks three times after you're done filling up, to prevent fuel from vaporizing.

Skip the premium gas unless your car requires it, as indicated by the fuel filler door.

Even Mild COVID Can Cause Brain Shrinkage and Disrupt Mental Function

Neuroscience The Conversation

By SARAH HELLEWELL, CURTIN UNIVERSITY MARCH 9, 2022



Most of what we know about how COVID can affect the brain has come from studies of severe infection. In people with severe COVID, inflammatory cells from outside the brain can enter brain tissue and spread inflammation. There may be changes to blood vessels. Brain cells can even have changes similar to those seen in people with Alzheimer's disease. For the first time, a new study has investigated the effects of mild COVID (that is, infection that doesn't lead to a hospital admission) on the brain. The findings may further explain some of the brain changes contributing to long COVID.

Many people who have had COVID report feelings of "brain fog", fatigue and problems with concentration and memory long after their initial symptoms resolve. These problems, collectively referred to as "long COVID", may last for months even after mild infection. Long COVID is very common, and may affect more than half of the people who catch COVID, even if they have a mild case.

Scientists collected data as part of the massive UK Biobank database. They looked at brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans and tests of brain function in 785 volunteers who were assessed before the pandemic. They then compared this to the same data collected three years later, when about half of those participants had mild COVID infection, and the other half had not caught COVID. This allowed the scientists to determine the specific effects of mild COVID infection on brain structure and function.

The group who had mild COVID an average of five months beforehand had thinning of brain tissue in several brain regions, ranging from 0.2% to around 2% compared to their pre-COVID scan. This is equivalent to between one and six years of normal brain aging. Affected brain regions included the parahippocampal gyrus (an area related to memory) and the orbitofrontal cortex, which is located at the front of the brain and is important for smell and taste.

The post-COVID group also showed a reduction in overall brain size between their MRI scans that wasn't seen in the non-COVID group, and had altered connections between different brain regions in the olfactory cortex, an area related to smell. They performed worse in a test for attention and mental flexibility, a finding that was associated with volume reductions within a part of the cerebellum related to smell and social relationships.

Comparing to other illnesses

To show these changes were specific to COVID and not just related to having a respiratory illness, the scientists also looked at a group of people who had pneumonia. They did not see the same changes, confirming they are related to COVID.

Decreases in brain volume are common to many brain diseases and disorders associated with degeneration, and have been found in people with mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, depression, and traumatic brain injury, among others.

Problems with memory and attention are also frequent for people with these diseases and disorders, indicating mild COVID infection may accelerate brain degeneration. These changes could explain the reported symptoms of long COVID, such as brain fog.

The study did not look at the mechanisms of mild COVID in the brain. However, the authors suggest this could be due to inflammation, degeneration which spreads through the brain pathways associated with smell, or sensory deprivation due to loss of smell.

The same for everyone?

So does this study prove all people who have had mild COVID infections will have these same brain changes and long-term brain degeneration? Not necessarily.

There are several important things we still do not know. This includes whether these brain changes will get worse over time, or whether they will go back to normal or previous levels of function. More research over a long time would help us understand the trajectory of brain changes.

This study also only included people aged 51–81, so we do not know whether these findings are relevant for younger people or children.

The brain changes found in this study were more pronounced in the older participants, so it could be that older people are more susceptible. Another study is needed to determine whether the same brain alterations would occur in younger people, or whether these findings are common only to older people.

There were some differences between the groups before COVID, with smaller volumes of areas deep within the brain. However, these were in different brain areas to those affected after COVID.

The scientists also found slightly reduced scores for brain functions of thinking and remembering in the group that went on to have COVID. This study did not specifically exclude people with degenerative brain conditions such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's diseases, but the scientists do not think these would explain the changes they found.

Effects of different variants and vaccination unknown

Because of the nature of the study, information about the strain of COVID people were infected with was not available. So we can't assume the findings would be the same for people with the now more prevalent Omicron strain.

We also can't determine the effect vaccination may have in lessening brain changes. Given the timing of the study, it is likely most of the people in the post-COVID group were infected in 2020, so may not have been vaccinated.

This study provides the first important information about brain changes in people with mild COVID infection. Until we have all the information, we should be alert but not alarmed at emerging findings.

Written by Sarah Hellewell, Research Fellow, Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University, and The Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science, Curtin University.

Starlink



60 Starlink satellites stacked together before deployment on 24 May 2019

Manufacturer [SpaceX](#)

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket boosted the company's latest batch of Starlink internet satellites to low-Earth orbit Wednesday, but not before launch engineers poked fun at Russia's recent comments on U.S. space vehicles.

"Time to let the American broomstick fly and hear the sounds of freedom," SpaceX launch engineer Julia Black called out just before the 8:45 a.m. EST liftoff from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. "Launch director is go for launch."

The rocket successfully launched 48 Starlink internet satellites to orbit, then returned to land on the Just Read the Instructions drone ship a few minutes later. It marked the booster's fourth flight to date.

The broomstick comments came after Dmitry Rogozin, head of Russia's space corporation Roscosmos, continued to assault U.S. space operations and companies on social media and in interviews.

"In a situation like this we can't supply the United States with our world's best rocket engines. Let them fly on something else like their broomsticks, I don't know what," Rogozin said on Russian television last week.

"Time to let the American broomstick fly and hear the sounds of freedom,"

SpaceX launch engineer Julia Black ,
"Launch director is go for launch."

Starlink is a satellite internet constellation operated by SpaceX^[2] providing satellite Internet access coverage to most of the Earth.^{[3][4]} The constellation has grown to over 1,700 satellites through 2021, and will eventually consist of many thousands of mass-produced small satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO), which communicate with designated ground transceivers. While the technical possibility of satellite internet service covers most of the global population, actual service can be delivered only in countries that have licensed SpaceX to provide service within any specific national jurisdiction. As of February 2022, the beta internet service offering is available in 29 countries.

The SpaceX satellite development facility in Redmond, Washington, houses the Starlink research, development, manufacturing, and orbit control teams. The cost of the decade-long project to design, build, and deploy the constellation was estimated by SpaceX in May 2018 to be at least US\$10 billion.^[5] In February 2017, documents indicated that SpaceX expects more than US\$30 billion in revenue by 2025 from its satellite constellation, while revenues from its launch business were expected to reach US\$5 billion in the same year.^{[6][7]}

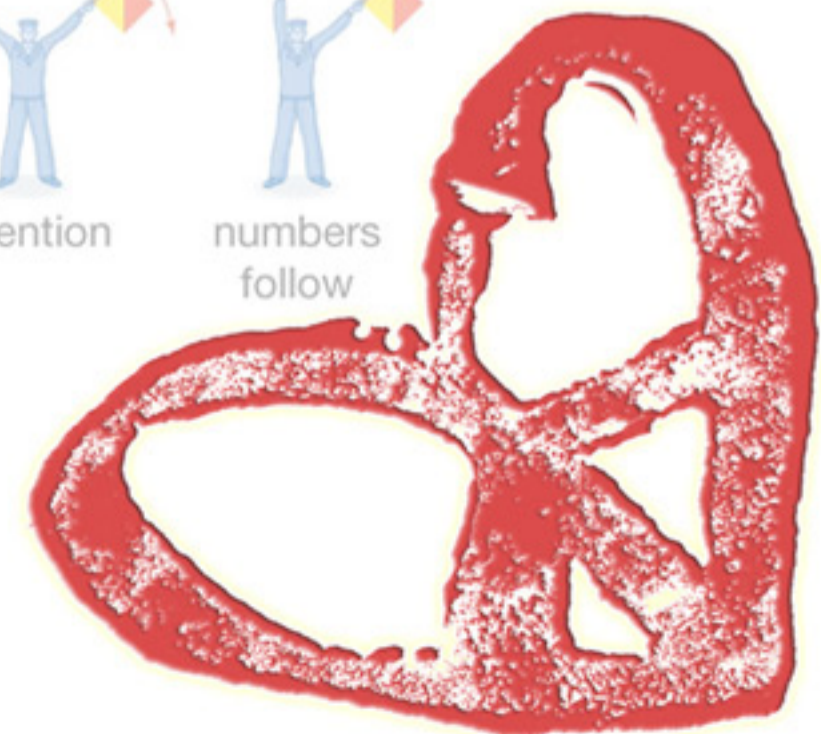
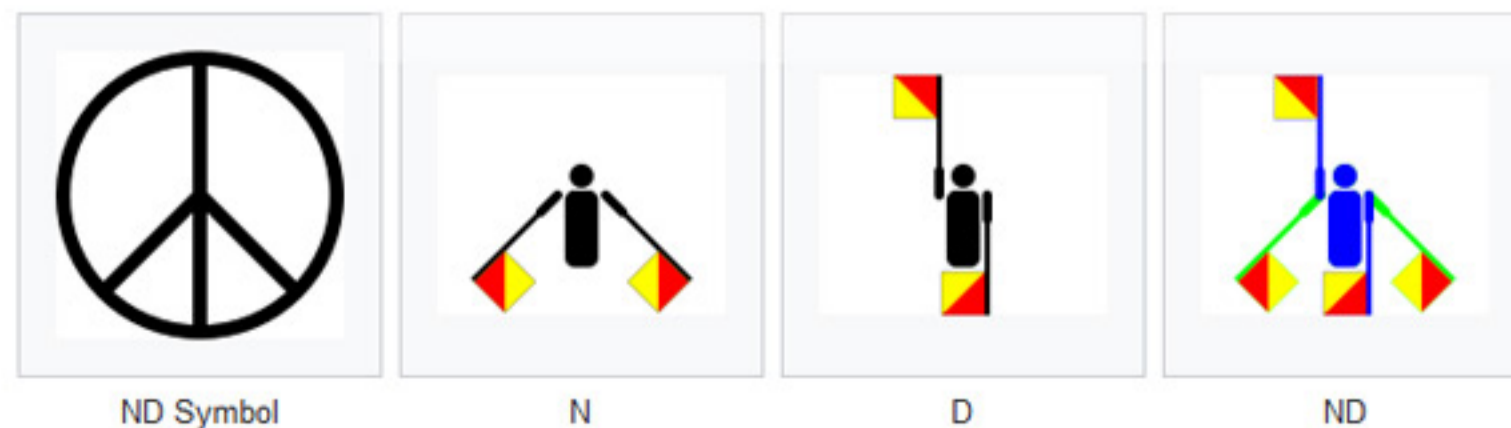
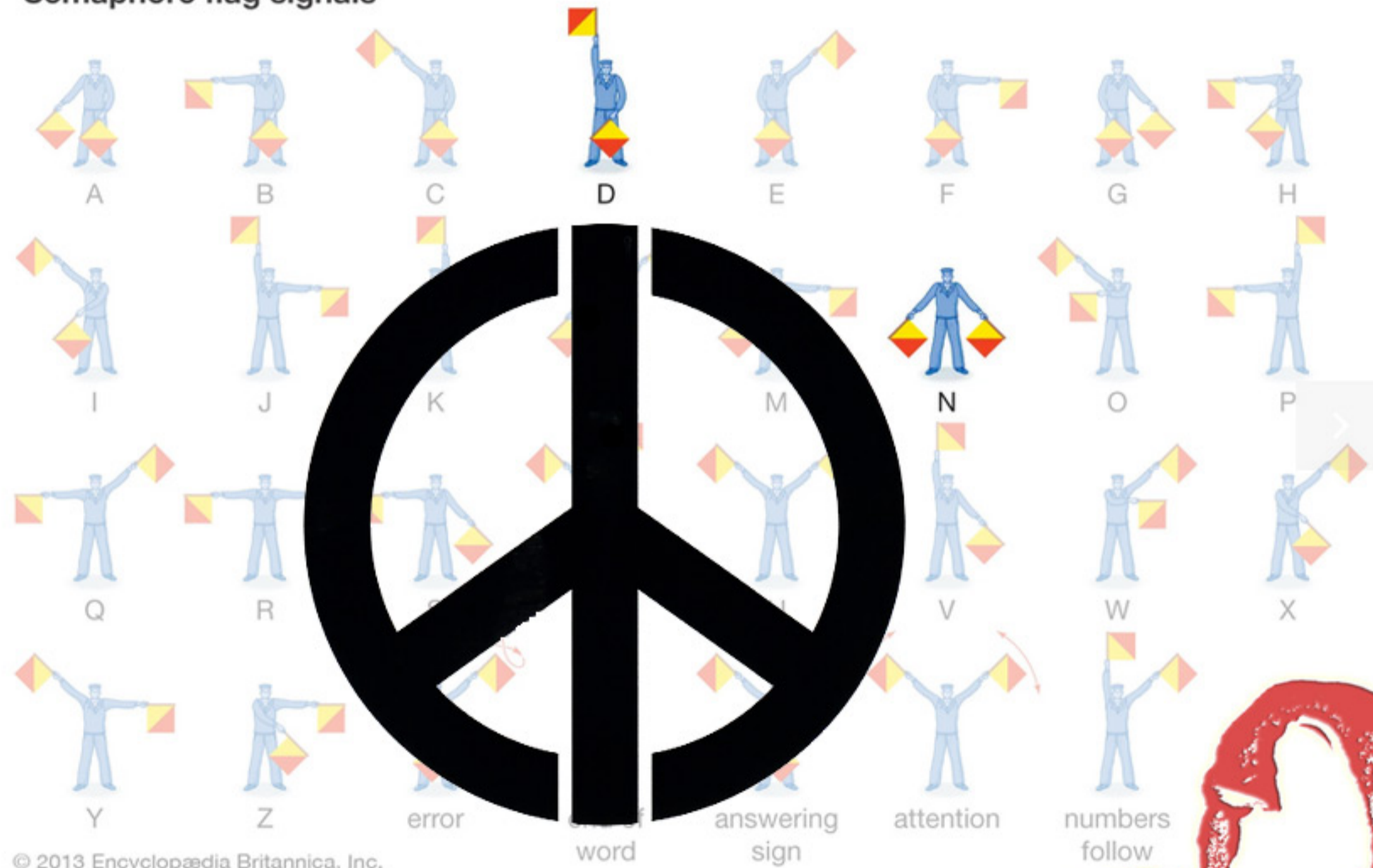
On 15 October 2019, the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) submitted filings to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on SpaceX's behalf to arrange spectrum for 30,000 additional Starlink satellites to supplement the 12,000 Starlink satellites already approved by the FCC.^[8]

Astronomers have raised concerns about the constellations' effect on ground-based astronomy and how the satellites will add to an already congested orbital environment.^{[9][10]} SpaceX has attempted to mitigate astronomy concerns by implementing several upgrades to Starlink satellites aimed at reducing their brightness during operation.^[11] The satellites are equipped with krypton-fueled Hall thrusters which allow them to de-orbit at the end of their life. Additionally, the satellites are designed to autonomously avoid collisions based on uplinked tracking data.

Peace

"**Peace.** A graduate of the Royal College of Art, **Gerald Holtom** (1914 – 1985) was a professional artist and designer. He had been a conscientious objector during World War II. In 1958, he designed the Nuclear Disarmament (ND) logo, which later became an international peace symbol. The design was a composite of letters of the flag semaphore alphabet for 'N' and 'D', representing the words nuclear disarmament."

Semaphore flag signals



Peace Goya's *The Third of May 1808*

In addition to this primary Nuclear Disarmament (ND) logo genesis, Holtom additionally cited as inspiration Goya's Peasant Before the Firing Squad:

I was in despair. Deep despair. I drew myself: the representative of an individual in despair, with hands palm outstretched outwards and downwards in the manner of Goya's peasant before the firing squad. I formalised the drawing into a line and put a circle round it.

The reference is to Goya's *The Third of May 1808* (1814), although the peasant shown in this painting has his arms stretched upwards, not downwards.



Peace Goya's *The Third of May 1808*





Ukraine war and anti-Russia sanctions on top of COVID-19 mean even worse trouble lies ahead for global supply chains

Tinglong Dai, *Johns Hopkins University*

The American founders could teach Putin a lesson: Provoking an unnecessary war is not how to prove your masculinity

Maurizio Valsania, *Università di Torino*

The trauma of life in limbo for refugees and asylum seekers in immigration detention – podcast

Gemma Ware, *The Conversation* and Justin Bergman, *The Conversation*

Oil price shocks have a long history, but today's situation may be the most complex ever

Scott L. Montgomery, *University of Washington*

Humanitarian corridors could help civilians safely leave Ukraine – but Russia has a history of not respecting these pathways

Kirsten Geledorf, *University of Virginia* and Jacob Kurtzer, *Georgetown University*

Would Putin use nuclear weapons? An arms control expert explains what has and hasn't changed since the invasion of Ukraine

Miles A. Pomper, *Middlebury*

China's balancing act on Russian invasion of Ukraine explained

Joseph Torigian, *American University*

How a hurricane fueled wildfires in the Florida Panhandle

Michael David Godwin, *University of Florida*

Why stagflation is an economic nightmare – and could become a real headache for Biden and the Fed if it emerges in the US

Veronika Dolar, *SUNY Old Westbury*

Why most teachers who say they plan to leave the profession probably won't do so anytime soon

Christopher Redding, *University of Florida*; Allison Gilmour, *Temple University*; Elizabeth Bettini, *Boston University*; and Tuan D. Nguyen, *Kansas State University*

Why Apple, Disney, IKEA and hundreds of other Western companies are abandoning Russia with barely a shrug

Douglas Schuler, *Jones Graduate School of Business at Rice University* and Laura Marie Edinger-Schons, *University of Mannheim*

An economic iron curtain is falling on Russia as companies like McDonald's cut ties

March 12, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

DAVID GURA



An elderly Russian woman eats a hamburger at the first McDonald's in the then Soviet Union on its opening day in January 1990.

Rudi Blaha/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A pivotal chapter in Russia's recent history is coming to an end as many of the world's largest and best-known companies abandon Russia after the country's invasion of Ukraine. It started in part with BP announcing late last month that it would end its multi-billion dollar relationship with Rosneft, the Russian oil giant.

But what started as a trickle has become a corporate exodus. This week alone, companies ranging from Coca-Cola, McDonald's, PepsiCo, Starbucks to Goldman Sachs have announced they are cutting their ties with Russia. Perhaps no decision to leave had more symbolic significance than one McDonald's made. This week, it decided to pause its operations in Russia. The company will temporarily close its restaurants in 850 locations across the country.

Many Russia experts say the exodus does more than reinforce the country's isolation over its decision to invade Ukraine. It marks a return, at least for now, to the time when Russia was part of the Soviet Union, and it was largely shut out of the global economy. "It's really a shocking reversal," says Daniel Treisman, a professor at UCLA who specializes in Russian politics and economics.

"The Iron Curtain is coming down again, or a different kind of curtain is coming down," he says. "I think Russians are just horrified at losing connection to this world that they have been living in for the last 30 years."

Russia has come to rely heavily on imports.

In the third quarter of 2021 — the most recent quarter for which data are available, the country imported around \$77 billion worth of goods, according to data from the Bank of Russia, its central bank.

The presence of foreign companies brought a lot of new technology and expertise, and Russian firms have become closely integrated with global supply chains.

And just like in the Soviet days, the domestic industry is not evolved enough to step up.

"Russia's entire industrial economy is going to face wrenching difficulties as they try, and in many case fail, to find alternatives to Western products," Miller says.

"Russia has gotten access to foreign consumer goods, and also a lot of technology and expertise from Western firms," he adds. "All that has been thrown into a very rapid reverse."

In Indian Country, people are wearing Kokum scarves for solidarity with Ukraine

NWNNews | By Anna King

Published March 10, 2022 at 3:38 PM PST



Brandi Morin, of the Cree Nation in Alberta, Canada, says she's wearing a scarf in support of Ukraine.

Brandi Morin lives outside of Edmonton, Alberta, and she says near her Cree Nation, there's a large Ukrainian population.

"My heart was going through turmoil for what's going on," Morin says.

She says it wasn't that long ago when indigenous people had invaders at their doorstep. And they too, had to flee their land with their children.

"I just wanted to express that I'm with them in my spirit and in my heart," Morin says. "That I care. That I love them. And that we're thankful for them. We're thankful for their friendships that we have with them and the relationships and the respect they've shown us over the years."

Morin says the Ukrainian scarves have a name in Canada's Cree Country – kokum. It means grandma. But they come from many Slavic countries and go by many different names across the U.S.

Morin says the Ukrainian scarves have a name in Canada's Cree Country – kokum. It means grandma. But they come from many Slavic countries and go by many different names across the U.S.

Across the border in the U.S., Bobbie Conner points out her great grandmother in an old framed photograph. "Grandma Wyasus, my mom's grandma, was born at Wayam, near the Columbia River," Conner says. "Around 1853. And she escaped a Fort Dalles soldiers' raid at the age of 13 or 14 and canoed alone up the Columbia River."

Her great grandmother, always wore scarves to cover her hair.

Aaron Quaempts is a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation. He's bought several scarves. "I had seen the hashtag or the social media going, if you have one wear it for solidarity," Quaempts says. When he watches the news from Ukraine he thinks of his own family.

"It's just heartbreaking to see people having to go through that," he says. "Fathers having to say goodbye to their kids while they are evacuating so they can take up arms and you know defend Ukraine."

From Indian Country to Ukraine – there's a little thread of brightly-colored material tying people together in pain and hope.



Bobbie Conner shows how she wears her scarf at the Tamástsiikt Cultural Institute gift shop near Pendleton, Oregon.

KYIV, UKRAINE - MARCH 05: A member of a Territorial Defence unit guards a barricade next to writing saying "Glory To Ukraine" close to the eastern frontline on March 05, 2022 in Kyiv, Ukraine. Russia continues assault on Ukraine's major cities, including the capital Kyiv, more than a week after launching a large-scale invasion of the country.



Ukraine's Dangerous Independence

March 10, 2022 · 12:01 AM ET

Months before Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, he published an essay on the Kremlin website called "On The Historical Unity of Russia and Ukraine." In it, he suggested that Ukrainians don't really have their own identity — and that they never have. Historian Serhii Plokhii says that couldn't be further from the truth. The histories of the two countries are deeply intertwined, but Ukrainian identity is unique. Today, we explore that identity: how it formed, its relationship to Russia, and how it helps us understand what's happening now.



Serhii Plokyh @SPlokyh · Mar 11

Never in history was the war waged on the territory of the nuclear power plants and nuclear sites. But this is what is happening today in Ukraine. The international community protests but does nothing.



[bloomberg.com](https://www.bloomberg.com)

Another Chernobyl Disaster? Russian Invaders Are Taking the Risk
A Q&A with atomic energy expert Serhii Plokhii on Putin's new form of "nuclear terrorism."

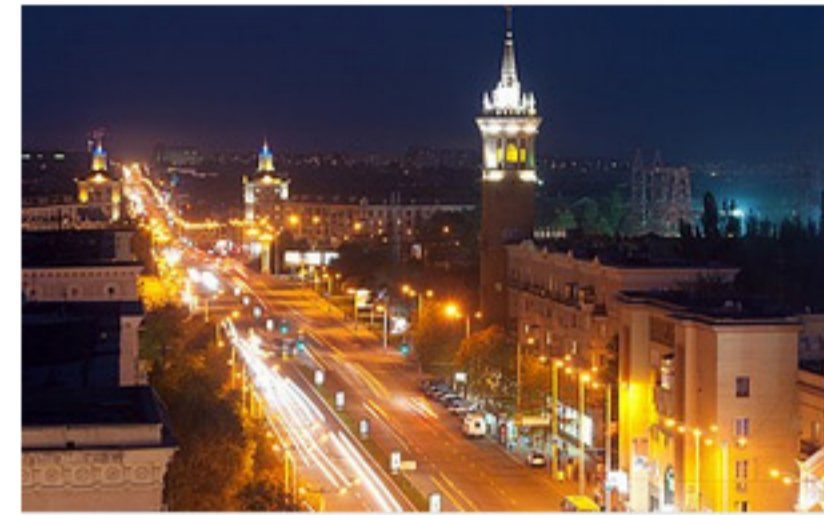
30

424

844



Serhii Plokyh, or Plokhii (Ukrainian: Сергій Миколайович Плохій, Russian: Сергей Николаевич Плохий; born 23 May 1957) is the Mykhailo Hrushevsky professor[a] of Ukrainian history at Harvard University, where he also serves as the director of the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. Serhii Plokhii was born in Nizhnii Novgorod, Russia. He spent his childhood and school years in Zaporizhia, Ukraine, where his family returned soon after his birth.



Zaporizhzhia is a city in south-eastern Ukraine, situated on the banks of the Dnieper. It is the administrative centre of the Zaporizhzhia Oblast (region). Zaporizhzhia has a population of 722,713 as of 2021.



Serhii Plokyh



Born Сергій Плохій
23 May 1957 (age 64)
[Gorky, Russian SFSR, Soviet Union](#)

Nationality Ukrainian, US

Occupation Historian

Known for History of Ukraine, Cold War

Introducing temporary fuel assistance

We know the unprecedented spike in gas prices and rising energy costs have affected how much money you're taking home.

To help, we're rolling out temporary fuel assistance on Wednesday, March 16, for all drivers and couriers, including those with electric vehicles.

In San Diego, your customers will pay a \$0.55 surcharge on every ride and a \$0.45 surcharge on every delivery—and **100% of the surcharge will go directly to you**. This means that if you complete 40 rides in a week, you'll get an extra \$22.00 that week. Similarly, if you complete 40 deliveries in a week, you'll get an extra \$18.00 that week.

We plan to reevaluate the situation in 60 days. At that point, we'll consider gas prices and your feedback in determining whether or not to continue this fuel assistance surcharge.

Through our partnership with GetUpside, you can also get cash back at more than 25,000 gas stations. If you haven't yet, take a minute to [sign up](#).

We hope that this support helps your bottom line while gas prices are at record highs. Thank you for driving and delivering with Uber.

Surcharge is dependent on trip origination location.



Wear your mask

To help keep communities safe, Uber requires drivers and couriers to wear a mask throughout their trip or delivery, even when vaccinated. This requirement is based on guidance from the CDC.

Braving rain and cold, Trump's supporters soak up hints of another run

March 14, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



DANIELLE KURTZLEBEN



For many rallygoers, the No. 1 alternative is clear: Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. And it quickly became clear why: they see him and Trump as similar. Anthony Barber, a petroleum inspector from Somerville, talked about what he likes about the two men. "They like to punch back. They don't sit there and take it, take it, take it — show weakness," he said. "You know, to run a country, you've got to show strength." Others echoed the comparison. "He's just like Trump, he says it like it is," said Shannon Reynolds, an Air Force veteran from Sumter. "He puts people in their place when they're wrong. He calls them out, but he's there for the people."

Trump and DeSantis have traded swipes at each other in recent months. But DeSantis' popularity in this crowd, and the fact that it's because many Republicans see him as distinctly Trumpy, is also proof of Trump's power. While Trump keeps wondering aloud whether he will be on the 2024 ballot, it's clear that he has created conditions for people like him to hold sway in the GOP for years to come. In other words, the conditions are ripe for Trumpism to outlast Trump himself.

Anti-Trump Republicans lining up for 2024 shadow primary

By STEVE PEOPLES today



Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan speaks at a news conference on Feb. 8, 2022, in Annapolis, Md. More than two years before the next presidential election, a shadow primary has begun to take shape among no fewer than three fierce Republican critics of former President Donald Trump to determine who is best positioned to occupy the anti-Trump lane in what could be a crowded 2024 residential field. (AP Photo/Brian Witte, File)

NEW YORK (AP) — Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan is planning trips to Iowa and New Hampshire. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., is considering a rough timeline for a potential presidential announcement. And allies of Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., are openly talking up her White House prospects.

More than two years before the next presidential election, a shadow primary is already beginning to take shape among at least three fierce Republican critics of former President Donald Trump to determine who is best positioned to occupy the anti-Trump lane in 2024.

Their apparent willingness to run — even if Trump does, as is widely expected — represents a shift from previous years when “Never Trump” operatives failed to recruit any GOP officeholders to challenge the incumbent president. But with the 2024 contest almost in view, the question is no longer whether one of Trump’s prominent Republican critics will run, but how many will mount a campaign and how soon they will announce.

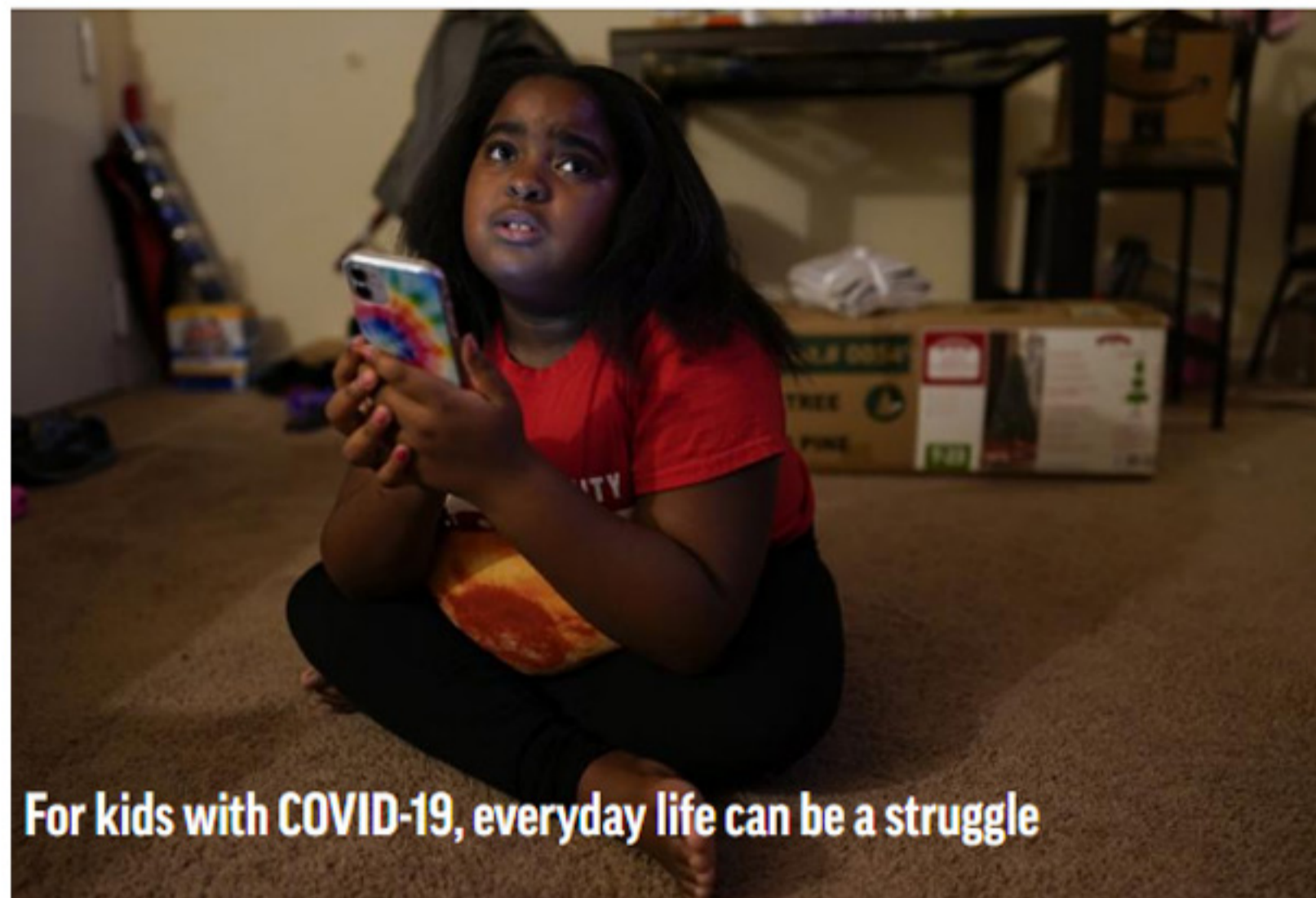
Hogan is working to help Trump’s loudest Republican critics in other states as well. Hogan had lunch last week with Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, who has refused to embrace Trump’s lies about the 2020 election. Hogan also plans to host events for Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Rep. David Valadao, R-Calif. He voted to impeach Trump for inspiring the Jan. 6 insurrection while Murkowski voted for Trump’s conviction.

Kinzinger’s outside group, Country First, now claims chapters in 38 states and a growing fundraising base. The 44-year-old Illinois congressman, a lieutenant colonel in the Air National Guard, plans to spend much of the year working to defeat Republicans in the midterms who promote Trump’s false claims of voter fraud. Last month, he announced a plan to encourage Democrats and independents to cast ballots in Republican primaries when possible to oust pro-Trump candidates.

Kinzinger said he would even consider a 2024 run as an independent if that’s the best way to stop Trump, although he prefers to stay a Republican. “This country is built really for two parties, like it or love it or hate it,” he told the AP. “Never rule anything out. But my hope would be to be able to find the salvation of the GOP.”



18th First Amendment Awards at the NH Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H., on Nov. 9, 2021. More than two years before the next presidential election, a shadow primary has begun to take shape among no fewer than three fierce Republican critics of former President Donald Trump to determine who is best positioned to occupy the anti-Trump lane in what could be a crowded 2024 presidential field. (AP Photo/Mary Schwalm, File)



For kids with COVID-19, everyday life can be a struggle

By **COLLEEN LONG** and **CAROLYN KASTER**

2 hours ago

Among the puzzling outcomes of the coronavirus, which has killed more than 6 million people worldwide since it first emerged in 2019, are the symptoms suffered by children.

More than 12.7 million children in the U.S. alone have tested positive for COVID-19 since the pandemic began, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Generally, the virus doesn't hit kids as severely as adults.

But, as with some adults, there are still bizarre outcomes. Some youngsters suffer unexplained symptoms long after the virus is gone, what's often called long COVID. Others get reinfected. Some seem to recover fine, only to be struck later by a mysterious condition that causes severe organ inflammation.

And all that can come on top of grieving for loved ones killed by the virus and other interruptions to a normal childhood.



Lexie Forte, 6, curls up in the plethysmography chamber during a break in her pulmonary function test at Children's National Hospital, in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)



Alyssa Carpenter, 2, center, sucks on her fingers during Tiny Tot ballet and tap class at Lyrique Dance in Warrenton, Va., Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

| Country, Other | Total Cases | New Cases | Total Deaths | New Deaths | Total Recovered | New Recovered | Active Cases | Serious, Critical | Tot Cases/ 1M pop | Deaths/ 1M pop | Total Tests | Tests/ 1M pop | Population |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Ethiopia | 469,184 | | 7,486 | | 421,472 | | 40,226 | 54 | 3,917 | 62 | 4,567,310 | 38,130 | 119,781,264 |



Ethiopia's unconventional COVID-19 response

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/06/ethiopia-covid19-response/>

Arkebe Oqubay, Senior Minister and Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, Ethiopia | 5/6/ 2020

- Despite financial constraints, Ethiopia has managed to keep its COVID-19 cases to a minimum, with only 6 deaths out of a population of 109 million.
- The government's rapid response, including house-to-house screenings and diagnostic testings, were crucial in stemming the outbreak.
- Ethiopia has also encouraged production and other economic activities to continue during the crisis.

Behind Ethiopia's surge in COVID-19 cases

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/africa/behind-ethiopia-s-surge-in-covid-19-cases-76295>

Africa's second-most populous nation has become the fifth-most affected country on the continent

By Mekonnen Teshome | Monday 05 April 2021

The efforts to curb the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic were challenged with spiritual beliefs and other misconceptions in Ethiopia; it is, after all, among the most conservatively religious countries in the world. A 50-year-old woman said: "I am not scared because I expected this to happen; we brought this on ourselves and we are paying for our sins. It has been a long time coming." The relatively low levels of infection in Africa — compared to Europe and the United States — seem to conform to this conviction. The relatively slower spread of the disease in the region in the beginning peddled misconceptions, which pointed to consuming garlic or local alcohol to help prevent infection. The situation since then has escalated.

1 May 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcomm.2021.562512>

The Coronavirus Intervention in Ethiopia and the Challenges for Implementation

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcomm.2021.562512/full>

Dept. of Journalism and Communication, Mekelle University, Mekelle, Ethiopia

Conclusion: To contain the rapidly spreading virus, the Tigray State government has adopted different measures endorsed by the World Health Organization. Broadcast media houses have extensively covered the pandemic-related news and programs to educate the public. These programs have positively contributed to raising the awareness of the public about the pandemic. However, there are limited results in realizing behavioral changes among the public in applying the recommended COVID-19 prevention measures. Notably, a limited practice in wearing face masks, a lack of avoiding crowds and no physical distancing in market places, religious institutions, coffee houses, and restaurants. Different factors are affecting the implementation of the recommended prevention measures in Mekelle. These include an increasing level of myths and misconceptions about the pandemic, religious factors associating the COVID-19 with a "punishment from God" or "Allah", a perception that the pandemic affects only the "old", and persistent poverty levels of most people, who ignored the lockdown and stay-at-home measures.

The number of COVID-19 cases has been rapidly increasing in Mekelle. Thus, it obliges introducing the following measures to develop behavior changes among the public. First, it requires understanding the overall context of the intervention setting to identify the nature and preferences, media literacy and related factors of the target population. This helps to design inclusive and relevant messages targeting diversified segments of the public. Second, along with the media messages, it requires promoting interpersonal and group communication to maintain an effective flow of pandemic-related messages among the population. This enhances two-way communication and fosters dialogue at the household and community levels to comply with the preventive measures.

Third, several myths and misconceptions resulting from cultural beliefs and religious practices, seem to distract holistic response toward the pandemic prevention campaigns. Therefore, it necessitates debunking the myths and misconceptions. Lastly, as most people in Mekelle are interconnected through culture and religion, it requires empowering community elders and religious leaders to achieve the desired behavior change among the people. As Gould and Marsh (2004, p.16) argued, "positive health behaviors are more likely to be attained and sustained when the people within a cultural setting are involved in a contextual transformation process." In general, inclusive pandemic prevention communication for a sustained behavior change necessitates employing consistent and coordinated messages from different groups, including the media, community elders and religious leaders.

Black business ownership is higher than pre-pandemic. Women are driving that growth

March 13, 2022 - 6:00 AM ET



JASMINE GARSD



Business owners Isha Joseph, Khadija Tudor, and Hekima Hapa outside their business on Tompkins Ave. in BedStuy, Brooklyn.

Makeda Sandford for NPR

Tompkins Avenue was dubbed "**Black Girl Magic Street**" after news about their efforts were reported. Joseph smiles when she hears the nickname. "Black women have been able to really rise up in times that you just have to get it done," Joseph says. "It's like a magical thing. Like you can turn chitlins into a gourmet dish. Black girl magic is all about how women literally can turn dust into gold."

As Ukraine war rages, Israel grapples with fate of oligarchs

By JOSEF FEDERMAN and ILAN BEN ZION today



A banner in the colors of Russia's national flag depicting Chelsea soccer club owner Roman Abramovich and reading "the Roman Empire" is shown during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Newcastle United at Stamford Bridge stadium in London, Sunday, March 13, 2022. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel is grappling with how to deal with dozens of Jewish Russian oligarchs as Western nations step up sanctions on businesspeople with ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

A worried Israeli government has formed a high-level committee to see how the country can maintain its status as a haven for any Jew without running afoul of the biting sanctions targeting Putin's inner circle.

Several dozen Jewish tycoons from Russia are believed to have taken on Israeli citizenship or residency in recent years. Many have good working relations with the Kremlin, and at least four -- Chelsea FC owner Roman Abramovich, Mikhail Fridman, Petr Aven and Viktor Vekselberg -- have been sanctioned internationally because of their purported connections to Putin.

Israel, which has emerged as an unlikely mediator between Ukraine and Russia, has not joined the sanctions imposed by the U.S., Britain, European Union and others. But as the war in Ukraine drags on, and other names are added to the list, the pressure is increasing. [...]

In the meantime, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid has already advised his colleagues to keep their distance from the oligarchs.

"You have to be very careful because those guys have connections and they can call you on the phone and ask you for things," Lapid recently told the Cabinet. "Don't commit to anything because it could cause diplomatic damage. Say you can't help them and give them the number of the Foreign Ministry."

His comments, first reported in Israeli media, were confirmed by officials who attended the meeting. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing closed Cabinet proceedings.

Israel, one of the few countries that has good relations with both Russia and Ukraine, may be able to insulate itself from the international pressure as long as it continues to mediate between the warring sides. Joining the sanctions would risk drawing Russian ire and jeopardize Israel's unique role.

Ksenia Svetlova, an international-affairs expert and former Israeli lawmaker born in Russia, said Israel would hold out from taking a stance as long as possible. "It depends on what kind of pressure they will exercise against Israel," she said. "Not voluntarily, certainly."

Russia has requested military and economic assistance from China, US officials say

CNN · 12 minutes ago

- US official says Russia seeking military aid from China

Yahoo News · 10 hours ago

- Russia Asks China For Military Aid In Ukraine, U.S. Officials Say

NBC News · 2 hours ago

- Putin and Xi: Look to Beijing for the real reason behind the Ukraine invasion | TheHill

The Hill · 3 hours ago · Opinion



India unsure of Russian arms to meet China, Pakistan threats

By ASHOK SHARMA today



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi greet each other before their meeting in New Delhi, India on Dec. 6, 2021. India is bracing for a disruption in Russian arms supplies following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tightrope walk between Moscow and Washington could become more difficult due to a border standoff with China. (AP Photo/Manish Swarup, File)

NEW DELHI (AP) — India is exploring ways to avoid a major disruption in its supply of Russian-made weaponry amid U.S. sanctions following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tightrope walk could become more difficult due to a continuing border standoff with China.

Experts say up to 60% of Indian defense equipment comes from Russia, and New Delhi finds itself in a bind at a time when it is facing a two-year-old standoff with China in eastern Ladakh over a territorial dispute, with tens of thousands of soldiers within shooting distance. Twenty Indian soldiers and four Chinese soldiers died in a clash in 2020.

"The nightmare scenario for India would be if the U.S. comes to the conclusion that it confronts a greater threat from Russia and that this justifies a strategic accommodation with China. In blunt terms, concede Chinese dominance in Asia while safeguarding its European flank," Shyam Saran, India's former foreign secretary, wrote in a recent blog post.

Would China, drawing lessons from Ukraine, be an aggressor in disputed eastern Ladakh or in Taiwan? "It is very possible they might do it," said Jitendra Nath Misra, a retired diplomat and distinguished fellow in the Jindal School of International Affairs. [...]

Tracing the history of India's acquisition of Soviet arms, S.C.S. Bangara, a retired navy admiral, said India began looking for arms and ammunition after its war with China in 1962.

The Cold War resulted in the United States cozying up with China. Pakistan as a facilitator held a trump card that could be used to enlist the complete support of the U.S. government in the event of an India-Pakistan conflict, he said.

During India's war with Pakistan in December 1971 that led to the creation of Bangladesh, the U.S. deployed a task force led by the USS Enterprise in the Bay of Bengal in support of Pakistan.

In the mid-1960s, India negotiated a series of acquisition agreements with the Soviet Union that continued for the next 40 years, Bangara said. "It was not seamless, particularly when the Soviet Union collapsed. The long chain of training facilities along with the supply chain of logistics collapsed when the Union broke into smaller states," he said.

Even as India diversifies its defense acquisitions from the U.S., Israel, France and other countries, it may take 20 years to get over its dependence on Russian supplies and spares, Bangara said.



FILE - Workers at the MiG factory assemble a MiG-29K fighter jet for the Indian Navy in Moscow on Aug. 3, 2011

Russian Journalist Interrupts State TV Broadcast With Bold Anti-War Protest

Marina Ovsyannikova, an editor at Russia's state-run Channel One network, held up a sign reading, "Stop the war. Don't believe the propaganda. They are lying to you"

By **JON BLISTEIN**



She called on the Russian people to protest against the war, saying that only they could "stop the madness".

From the moment Ms Ovsyannikova's identity became known, she has received dozens of comments on her Facebook page in Ukrainian, Russian and English, thanking her for her actions.

«К сожалению, в последние годы я работала на Первом канале и занималась кремлевской пропагандой, и мне сейчас очень стыдно за это». Редактор Марина Овсянникова, прорвавшаяся в прямой эфир с антивоенным плакатом, до этого записала видеообращение.

The editor of Channel One Marina Ovsyannikova showed anti-war poster LIVE on Russian national TV. The sign, clearly visible behind the presenter, read "no war, stop the war, don't believe the propaganda, they are lying to you here".

Ms Ovsyannikova is believed to be in police custody.

Prior to her live TV protest, Ovsyannikova recorded a video in which she said, "What is happening now in Ukraine is a crime. Russia is the aggressor and this aggression is one the conscience of only one person, and that person is Vladimir Putin. My father is Ukrainian and my mother is Russian, and they were never enemies." "I'm ashamed that I allowed myself to tell lies from the television screen. Ashamed that I allowed Russians to be turned into zombies," she explained.



The 30-year-old female founder at the forefront of a billion-dollar bet on CRISPR gene editing

PUBLISHED SAT, MAR 12 2022-10:31 AM EST



Rebecca Fannin
@RFANNIN



Janice Chen (C) and her Mammoth Biosciences co-founders Trevor Martin (L) and Lucas Harrington (R). CRISPR gene editing pioneer and Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna is also a co-founder.

- Nobel Prize winner Jennifer Doudna is the most well-known co-founder of CRISPR start-up Mammoth Biosciences, but Janice Chen, the sister of U.S. figure skating champion Nathan Chen, is also one of its four co-founders and the chief technology officer.
- Mammoth has added \$100 million in big pharma contracts and government grants since the pandemic began, quadrupled its employee count and is still hiring, and saw its valuation rise to \$1 billion in a venture deal featuring Amazon and Apple's Tim Cook.
- Chen has her sights set on reaching a \$100 billion valuation as an independent company.

"Our intention is not to build and sell it but to become a \$100 billion company in next-generation CRISPR technology. There are so many creative building opportunities, and new technology that can come out of discovery in gene editing," said Chen. "Identifying the business strategy has meant that I needed to step out of the lab and scale the company," added Chen, who worked remotely during Covid, but is now back at the company's Brisbane, California, headquarters, where its distinct green and white elephant-shaped signage is highly visible.

Salt Lake City roots, Silicon Valley growth: Growing up in Salt Lake City as one of five siblings (Nathan, 22, is the youngest), her parents, immigrants from China in 1988, encouraged "us to reach our potential and become what is best for us," Chen, now 30, said. Chen learned to play the violin, competed in chess tournaments, and excelled in dance performance. In chess competitions, where she was often the youngest and the only female, she said she learned "how to lose and how to win strategies." She discovered her passion for bioscience while at her father's small biotech business in Utah.

To relieve the stress of scaling up Mammoth Biosciences, Chen has recently taken up running in San Francisco's hills, near her home. She got up to speed for on-the-job managerial challenges by reading "The Founder's Dilemma." She also sought the advice of an executive coach who has helped in determining "what kind of leader do I want to be," she said, adding, "I want to help myself and others reach full potential. It's about understanding each person's motivations, what they want to try and learn, and making them part of the company ecosystem."

Mammoth Biosciences is built on core technology Chen worked on at Doudna's UC Berkeley lab. Chen earned her PhD as a graduate student researcher in this hotbed of innovation. As a mentor, Doudna encouraged Chen to set up her own business upon graduation rather than to work at a major biotech company. "She told me I wasn't shooting high enough," said Chen, who has academic credentials from Harvard Medical School and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, as well as an internship at a HIV research institute in Durban, South Africa.

"She's a leader of the technical team and an overall strategist who has deep scientific knowledge and creativity, and can see where this technology is going," said Doudna, whose UC Berkeley lab has been immersed in an ongoing patent battle over ownership of the biomedical technology. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office recently determined in favor of the Broad Institute, a partnership of MIT and Harvard University. This decision impacts licensing for several CRISPR companies, but doesn't extend to the particular gene editing system that Mammoth Biosciences uses. Doudna is also a co-founder of publicly traded CRISPR company Intellia Therapeutics.

At the age of 26, right after graduation, Chen had ventured out with fellow student and lab researcher Lucas Harrington to co-start a company. They set up shop at a biotech incubator in the up-and-coming Dogpatch neighborhood of San Francisco. "Janice and I split our time working in the lab and doing prototypes, and pitching venture capitalists," recalled Harrington. Her husband, a scientist in San Francisco that she met at Johns Hopkins, "understands the journey" and devotion to starting this game-changing company. "It's my life right now," she said.

Ray Dalio: Money, Power, and the Collapse of Empires | Lex Fridman Podcast #251

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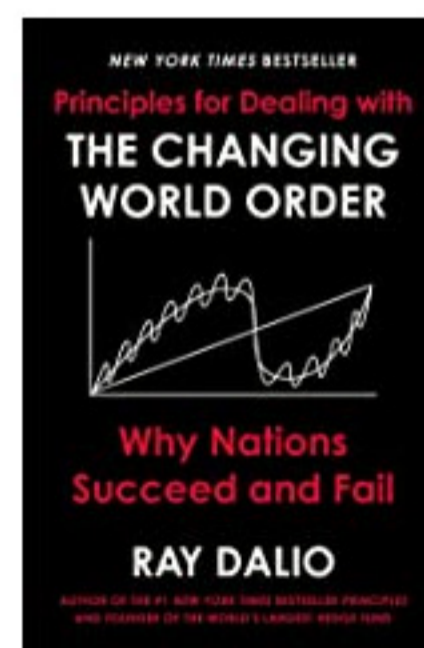
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- 0:00 - Introduction
- 0:42 - Money or power
- 4:18 - Big Cycle
- 24:11 - Collapse of the American Empire
- 32:38 - War
- 35:45 - Xi Jinping
- 41:49 - Importance of freedoms
- 47:52 - Democracy's vulnerability
- 51:17 - Communism's vulnerability
- 58:18 - Vladimir Putin
- 1:02:23 - Understanding China
- 1:09:51 - Henry Kissinger
- 1:13:24 - Bitcoin
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- 1:22:09 - How to take notes
- 1:25:52 - Advice for young people
- 1:29:58 - Hope for humanity

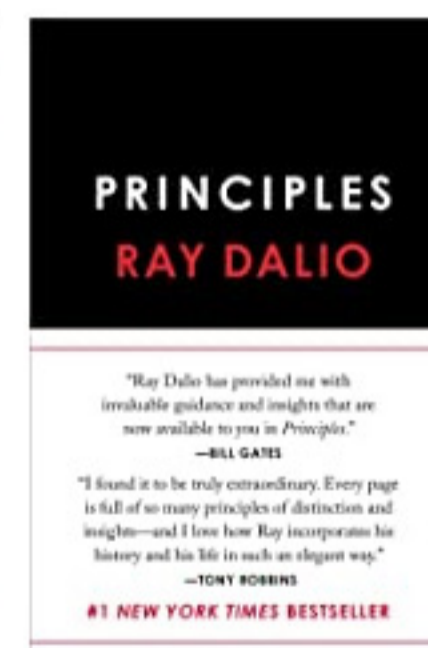


Ray Dalio is the founder and co-chairman of Bridgewater Associates, which, over the last forty years, has become the largest and best performing hedge fund in the world. He is the author of #1 New York Times Bestseller and #1 Amazon Business Book of the Year, Principles. Dalio has appeared on [the top 100 list of the year](#).

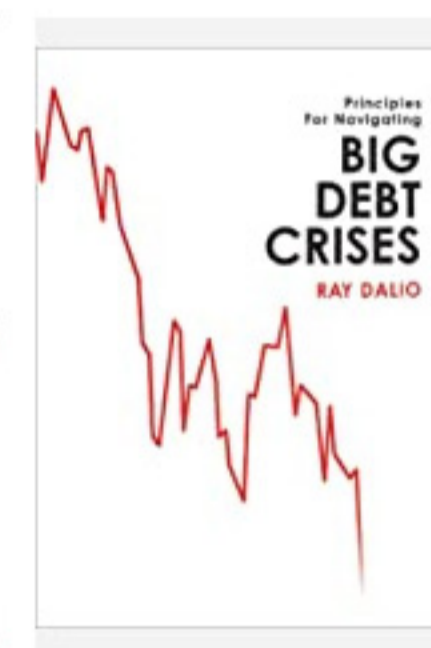
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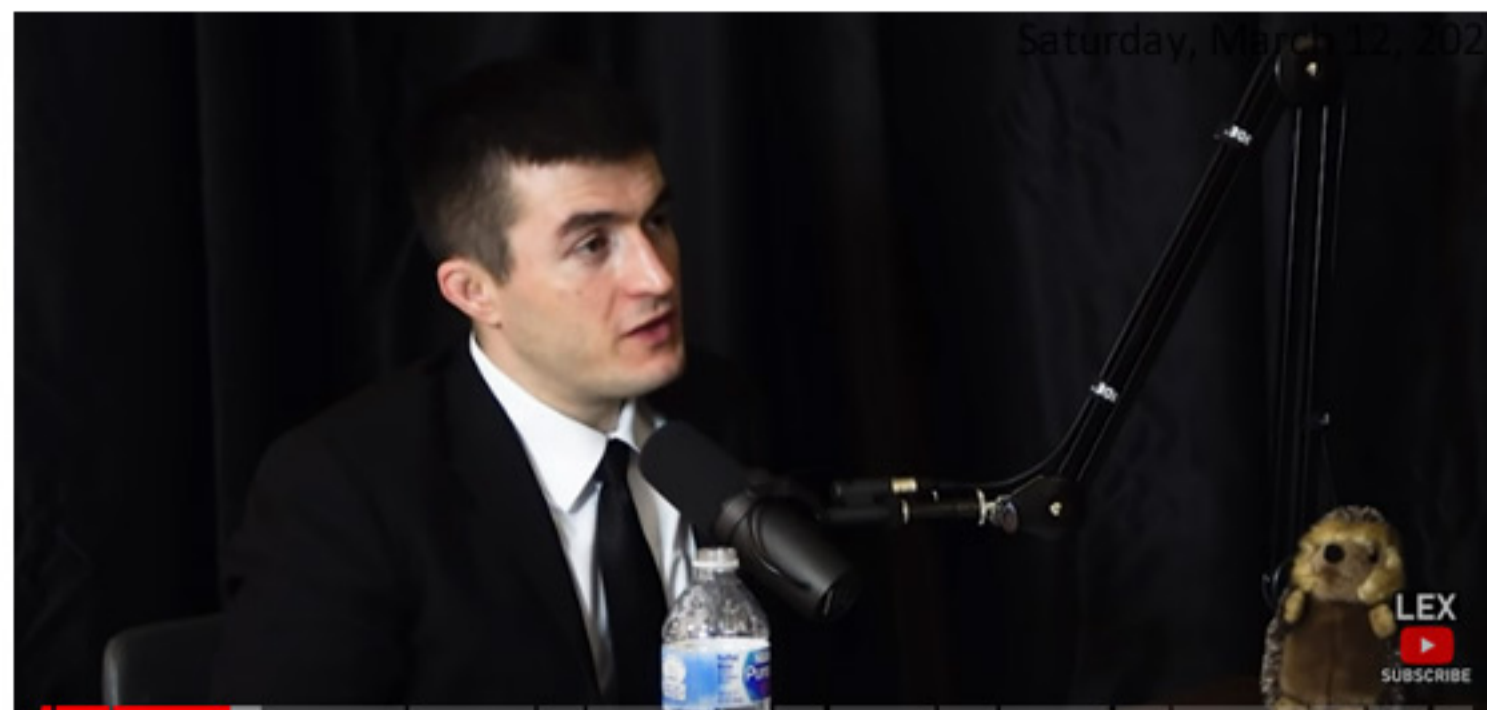
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Ray Dalio

Lex Fridman is a Russian-American computer scientist, artificial intelligence researcher, and podcast host currently working and teaching at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Fridman's career began at Google, working on machine learning. Fridman is a research scientist and lecturer at MIT. His work at MIT involves research into human-centered artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicle research, deep learning, and personal robotics. In 2017, Fridman worked on computer vision, deep learning, and planning algorithms for semi-autonomous vehicles. Fridman's work has been published in peer-reviewed journals.

Lex Fridman Podcast: Started in 2018 the Lex Fridman Podcast (originally titled Artificial Intelligence Podcast) discusses "AI, science, technology, history, philosophy and the nature of intelligence, consciousness, love, and power", unlike his previous show which was intended to be "more general and personal". Guests have included Elon Musk, Joe Rogan, Jack Dorsey, Ray Dalio, and Mark Zuckerberg. Fridman's third interview with Elon Musk discussed Musk's opinions on space exploration and cryptocurrency.

Personal life: Fridman went to high school in the Chicago suburb of Naperville, Illinois and graduated from Neuqua Valley High School in 2001. Fridman gave a shoutout to a fellow Neuqua alum, Matt Harandi, during his first appearance on the Joe Rogan Experience podcast. Fridman has attained a black belt in Brazilian jiu jitsu and judo, and plays both the guitar and piano. His father, Alexander Fridman, is a professor at Drexel University. Fridman is of Ukranian-Jewish descent, as his father is Jewish and was born in Kiev while his grandmother was born and raised in Kharkov and his grandfather was a machine-gunner in Ukraine against the Nazis during World War II.



Saturday, March 12, 2022



Lex Fridman teaching at MIT in 2018



Ray Dalio: Money, Power, and the Collapse of Empires
| Lex Fridman Podcast #251 965,181 views • Dec 25, 2021



Lex Fridman
@lexfridman

I'm so grateful to have food, shelter, health, and be surrounded by amazing, compassionate people. I will never take this for granted, because at any moment it can all go away.

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| Pronunciation | /ləks ˈfriːdmæn/ |
| Born | Moscow, Russian SFSR, Soviet Union |
| Citizenship | Russian, American |
| Alma mater | Drexel University |
| Known for | Machine learning , computer science , Artificial intelligence |
| Scientific career | |
| Fields | Computer Science , Artificial intelligence |
| Institutions | Massachusetts Institute of Technology |
| Thesis | <i>Learning of Identity from Behavioral Biometrics for Active Authentication</i> (2014) |
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Interview with Yuval Noah Harari | VPRO Documentary



Feb 19, 2022 <https://youtu.be/Scf3jWIGUE>

A long conversation with writer and historian Yuval Noah Harari, who was asked to pick six clips from films and tv-series and talk about them and his personal view of our time and the world. VPRO is a Dutch public broadcast service.

VPRO



Play (k)



Sen. Joe Manchin says he'll oppose Sarah Bloom Raskin's nomination to a key Fed role

March 14, 2022 - 2:44 PM ET



SCOTT HORSLEY



Sarah Bloom Raskin, President Biden's nominee to be the Federal Reserve's vice chair for supervision, speaks during her confirmation hearing with the Senate Banking Committee on Feb. 3. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said on Monday that he will oppose her nomination, likely dooming her chances.

Sen. Joe Manchin says he's opposed to the nomination of Sarah Bloom Raskin for a top regulatory post at the Federal Reserve, likely spelling defeat for her confirmation in the closely divided Senate. Manchin, a Democrat representing West Virginia, says he wants the Fed to focus on what he calls the most pressing issues — rising inflation and energy costs — and he's not convinced that Raskin shares those priorities. Raskin, a former member of the Fed's governing board who also served in the Treasury Department, has sparked strong Republican opposition after arguing that financial regulators should pay more attention to the risks associated with climate change. Opponents worry that her views on climate change could discourage banks from lending money to fossil fuel companies, although Raskin insisted during her confirmation hearing that it's up to banks to decide which loans to make, not the Federal Reserve.

Sarah Bloom Raskin




Sarah Bloom Raskin (born April 15, 1961) is an American attorney and regulator, who was formerly a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and a former United States Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. Previously, she served as Maryland Commissioner of Financial Regulation and as a managing director at the Promontory Financial Group. She is a Rubenstein Fellow at Duke University. In May 2017, she was elected to the Board of Directors for Reserve Trust Company, a FinTech based in Colorado. President Biden has nominated her to serve as Vice Chair for Supervision at the Federal Reserve System.

Sarah Bloom was born to a Jewish family in Medford, Massachusetts, the daughter of Arlene (née Perlis) and Herbert Bloom. Bloom attended Homewood-Flossmoor High School in Flossmoor, Illinois, where she graduated in 1979. After graduating from high school, she went on to Amherst College where she graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a B.A. in economics in 1983, and wrote her undergraduate thesis on monetary policy. She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1986. Raskin was honored with an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by Muhlenberg College on May 19, 2019.

Raskin is married to Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., who helped lead the second impeachment of then-President Donald Trump.

Sen. Joe Manchin says he'll oppose Sarah Bloom Raskin's nomination to a key Fed role

March 14, 2022 - 2:44 PM ET

 SCOTT HORSLEY 



Sarah Bloom Raskin



Sarah Bloom Raskin (born April 15, 1961) is an American attorney and regulator,

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

POLITICS

Fed nominee Sarah Bloom Raskin withdraws after fight over her climate change stance

Biden's pick to be the Fed's top bank regulator has withdrawn her nomination. She attracted Republican opposition after calling on bank regulators to monitor the financial risks from climate change.



Ken Cedeno/AP

https://youtu.be/E_-9Uk3xnkU

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The Problem with Climate Change is that humans want to consume energy constantly, and fossil fuel companies have profited greatly from that consumption. But with a climate apocalypse looming, will they be willing to change their ways? In this clip from the full interview with the CEO of Shell, Jon investigates what can be done to protect our future.

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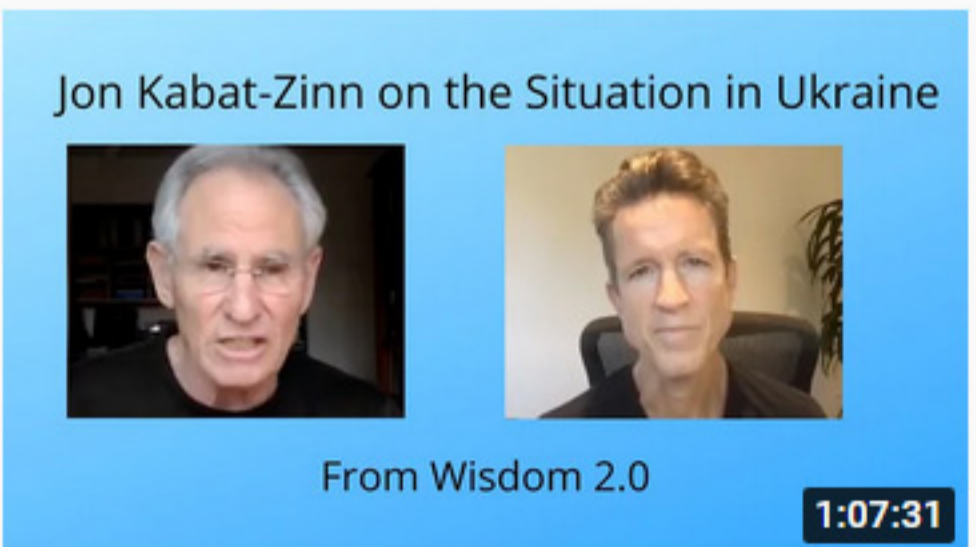
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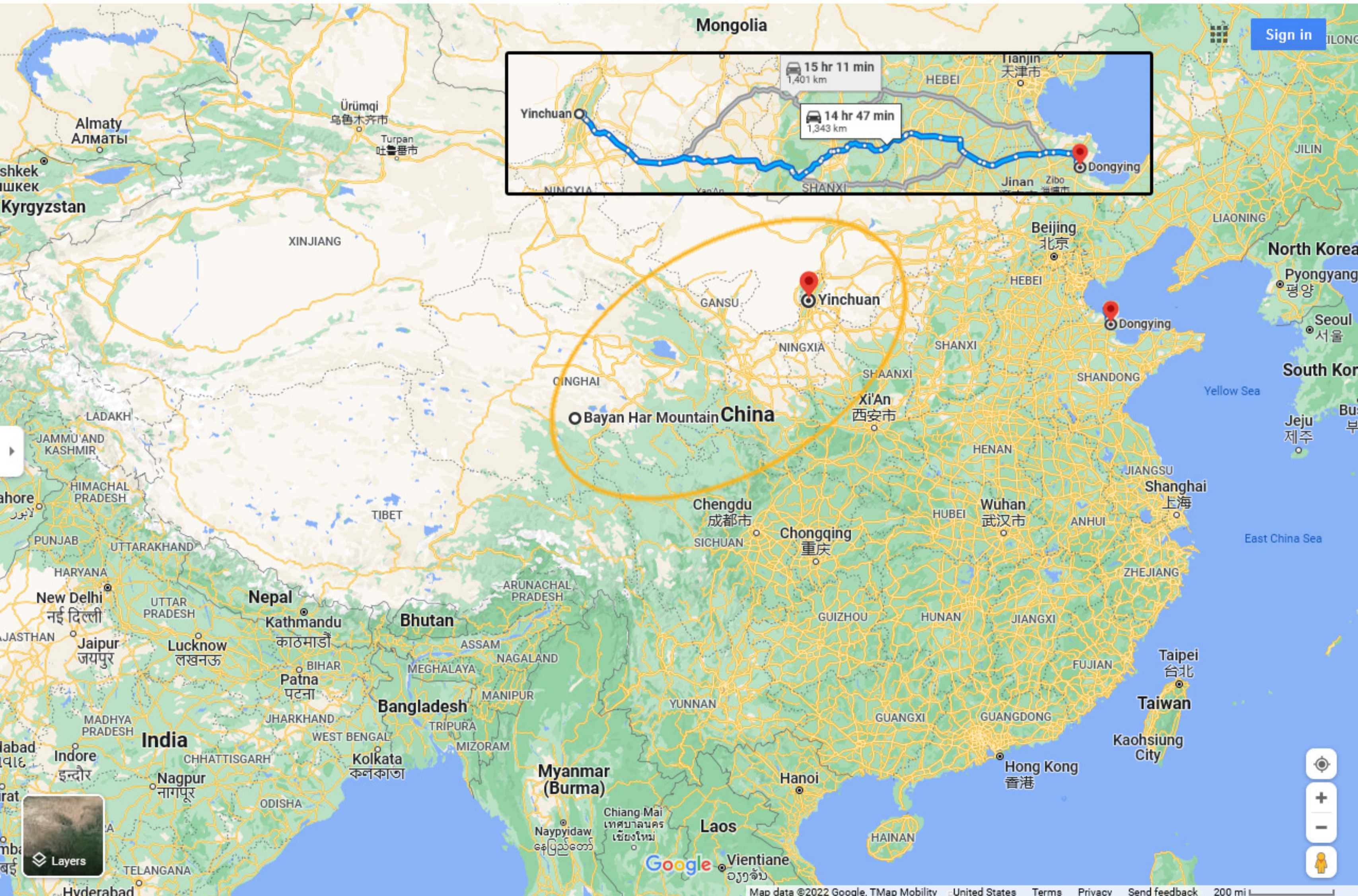


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The **Yellow River** originates at an elevation above 15,000 feet (4,600 metres) in the Bayan Har Mountains, in the eastern Plateau of Tibet. In its upper reaches the river crosses two large bodies of water, Lakes Ngoring and Gyaring. And empties into the Yellow Sea at **Dongying**, Shandong, China.

Yinchuan is the capital of the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, China, and was capital of the Western Xia Empire of the Tanguts. Elevation: 3,609'; Area: 3,427 mi²; Population: 2.293 million



A Russian who protested the war on live TV refused to retract her statement in court

The woman burst onto the set of the evening news and told viewers they were being lied to about the war in Ukraine. She was fined for a video in which she called for Russians to protest the war.



Marina Ovsyannikova, an editor at Channel One protested the war by walking behind a news anchor while holding a sign reading "No War" and telling viewers they were being lied to. It also said "Russians for peace." In court Tuesday, she refused to retract her statement against the war, according to Russian news outlet Mediazona.

Ovsyannikova's whereabouts were in question after her arrest, but she later appeared in a district court, sitting next to her lawyer, according to human rights attorney Sergei Badamshin's Telegram channel.

The Novaya Gazeta newspaper said she faced an administrative charge of organizing an uncoordinated event. Badamshin says the charge stemmed not from Ovsyannikova's on-air protest but from a video she posted on social media in which she called for Russians to protest the war in Ukraine. Ovsyannikova was fined 30,000 rubles (about \$280) for that offense, he said. She still faces the threat of other charges.

Ovsyannikova briefly spoke to journalists after her court appearance, thanking people for their support and saying that she had been subjected to a long interrogation without legal help.

Badamshin also noted that Russian law bars police from arresting mothers on administrative charges if their children are younger than 14. Ovsyannikova has two children — one is 11 and the other is 17, he said. In court, Ovsyannikova was still wearing the blue, yellow, red and white necklace that she previously said represented her hope that the countries could coexist peacefully.

The website OVD-info, which monitors rights abuses in Russia, shared a video Ovsyannikova recorded before taking action. In it, she said she was ashamed for her role in helping spread Kremlin propaganda. "I'm embarrassed for letting them tell lies from the TV screen. I'm ashamed that I allowed them to zombify Russian people," Ovsyannikova said, according to a translation by OVD-info.

Ukrainians were never Russia's enemies, she said, stating that her father is Ukrainian and her mother is Russian. She urged more people to protest the invasion. "What's happening in Ukraine right now is a true crime. And Russia is the aggressor," she said. "And the responsibility for this crime lies only on the conscience of one person, and that person is Vladimir Putin."

Ovsyannikova's protest was quickly hailed as an act of courage, as it immediately led to her arrest.

Russia's federal Investigative Committee is now handling her case; any charges against her could stem from Russia's newly adopted laws making it a crime to spread what the Russian government deems "fake news" about its military.



Treasury Sanctions Kremlin Elites, Leaders, Oligarchs, and Family for Enabling Putin's War Against Ukraine

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued a new round of sanctions targeting Russian and Kremlin elites, oligarchs, and Russia's political and national security leaders who have supported Russian President Vladimir Putin's brutal and illegal invasion of Ukraine.

TARGETING PUTIN ENABLERS AND ELITES

Family of Dmitriy Peskov, Kremlin Spokesman: On March 3, 2022, the U.S. State Department designated Dmitriy Sergeevich Peskov (Peskov), identified as the lead propagandist and spokesperson of the Russian Federation. Today, OFAC is designating three of Peskov's family members, all of whom live luxurious lifestyles that are incongruous with Peskov's civil servant salary and are likely built on the ill-gotten wealth of Peskov's connections to Putin. Peskov's wife, Tatiana Aleksandrovna Navka (Navka), has a property empire worth more than \$10 million. She first gained notoriety when she won a gold medal in ice dancing representing Russia at the 2006 Winter Olympics and later hosted an ice dancing show on Russia's state-owned pro-Kremlin Channel One.

Viktor Feliksovich Vekselberg (Vekselberg) is a prominent Russian businessman with an estimated net worth exceeding \$6 billion

On February 24, 2022, Treasury designated **VTB Bank**, Russia's second largest bank, OFAC is designating the ten individuals comprising VTB Bank's management board.

Olga Konstantinovna Dergunova
Vadim Valerievich Kulik
Valerii Vasilyevich Lukyanenko
Anatolii Yuryevich Pechatnikov
Natalia Germanovna Dirks
Maxim Dmitrievich Kondratenko
Erkin Rakhmatovich Norov
Svyatoslav Evgenievich Ostrovsky
Dmitrii Vasilyevich Pyanov
Yuriy Nikolaevich Andresov

Today, in alignment with measures taken by international partners, OFAC designated twelve members of the Duma. The Duma is one of two chambers of the Russian Federal Assembly, Russia's legislature. Today's designations further hold to account those actors who were directly responsible for Russia's illegitimate and unlawful recognition of the DNR and LNR regions of Ukraine and facilitating the sham pretext used by Putin to justify the Russian Federation's unprovoked war against Ukraine. The eleven additional members of the Duma designated today consist of:

Yuriy Vyacheslavovich Afonin
Yevgeniy Ivanovich Bessonov
Leonid Ivanovich Kalashnikov
Vladimir Ivanovich Kashin
Nikolay Vasilievich Kolomeitsev
Aleksey Vladimirovich Kurinniy
Ivan Ivanovich Melnikov
Dmitriy Georgievich Novikov
Nikolay Ivanovich Osadchiy
Kazbek Kutsukovich Taysaev
Gennady Andreyevich Zyuganov

Volodin and the eleven additional Duma members were designated pursuant to E.O. 14024 for being or having been leaders, officials, senior executive officers, or members of the board of directors of the GoR. Each of these individuals were previously designated by the European Union and Canada. Volodin, Kalashnikov, and Melnikov were also previously designated by the United Kingdom.

SANCTIONS IMPLICATIONS

As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of the individuals above that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons are blocked and must be reported to OFAC. In addition, any entities that are owned, directly or indirectly, 50 percent or more by one or more blocked persons are also blocked. All transactions by U.S. persons or within (or transiting) the United States that involve any property or interests in property of designated or blocked persons are prohibited unless authorized by a general or specific license issued by OFAC, or exempt. These prohibitions include the making of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services by, to, or for the benefit of any blocked person and the receipt of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services from any such person.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Treasury Sanctions Kremlin Elites, Leaders, Oligarchs, and Family for Enabling Putin's War Against Ukraine

Family of Dmitriy Peskov, Kremlin Spokesman

On March 3, 2022, the U.S. State Department designated **Dmitriy Sergeevich Peskov (Peskov)**, identified as the lead propagandist and spokesperson of the Russian Federation. Peskov was designated pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 14024 for being or having been an official of the Government of the Russian Federation (GoR). Australia, Canada, and the European Union (EU) have also sanctioned Peskov.

Today, OFAC is designating three of Peskov's family members, all of whom live luxurious lifestyles that are incongruous with Peskov's civil servant salary and are likely built on the ill-gotten wealth of Peskov's connections to Putin.

Peskov's wife, **Tatiana Aleksandrovna Navka (Navka)**, has a property empire worth more than \$10 million. Her real estate includes property in an elite Moscow suburb where Putin also lives, another multimillion-dollar apartment in Moscow given to her by the GoR, and an apartment in Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, which Russia has occupied since 2014. She first gained notoriety when she won a gold medal in ice dancing representing Russia at the 2006 Winter Olympics and later hosted an ice dancing show on Russia's state-owned pro-Kremlin Channel One.



Tatiana Navka

Ice dancer

Tatiana Aleksandrovna Navka is a Russian former competitive ice dancer and wife of Dmitry Peskov. With her dance partner Roman Kostomarov, she is the 2006 Olympic champion, a two-time World champion, a three-time Grand Prix Final champion, and a three-time European champion. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: April 13, 1975 (age 46 years), Dnipro, Ukraine

Height: 5' 7"

Spouse: [Dmitry Peskov](#) (m. 2015), [Alexander Zhulin](#) (m. 2000–2010)

Tatyana Aleksandrovna Navka (Russian: Татьяна Александровна Навка; born 13 April 1975) is a Russian former competitive ice dancer and wife of Dmitry Peskov. With her dance partner Roman Kostomarov, she is the 2006 Olympic champion, a two-time World champion (2004–05), a three-time Grand Prix Final champion (2003–05), and a three-time European champion (2004–06). Earlier in her career, she competed for the Soviet Union and Belarus.

From 2014 to 2015, Navka was the beneficiary of Carina Global Assets Ltd., an offshore company in the British Virgin Islands. In February 2019, questions were raised over Navka and her husband's wealth following reports about their ownership of multiple properties in the Moscow region. An investigation by The

Guardian suggested that Navka may have underreported income, claimed married status for several years after her divorce from Zhulin, and falsely told the IRS that she had sold a house in the United States.

In 2016, Navka caused controversy when she and her dancing partner, Andrei Burkovsky, appeared in the Russian version of Dancing on Ice dressed as Holocaust concentration camp prisoners.

In 2021, Tatiana Navka made and published homophobic comments to Spanish gymnast Cristofer Benítez. Through her social networks, she said that rhythmic gymnastics was a "feminine sport", and that she is glad that in her country men are not allowed to participate in rhythmic gymnastics "and hopefully never will".

On March 11, the US government announced sanctions on Tatiana Navka and her two children as family of Dmitry Peskov who had been blacklisted earlier in March because of his key role in the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



6 days ago

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov ...
aljazeera.com

UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED

On the front lines of Poland's makeshift response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis

March 15, 2022 - 1:00 PM ET



The number of Ukrainians who've fled to Poland is equal to the population of Warsaw



A woman with a microphone and speaker offers encouragement for refugees who have made the journey from Ukraine to Poland. Above her are the Ukrainian and Polish flags.

On Equal Pay Day, women are trying to make a dollar out of 83 cents

March 16, 2022 · 1:48 AM ET



VANESSA ROMO



On Tuesday, members of the U.S. National Women's Soccer team, pictured at the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics, marked Equity Pay Day in a panel discussion with Vice President Kamala Harris.

Equal Pay Day in the U.S. lands on a different day every year, and this year it turns out on average, women "only" had to work 74 extra days into 2022 to catch up to what men earned in 2021.

That day is March 15, the earliest the occasion has ever been marked.

It's an incremental achievement – falling eight days earlier than last year – that was noted on Tuesday by Vice President Kamala Harris, who appeared alongside players of the U.S. national women's soccer team, which recently won a yearlong legal battle for equal working conditions and fair compensation.

"Obviously, you all have been champions in terms of your skill and your dominance in terms of women's soccer but we are here today because you also have been leaders on an issue that affects most women and have affected most women in the workforce, and it's the issue of pay equity," Harris said kicking off the panel.

The soccer team reached a \$24 million settlement in its class action equal pay lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation last month. Harris praised the players for their victory and for leading a national conversation about pay discrimination, which she noted remains woefully widespread.

The Institute for Women's Policy Research reports that women who worked year round in full-time jobs in the U.S. were paid just 83 cents on the dollar compared with men. That's up a whopping penny from last year. There is no data available on the earnings of transgender men and women or nonbinary people.

"This Equal Pay Day, it is clear that pay equity remains elusive for many women regardless of their occupation or sector," C. Nicole Mason, President and CEO of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, said in a statement. "As women re-enter the workforce, they label higher pay as a key priority when seeking out new opportunities — highlighting the important role employers have to play in accelerating the closing of the gender pay gap," Mason added.

The news is even more grim when comparing all women who worked in 2020 with all men who worked, regardless of the number of hours and weeks they clocked. In that instance, women were typically paid just 77 cents on the dollar. But data shows that those who get the worst end of the wage-gap stick are women of color, who are disproportionately represented in minimum-wage and low-wage jobs. The Institute reports that while the wage gap narrowed for all women compared to all men, the wage gap widened for Asian, Black, and Hispanic women.

The National Women's Law Center, which conducted its own research using data from 2020, says "unequal pay pervades 94 percent of occupations, and shortchanges women hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of a 40-year career."

Over their lifetimes, Latinas working full-time, year-round stand to lose more than \$1.1 million, and Black women will miss out on close to \$1 million.

The Biden administration has said it is set on ending the gender pay gap for federal workers and contractors. On Tuesday, Biden issued an executive order that would prevent federal agencies from asking about an applicant's salary history in the hiring process.

"Pay transparency creates accountability and accountability, well, that drives progress," Harris said about the order, adding that it will help "build a more fair, more efficient, and more equitable economy."

NATIONAL

The Senate approves a bill to make daylight saving time permanent

For those wishing for an end to annual clock shifting, this push in Congress is perhaps better late than never. It would still require House approval and President Biden's signature to become law.



Steven Senne/AP

Daylight saving time currently makes up roughly eight months of the year, with the remainder counterintuitively called standard time.

An Economist/YouGov poll from last fall found that 63% of U.S. adults want to eliminate the biannual changing of clocks. It also found that more people support instituting daylight saving time permanently rather than standard time.

POLITICS

The U.S. tried permanent Daylight Saving Time in the 1970s — then quickly rejected it

March 19, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



The U.S. Senate advanced a bill on March 15 that would bring an end to the twice-yearly changing of clocks in favor of a "new, permanent standard time" that would mean brighter winter evenings.

Permanent Daylight Saving time might not be as popular as Congress thinks

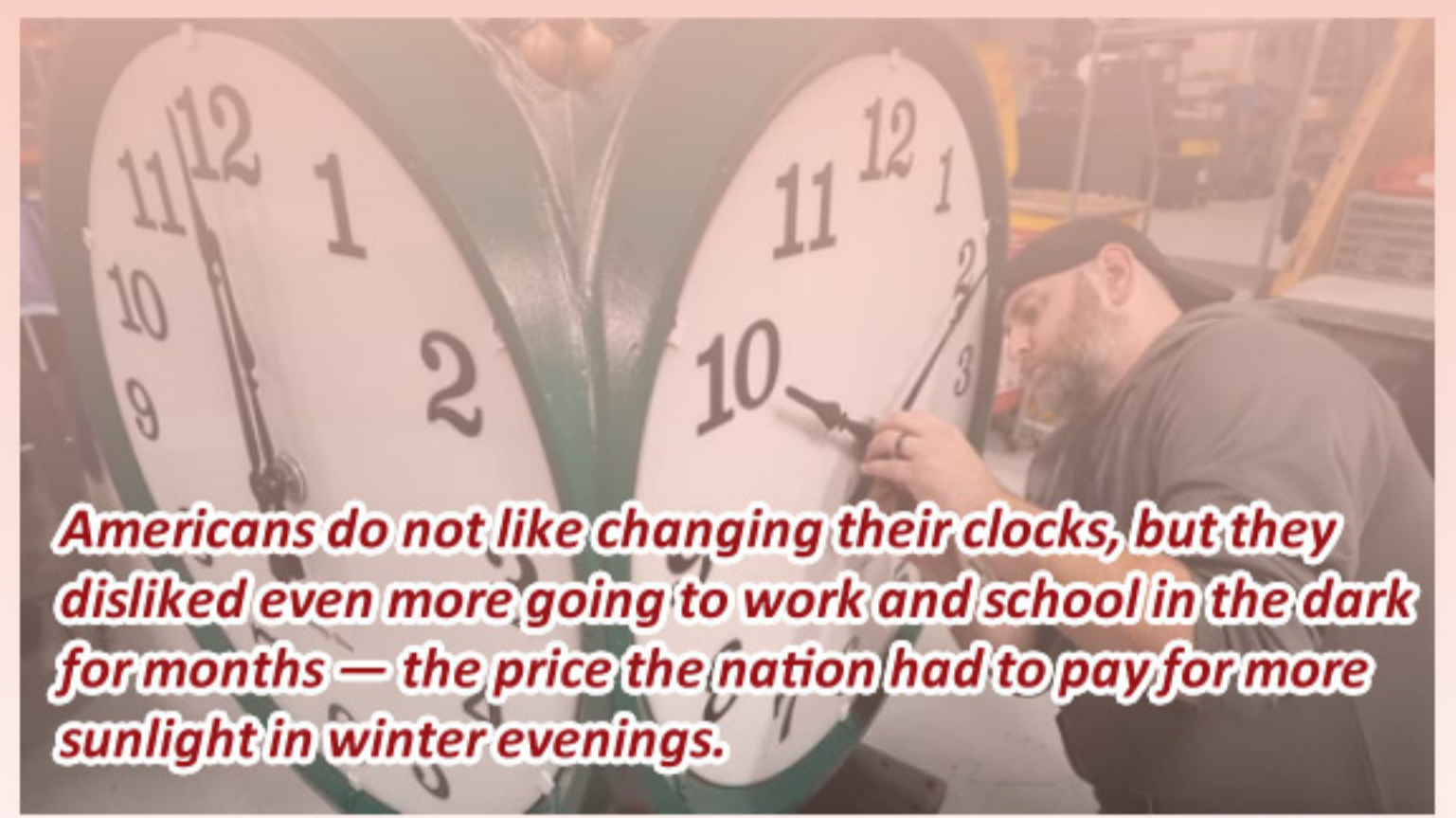
NPR · 4 hours ago



- Daylight Saving Time Is Bad for Teenagers

The Atlantic · 17 hours ago

[View Full Coverage](#)



Americans do not like changing their clocks, but they disliked even more going to work and school in the dark for months — the price the nation had to pay for more sunlight in winter evenings.

Steven Senne/AP

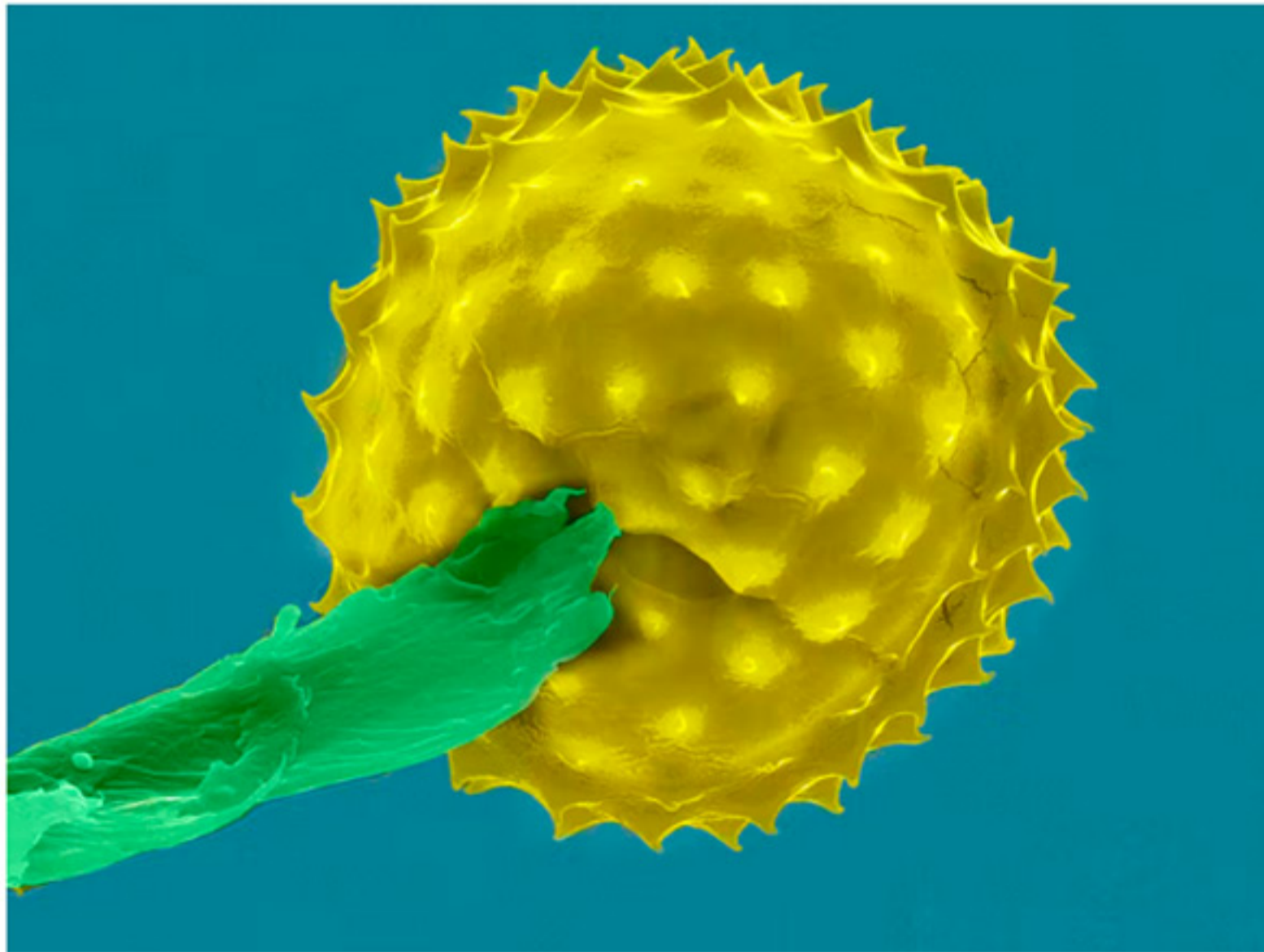
Daylight saving time currently makes up roughly eight months of the year, with the remainder counterintuitively called standard time.

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Pollen season is getting longer and more intense with climate change – here's what allergy sufferers can expect in the future

Published: March 15, 2022 12:08pm EDT

Yingxiao Zhang, Allison L. Steiner, *University of Michigan*



Ragweed pollen, instigator of headaches and itchy eyes across the U.S. Bob Sacha/Corbis Documentary via

Brace yourselves, allergy sufferers – new research shows pollen season is going to get a lot longer and more intense with climate change.

Our latest study finds that the U.S. will face up to a 200% increase in total pollen this century if the world continues producing carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles, power plants and other sources at a high rate. Pollen season in general will start up to 40 days earlier in the spring and last up to 19 days longer than today under that scenario.

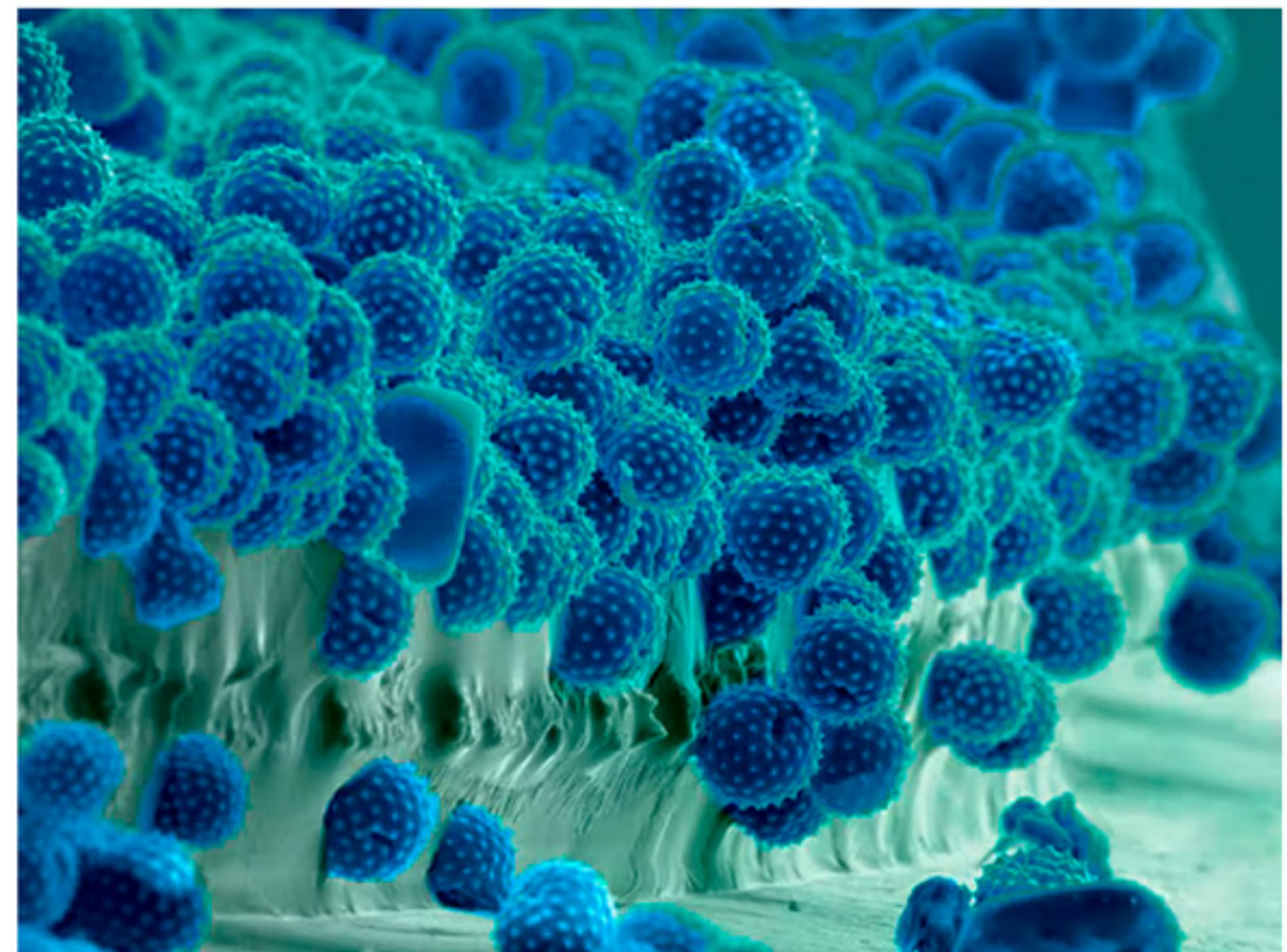
As atmospheric scientists, we study how the atmosphere and climate affect trees and plants. While most studies focus on pollen overall, we zoomed in on more than a dozen different types of grasses and trees and how their pollen will affect regions across the U.S. in different ways. For example, species like oak and cypress will give the Northeast the biggest increase, but allergens will be on the rise just about everywhere, with consequences for human health and the economy.

If your head is pounding at just the thought of it, we also have some good news, at least for knowing in advance when pollen waves are coming. We're working on using the model from this study to develop more accurate local pollen forecasts.

Pollen levels are already on the rise

A study in 2021 found that the overall pollen season was already about 20 days longer in North America than it was in 1990 and pollen concentrations were up about 21%.

Increasing pollen levels in the future will have a much broader impact than a few sniffles and headaches. Seasonal allergies affect about 30% of the population, and they have economic impacts, from health costs to missed working days.



Ragweed pollen grains, magnified and colored. Bob Sacha/Corbis Documentary via Getty Images

POLITICS

The White House says it's running out of money to cover COVID tests and vaccines

The White House asked for more money from Congress to keep its COVID response going. But that hasn't happened, so some things need to be wound down.



Spencer Platt/Getty Images

Liberal US cities change course, now clearing homeless camps

By SARA CLINE March 11, 2022



Workers carry a tent used by people experiencing homelessness to a garbage truck, Friday, March 11, 2022, during the clearing and removal of several tents at an encampment in Westlake Park in downtown Seattle. Increasingly in liberal cities across the country — where people living in tents in public spaces have long been tolerated — leaders are removing encampments and pushing other strict measures to address homelessness that would have been unheard of a few years ago. (AP Photo/Ted S. Warre)

In California, home to more than 160,000 homeless people, cities are reshaping how they address the crisis. The Los Angeles City Council used new laws to ban camping in 54 locations. LA Mayoral candidate Joe Buscaino has introduced plans for a ballot measure that would prohibit people from sleeping outdoors in public spaces if they have turned down offers of shelter.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed declared a state of emergency in December in the crime-heavy Tenderloin neighborhood, which has been ground zero for drug dealing, overdose deaths and homelessness. She said it's time to get aggressive and "less tolerant of all the bull— that has destroyed our city."

In Sacramento voters may decide on multiple proposed homeless-related ballot measures in November — including prohibiting people from storing "hazardous waste," such as needles and feces, on public and private property, and requiring the city to create thousands of shelter beds. City officials in the area are feeling increasing pressure to break liberal conventions, including from an conservation group that is demanding that 750 people camping along a 23-mile (37-kilometer) natural corridor of the American River Parkway be removed from the area.

Advocates for the homeless have denounced aggressive measures, saying the problem is being treated as a blight or a chance for cheap political gains, instead of a humanitarian crisis.

Donald H. Whitehead Jr., executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, said at least 65 U.S. cities are criminalizing or sweeping encampments. "Everywhere that there is a high population of homeless people, we started to see this as their response."



'Right in the trash': Texas ballot rejections soar, AP finds

By PAUL J. WEBER and ACACIA CORONADO 10 minutes ago



In this May 6, 2021, file photo, a group opposing new voter legislation gather outside the House Chamber at the Texas Capitol in Austin, Texas.

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas threw out mail votes at an abnormally high rate during the nation's first primary of 2022, rejecting nearly 23,000 ballots outright under tougher voting rules that are part of a broad campaign by Republicans to reshape American elections, according to an analysis by The Associated Press. Roughly 13% of mail ballots returned in the March 1 primary were discarded and uncounted across 187 counties in Texas. While historical primary comparisons are lacking, the double-digit rejection rate would be far beyond what is typical in a general election, when experts say anything above 2% is usually cause for attention.

"My first reaction is 'yikes,'" said Charles Stewart III, director of the Election Data and Science Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "It says to me that there's something seriously wrong with the way that the mail ballot policy is being administered."

Republicans promised new layers of voting rules would make it "easier to vote and harder to cheat." But the final numbers recorded by AP lay bare the glaring gulf between that objective and the obstacles, frustration and tens of thousands of uncounted votes resulting from tighter restrictions and rushed implementation.

Delores Tarver Smith, 87, took no chances with a mail ballot this year, "I just went in person to vote, because I had to make sure my vote counted."

In Texas, a state former President Donald Trump easily won although by a smaller margin than 2016, the trouble of navigating new rules was felt in counties big and small, red and blue. But the rejection rate was higher in counties that lean Democratic (15.1%) than Republican (9.1%). The unusually high rejection rate to start America's midterm election season is expected to put more attention on changes to the ballot box elsewhere in the country. Texas' election was the debut of more restrictive voting rules the GOP raced to put on the books across the U.S. in time for the midterm elections, a push that took particular aim at mail voting that soared in popularity during the pandemic. At least 17 other states in the coming months will cast ballots under tougher election laws, in part driven by Trump's baseless and persistent claims of rampant fraud in the 2020 election. The rejected ballots in Texas alone far exceeds the hundreds of even possible voter fraud cases the AP has previously identified in six battleground states that Trump disputed.

The AP counted 22,898 rejected ballots across Texas by contacting all 254 counties and obtaining final vote reconciliation reports. Some smaller counties did not provide data or respond to requests, but the 187 counties that provided full numbers to AP accounted for 85% of the 3 million people who voted in the primary. Last week, AP reported that 27,000 ballots had been flagged in Texas for initial rejection, meaning those voters still had time to "fix" their ballot for several days after the primary and have it count. But the final figures suggest most voters did not.

The most rejections were around Houston, a Democratic stronghold, where Harris County elections officials reported that nearly 7,000 mail ballots — about 19% — were discarded. During the last midterm elections in 2018, Texas' largest county only rejected 135 mail ballots. Harris County elections officials said they received more than 8,000 calls since January from voters seeking help, which they attributed to "confusion and frustration" over the new requirements. In the five counties won by Trump that had the most mail-in primary voters, a combined 2,006 mailed ballots were rejected, a rate of 10% of the total. In the counties won by Biden with the most mail-in voters, which include most of Texas' biggest cities, a combined 14,020 votes were similarly rejected, which amounted to 15.7%.

In rural East Texas, Annette Young voted by mail like usual but received a surprising letter a week after the primary, informing her that the ballot never counted because it didn't comply with a new state law requiring mail voters to include personal identification numbers. "I just threw it right in the trash," she said.



Top three law schools supreme court justices went to?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_law_schools_attended_by_United_States_Supreme_Court_justices

Harvard Law School – 21 alumni; 17 graduates

Yale Law School – 11 alumni, 9 graduates

Columbia Law School – 7 alumni, 4 graduates

Currently, the court is split 4-4 between Harvard and Yale law graduates. Breyer attended Harvard, as did Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch. Sotomayor and Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Brett Kavanaugh attended Yale.

The court's newest member, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, is the outlier. Barrett, a graduate of Notre Dame's law school, mentioned the fact at her 2020 confirmation hearing. "I am confident that Notre Dame could hold its own," she said. "And maybe I could even teach them a thing or two about football."

The Constitution of the United States does not require that any federal judges have any particular educational or career background, but the work of the Court involves complex questions of law – ranging from constitutional law to administrative law to admiralty law – and consequentially, a legal education has become a de facto prerequisite to appointment on the United States Supreme Court. Every person who has been nominated to the Court has been an attorney. Before the advent of modern law schools in the United States, justices, like most attorneys of the time, completed their legal studies by "reading law" (studying under and acting as an apprentice to more experienced attorneys) rather than attending a formal program.

Top Conservative Law Schools

<https://classroom.synonym.com/top-conservative-law-schools-6533516.html>

Brigham Young University Law School

University of Chicago Law School

George Mason University School of Law

Notre Dame Law School

Supreme Court shouldn't be covered in Ivy, 2 lawmakers say | February 1, 2022

<https://apnews.com/article/stephen-breyer-joe-biden-us-supreme-court-law-schools-lindsey-graham-...>

Eight of the nine members of the current court went to law school at either Harvard or Yale. But it would be good if the person named to replace retiring Justice Stephen Breyer doesn't have an Ivy League degree, according to Rep. Jim Clyburn, a Democrat, and Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican. The bipartisan message from the two South Carolina lawmakers neatly aligns with the background of the South Carolina judge they've praised as a good candidate to fill the seat.

Biden, a Democrat, has pledged to make history by nominating the first Black woman to the Supreme Court. Clyburn, Congress' highest-ranking Black member, says Biden should be concerned about the court's **lack of educational diversity**, too.

"**We run the risk of creating an elite society**," said Clyburn, a graduate of South Carolina State University. "We've got to recognize that people come from all walks of life, and we ought not dismiss anyone because of that."

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ketanji_Brown_Jackson

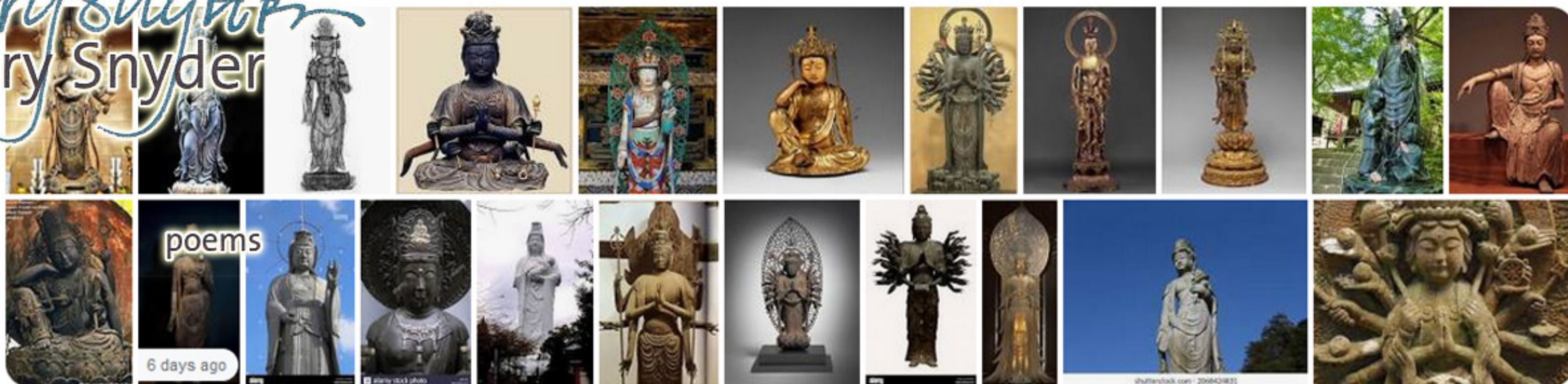
On February 25, 2022, President Joe Biden nominated **Ketanji Brown Jackson** to the Supreme Court of the United States, filling the vacancy created by Breyer's retirement. If confirmed, Jackson would be the first Black woman to sit on the Supreme Court. **Jackson is a graduate of Harvard University.**

Law Schools That Send the Most Attorneys to Supreme Court Clerkships

<https://www.bcgsearch.com/article/900047770/Law-Schools-That-Send-the-Most-Attorneys-to-United-States-Supreme-Court-Clerkships/>

The Harvard-Yale trend we see with Supreme Court justices also applies with SCOTUS law clerks. Dating back since 1960, graduates of Harvard Law School lead the list of youngsters privileged enough to clerk for a Supreme Court justice, followed by graduates of Yale Law School. During that period, Harvard sent 491 law clerks to the high court and Yale sent 378. Since 1960, Harvard has always led Yale (as well as every other law school) in sending clerks to the Supreme Court, except for the period from 2010 to the present, when Yale sent 91 clerks and Harvard sent 90.

Gary Snyder
Gary Snyder

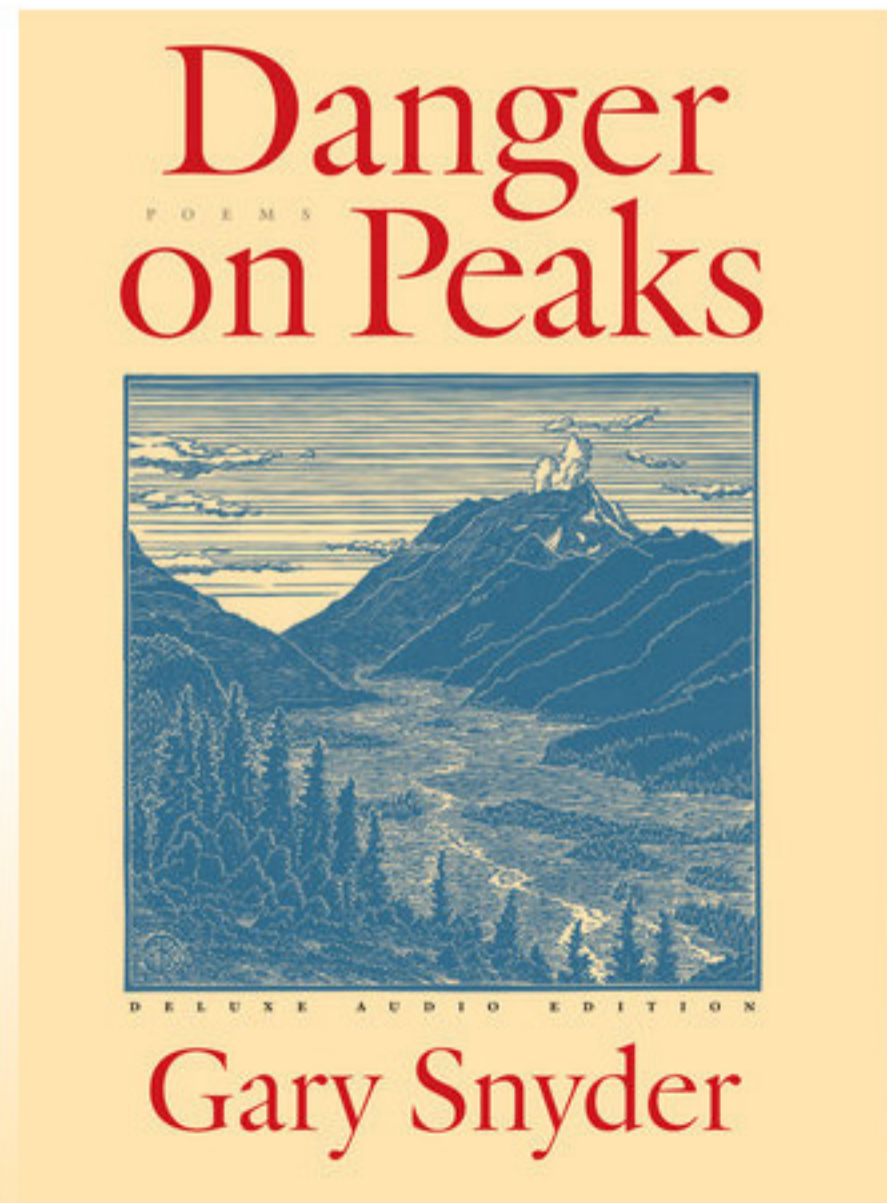


eleven headed nyoirin kannon quan yin awaji kannon kwan yin

[https://mythopedia.com > topics > kannon](https://mythopedia.com/topics/kannon)
[Kannon - Mythopedia](#)

What is a Kannon?

Kannon is **the bodhisattva (a revered Buddhist figure on the path to enlightenment) of compassion and mercy**, worshiped in Buddhism across Eastern and Southern Asia. In Japanese mythology she takes on divine features and is a popular deity, perhaps the most widely worshiped bodhisattva in Japan. Sep 3, 2021



When first published in 2004, *Danger on Peaks* was the poet's first new collection of poems in twenty years. Perhaps his most personal, autobiographical collection, it begins with the young poet ascending Mt. St. Helens in 1945, a climb accidentally timed with the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He was 15 years old. Almost sixty years later, after the great Buddhas at Bamiyan Valley were bombed and with the victims of the World Trade Center also "turned to dust," the poet composed a prayer while at Short Grass Temple in Senso-ji, **a pilgrim on the path of Kannon, Goddess of Mercy.**

In the seventh century three fishermen pulled in their net and found a Kannon image in it. They first enshrined it in a little hut. This was the beginning of what was to become a great temple, the earliest in Edo (old Tokyo). Soon there were many other Buddhist images on the altar besides the first little one (supposedly only 2.1 inches tall)—a Kannon, a Fudo, an Aizen, and much more. All of it went up in flames during World War II. The rebuilt temple has the old-style power and beauty. Throngs of pilgrims and visitors are constantly coming and going.

A family in an evacuation train says goodbye to a young man at the central train station in the southern city of Odessa. Russian forces have made progress in the south, overrunning the city of Kherson.





Bülent Kılıç

Turkish photojournalist

According to his own statement, Bulent Kilic has been influenced in his work by the photographers Yuri Kozyrev and Robert Capa. He is married and the father of child.



More images

About

Bülent Kılıç is a Turkish photojournalist currently employed by the Agence France-Press as the photo manager for Turkey. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: 1979 (age 43 years), Tunceli, Turkey

Series: Broken Border

Awards: World Press Photo Award for Spot News,

Visa d'or News Award

Movies: Çok Uzak Fazla Yakın

<https://twitter.com/Kilicbil>

Bulent KILIC (@Kilicbil) · Twitter

Pregnent women walk in a basement of maternity hospital as sirens warning for air raids in Mykolaiv, on March 14, 2022. Alaina gave birth to her baby in that dark night. Hope she will bring light to all Ukrainian people. #Ukraine #UkraineUnderAttack @AFPphoto pic.twitter.com/xzjQpmf...

Twitter · 2 days ago

<https://cpj.org> > 2021/06 > turkish-police-assault-and-d...

Turkish police assault and detain AFP photographer Bülent ...

Jun 28, 2021 — Police officers detain AFP photographer **Bulent Kilic** while covering a Pride march in Istanbul, Turkey, on June 26, 2021.

<https://www.instagram.com> > kilicbil

Bulent Kilic (@kilicbil) · Instagram photos and videos

Agence France Presse photographer based in Istanbul. Working around Europe and Middle East. @afpphoto · www.afpforum.com.

A family in an evacuation train says goodbye to a young man at the central train station in the southern city of Odessa. Russian forces have made progress in the south, overrunning the city of Kherson.



Follow

Bulent KILIC

@Kilicbil

Photojournalist

Istanbul [afp.com](#) Joined September 2010

2,170 Following 40.2K Followers



Wednesday, March 16, 2022

The journalist who protested on Russian state TV says it was 'impossible to stay silent'

By Charles Riley, CNN Business

Updated 3:39 PM ET, Wed March 16, 2022



London (CNN Business)The Russian state television journalist who took a dramatic stand against President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine during a live broadcast says it was "impossible to stay silent" and that she wants the world to know that many Russians are against the invasion. Marina Ovsyannikova told CNN's Christiane Amanpour on Wednesday that many Russian journalists see a disconnect between reality and what is presented on the country's television channels, and that even her mother has been "brainwashed" by state propaganda. "I have been feeling a cognitive dissonance, more and more, between my beliefs and what we say on air," said Ovsyannikova. "The war was the point of no return, when it was simply impossible to stay silent."

On Monday, the Channel One editor appeared behind a news anchor holding a sign that said: "NO WAR." Ovsyannikova told CNN on Wednesday that she was compelled to act by memories of airstrikes during Russia's conflict in Chechnya, where she lived as a young girl. "I worry about Russian soldiers ... I think they really don't understand why they have to do this, why they [are] fighting," she told Amanpour.

On Tuesday, Ovsyannikova was found guilty by a district court in Moscow of organizing an "unauthorized public event." The "administrative offense" carries a fine of 30,000 rubles (\$280). A lawyer who had formerly been representing Ovsyannikova told CNN that the administrative charge was based solely on a video statement that she recorded prior to appearing with an anti-war poster on Channel One. The Kremlin has described her actions as "hooliganism," a criminal offense in Russia.

Ovsyannikova told CNN that she initially planned to stand back from the cameras during her protest, but then realized she would need to be close to the news anchor to ensure that her poster was seen by viewers. She was "afraid until the last minute," she added. "I decided that I would be able to overcome the guard who stands in front of the studio, and stand behind the host. So I moved very quickly and I passed by the security and showed my poster," said Ovsyannikova.

In the video statement recorded before her public protest, Ovsyannikova blamed Putin for the war. "What is happening now in Ukraine is a crime, and Russia is the aggressor country, and the responsibility for this aggression lies on the conscience of only one person. This man is Vladimir Putin," Ovsyannikova said.

"Unfortunately, for the past few years, I have been working on Channel One and doing Kremlin propaganda, and now I am very ashamed of it," she said in the video. "It's a shame that I allowed to speak lies from the TV screens, ashamed that I allowed to zombify Russian people."

"I am ashamed that we kept silent in 2014, when all this was just beginning," she says, a reference to Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Censoring the press

Putin earlier this month signed a censorship bill that criminalizes what Russia considers to be "fake" information about the invasion of Ukraine, with a penalty of up to 15 years in prison for anyone convicted, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Russia has cracked down on local media outlets over the war in Ukraine and many have curtailed their coverage as a result. International networks such as CNN, ABC News, CBS News and others have stopped broadcasting from Russia. And independent Russian news outlet TV Rain, also known as Dozhd, shut down altogether. Its editor and staff, along with other independent journalists, have left the country.

Omicron sub-variant BA.2 spreading across U.S. as COVID cases rise in parts of Europe and China

MARCH 16, 2022 / 9:58 AM / CBS NEWS



<https://www.livescience.com/stealth-omicron-us-cases-increasing>

As of mid-March, BA.2 cases continue to grow more common in the U.S., but they've yet to edge out cases caused by other versions of omicron. By contrast, in other countries — including the Philippines, India, Denmark, Singapore, Austria and South Africa — BA.2 quickly outpaced BA.1 and had become the dominant subvariant by January, NewsMedical reported. **Between March 6 and March 12, BA.2 accounted for an estimated 23.1% of new coronavirus cases in the country**, the CDC reported. In the same week, BA.1 accounted for 10.8% of cases, and BA.1.1 made up the other 66.1%.

Just as Americans start taking off their masks, the Omicron sub-variant BA.2 is quickly spreading across the United States, making up nearly a quarter of new COVID-19 infections, health officials estimate.

BA.2 is about 30% more transmissible than Omicron, but it does not appear to be more severe. And despite the spread of the new sub-variant, U.S. daily cases and hospitalizations continue to drop while deaths plateau.

"We've been watching it closely, of course," White House press secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Monday. "We expect some fluctuation, especially at this relatively low level, and, certainly, that to increase."

In the U.K., meanwhile, cases were up about 52% in the last week and hospitalizations were up 18%, almost three weeks after the country dropped its last remaining COVID-19 mandates.

In China, COVID infections are rising fast, with daily cases jumping about 14% in the last few days. China's less effective COVID vaccine and low levels of natural immunity — due in part to severe lockdowns — have complicated the country's efforts to stop the spread of BA.2.

Andy Slavitt, former White House senior adviser for the Biden administration, said Americans should not be too concerned by the new sub-variant yet. "When there are waves again, the best thing you could do for your family is to get vaccinated and get boosted," he told CBS News correspondent Nikki Battiste. "The second thing I'd say is that when COVID is going around again, it is OK to wear masks even if they're not required by authorities."

The White House says cuts to COVID funding in Congress could hit Americans as early as next week. Medical providers will no longer be able to submit claims for COVID treatments, tests or vaccinations for the uninsured, and the U.S. may not have enough funding to purchase additional boosters.



Psychedelics have been the subject of a recent surge of interest in their potential therapeutic effects.
metamorworks/iStock via Getty Images

AI maps psychedelic 'trip' experiences to regions of the brain – opening new route to psychiatric treatments

Published: March 16, 2022 3:11pm EDT

by Galen Ballentine, SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, Sam Friedman, Harvard University

For the past several decades, psychedelics have been widely stigmatized as dangerous illegal drugs. But a recent surge of academic research into their use to treat psychiatric conditions is spurring a recent shift in public opinion. Psychedelics are psychotropic drugs: substances that affect your mental state. Other types of psychotropics include antidepressants and anti-anxiety medications. Psychedelics and other types of hallucinogens, however, are unique in their ability to temporarily induce intense hallucinations, emotions and disruptions of self-awareness.

Researchers looking into the therapeutic potential of these effects have found that psychedelics can dramatically reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety, PTSD, substance abuse and other psychiatric conditions. The intense experiences, or "trips," that psychedelics induce are thought to create a temporary window of cognitive flexibility that allows patients to gain access to elusive parts of their psyches and forge better coping skills and thought patterns.

Precisely how psychedelics create these effects, however, is still unclear. So as researchers in psychiatry and machine learning, we were interested in figuring out how these drugs affect the brain. With artificial intelligence, we were able to map people's subjective experiences while using psychedelics to specific regions of the brain, down to the molecular level. Every psychedelic functions differently in the body, and each of the subjective experiences these drugs create have different therapeutic effects. Mystical type experiences, or feelings of unity and oneness with the world, for example, are associated with decreases in depression and anxiety. Knowing how each psychedelic creates these specific effects in the body can help clinicians optimize their therapeutic use.

To better understand how these subjective effects manifest in the brain, we analyzed over 6,000 written testimonials of hallucinogenic experiences from Erowid Center, an organization that collects and provides information about psychoactive substances. We transformed these testimonials into what's called a bag-of-words model, which breaks down a given text into individual words and counts how many times each word appears. We then paired the most commonly used words linked to each psychedelic with receptors in the brain that are known to bind to each drug. After using an algorithm to extract the most common subjective experiences associated with these word-receptor pairs, we mapped these experiences onto different brain regions by matching them to the types of receptors present in each area.

We found both new links and patterns that confirm what's known in the research literature. For example, changes in sensory perception were associated with a serotonin receptor in the visual cortex of the brain, which binds to a molecule that helps regulate mood and memory. Feelings of transcendence were connected to dopamine and opioid receptors in the salience network, a collection of brain regions involved in managing sensory and emotional input. Auditory hallucinations were linked to a number of receptors spread throughout the auditory cortex.

Our findings also align with the leading hypothesis that psychedelics temporarily reduce top-down executive function, or cognitive processes involved in inhibition, attention and memory, among others, while amplifying brain regions involved in sensory experience.

Why it matters: The U.S. is going through a profound mental health crisis that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet there have been no truly new psychiatric drug treatments since Prozac and other selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, the most common type of antidepressants, of the 1980s.

Our study shows that it's possible to map the diverse and wildly subjective psychedelic experiences to specific regions in the brain. These insights may lead to new ways to combine existing or yet to be discovered compounds to produce desired treatment effects for a range of psychiatric conditions.

Psychiatrist Stanislav Grof famously proposed, "[P]sychedelics, used responsibly and with proper caution, would be for psychiatry what the microscope is to the study of biology and medicine or the telescope for astronomy." As psychedelics and other hallucinogens become more commonly used clinically and culturally, we believe more research will further illuminate the biological basis of the experiences they invoke and help realize their potential.



"From mathematics during the Golden Age of Islam to the advent of the Industrial Revolution in Britain in the 18th century to the precise Silicon Valley coding of the 21st century Information Age, ...more than any other, coffee (caffeine) is the drug that most defined the hyperactive, focused, efficient attention to detail drive that powers and characterizes the modern era."

1:39 > Michael Pollan: *...and it was weird, I didn't feel myself for the whole time [that I wasn't drinking coffee] and I thought, what does that mean? It means your Self is caffeinated and and that is baseline consciousness for me!*

When coffee reached North America during the Colonial period, it was initially not as successful as it had been in Europe, as alcoholic beverages remained more popular. During the Revolutionary War, the demand for coffee increased so much that dealers had to hoard their scarce supplies and raise prices dramatically; this was also due to the reduced availability of tea from British merchants, and a general resolution among many Americans to avoid drinking tea following the 1773 Boston Tea Party. After the War of 1812, during which Britain temporarily cut off access to tea imports, the Americans' taste for coffee grew.

The Frenchman Gabriel de Clieu took a coffee plant to the French territory of Martinique in the Caribbean in the 1720s, from which much of the world's cultivated arabica coffee is descended. Coffee thrived in the climate and was conveyed across the Americas. Coffee was cultivated in Saint-Domingue (now Haiti) from 1734, and by 1788 it supplied half the world's coffee. The conditions that the slaves worked in on coffee plantations were a factor in the soon to follow Haitian Revolution. The coffee industry never fully recovered there. It made a brief come-back in 1949 when Haiti was the world's 3rd largest coffee exporter, but declined rapidly after that.

Meanwhile, coffee had been introduced to Brazil in 1727, although its cultivation did not gather momentum until independence in 1822. After this time, massive tracts of rainforest were cleared for coffee plantations, first in the vicinity of Rio de Janeiro and later São Paulo. Brazil went from having essentially no coffee exports in 1800 to being a significant regional producer in 1830, to being the largest producer in the world by 1852. In 1910–20, Brazil exported around 70% of the world's coffee, Colombia, Guatemala, and Venezuela exported half of the remaining 30%, and Old World production accounted for less than 5% of world exports

Rapid growth in coffee production in South America during the second half of the 19th century was matched by growth in consumption in developed countries, though nowhere has this growth been as pronounced as in the United States, where a high rate of population growth was compounded by doubling of per capita consumption between 1860 and 1920. Though the United States was not the heaviest coffee-drinking nation at the time (Nordic countries, Belgium, and Netherlands all had comparable or higher levels of per capita consumption), due to its sheer size, it was already the largest consumer of coffee in the world by 1860, and, by 1920, around half of all coffee produced worldwide was consumed in the US.

#1678

What Michael Pollan Learned from Quitting Caffeine for 3 Months

6,187,949 views • Jul 5, 2021

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According to one legend, ancestors of today's Oromo people in a region of Jimma in Ethiopia were the first to recognize the energizing effect of the coffee plant. However, no direct evidence that has been found earlier than the 15th century indicating who among the African populations used it as a stimulant, or where coffee was first cultivated. The story of Kaldi, the 9th-century Ethiopian goatherd who discovered the stimulating effect of coffee when he noticed how excited his goats became after eating the beans from a coffee plant, did not appear in writing until 1671 and is probably apocryphal.

The earliest credible evidence of coffee-drinking or knowledge of the coffee tree appears in the middle of the 15th century in the accounts of Ahmed al-Ghaffar in Yemen. It was here in Arabia that coffee seeds were first roasted and brewed in a similar way to how it is prepared now. Coffee was used by Sufi circles to stay awake for their religious rituals. Accounts differ on the origin of the coffee plant prior to its appearance in Yemen. From Ethiopia, coffee could have been introduced to Yemen via trade across the Red Sea.

By the 16th century, coffee had reached the rest of the Middle East, Persia, Turkey, and northern Africa. Coffee had spread to Italy by 1600, and then to the rest of Europe, Indonesia, and the Americas. The thriving trade between Venice and North Africa, Egypt, and the Middle East (back then Ottoman Empire) brought many goods, including coffee, to the Venetian port. From Venice, it was introduced to the rest of Europe. The Dutch East India Company was the first to import coffee on a large scale. The Dutch later grew the crop in Java and Ceylon. The first exports of Indonesian coffee from Java to the Netherlands occurred in 1711. Through the efforts of the British East India Company, coffee became popular in England as well.

PERSPECTIVE YOUR HEALTH

People with 'medium COVID' are caught in a gray area of recovery with little support

March 17, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

NINA FELDMAN



Nina Feldman, a reporter for member station WHYY in Philadelphia, had COVID-19 symptoms that persisted into what she calls "medium COVID."

Hazel Lezah



Nina Feldman

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Health Reporter @why; before that, @americanroutes in New Orleans.
nfeldman@why.org

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Waves of fatigue. The inability to smell milk that has gone bad. A racing heart-beat. These are just a few COVID-19 symptoms that can linger after an initial coronavirus infection. Though they may not always amount to the debilitating cases of long COVID-19 that can leave people bedridden or unable to perform daily functions, it's very common to take weeks to fully recover — a condition I've been thinking of as "medium COVID."

I've been reporting on COVID-19 since the coronavirus pandemic started, and I thought I knew what an infection would be like for a young, otherwise healthy person like me. I knew there was a risk for long COVID-19, even with mild cases, but in my mind, there were two types of COVID-19: run-of-the-mill cases that didn't last much longer than their isolation periods required, and long COVID-19, which was relatively rare.

Instead, like so many Americans, I found myself caught somewhere in between.

Adjusting to "medium COVID"

My crashes lasted for about six weeks after I tested positive. They got better, slowly, as a result of diligent rest and almost nothing else. Cooper, my colleague, is also mostly improved. His coughing fits have subsided, but he's still dealing with brain fog. The way most studies quantify long COVID-19 would leave us out.

But what I've started thinking of as my "medium COVID" affected my life. I couldn't be too social, drink or stay up much past 9:30 p.m. After 10 weeks, I just went for my first run — I'd been too afraid to try, since that was what reliably caused me to crash. I wish I'd been more aware that an outcome like this was more than a remote possibility.

Despite it being my job to know a lot about coronavirus infections, I was simply not prepared for a weeklong recovery process. What's worse, if I hadn't started talking to other people who were dealing with ongoing fatigue, I would have almost certainly just tried to push through it. I tried to, at first — as I said, I'm active and otherwise healthy, and I've willed myself out of a lingering illness before. But this is not a run-of-the-mill illness, and doctors say approaching it that way could prolong the recovery process.

That's why Abramoff said it's important to monitor your body and respond accordingly, no matter how mild the initial infection. "It's something that could kill somebody who's in their 70s. It's the same thing in your body," he said. "It's not nothing."



BRIEFING ROOM

Statement by Press Secretary Jen Psaki on President Biden's Call with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China

MARCH 17, 2022 • STATEMENTS AND RELEASES

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. will speak with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China (PRC) this Friday. This is part of our ongoing efforts to maintain open lines of communication between the United States and the PRC. The two Leaders will discuss managing the competition between our two countries as well as Russia's war against Ukraine and other issues of mutual concern.

###



Biden's China 'pivot' complicated by Russia's war in Ukraine

By AAMER MADHANI and CHRIS MEGERIAN an hour ago



President Joe Biden meets virtually with Chinese President Xi Jinping from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, on Nov. 15, 2021.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden set out to finally complete the “pivot to Asia,” a long-sought adjustment of U.S. foreign policy to better reflect the rise of America’s most significant military and economic competitor: China.

But Russia’s brutal invasion of Ukraine has made that vexing move even more complicated. China’s government has vacillated between full embrace and more measured responses as Russian President Vladimir Putin prosecutes his war, making the decisions for Biden far more layered.

Biden and China’s Xi Jinping are scheduled to speak by phone on Friday, a conversation that the White House says will center on “managing the competition between our two countries as well as Russia’s war against Ukraine and other issues of mutual concern.” Biden’s national security team was somewhat surprised that Pacific partners — Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea — moved so quickly to hit Russia with sanctions following the invasion, according to a U.S. official familiar with the administration’s thinking.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to talk about private discussions, said there was a recognition among the Pacific allies that Beijing is watching how the world responds to Russia as China calculates how aggressive it can be with its smaller neighbors in the region. In backing sanctions, the Pacific nations were trying to send a message to Xi as well as Putin, the official added.

From the first days of his presidency, Biden has said the aims of his China policy are to find ways to cooperate with Beijing on issues of mutual interest — such as stopping North Korea from developing nuclear weapons and coaxing Tehran to return to the Iran nuclear deal with the U.S., China, Russia and other world powers — and to avoid confrontation.

In the days after Putin ordered the invasion, Xi’s government tried to distance itself from Russia’s offensive but avoided criticizing Moscow. The government has offered to act as mediator and denounced trade and financial sanctions against Russia. At other moments, Beijing’s actions have been provocative. Last week, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian echoed unsubstantiated Russian claims that there were 26 bio-labs and related facilities in Ukraine in “which the U.S. Department of Defense has absolute control.” The United Nations has said it has received no information backing up such accusations.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki took to Twitter to charge that the Russian claim was “preposterous” and could be part of an attempt by Russia to lay the groundwork for its own use of such weapons of mass destruction against Ukraine. She also blamed China for having “seemingly endorsed this propaganda.”

Xi’s government has also sought to use the conflict to accentuate Chinese ascendancy and the decline of the West. But China has its own internal troubles, including a major economic slowdown, difficulties that sanctions against Russia could make worse. “The Ukraine war has proceeded in ways China did not expect and the war is not conducive to China’s rise or development,” said Xiong Zhiyong, professor of international relations at China Foreign Affairs University. Still, concerns that China could come to Russia’s aid have only deepened at the White House in recent days.

On the same day of the Sullivan-Yang meeting, the U.S. informed Asian and European allies that American intelligence had determined that China had signaled to Russia that it would be willing to provide both military support for the campaign in Ukraine and financial backing to help stave off the impact of severe sanctions imposed by the West. White House officials said Sullivan made clear there would be “severe” consequences should China assist Russia.

Ryan Hass, who served as China, Taiwan and Mongolia director at the NSC during the Obama administration, said Beijing faces a “momentous decision” on whether to aid Russia. If Xi decides to do that, “It’s hard for me to see how the path remains open for China to maintain non-hostile relations with the United States and others in the West,” Hass said. At the White House, Psaki has said any country doing business with Russia should “think about where you want to stand when the history books are written on this moment in time.”

Daniel Hope: Tiny Desk (Home) Concert

March 17, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



Credit: Courtesy of the artist

Our Tiny Desk (home) concert series has brought us to some very special places, but few can match the distinction of being inside Ludwig Van Beethoven's house.

Violinist Daniel Hope is the current president of Beethoven-Haus, where the great composer was born in 1770 in Bonn, Germany. Far more than a cultural curiosity, the house is, as Hope calls it, "the nerve center" for dozens of Beethoven scholars. It's also a museum, library, publishing house and performance space.

We often ask artists to perform at their own "tiny desk" of some sort. But the desk in this concert cannot be matched. **On display, in front of Hope and pianist Sylvia Thereza, is Beethoven's own traveling desk, a compact model he used to write letters and perhaps compose music.**

The music Hope chose for this special performance makes a most unexpected connection between Beethoven and St. Patrick's Day. Beginning around 1810, Beethoven was commissioned to arrange his own versions of folk tunes from the British Isles. These were intended for amateurs to play at home, but with Beethoven nothing was ever easy. One of these tunes, a theme with variations, is called "St. Patrick's Day," which fits with Hope's Irish heritage. The violinist begins with a bittersweet arrangement of the Londonderry Air, better known as "Danny Boy" when sung. But the soul of this concert is surely the slow movement of Beethoven's Sixth Violin Sonata, with its aching melody that unfolds like prayerful song, wafting through the halls where the composer once walked.

13:24: because this is called tiny desk. it might be a nice idea to find a tiny desk belonging to ludwig beethoven and here it is! Right in front of us is the travel desk that ludwig van beethoven used on his travels. He would take it everywhere he went he would open it up he would write his letters he would perhaps even compose, it was with him all the time.



For all his conquering power and ostentatious wealth, Louis XIV, King of France, "the Sun King" never turned on an electric light bulb, never flushed a toilet, never rode in a 200 horsepower combustion engine car, stepped onto a train, flew in a plane, played a video game nor ascended Eiffel's "La dame de fer" Tower.

The average American blue collar worker, by far, has more personal practical creature comforts and labor saving devices than King Louis XIV ever did. Yet, most Americans are unsatisfied with their job and life in general. **With "the best we've ever had," why are Americans getting increasingly more miserable?**

Louis XIV (1638 – 1715), also known as the Sun King (le Roi Soleil), was King of France from 14 May 1643 until his death in 1715. His reign of 72 years and 110 days is the longest recorded of any monarch of a sovereign country in history. Louis XIV's France was emblematic of the age of absolutism in Europe.

Louis began his personal rule of France in 1661, after the death of his chief minister, the Cardinal Mazarin. An adherent of the concept of the divine right of kings, Louis continued his predecessors' work of creating a centralised state governed from the capital. He sought to eliminate the remnants of feudalism persisting in parts of France and, by compelling many members of the nobility to inhabit his lavish Palace of Versailles, succeeded in pacifying the aristocracy.

By these means he became one of the most powerful French monarchs and consolidated a system of absolute monarchy in France that endured until the French Revolution. He also enforced uniformity of religion under the Gallican Catholic Church. His revocation of the Edict of Nantes abolished the rights of the Huguenot Protestant minority and subjected them to a wave of dragonnades (implied permission to abuse the inhabitants and destroy or steal their possessions), effectively forcing Huguenots to emigrate or convert, and virtually destroying the French Protestant community.

During Louis' long reign, France emerged as the leading European power and regularly asserted its military strength. Warfare defined Louis's foreign policy and his personality shaped his approach. Impelled by "a mix of commerce, revenge, and pique", he sensed that war was the ideal way to enhance his glory. In peacetime he concentrated on preparing for the next war. He taught his diplomats that their job was to create tactical and strategic advantages for the French military.

Significant achievements during his reign which would go on to have a wide influence on the Early Modern Era well into the Industrial Revolution and up to today, include the construction of the Canal du Midi, the creation of the Palace and Gardens of Versailles, as well as the founding of the French Academy of Sciences, among others.

Louis XIV



His Eminence
Cardinal Mazarin

Cardinal Jules Mazarin (1602 – 1661), born Giulio Raimondo Mazzarino was an Italian cardinal, diplomat, and politician **who served as the chief minister to the kings of France Louis XIII and Louis XIV from 1642 until his death in 1661**

Mazarin, as the de facto ruler of France for nearly two decades, played a crucial role in establishing the Westphalian principles that would guide European states' foreign policy and the prevailing world order. Some of these principles, such as the nation state's sovereignty over its territory and domestic affairs and the legal equality among states, remain the basis of international law to this day.



For all his conquering power and ostentatious wealth, Louis XIV, King of France, "the Sun King" never turned on an electric light bulb, never flushed a toilet, never rode in a 200 horsepower combustion engine car, stepped onto a train, flew in a plane, played a video game nor ascended Eiffel's "La dame de fer" Tower.

The average American blue collar worker, by far, has more personal practical creature comforts and labor saving devices than King Louis XIV ever did. Yet, most Americans are unsatisfied with their job and life in general. **With "the best we've ever had," why are Americans getting increasingly more miserable?**



Louis XIV



Joseph II



His Eminence
Cardinal Mazarin

Enlightened Absolutism (also called enlightened despotism) refers to the conduct and policies of European absolute monarchs during the 18th and early 19th centuries who were influenced by the ideas of the Enlightenment, espousing them to enhance their power. The concept originated during the Enlightenment period in the 18th and into the early 19th centuries.

An enlightened absolutist is a non-democratic or authoritarian leader who exercises their political power based upon the principles of the Enlightenment.

Enlightened monarchs distinguished themselves from ordinary rulers by claiming to rule for their subjects' well-being. John Stuart Mill stated that despotism is a legitimate mode of government in dealing with barbarians, provided the end be their improvement. Enlightened absolutists' beliefs about royal power were typically similar to those of regular despots, both believing that they were destined to rule. Enlightened rulers may have played a part in the abolition of serfdom in Europe.

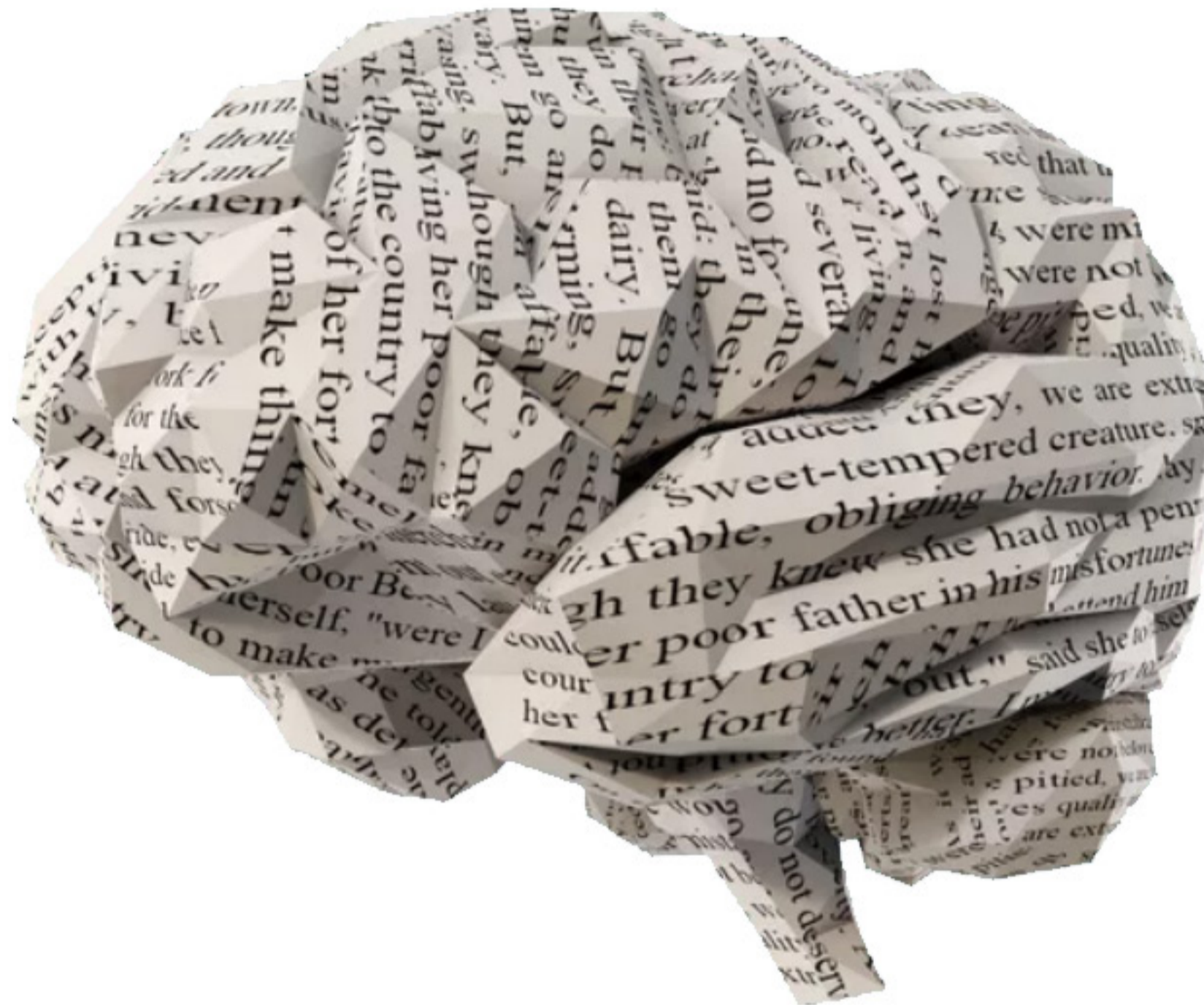
The enlightened despotism of Emperor Joseph II of the Holy Roman Empire is summarized as, "Everything for the people, nothing by the people".

[Joseph II (1741 – 1790) was Holy Roman Emperor from August 1765 and sole ruler of the Habsburg lands from November 1780 until his death. He was the eldest son of Empress Maria Theresa and her husband, Emperor Francis I, and the brother of Marie Antoinette. He was thus the first ruler in the Austrian dominions of the union of the Houses of Habsburg and Lorraine, styled Habsburg-Lorraine.]



"Mild cognitive impairment is often **confused with normal aging** because it is very subtle." Symptoms include "forgetting people's names, forgetting perhaps that you've said something already, forgetting a story, forgetting words." The condition is defined as changes in memory and thinking that are noticeable to the affected person and those around them but not serious enough to interfere with the individual's everyday activities. That makes it tricky to diagnose.

A wife, for example, might notice that her husband is still managing to keep his appointments, "But a year ago, he had it all locked and loaded in his brain. And now, unless he writes it down 12 times and then asks me to double-check, he's not going to get there." **Is that mild cognitive impairment or dementia?** It would be a tough call.



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In a statement released on Wednesday Dave Robertson, Koch president, condemned the invasion. "The horrific and abhorrent aggression against Ukraine is an affront to humanity," he wrote. But he said the company would not "walk away" from its employees.

"Koch company Guardian Industries operates two glass manufacturing facilities in Russia that employ about 600 people. We have no other physical assets in Russia, and outside of Guardian, employ 15 individuals in the country. While Guardian's business in Russia is a very small part of Koch, we will not walk away from our employees there or hand over these manufacturing facilities to the Russian government so it can operate and benefit from them (which is what the Wall Street Journal has reported they would do). Doing so would only put our employees there at greater risk and do more harm than good," he wrote.

Robertson said the company was "complying with all applicable sanctions, laws and regulations" and would continue to monitor the situation.

The statement was released on the same day that the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, made an address to Congress. "All American companies must leave their market immediately because it is flooded with our blood," said Zelenskiy.

The Kansas-based conglomerate – the second-largest private company in the US – is one of 40 companies "digging in" and refusing to leave Russia, according to a tally compiled by the Yale professor Jeffrey Sonnenfeld and his research team.

Popular Information also revealed last week that a network of pundits and groups funded by Koch has been publicly advocating against imposing economic sanctions on Russia.



More news

We Have Reached a Hinge of History

Out of the righteous rage of this moment, perhaps a new world can be born.

By Ben Rhodes

MARCH 13, 2022



Dmitry Aleshkovskiy / Wikimedia; The Atlantic

Over the course of 2019 and 2020, I spoke with prominent Russian critics of Putin—including Alexey Navalny, his most effective and relentless domestic opponent—for a book about the rise of authoritarianism around the world. Those conversations about the authoritarian machinery that Putin had built were laced with foreboding about the future. Ironically, given what has been unleashed in their name, Russians feel the weight of history and how it can go wrong more acutely than most. The immensity of Putin’s corruption and the triumphalism of his nationalist aggression bespoke an excess that made overreach seem inevitable. No, this was not sustainable.

Zelensky has come to encompass a populism not of cynicism and grievance but of idealism and community. In his fearlessness he resembles Navalny, who has taunted Putin from his prison cell and predicted that the war will be Putin’s downfall.

What is better, to preserve the Soviet Union or to be divided? From the Ukrainian perspective, the answer was clear. “We were feeding you,” he recalled his Ukrainian family telling him, since Ukraine had been the breadbasket of the Soviet Union. “‘Now we’re independent and we’re going to live much, much better.’ And this was kind of a central idea.” Central to the forces that drove Ukrainians into the streets in the Orange Revolution in 2005 and onto the Maidan in 2013. Central to Ukraine’s desire to draw closer to Europe, to join the European Union and NATO. To be more prosperous, and free of Russian domination—that was the Ukrainian desire.

#

As usual, the thing that grated most on Navalny about Putin’s rhetorical broadsides against the West was how they elided the extent to which everything Putin did was in service of power and profit. “What is the best response to Putin?” Navalny asked, clearly prepared to answer his own question. “Look, if the West is so mean and bad and ugly, and there are gays everywhere and the gay marriages, and morality is dying—which they are talking about all the time—my response is: I’m showing that these guys who are blaming the West have a palace somewhere in France. Showing people they are using their families, and their nostalgia to live in a great country—‘Make Russia great again’—they’re using it for their own personal good and personal profit.” Navalny paused for effect. “We can have a great country, who can be a leader of Europe and one of the best countries in the world, without that stuff.”

Navalny still believed that Putin’s house of cards was going to collapse at some point, the same way the czars’ did, the same way the Soviets’ did, perhaps the same way the United States’ did under Trump. Putinism may have started from something pure, something visceral, that humiliation of the post-Soviet years, but it had been corrupted, twisted, and rendered devoid of meaning—particularly as it spread beyond Russia’s borders. Perhaps Putin was marching himself over the precipice.

What sustained Navalny was anger at the state of things around him. He was, he told me, determined to “preserve and keep my level of rage to stay in politics.” **What sustained the rage? I asked him.** “It was lying,” he said. “The Soviet Union was an empire based on a lie. And Putin’s Russia is a country based on a lie.” He had seen it firsthand, confronting corruption schemes in Moscow courts and finding that the legal apparatus that was supposed to enforce fairness was on the take. “You are facing these people in the courts and they are lying to you.”

On August 20, 2020, Alexey Navalny was poisoned and nearly killed. Like Boris Nemtsov’s death or the foreign intervention in the 2016 American presidential election, the details of the story were murky and would change over time, but the gist of it was again clear: Putin was behind this. Watching this, thinking of all the various reasons that Putin may have had for doing it—the messages he intended to send to Navalny, other oppositionists, or the wider world—I knew that his motivations boiled down to one thing: He did it because he could.

Do we want to live in a world where innocent people are poisoned with impunity? What kind of people would do that, and what dynamics enable them to get away with it? Sometimes people like Navalny are able to actually win power, to see things change. But perhaps even more powerfully, in their darkest moments they show us the true nature of those they oppose.

The Guardian

We Have Reached the Edge of History

Russian prosecutors call for Alexei Navalny to serve 13 years in prison



Saturday, March 19, 2022

New jail term at strict penal colony sought for Putin's most vocal critic after new fraud charges.

3 days ago



Dmitry Aleshkovskiy / Wikimedia; The Atlantic

Over the course of 2019 and 2020, I spoke with prominent Russian critics of Putin—including Alexei Navalny, his most effective and relentless domestic opponent—for a book about the rise of authoritarianism around the world. Those conversations about the authoritarian machinery that Putin had built were laced with foreboding about the future. Ironically, given what has been unleashed in their name, Russians feel the weight of history and how it can go wrong more acutely than most. The immensity of Putin's corruption and the triumphalism of his nationalist aggression bespoke an excess that made overreach seem inevitable. No, this was not sustainable.

Zelensky has come to encompass a populism not of cynicism and grievance but of idealism and community. In his fearlessness he resembles Navalny, who has taunted Putin from his prison cell and predicted that the war will be Putin's downfall.

What is better, to preserve the Soviet Union or to be divided?" From the Ukrai-

The Independent

Russians will overthrow Vladimir Putin's regime within five years, says Navalny aide



The Ukraine invasion will bring an end to Vladimir Putin's regime within five years, an aide to the jailed opposition leader Alexei Nav...

1 hour ago

Maria Stepanova had come of age in the '90s and had established herself as one of Russia's leading poets, in addition to being a novelist, a journalist, and the publisher of a crowdfunded website on news and culture. In the spring of 2020, I noticed an interview in which Maria spoke about the dark humor of being Russian, the realization that everyone has two identities: the one put forward in public and political spaces, and the private life lived behind closed doors. I thought she could help me make sense of the ways in which politics and identity in our two countries had blended in such a disorienting way. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Maria told me, "Russia had become a country that has forgotten what it means to have a history, a country that has fallen out of history." It had become a country with a history filled with ghosts—the enormous suffering of the Soviet years, along with the sense of loss that accompanied the collapse of the Soviet Union. And it was ripe for something to fill that vacuum.

[...]

Maria volunteered that if she had the opportunity to vote for Navalny for mayor of Moscow again, she would do so. But while his single-minded focus on corruption represented a needed change, she did not think it was sufficient. Instead, she said, a more radical shift had to take place. To her, this was the other side of the coin from Navalny's interest in upending a corrupt cabal: the simple notion that politics and government had to be rooted in truth. "People are yearning for a sense of truth, for a certain sense of reality that is always being distorted. People are asking for something that is based on an ethical frame."

The danger of the other path is catastrophe. The history that Putin had reentered was the older kind, which inevitably leads nations down rivers to the heart of darkness, borne on the currents that gave rise to fascism and communism, Hitler and Stalin, two men who caused the deaths of tens of millions of Russians. When history appeared to come to an end at the conclusion of the Cold War, the specter of another world war was lifted, and with it some of the sense of drama that Putin had tapped into. And while wars fought online were not often tied to actual violence, a dizzying array of narratives recirculated those old 20th-century forces in new packaging—in particular, a creeping and sometimes casual fascism that suited Putin.

As a Russian, Maria knew how this kind of history could hurt people, in ways that Americans, too often, do not. Every Russian had been touched by World War II. Every Russian family had suffered in some way through the Soviet times. This was the main thing she had to tell us Americans, I realized—this warning. She felt the return of history. "I am afraid of some catastrophe that is going to happen," she said to me in 2020, referring to her state of mind the past few years. "I feel it in my bones. I am sharing this with my compatriots: There is going to be a new war, World War III, or the gulags, or the trials."



March 19, 2022: People gather in a basement, used as a bomb shelter, during an air raid in Lviv, Western Ukraine.

The Triumph of Death. 1562. Pieter Bruegel

Harvard professor Michael McCormick argues the worst year to be alive was 536 AD. The year was terrible due to cataclysmic eruptions that blocked out the sun and the spread of the plague. 536 ushered in the coldest decade in thousands of years and started a century of economic devastation.



The Potato Eaters. 1885. Vincent Van Gogh



The western elite is preventing us from going after the assets of Russia's hyper-rich

Thomas Piketty

Why has no progress been made on an international financial registry? One simple reason: wealthy westerners don't want one

Wed 16 Mar 2022 06.15 EDT

The Ukrainian crisis has revived an old debate: how to effectively sanction a state like Russia? Let's say it straight away: it is time to imagine a new type of sanction focused on the oligarchs who have prospered thanks to the regime in question. This will require the establishment of an international financial register, which will not be to the liking of western fortunes, whose interests are much more closely linked to those of the Russian and Chinese oligarchs than is sometimes claimed. However, it is at this price that western countries will succeed in winning the political and moral battle against the autocracies and in demonstrating to the world that the resounding speeches on democracy and justice are not simply empty words.

Let us first recall that the freezing of assets held by Putin and his relatives is already part of the arsenal of sanctions that have been tried for several years. The problem is that the freezes applied so far remain largely symbolic. They only concern a few dozen people, and can be circumvented by using nominees, especially as nothing has been done to systematically measure and cross-reference the real estate and financial portfolios held by each of them.

The US and its allies are now considering fully disconnecting Russia from the Swift financial network, which would deprive Russian banks of access to the international system for financial transactions and money transfers. The problem is that such a measure is very poorly targeted. Just as with conventional trade sanctions, which after the 2014 crisis were largely instrumentalised by the government to strengthen its grip, the risk would be to impose considerable costs on ordinary Russian and western businesses, with adverse consequences for the employees concerned. The measure would also affect a large number of bi-nationals and mixed couples, while sparing the wealthiest (who would use alternative financial intermediaries).

To bring the Russian state to heel, we must focus sanctions on the thin social layer of multimillionaires upon which the regime relies: a group much larger than a few dozen people, but much narrower than the Russian population in general. To give you an idea, one could target the people who hold over €10m (\$11m) in real estate and financial assets, or about 20,000 people, according to the latest available data. This represents 0.02% of the Russian adult population (currently 110 million). Setting the threshold at €5m would hit 50,000 people; lowering it to €2m would hit 100,000 (0.1% of the population).

It is likely that a considerable effect could already be achieved by targeting those with more than €10m. These 20,000 people are those who have benefited most from the Putin regime since he came to power in 1999, and all the evidence suggests that a considerable proportion of their real-estate and financial assets are located in western countries (between half and three-quarters). It would therefore be relatively easy for western states to levy a heavy tax on these assets, say at a rate of 10% or 20% to start with, freezing the rest as a precaution. Threatened with ruin and a ban on visiting the west, let's bet that this group would be able to make itself heard by the Kremlin.

The same mechanism could have been used in the wake of the Chinese political crackdown in Hong Kong, and could be applied in the future for the 200,000 or so Chinese citizens holding more than €10m. Although their assets are less internationalised than those of the Russians, they too would be hit hard. It could destabilise the regime.

To implement this type of measure, it would be sufficient for western countries to finally set up an international financial registry (also known as a "global financial registry" or GFR) that would keep track of who owns what in the various countries. As the World Inequality Report 2018 has already shown, such a project is technically possible and requires the public authorities to take control of the private central depositories (Clearstream, Euroclear, Depository Trust Corporation, etc) that currently register securities and their owners. This public register would also be an essential step in the fight against illicit flows, drug money and international corruption.

So why has no progress still not been made in this direction? For one simple reason: western wealthy people fear that such transparency will ultimately harm them. This is one of the main contradictions of our time. The confrontation between "democracies" and "autocracies" is overplayed, forgetting that **western countries share with Russia and China an unbridled, hyper-capitalist ideology, and a legal, fiscal and political system that is increasingly favourable to large fortunes.**

In Europe and the United States, everything is done to distinguish useful and deserving western "entrepreneurs" from harmful and parasitic Russian, Chinese, Indian or African "oligarchs". But the truth is that they have much in common. In particular, the immense prosperity of multimillionaires on all continents since the 1980s and 90s can be explained to a large extent by the same factors, and in particular by the favours and privileges granted to them. The free movement of capital without fiscal and collective compensation is an unsustainable system in the long term. It is by questioning this common doxa that we will be able to effectively sanction autocracies and promote another development model.



Thomas Piketty ✓
@PikettyLeMonde

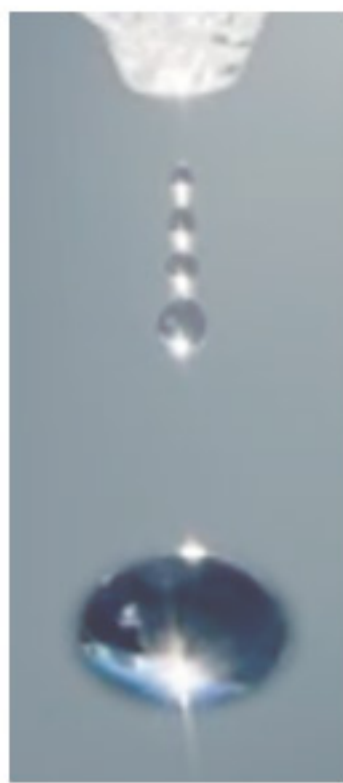
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Both of the planet's poles experience extreme heat, and Antarctica breaks records

March 19, 2022 · 8:29 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Earth's poles are undergoing simultaneous freakish extreme heat, with parts of Antarctica more than 70 degrees warmer than average and areas of the Arctic more than 50 degrees warmer than average.

Weather stations in Antarctica shattered records Friday as the region neared autumn. The two-mile high (3,234 meters) Concordia station was at 10 degrees, which is about 70 degrees warmer than average, while the even higher Vostok station hit a shade above 0 degrees, beating its all-time record by about 27 degrees, according to a tweet from extreme weather record tracker Maximiliano Herrera. The coastal Terra Nova Base was far above freezing at 44.6 degrees.

It caught officials at the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado, by surprise because they were paying attention to the Arctic where it was 50 degrees warmer than average and areas around the North Pole were nearing or at the melting point, which is really unusual for mid-March, said center ice scientist Walt Meier.

"They are opposite seasons. You don't see the north and the south (poles) both melting at the same time," Meier told The Associated Press Friday evening. "It's definitely an unusual occurrence."

"It's pretty stunning," Meier added.

"Not a good sign when you see that sort of thing happen," said University of Wisconsin meteorologist Matthew Lazzara.

Experts advise it's not clear whether the record heat is indeed part of climate change

Both Lazzara and Meier said what happened in Antarctica is probably just a random weather event and not a sign of climate change. But if it happens again or repeatedly then it might be something to worry about and part of global warming, they said.

Google does charcoal soak up viruses in the gut? × 🔍

Just as it does in the intestines and stomach, **activated charcoal can interact with and absorb a range of toxins, drugs, viruses, bacteria, fungus, and chemicals found in water.** Nov 21, 2019

https://www.medicalnewstoday.com › articles

Activated charcoal: 8 uses and what the science says

What are the benefits of activated charcoal?

What it is | Possible uses | Medical uses | Risks and takeaway

Medically reviewed by Alisha D. Sellers, BS Pharmacy, PharmD
Written by Jennifer Huizen — Updated on September 30, 2021

Superheating natural sources of carbon, such as wood, produces activated charcoal. The black powder stops toxins from being absorbed in the stomach by binding to them. The body is unable to absorb charcoal, and so the toxins that bind to the charcoal leave the body in the feces.

What is activated charcoal?

Activated charcoal is not the same substance as that found in charcoal bricks or burned pieces of food. The manufacture of activated charcoal makes it extremely absorbent, allowing it to bind to molecules, ions, or atoms and remove them from dissolved substances. Making activated charcoal involves heating carbon-rich materials, such as wood, peat, coconut shells, or sawdust, to very high temperatures.

This “activation” process strips the charcoal of previously absorbed molecules and frees up bonding sites again. This process also reduces the size of the pores in the charcoal and makes more holes in each molecule, increasing its overall surface area.

As a result, one teaspoon of activated charcoal has about the same surface area as a football field.

Possible uses of activated charcoal

The World Health Organization has approved activated charcoal for the emergency treatment of overdoses or poisonings. But due to its powerful toxin-clearing properties, some advocates have proposed activated charcoal as a treatment for an ever-growing list of conditions. There is not sufficient conclusive, large-scale research to establish the benefits of activated charcoal. Many over-the-counter (OTC) products rely on the basic chemical principles of activated charcoal to defend their benefit claims.

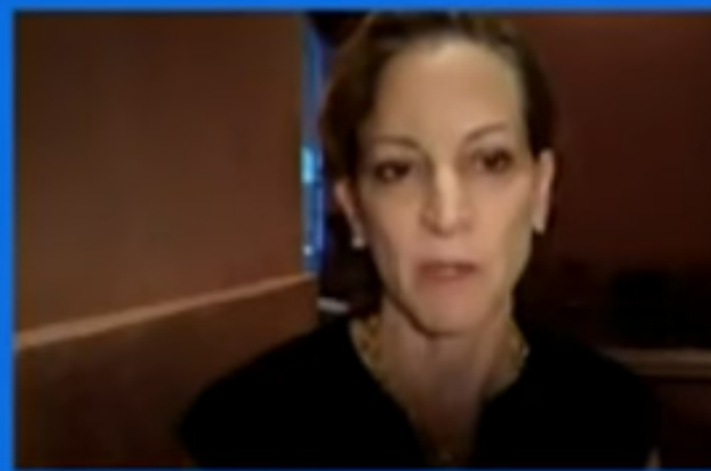
A few of the uses of activated charcoal supported by some evidence include:

- 1. Kidney health:** Activated charcoal may be able to assist kidney function by filtering out undigested toxins and drugs. Activated charcoal seems to be especially effective at removing toxins derived from urea, the main byproduct of protein digestion.
- 2. Intestinal gas:** Activated charcoal powder is thought to be able to disrupt intestinal gas, although researchers still do not understand how. Liquids and gases trapped in the intestine can easily pass through the millions of tiny holes in activated charcoal, and this process may neutralize them.
- 3. Water filtration:** People have long used activated charcoal as a natural water filter. Just as it does in the intestines and stomach, activated charcoal can interact with and absorb a range of toxins, drugs, viruses, bacteria, fungus, and chemicals found in water.
- 4. Diarrhea:** Given its use as a gastrointestinal absorbent in overdoses and poisonings, it follows that some people might propose activated charcoal as a treatment for diarrhea.
- 5. Teeth whitening and oral health:** Dozens of teeth-whitening products contain activated charcoal.
- 6. Skin care:** Researchers have reported that activated charcoal can help draw microparticles, such as dirt, dust, chemicals, toxins, and bacteria, to the surface of the skin, which makes removing them easier.
- 7. Deodorant:** Various activated charcoal deodorants are widely available.
- 8. Skin infection:** Around the world, many different traditional medicine practitioners use activated charcoal powder made from coconut shells to treat soft tissue conditions, such as skin infections. Activated charcoal may have an antibacterial effect by absorbing harmful microbes from wounds.

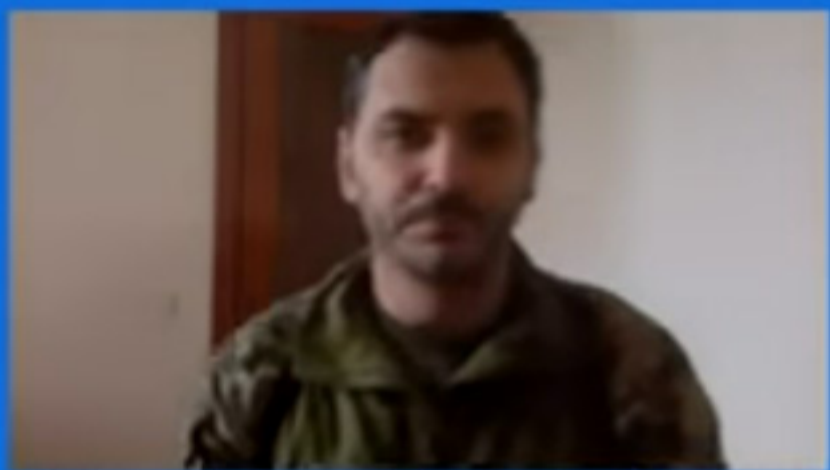
<https://youtu.be/S9FDabcyPWk>



Timothy Snyder



Anne Applebaum



Yegor Chernev (Ukrainian MP)



Yuval Noah Harari

standforukraine.com

Yegor Chernev



| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Born | 5 February 1985 (age 37) |
| Political party | Servant of the People |
| Alma mater | Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture Kyiv National Economic University King's College London |

Filmed on 2nd March 2022, during Russia's invasion of Ukraine, this urgent conversation between the historians Timothy Snyder and Yuval Noah Harari explores the implications of the unfolding crisis in Europe.

Anne Applebaum, **12:05:**

[Chernev] is a long-term veteran of the war and he's also now part of the territorial army. He has come in from the battle, he's joining the conversation and he will talk about what's happening now, why it's important and what the Ukrainians want from us, from people outside of the country, from the West and from the world.

Yegor Chernev is a Ukrainian politician who represents the Servant of the People party in the Verkhovna Rada as a People's Deputy of Ukraine.

Anne Applebaum is a Polish-American journalist and historian. She has written extensively about Marxism–Leninism and the development of civil society in Central and Eastern Europe. She has worked at The Economist and The Spectator, and was a member of the editorial board of The Washington Post.

Timothy Snyder is an American author and historian specializing in the history of Central and Eastern Europe and the Holocaust. He is a professor of History at Yale University and a permanent fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna.

Yuval Noah Harari is an Israeli public intellectual, historian and a professor in the Department of History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



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'No city anymore': Mariupol survivors take train to safety

By CARA ANNA and RENATA BRITO yesterday

LVIV, Ukraine (AP) — The heat on the train was as thick as the anxiety. Ukrainian survivors of one of the most brutal sieges in modern history were in the final minutes of their ride to relative safety. Some carried only what they had at hand when they seized the chance to escape the port of Mariupol amid relentless Russian bombardment. Some fled so quickly that relatives who were still in the starving, freezing Ukrainian city on the Sea of Azov aren't aware that they have gone. "There is no city anymore," Marina Galla said. She wept in the doorway of a crowded train compartment that was pulling into the western Ukrainian city of Lviv.

The relief of being free from weeks of threats and deprivation, of seeing bodies in the streets and drinking melted snow because there was no water, was crushed by sadness as she thought of family members left behind. "I don't know anything about them," she said. "My mother, grandmother, grandfather and father. They don't even know that we have left." Seeing her tears, her 13-year-old son kissed her over and over, offering comfort. Mariupol authorities say nearly 10% of the city's population of 430,000 have fled over the past week, risking their lives in convoys out. [...]

The Mariupol City Council has asserted that several thousand residents were taken into Russia against their will over the past week. On Sunday, the Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine said 2,973 people had been "evacuated" from Mariupol since March 5, including 541 over the last 24 hours. The train of survivors on Sunday afternoon approached the central station of Lviv, the city near Poland that has absorbed an estimated 200,000 people fleeing other areas of Ukraine. As they climbed off one by one into the arms of family and friends after weeks of fearing for their lives, some Mariupol survivors wept.

A mother embraced a red-faced, teary teenage boy at the foot of the steps. An elderly woman in a kerchief, helped off the train, walked away in silence. Another stood motionless among her bags, blinking behind thick glasses. Her neighbor, who fled with her, described cars in their convoy coming under fire. Her hair askew, clutched by family, Olga Nikitina cried on the platform. "They began to destroy our city, completely, house after house," the young woman said. "Battles took place over every street. Every house became a target."

Gunshots blew out the windows. When the temperatures in her apartment dropped below freezing, Nikitina moved in with her godmother, who has cancer and takes care of her elderly father. Ukrainian soldiers later came and warned them that their house would come under fire.

"Either hide or move out," the soldiers said.

Nikitina left. The others were too fragile to flee. Now, like so many Mariupol survivors who escaped, she doesn't know the fate of those left behind.



A family escaping from the besieged city of Mariupol along with passengers from Zaporizhzhia onboard a train bound for Lviv, western Ukraine, on Sunday, March 20, 2022. (AP Photo/Bernat Armangue)

Zelenskyy suspends Ukrainian opposition parties with 'ties' to Russia, warns of 'harsh response' if they don't comply with ban

Katie Balevic 19 hours ago



In this image from video provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks from Kyiv, Ukraine, early Sunday, March 20, 2022. [Ukrainian Presidential Press Office via AP](#)

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy banned the activities of political opposition parties in the country. In an address Sunday, Zelenskyy said that "everyone must now take care of the interests of our state." The Ukrainian Ministry of Justice will "immediately take comprehensive measures" to enforce the ban, Zelenskyy said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced a ban on activities by political opposition parties in the country.

"Given the full-scale war waged by the Russian Federation and the ties of some political structures with this state, any activity of a number of political parties during the martial law is suspended," Zelenskyy said in a video address on Sunday.

The 11 opposition parties named were: Opposition Platform - For Life, Shariy Party, Nashi, Opposition Bloc, Left Opposition, Union of Left Forces, State, Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, Socialist Party of Ukraine, Socialists Party, and Volodymyr Saldo Bloc.

Ukraine imposed martial law directly following Russia's invasion. Martial law is a law administered by the military rather than a civilian government and may be declared in an emergency or as a response to a crisis.

"I want to remind all politicians from any camp: wartime shows very well the meanness of personal ambitions of those who try to put their own ambitions, their own party or career above the interests of the state, the interests of the people," Zelenskyy said in the address.

"Any activity of politicians aimed at splitting or collaborating will not succeed. But it will get a tough response," he added. "The activities of those politicians aimed at division or collusion will not succeed, but will receive a harsh response."

The Ukrainian Ministry of Justice will "immediately take comprehensive measures" to enforce the ban," Zelenskyy noted.

"Everyone must now take care of the interests of our state, the interests of Ukraine," Zelenskyy said. "Because it's for us. Because it is for the sake of life."

In Iraq's Mosul, art springs up from ruins almost 5 years after the ouster of ISIS

March 20, 2022 · 5:21 PM ET

Heard on [All Things Considered](#)



JASON BEAUBIEN



A mural featuring portraits including many women in Mosul, Iraq, including celebrities like Billie Eilish and Ariana Grande. The artwork is on a wall where ISIS used to list its extremely strict rules, including that women's faces had to be covered, and the punishment for breaking them.

MOSUL, Iraq — After ISIS took over this northern Iraqi city in 2014, women weren't allowed to show their faces in public. They had to wear black veils with just slits for their eyes and long black robes. They could be whipped, and their husbands fined, if the women violated the dress code. Now colorful murals are popping up all across Mosul on what had been bullet-strafed facades. And many of them are giant pictures of women's faces. This vibrant street art is a sign of the spirited rebuilding going on in Mosul, nearly five years after ISIS rule in the city and the fierce battles to oust it.

Twenty-year-old Rusul Ahmed painted two of the murals. "It's not something wrong when a woman shows her beauty," she says. The university student is standing in front of a 15-foot-tall mural of a woman with jet-black hair and a dramatic swish of eye shadow. In the portrait, the woman's chin juts up slightly, exuding confidence, maybe even defiance. "When ISIS came here, the women they had to cover her body, her face. That's wrong because the women should be able to live their life," Ahmed says.

Mosul couldn't imagine Billie Eilish and Ariana Grande murals under ISIS: The mural that Ahmed is standing in front of is on a long wall where ISIS used to post its strict morality rules and the punishments for breaking them. Now the wall is covered in bright portraits. Most are of women, including the celebrated Iraqi British architect Zaha Hadid, who died in 2016. Under ISIS rule, people in Mosul weren't allowed to have satellite television or listen to Western music. Ahmed and her team from 7Arts certainly wouldn't have been permitted to paint a mural like this one featuring pop stars Billie Eilish and Ariana Grande. "This is Ariana, Ariana Grande. The people here love her!" Ahmed says, pointing to a colorful face painted in bold blocks of color. "And I listen to her because I want to improve my language," she adds with a laugh. "She helped me a lot."

There's an effort to rebuild a destroyed mosque: Across the Tigris River from the Ariana Grande painting, much of the Old City of Mosul still is in ruins. ISIS fighters dug in in the ancient city and the area was pounded by a relentless Iraqi and U.S. bombing campaign to dislodge the militants in 2017. As ISIS fighters fled, they blew up the iconic minaret and the prayer hall at Mosul's al-Nuri mosque. There's now an international effort to rebuild them. While some parts of the Old City are coming back, the walls of many of its narrow alleyways are still pockmarked from shrapnel.

Munir Majed, with a group called Art Revolution, started painting murals here three years ago highlighting the city's heritage. The 21-year-old engineering student points to a painting of a woman looking out a window. "The woman is looking at the symbols of Mosul," he says. "The statues, the gates, the things that were destroyed by ISIS. And if you see the wall in the background, the bullet holes. Most of these walls were exactly the same — they had bullet holes." Asked if he could have painted something like this during ISIS' control of the city, Majed laughs nervously. He slashes a finger across his throat and says he would have been killed if he tried to do this under ISIS.

Colorful murals counter dark times under ISIS: At a highway overpass in eastern Mosul, there's a graffiti-style mural that says "I HEART MOSUL" in orange letters and a red heart. And right next to it are more big colorful paintings of Iraqi women's faces. "It's like a carnival of colors," says Ali Al-Baroodi, a lecturer in the media department at University of Mosul. "Like, could it be more symbolic?"

Born and raised in the city, Baroodi, who's 40 years old, refers to himself as a "Mosulgrapher" because he tries to document what's happening in his home city. He says the recent murals are a direct reaction to the dark period of ISIS occupation. "So Mosulis, and Mosuli artists in particular, are responding with colors and with the freedom," he says. "You saw women veiled in black in that period. Now you can see free women on walls and off walls most importantly." Throughout history, Baroodi says, Mosul has been a multicolored, multiethnic city. **And ISIS' dark vision for the place, he says, was never going to succeed.**

In Iraq's Mosul, art springs up from ruins almost 5 years after the ouster of ISIS

March 20, 2022 - 5:21 PM ET

Heard on All Things Considered



JASON KATZ

Twenty-year-old **Rusul Ahmed** has painted several of the murals in Mosul. She says after the dark period of ISIS, the colorful murals make people happy.



A mural featuring Billie Eilish and Ariana Grande. The mural is on a wall that was once used by ISIS to post its strict morality rules, including punishments for breaking them.

MOSUL, Iraq, wasn't all just slits for husbands for popping up of them and the spirited city and the

Twenty-year-old Rusul Ahmed is standing in front of a dramatic scene exuding confidence they had to

be able to live their life," Ahmed says.

Mosul couldn't imagine Billie Eilish and Ariana Grande murals under ISIS: The mural that Ahmed is standing in front of is on a long wall where ISIS used to post its strict morality rules and the punishments for breaking them. Now the wall is covered in bright portraits. Most are of women, including the celebrated Iraqi British architect Zaha Hadid, who died in 2016. Under ISIS rule, people in Mosul

were not allowed to have satellite television or listen to Western music. Ahmed says she wanted to paint a mural. "This is a way of going to a better life. I want to

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AP Exclusive: US admiral says China fully militarized isles

By JIM GOMEZ and AARON FAVILA today



Admiral John C. Aquilino, left, Commander of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM), looks at videos of Chinese structures and buildings on board a US P-8A Poseidon reconaissance plane flying at the Spratlys group of islands in the South China Sea on Sunday March 20, 2022. A U.S. Navy plane carrying a top American military commander was threatened repeatedly by radio on Sunday to leave the airspace over Chinese-occupied island garrisons in the disputed South China Sea, but the aircraft pressed on defiantly with its reconnaissance in brief but tense standoffs witnessed by two Associated Press journalists invited on-board. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

OVER THE SOUTH CHINA SEA (AP) — China has fully militarized at least three of several islands it built in the disputed South China Sea, arming them with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missile systems, laser and jamming equipment, and fighter jets in an increasingly aggressive move that threatens all nations operating nearby, a top U.S. military commander said Sunday. U.S. Indo-Pacific commander Adm. John C. Aquilino said the hostile actions were in stark contrast to Chinese President Xi Jinping's past assurances that Beijing would not transform the artificial islands in contested waters into military bases. The efforts were part of China's flexing its military muscle, he said.

"I think over the past 20 years we've witnessed the largest military buildup since World War II by the PRC," Aquilino told The Associated Press in an interview, using the initials of China's formal name. "They have advanced all their capabilities and that buildup of weaponization is destabilizing to the region."

There were no immediate comments from Chinese officials. Beijing maintains its military profile is purely defensive, arranged to protect what it says are its sovereign rights. But after years of increased military spending, China now boasts the world's second-largest defense budget after the U.S. and is rapidly modernizing its force with weapons systems including the J-20 stealth fighter, hypersonic missiles and two aircraft carriers, with a third under construction.

Aquilino spoke with the AP onboard a U.S. Navy reconnaissance aircraft that flew near Chinese-held outposts in the South China Sea's Spratly archipelago, one of the most hotly contested regions in the world. During the patrol, the P-8A Poseidon plane was repeatedly warned by Chinese callers that it illegally entered what they said was China's territory and ordered the plane to move away. "China has sovereignty over the Spratly islands, as well as surrounding maritime areas. Stay away immediately to avoid misjudgment," one of the stern radio messages said in a veiled threat.

China sought to shore up its vast territorial claims over virtually the entire South China Sea by building island bases on coral atolls nearly a decade ago. The U.S. responded by sending its warships through the region in what it calls freedom of operation missions. The United States has no claims itself but has deployed Navy ships and aircraft for decades to patrol and promote free navigation in international waterway and airspace.

China routinely objects to any action by the U.S. military in the region. The other parties — the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei — claim all or part of the sea, through which approximately \$5 trillion in goods are shipped every year. Despite China's aggression, the long-simmering territorial conflicts should only be resolved peacefully, Aquilino said, and cited the Philippine government's successful move to bring its disputes with China to international arbitration in 2013 as a good template.

A U.N.-backed arbitration tribunal that handled the case invalidated China's sweeping historical claims in the South China Sea under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. Beijing dismissed the ruling as sham and continues to defy it.

Washington's main objective in the disputed region is "to prevent war" through deterrence and promote peace and stability, including by engaging American allies and partners in projects with that objective, Aquilino said.

"Should deterrence fail, my second mission is to be prepared to fight and win," said Aquilino, who leads the largest U.S. combatant command with 380,000 military and civilian personnel covering 36 nations and territories.



EUROPE

Noam Chomsky: on the Pandemic, Ukraine crisis & Climate Change

374,591 views • Feb 10, 2022

8.3K DISLIKE SHARE

10:59: what's happening right now on the Ukrainian border, we've seen that there's talks about-- between Russia and the USA, and the first people to be actually on talks are the USA and Russia and not Europe, in this case. In this case, the USA is again controlling the process of how to deal with the diplomacy aspect of international affairs.

Noam Chomsky > 11:35: Well, it goes deep. A large part of the conflict goes back to the decision of the United States first by George W. Bush, 2008, and reaffirmed by Obama to invite Ukraine to enter NATO. No Russian leader is likely to accept that. Ukraine is far too great to a strategic significance and also historical significance and cultural significance to Russia for Russian leaders, Putin or anyone else, to accept incorporation of Ukraine within a hostile military alliance. Long background to this. Now, this effort by the United States was vetoed by France and Germany, but that didn't mean anything. The United States proceeds with it. Now, there is an agreement, the Minsk-2 agreement, it's France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine, if the terms of that agreement were implemented, the crisis would be dampened, it probably would not be taking place. Now, neither Ukraine nor Donbas, the Russian region have implemented the agreement. The United States has not pressed Ukraine to implement the agreement. There's problems on all sides, but if Europe had a really independent role in world affairs, it could be acting in such a way as to bring this Minsk-2 agreement into operation that would probably resolve the crisis.



A map of the buffer zone established by the Minsk Protocol follow-up memorandum

The Minsk agreements were a series of international agreements which sought to end the war in the Donbas region of Ukraine. The first, known as the Minsk Protocol, was drafted in 2014 by the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine, consisting of Ukraine, Russia, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), with mediation by the leaders of France and Germany in the so-called Normandy Format. After extensive talks in Minsk, Belarus, the agreement was signed on 5 September 2014 by representatives of the Trilateral Contact Group and, without recognition of their status, by the then-leaders of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and Luhansk People's Republic (LPR). This agreement followed multiple previous attempts to stop the fighting in the region and aimed to implement an immediate ceasefire.

The agreement failed to stop fighting, and was thus followed with a revised and updated agreement, Minsk II, which was signed on 12 February 2015. This agreement consisted of a package of measures, including a ceasefire, withdrawal of heavy weapons from the front line, release of prisoners of war, constitutional reform in Ukraine granting self-government to certain areas of Donbas and restoring control of the state border to the Ukrainian government. While fighting subsided following the agreement's signing, it never ended completely, and the agreement's provisions were never fully implemented. The Normandy Format parties agreed that the Minsk II remains the basis for any future resolution to the conflict.

Amid rising tensions between Russia and Ukraine in early 2022, Russia officially recognised the Luhansk and Donetsk people's republics on 21 February 2022. Following that decision, on 22 February 2022, Russian president Vladimir Putin declared that the Minsk agreements "no longer existed", and that Ukraine, not Russia, was to blame for their collapse. Russia then invaded Ukraine on 24 February 2022.



EUROPE

Noam Chomsky: on the Pandemic, Ukraine crisis & Climate Change

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Noam Chomsky > 38:43: What is euphemistically called climate change, meaning destruction of the global environment is a threat so severe that if we don't deal with it in the next couple of decades, everything else is moot.

We have a few decades to try to save organized human life on earth from severe deterioration, ultimate destruction, and ultimate is not far off.

We will soon reach irreversible tipping points which doesn't mean everybody dies tomorrow, it just means things become-- we've got to a point where we're moving inexorably towards destruction of the prospects for organized human life on earth with very severe consequences, even in the short term future. Tens if not hundreds of millions of refugees, for example, as South Asia and Africa and parts of the Middle East become virtually uninhabitable.

The disaster is indescribable. Even in the wealthy countries like the United States, the consequences are severe. Where I'm living, Southwest Tucson, there's a very unprecedented drought, we're losing our water resources. Well, the United States is a super-rich country, you can probably find ways to fend this off for a while, but with severe costs, and there are dangers that we don't know if they'll happen, but they could happen. Take, say Antarctica, there's a major huge glacier called the Thwaites Glacier, it's beginning to melt. If it continues to melt, sea level rises could be quite significant. They could be in meters over the next century. That's impossible to imagine what effect that would have on the world. It's just indescribable.

41:09: For example, I live in the Netherlands, which is below sea level. That would be one of the first places on earth together with Bangladesh and, of course, the islands in the Pacific Ocean, which would be then completely washed out.

Noam Chomsky > Bangladesh is a low coastal plain, hundreds of millions of people. India, in many areas, is becoming almost too hot to survive. Rajasthan reached 50 degrees Celsius over the last summer. Well, rich country like the United States can survive that, poor countries like India can't. We're facing indescribable disasters. Now, will anything be done? Sorry, prospects are not very auspicious. There was just the COP26 meetings in Glasgow late October where the latest international effort to try to address the crisis was pretty pathetic. The major decision was to meet next year to see if we can do something while the earth burns. There are countries that are taking reasonable steps, others that are not. The general global reaction is nowhere near what has to be done to meet this crisis to overcome it. The good side is that we know how to do it. There are quite feasible proposals easily within range that could mitigate or overcome the crisis but it is not being implemented, and next November may be a final disaster.

Next November, the Republican Party in the United States is likely to regain power to take Congress. This is a political organization that is committed, dedicated to destroying organized human life as quickly as possible. They are a denialist party, either denying that global warming is taking place or saying we shouldn't do anything about it. During the four years of Trump, the United States not only pulled out of the international negotiations, but used every means possible to maximize the use of fossil fuels, including the most dangerous of them, and to eliminate the regulatory apparatus that somewhat mitigated their effects. If they're back in power, in the richest most powerful state in world history, the prospects are very grim for the world, and it's very likely to happen. We're facing very serious problems worldwide. There are solutions to them. Ukraine, China, global warming, pandemic, there are solutions, but you have to take them. They're not going to work by themselves, and that requires the kinds of dedication among the population, kinds of education and understanding, the kinds of statesmanship, which unfortunately, are lacking, can be overcome, but there's not much time.

I'm afraid I'm going to have to go off to another meeting.

Heavy Heart

lightness of being



Civilians fleeing Mariupol describe street-to-street battles

1 hour ago



Live updates: Russia stops talks with Japan over sanctions

1 hour ago



Ukrainian children find a welcoming classroom in Berlin

4 hours ago



Asian shares fall after Wall St gain as markets eye Ukraine

9 hours ago



As Mariupol hangs on, the extent of the horror not yet known

8 hours ago



POLITICS

Putin's puffy coat and Zelenskyy's T-shirts show the power of fashion in war

President Vladimir Putin's expensive designer coat and Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy's plain T-shirts can be considered political statements.



THE WAR IN UKRAINE

One-quarter of Ukraine's population has fled the war

Fighting has displaced about 10 million Ukrainians, more than the population of the Chicago metro area. Also, a Nobel Prize-winning Russian editor is auctioning his medal to raise money for Ukrainian refugees.



Russian Nobel Peace Prize co-winner says he will donate his medal for Ukraine relief

14 minutes ago

Millions of people have fled to western Ukraine. Some share their experience with NPR

18 minutes ago

UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED

Russia is trying to recruit drivers who know Ukraine's roads

There's been a sharp rise in ads for trucker jobs in since March 19, but Ukraine's government says the postings are linked to Russia's military, which has had trouble navigating Ukraine.



Aris Messinis/AFP via Getty Images

THE PICTURE SHOW

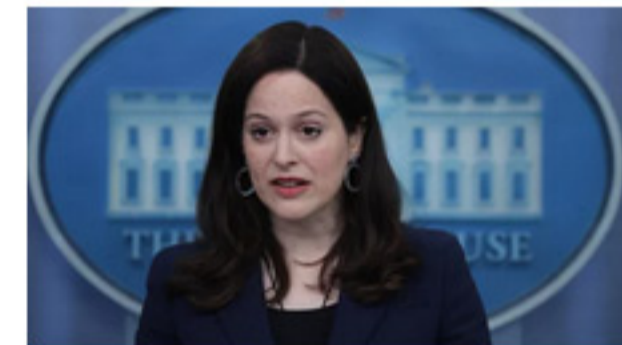
Photos: Ukraine rejects Russian surrender request as attacks pick up

In the fourth week of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, U.N. officials say more than 3.4 million Ukrainians have fled the country and another 6.5 million people have been displaced within the country.

UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED

The U.S. warns companies to stay on guard for possible Russian cyberattacks

President Biden said "evolving intelligence" showed Russia is "exploring options for potential cyberattacks." The U.S. has previously warned about Russia's capability to attack U.S. infrastructure.



UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED

2 Ukrainian mothers struggle to stay in touch with their children in front-line cities

Two women in Ukraine are trying to stay in touch with a son and a daughter who are living in cities on the front lines of Russian attack. But too much contact, they worry, could heighten their fears.

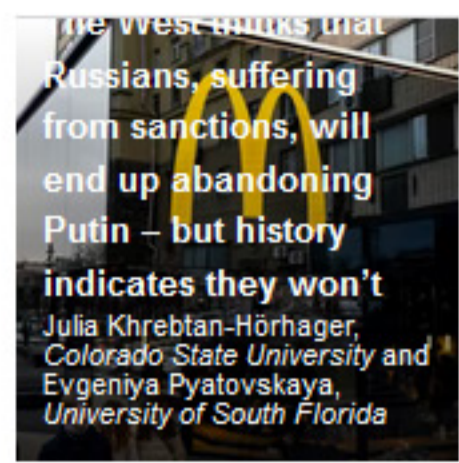


- **The Russia-Ukraine war: Kyiv sets a curfew under relentless Russian bombardment**

Editor's Picks

The West thinks that Russians, suffering from sanctions, will end up abandoning Putin – but history indicates they won't

Julia Khrebtan-Hörhager, Colorado State University and Evgeniya Pyatovskaya, University of South Florida



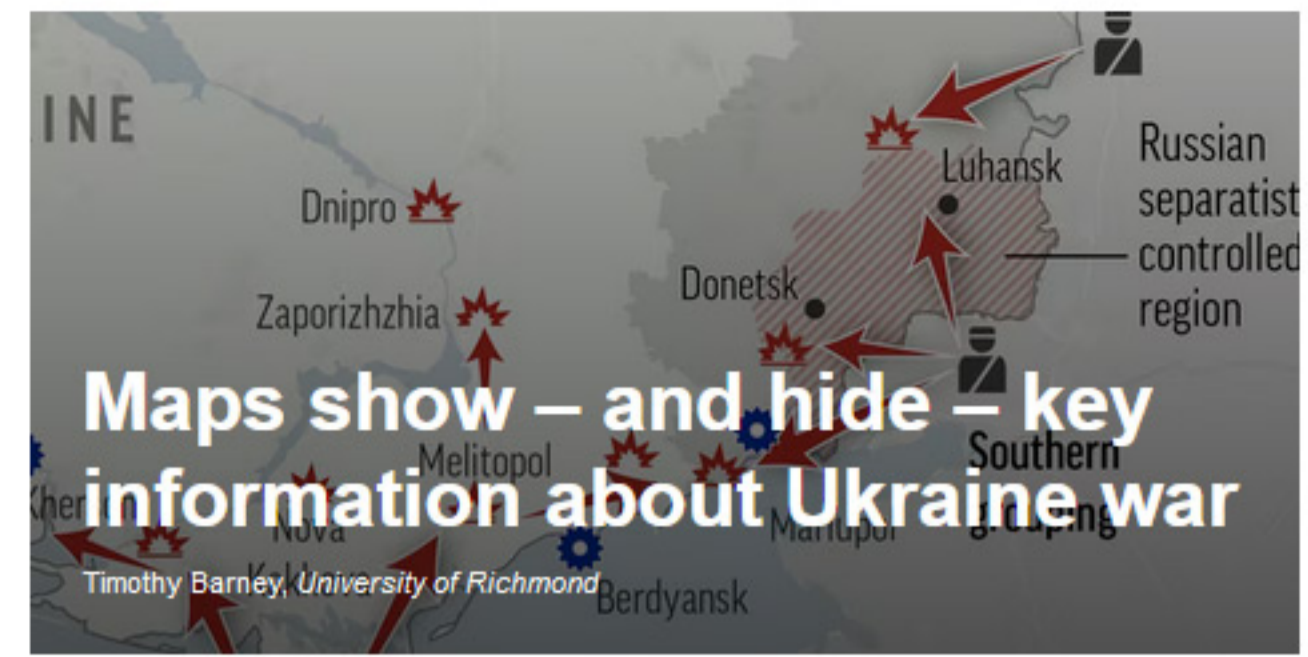
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Tuesday, March 22, 2022



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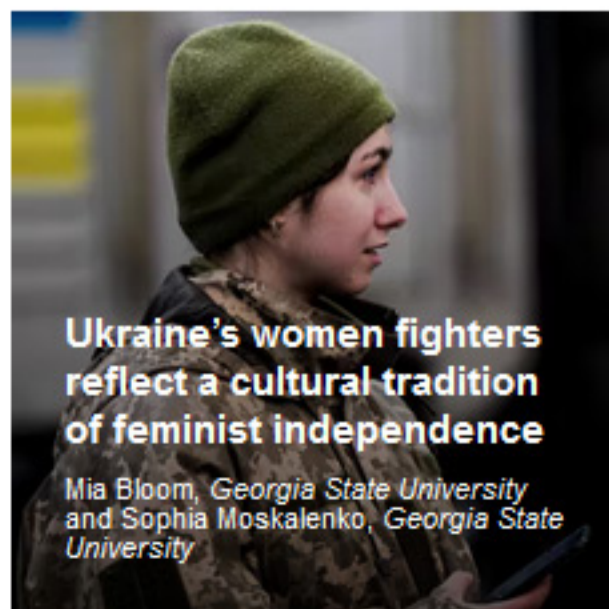
Ukraine's economy went from Soviet chaos to oligarch domination to vital global trader of wheat and neon – and now Russian devastation

Yuriy Gorodnichenko, University of California, Berkeley



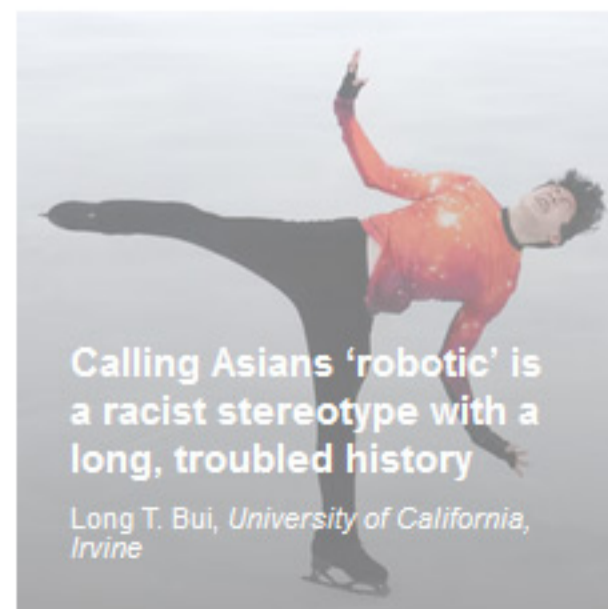
Why weren't women allowed to act in Shakespeare's plays?

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Ukraine's women fighters reflect a cultural tradition of feminist independence

Mia Bloom, Georgia State University and Sophia Moskalenko, Georgia State University



Calling Asians 'robotic' is a racist stereotype with a long, troubled history

Long T. Bui, University of California, Irvine



Russia's energy clout doesn't just come from oil and gas – it's also a key nuclear supplier

Alex Gilbert, Colorado School of Mines and Morgan Bazilian, Colorado School of Mines

Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson faces confirmation hearings: 7 questions answered

Published: March 21, 2022 2:42pm EDT

Alexis Karteron, Rutgers University - Newark



A seat on the highest court in the land awaits. Mandel Ngan/AFP via Getty Images)

Confirmation hearings for Ketanji Brown Jackson, nominated to be the first Black female justice on the Supreme Court, began on March 21, 2022. The dayslong process will see President Joe Biden's pick for the bench grilled by members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Jackson is currently a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, where she was one of President Biden's first judicial nominees. The Conversation asked Alexis Karteron, associate professor and director of the Constitutional Rights Clinic at Rutgers University Law School and a former senior attorney at the New York Civil Liberties Union, to discuss the prospect of Jackson's serving on the highest court in the U.S.

What are your impressions of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson and what would she could bring to the Supreme Court?

What would it mean to have a former public defender on the court?

She would join a court where she would be in the minority, philosophically, as is Justice Breyer. What does that mean for the court?

What notable rulings has Judge Jackson made?

If confirmed, Jackson would become the first Black woman on the Supreme Court. What might that mean for her jurisprudence?

Jackson would be one of the two youngest people on the court. Is that important?

What are you going to say to your students about this appointment?

A new justice means there's a new court, even if the ideological balance doesn't necessarily shift. This is a really interesting time to watch the Supreme Court, because the majority on the court right now is willing to question things that seemed like they were settled for a long time. For example, although *Roe v. Wade* seemed to be settled law, we're going to find out soon whether a majority of the court agrees.

Similarly, earlier this year, when the court barred implementation of OSHA's COVID vaccine mandate for large businesses, it resurrected a doctrine that had been moribund for decades.

So I'm excited to see how her addition to the court will change things, both with the high profile blockbuster cases, and the ones that tend to fly under the radar.





Slovenia Prime Minister Janez Jansa (left), Czech Republic Prime Minister Petr Fiala (second from left) and Poland Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki (third from left) meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during a visit to Kyiv on behalf of the European Council on March 16, 2022. Ukrainian Presidency/Handout/Anadolu Agency via Getty Images

Defending Europe: How cultural identity shapes support for Ukraine and armed resistance against Russia

Published: March 22, 2022 8:41am EDT

Anders C. Hardig, American University School of International Service

Clearly, something has shifted in the European understanding of who counts as “European” in only the last few years. This shift, I argue, can be traced to the Maidan protests in Ukraine of 2013-2014. Civil unrest and street demonstrations broke out shortly after Ukraine’s then-president Viktor Yanukovich refused to sign an agreement to further integrate the country with the EU.

Some 25,000 people camped out in Maidan, Kyiv’s central square, where they were beaten and shot at by police and government security forces. Dozens of activists were killed. Ultimately, the protests resulted in Yanukovich fleeing the country and new elections were held.

Since the country’s independence in 1991, Ukrainian governments have waged a conscious campaign that has been described by some as “declarative Europeanization.” The Zelenskyy government’s ambitions to join the EU and NATO reflect longstanding goals of segments of Ukrainian society.

Social movements do more than change political systems and laws – they change and create identities. For Ukraine, the Euromaidan protests are often cited by experts as a watershed moment in the post-independence identity struggle between those who felt kinship with Russia, and those who leaned toward Europe.

The Orange Revolution

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orange_Revolution

(Ukrainian: Помаранчева революція, romanized: Pomarancheva revoliutsiia) was a series of protests and political events that took place in Ukraine from late November 2004 to January 2005, in the immediate aftermath of the run-off vote of the 2004 Ukrainian presidential election, which was claimed to be marred by massive corruption, voter intimidation and electoral fraud. Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, was the focal point of the movement's campaign of civil resistance, with thousands of protesters demonstrating daily.[6] Nationwide,[7] the revolution was highlighted by a series of acts of civil disobedience, sit-ins, and general strikes organized by the opposition movement.

.....

Ukraine’s Quest for Europe: History, Geography, Identity

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/ukraines-quest-for-europe-history-geography-identity>

Kennan Institute by Renata Kosc-Harmatiy

“At least one of the ideological impulses that came out of the events of the Orange Revolution was the idea that Ukraine should be part of Europe” stated Serhii Plokhii, Professor of History, University of Alberta; Visiting Professor, Department of History, Harvard University; and former Short-Term Scholar, Kennan Institute at a 15 December 2005 Kennan Institute lecture. **Ukraine’s quest for greater integration with Europe has been linked to politics, ideology, history and geography. Every country in Eastern Europe, including Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary, has viewed itself as a country between East and West. However, according to Plokhii, “Ukraine probably had more right than others to do that given its position on the civilization divide.”**

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Order from Chaos

Ukraine: Six years after the Maidan

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/02/21/ukraine-six-years-after-the-maidan/>

Steven Pifer Friday, February 21, 2020

Six years after the **Maidan Revolution**, Ukraine has made some progress, but it will be critical for President Zelensky's government to complete the reform process, reduce corruption, and find a settlement for the conflict in Donbas to develop as a stronger and more resilient state, argues Steven Pifer. This post originally appeared on Stanford University's *Medium*.

The Orange Revolution (Ukrainian: romanized: Pomarancheva revoliutsiia) was a series of protests and political events that took place in Ukraine from late November 2004 to January 2005, in the immediate aftermath of the run-off vote of the 2004 Ukrainian presidential election, which was claimed to be marred by massive corruption, voter intimidation and electoral fraud. Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, was the focal point of the movement's campaign of civil resistance, with thousands of protesters demonstrating daily. Nationwide, the revolution was highlighted by a series of acts of civil disobedience, sit-ins, and general strikes organized by the opposition movement.

| Orange Revolution | |
|---|---|
| Part of the Colour Revolutions | |
|  | |
| Orange-clad demonstrators gather in the Independence Square in Kyiv on 22 November 2004. | |
| Date | 22 November 2004 – 23 January 2005 (2 months and 1 day) |
| Location | Ukraine, primarily Kyiv |
| Caused by | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kuchmagate crisis severely undermined the legitimacy of President Kuchma and "his candidate" and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich^[1] Disputed results of the Second Round of the 2004 Ukrainian presidential election |
| Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annulment of results of the second round of the 2004 presidential elections^[2] Anti-oligarch and anti-corruption measures^[3] |
| Methods | Demonstrations, civil disobedience, civil resistance, strike actions |
| Resulted in | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revote ordered by the Supreme Court of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko declared winner |
| Lead figures | |
| Viktor Yushchenko Yulia Tymoshenko | Leonid Kuchma Viktor Medvedchuk Viktor Yanukovich |
| Number | |
| Central Kyiv: hundreds of thousands up to one million by some estimates ^[4] | |
| Casualties | |
| Death(s) | 1 man died from a heart attack ^[5] |

| Revolution of Dignity Maidan Revolution | |
|--|---|
| Part of Euromaidan | |
|  | |
| Protesters fighting government forces on Maidan Nezalezhnosti in Kyiv on 18 February 2014. | |
| Date | 18–23 February 2014 ^{[1][2]} (5 days) |
| Location | Mariinskyi Park and Instytutska Street , Maidan Nezalezhnosti , Kyiv, Ukraine 50°27′0″N 30°31′27″E﻿ / ﻿50.45000°N 30.52417°E﻿ / 50.45000; 30.52417﻿ / 50.45000; 30.52417 |
| Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removal of President Viktor Yanukovich Restoration of the 2004 amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine |
| Methods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protesting, rioting, civil disobedience, insurrection |
| Resulted in | Euromaidan/Opposition victory Full results [show] |
| Parties to the civil conflict | |
| Euromaidan protestors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government of Ukraine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Internal Affairs Berkut riot police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Company of Berkut Tiger special forces Internal Troops of Ukraine Security Service of Ukraine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SBU Alpha Group^[6] Titushky^[7] Ukrainian Front |
| | Supported by: Russia (alleged) |

The Revolution of Dignity (Ukrainian: Революція гідності, romanized: Revoliutsiia hidnosti), also known as the **Maidan Revolution**, took place in Ukraine in February 2014 at the end of the Euromaidan protests, when deadly clashes between protesters and the security forces in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv culminated in the ousting of elected President Viktor Yanukovich and the overthrow of the Ukrainian government.

| Lead figures | |
|--|---|
| Arseniy Yatsenyuk Vitali Klitschko Oleh Tyahnybok Petro Poroshenko Yuriy Lutsenko Oleksandr Turchynov Yulia Tymoshenko Andriy Parubiy Andriy Sadovyi Arsen Avakov Dmytro Yarosh Ruslana | Viktor Yanukovich Serhiy Arbuzov Vitaliy Zakharchenko Oleksandr Yefremov Andriy Klyuyev Hennadiy Kernes Mikhail Dobkin Viktor Pshonka Olena Lukash Yuriy Boyko Leonid Kozhara Dmytro Tabachnyk |
| Number | |
| Kyiv: 400,000–800,000 protestors ^[8] 12,000 "self-defense sotnia" ^{[9][10]} | Law enforcement in Kyiv: 4,000 Berkut 1,000 Internal Troops 3,000–4,000 <i>titushky</i> ^[14] |
| Across Ukraine: 50,000 (Lviv) ^[11] 20,000 (Cherkasy) ^[12] 10,000+ (Ternopil) ^[13] other cities and towns | Pro-government/anti-EU demonstrations: 20,000–60,000 (Kyiv) 40,000 (Kharkiv) ^[15] 15,000 (Donetsk) ^[16] 10,000 (Simferopol) ^[17] 2,500 pro-Russia (Sevastopol) ^[18] |
| Casualties and losses | |
| Deaths: 108 (January–February) ^[19] Injured: 1,100+ ^{[20][21]} Arrested: 77 ^[22] | Deaths: 13 ^[19] Injured: 272 ^[21] Captured: 67 ^[23] |
| Overall deaths: 121 ^[19] Overall injuries: 1,811 Ministry of Healthcare totals (16 April 2014 @6:00 LST) ^[24] | |

| Russo-Ukrainian War |
|---|
|  |
| Major events |
| Events in 2013–2014 (Euromaidan · Revolution of Dignity · Pro-Russian unrest (Historical background) · Annexation of Crimea) · War in Donbas · Kerch Strait incident (2018) · 2021–2022 Russo-Ukrainian crisis (Reactions) · 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine (Reactions · Protests) |
| Major topics |
| ICJ case · Russian–Ukrainian church war (Annexation of the Metropolitanate of Kyiv · 2018 Moscow–Constantinople schism) · Russian information war against Ukraine (Russian–Ukrainian cyberwarfare (2017 Ukraine ransomware attacks · 2022 Ukraine cyberattacks)) · Belarusian involvement |
| Related topics |
| 1954 transfer of Crimea · 2003 Tuzla Island conflict · Belarus–Russia relations (Union State) · Russia–Ukraine relations · International sanctions · Media portrayal · Anti-war protests in Russia (2014 · 2022) · International recognition of DPR and LPR · Foreign aid to Ukraine during the Russo-Ukrainian War |
| V · T · E |



Most people buy guns for protection. (Mike Pont/Getty Images News via Getty Images)

An expert on trends in gun sales and gun violence in pandemic America

Published: March 22, 2022 8.16am EDT

 [Garen Wintemute](#), University of California, Davis

Gun sales have risen in recent years, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. On Feb. 28, 2022, SciLine interviewed Garen Wintemute – an emergency medicine physician at the University of California, Davis, Medical Center and director of the California Firearm Violence Research Center – about what’s driving this change and what gun usage and culture looks like in America two years into the pandemic.

What does the research tell us about who owns guns in the United States and why? *Garen Wintemute:* The traditional population of gun owners are white, non-Hispanic men. But for several years, the demographic profile of gun owners in the United States has been broadening as women and members of underrepresented groups started purchasing firearms. People buy guns more for protection than for all other reasons put together. The second-biggest reason is use in sport hunting and target shooting and so on.

Can you discuss recent increases in gun sales and factors driving the surge? *Garen Wintemute:* An absolutely unprecedented increase in firearm sales has occurred over the last couple of years.

It started in January 2020 with the news of the emerging COVID-19 pandemic, and it grew through the spring of 2020 as people became concerned about the advent of violence in late spring and summer, continuing right through the fall. There was a federal election in 2020, which always drives gun purchases. And that election was accompanied by violence. Purchases reverted to expected levels only in the last couple of months of 2021 and now in the beginning of 2022.

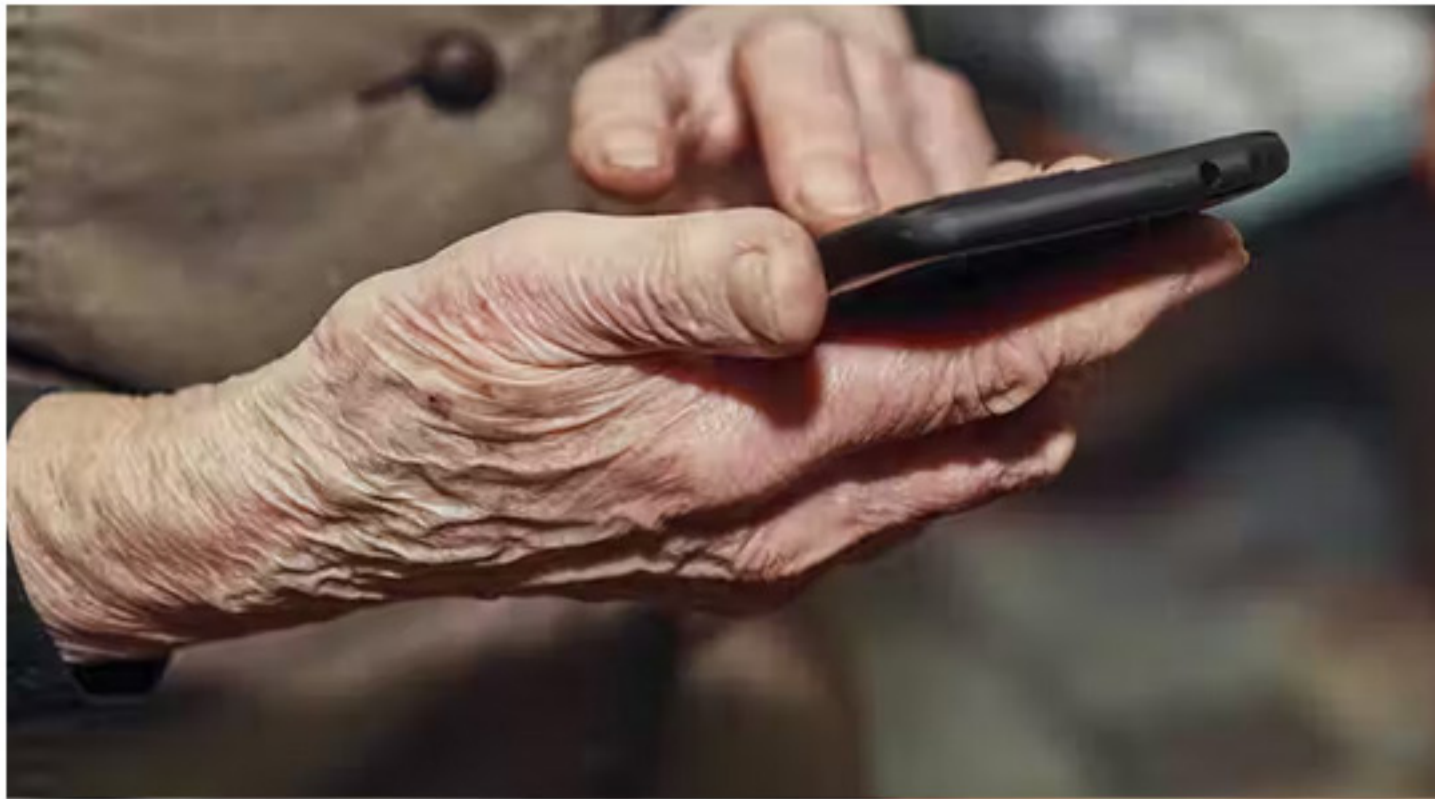
What is known about the links among gun prevalence, gun purchasing trends and gun violence? *Garen Wintemute:* We’ve known for a long time that the more access there is to firearms in a society, the more firearm violence there is likely to be. It’s been shown in comparisons of societies and U.S. states with different levels of firearm ownership. During the pandemic, as purchasing picked up across the country, we learned there was – at least early on – a relationship between an increase in gun purchases above expected levels and a later increase in violence above expected levels. As 2020 went on, that signal was lost, except for domestic violence, because many other things were contributing to increases in violence.

Which demographic groups are harmed the most by gun violence? *Garen Wintemute:* A very good and accessible source of information on this is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s [injury mortality data tool, WISQARS](#). If we are talking about violence between people, men are at much greater risk than women, and men of color are at much greater risk than are white, non-Hispanic men. In particular, young Black men are at highest risk for homicide. But if we talk about suicide, risk is higher with older age, not lower. Gender is related. Males are, again, at greater risk, but the group at highest risk is white, non-Hispanic men.

What should people know about “ghost guns” and other recent developments? *Garen Wintemute:* “Ghost guns” is shorthand for privately manufactured firearms. They are firearms that are produced with no serial number so they’re not traceable if they’re used in a crime. And that’s where the term ghost guns comes from. In major cities in California, law enforcement agencies are reporting that 30%, 40%, 50% of all the guns they recover following use in a crime are these anonymously produced ghost guns. I believe they’re going to be a huge problem nationwide, as they are in California. They can be manufactured by individuals in their homes. There’s a special milling machine that’s about the size of a desktop laser printer. I could have 10 of them in my office, and each one of them would produce the key component for a ghost gun about every 30 minutes. I can buy all the other parts on the open market.

What gun violence trends are you following? *Garen Wintemute:* There has been a rapid growth in the acceptance of the idea that violence is going to be necessary in order to keep America on the proper path. I’ll quantify: **10% of adults, about 25 million people, endorse the statement that violence is justified now to put Donald Trump back in office. Thirty percent of adults endorse the statement that President Biden was not legitimately elected.**

People who study terrorism and violent extremism are very concerned that in this federal election year, and in 2024, we may see the advent of large-scale political violence.



Telling elders scary stories about online scammers is not the best way to keep them safe. Olga Gavrilenko/EyeEm via Getty Images

Older Americans are given the wrong idea about online safety – here's how to help them help themselves

Published: March 22, 2022 8:15am EDT

✎ [Nora McDonald](#), *University of Cincinnati*, [Helena M. Mentis](#), *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

Recently, the U.S. Social Security Administration sent out an email to subscribers of its official blog explaining how to access social security statements online. Most people know to be suspicious of seemingly official emails with links to websites asking for credentials.

But for older adults who are wary of the prevalence of scams targeting their demographic, such an email can be particularly alarming since they have been told that the SSA never sends emails. From our research designing cybersecurity safeguards for older adults, we believe there is legitimate cause for alarm.

This population has been schooled in a tactical approach to online safety grounded in fear and mistrust – even of themselves – and focused on specific threats rather than developing strategies that enable them to be online safely. Elders have been taught this approach by organizations they tend to trust, including nonprofits that teach older adults how to use technology. These organizations promote a view of older adults as highly vulnerable while also encouraging them to take gratuitous risks in defending themselves. As information technology researchers, we believe it doesn't need to be this way.

Older adults and online safety

Older adults may be at heightened risk of cybersecurity breaches and fraudulent behavior because they lack experience with internet technology and represent a financially attractive target. Older adults may also be more susceptible because they struggle with their confidence in using technology even as they recognize its benefits.

We have been developing technology tools that help aging Americans maintain their own online safety no matter what challenges they may face, including cognitive decline. To do so, we needed to understand what and how the people we study are learning about cybersecurity threats and what strategies they are being taught to reduce their vulnerabilities. [...]

In short, the best strategy is to simply ignore unsolicited outreach altogether, particularly from organizations you don't do business with. People need to be reminded that their own context, behaviors and relationships are all that matter.

Because, in the end, it's not just about tools, it's about worldview. Ultimately, for everyone to make effective, consistent use of security tools, people need a theory of the online world that educates them about the rudiments of surveillance capitalism.

We believe people should be taught to see their online selves as reconstructions made out of data, as unreal as bots. This is admittedly a difficult idea because people have a hard time imagining themselves as separate from the data they generate, and recognizing that their online lives are affected by algorithms that analyze and act on that data.

But it is an important concept — and one that we see older adults embracing in our research when they tell us that while they are frustrated with receiving spam, they are learning to ignore the communications that reflect “selves” they don't identify with.

COVID-19 in San Diego County

| | San Diego | Cases | Avg/7day | Hospitalizations | Avg/7day | Deaths | Avg/7day | %Pos/7day | << SOURCE: San Diego County gov |
|-----|-----------|---------|----------|------------------|----------|--------|----------|-----------|---|
| | 2/23/2022 | | | | | | | 4.7% | << sustained test positivity rate below 1% – without an uptick – "the chance of resurgence or community outbreaks is much, much lower," Dr. Abraar Karan, an infectious disease physician at Stanford University |
| | 2/24/2022 | 736,368 | 856/day | 21,686 | 25/day | 5,018 | 8/day | | |
| | 2/27/2022 | | | | | | | 6.8% | |
| Tue | 3/1/2022 | 739,176 | 646 | 21,778 | 20 | 5,045 | 6 | | |
| | 3/2/2022 | 739,939 | 763/day | 21,787 | 9/day | 5,056 | 11/day | 4.4% | |
| | 3/3/2022 | 741,943 | 796 | 21,826 | 20 | 5,077 | 8 | | |
| | 3/6/2022 | | | 21,836 | | | | 3.6% | |
| | 3/7/2022 | 742,295 | | 21,845 | | 5,083 | | | |
| Tue | 3/8/2022 | 742,724 | 507 | 21,864 | 12 | 5,090 | 6 | | |
| Wed | 3/9/2022 | 743,280 | 477 | | | | | 3.0% | |
| Thu | 3/10/2022 | 743,853 | 273 | 29,455 | 1,090 | 5,108 | 4 | | ** Following a quality assurance review, additional hospitalizations that occurred since August 1, 2021, were added on March 11, 2022. |
| | 3/11/2022 | | | | | | | | |
| | 3/12/2022 | | | | | | | | |
| Sun | 3/13/2022 | 744,888 | | 29,461 | 2 | 5,116 | 5 | 2.7% | |
| Mon | 3/14/2022 | 745,310 | | 29,466 | 5/day | 5,126 | 3 | | |
| Tue | 3/15/2022 | 745,310 | | 29,466 | | 5,126 | | | |

Sdgv reporting formats changed and are increasingly less reliable; I find no good source to easily collect reliable, timely data >>> << we muster on, as is!

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|---------|-----|--------|---|-------|---|------|
| Wed | 3/16/2022 | 746,533 | | 29,468 | 2 | 5,138 | 6 | 2.8% |
| Thu | 3/17/2022 | 747,174 | 474 | 29,485 | 4 | 5,138 | 4 | |
| | 3/18/2022 | 747,174 | | 29,485 | | 5,138 | | |
| | 3/19/2022 | 747,174 | | 29,485 | | 5,138 | | |
| Sun | 3/20/2022 | 747,884 | 428 | 29,493 | 5 | 5,141 | 4 | 3.2% |
| Mon | 3/21/2022 | 748,108 | 400 | 29,502 | 5 | 5,143 | 2 | |
| Tue | 3/22/2022 | | | | | | | |
| Wed | 3/23/2022 | | | | | | | |

3.2%
%Pos
trending upwards

New Tests Reported^
 3/20/2022 = 6,037
 3/19/2022 = 7,949
 3/18/2022 = 12,877
 3/17/2022 = 16,515

New Tests Reported
 3/3/2022 = 25,426
 3/4/2022 = 12,755
 3/5/2022 = 14,300
3/6/2022 = 8,130

| | Date | 92104 | daily Avg | |
|-----------|------------------------|-------|-----------|---|
| | 1/28/2021 | 2277 | | |
| | 7/13/2021 | 2992 | 4.0 | |
| | 12/23/2021 | 4615 | 10.0 | |
| Wednesday | 2/23/2022 | 8460 | 62.0 | << daily average for first two months of 2022 |
| Wednesday | 3/2/2022 | 8,513 | 7.6 | |
| | 3/8/2022 | 8,554 | 6.8 | |
| Wednesday | 3/23/2022: NO NEW DATA | | | |

SPORTS

The world's best women's tennis player, Ash Barty, is retiring at age 25

Barty is retiring only two months after winning the Australian Open, saying she wants to pursue other dreams.



Andy Brownbill/AP

<https://www.reuters.com> › lifestyle › sports › medvedev-s... ⋮

Medvedev sees path back to the top through Miami Open

Mar 14, 2022 — March 14 (Reuters) - **Daniil Medvedev** hopes **Miami's** ocean breeze will ease the burn from Indian Wells' desert sun, after a shock loss in ...

<https://tennishead.net> › wimbledon-consider-banning-dani... ⋮

Daniil Medvedev could be banned from Wimbledon

Mar 15, 2022 — Russian **Daniil Medvedev** may not be **able to play** at Wimbledon due to his home country being involved in a war with the Ukraine.



Collin Reid/AP

LATIN AMERICA

Protesters in Jamaica spurn British royals ahead of official visit

The protest comes a couple of days after dozens of prominent leaders in Jamaica publicized a letter demanding that Britain apologize and award its former colony slavery reparations.

WORLD • ROYALS

Prince William and Kate's Tour Was Meant to Secure the Monarchy in the Caribbean. Instead, It's Raising New Questions About Its Future

BY ELOISE BARRY 

MARCH 24, 2022 2:09 PM EDT



Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and Kate Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge smile as they attend the Jamaica Defence Force on day six of the Platinum Jubilee Royal Tour of the Caribbean on March 24 2022 in Kingston, Jamaica. Chris Jackson—Getty Images

The British royal family is facing embarrassment on the international stage this week as protests disrupt Prince William and Kate Middleton's tour of former British colonies in the Caribbean. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge began their week-long visit to Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas March 19.

Officially, the trip was meant to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, celebrating 70 years on the throne. Many observers say the trip was meant to persuade the three countries to keep the Queen as head of state, and not to follow Barbados, which transitioned to a republic last November. But growing calls to cut formal ties with the Queen and campaigns for slavery reparations have ignited a reckoning with the region's colonial past.

How is Prince William and Kate's visit sparking controversy?

Prince William and Kate arrived in Jamaica, the second stop of their trip, on March 22. Only a day later, The Independent reported that the Jamaican government had begun the process of transitioning the island nation—which is the largest English speaking country in the Caribbean—to a republic. The news arrived at a difficult moment for the royals. The day before the couple's arrival in the country, one hundred Jamaican academics, politicians, and cultural figures signed an open letter calling for the royal family and British government to apologize and pay reparations for subjecting the island to colonial rule and slavery.

"We are of the view an apology for British crimes against humanity, including but not limited to the exploitation of the indigenous people of Jamaica, the transatlantic trafficking of Africans, the enslavement of Africans, indenture-ship and colonialization is necessary to begin a process of healing, forgiveness, reconciliation and compensation," the letter said. The letter's signatories describe Prince William and Kate as "direct beneficiaries of the wealth accumulated by the royal family...from the trafficking and enslavement of Africans". In reference to the Queen's Jubilee, the letter reads: "We see no reason to celebrate 70 years of the ascension of your grandmother to the British throne because her leadership, and that of her predecessors, has perpetuated the greatest human rights tragedy in the history of humankind."

The group, called the Advocates Network, staged a protest March 22 outside the British High Commission in Kingston to coincide with the couple's arrival. Demonstrators held banners reading "#SehYuhSorry and make REPARATIONS." The following day, Prince William stopped short of an apology, instead expressing "profound sorrow" for the "appalling atrocity of slavery" during an address to Jamaica's prime minister March 23. "Slavery was abhorrent and it never should have happened," he said. "I strongly agree with my father, the Prince of Wales, who said in Barbados last year that the appalling atrocity of slavery forever stains our history." **The Advocates Network issued a statement in response, calling the Prince's words "unacceptable," adding: "There was no responsibility taken! No call out of centuries of British bloody conquest and plunder."**

Why is the Queen still head of state in 14 independent countries?

Why do campaigners no longer want the Queen as head of state?


What does the future hold for the British monarchy around the world?



Not everyone's up for converting this vegetable into a side or main dish. duckycards/E+ via Getty Images

Food pantries that give away stuff people can't or won't cook have an 'acorn squash problem'

Published: March 23, 2022 8:15am EDT

 [Diana Cuy Castellanos](#), *University of Dayton*, [John C. Jones](#), *Virginia Commonwealth University*

A major problem with how food donation currently works in the United States is that a lot of the calories in those boxes and bags come from items that aren't particularly healthy, such as packaged snacks.

This arrangement is troubling in part because of the high rates of nutrition-related illnesses, such as heart disease and diabetes, among low-income people who rely on donated food. As a result, food banks and pantries around the country have been trying to boost the nutritional value of the food they give away. Their clients are going home with more leafy greens and less processed cheese.

That shift affects millions of people. About 1 in 5 Americans obtained food at no cost from a food bank, food pantry or a similar program in 2020.

Read news coverage based on evidence, not tweets.

Providing healthier food may sound like a worthy goal. But what happens if the people receiving it lack the ability to prepare, say, acorn squash? What if they would prefer more boxes of mac-and-cheese rather than a hard-to-slice winter vegetable that has mild, buttery taste when roasted in a hot oven? What if someone sees an acorn squash not as something to eat but as a fall-themed decorative item?

Boiling it down to eight questions

As a dietitian who studies food insecurity and an environmental studies scholar who examines food-based inequalities, we have researched what we're calling an "acorn squash problem." It happens when certain foods are given to people who don't like them or can't cook them. We've identified eight main reasons donated food can be undesirable. If someone visiting a food pantry wouldn't say yes to all eight of these questions, the food may go to waste.

Is this edible?

Is it something I want to eat?

Would I know how to cook this?

Do I have the tools required?

Can I store it safely until I'm ready?

Do I have the time to prepare something with this ingredient?

Do I have time to consume it?

Will I be able to get all this food home?

Researchers have found that people are about half as likely to eat the turnips, beets and other root vegetables they get from food banks as more familiar and more easily prepared veggies. If donated food goes to waste, it isn't helping people get enough to eat – undercutting its entire purpose.

Distributing recipes and holding cooking classes

The government provides much of this food, but individuals, nonprofits, restaurants and grocery stores also contribute. All told, these donations add up to about 6.6 billion meals a year. But how high is the quality of all this donated food and how much is actually eaten? Some food banks and food pantries are making changes to ensure that the people who visit them leave with items that they will eat. They are distributing cookbooks, making recipe apps available and offering cooking classes. And some let people make choices when they obtain free food instead of receiving an already packaged selection.

But it remains to be seen whether these efforts can resolve the acorn squash problem.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine transforms Europe's political and military landscape

Updated March 24, 2022 - 7:25 AM ET



FRANK LANGFITT



Demonstrators stand around a peace sign during a vigil for Ukraine near the European Union headquarters in Brussels on Tuesday. Activists are calling on EU leaders to impose a full ban on Russian fuel.

BRUSSELS — As the Russian invasion of Ukraine grinds through its fourth week, President Vladimir Putin's greatest accomplishment so far may be one he never intended: a unified Europe. This is a fractious continent, largely led by a bureaucratic institution, the European Union, where it can be difficult and slow to reach the consensus required to act. But the war has spurred the EU to unprecedented action and brought Europe together in ways not seen in decades.

The EU is taking a more assertive role: Relying on intelligence reports showing Moscow planned to invade, the EU began drafting legislation for sweeping sanctions two weeks before Russian troops crossed into eastern Ukraine in February, according to an EU official. That advance planning allowed the EU to ban Russian airlines from European airspace quickly and seize assets from oligarchs close to Putin. For instance, the French government confiscated a superyacht linked to the Russian oligarch, Igor Sechin, who served as the country's deputy prime minister and is now the CEO of the state oil company, Rosneft. In Italy, officials

seized multimillion-dollar villas in Tuscany and on Lake Como. The EU also did something unprecedented: It began pouring hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of weapons into a country — Ukraine — that isn't even a member.

Allies are sending weapons so Ukraine can hit Russian tanks and helicopters:

In addition to the EU, NATO member states have also been pouring weapons into Ukraine. Shipments include Javelin anti-tank systems and Stinger missiles, which can target helicopters. There are still no signs of Russian troops on the roads of western Ukraine, so the shipments have rolled through unimpeded for weeks, providing a steady flow of weapons to a Ukrainian military that is out-gunned by Russia's larger army.

Brussels is stunned by Russia's poor battlefield performance:

In addition to the ease with which Europe has been able to resupply Ukrainian troops, officials in Brussels are also struck by just how poorly the Russian army has performed so far. Instead of toppling the Ukrainian government at the outset, as Western intelligence sources say Putin had planned, Russian forces are still struggling to take over major cities. They're increasingly relying on artillery and often hitting civilian targets. The United Kingdom's defense intelligence chief, Lt. Gen. Jim Hockenull, said last week Russia is now pursuing a strategy of attrition, which will likely involve more indiscriminate use of firepower and more civilian deaths.

A no-fly zone is still a no-go, but Europe's bolstering defense:

So far, NATO has rejected imposing a no-fly zone for fear it will lead to direct combat between Russia and NATO allies and widen the conflict into a regional war. NATO officials point out that a no-fly zone would not only involve shooting down Russian jets, but also destroying Russian air defense in Ukraine and across the border in Russia. Olga Oliker, the International Crisis Group's program director for Europe and Central Asia, says a no-fly zone doesn't make much strategic sense because the Russians haven't relied much on planes to strike targets.

Europe is more united, but not in lockstep:

Challenges ahead could still test Europe's unified front. So far, there are no reports that the Russians have struck any weapons shipments, but Roland Freudenstein, who runs the Brussels office of Globsec, a think tank, says if and when that happens, a debate among European nations will probably unfold like this: "Shall we continue?" Freudenstein says. "Should we find alternative routes or shall we stop? And I predict there will be countries that say 'now is the time to stop.'" There are also signs of division in the EU over whether to ban imports of Russian oil to weaken Putin's ability to wage war. Hungary has already threatened to block such a move.



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gestures as she arrives at the Palace of Versailles, near Paris, on March 11 for the EU leaders summit to discuss the fallout of Russia's invasion in Ukraine.



Demonstrators stand around a peace sign during a vigil for Ukraine near the European Union headquarters in Brussels on Tuesday. Activists are calling on EU leaders to impose a full ban on Russian fuel.

Ex-prosecutor says Donald Trump is 'guilty of numerous felony violations'

March 24, 2022 · 3:31 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Attorney Mark Pomerantz is shown leaving court in New York on Sept. 8, 2004.

NEW YORK — A prosecutor who had been leading a criminal investigation into Donald Trump before quitting last month said in his resignation letter that he believes the former president is "guilty of numerous felony violations" and he disagreed with the Manhattan district attorney's decision not to seek an indictment.

In the letter, published Wednesday by The New York Times, Mark Pomerantz told District Attorney Alvin Bragg there was "evidence sufficient to establish Mr. Trump's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt" of allegations he falsified financial statements to secure loans and burnish his image as a wealthy businessman.

"The team that has been investigating Mr. Trump harbors no doubt about whether he committed crimes — he did," Pomerantz wrote.

Pomerantz and his former co-leader on the Trump probe, Carey Dunne, resigned on Feb. 23 after clashing with Bragg over the future of the case.

Both were top deputies tasked with running the investigation on a day-to-day basis. Both started on the probe under former District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr., and Bragg asked them to stay when he took office in January. Both Vance and Bragg are Democrats.

In his resignation letter, Pomerantz wrote that Vance had directed his deputies to present evidence to a grand jury and seek an indictment of Trump and other defendants "as soon as reasonably possible." No former president has ever been charged with a crime.

"I believe that your decision not to prosecute Donald Trump now, and on the existing record, is misguided and completely contrary to the public interest," Pomerantz wrote.

Danielle Filson, a spokesperson for Bragg, said in a statement Wednesday night that the investigation into Trump is continuing and that a "team of experienced prosecutors is working every day to follow the facts and the law. There is nothing we can or should say at this juncture about an ongoing investigation."

A message seeking comment was left with Trump's lawyer.

A little wind here, and the atmosphere interacts with the geosphere interacts with the biosphere interacts with the noosphere interacts with culture politics and society, and eventually back into the atmosphere. Huge nonlinear feedback loops. You, **Ralph Abraham** and I are part of a whole system that can't be reduced to separate parts but must be understood as a whole.



“We need to understand whole systems, and whole systems can't be understood by reduction — though the terrific gains in understanding made by the reductionist scientist will have a role to play in understanding whole systems,” explained Ralph. “The technology for modeling whole systems is on the frontier of science at the moment. It's the crucial frontier for solving our crisis.”

Emerging energy partnership threatens US dollar as global reserve currency

The World

Mar. 24, 2022 · 4:43 PM EDT

Carol Hills

Moscow, Beijing, Riyadh and, to some degree, New Delhi are making deals on oil, gas and pipelines that could end up sidelining the dollar as the global reserve currency.



The Russian invasion of Ukraine is revealing a growing energy partnership between Russia, China, Saudi Arabia and India. As Europe and North America seek alternatives to Russian oil and gas, Moscow, Beijing, Riyadh and, to some degree, New Delhi are making deals on oil, gas and pipelines that could end up sidelining the dollar as the global reserve currency. **Host Marco Werman speaks with former Ambassador Michael Gfoeller**, whose State Department career included posts in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iraq, Russia, Armenia, Moldova, Poland and Belgium.



Ambassador Michael Gfoeller and Tatiana C. Gfoeller (née Volkoff)

They have one son, Cpt. Emmanuel Gfoeller, an Army Ranger.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tatiana_C._Gfoeller

<https://www.fdd.org/team/emmanuel-c-gfoeller/>



Carol Hills

Carol Hills was part of the original team that created and launched "The World" in 1996. Currently, she is a producer, occasional reporter and host who proudly calls herself a generalist. Carol is interested in everything from US policy options in Afghanistan to the rise in pet ownership in the Middle East. She also has an interest in global humor (yes, sometimes it actually does translate) and produces a weekly narrated slideshow of political cartoons from around the globe. Over the years, Carol has reported from Cuba, Nigeria, and Vietnam. She was a Knight Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology during 2001-2002 and has a master's degree from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Carol got her journalistic start in Boston on "The Ten O'Clock News" with Christopher Lydon.

Carol Hills is a senior producer and host for The World. She is also the Global Cartoons editor.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roula_Khalaf | https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_with_universal_health_care

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-with-free-college>

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/maternity-leave-by-country>

<https://youtu.be/QC9MJssZWt4>

Feb 10, 2022. **Noam Chomsky:**

28:45 >

Take Bernie Sanders in the United States, he's considered so radical that you can't even contemplate his proposals. **The editor of the Financial Times, world's leading business journal, a couple of months ago observed, this is partially a joke but serious, that if Bernie Sanders is living in Germany, he could be running on the Christian Democrat Program, which is correct.** If you look at his proposals like universal healthcare, nobody questions that in Europe, it's routine. Free higher education. Germany has it, Finland, Mexico has it. Something as simple as maternal leave time for women to be with a baby after it's born, everybody has that. The only countries that don't have it are the United States and a couple of Pacific Islands that are ruled by the United States.

For the United States itself it's an enormous problem. The healthcare system in the United States is a disaster, has the most advanced healthcare in the world, but some of the worst statistics on maternal mortality, infant mortality and many other measures. It is way behind. Its costs are about twice as high as other OECD countries because it's privatized, heavily bureaucratized. You go to an emergency room in the United States, severe problems, first thing you have to do is fill out a ton of forms to determine whether your insurance company's going to cover it or what they'll cover then later it turns out they won't cover it. None of this happens in Europe or most of the world. All of this means that Europe is in a position, has long been a position to play an independent role in world affairs and a constructive role. It's been unwilling to do it for many reasons, but these are becoming very serious problems. Right now Ukraine is the most dramatic example.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parental_leave_in_the_United_States

[#Motherhood_penalty](#)

The US does not have a federal paid maternity and family leave act.

For the majority of US workers at companies with fewer than 50 employees, there is no legal requirement for paid or unpaid leave to care for a new child or recover from childbirth but some US states do require this. That is below the 16-week minimum recommended by the World Health Organization. The United States is the only country among the 38 member Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations that has not passed laws requiring businesses and corporations to offer paid maternity leave to their employees.

- Universal Healthcare
- Free Higher Education
- Maternity Leave



All but 43 of the 195 countries in the world offer free or universal health care. **The United States is still the only country in the developed world without a system of universal healthcare.**

Here are notable countries that are still without universal health care: Syria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, Egypt, South Africa.

Countries With Free College 2022:

Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Morocco, Norway, Panama, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay

More than half, or 56%, of US college students say they can no longer afford their tuition. Jun 4, 2020, CNBC

Why Is College in America So Expensive?

The outrageous price of a U.S. degree is unique in the world. >

<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2018/09/why-is-college-so-expensive-in-america/569884/>

Today, the U.S. spends more on college than almost any other country, according to the 2018 Education at a Glance report, released this week by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). All told, including the contributions of individual families and the government (in the form of student loans, grants, and other assistance), Americans spend about \$30,000 per student a year—nearly twice as much as the average developed country. “The U.S. is in a class of its own,” says Andreas Schleicher, the director for education and skills at the OECD, and he does not mean this as a compliment. **“Spending per student is exorbitant, and it has virtually no relationship to the value that students could possibly get in exchange.”**

Roula Khalaf is a British-Lebanese journalist who is the first female editor of the Financial Times in its 131-year history.

Roula Khalaf



Khalaf in 2018

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Born | Beirut, Lebanon |
| Nationality | Lebanese, British |
| Education | Syracuse University (BA) Columbia University (MIA) |
| Occupation | Journalist and editor |
| Title | Editor, <i>Financial Times</i> |
| Term | 2020– |
| Predecessor | Lionel Barber |
| Spouse(s) | Assaad W. Razzouk |

UK Government Signals Mercenary Group Is On A Mission To Kill Ukrainian Leader Zelenskyy

The British government announced new sanctions on the Wagner Group, believed to be led by a neo-Nazi.

By Sara Boboltz

Mar. 24, 2022, 05:58 PM EDT

The United Kingdom's Foreign Office signaled Thursday that it believes Russia is using **the Wagner Group, a shadowy Kremlin-linked mercenary organization, to hunt down and kill Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy**. Since the start of the war, Zelenskyy has said he is Russia's "No. 1 target," and U.S. officials have voiced repeated concerns about his safety. But the Ukrainian leader has refused to flee his country, choosing instead to stay in Kyiv, the capital, as it continues to ward off a Russian takeover.

The alleged founder and leader of the Wagner Group, Dmitry Utkin, is believed to have Nazi sympathies — an irony if true considering how Russian President Vladimir Putin has justified his aggression in Ukraine by claiming it needs to be "de-Nazified."

British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss announced that the Wagner Group numbered among dozens of individuals and businesses to be newly sanctioned, describing it as "the organisation of Russian mercenaries reportedly tasked with assassinating President Zelenskyy." Also facing sanctions are Alfa Bank, five other financial institutions and a variety of individuals, including Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's stepdaughter, who reportedly lives in a multimillion-dollar London flat. The European Union slapped sanctions on the Wagner Group and other entities accused of funding it back in December, citing serious human rights abuses by members.

Russia says it does not use the mercenary group, which it refers to simply as a private company. According to the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank, that plausible deniability comes in handy: "The Russian government has found Wagner and other private military companies to be useful as a way to extend its influence overseas without the visibility and intrusiveness of state military forces."

European security officials suggested in February that **hundreds of Wagner Group fighters had been trickling into eastern Ukraine to lay the groundwork for the war**, according to The New York Times.

Ukraine's defense ministry said on Sunday that a new group of Wagner mercenaries had entered the country with the aim of targeting the president and other high-ranking Ukrainian officials.

The group's members have experience fighting in countries including Syria and Libya, where they have been linked to war crimes.

Did Franz Ferdinand's Assassination Cause World War I?

The causes of World War I have been debated since it ended. Officially, Germany shouldered much of the blame for the conflict, but a series of factors were involved, including the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand.

ANNETTE MCDERMOTT • UPDATED: AUG 31, 2018 • ORIGINAL: APR 16, 2018



Franz Ferdinand, archduke of Austria, and his wife Sophie riding in an open carriage at Sarajevo shortly before their assassination. (Credit: Henry Guttman/Getty Images)



Census takers went door to door in 2020, as in past years, seeking to make the count as accurate as possible. AP Photo/John Raoux

2020 census miscounted Americans – 4 questions answered

Published: March 25, 2022 8:19am EDT

Aggie Yellow Horse, Arizona State University

The census conducted in the U.S. every 10 years is meant to count everyone. But it doesn't actually count everyone.

The official estimates show that the 2020 census was really very accurate, capturing 99.8% of the nation's residents overall. But the census missed counting 3.3% of Black Americans, 5.6% of American Indians or Alaskan Natives who live on reservations and 5% of people of Hispanic or Latino origin. **This could mean missing about 1.4 million Black Americans; 49,000 American Indians or Alaskan Natives who live on reservations; and 3.3 million people of Hispanic or Latino origin.**

This performance is much worse than in the previous two censuses, when smaller proportions of those populations were missed.



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Participants at a 'Stop Asian Hate' rally in Rochester, N.Y., on April 3, 2021. Shutterstock / Jeremy Gable

Asian American mothers confront multiple crises of pandemic, anti-Asian hate and caregiving

Published: March 25, 2022 8:16am EDT

👤 Miliann Kang, C.N. Le, UMass Amherst

In memory of the Atlanta massage spas shootings on March 16, 2021, that killed eight people, including six Asian women, communities around the country gathered a year later to mourn and demand responses to violence against Asian Americans, especially women who work in service industries.

In addition to being exposed to risks at their workplaces, Asian American women who care for children and elders are especially vulnerable to anti-Asian violence. As sociologists and scholars of gender, race, immigration and Asian American studies, we focus on the particular challenges facing Asian American mothers.

Though they face challenges similar to those faced by other mothers confronting the COVID-19 pandemic, Asian American women have the added burden of being seen as the cause of the virus and being disproportionately targeted by hostility and violence that such misconceptions bring on.

Spike in assaults: From March 2020 to December 2021, StopAAPIHate, a joint project between the Asian American Studies Department of San Francisco State University and two Asian American community organizations, collected reports of almost 11,000 incidents in the U.S. of anti-Asian hate, ranging from spitting to verbal abuse to physical attacks. Women reported 62% of these incidents.

Analysis of the world, from experts: In a separate survey of 2,414 female Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders conducted in January and February 2022 by the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, a national organization founded in 1998 to advocate for women and girls in that community, results show that 74% of respondents reported personally experiencing racism, discrimination or both in the prior 12 months.

Heightened risks: "There's just a real sense of fear," said Jeanie Tung, director of business development and workforce partnerships at Henry Street Settlement. The organization, located near New York City's Chinatown, serves Manhattan's Lower East Side residents and other New Yorkers through social services, arts and health care programs. During an interview, Tung said she has heard from Asian American mothers that their concerns go beyond the lack of child care. "It's more like, 'I don't want to work because I don't want to risk my life,'" said Tung.

Unique challenges: On top of negotiating vaccines, mask mandates, online and in-person learning while trying to sustain their own careers and mental health, Asian American mothers are in a state of hypervigilance against racist attacks. Immediate needs include increased personal safety. Measures such as providing alarms, rides and hotlines, as well as offering classes in self-defense and bystander training, have proved effective.

Education remains key: Asian American studies scholars have sought to teach the history of anti-Asian racism and specifically the roots of racialized sexualization of Asian American women. But backlash against teaching critical race theory underscores the need to expand curriculum on Asian American history and contemporary issues facing Asian Americans beyond the university to K-12 public education. Such initiatives have been proposed in several U.S. states and have become law in Illinois and New Jersey.

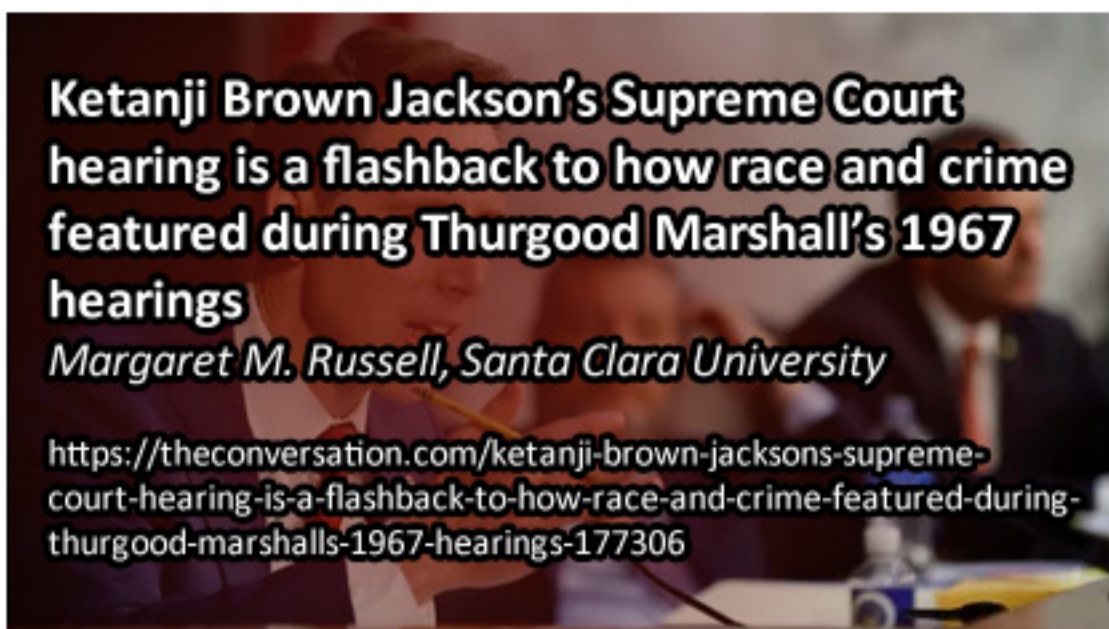
Efforts to support and protect Asian Americans, particularly mothers, require approaches that both respond to the rise in anti-Asian violence at this very troubling moment and recognize the long gendered and racial histories of anti-Asian exclusion.

Putin's United Russia political party opened an office in Mariupol, 6 minutes ago
Federal officials say Russian spies tried to hack into a Kansas nuclear power plant 24 minutes ago
Ukrainian forces say they've regained most of suburban Irpin 33 minutes ago
Russian TV editor will reportedly face a fine for her on-air protest 1 hour ago
A visit to Ukraine's largest children's hospital brings the war's human toll into focus 1 hour ago
A Russian air strike may have killed 300 sheltering in a theater 2 hours ago

UNTANGLING DISINFORMATION

Hawley's attacks on Ketanji Brown Jackson fuel a surge in online conspiracy chatter

The far-right internet only began to obsess about Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson after a series of tweets from Sen. Josh Hawley echoed themes used by conspiracy theorists.



Ketanji Brown Jackson's Supreme Court hearing is a flashback to how race and crime featured during Thurgood Marshall's 1967 hearings

Margaret M. Russell, Santa Clara University

<https://theconversation.com/ketanji-brown-jacksons-supreme-court-hearing-is-a-flashback-to-how-race-and-crime-featured-during-thurgood-marshalls-1967-hearings-177306>

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POLITICS

Ginni Thomas reportedly pressed Trump's chief of staff on overturning the election



UNTANGLING DISINFORMATION

How the false Russian biolab story came to circulate among the U.S. far right

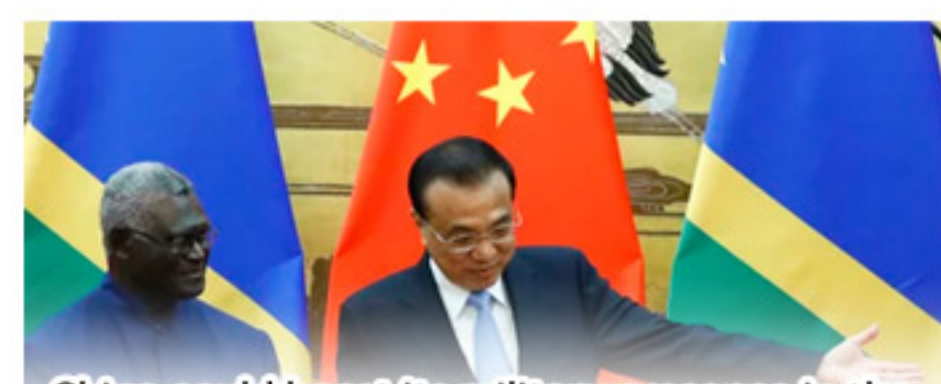


Claire Harbage/NPR

THE PICTURE SHOW

Meet the Russians who are fleeing — not the war, but their own government

Thousands of Russians have left their country since their government began its invasion of Ukraine. Many have settled in Georgia, a country with a complicated history with its neighbor to the north.



China could boost its military presence in the Solomon Islands, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. would all be "very concerned". Biden tells China's Xi of the implications of assisting Russia in call.

The Dnieper (/dˈniːpər/; Russian: Днепр, Днепр) or Dniro (/dniːˈproʊ/; Ukrainian: Дніпро) is one of the major rivers of Europe, rising in the Valdai Hills near Smolensk, Russia, before flowing through Belarus and Ukraine to the Black Sea. It is the longest river of Ukraine and Belarus and the fourth-longest river in Europe, after the Volga, Danube, and Ural rivers. The total length is approximately 2,200 km (1,400 mi)^[2] with a drainage basin of 504,000 square kilometres (195,000 sq mi).

In antiquity, the river was part of the Amber Road trade routes. During The Ruin, the area was contested between the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth and Russia, dividing Ukraine into areas described by its right and left banks. During the Soviet period, the river became noted for its major hydroelectric dams and large reservoirs. The 1986 Chernobyl disaster occurred on the Pripjat immediately above that tributary's confluence with the Dnieper. The Dnieper is an important navigable waterway for the economy of Ukraine and is connected by the Dnieper–Bug Canal to other waterways in Europe.

The Don (Russian: Дон, IPA: [don]) is the fifth-longest river in Europe. Flowing from Central Russia to the Sea of Azov in the Caucasus, it is one of Russia's largest rivers and played an important role for traders from the Byzantine Empire.

Its basin is between the Dnieper basin to the west, the lower Volga basin immediately to the east, and the Oka basin (tributary of the Volga) to the north. Native to much of the basin were Slavic nomads.^[1]

The Don rises in the town of Novomoskovsk 60 kilometres (37 mi) southeast of Tula (in turn 193 kilometres (120 mi) south of Moscow), and flows 1,870 kilometres to the Sea of Azov. The river's upper half ribbles (meanders subtly) south however its lower half consists of a great eastern curve, including Voronezh, making its final stretch, an estuary, run west south-west. The main city on the river is Rostov-on-Don. Its main tributary is the Seversky Donets, centred on the mid-eastern end of Ukraine, thus the other country in the overall basin. To the east of a series of three great ship locks and associated ponds is the 101-kilometre (63 mi) Volga-Don Canal.

What river goes through Kyiv? The Dnieper River. Kiev is built on the banks of the Dnieper River, which runs north to south through the center of Ukraine and into the Black Sea. The curving river meanders through the city, and once outside, it widens to a width of 1.6 kilometres (1 mile).

Which way does the Don flow? Southerly. It flows generally in a southerly direction for a total distance of 1,162 miles (1,870 kilometres), draining a basin of some 163,000 square miles (422,000 square kilometres), before it enters the Gulf of Taganrog in the Sea of Azov. It lies between the Volga River to the east and the Dnieper River to the west.



The Dnieper River in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, Ukraine



Dnieper River drainage basin

Native name Днепр (Russian)
Дняпро (Belarusian)
Дніпро (Ukrainian)



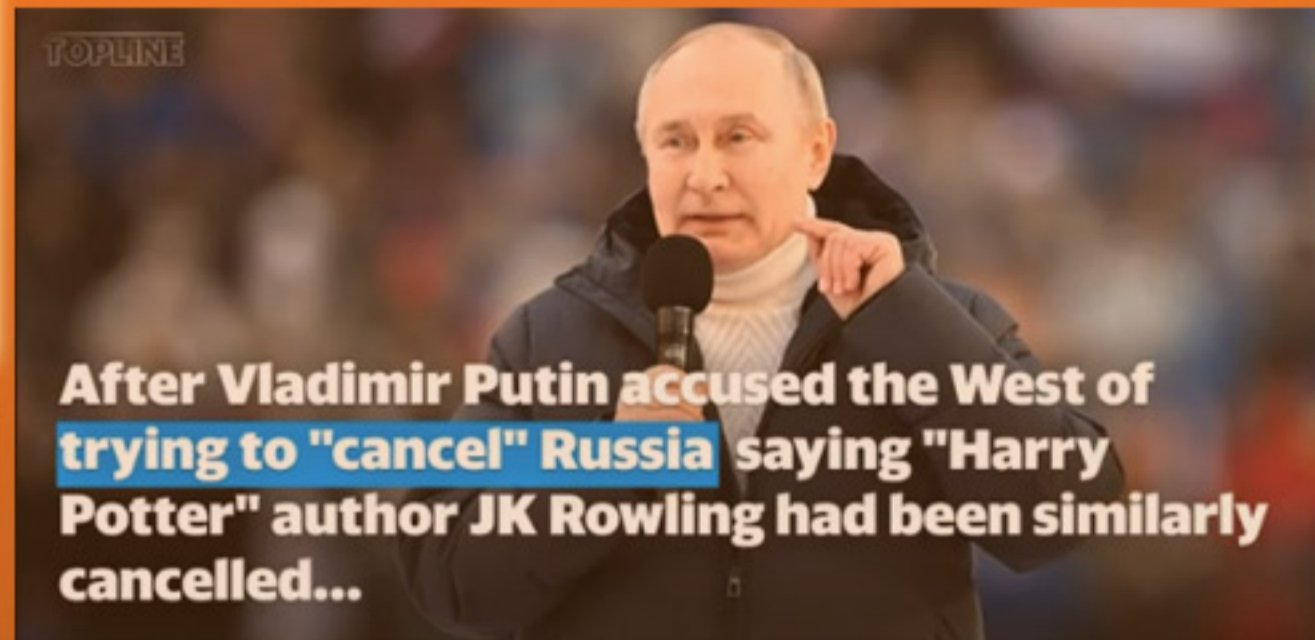
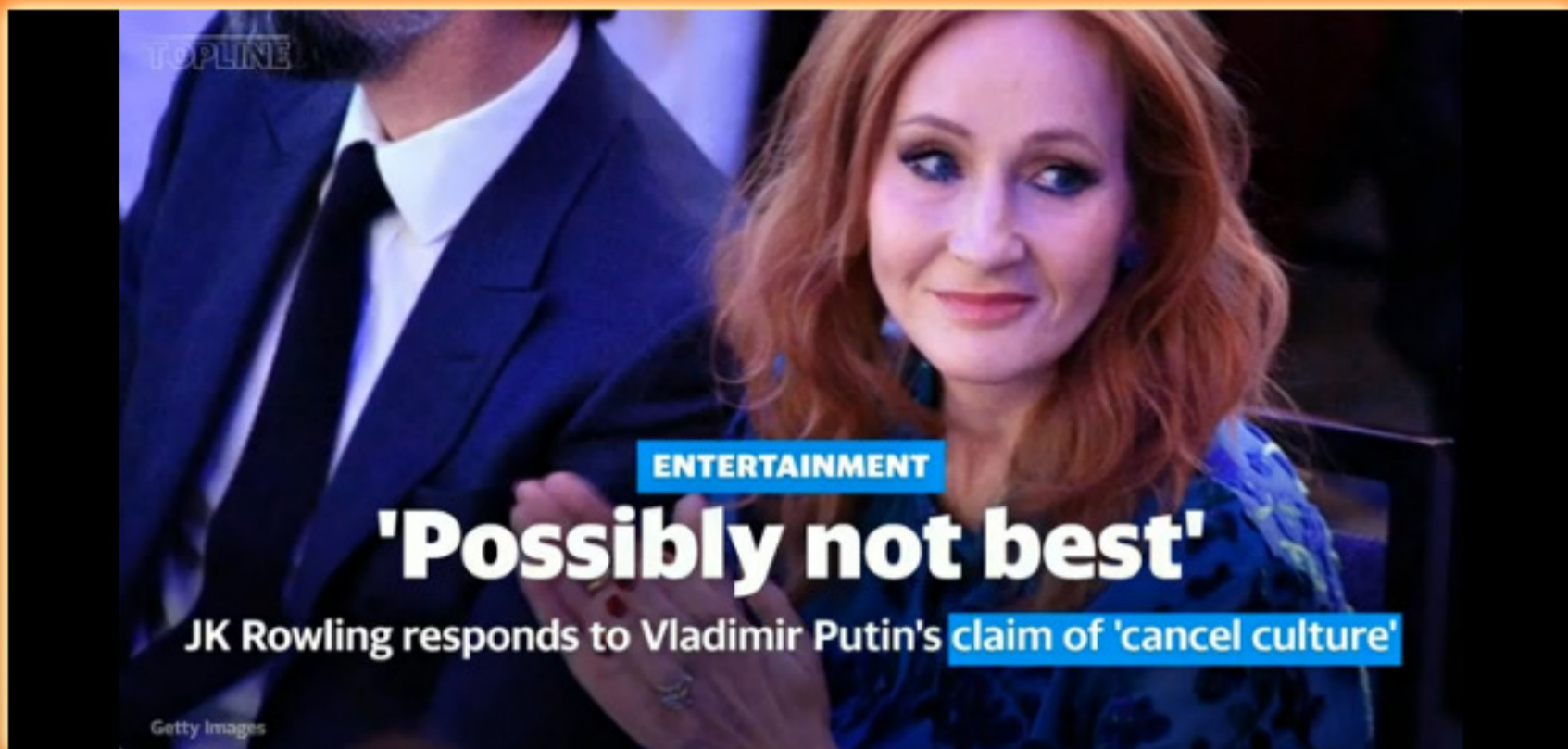
The Don in Voronezh Oblast.



Catchment of the Don

Native name Дон (Russian)

The Sea of Azov is connected to the Black Sea by the narrow Strait of Kerch, and is sometimes regarded as a northern extension of the Black Sea. The sea is bounded by Russia on the southeast and by Ukraine on the northwest.

A screenshot of a tweet from the account @jk_rowling. The tweet text is: **Critiques of Western cancel culture are possibly not best made by those currently slaughtering civilians for the crime of resistance, or who jail and poison their critics. #IStandWithUkraine**. The date of the tweet is Mar 25, 2022. The Twitter logo is visible next to the handle. A 'TOPLINE' logo is in the top left corner of the screenshot area. At the bottom left of the screenshot, it says 'Twitter @jk_rowling'.

Experts worry about how US will see next COVID surge coming

By MIKE STOBBE 52 minutes ago



Firefighters from the Marins-Pompiers of Marseille extract samples of sewage water at a retirement home in Marseille, southern France, Thursday Jan. 14, 2021, to trace concentrations of COVID-19 and the highly contagious variant that has been discovered in Britain. As coronavirus infections rise in some parts of the world, experts are watching for a potential new COVID-19 surge in the U.S. — and wondering how long it will take to detect. (AP Photo/Daniel Cole)

NEW YORK (AP) — As coronavirus infections rise in some parts of the world, experts are watching for a potential new COVID-19 surge in the U.S. — and wondering how long it will take to detect.

Despite disease monitoring improvements over the last two years, they say, some recent developments don't bode well:

—As more people take rapid COVID-19 tests at home, fewer people are getting the gold-standard tests that the government relies on for case counts.

—The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will soon use fewer labs to look for new variants.

—Health officials are increasingly focusing on hospital admissions, which rise only after a surge has arrived.

—A wastewater surveillance program remains a patchwork that cannot yet be counted on for the data needed to understand coming surges.

—White House officials say the government is running out of funds for vaccines, treatments and testing.

If the federal government lifts its public health emergency declaration, officials will lose the ability to compel hospitals to report COVID-19 data, a group of former CDC directors recently wrote. They urged Congress to pass a law that will provide enduring authorities “so we will not risk flying blind as health threats emerge.”

US, EU sign data transfer deal to ease privacy concerns

By KELVIN CHAN and CHRIS MEGERIAN 36 minutes ago



President Joe Biden listens as European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen speaks about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, at the U.S. Mission in Brussels, Friday, March 25, 2022, in Brussels.

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union and United States made a breakthrough in their yearslong battle over the privacy of data that flows across the Atlantic with a preliminary agreement Friday that paves the way for Europeans' personal information to be stored in the U.S.

President Joe Biden and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced the deal during Biden's stop in Brussels while on a European tour amid Russia's war in Ukraine.

Business groups hailed the announcement, saying it will provide relief to thousands of companies, including tech giants like Google and Facebook, that faced uncertainty over their ability to send data between the U.S. and Europe, which has much stricter regulations on data privacy. Data may be related to employees or customers and users, and companies use it for all types of online advertising, purchases and communications.

The agreement came hours after EU officials agreed on sweeping new digital rules to rein in the power of big tech companies such as Facebook and Google.

EU officials agreed late Thursday on wording for the bloc's **Digital Markets Act**, part of a long-awaited overhaul of its digital rulebook. The act, which still needs other approvals, seeks to prevent tech giants from dominating digital markets, with the threat of whopping fines or even the possibility of a company breakup.

The Digital Markets Act (DMA) is a legislative proposal under consideration by the European Commission.[1] The DMA intends to ensure a higher degree of competition in the European Digital Markets, by preventing large companies from abusing their market power and by allowing new players to enter the market.[2] It establishes a list of obligations for designated Gatekeepers and in case of non-compliance, there will be enforced sanctions mechanisms, including fines of up to 10% of the worldwide turnover. This regulation targets the largest digital platforms operating in the European Union. They are also known as "Gatekeepers" due to the "durable" market position in some digital sectors and because they also meet certain criteria related to the number of users, their turnovers, or capitalisation. Even if the list of Gatekeepers has not been released yet, the "Big Tech" - GAFAM (Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, Microsoft) - are likely to be the main subjects of the act, but not the only ones.

The list of obligations includes prohibitions on combining data collected from two different services belonging to the same company (for example Facebook and WhatsApp[5]); provisions for the protection of platforms' business users (including advertisers and publishers); legal instruments against the self-preferencing methods used by platforms for promoting their own products (preferential results for Google's products when using Google Search[6]); articles concerning the pre-installation of some services (Google Android[7]); regulation related to bundling practices; provisions for ensuring interoperability, portability, and access to data for businesses and end-users of platforms.

The proposal has been submitted by the European Commission to the European Parliament and to the Council of the European Union on 15 December 2020. By 24 March 2022, the European Parliament reached an agreement on the DMA, setting it to be enacted by the member states. This proposal is not expected to be implemented until 2023, as it has to be approved by the European Parliament and the Council.



Noam Chomsky: 'Republican Party has drifted off the spectrum' | UpFront

82,491 views • Feb 4, 2022

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Knights of Labor labor movement

Noam Chomsky > 20:36: you take a look at the great labor movement of the 19th century Knights of Labor enormous labor movement, bitterly opposed to industrial capitalism. their first organizing effort first one was in louisiana, black workers working in the cotton fields they'd been driven back to something virtually like slavery. so the Knights of Labor began to organize among them was very successful black and white organizing together, local officials local people and in this town in louisiana Thibodaux, Louisiana they heard about it, they organized militias, called in the state troopers, carried out a huge massacre. we don't even know how many people were killed because nobody even could check... thing was devastated to try to block this black white organizing effort brutal vicious massacre. well that was the first, went on and many others goes on in many other ways i'd go back to my childhood the early 1930s, the labor movement was reviving CIO was organizing industrial workers, black and white workers were working together when they were joined in the labor action the ethnic race conflicts dissolved just as in the early efforts of the Knights of Labor. the employer wants to stop that always.

This week in an UpFront special, Marc Lamont Hill speaks with Noam Chomsky about the state of democracy in the US.

Marc Lamont Hill > 0:36 > professor chomsky thank you so much for joining us on upfront. here in the united states professor you have talked about how 90% of the population is basically not represented by political leaders due to concentrated wealth and private power determining the outcomes of elections. 34 laws restricting access to voting were passed in 2021 alone. do we have a real democracy here in the united states?

Noam Chomsky > 1:04 > we have a mixed form of democracy in some respects the united states is quite advanced. i don't think there's any country that protects freedom of speech to the extent that the united states does, if you're moderately privileged you're secure, safe from state authority and so on. on the other hand the political system does not represent the population. there are extensive studies in academic political science mainstream which ask a very simple question: "what's the relation between people's attitudes and opinions and the votes of their own representatives?" straightforward, turns out that for a large majority of the population -- by some studies up to 90 percent there's essentially no correlation! their representatives are listening to different voices and that's understandable, if you're elected to the house of representatives the first thing you have to do is get on the telephone and make sure that the donors will be ready, ready to finance your next election. other studies have shown that the you can predict election electability with very high precision simply by looking at things like concentrated strategic campaign funding the while the legislators calling the donors the the legislators office is being flooded with corporate lawyers, representatives of investment firms overwhelming the staff with huge amounts of materials and ends up with them pretty much writing the legislation, which the legislator then signs. now this is a bit of a caricature but not too much. something like that is essentially the way much of the system operates. so it's a it's a democracy in many respects a lot of freedom, but the representative system is constrained.

Marc Lamont Hill > 3:58 > another thing that comes up in addition to the kind of constraints around the electoral system influence power money all the things that you're speaking is the actual preservation of voting rights. there have been efforts to pass some reforms on voting rights lately in the united states most recently the freedom to vote act and the john lewis voting rights advancement act these would have restored vital voter protections they, would prevent districts from changing voting laws in a way that systematically disenfranchises minority populations both bills killed in the senate can you explain how voter suppression and disenfranchisement are predominantly impacting minorities in the united states and why voting rights which are a pillar of democracy could be under attack in the 21st century?

Noam Chomsky > 4:49 > first of all the united states used to have two political parties democrats and republicans. from another point of view they were two factions of the same party -- the business party. the business world is overwhelmingly dominant in both of them. nevertheless they were they have been somewhat different with some overlap in the last 30 - 40 years. one of these the Republican party has simply drifted off the spectrum, it's not a political party in the traditional sense, about 10 years ago. two leading political analysts for the conservative American Enterprise Institute -- Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein wrote an article in which they described the republican party of 10 years ago as, in their words, "a radical insurgency that has abandoned any interest in participation in parliamentary politics."

Marc Lamont Hill > 6:05 > what do you think causes this radical departure from the values and the position that the republican party was in even 10 years ago much less 30 or 40. there's always been an ideological difference in divergence but as you said they seem to have fallen off the map almost by over the last 10 years why?

Noam Chomsky > 6:24 > this goes back to Richard Nixon actually. 50 years ago nixon who was intelligent statesman understood that the republicans who are more oriented than the democrats towards corporate power and private wealth cannot win elections on their own programs -- you can't approach the electorate and saying, 'i want to stab you in the back, enrich the rich and empower the corporate sector.' it doesn't work, so they had to turn to other issues. what are called cultural issues. **Nixon began it with what was called ***the southern strategy*****. democrats had been supporting johnson's civil rights acts that caused great resentment among the deeply racist southern democrats. nixon recognized that by hinting --you didn't have to say it in words -- but by hinting that the republicans would become the white supremacist party he could win over the southern democrats. that was a southern strategy, worked pretty well but then they moved to other issues. by the mid 70s republican strategists recognized that if they pretended -- I stress pretended -- to be opposed to abortion they could win the huge evangelical vote, 25% of the population and northern catholics, so they all switched on a dime. reagan, george h.w bush had always been what we call pro-choice but all of a sudden they became passionately anti-abortion ...next to guns and next other things. trump was extreme, he carried this, this is after the commentary that I mentioned on the radical insurgency, but trump quite brilliantly was able to tap the poisons that run right below the surface in american society, they're racist.

Knights of Labor (K of L), officially Noble and Holy Order of the Knights of Labor, was an American labor federation active in the late 19th century, especially the 1880s. It operated in the United States as well in Canada,[1] and had chapters also in Great Britain and Australia.[2] Its most important leader was Terence V. Powderly. The Knights promoted the social and cultural uplift of the worker, and demanded the eight-hour day. In some cases it acted as a labor union, negotiating with employers, but it was never well organized or funded. It was notable in its ambition to organize across lines of gender and race and in the inclusion of both skilled and unskilled labor. After a rapid expansion in the mid-1880s, it suddenly lost its new members and became a small operation again. The Knights of Labor had served, however, as the first mass organization of the working class of the United States.

It was founded by Uriah Stephens on December 28, 1869,[4] reached 28,000 members in 1880, then jumped to 100,000 in 1884. By 1886, 20% of all workers were affiliated, nearly 800,000 members.[5] Its frail organizational structure could not cope as it was battered by charges of failure and violence and calumnies of the association with the Haymarket Square riot. Most members abandoned the movement in 1886–1887, leaving at most 100,000 in 1890. Many opted to join groups that helped to identify their specific needs, instead of the KOL which addressed many different types of issues.[5] The Panic of 1893 terminated the Knights of Labor's importance.[6] Remnants of the Knights of Labor continued in existence until 1949, when the group's last 50-member local dropped its affiliation.

The Knights of Labor helped to bring together many different types of people from all different walks of life...

About 50 African-American sugar-cane laborers organized by the Knights went on strike and were murdered by strikebreakers in the 1887 Thibodaux massacre in Louisiana.

The Thibodaux Massacre was an episode of racial violence that occurred in Thibodaux, Louisiana on November 23, 1887. It followed a three-week strike during the critical harvest season in which an estimated 10,000 workers protested against the living and working conditions which existed on sugar cane plantations in four parishes: Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary, and Assumption.

The strike was the largest strike in the history of the industry and it was also the first strike to be conducted by a formal labor organization, the Knights of Labor. At planters' requests, the state sent the militia to protect strikebreakers from ambush attacks by strikers, and work resumed on some plantations. Black workers and their families were evicted from plantations in Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes and retreated to Thibodaux.

Tensions erupted into violence on November 23, 1887, and local white paramilitary forces responded to an ambush of town guards by attacking black workers and their families. Although the total number of casualties is unknown, the consensus is that least 35 black people were killed during the next three days (some historians estimate that 50 black people were killed) and the total tally of killed, wounded, and missing was rumored to number in the hundreds, which makes it one of the most violent labor disputes in U.S. history. Reportedly, the victims included elders, women and children. All of the people who were killed were African American.

The massacre, and the passage of discriminatory state legislation by white Democrats, including the disenfranchisement of most blacks, ended the organizing of sugar workers for decades, until the 1940s. According to historian John C. Rodrigue, "The defeated sugar workers returned to the plantations on their employers' terms."

Knights of Labor

<https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/knights-of-labor>

HISTORY.COM EDITORS • OCT 7, 2021



Southern strategy

In American politics, **the Southern strategy** was a Republican Party electoral strategy to increase political support among white voters in the South by appealing to racism against African Americans.[1][2][3] As the civil rights movement and dismantling of Jim Crow laws in the 1950s and 1960s visibly deepened existing racial tensions in much of the Southern United States, Republican politicians such as presidential candidate Richard Nixon and Senator Barry Goldwater developed strategies that successfully contributed to the political realignment of many white, conservative voters in the South who had traditionally supported the Democratic Party rather than the Republican Party. It also helped to push the Republican Party much more to the right relative to the 1950s.

The phrase "Southern Strategy" refers primarily to "top down" narratives of the political realignment of the South which suggest that Republican leaders consciously appealed to many white Southerners' racial grievances in order to gain their support.[5] This top-down narrative of the Southern Strategy is generally believed to be the primary force that transformed Southern politics following the civil rights era. It is generally believed that racial conservatism was critical in the post-Civil Rights Act realignment of the Republican and Democratic parties.[Several aspects of this view have been debated by some historians and political scientists.

The perception that the Republican Party had served as the "vehicle of white supremacy in the South," particularly during the Goldwater campaign and the presidential elections of 1968 and 1972, made it difficult for the Republican Party to win back the support of black voters in the South in later years.[4] In 2005, Republican National Committee chairman Ken Mehlman formally apologized to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for exploiting racial polarization to win elections and ignoring the black vote.

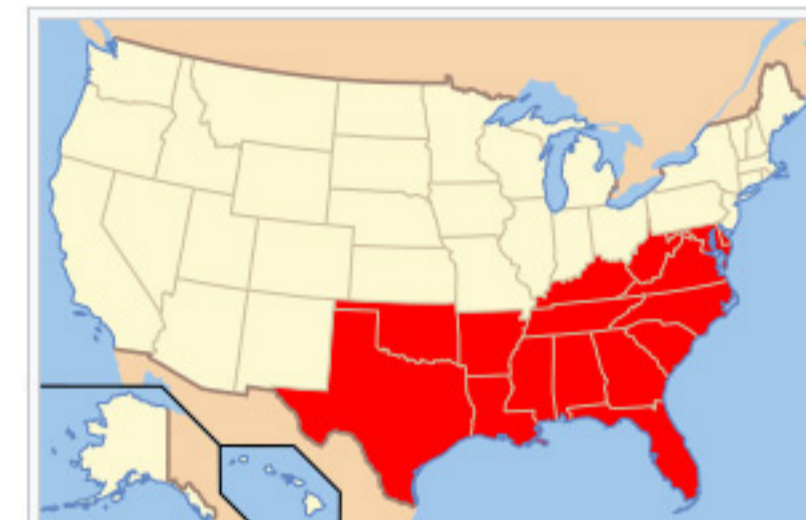
Although the phrase "Southern Strategy" is often attributed to Nixon's political strategist Kevin Phillips, he did not originate it, but popularized it. In an interview included in a 1970 New York Times article, Phillips stated his analysis based on studies of ethnic voting:

From now on, the Republicans are never going to get more than 10 to 20 percent of the Negro vote and they don't need any more than that... but Republicans would be shortsighted if they weakened enforcement of the Voting Rights Act. The more Negroes who register as Democrats in the South, the sooner the Negrophobe whites will quit the Democrats and become Republicans. That's where the votes are. Without that prodding from the blacks, the whites will backslide into their old comfortable arrangement with the local Democrats.

While Phillips sought to increase Republican power by polarizing ethnic voting in general, and not just to win the white South, the South was by far the biggest prize yielded by his approach. Its success began at the presidential level. Gradually, Southern voters began to elect Republicans to Congress and finally to state-wide and local offices, particularly as some legacy segregationist Democrats retired or switched to the GOP. In addition, the Republican Party worked for years to develop grassroots political organizations across the South, supporting candidates for local school boards and city and county offices as examples, but following the Watergate scandal Southern voters came out in support for the "favorite son" candidate, Southern Democrat Jimmy Carter.



Richard Nixon campaigning in 1968



The Southern United States as defined by the Census Bureau

From 1948 to 1984, the Southern states, for decades a stronghold for the Democrats, became key swing states, providing the popular vote margins in the 1960, 1968 and 1976 elections. During this era, several Republican candidates expressed support for states' rights, a reversal of the position held by Republicans prior to the Civil War. Some political analysts said this term was used in the 20th century as a "code word" to represent opposition to federal enforcement of civil rights for blacks and to federal intervention on their behalf; many individual southerners had opposed passage of the Voting Rights Act.

In the mid-1990s, the Republican Party made major attempts to court African American voters, believing that the strength of religious values within the African American community and the growing number of affluent and middle-class African Americans would lead this group increasingly to support Republican candidates. In general, these efforts did not significantly increase African American support for the Republican Party. Few African Americans voted for George W. Bush and other national Republican candidates in the 2004 elections, although he attracted a higher percentage of black voters than had any GOP candidate since Ronald Reagan. In his article "The Race Problematic, the Narrative of Martin Luther King Jr., and the Election of Barack Obama", Dr. Rickey Hill argued that Bush implemented his own Southern Strategy by exploiting "the denigration of the liberal label to convince white conservatives to vote for him. **Bush's appeal was to the same racist tropes that had been used since the Goldwater and Nixon days.**"

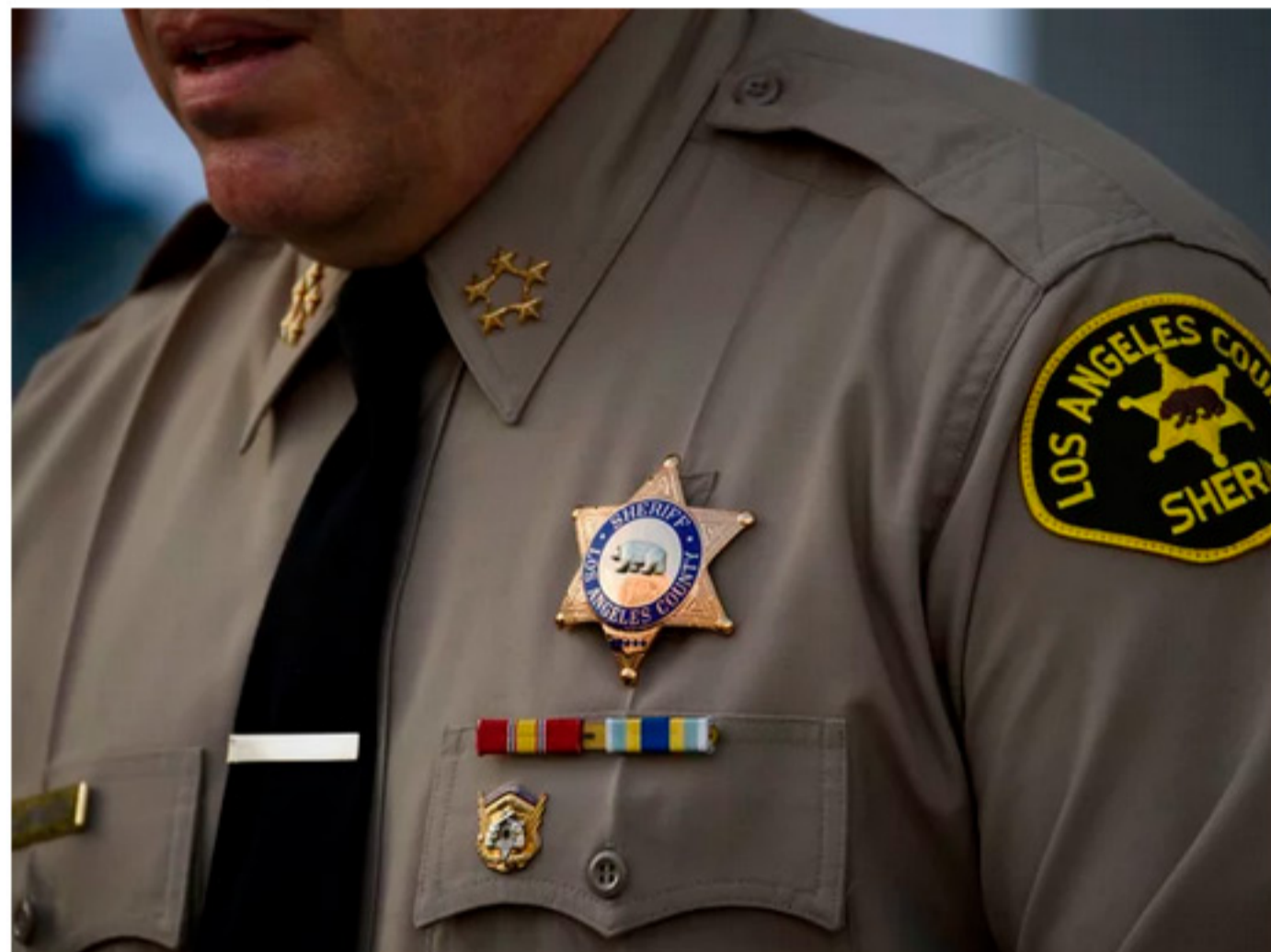
Following Bush's re-election, Ken Mehlman, Bush's campaign manager and Chairman of the Republican National Committee, held several large meetings in 2005 with African American business, community and religious leaders. In his speeches, he apologized for his party's use of the Southern Strategy in the past. When asked about the strategy of using race as an issue to build GOP dominance in the once-Democratic South, Mehlman replied,

Republican candidates often have prospered by ignoring black voters and even by exploiting racial tensions [...] by the '70s and into the '80s and '90s, the Democratic Party solidified its gains in the African-American community, and we Republicans did not effectively reach out. Some Republicans gave up on winning the African-American vote, looking the other way or trying to benefit politically from racial polarization. I am here today as the Republican chairman to tell you we were wrong.

Alleged gangs in the LA Sheriff's Department to be investigated by oversight panel

March 25, 2022 · 6:45 PM ET

JACLYN DIAZ



Sheriff Alex Villanueva of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. At least 41 Los Angeles County deputies have been identified as being tattooed members of the Banditos or Executioners gangs, according to the county's inspector general.

Last year, journalist Cerise Castle authored an investigation into gangs within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. She detailed the long history of these gangs and how prevalent they still are in Los Angeles, in an investigative series published by Knock LA. **"There are at least 18 gangs within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department," according to the investigation, and they are allegedly tied to the deaths of at least 19 people, all of whom were men of color.** Castle's reporting includes a database of names of deputies reportedly involved in these gangs. The department did not speak to the journalism outlet for the series.

This week, the civilian oversight board charged with keeping tabs on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) announced it's launching an investigation into the prevalence of deputy gangs within the department. The announcement of the committee's investigation comes roughly a year after Knock LA published Castle's investigation.

The announcement of the committee's investigation comes roughly a year after Knock LA published Castle's investigation. "It was quite a full-circle moment for me to see that an independent investigation into these deputy gangs is being pursued," Castle told NPR of the news. Since her project was released, Castle said, she has seen multiple occasions where LASD deputies, along with the gangs they are a part of, "take egregious actions" against civilians in LA. "Many stories do not make it into the news," she said. Her investigations into LASD deputy gangs continue.

These kinds of gangs have created decades of problems within the department and with how it deals with the citizens of Los Angeles, according to the civilian oversight board. Those problems include claims of discrimination, excessive force and even murder. "Deputy gangs have fostered and promoted excessive force against citizens, discriminated against other deputies based on race and gender, and undermined the chain of command and discipline," said Sean Kennedy, the commission's chair, in a statement. "Despite years of documented history of this issue, the Department has failed to eliminate the gangs."

Sheriff Alex Villanueva wrote on Facebook that inquiries into his department over alleged gangs are just a "fishing expedition" and "political theater." He wrote, "Not one elected official, or their political appointees, have provided me even one name" of a deputy involved in gangs.

The investigation is set to take five to six months to complete. The commission aims to determine which stations these gangs operate out of, as well as the scope and impact these groups have had on the communities that deputies are meant to protect. The county's inspector general also launched an investigation into the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department this year.

In a letter sent to Villanueva, LA County Inspector General Max Huntsman demanded documents from the department that are still owed to investigators. In this letter, Huntsman said **at least 41 Los Angeles County deputies have been identified as being tattooed members of the Banditos or Executioners gangs.**

California law requires that law enforcement agencies maintain a policy prohibiting such "law enforcement gangs." Yet numerous reports have shown the existence of these deputy gangs within the county's sheriff's department.

California's legislature has defined law enforcement gangs as "peace officers within a law enforcement agency who may identify themselves by a name and may be associated with an identifying symbol, including, but not limited to, matching tattoos." Lawmakers have said the problem appears to be most prolific in the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.



When Carl Bergstrom worked on plans to prepare the United States for a hypothetical pandemic, in the early 2000s, he and his colleagues were worried vaccines might not get to those who needed them most. “We thought the problem would be to keep people from putting up barricades and stopping the truck and taking all the vaccines off it, giving them to each other,” he recalls.

When COVID-19 arrived, things played out quite differently. One-quarter of U.S. adults remain unvaccinated against a virus that has killed more than 1 million Americans. “Our ability to convince people that this was a vaccine that was going to save a lot of lives and that everyone needed to take was much, much worse than most of us imagined,” Bergstrom says.

He is convinced this catastrophic failure can be traced to social media networks and their power to spread false information—in this case about vaccines—far and fast. “Bullshit” is Bergstrom’s umbrella term for the falsehoods that propagate online—both misinformation, which is spread inadvertently, and disinformation, designed to spread falsehoods deliberately.

An evolutionary biologist at the University of Washington (UW), Seattle, Bergstrom has studied the evolution of cooperation and communication in animals, influenza pandemics, and the best ways to rank scientific journals. But over the past 5 years, he has become more and more interested in how “bullshit” spreads through our information ecosystem. He started fighting it before COVID-19 emerged—through a popular book, a course he gives at UW’s Center for an Informed Public, and, ironically, a vigorous presence on social media—but the pandemic underscored how persuasive and powerful misinformation is, he says.

“Misinformation has reached crisis proportions,” Bergstrom and his UW colleague Jevin West wrote in a 2021 paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). “It poses a risk to international peace, interferes with democratic decision-making, endangers the well-being of the planet, and threatens public health.” In another PNAS paper, Bergstrom and others issued a call to arms for researchers to study misinformation and learn how to stop it.

Bergstrom realizes his battle against misinformation is a Sisyphean task. He likes to quote Brandolini’s law, which says “the amount of energy needed to refute bullshit is an order of magnitude larger than is needed to produce it.” Tufekci concurs. “I like Carl’s stuff. I benefit from following him and I’m sure the people who follow him benefit from following him,” she says. “But the societal solution is not to need Carl.”

Carl Bergstrom, a birding enthusiast who in the past studied animal communication, looks at social media through an evolutionary lens. MEGAN FARMER



Replying to @CT_Bergstrom
We in the infectious disease epidemiology world spent decades preparing for a crisis like this, but were never imagining that we'd be fighting on two fronts, the virus on one and this sort of hyper-partisan disinformation on the other.

11:49 AM · Mar 26, 2020

448 Reply Copy link



Our unequal earth

'I don't know how we'll survive': the farmers facing ruin in Maine's 'forever chemicals' crisis

Maine faces a crisis from PFAS-contaminated produce, which is causing farms to close and farmers to face the loss of their livelihoods

by [Tom Perkins](#) with photographs by Tristan Spinski

📷 Fred Stone, a third-generation dairy farmer, is co-owner of Stoneridge Farm in Maine.

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a class of about 9,000 compounds used to make products heat-, water- or stain-resistant. Known as "forever chemicals" because they don't naturally break down, they have been linked to cancer, thyroid disruption, liver problems, birth defects, immunosuppression and more. Dozens of industries use PFAS in thousands of consumer products, and often discharge the chemicals into the nation's sewer system. Sludge is a by-product of the wastewater treatment process that's a mix of human excrement and any number of more than 90,000 human-made chemicals or substances discharged from industry's pipes. "It's a toxic soup," said Laura Orlando, a Boston University civil engineer who studies sludge contamination. Sludge is expensive to landfill but as human excrement holds nitrogen, phosphorus and other plant nutrients, it's often lightly treated, marketed as "biosolids" and sold or given to farmers who view it as a cost-saving fertilizer. Maine's unfolding crisis is prompting fresh calls to ban the practice and PFAS. In July, the state's government became the world's first to approve a near ban of PFAS, and a proposal to prohibit biosolids that haven't been tested for PFAS is moving through the Maine legislature. Meanwhile, farmers in financial ruin are demanding an aid package including immediate emergency relief funds, funding to help them move to a new income source and lifelong health monitoring. "It's going to be expensive but the state signed these sludge licenses and we can't wait," Nordell said. "Our businesses are in limbo right now, our lives are in limbo." "Everything is at stake"

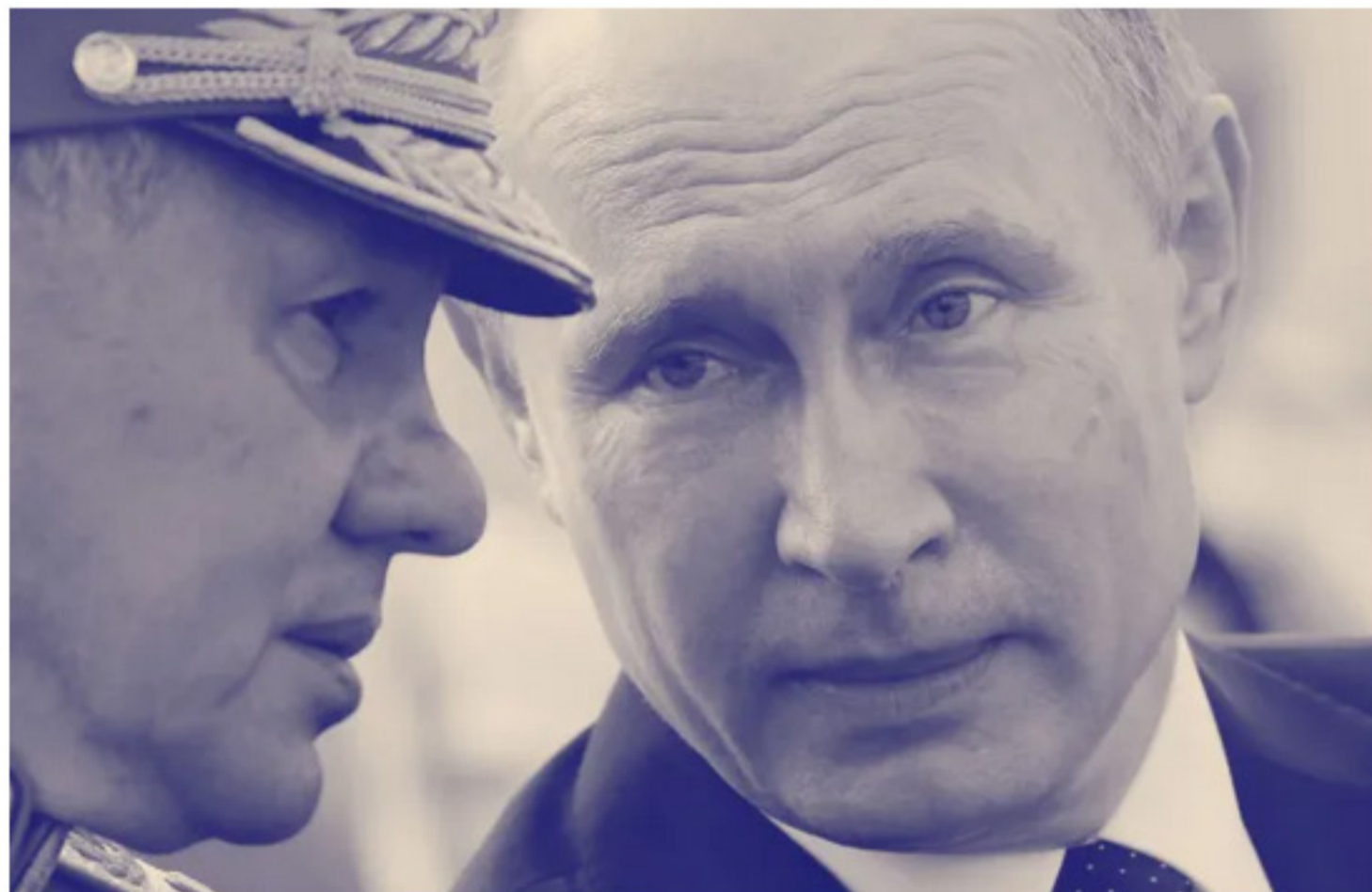
In the meantime, farmers struggle. Stoneridge killed most of its livestock in 2019. Co-owner Fred Stone was denied federal assistance for his tainted milk because one of its milk tests came in just below the state's limit, but Stone didn't feel comfortable selling it. Now his family of four, which believes PFAS is behind their health ailments from thyroid disease to reproductive problems, survives on welfare and friends' and family's generosity. Stone said he could have continued to sell contaminated food: "This is the cost of having a moral compass and doing the right thing." "I don't know how we are going to get debts paid," he added. "I don't know how the Christ we are going to live. I don't know how we're going to survive."

THE PURGES IN PUTIN'S SHRINKING INNER CIRCLE

The frustrated Russian leader has punished officials for misjudging the invasion of Ukraine. But ordinary citizens remain in the dark.

By Isaac Chotiner

March 22, 2022



The Russian Minister of Defense, Sergey Shoigu, at left, is one of the few officials Putin trusts, and has played a leading role in the invasion of Ukraine. Photograph by Alexander Zemlianichenko / AFP / Getty

I recently spoke by phone with Andrei Soldatov, an investigative journalist and an expert on the Russian state's intelligence apparatus. Currently in London, Soldatov—along with Irina Borogan—has written “The Compatriots: The Brutal and Chaotic History of Russia’s Exiles, Émigrés, and Agents Abroad”; the pair also founded and edits the Web site Agentura.ru, which reports on Russia’s security services. (On Sunday, the site was blocked in the Russian Federation.)

When we read about Russia ten or so years ago, obviously Putin was the most powerful person. But it did feel like there were all these different power centers, whether it was friendly oligarchs or whether it was the security services. What are those other power centers that still exist, whose opinion will be important to keeping the war going and keeping Putin in power? Or do you think that basically there are almost no other power centers?

Now it's completely changed because of the sanctions. What happened is that Russian oligarchs, many of them, lost their contracts in the West, and Putin was really smart about offering them financial help by providing military contracts. So you had some people who own huge enterprises producing metal, engines, this kind of thing, and they lost their contracts in the U.S. and in Europe. All of a sudden, now they had something of a problem, but because of the sanctions and because the military-industrial complex is getting bigger, they got this military contract. And that made many of the oligarchs much more dependent on the state funding.

And not just some state funding but the funding provided by the military. This is why the Army became so important recently, and it's absolutely clear that the Army understands that really well. And the Army is getting more and more ambitious, and the Army has a say in Russian ideology, too. For instance, we have the Youth Army, a nationwide movement that is used to brainwash kids in schools. The Army recently built one of the biggest churches in the country. They built this enormous military park as a propaganda exercise. They interfere with the way history is taught. So, all of a sudden, the military became really ambitious, and I would say that now it's not about oligarchs and siloviki, the current and former security-services people. Now you have the military and the military-industrial complex, and oligarchs are dependent on the military-industrial complex.

You are talking about average citizens and people within the state itself who believe in the war in a way that they did in the Soviet system?

You have ordinary people, and people in the security services, and people in the military, and they are supportive of this war. And I don't quite understand how we can humanize them back. I just don't see a way. That's my problem. And not just the war, but you see them as supportive of Putin and Putinism in some way, too?

Well, yeah. The war is a function of Putinism because it's so aggressive. Putin is famous for having no sympathy, actually. So, if I remember what struck me when I was with Novaya Gazeta in 2006, when Anna Politkovskaya was killed and some journalists finally asked Putin this question, like, “You had a journalist killed in your country.” And he was absolutely horrible, because he expressed no sympathy at all. Like, “Well, yeah. Blah, blah, blah.” He said that she was absolutely insignificant, and you think, Wow, you can't find some words to express sympathy. Just maybe you feel sorry. And I think that's what we have here with Ukraine.

It's just a manifestation of his complete lack of sympathy for other people.

Photos: Ukrainians seek refuge as Russia continues attacks in the west



An elderly woman from Bishiv village is seen over the destruction of a library on the outskirts of the city of Kyiv, Ukraine. A woman holds a dog in a train at metro station used as a bomb shelter where people are living in Kharkiv. 69-year-old Boris Khijniak and his 75-year-old wife Galina are brought to a center near Ukrainian capital Kyiv's Irpin as evacuation of civilians from Ukraine's Irpin continue. People living in a metro station used as a bomb shelter listen to musicians playing for them in Kharkiv.

Here's what support for Ukraine looks like across the United States



Rachel Nockles, 7, gets a Ukrainian flag painted on her face at a STANDwithUKRAINE rally in front of the White House. Her mother is from Ukraine, but her family now lives in Bethesda, Maryland. **Tatiana Belenkaya** (left) and her sister, **Svetlana Belenkaya** (right) were both born in Ukraine and came to the U.S. as Jewish refugees after the fall of the Soviet Union. They hold signs at the STANDwithUKRAINE rally in front of the White House to protest Russia's invasion. **Rita Shabisnakova's** eyes well up with tears at a rally to support Ukraine at the Massachusetts State House. Shabisnakova says she fears for her friends and family still living in Ukraine. **Maksym Levus**, age 3, perches above a crowd of Ukrainian Americans at a rally in support of Ukraine in New Haven, Connecticut. **Alina Yurkiv** sits with **Dmitry Korkin** at his home in Westborough, Massachusetts. Crowds gather in solidarity with Ukraine and to demonstrate against the Russian invasion in front of the Texas State Capitol in Austin

Here's what support for Ukraine looks like across the United States



March 16: Alina Yurkiv sits with Dmitry Korin at his home in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Prince William Releases Unprecedented Statement About 'Future' of the Commonwealth as Caribbean Tour Ends

Simon Perry

Sat, March 26, 2022, 3:00 PM



Prince William, Duke of Cambridge
Duke of Cambridge



Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge
Wife of Prince Willia...



Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge during a visit to Daystar Evangelical Church on March 26, 2022 in Great Abaco, Bahamas. Abaco was dramatically hit by Hurricane Dorian, It damaged 75% of homes across the chain of islands and resulted in tragic loss of life. During their visit to the Church they will hear first-hand what it was like to be on the island at the point the hurricane hit, and how people have come together to support each other during an incredibly difficult time. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are visiting Belize, Jamaica and The Bahamas on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen on the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee. The 8 day tour takes place between Saturday 19th March and Saturday 26th March and is their first joint official overseas tour since the onset of COVID-19 in 2020.



As Prince William and Kate Middleton's tour of the Caribbean comes to an end on Saturday, the Duke of Cambridge has released a landmark statement, reflecting on the future governance of the Caribbean nations.

"I know that this tour has brought into even sharper focus questions about the past and the future. In Belize, Jamaica and The Bahamas, that future is for the people to decide upon," William says. And, whatever the future holds for the countries William and Kate visited this week, the Duke of Cambridge reiterates his hope that the 54-nation Commonwealth — the voluntary body of mostly-former colonies loosely linked to Britain — will continue to "create a better future" for its people.

"Foreign tours are an opportunity to reflect. You learn so much. What is on the minds of Prime Ministers. The hopes and ambitions of school children. The day-to-day challenges faced by families and communities," William began his statement. "Catherine and I are committed to service. For us that's not telling people what to do. It is about serving and supporting them in whatever way they think best, by using the platform we are lucky to have.

It has been a complex week for the royal couple. While they have met smiles and cheers wherever they have gone, there has also been an undercurrent of controversy. The tour has seen protests over colonialism and calls for dropping William's grandmother Queen Elizabeth as head of state in Jamaica.

Earlier in the tour, and following protests in Jamaica, William, 39, expressed his "sorrow" at the "abhorrent" history of slavery that shames the U.K. — though for some, he didn't go far enough and actually apologize. Both William and Kate have been aware of the protests and the voices of opposition — as well as the calls for reparations for Britain's role in the slave trade — and have been listening as they moved through the three countries this week.

The statement was issued as the couple prepared for their final departure from the Bahamas to head back home to their children in time for Mother's Day in the U.K.

Colorado wildfire forces evacuation orders for 19,000 people

today



From left to right, Laura Tyson, Tod Smith and Rebecca Caldwell, residents of Eldorado Springs, watch as the NCAR fire burns in the foothills south of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Saturday, March 26, 2022, in Boulder, Colo. The NCAR fire prompted evacuations in south Boulder and pre-evacuation warning for Eldorado Springs. (Helen H. Richardson/The Denver Post via AP)

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Authorities issued an evacuation order for 19,400 people Saturday near a fast-moving Colorado wildfire in rolling hills south of the college town of Boulder, not far from the site of a destructive 2021 blaze that leveled more than 1,000 homes.

The wildfire was fueled by wind earlier in the day and had grown to 122 acres (49 hectares) with no containment, Boulder Fire-Rescue spokesperson Marya Washburn said. The Boulder Office of Emergency Management said an overnight shelter was opened after evacuation orders covered 8,000 homes and 7,000 structures. No structures had been damaged.

Winds and temperatures have died down, Washburn said. Officials expect to be dealing with the fire for several days due to heavy fuels, said Boulder Fire-Rescue Wildland Division Chief Brian Oliver.



The fire is in an area where a blaze destroyed 1,000 homes last year in unincorporated Boulder County and suburban Superior and Louisville. Superior town officials told residents in an email that there were no immediate concerns for the community.

The 2021 blaze burned Alicia Miller's home, where she could see smoke from Saturday's fire rising in the background. She posted a photo on Twitter and referenced climate change, which has made the U.S. West warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more destructive, according to scientists.

Miller said her neighbors helped her escape along with her husband, Craig, their three adult sons and two dogs, Ginger and Chloe. She said the hardest losses from the blaze were things they didn't look at much, like baby shoes, family pictures and letters from her grandmother.

"I feel exhausted by all of this, and I just feel like enough as far as these fires and disasters," she said. She pointed to a recent Texas wildfire that left a deputy dead and homes destroyed. " ... So I'm standing there and it's just kind of a repeat."

Saturday's fire started around 2 p.m. and burned protected wildland near the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder police said. Authorities have called it the NCAR fire and its cause is not yet known, said Washburn.

Alcohol-related deaths spiked in 2020 – killing more under-65 Americans than COVID

PAUL SACCA | March 25, 2022



A new study revealed that alcohol-related deaths spiked in 2020 from the previous year. The study conducted by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism found that **there was a 25.5% increase in alcohol-related deaths in 2020** from 2019. Between 1999 and 2019, the average annual increase in alcohol-related deaths was 3.6%.

The study published in The Journal of the American Medical Association discovered that more adults under the age of 65 died from alcohol-related factors (74,408) than from COVID-19 (74,075) in 2020. There were a total of 99,017 alcohol-related deaths, which accounted for 3% of all deaths in 2020.

"Research suggests that alcohol consumption and related harms increased during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic," the authors of the study wrote. "Studies reported increases in drinking to cope with stress, transplants for alcohol-associated liver disease, and emergency department visits for alcohol withdrawal."

"The assumption is that there were lots of people who were in recovery and had reduced access to support that spring and relapsed," study author Aaron White told the New York Times.

"Stress is the primary factor in relapse, and there is no question there was a big increase in self-reported stress, and big increases in anxiety and depression, and planet-wide uncertainty about what was coming next," White explained. "That's a lot of pressure on people who are trying to maintain recovery."

The sale of alcohol was up to its highest level in 18 years, according to the International Wines and Spirits Record (IWSR). Alcohol consumption in the U.S. increased by 2% in 2020, the largest year-over-year increase since 2002, according to the IWSR's annual Drinks Market Analysis.

"In fact, the IWSR has predicted that by the end of the year, alcohol volume sales in the US will be up by 3.8% year on year, while value sales will be up by 5.5%," the Drinks Business reported.

Online alcohol sales more than quadrupled from \$441 million in 2019 to an estimated \$1.87 billion in 2022, according to analysts at RaboResearch.

As TheBlaze previously reported, the top killer of Americans aged 18-45 in 2020 and 2021 was **fentanyl overdose**. More Americans in that age range reportedly died from fentanyl overdoses than any other cause of death, including suicide, car accidents, cancer, and COVID-19.

Fentanyl fatalities have nearly doubled from 32,754 deaths in April 2019 to 64,178 deaths in April 2021, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that was analyzed by opioid awareness organization Families Against Fentanyl.

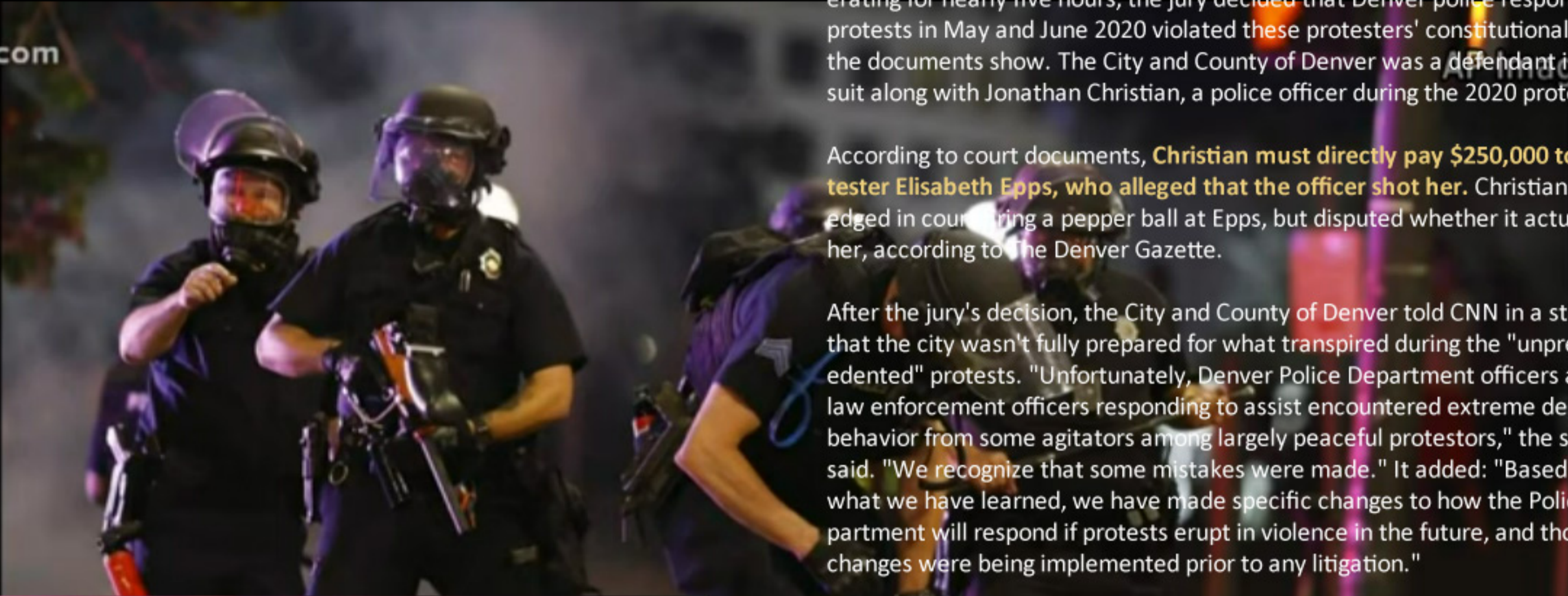
The CDC's National Center for Health Statistics estimates that there were 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the U.S. between April 2020 and April 2021 – an increase of 28.5% from the 78,056 deaths during the same time period the year prior.

Jury awards \$14 million to George Floyd protesters in Denver



<https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/26/us/denver-floyd-protests-win-case/index.html>
<https://youtu.be/XwmK8amYyns>

kens5.com



(CNN) A federal jury Friday awarded \$14 million in compensatory and punitive damages to 12 people who were injured by Denver police officers while protesting the death of George Floyd in 2020, according to court documents. After deliberating for nearly five hours, the jury decided that Denver police response during protests in May and June 2020 violated these protesters' constitutional rights, the documents show. The City and County of Denver was a defendant in the lawsuit along with Jonathan Christian, a police officer during the 2020 protests.

According to court documents, **Christian must directly pay \$250,000 to protester Elisabeth Epps, who alleged that the officer shot her.** Christian acknowledged in court firing a pepper ball at Epps, but disputed whether it actually hit her, according to The Denver Gazette.

After the jury's decision, the City and County of Denver told CNN in a statement that the city wasn't fully prepared for what transpired during the "unprecedented" protests. "Unfortunately, Denver Police Department officers and other law enforcement officers responding to assist encountered extreme destructive behavior from some agitators among largely peaceful protestors," the statement said. "We recognize that some mistakes were made." It added: "Based upon what we have learned, we have made specific changes to how the Police Department will respond if protests erupt in violence in the future, and those changes were being implemented prior to any litigation."



Pandemic fitness trends have gone extreme — literally

White supremacists' latest scheme to valorize violence and hypermasculinity has gone digital.

For those of us working to find better pathways to reach at-risk youth, understanding the ways that far-right groups recruit and socialize youth — in ways that go well beyond rhetoric and ideas — is crucial. It's critical that leaders, including parents, physical trainers, gym owners, coaches and others in the fitness world understand how online grooming and recruitment can intersect with spaces that we generally think of as promoting health and well-being. The realm of online fitness now provides a new and ever-expanding market for reaching and radicalizing young men; and it requires our targeted focus and resources to try and stop the cycle.

Physical fitness and violent hypermasculinity have always been central to the far right.

By Cynthia Miller-Idriss, MSNBC Opinion Columnist

It appears the far right has taken advantage of pandemic at-home fitness trends to expand its decade-plus radicalization of physical mixed martial arts (MMA) and combat sports spaces. Initially lured with health tips and strategies for positive physical changes, new recruits are later invited to closed chat groups where far-right content is shared. Earlier this month, **researchers reported that a network of online "fascist fitness" chat groups on the encrypted platform Telegram are recruiting and radicalizing young men with neo-Nazi and white supremacist extremist ideologies. Initially lured with health tips and strategies for positive physical changes, new recruits are later invited to closed chat groups where far-right content is shared.**

Physical fitness has always been central to the far right. In "Mein Kampf," Hitler fixated on boxing and jujitsu, believing they could help him create an army of millions whose aggressive spirit and impeccably trained bodies, combined with "fanatical love of the fatherland," would do more for the German nation than any "mediocre" tactical weapons training. In more modern times, far-right groups have launched mixed martial arts and boxing gyms in Ukraine, Canada and France, among other places, focused on training far-right nationalists in violent hand-to-hand combat and street-fighting techniques. It's caught the attention of intelligence authorities, especially in Europe, where various reports have noted the role of combat sports and MMA in radicalizing and promoting far-right violence. A series of collaborative efforts between governments, national sports associations, and local gyms in places such as Germany, Poland and the United Kingdom have introduced intervention and prevention programs.

Pinned Tweet



Dr. Cynthia Miller-Idriss @milleridriss · Jan 5

So pleased to weigh in for @nytopinion today: I argue we are thwarted today by the same lack of imagination the 9/11 commission authors warned us of- only this time, we fail to imagine how to prevent extremism when it's already in the mainstream.

The intersection of extremism and fitness leans into a shared obsession with the male body, training, masculinity, testosterone, strength and competition.

The intersection of extremism and fitness leans into a shared obsession with the male body, training, masculinity, testosterone, strength and competition. Physical fitness training, especially in combat sports, appeals to the far right for many reasons: fighters are trained to accept significant physical pain, to be "warriors," and to embrace messaging around solidarity, heroism, and brotherhood. It's championed as a tool to help fight the "coming race war" and the street battles that will precede it. Recruits are encouraged to link individual moral virtues such as willpower, decisiveness and courage, with desired collective traits such as virility and manliness. This also works in reverse, with white supremacists encouraging potential recruits or activists to stay in good physical shape as a way of managing self-presentation to the public. The neo-Nazi blogger Andrew Anglin advised his followers that "fat people" should be required to commit to losing weight if they are to stay involved with groups or in-person gatherings, noting that "continued obesity should not be tolerated."

We're seeing extremist fighting culture being combined with an entertainment culture that already valorizes violence and hypermasculinity. With recruitment now moving from physical gyms to chat rooms, livestreamed fights, tournaments, festivals, and even combat sports video games, we're seeing extremist fighting culture being combined with an entertainment culture that already valorizes violence and hypermasculinity.

Fitness of course is a staple and a hobby for many people, for whom it is enjoyable and rewarding for brain health and overall well-being. Physical fitness channels dopamine, adrenalin and serotonin in ways that literally feel good. Intertwining those feelings with hateful and dehumanizing ideas, while promoting the concept that physical warriors are needed to create the strength and dominance to defend one's people from a perceived enemy, makes for a dangerous and powerful cocktail of radicalization.



Cynthia Miller-Idriss

Cynthia Miller-Idriss is a professor in the School of Public Affairs and the School of Education at American University, where she directs the Polarization and Extremism Research and Innovation Lab (PERIL). Her most recent book is "Hate in the Homeland: The New Global Far Right."

Unknown symbols written by the lost 'painted people' of Scotland unearthed

By [Laura Geggel](#) published 4 days ago

The symbols may represent a naming system.



The geometric Pictish carvings on this stone date to the fifth or sixth centuries A.D. (Image credit: University of Aberdeen)

Archaeologists in Scotland shed "genuine tears" upon discovering a stone covered with geometric carvings that the Picts, the Indigenous people of the region, designed about 1,500 years ago.

The team unexpectedly found the 5.5-foot-long (1.7 meters) carved stone while doing a geophysical survey in Aberlemno, a village with Pictish roots. The stone has several geometric shapes showing abstract Pictish symbols, such as triple ovals, a comb and mirror, a crescent and double discs. Some of the carved symbols overlap, suggesting that they were carved in different time periods, the researchers said.

It's unclear what all of the symbols mean, but the "best guess is that they are a naming system representing Pictish names," Gordon Noble, excavation leader and a professor of archaeology at the University of Aberdeen, told Live Science in an email. "It's the find of a lifetime, genuinely," James O'Driscoll, an archaeologist at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland who helped excavate the stone, said in a university video.

The Picts — possibly named after the Latin word for painted, or "picti," — were fierce people who lived in ancient and medieval times in parts of what is now Scotland. They are partly the reason why the Roman Empire never conquered Scotland.

The new finding is one of only about 200 such stones known to archaeologists. Other stones with Pictish symbols are also from Aberlemno, which is known for its unique standing stones, including a slab that may depict scenes from the Battle of Nechtansmere, a Pictish victory over the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria in 685 A.D. that is tied to the creation of what would become Scotland.

The discovery happened in early 2020, when archaeologists were surveying the area as a part of the Comparative Kingship project, a five-year investigation into the early medieval kingdoms of northern Britain and Ireland. While moving imaging equipment across the grass, the team noticed anomalies suggesting that the remains of a settlement lay underground.

To learn more, the archaeologists dug a small pit to see what was hidden beneath their feet. To their astonishment, they found the carved Pictish stone. "I just brushed my hand, and there was a symbol," Zack Hinckley, an archaeologist at the University of Aberdeen who took part in the excavation, said in the video. "And we had a freakout."

The team hoped to immediately excavate and study the stone, but COVID-19 lockdowns meant they had to put their plans on hold. Finally, after months of waiting, they were able to remove and examine the stone, dating the carvings to the fifth or sixth century A.D.

It's rare to find carved Pictish stones. "They are occasionally dug up by farmers ploughing fields or during the course of road building, but by the time we get to analyse them, much of what surrounds them has already been disturbed," Noble said in a statement.

"To come across something like this while digging one small test pit is absolutely remarkable, and none of us could quite believe our luck," Noble added. Because they found the rock undisturbed in the ground, they were able to "examine and date the layers underneath it and extract much more detailed information without losing vital evidence," he said.

The slab was later repurposed as a paver in a building dating to the 11th or 12th century, according to radiocarbon dating, and placed next to other pavers, including some with Bronze Age rock art. The building "dates to after the Pictish period — in the era of the Kingdom of Alba, the forerunner of medieval Scotland," Noble told Live Science.

The stone is now in the Graciela Ainsworth conservation lab in Edinburgh, where scientists plan to investigate the artifact further.

Tübingen: Europe's fiercely vegan, fairy-tale city



By Srishti Chaudhary 21st March 2022

Located in a German region famed for its frugality, Tübingen is known for its fiercely green reputation, where veganism and environmental friendliness are the default setting.

In Germany's south-west, nestled between the alps of the Swabian region and the densely wooded Schönbuch nature park, lies Tübingen, a university city that would put most Disney locations to shame. The city is built around the almost perfectly preserved old town, with its cobbled alleyways, old timbered houses and rippling canals. (While historical centres of most German cities were destroyed during World War Two, just one bomb fell on Tübingen.) The river Neckar flows through the city centre, forming a little island – the Neckarinsel – which is covered with blossoms in the spring and shines golden in autumn.

Tübingen lies in Swabia, a German region famed for its frugality – and which is also one of the nation's sunniest spots, making it considerably more cheery than other parts of the country with more gloomy, rainy weather. Significantly, being an academic city, it is small yet dynamic. "For the size of the city, I find it incredibly international," said Nele Neideck, who runs an expat community.

To put the city's singularity into context, Tübingen was one of the centres of the German student protests of 1968, which took place all over West Germany rejecting traditionalism and authority, which influenced the city's leftist and environmental sensibility.

In fact, a lot of people I have met since moving here are vegetarian or vegan, and it's as common to ask if someone eats meat as it is to ask if they have allergies. Tübingen is even an official participant in Veganuary, the annual challenge that encourages people to go vegan for the month of January.

Tübingen has a certain feel of being green and happy, and has a lot of young people. The city is known for being innovative and green, with modern housing designed to be energy efficient.

Tübingen is also constantly being redesigned and updated to be ever-more environmentally friendly. Wide and well-integrated bike lanes along with high parking fees makes the city very car unfriendly. An order passed in February 2022 declared that cars will no longer be allowed to drive on the city's central street, which will be reserved for buses and bikes. Students can travel on buses for free on weekends and after 19:00 in the evenings, while bus travel is free for everyone on Saturdays. (The local government even plans to make buses free all the time.)

This gives us hope that there might be a way to overcome global warming

Palmer, who was appointed mayor in 2007, is credited by many for shaping Tübingen's green policies, such as obligatory solar photovoltaic systems on roofs and the free buses on Saturdays. "We have seen a reduction in the emission of carbon dioxide per capita by 40% in the last 15 years, while Tübingen's economy has grown by 40%," he said. "This gives us hope that there might be a way to overcome global warming and keep growing."

While much can be learnt from Tübingen's model, perhaps it's hard to replicate the city's victories, as they emerge from a uniquely supportive social and political landscape. Some worry Tübingen runs the threat of going too far: a 2011 Spiegel article described the French Quarters, one of the greenest neighbourhoods in the city – and the country – as a "green hell", presenting its residents as intolerant and hypocritically green.

Additionally, many feel that Tübingen is too academic to be considered a real-world example. "You will stay very much in the academic bubble if you live there," said Kathi Winkler, who lived in Tübingen for several years before moving to Berlin.

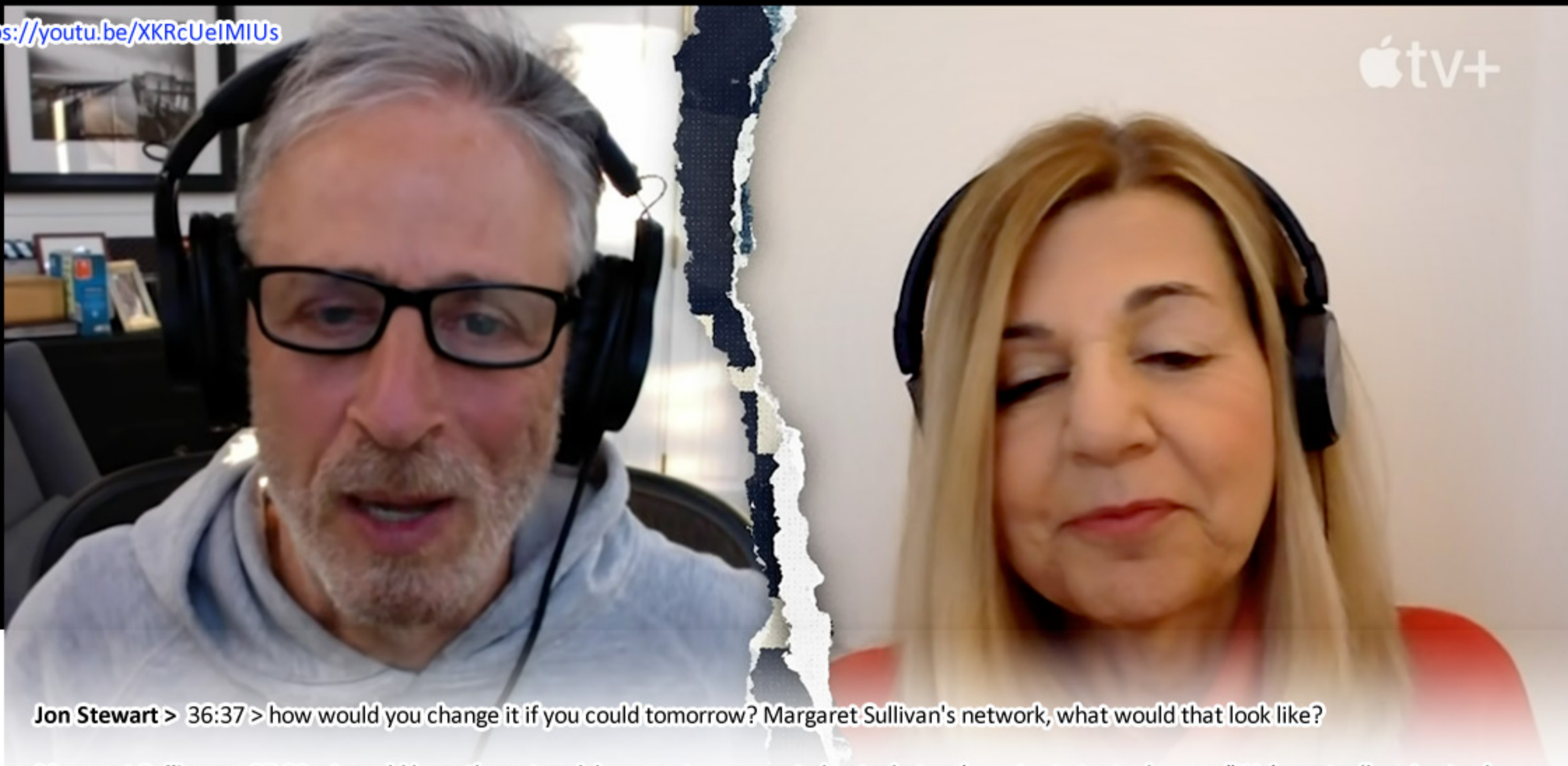
Nevertheless, the example of Tübingen shows that paving the way for a greener planet can be achieved on a small scale, proving that small can be powerful, beautiful and inspirational.



Srishti Chaudhary
@SassySrishti

Novelist | Lallan Sweets, Once upon a Curfew, [@penguinindia](#) | Researcher, Universität Tübingen | Life with a pinch of humor and magic 🍷🌟

<https://youtu.be/XKRcUeIMIU8>



Jon Stewart > 36:37 > how would you change it if you could tomorrow? Margaret Sullivan's network, what would that look like?

Margaret Sullivan > 37:09 > I would have the network be more transparent about what we're going to try to do now. "We're actually going to change the way we do things. And here's what we're going to do." And you run ads and you talk to people and you do it at the top of every hour. This is our ... "Actually we think the media has failed and this is what we're going to do differently. And we hope you're going to come" because so much of this does have to do with the public and how they react. And so, you know, give it a try. It's not like the other thing's working that great.

Jon Stewart > Not in a cynical way where you're just branding it, you mean in a real way.

37:41 > **Margaret Sullivan** > No, it needs to be branded and talked about. -But --Right. I think it's anything but cynical.

Jon Stewart > You see it going that way, or no?

Margaret Sullivan > I mean, not really. I don't I'd like to think that, but I...

Jon Stewart > Margaret, you had me. I was right there. You elevated me. I was so ready to follow you, and then you just pulled the rug out.

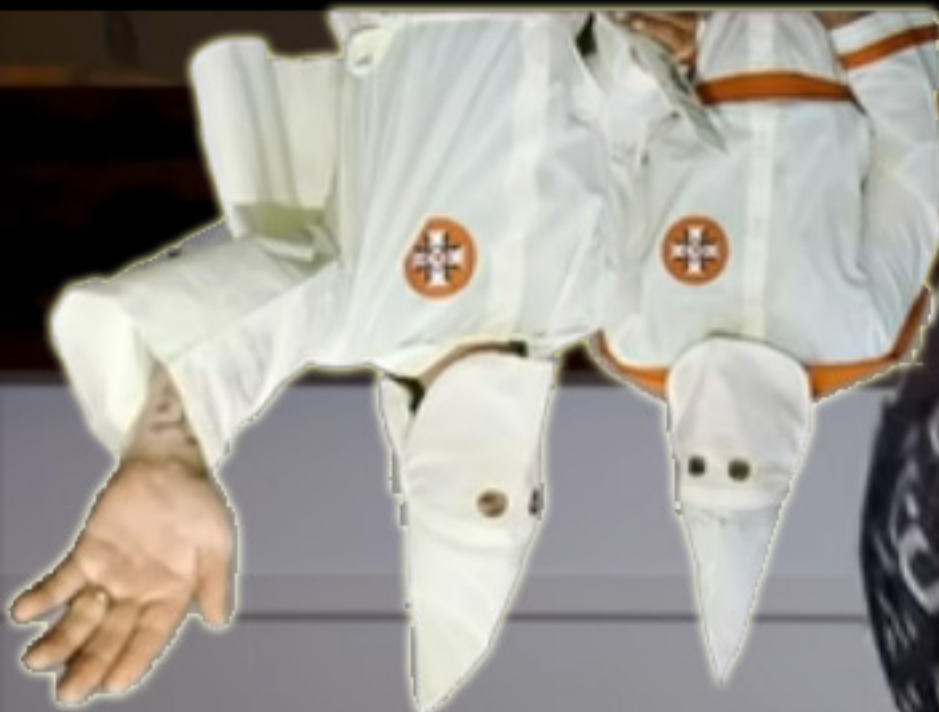
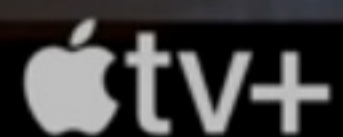
Margaret Sullivan > 38:02 > I don't really think cable news is going to become the leader. The the sort of moral leaders of our media. I think that has to come from newspapers and you know, places like the Texas Tribune, the all digital places that do serve communities. You know, those places are great.

Jon Stewart > A grassroots approach that can be a model, that can be, I guess, force amplified at through smaller towns and outlets. Yeah, absolutely. Yeah. All right, I dig that.

<https://youtu.be/OjpcqV7gdT00>

1:05 > And at the very end of the spectrum, we have the **unconscious bias**-- a catchall for the rest of y'all.

1:10 > **Did you assume Uncle Ben and Aunt Jemima were a couple?**



0:48 > The ladies who think Meghan McCain got bullied on The View. That bitch didn't get bullied. She ain't get bullied.

0:23 > We have **the extreme racist**: skinheads, KKK, most of... All of Boston! Boom! Right here!

THE PROBLEM WITH JON STEWART



Transcript

- 1:28 murder will not be in vain.
- 1:30 Let the work of righting centuries of oppression begin.
- 1:36 - Aunt Jemima is being retired.
- 1:38 [LAUGHTER]
- 1:43 [APPLAUSE]
- 1:53 By any means necessary.
- 1:55 - Cream of Wheat is removing the Black chef from its packaging.
- 1:59 - Chris Harrison, host of The Bachelor,

#TheProblemWithJonStewart #AppleTV

The Problem With White People | The Problem With Jon Stewart | Apple TV+

670,332 views • Mar 25, 2022

27K DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...

In the latest episode of The Problem with Jon Stewart, Jon dissects why it's been so easy to ignore the oppression and inequality that exists in the United States. White people keep saying they're ready to listen... but Black people have never stopped speaking out against the reality of systemic racism in America.



2:06 - Tonight we know the Dixie Chicks are dropping the "Dixie."



2:14 - We will now kneel for our moment of silence.



Will Smith, right, hits presenter Chris Rock on stage while presenting the award for best documentary feature at the Oscars on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



presenter Chris Rock, left, reacts after being hit on stage by Will Smith while presenting the award for best documentary feature at the Oscars on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Jada Pinkett Smith, left, and Will Smith appear in the audience at the Oscars on Sunday, March 27, 2022, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)



Will Smith recibe el Oscar al mejor actor, por "King Richard", el domingo 27 de marzo de 2022 en el Teatro Dolby en Los Angeles. (Foto AP/Chris Pizzello)

CULTURE

After Will Smith slapped Chris Rock, the Oscars took a turn

It's always a bad sign when the Academy has to say it doesn't condone violence.



Robyn Beck/AFP via Getty Images

- The full list of winners at Oscars 2022
- Chris Rock declines to file police report after Will Smith altercation

The Picture Show: See the red carpet looks > *Take a peek at some of the most memorable looks from the 94th Academy Awards.*

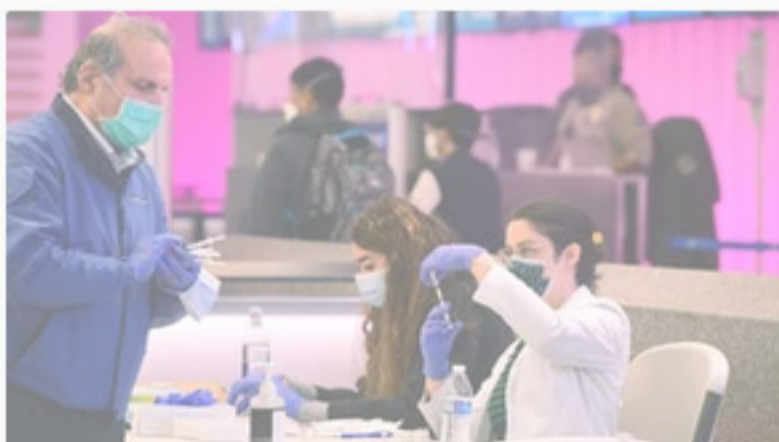
The Final Four are set in this year's March Madness > *The Final Four is set for the NCAA men's basketball tournament: Rivals North Carolina and Duke will face off in one semifinal; in the other, Kansas will face Villanova.*

California grocery workers vote to authorize strike > *Talks are scheduled to resume Wednesday between the union representing about 47,000 workers and the major supermarket chains.*

The Islamic State claims responsibility for the deaths of 2 people in central Israel > *The Islamic State group claimed responsibility after a pair of Arab gunmen killed two people and wounded four before being killed by police in the city of Hadera.*

Canadian Indigenous leaders will meet with the pope in hopes of apology > *Indigenous leaders from Canada will meet with Pope Francis starting Monday in hopes of securing a papal apology for abuses committed against them by Catholic priests and school workers.*

That smiling LinkedIn profile face might be a computer-generated fake > *Stanford researchers uncovered more than 1,000 of these LinkedIn profiles. **A technology that has been used to promote misinformation online has now entered the corporate world.***



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

The FDA is expected to authorize 2nd boosters for people 50 and up



POLITICS

White House spokesperson Karine Jean-Pierre tests positive for COVID-19



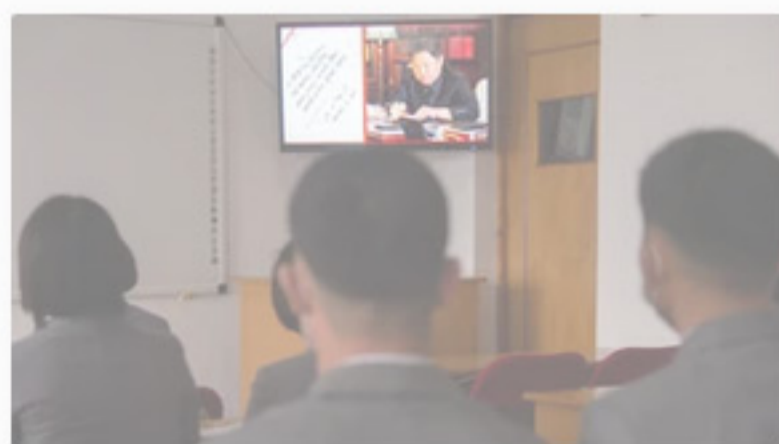
MOVIES

'CODA' brings home the Oscar for best picture, a historic win for the deaf community



EUROPE

In response to the war, Americans flee Russia in droves



WORLD

North Korea's Kim Jong Un vows to develop more powerful means of attack



EDUCATION

Community college enrollment is down, but skilled-trades programs are booming

After Will Smith slapped Chris Rock, the Oscars took a turn

March 28, 2022 · 2:59 AM ET



Will Smith accepts the award for best actor in a leading role for "King Richard," minutes after slapping Chris Rock onstage at the Oscars.

Then Rock turned to Jada Pinkett Smith. He said he was looking forward to seeing her in *G.I. Jane 2*. This was primarily a joke about her being bald, which he may or may not have known is related to alopecia. Will Smith looked briefly like he laughed; she did not. **The best actor favorite simply got up out of his seat, walked onstage, and hit the presenter for making an offensive joke about his wife.** Then it happened very fast: movie star Will Smith — who was favored to win best actor for *King Richard* in, like, a few minutes — came up on stage and hit Rock. Rock looked stunned, and Smith went back to his seat, and then the audio cut out while they exchanged words. Smith yelled that Rock should keep Jada's name out of his mouth, and then Rock, still seeming shaken, gathered himself and presented the award to Questlove's *Summer of Soul (...Or, When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*.

A lot of people wondered, at least briefly, if this had been some kind of a bit, a scripted fake fight with a fake punch to match. But quickly, Rock's demeanor and Smith's both seemed to suggest it was exactly as it appeared: the best actor favorite simply got up out of his seat, walked onstage, and hit the presenter for making an offensive joke about his wife. And perhaps more surprisingly, he was allowed to return to his seat and continue watching as if nothing had happened. If anyone other than Will Smith — or someone else famous enough — had walked on stage and hit someone, he probably would have been escorted out, at the very least. But that would have made for a pretty awkward "we accept this award on his behalf" moment.

Because it got stranger moments later, when Will Smith did indeed win his first Oscar for *King Richard*, in which he played the father of Venus and Serena Williams. While the speech rambled — for obvious reasons, he could not simply give the one he had probably carefully planned — it was loosely framed around the idea that Smith, like Richard Williams, believed in protecting others, especially people in his family, especially women. He apologized to the Academy and to his fellow nominees for his behavior, but not to Rock. A couple of times, he tried to slide through it on charm, making little jokes about how he had made himself look like "the crazy father," just like Richard Williams, adding more seriously that "love will make you do crazy things."

It's hard to overstate how the mood of the room changed, how awkward it got. Rock's joke had certainly been cheap, based on a condition Jada Pinkett Smith has talked about finding very painful, and it wasn't Rock's first joke at her expense — he also mocked her in 2016 for boycotting the Oscars over their record on race. And yet: Here was a man walking up to another man at a professional event and hitting him, just hitting him, in front of an entire audience of people like the ones they both work with, then carrying on as before — becoming, arguably, the most honored man of the night.

People who should have been able to enjoy their moments, from Questlove on, contended with the consequences of behavior that wound up provoking post-ceremony statements from both the Academy and the LAPD.

There is no universe in which the producers can be or should be glad that any of this happened, but strictly for the record, it did probably have the effect of stopping people from talking as much about the Oscars production decisions that had drawn criticism in the weeks leading up to the ceremony. And they deserved plenty of criticism — particularly a couple of internet public opinion "polls" that purported to give audiences a voice and turned into fan base wars, the results of which were halfheartedly flashed on the screen with as little fanfare as possible.

[...] — and all of the air went out of the room when that slap connected. People who should have been able to enjoy their moments, from Questlove on, contended with the consequences of behavior that wound up provoking post-ceremony statements from both the Academy and the LAPD.

The Oscars are ideally for recognizing good work, for encouraging the public to see films, and for seeing people say nice things about the people who have helped them succeed. **It's always a bad sign when the Academy — the Academy! — has to tell people that it doesn't condone violence.**

After Will Smith slapped Chris Rock, the Oscars took a turn

March 28, 2022 · 2:59 AM ET

LINDA HOLMES



Will Smith accepts the award for best actor in a leading role for "King Richard," minutes after slapping Chris Rock onstage at the Oscars.

Then Rock turned to Jada Pinkett Smith. He said he was looking forward to seeing her in G.I. Jane 2. This was primarily a joke about her being bald, which he may or may not have known is related to alopecia. Will Smith looked briefly like he laughed; she did not. **The best actor favorite simply got up out of his seat, walked onstage, and hit the presenter for making an offensive joke about his wife.** Then...



Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson (C), Robert Fyvolent (L) and David Dinerstein (R) accept the Oscar for best documentary feature for *Summer of Soul*.

Timothy Burke @bubbaprog

VIA JAPANESE TELEVISION: The uncensored exchange between Will Smith and Chris Rock

Watch on Twitter

7:32 PM · Mar 27, 2022

[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

MOVIES

'CODA' brings home the Oscar for best picture, a historic win for the Deaf community

The Oscars are ideally for recognizing good work, for encouraging the public to see films, and for seeing people say nice things about the people who have helped them succeed. **It's always a bad sign when the Academy — the Academy! — has to tell people that it doesn't condone violence.**

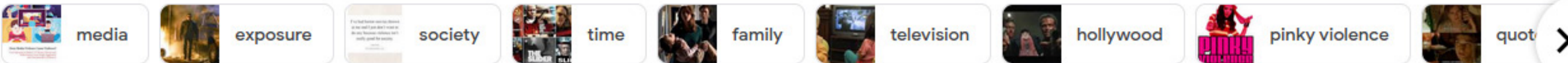
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The Academy
 @TheAcademy

The Academy does not condone violence of any form.

Tonight we are delighted to celebrate our 94th Academy Awards winners, who deserve this moment of recognition from their peers and movie lovers around the world.

10:10 PM · Mar 27, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

7,446 Retweets 13.4K Quote Tweets 46.5K Likes

Several researchers have described an increase in violent content in movies, despite a national rating system. For example, studies have found that **91% of movies on television contain violence**, including extreme violence.

<https://www.aafp.org> > about > policies > all > violence-m...

Violence in the Media and Entertainment (Position Paper)

How is violence shown in movies?

In general, **films depict bleeding, the immediate consequence of violence, more often than TV**. In fact, horror movies celebrate goey, graphic, gorey scenes. But even in these films, the real world consequences of violence — the physical handicaps, financial expense, and emotional cost — are never a part of the plot.

<http://www.medialit.org> > reading-room > violence-for...

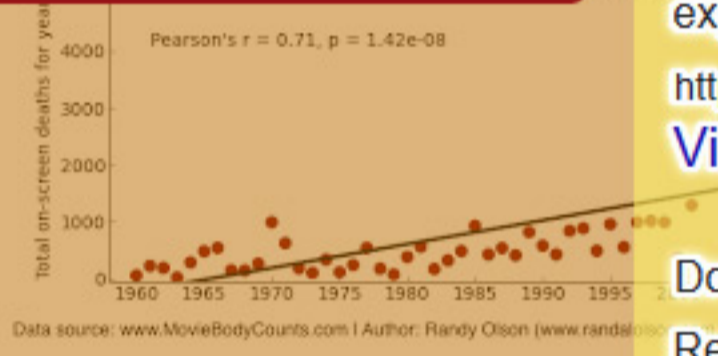
Violence Formula: Analyzing TV, Video and Movies - Center ...

Does violence in movies cause violence?

Research evidence has accumulated over the past half-century that **exposure to violence on television, movies, and most recently in video games increases the risk of violent behavior on the viewer's part** just as growing up in an environment filled with real violence increases the risk of violent behavior.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> > articles > PMC2704015

The Impact of Electronic Media Violence: Scientific Theory and ...



unjustified movie violence ...
 blog.frontiersin.org

the film industry ...
 spartanideas.msu.edu



Trauma in Exploitation Cinema - DU EXPRESS
 duexpress.in

violence in ci...
 magazine.org

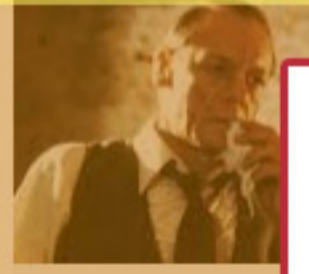
Timeline: Violence in movie...
 latimes.com



Random Acts of Violen...
 en.wikipedia.org



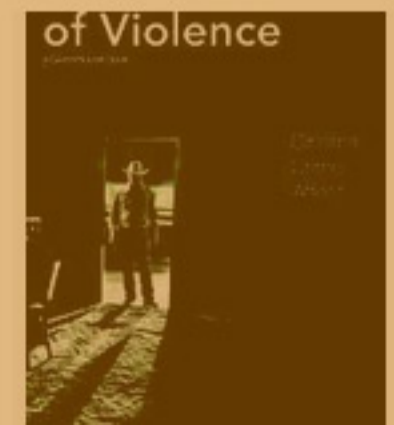
Violent Movies of All Ti...
 .com



Violence: Journey...
 offscreen.com



The Business End: Violence in Cinema ...
 imdb.com



25 most violence packed films by deaths

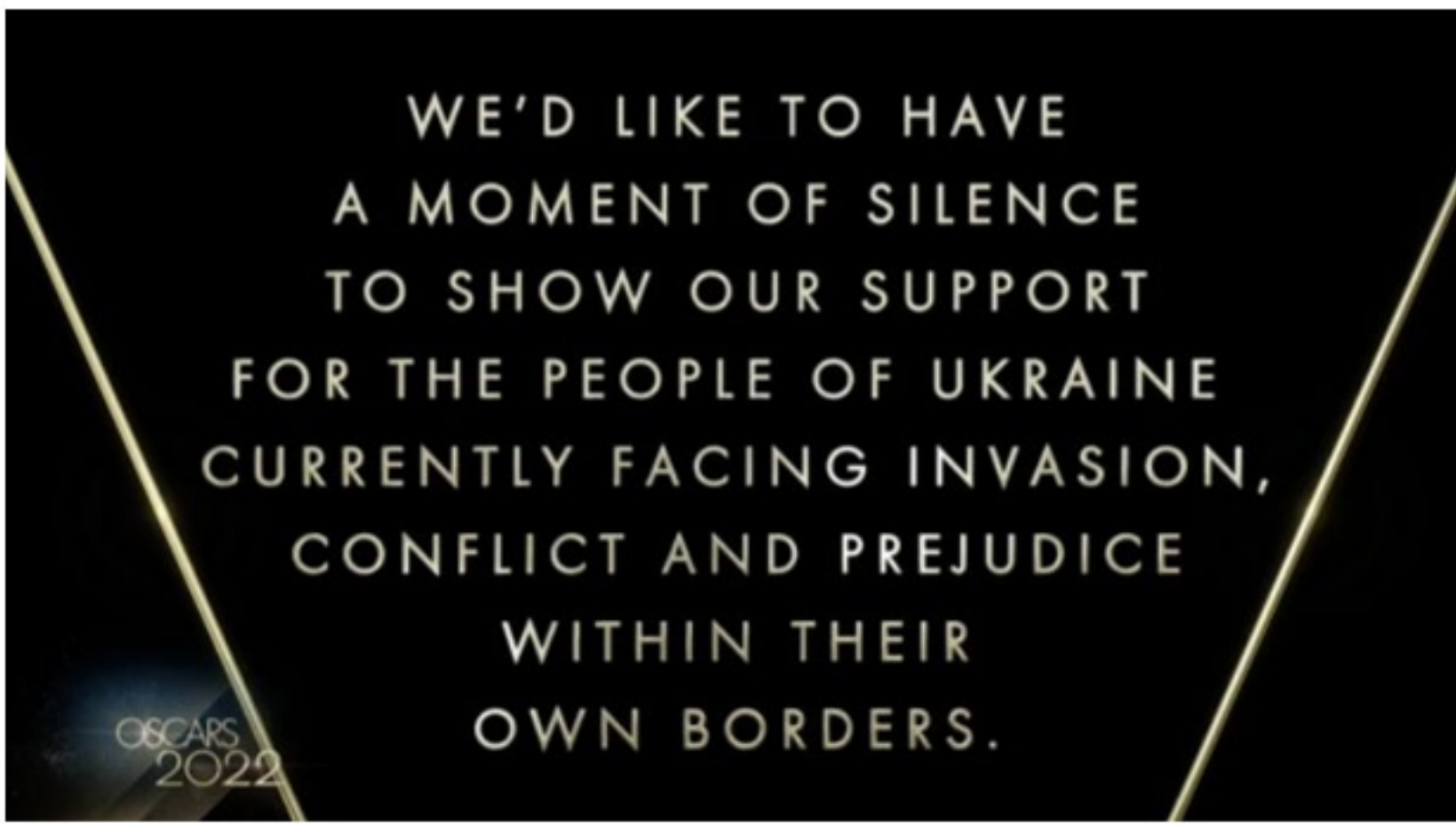
| Movie Title (Year) | Deaths |
|--|--------|
| Kingdom of Heaven (2001) | 2,402 |
| The Godfather: Part II (1973) | 2,250 |
| The Godfather (1972) | 2,237 |
| Apocalypse Now (1979) | 2,188 |
| Braveheart (1995) | 2,188 |
| Apocalypse Now Redux (2002) | 2,188 |
| Apocalypse Now Part II: The Big Red One (1991) | 2,188 |
| Apocalypse Now Part III: The Final Cut (2002) | 2,188 |
| Apocalypse Now Part I: The Motion Picture (1979) | 2,188 |
| Apocalypse Now Part II: The Big Red One (1991) | 2,188 |
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| Apocalypse Now Part I: The Motion Picture (1979) | 2,188 |
| Apocalypse Now Part II: The Big Red One (1991) | 2,188 |
| Apocalypse Now Part III: The Final Cut (2002) | 2,188 |



A moment of silence, and a plea, for Ukraine at Oscars

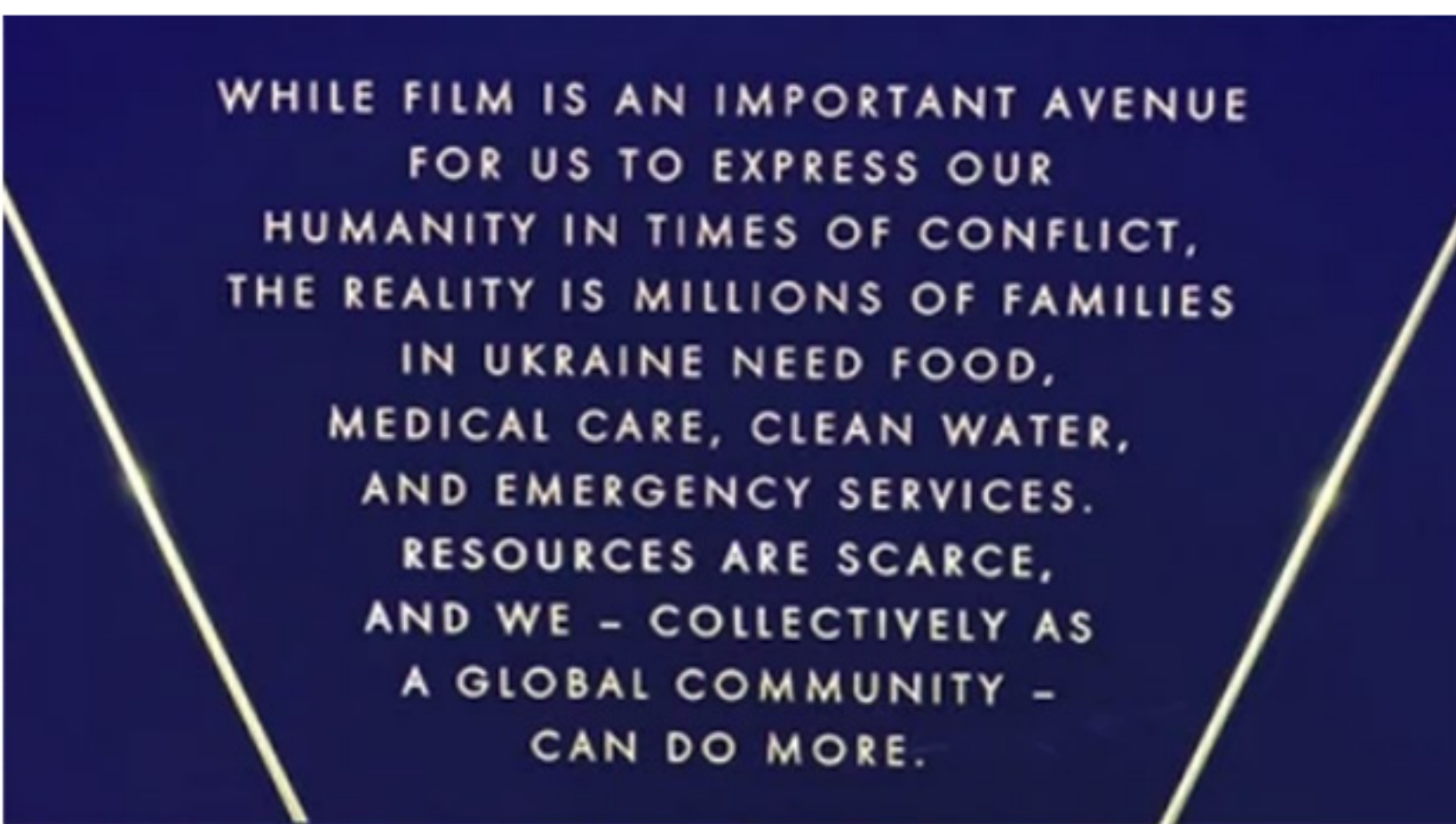
#StandWithUkraine

“We’d like to have a moment of silence to show our support for the people of Ukraine currently facing invasion, conflict and prejudice within their own borders,” read the screen. “While film is an important avenue for us to express our humanity in times of conflict, the reality is millions of families in Ukraine need food, medical care, clean water and emergency services. Resources are scarce and we — collectively as a global community — can do more.”




WE'D LIKE TO HAVE
A MOMENT OF SILENCE
TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT
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CURRENTLY FACING INVASION,
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OSCARS
2022



WHILE FILM IS AN IMPORTANT AVENUE
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AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.
RESOURCES ARE SCARCE,
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A GLOBAL COMMUNITY —
CAN DO MORE.



WE ASK YOU TO
SUPPORT UKRAINE
IN ANY WAY YOU ARE ABLE.
#STANDWITHUKRAINE

Nuclear fears in US amid Russia-Ukraine war: AP-NORC poll

By BEN FOX and HANNAH FINGERHUT today



A fallout shelter sign hangs on a building on East 9th Street in New York, Jan. 16, 2018. According to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, close to half of Americans say they are very concerned Russia would directly target the U.S. with nuclear weapons, and 3 in 10 are somewhat concerned about that.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russia’s war on Ukraine has most Americans at least somewhat worried that the U.S. will be drawn directly into the conflict and could be targeted with nuclear weapons, with a new poll reflecting a level of anxiety that has echoes of the Cold War era. Close to half of Americans say they are very concerned that Russia would directly target the U.S. with nuclear weapons, and an additional 3 in 10 are somewhat concerned about that, according to the new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Russian President Vladimir Putin placed his country’s nuclear forces on high alert shortly after the Feb. 24 invasion. Roughly 9 in 10 Americans are at least somewhat concerned that Putin might use a nuclear weapon against Ukraine, including about 6 in 10 who are very concerned.

“He is out of control, and I don’t think he really has concern for much of anything but what he wants,” said Robin Thompson, a retired researcher from Amherst, Massachusetts. “And he has nuclear weapons.” Seventy-one percent of Americans say the invasion has increased the possibility of nuclear weapons being used anywhere in the world.

The poll was conducted before North Korea test-fired its biggest intercontinental ballistic missile on Friday but also shows 51% of Americans saying they are very concerned about the threat to the U.S. posed by North Korea’s nuclear program. An additional 29% expressed moderate concern.

Seventy-one percent of Americans say the invasion has increased the possibility of nuclear weapons being used anywhere in the world. The poll was conducted before North Korea test-fired its biggest intercontinental ballistic missile on Friday but also shows 51% of Americans saying they are very concerned about the threat to the U.S. posed by North Korea’s nuclear program. An additional 29% expressed moderate concern.

Fear of nuclear war has been a fact of life for decades. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has published its “Doomsday Clock” since 1947, showing a theoretical countdown to nuclear annihilation. The latest update, in January, put the time at 100 seconds to midnight — unchanged since 2020, but still closer than ever to Armageddon. It’s difficult to measure the public’s degree of fear over time because polls use different methodologies or pose questions in different ways. Alex Wellerstein, a nuclear historian at the Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey, said people often won’t bring it up on their own but list it among concerns if given the choice. The fear, naturally enough, also tends to rise and fall depending on what is happening around the world. “We have these moments that are sort of high crisis periods,” Wellerstein said. “And then they come and go, and people forget that we had them.”

One particularly high point, he said, was in 1983, a time of tension between the U.S. and the Soviet Union and the year that a highly watched movie about nuclear war, “The Day After,” first aired on TV in the United States.

In the recent AP-NORC poll, close to half of Americans say they are “extremely” or “very” concerned that the U.S. might be drawn into a war with Russia. Roughly 4 in 10 Americans said they are “somewhat” concerned.

The findings reflect not just anxiety about what seems like a proxy war with Russia, even if the U.S. isn’t directly involved in the conflict, but also the unprecedented saturation coverage of the war through traditional news outlets and social media.

“We are seeing almost moment by moment what’s happening to these poor people,” said Linda Woodward, a retired phone company technician from Hot Springs Village, Arkansas.

The concern about nuclear war cuts across party lines and even resonates with some young adults who were born after the Cold War.

Caleb Pack, a 21-year-old Republican from Ardmore, Oklahoma, was among those who said that they were “somewhat concerned” that the U.S. would be drawn into the war and that Russia would target the United States with nuclear weapons.

“If Russia’s end goal is to reclaim Soviet Union territory, that means they’re going to push into NATO countries, which obviously I think could escalate very quickly,” said Pack, who works in information systems.

Certainly, Russia hasn’t taken steps to alleviate concerns. Putin issued what appeared to be an ominous threat when he reminded the world in a speech the day

How a Google billionaire helped pay for Biden's science office

Eric Schmidt has long sought influence over U.S. science policy. Under Biden's former science chief, Eric Lander, Schmidt's foundation helped cover officials' salaries, even as the office's general counsel raised ethical flags.



By ALEX THOMPSON
03/28/2022 04:30 AM EDT

Eric Schmidt delivers the closing keynote speech at a technology trade fair on Sept. 7, 2010 in Berlin,

As President Joe Biden granted his science office unprecedented access and power, one outside adviser to that office has attained what staffers describe as an unusual level of influence. A foundation controlled by Eric Schmidt, the multi-billionaire former CEO of Google, has played an extraordinary, albeit private, role in shaping the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy over the past year. More than a dozen officials in the 140-person White House office have been associates of Schmidt's, including some current and former Schmidt employees, according to interviews with current and former staff members and internal emails obtained by POLITICO.

Schmidt maintained a close relationship with the president's former science adviser, Eric Lander, and other Biden appointees. And his charity arm, Schmidt Futures, indirectly paid the salaries of two science-office employees, including, for six weeks, that of the current chief of staff, Marc Aidenoff, who is now one of the most senior officials in the office following Lander's resignation in February. The chief innovation officer at Schmidt Futures, OSTP alum Tom Kalil, also remained on Schmidt's payroll while working as an unpaid consultant at the science office for four months last year until he left the post following ethics complaints.

Schmidt has long sought to influence federal science policy, dating back to his close ties to the Obama administration. While his spokespeople presented his efforts to help Biden as part of Schmidt Futures' mission to "focus and mobilize these networks of talent to solve specific problems in science and society," his foundation's involvement in funding positions for specific figures raised repeated red flags from internal White House watchdogs. The science office's efforts to arrange for Schmidt Futures to pay the salaries of Lander's staff sparked "significant" ethical concerns, given Schmidt's financial interests in areas overlapping with OSTP's responsibilities, according to the science office's then-general counsel, Rachel Wallace, in internal emails obtained by POLITICO.

Schmidt sits on the boards of a wide variety of technology companies, particularly those focused on artificial intelligence. He maintains a 20 percent stake in the hedge fund DE Shaw that boasts over \$60 billion in investments and committed capital, sits on the board of the AI-focused defense contractor Rebellion Defense, is an investor in Abacus.AI and this month invested in and became chair of Sandbox AQ – a new company that is a spin-off of an internal Google software team that says it will combine "AI + Quantum tech to solve hard problems impacting society." He also helped launch and is on the board of Civis Analytics, a data science company that has helped Democratic campaigns, including Biden's 2020 effort, target consumers and voters.

Schmidt has made the development of 5G technology and artificial intelligence key aspects of his post-Google work and has advocated for a stronger federal role in funding both, along with biotech initiatives. The White House science office sets strategic priorities for the nation's more than \$1.4 trillion in annual health and science spending. It has also been increasingly focused on federal policy on artificial intelligence. Beyond OSTP, Schmidt also has influence in other parts of the Biden administration. In 2019, he helped launch and joined the board of Rebellion Defense, which pitches itself as creating artificial intelligence software for the defense industry.

Two officials from Rebellion Defense joined the agency review teams on Biden's transition team. It was a win for the young company as no employees at major defense contractors landed on the agency review teams, The American Prospect reported. Since Biden took office, Rebellion Defense has received 10 defense contracts, according to the watchdog Tech Inquiry. On September 15, Axios reported the young company had raised \$150 million dollars at a \$1 billion valuation. Ties to Rebellion have already proved thorny for some members of the Biden administration.

The White House declined to make Hsiang available for an interview. In a statement, a White House official said, "OMB Office of General Counsel reviewed the circumstances behind two government procurements for Rebellion Defense since Mina began serving at USDS, and determined that neither USDS nor Mina had anything to do with the DOD procurements from Rebellion Defense. Neither procurement officer knew there was anyone in the US government with any financial interest in Rebellion Defense."

A Rebellion spokesperson confirmed that the company has received 10 defense contracts under the Biden administration, but declined to comment further. Besides AI, Schmidt has also taken a keen interest in the future of 5G telephone technology, which is within the OSTP's portfolio and is a key policy challenge for the Biden administration. In February, Schmidt wrote an opinion piece in the Financial Times and participated in a The Wall Street Journal debate criticizing the United States' current approach to 5G. In the FT, he said he estimated the necessary infrastructure would cost \$70 billion. He wrote: "Without it there will be no 5G, and no base on which to build 6G, America's digital economy will become an also-ran."



Bari Weiss is a journalist and an author.

In 2021, Bari Weiss launched the newsletter *Common Sense* and the podcast *Honestly with Bari Weiss*. From 2017 to 2020, Weiss was an opinion writer and editor at *The New York Times*. Before that, she was an op-ed and book review editor at *The Wall Street Journal* and a senior editor at *Tablet Magazine*.

[Read Bari's full bio here.](#)



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Bari Weiss on Post-Mainstream Media Life and Her Battles in the Culture Wars

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Hoover Institution | Mar 15, 2022 | 57m11s

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bari_Weiss


Bari Weiss (born March 25, 1984) is an American journalist, writer and editor. She was an op-ed and book review editor at *The Wall Street Journal* (2013–2017) and an op-ed staff editor and writer on culture and politics at *The New York Times* (2017–2020). Since March 1, 2021, she has worked as a regular columnist for German daily newspaper *Die Welt*.



A Ukrainian woman who fled the war is pictured with her son after they crossed into Moldova on March 18, 2022.
Andrea Mancini/NurPhoto via Getty Images

Ukrainian female refugees are fleeing a war, but in some cases more violence awaits them where they find shelter

Published: March 28, 2022 8:37am EDT

 [Chen Reis](#), *University of Denver*

Escaping war is a dangerous endeavor. The media have reported about Ukrainian refugee women and girls being raped in the places where they sought safety. Almost all of the 3.6 million Ukrainians who have left Ukraine since Russia invaded on Feb. 24, 2022, are women and children. Men and boys aged 18 to 60 are required to stay in Ukraine to defend the country against Russian troops. Desperate to escape Russian attacks targeting civilians, these women and children head primarily to Poland and other European countries with relaxed visa restrictions. Humanitarian organizations have quickly set up programs to give Ukrainian refugees necessities like food and shelter.

People worldwide are also offering up free rooms in their homes. A neuroscientist in Germany wrote on Twitter on March 24, 2022 that she received a call early one morning, with the caller reminding her that she volunteered to host refugees. Now, a mother with two children and a cat needed help. “Can you host?” “OK, when?” ... ‘Now.’ 15 min later, they arrived with a volunteer,” the host wrote. The United Kingdom announced a new policy that offers the equivalent of about US\$455 per month to local people who host Ukrainians rent-free. But these efforts, no matter how well-meaning, come with new risks of sexual violence and trafficking for Ukrainian women and girls. While the majority of ordinary people offering support are well-intentioned, even one case of someone using the situation to inflict harm is too many.

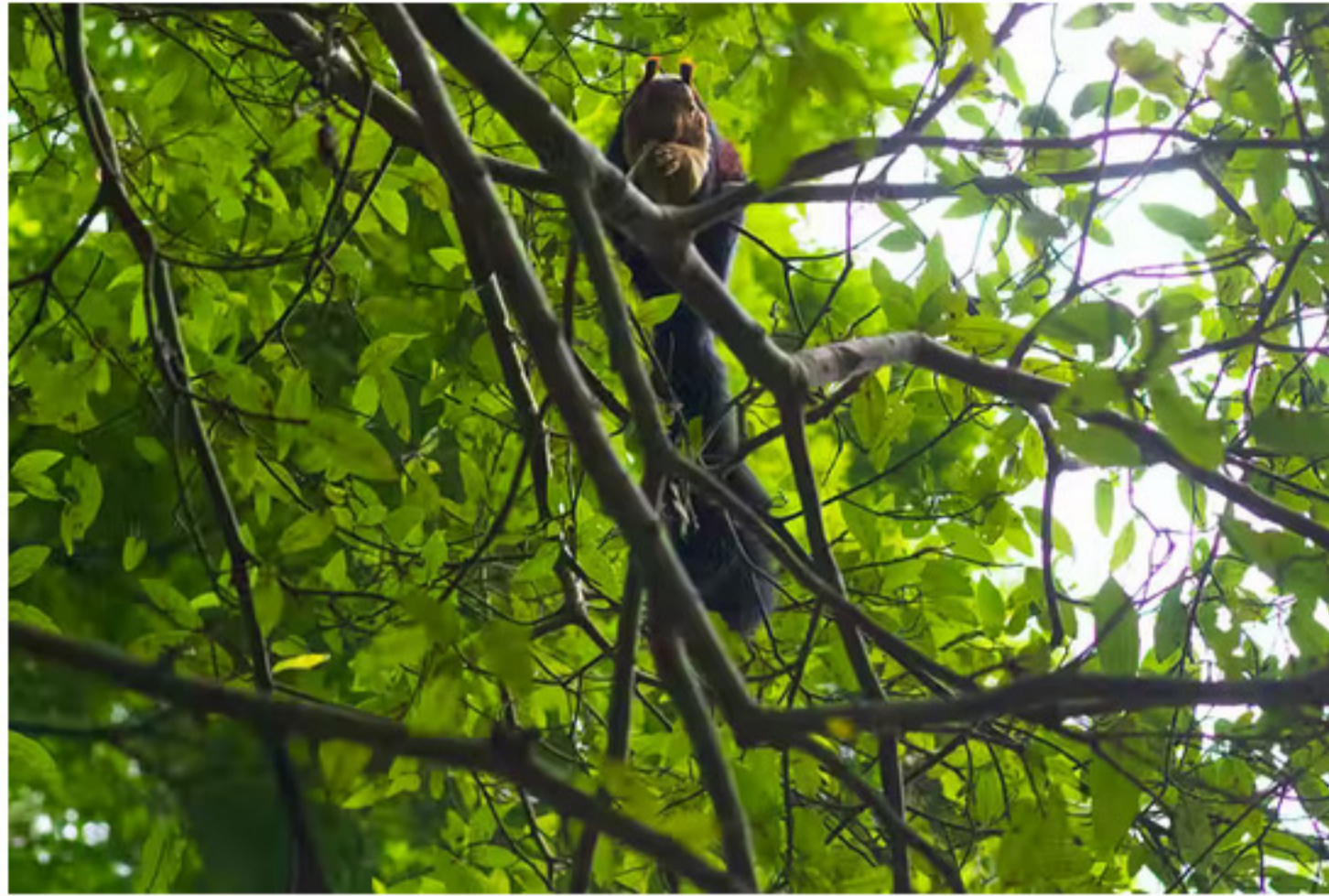
My research suggests that it is difficult to prevent even humanitarian aid workers themselves from committing abuse against civilians, in part because of organizational cultures. It is even more challenging to prevent and respond to sexual violence when it is committed by people who do not work for an aid agency or nonprofit helping refugees.

Understanding the risk: The U.N. has warned that children fleeing Ukraine, especially those separated from family, face a high risk of being trafficked for sexual or work purposes. So far, at least 500 Ukrainian children crossed from Ukraine into Romania on their own from Feb. 24 through March 14. More will likely follow. There are also reports of Ukrainian teenage girls being abused by residents in their new countries. In Poland, a man was arrested in mid-March in the rape of a 19-year-old Ukrainian refugee. “She escaped from war-torn Ukraine, did not speak Polish. She trusted a man who promised to help and shelter her. Unfortunately, all this turned out to be deceitful manipulation,” Polish police reportedly said in a statement. In Germany, two men reportedly assaulted a Ukrainian teenager who was staying in a hotel boat for refugees, also in mid-March. The German government has pledged to “ensure that people who seek shelter here are able to get it.” Experiencing violence as a female migrant or refugee is not uncommon. An estimated 1 in 5 refugee women and girls experience sexual violence during their journeys from home, as well as in such places as refugee camps and shelters. They are also at high risk for human trafficking – the use of force or fraud to transport people for exploitation and profit. Criminal networks in such places as Mexico and Libya have also been known to prey upon women and girls along migratory routes. Aid organizations, governments and nonprofits first give refugees food, shelter and other basic services and do not chiefly focus on ways to prevent or respond to sexual violence.

The problem remains: Over the past 20 years there’s been increased attention to aid workers’ committing abuse against the very people they are meant to help. In 2002, accusations emerged of aid workers and U.N. peacekeepers abusing civilians in West Africa. Sexual violence by humanitarians remains a persistent problem in conflicts and refugee crises all over the world. The U.N. and other humanitarian groups have worked to improve staff vetting procedures and help make reporting abuse easier for victims, by setting up phone hotlines, for example. These groups have also tried to expand legal aid and mental health resources for survivors. But these efforts mostly haven’t worked. Little, meanwhile, is known about how to address situations in which local people abuse women and girls like the Ukrainian teenagers who were reportedly raped in Germany and Poland.

No way to vet aid: Currently, there is no centralized system or way to vet people who are independently offering aid to refugees. Tech-based solutions like online platforms to connect those seeking shelter with volunteers have been celebrated and promoted on social media platforms, despite the lack of any background checks on individuals opening their homes to reduce the risk of abuse. Some humanitarian programs that work with refugees focus on giving transportation information and warnings about possible dangers. This places the burden of remaining safe on the refugees, without providing them with the money and other resources to do so.

A way forward: Lessons from decades of work on sexual violence amid other crises around the world can help reduce the risk of abuse for Ukrainian refugees. Research shows that female interpreters who have been trained to assist those experiencing sexual violence are essential to helping refugees access services and seek out help in their new countries. Refugee women themselves are key to preventing and responding to sexual violence, but they need more than just information about risks and how to report assault. They need money to help solve housing problems, for example, that could otherwise lead to unsafe situations. Research in Asia found that community training programs led by female refugees for other refugees improved reporting of violence against women and increased the number of women who sought police, legal or medical help.



Taxonomy, or the study of classifying species, plays a key role in biodiversity conservation. Aarthi Arunkumar/Moment via Getty Images

Thousands of undiscovered mammal species may be hidden in plain sight, new research finds

Published: March 28, 2022 3:15pm EDT

 [Danielle Parsons](#), [Bryan Carstens](#), *The Ohio State University*

Taxonomy, the study of how living organisms relate to one another as species, has been around since the 1700s. Though scientists and philosophers have long debated what makes a species a species, taxonomists treat each species as a group of organisms that share common biological characteristics.

Discovering and describing new species is essential to biology researchers and conservationists because they use species as a unit of analysis. Species are also economically important to agriculture, hunting and fishing, and have special legal status, such as under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Despite this, scientists have been able to formally name and describe only an estimated 10% of species on the planet, based on discovery trends over the years.

This gap in knowledge is known as the Linnean shortfall. It remains unclear whether poor research methodology, disagreements on how to define a species, or other factors are to blame for this gap.

We are scientists in evolutionary biology, and figuring out ways to better identify species is central to our research. **We found potentially hundreds of hidden species that were previously classified as a single group.** This finding was expected, as it mirrors results from previous studies, albeit on a larger scale.

Where and what are these hidden species? Once we identified the presence of these potentially hidden species, our second task was to determine what specific traits they have in common. Based on our model, we found that three types of predictor variables stood out the most.

The first type comprised attributes of the species itself, such as body mass and geographic range. **The second type** was climate – there are likely to be more hidden species in wet, warm areas with a large difference in day and night temperatures. This likely reflects the fact that tropical rainforests tend to have very high levels of mammalian diversity. **The third type** was research effort, including the geographic dispersion of samples in museum collections and the number of recent publications mentioning the scientific name of a known species.

Unknown species face extinction

At a time when Earth is facing its greatest extinction crisis since an asteroid killed off the dinosaurs, we believe that identifying and describing the many undiscovered species on Earth is crucial to aiding the preservation of its biodiversity. Even though our study still found a large number of mammals waiting to be discovered, mammalian diversity is already relatively well captured compared with that of other species. We found that roughly 80% of existing mammal species have already been described, a proportion far higher than in nonmammal groups with even higher diversity such as beetles or mites. Discovering and describing new species, as with all scientific research, takes a village. Natural history museums are largely responsible for collecting the raw data we analyzed, and genetic and biodiversity databases provided the infrastructure to make it accessible to us. A culture of information sharing among peers and large computer networks supported the thousands of hours of computation time we needed. Our work was made possible only by ongoing investments in taxonomic research.

Biodiversity scientists are racing to better understand the processes that create and maintain biodiversity while in the midst of the planet's sixth mass extinction, one that is entirely caused by human actions. Taxonomists face the challenge of describing the species around us before they go extinct. As our findings suggest, there is still a long way to go.

Determining what makes a species can get complicated.



What Makes a Species a Species?

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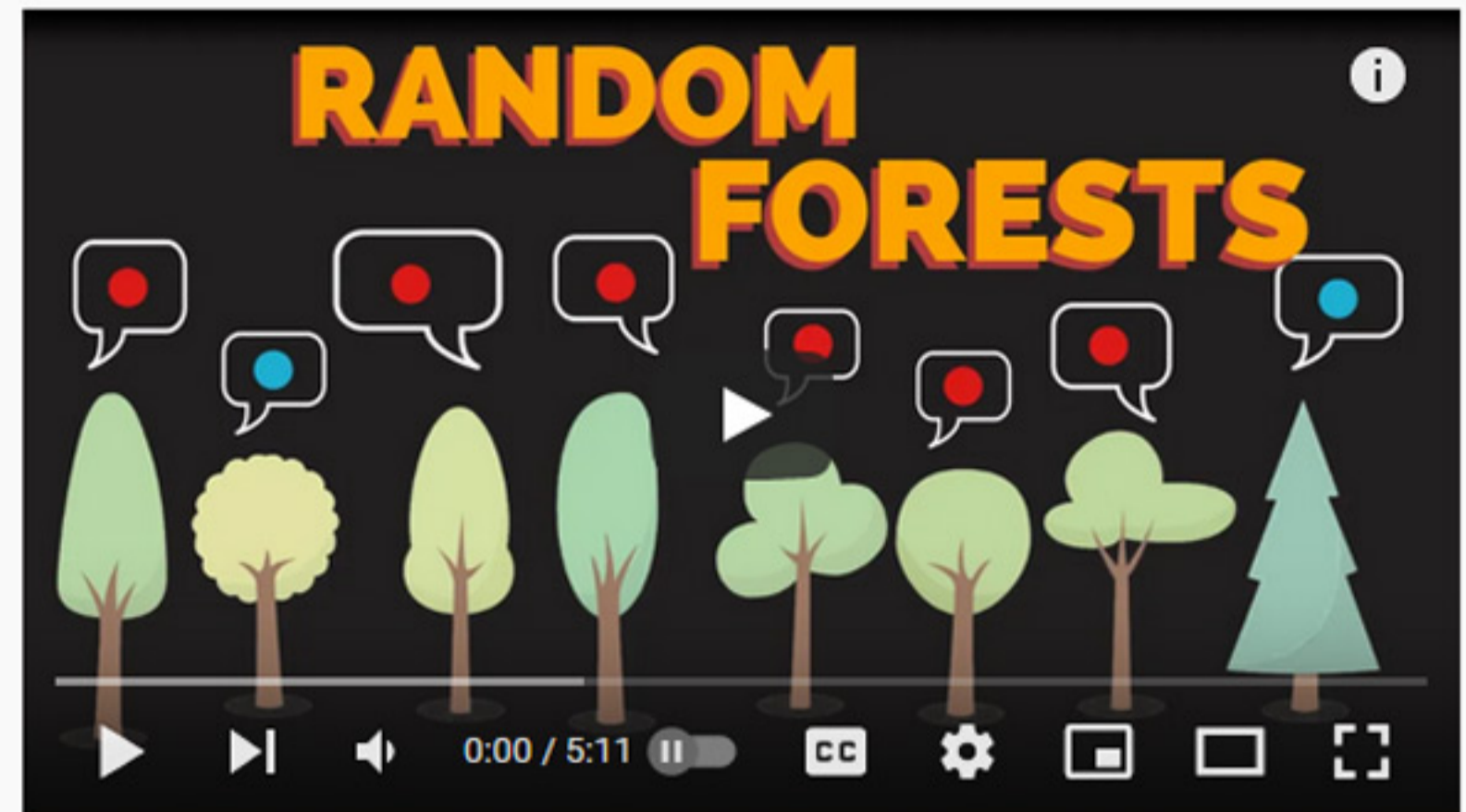
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Mar 30, 2017

Sorting organisms into categories seems pretty simple at first, but look a little closer and things get weird.

Where and what are these hidden species? Once we identified the presence of these potentially hidden species, our second task was to determine what specific traits they have in common. To do this, we used a data science technique called random forest analysis, a form of machine learning that draws information from a large number of different variables in order to make a prediction about a particular outcome. It's similar to the technique that Netflix uses to suggest shows you might be interested in watching. In our case, we wanted to predict whether a known species contained hidden species. The predictor variables we used spanned environmental factors, such as the climate of common mammalian habitats, and species-specific factors, such as physical traits, geographic range, reproductive and survival patterns. We also included research-based factors on the techniques scientists used to conduct their studies. In total, we collected some 3.8 million data points to build our model.

Random forests is a machine learning algorithm that makes predictions using multiple decision trees.



Visual Guide to Random Forests

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Aug 30, 2020

Random Forests are a widely used Machine Learning technique for both regression and classification. In this video, we show you how decision trees can be ensembled to create powerful predictive models.

Note: Some libraries randomize features at the split level rather than the tree level. This does not matter if we assume the trees are decision stumps, meaning there is only 1 split, or max depth = 1. In both cases, the goal is to limit the number of possible features in order to decorrelate the individual trees.



There's never been such a severe shortage of homes in the U.S. Here's why



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Colorado braces to become a refuge for abortion access if 'Roe' is weakened

KAISER HEALTH NEWS

What to know about the fresh round of peace talks happening in Istanbul

36 minutes ago

Ukraine publishes what it says is a list of 620 Russian officers operating in Europe

49 minutes ago

Evacuees leaving Mariupol are 'overjoyed to be alive'

48 minutes ago

CULTURE

Read Will Smith's apology to Chris Rock

Smith slapped Rock on the Oscars stage after the comedian made a joke at the expense of Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith.

- Jada Pinkett Smith's hair loss, noted at the Oscars, is a struggle for many women
- The Academy condemns Will Smith's actions and launches a review

UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED

Georgia's president wants to stand up for Ukraine despite government pressure

NPR's Mary Louise Kelly speaks with the president of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, who the Georgian government is threatening to sue over her support for Ukraine.



- U.S. officially declares that Russian forces have committed war crimes in Ukraine

How Putin conquered Russia's oligarchy

In 2000, Vladimir Putin began targeting oligarchs who did not bend to his authority. The loyalists who remained — and new ones who subsequently got rich — became like ATM machines for the president. How 'shock therapy' created Russian oligarchs and paved the path for Putin



Newest California Supreme Court judge is the first Latina in the role

Justice Patricia Guerrero has been an associate justice in a federal appeals court, a trial court judge, a law partner and a federal prosecutor.

The war in Ukraine

Russia and Ukraine talk face to face for the first time in more than 2 weeks

As negotiators meet in Istanbul, much about the war has changed: Russia has failed to take Kyiv, while Ukraine claims to have retaken some areas. Also, convoys of evacuees from Mariupol tell harrowing stories.

Calif. group votes to limit reparations to slave descendants

By JANIE HAR today



Yolanda Renee King, granddaughter of The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., raises her fist as she speaks during the March on Washington, on the 57th anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech on Aug. 28, 2020. California's first-in-the-nation task force on reparations is at a crossroads with members divided on which Black Americans should be eligible for compensation. The task force could vote on the question of eligibility on Tuesday, March 28, 2022, after putting it off at last month's meeting.

California's first-in-the-nation task force on reparations voted Tuesday to limit state compensation to the descendants of free and enslaved Black people who were in the U.S. in the 19th century, narrowly rejecting a proposal to include all Black people regardless of lineage.

The vote was split 5-4, and the hours-long debate was at times testy and emotional. Near the end, the Rev. Amos Brown, president of the San Francisco branch of the NAACP and vice chair of the task force, pleaded with the commission to move ahead with a clear definition of who would be eligible for restitution. "Please, please, please I beg us tonight, take the first step," he said. "We've got to give emergency treatment to where it is needed."

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation creating the two-year reparations task force in 2020, making California the only state to move ahead with a study and plan, with a mission to study the institution of slavery and its harms and to educate the public about its findings.

Reparations at the federal level has not gone anywhere, but cities and universities are taking up the issue. The mayor of Providence, Rhode Island, announced a city commission in February while the city of Boston is considering a proposal to form its own reparations commission. The Chicago suburb of Evanston, Illinois, became the first U.S. city to make reparations available to Black residents last year, although there are some who say the program has done nothing to right a wrong.

California's task force members — nearly all of whom can trace their families back to enslaved ancestors in the U.S. — were aware that their deliberations over a pivotal question will shape reparations discussions across the country.

The committee is not even a year into its two-year process and there is no compensation plan of any kind on the table. Longtime advocates have spoken of the need for multifaceted remedies for related yet separate harms, such as slavery, Jim Crow laws, mass incarceration and redevelopment that resulted in the displacement of Black communities.

Compensation could include free college, assistance buying homes and launching businesses, and grants to churches and community organizations.

The eligibility question has dogged the task force since its inaugural meeting in June, when viewers called in pleading with the nine-member group to devise targeted proposals and cash payments to make whole the descendants of enslaved people in the U.S. Reparations critics say that California has no obligation to pay up given that the state did not practice slavery and did not enforce Jim Crow laws that segregated Black people from white people in the southern states. But testimony provided to the committee shows California and local governments were complicit in stripping Black people of their wages and property, preventing them from building wealth to pass down to their children. Their homes were razed for redevelopment, and they were forced to live in predominantly minority neighborhoods and couldn't get bank loans that would allow them to purchase property.

Today, Black residents are 5% of the state's population but over-represented in jails, prison and homeless populations. And Black homeowners continue to face discrimination in the form of home appraisals that are significantly lower than if the house were in a white neighborhood or the homeowners are white, according to testimony.

A report is due by June with a reparations proposal due by July 2023 for the Legislature to consider turning into law.



Studies show that feelings of ease and comfort in a given situation – what psychologists call ‘fluency’ – are tied to feelings of authenticity. Tara Moore/Getty Images

What the new science of authenticity says about discovering your true self

Published: March 30, 2022 8:38am EDT

Matthew Baldwin, University of Florida

When something feels ‘right’: We propose that authenticity is a feeling that people interpret as a sign that what they are doing in the moment aligns with their true self. Importantly, this view does not require people to know what their true self is, nor do they need to have a true self at all. According to this view, an authentic person can look many different ways; and as long as something feels authentic, it is. Although we are not the first to take this view, our research aims to describe exactly what this feeling is like. This is where we depart a bit from tradition. We propose that the feeling of authenticity is actually an experience of fluency.

Have you ever been playing a sport, reading a book, or having a conversation, and had the feeling that it was just right? This is what some psychologists call fluency, or the subjective experience of ease associated with an experience. Fluency usually happens outside of our immediate awareness – in what psychologist William James called fringe consciousness. **According to our research, this feeling of fluency might contribute to feelings of authenticity.** In one study, we asked U.S. adults to recall the last activity they did and to rate how fluent it felt. We found that, regardless of the activity – whether it was work, leisure or something else – people felt more authentic the more fluent the activity was.

Getting in the way of fluency: We were also able to show that when an activity becomes less fluent, people feel less authentic. To do this, we asked participants to list some attributes that describe who they really are. However, sometimes we asked them to try to remember complicated strings of numbers at the same time, which increased their cognitive load. At the end, participants answered some questions about how authentic they felt while completing the task. As we predicted, the participants felt less authentic when they had to think about their attributes under cognitive load, because being forced to do the memory task at the same time created a distraction that impeded fluency. At the same time, this doesn’t necessarily mean you’re not being authentic if you take on challenging tasks.

While some people may interpret feelings of unease as a hint that they aren’t being true to themselves, in some cases difficulty might be interpreted as importance. Research by a team of psychologists led by Daphna Oyserman has shown that people have different personal theories about ease and difficulty when carrying out tasks. Sometimes when something is too easy it feels “not worth our time.” Conversely, when something gets difficult – or when life gives us lemons – we might see it as especially important and worth doing. We choose to make lemonade instead of giving up. This might mean that there are times when we feel particularly true to ourselves when the going gets tough – as long as we interpret that difficulty as important to who we are.

Trust your gut: As romantic as it sounds to have a true self that’s merely hiding behind a false one, it probably isn’t that simple. But that doesn’t mean authenticity shouldn’t be an something to strive for. **Seeking fluency – and avoiding internal conflict – is probably a pretty good way to stay on the path to being true to yourself, pursuing what is morally good and knowing when you’re “in the right place.”** When you go searching for the self in a sea of change, you might find yourself feeling like Alice in Wonderland. But the new science of authenticity suggests that if you let feelings of fluency be your guide, you might find what you’ve been looking for all along.

.....

State Authenticity > <https://doi.org/10.1177/0963721417713296> :: **The secret life of fluency** > <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tics.2008.02.014> :: **Exploring “fringe” consciousness: The subjective experience of perceptual fluency and its objective bases** > <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1053810003000497>
Authenticity on the Fringe: A Bottom-Up Approach to the Study of the True Self > <https://psyarxiv.com/8mh7x/> :: **The True Self: A Psychological Concept Distinct From the Self** > <https://doi.org/10.1177/1745691616689495> :: **State Authenticity as Fit to Environment: The Implications of Social Identity for Fit, Authenticity, and Self-Segregation** > <https://doi.org/10.1177/1088868317734080>



Matthew Baldwin

Assistant Professor of Psychology, [University of Florida](#)

Matt received his B.A. in Psychology from Miami University and his Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Kansas. He then spent four years as a post doctoral fellow at the Social Cognition Center Cologne, University of Cologne, Germany. Matt joined the faculty at UF in 2019. His research explores the dynamic interaction between people and the worlds they inhabit. How do people influence the worlds they live in, and how do those worlds influence people in return? Some topics of interest include political ideology and polarization, the temporal self, nostalgia, authenticity, and socio-ecological processes.

–present

Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Florida



March 30, 2022

What the new science of authenticity says about discovering your true self

Matthew Baldwin, [University of Florida](#)

What if cultivating your authentic self doesn't involve self-reflection, but instead means focusing on what feels good and natural?



Matt Baldwin

@mattwbaldwin

Social psychologist into interaction of self, mind, society • [#politics](#) [#nostalgia](#) [#comparison](#) • Asst Prof [@UFPsychology](#) • Editor [@InMindMag](#) • Give science away

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Welcome to the Self Mind and Society Lab at the University of Florida

We are a group of scholars who aim to better understand the way people shape the world they live in, and how the world shapes them back. This socio-ecological approach is the foundation of our work, and it allows us to do research on a variety of topics.

Pinned Tweet



Matt Baldwin @mattwbaldwin · Sep 2, 2021

Whew, this one has been a long time coming. One reject so far, and a complete overhaul of the main text and supplemental findings. What do people mean when they say they feel authentic? WELL...(1/n)



PsyArXiv-bot @PsyArXivBot · Sep 2, 2021

Authenticity on the Fringe: A Bottom-Up Approach to the Study of the True Self

zpr.io/FSvhhy7n3Nkg

1

2

6



Pence unveils Republican policy agenda for midterm elections

By JILL COLVIN 44 minutes ago



FILE - Former Vice President Mike Pence speaks at the National Press Club in Washington, Nov. 30, 2021. Pence is unveiling a new policy platform for Republicans ahead of this year's midterms elections. He's offering a framework for candidates — and possibly himself — as he carves out a lane ahead of a potential 2024 presidential run. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta, File)

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Vice President Mike Pence has unveiled a new policy platform for Republicans ahead of this year's midterms elections, offering a framework for candidates — and possibly himself — ahead of a potential 2024 presidential run.

Pence's "Freedom Agenda," released Thursday, combines traditional Republican goals like increasing American energy production, cutting taxes and rolling back regulations with priorities pursued by former President Donald Trump on issues like trade and immigration. Pence also offers plenty of culture war red meat for the GOP base, pledging, for instance, to save women's sports by "ensuring that sports competitions are between those who share their God-given gender" and calling for all high school students to pass a civics test.

"Elections are about the future, and I think it's absolutely essential that, while we do our part to take the fight to the failed policies of the Biden administration and the radical left, at the same time, we want to offer a compelling vision built on our highest American ideals," Pence said ahead of the plan's release. "It really is an effort to put in one place the agenda that I think carried us to the White House in 2016, carried two Bush presidencies to the White House and carried Ronald Reagan to the White House in 1980."

Pence also calls on states and local jurisdictions to require that all high school students pass a test on the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the Federalist Papers to graduate. And he seeks limits on mail-in voting and early in-person voting, as well as mandatory voter identification, among other election measures.

The plan comes as Pence has been raising his public profile, making frequent media appearances, headlining political events and delivering policy speeches. He has traveled in recent weeks to South Korea, Israel and the Ukrainian border with Poland, where he greeted fleeing refugees. And he has paid numerous visits to early voting states, including New Hampshire, Iowa and South Carolina, which he'll return to next month.

Meanwhile, his advocacy group is spending millions of dollars on ads and filing amicus briefs opposing vaccine mandates and abortion rights, and he's working on a pair of books in addition to projects with the conservative Heritage Foundation and Young America's Foundation.

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Federalist_Papers

The Federalist Papers is a collection of 85 articles and essays written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay under the collective pseudonym "Publius" to promote the ratification of the United States Constitution.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Heritage_Foundation

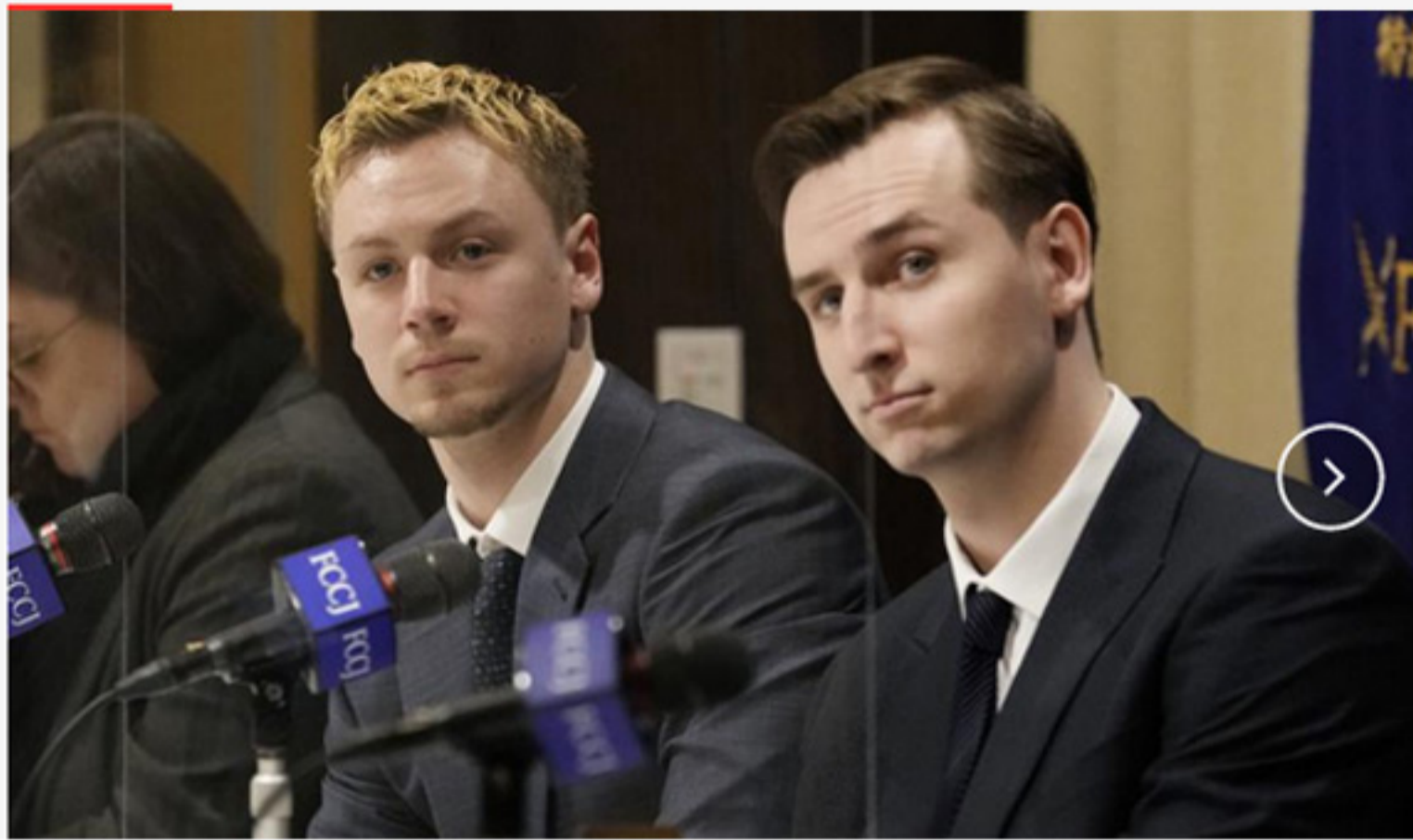
The Heritage Foundation is an American conservative think tank based in Washington, D.C., primarily geared towards public policy. The foundation took a leading role in the conservative movement during the presidency of Ronald Reagan, whose policies were taken from Heritage's policy study *Mandate for Leadership*. Historically, the Heritage Foundation has had significant influence in U.S. public policy making. It is among the most influential conservative public policy organizations in the United States.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandate_for_Leadership

Mandate for Leadership is a series of books published by The Heritage Foundation, and are intended to serve as guidelines for reducing the size and scope of the federal government through specific policy recommendations. The books have traditionally been released to coincide with an incoming U.S. presidential administration, starting with the Reagan administration in 1981. The latest edition was published in November 2016. The 2020 (Biden) issue was still unpublished and assumed unfinished, but still available for pre-order, as of the closing months of 2021.

Ukrainian YouTube brothers reach out to Japanese to end war

By MARI YAMAGUCHI an hour ago



Ukraine's YouTubers Sava Tkachov, right, and his young brother Yan Tkachov attend a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan in Tokyo, Thursday, March 31, 2022. Ukrainian YouTuber duo Sawayan, popular among young Japanese for their funny videos and chat over Mario Kart games, are now using their platform to share the reality of war in Ukraine and send an antiwar message. (AP Photo/Shuji Kajiyama)

TOKYO (AP) — Starting out with funny videos and chat over Mario Kart racing games, two Ukrainian brothers have added a somber tone to their YouTube channel popular with young Japanese with updates from their country that bring the harsh realities of war closer to Japan.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine began just after the duo, Sava Tkachov, 26, and his younger brother Yan, 20, celebrated the second anniversary of their YouTube debut with subscribers exceeding 2 million for their Sawayan Channel and Sawayan Games that Sava hosts.

The first word of war came from their father, a business consultant who had returned to Kyiv two months ago just before Russian troops rolled in and has stayed since to help defend his country. The siblings' YouTube content, which used to be full of pranks, jokes and action videos, has become more serious.

Worried about their 53-year-old father and friends in Ukraine, the brothers in early March announced on their channel that they planned to volunteer as defenders too. It triggered a wave of reactions, some supporting and others criticizing them.

Japan was quick to join other industrialized nations in imposing sanctions against Russia and providing support for Ukraine.

Tokyo has also sent bulletproof vests, helmets, tents, medical supplies and other nonlethal defense equipment to Ukraine as an exception to Japan's ban on military equipment transfer to countries in conflict.

Japan has taken tougher measures against Russia, worried about the impact of Moscow's war on East Asia where Tokyo has faced threats from North Korea and China. In response to sanctions, Russia suspended peace treaty talks with Japan over the disputed Kuril Islands, which Moscow has held since 1945.

Sava Tkachov, who arrived with his family in Japan when he was 4 and studied at a top Japanese university, thanked his adopted country for its support but says Tokyo should stick to its pacifist role.

“Japan is the world's top-class peaceful nation ... and what the country is doing right now is very appropriate,” he said. “As to the question of whether Japan should send weapons, I do not think it's the kind of role Japan should be playing.” Instead, he said, Japan can better contribute by continuing to appeal for peace and take a leadership role within Asia.

He also said Japan can provide home to many war-displaced Ukrainians. Some may face challenges of language or unfamiliar food, “but I'm sure they can overcome the difficulties with the empathy of the Japanese people and the spirits of the Ukrainians.”

Will Smith's slap sparks debate on defense of Black women

By AARON MORRISON yesterday



FILE - Jada Pinkett Smith, left, and Will Smith hold hands in the audience at the Oscars on March 27, 2022, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. The stunning physical altercation between actor Will Smith and comedian Chris Rock at the 94th Academy Awards on Sunday has sparked debate about the appropriate ways for Black men to publicly defend Black women against humiliation and abuse. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, File)



Aaron L. Morrison ✓
@aaronlmorrison

National Race & Ethnicity Writer for @AP. ✉: amorrison (at) ap (dot) org | Adjunct lecturer, @newmarkjschool | DMs open. RTs ≠ endorsements. He/him.

4,121 Following 13.1K Followers



Black Girls Smile
@BlackGirlsSmile

Leading non-profit dedicated to empowering the mental health and well-being of Black girls + young women. ❤️
[#BlackMentalHealthMatters](#)
[#MentalHealthSupport](#)

256 Following 2,713 Followers

After returning to his seat, Smith twice shouted at Rock, "keep my wife's name out your (expletive) mouth."

Baruch College professor Shelly Eversley said Smith's language toward Rock left her questioning whether the actor's motivation for slapping the comedian was an act of love. "My wife' — get my wife's name out of your mouth — is a logic of property ownership," said Eversley, who is interim chair of Baruch's Black and Latino Studies program. Today, behavior like Smith's slap at the Oscars is more likely to be condemned as a consequence of an unchecked ego than to be cheered as a righteous defense of a Black woman, Eversley said. "Jada Pinkett (Smith) is not a damsel in distress," she said. "The idea that somehow Will Smith should be applauded for treating her as if she doesn't have a voice or doesn't have her own agency is also a problem."

"That he can get away with that kind of violence on national television, go back to his seat, receive an award and then go party," Eversley continued, "suggests to me that even the tears about defending his wife aren't really about defending his wife but his own ego."

The Oscars controversy came at the end of a week that included a different approach to defending a Black woman. Sen. Cory Booker, a Black Democrat from New Jersey, delivered a widely praised speech pushing back on his Republican colleagues' combative questioning of Judge Kentaji Brown Jackson, who is poised to become the first Black woman confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court. "You faced insults here that were shocking to me," Booker said on the third day of Jackson's confirmation hearings last Wednesday. "You have earned this spot. You are worthy. You are a great American," the senator continued, drawing tears from Jackson and others who listened with rapt attention.

Paige Brooks, associate director of **Black Girls Smile**, said there's some value in the conversation over the Oscars incident. "The history of Black women being used as the butt of jokes in front of predominantly white audiences, for the sake of a laugh and with no regard for Black women and girls' humanity, is something that this country has done for so long," she said. "This at least has people talking, for good or for bad reasons."

.....

<https://www.blackgirlssmile.org/about>

Black Girls Smile (BGS) has been recognized as one of the leading organizations focusing on Black female mental wellness.

Chris Rock takes to comedy mic, still processing Oscars slap

By MICHAEL CASEY today



Chris Rock, center, arrives at the Wilbur Theater before a performance, Wednesday, March 30, 2022, in Boston. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

BOSTON (AP) — Chris Rock received several standing ovations before he told one joke Wednesday at his first comedy show since Will Smith slapped him in the face onstage at the Oscars.

Rock only briefly addressed the slap to the sold out crowd in Boston, saying he was “still kind of processing what happened.”

“Other than the weird thing, life is pretty good,” Rock said midway through his first of two sets. The nighttime performances came just three days after Smith smacked the comedian for making a joke about his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, while presenting an Academy Award.

Rock didn’t mention Smith or Pinkett Smith by name at his show in Boston. Wearing all white, he seemed to be almost embarrassed by the multiple ovations he received. As the applause carried on for minutes — with fans yelling “I love you, Chris!” — the comedian appeared to be getting emotional, a guest seated near the stage told The Associated Press.

“How was your weekend?” Rock joked before getting into his set.

Ticket prices skyrocketed after Smith took to the awards stage and slapped Rock on live TV, but the comedian made clear he wasn’t going to talk at length about it Wednesday.



Chris Rock

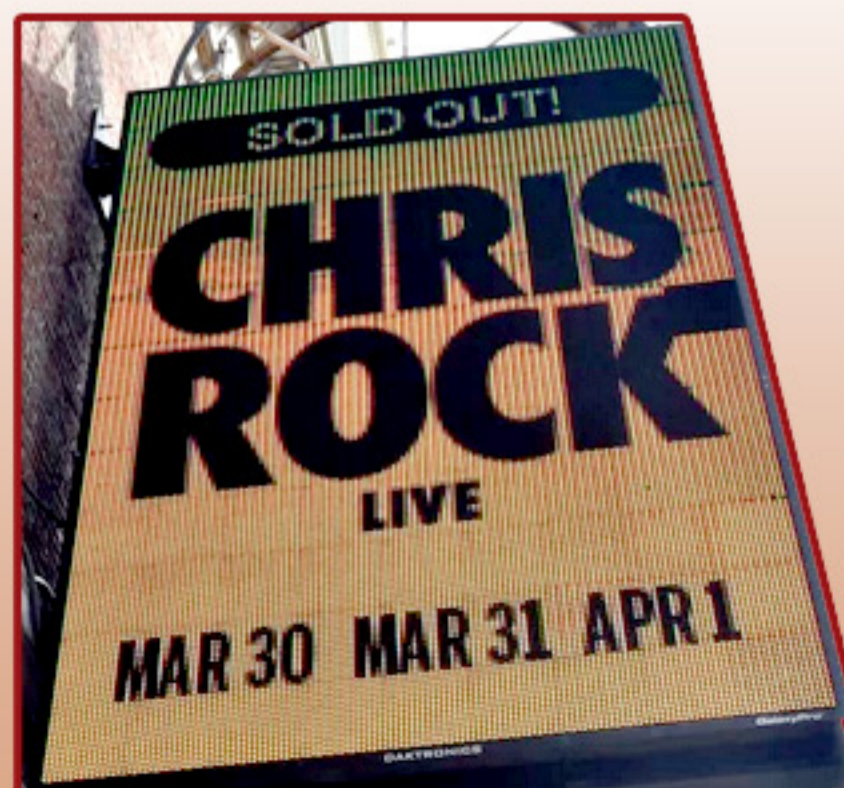
American comedian

Overview

News

Movies and TV shows

Videos



Christopher Julius Rock is an American stand-up comedian, actor, writer, producer, and film director. After working as a stand-up comedian and appearing in supporting film roles, Rock gained prominence as a cast member of Saturday Night Live in the early 1990s. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: February 7, 1965 (age 57 years), [Andrews, SC](#)

Spouse: [Malaak Compton Rock](#) (m. 1996–2016)

Siblings: [Tony Rock](#), [Andi Rock](#), [Charles Rock](#), [Kenny Rock](#), [Andre Rock](#), [Jordan Rock](#), [Brian Rock](#)

Children: [Lola Simone Rock](#), [Zahra Savannah Rock](#)

Parents: [Rosalie Rock](#), [Julius Rock](#)

THE WAR IN UKRAINE

An aid convoy of 45 buses is heading to the besieged port city of Mariupol

The International Red Cross says Russia will allow the humanitarian convoy to pass, although it has broken many previous cease-fires. "Tens of thousands of lives" hang in the balance, an official said.



Alexander Ermochenko/Reuters

Russian troops start leaving Kyiv, and will likely be redeployed to eastern Ukraine

15 minutes ago

A Ukrainian MP says Russian shelling killed her husband near Chernihiv

28 minutes ago

Russia's foreign minister visits China, affirming close ties

50 minutes ago

Russian cease-fire sets the stage for civilian evacuations from Mariupol on Friday

54 minutes ago

The International Red Cross says Russia will allow a humanitarian convoy into Mariupol, although Russia has broken many previous cease-fires. "Tens of thousands of lives" hang in the balance, an official said.



THE PICTURE SHOW

Russia's war in Ukraine reminds Georgians of what they survived in 2008



EUROPE

This toy maker wanted to help Ukrainian refugees. The response stunned him



Citizen Brick sold out of its LEGO-based figurine inspired by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy within hours.

It didn't take long for Citizen Brick to sell out of its custom LEGO-based figurine of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Their tiny Molotov cocktails featuring the Ukrainian flag went just as fast. "We just wanted to do a small fundraising effort," says owner Joe Trupia. "But this one seemed to hit the bull's eye with some people." Like many others, Trupia wanted to help as he watched events unfold in Ukraine. His store decided to create and sell the tiny toys to bring attention and money for Ukraine. They sold out within hours, raising more than \$145,000 of proceeds benefiting the non-profit aid group, Direct Relief.

Biden bets a million barrels a day will drive down soaring gas prices – what you need to know about the Strategic Petroleum Reserve
Scott L. Montgomery, University of Washington

What is aphasia? An expert explains the condition forcing Bruce Willis to retire from acting
Swathi Kiran, Boston University

A new way to pick the best school for your child
David M. Houston, George Mason University

Much of the cost of dementia care in aging Native American adults is due to hospitalization
Joan O'Connell, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Luohua Jiang, University of California, Irvine

Sri Lanka teeters on economic edge, from pandemic-fueled financial crisis and Ukraine war spillovers
Vidhura S Tennekoon, IUPUI

The Human Genome Project pieced together only 92% of the DNA – now scientists have finally filled in the remaining 8%
Gabrielle Hartley, University of Connecticut

Transgender people of color face unique challenges as gender discrimination and racism intersect
Gabriel Lockett, University of Florida; Jules Sostre, University of Florida, and Roberto L. Abreu, University of Florida

Behind the crypto hype is an ideology of social change
Rick Wash, Michigan State University

Brains are bad at big numbers, making it impossible to grasp what a million COVID-19 deaths really means
Lindsey Hasak, Stanford University and Elizabeth Y. Toomarian, Stanford University

William Tecumseh Sherman knew the enduring cruelty of war
Mitchell G. Klingenberg, United States Army War College

Transgender women are finding some respect in India, but a traditional gender-nonconforming group – hijras – remains stigmatized
Liz Mount, Flagler College

Afghan evacuees lack a clear path for resettlement in the U.S., 7 months after Taliban takeover
Tazreena Sajjad, American University School of International Service

'Laugh right in its face' – a poet reflects on her craft's defiant role in the middle of a war
Rachel Hadas, Rutgers University - Newark

Black Lives Matter protests are shaping how people understand racial inequality
Jelani Ince, University of Washington and Zackary Dunivin, Indiana University

Yes, Putin and Russia are fascist – a political scientist shows how they meet the textbook definition
Alexander Motyl, Rutgers University - Newark

What the new science of authenticity says about discovering your true self
Matthew Baldwin, University of Florida

COVID-19 vaccines for the youngest children may be inching closer to authorization – a pediatrician explains how they're being tested
Debbie-Ann Shirley, University of Virginia

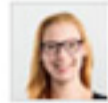
What is alopecia? It's no laughing matter for millions of Black American women
Danita Peoples, Wayne State University

He was fired by Amazon 2 years ago. Now he's the force behind the company's 1st union

April 2, 2022 · 7:56 AM ET



ANDREA HSU



ALINA SELYUKH



Chris Smalls, president of the Amazon Labor Union, takes part in an interview at the Amazon distribution center in the Staten Island borough of New York on Oct. 25, 2021, after earlier delivering "Authorization of Representation" forms to the National Labor Relations Board in New York.

"He's not smart, or articulate." Those were the words used by a top Amazon lawyer to describe former warehouse worker Chris Smalls. Smalls had led a walkout at the start of the pandemic in 2020 to protest working conditions at the Staten Island, N.Y., warehouse where he worked. He was fired the same day. The memo that contained those biting words was leaked just a few days later. But the words would stay with Smalls. They became the fuel that would drive him to lead one of the most dramatic and successful grassroots union drives in recent history.

"When I read that memo, that motivated me to start an organization," said Smalls, celebrating the historic victory of the Amazon Labor Union on Friday, making the warehouse Amazon's first unionized workplace in the U.S. Friday's triumph would come almost two years to the day of his firing.

At the time, Amazon said Smalls had violated quarantine and safety measures. But Smalls said he was fired in retaliation for his activism. The New York attorney general followed with an investigation and sued Amazon for the incident and even sought to get Smalls his job back. Smalls didn't sit still after being fired, and formed the Amazon Labor Union soon after.

Meetings at a bus stop, barbecue and funding through GoFundMe: Smalls had zero union background, nor did he rely on any established labor groups for funding and organizing power. Instead he raised money for the operation through GoFundMe. Smalls and his co-founder Derrick Palmer — who's still working at the warehouse — reached out to their coworkers. The bus stop used by workers became their gathering place. They'd wait there to talk to workers who were heading home from their shifts. They'd have a bonfire going, with s'mores, and get people talking. They invited workers to cookouts. "We had over 20 some barbecues, giving out food every single week, every single day, whether it was pizza, chicken, pasta," Smalls said. He even brought home-cooked food from his aunt to some of these gatherings. They talked to workers about fighting for their rights, about the grueling toll of the job, how you're on your feet, doing very repetitive, very physically demanding work, for hours. About the breaks that are few and too short. No one expected this scrappy grassroots campaign to emerge victorious against the behemoth company. Indeed, a first attempt failed. But Smalls persevered, eventually meeting the 30% threshold necessary to hold a vote.

Amazon got Smalls arrested for trespassing: Amazon, meanwhile, spent millions of dollars on labor consultants to fight the union campaigns. The company held mandatory meetings with workers in the warehouse, urging them to vote No. Amazon even had Smalls and a couple other organizers arrested for trespassing while they were delivering food and union materials to the warehouse parking lot earlier this year. Amazon's argument to workers is that it is already a great place to work, without a union. It offers competitive pay, and generous benefits like health care coverage for full time employees and full tuition for college. But Smalls' efforts clearly bore fruit.

Almost 5,000 workers cast their ballots and the votes to form a union were won by a significant margin — more than 500 votes. Amazon had wanted to belittle the union drive two years ago, when as part of its PR strategy the company said it would make Smalls "the face of the entire union/organizing movement." And that's exactly what happened. Except today, **Smalls has become the face of one of the most successful union drives in recent history.** And Amazon has suffered an embarrassing defeat. "Amazon doesn't become Amazon without the people," Smalls said. "And we make Amazon what it is."



Staten Island based Amazon.com Inc distribution center union organizer Chris Smalls celebrates with union members after getting the voting results to unionize Amazon warehouse on Staten Island, N.Y., Friday, April 1, 2022, in the Brooklyn borough of New York. (AP Photo/Eduardo Munoz Alvarez)

Coronavirus FAQ: Our mini-zine has advice on when & how to dial down COVID precautions

April 1, 2022 · 2:34 PM ET



COVID specialists say 10 daily cases or fewer per 100,000 population is a good measure for low community transmission. **San Diego county** population is roughly 3.5 million, thus **350 daily cases or fewer is pretty darned low.**

AND REMEMBER, IT'S HARD TO GIVE UP HABITS THAT ARE TWO YEARS OLD.

LIFTING COVID-19 MITIGATION STRATEGIES NOW ...

... IS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT FOR THOSE WHO WORK IN HEALTH CARE, HAVE LOST INDIVIDUALS TO COVID OR ARE HIGH-RISK OF SEVERE DISEASE.

DR. JILL WEATHERHEAD, BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

NERVOUS ABOUT DIALING DOWN YOUR COVID PRECAUTIONS? Advice from Experts

HOPE I'LL BE OK!

COMIC BY MALAKA GHARIB REPORTING BY MARC SILVER

CHECK IF COVID CASES ARE INDEED LOW IN YOUR COMMUNITY: 10 DAILY CASES OR FEWER PER 100,000 POPULATION IS A GOOD MEASURE.

HECK YES, I'M GOING OUT TONIGHT!

NEW REPORTED CASES

Daily Avg: 7

March 2022

IF YOU'D LIKE TO EAT INDOORS BUT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR RISK,

CHOOSE A PLACE (OR TIME) THAT ISN'T SUPER-CROWDED

SIT IN A SPOT THAT'S WELL-VENTILATED

WEAR A MASK WHEN NOT EATING

THERE'S A PRECAUTION WE SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN: 6 FEET OF DISTANCE MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

THERE'S AN OPEN SEAT HERE IF YOU WANNA JOIN US!

ERM, I'M OK. THANK YOU!

AMP UP PROTECTIVE MEASURES WHEN NECESSARY.

April 2022

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Karaoke | Pub Crawl |
| RAVE CONCERT | Gramma visit |
| ZUMBA CLASS | PAPER |
| PUNK SHOW | |

YEAH, I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE THE RAVE TOMORROW NIGHT.

IN THE GYM, A MASK REDUCES RISKS -- AND HAS OTHER BENEFITS.

P.U. I FORGOT THIS PLACE STINKS!


TRY NOT TO JUDGE OTHERS WHO CHOOSE TO STAY MASKED.

THEY MAY BE OLD OR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED...

... OR IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO IS.

THEY MAY HAVE A BABY.



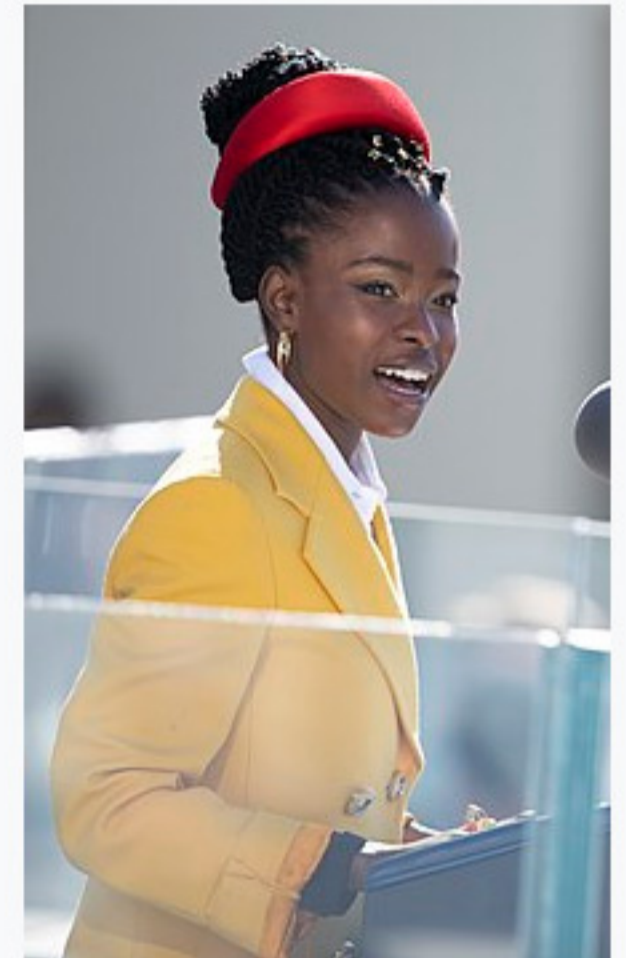
 We are pleased to announce the designs for the 2022 coins in the American Women Quarters™ Program, honoring the achievements of Maya Angelou, Dr. Sally Ride, Wilma Mankiller, Nina Otero-Warren and Anna May Wong: bit.ly/3mv1JNU #HerQuarter @smithsonian @womenshistory

The U.S. Mint has announced the next five women to appear on the backs of coins as part of the American Women Quarters Program authorized by Congress. The latest coins, to be available in 2023, will feature aviation pioneer Bessie Coleman; journalist and suffragist Jovita Idar; composer, chanter, dancer and entertainer Edith Kanaka'ole; first lady, author, reformer and leader Eleanor Roosevelt; and America's first prima ballerina Maria Tallchief.

The first batch of coins recognized the accomplishments of poet Maya Angelou; astronaut Sally Ride; actress Anna May Wong; suffragist and politician Nina Otero-Warren; and Wilma Mankiller, the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation.



Amanda Gorman



Gorman in 2021 at the inauguration of Joe Biden delivering "The Hill We Climb"

Maya Angelou, the first Black woman (and second-ever poet) to write and present a poem at a presidential inauguration in 1992. [Note: In 2021, Amanda Gorman, at age 21, delivered her poem "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration of U.S. President Joe Biden.] Sally Ride, astronaut. Wilma Mankiller, the first woman elected principal chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1987. Nina Otero-Warren, a leading suffragist in New Mexico and the first female superintendent of Santa Fe public schools. Anna May Wong, the first Chinese American film star in Hollywood, appearing in more than 60 movies and achieving international success in the face of racism and discrimination.

Grammy Awards 2022: *Louis C.K. could very well win best comedy album.*
<https://www.npr.org/2022/04/02/1090247145/grammys-2022-nominees-performances-controversies-what-to-expect>



Louis C.K. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_C.K.

2018–2020: Return to stand-up comedy: On August 26, 2018, C.K. made an unannounced appearance at the Comedy Cellar in Manhattan, New York. It was reported that he received an ovation from the audience, and performed a typical set making no reference to the sexual controversy. His return to stand-up comedy was criticized by comedians including Aparna Nancharla, Ian Karmel, Allie Goertz, and Judd Apatow as being premature, whereas Dave Chappelle, Chris Rock, Bill Burr, Michael Che, Jim Gaffigan, Janeane Garofalo, Sarah Silverman, Wanda Sykes, Judy Gold, Marlon Wayans, Joe Rogan, and Kurt Metzger supported C.K.'s right to continue standup. **Comedian Jerry Seinfeld also supported C.K.'s return to standup but opined that the public may have felt that C.K. had not owned up to his actions enough, saying in October 2018, "We know the routine: The person does something wrong. The person's humiliated. They're exiled. They suffer, we want them to suffer. We love the tumble, we love the crash and bang of the fall. And then we love the crawl-back. The grovel. Are you going to grovel? How long are you going to grovel?"** Seinfeld added, **"We, the court of public opinion, decided if he's going to come back, he'd better show a lot of pain. Because he denied (the public) that."** Edie Falco, who starred in C.K.'s *Horace and Pete* and *I Love You, Daddy*, expressed her hope that he would receive a second chance saying: "He's someone who admitted that he did what he was accused of doing and admitted that it wasn't right" and that "people who are committed to becoming aware of what they've done and changing, they can be our strongest proponents in an issue like this."

Sincerely Louis C.K.: On April 4, 2020, C.K. self-released a new stand-up special entitled ***Sincerely Louis C.K.*** through his website without advance notice. In the credits, C.K. thanked various people, including comedians Dave Chappelle, Chris Rock, Bill Burr, Norm Macdonald and Joe Rogan, and his girlfriend Blanche Gardin, and dedicated the special to his mother who died in 2019. The special drew a divided response from audiences, including fellow comedian Amy Schumer, who said, "I laughed at a lot of it. But it's hard to not think of what he has done, what he has and hasn't learned, but I definitely laughed."

In November 2021, C.K. was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Comedy Album for his special *Sincerely, Louis C.K.*

Sorry: On 18 December 2021 C.K. announced the release of a new stand-up comedy special, titled *Sorry*.

Influences: C.K. has cited many comedians who have had an influence on him, including George Carlin, Woody Allen, Larry David, Joan Rivers, Robin Williams, Steve Martin, Richard Pryor and Bill Cosby.

'The Stories Are True,' Louis C.K. Says, After Women Described His Sexual Misconduct
November 10, 2017

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/11/10/563316860/louis-c-k-admits-to-sexual-harassment-of-multiple-female-comedians>

After five female comics accused Louis C.K. of inappropriate behavior involving masturbation, the comedian has admitted that the "stories are true."

C.K. expressed remorse and said he used his power "irresponsibly." His statement, and other elements of this post, contain language some may find offensive.

In the statement released by his publicist, C.K. said in part: "At the time, I said to myself that what I did was okay because I never showed a woman my dick without asking first, which is also true. But what I learned later in life, too late, is that when you have power over another person, asking them to look at your dick isn't a question. It's a predicament for them."

Grammy Awards 2022: Louis C.K. could very well win best comedy album.
<https://www.npr.org/2022/04/02/1090247145/grammys-2022-nominees-performances-controversies-what-to-expect>

Louis C.K. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_C.K.

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On April 4, 2020, C.K. self-released a new stand-up special titled Sincerely, Louis C.K. through his website without advance notice. In the special, C.K. thanked various people, including comedians Dave Chappelle, Norm Macdonald and Joe Rogan, and his girlfriend Blanche. C.K. dedicated the special to his mother who died in 2019. The special received a positive response from audiences, including fellow comedian Amy Poehler, who said, "I laughed at a lot of it. But it's hard to not think of what he's done and what he has and hasn't learned, but I definitely laughed."

In 2021, C.K. was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Comedy Album for his special Sincerely, Louis C.K.

On November 22, 2021 C.K. announced the release of a new stand-up comedy special, titled Sorry.

Influences: C.K. has cited many comedians who have had an influence on him, including George Carlin, Woody Allen, Larry David, Joan Rivers, Robin Williams, Steve Martin, Richard Pryor and Bill Cosby.



Louis CK Infomercial

353,644 views • Mar 12, 2022

👍 14K 💬 DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ≡+ SAVE ...



Louis C.K.
251K subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

This is a half hour infomercial to promote Louis C.K.'s new special "Sorry" on his website <https://louisck.com>.

The host is played by comedian Joe Machi.

Video produced by Harvest Growth.

for them."



Congrats Best Comedy Album winner - 'Sincerely Louis CK' Louis C.K.

The 2022 Grammy Awards

Louis C.K. cancels his cancellation, wins a Grammy and triggers a backlash

April 4, 2022 · 3:26 AM ET

DUSTIN JONES



Just five years ago, networks such as HBO, Netflix and FX were cutting ties with the formerly revered Louis C.K. and pulled past and upcoming programs alike. Now he is back and has a Grammy.

Ben Gabbe/Getty Images

Louis C.K. brought home a Grammy on Sunday despite having admitted to sexual misconduct and subsequently enduring almost five years in professional comedy purgatory.

C.K.'s album, *Sincerely Louis C.K.*, beat out five other nominees — including Lewis Black, Kevin Hart and Chelsea Handler — for best comedy album at the 64th Grammy Awards. The comeback album was his first release since the 54-year-old was accused of masturbating in front of multiple female colleagues in November 2017.

Twitter users lashed out almost immediately following the Recording Academy's announcement, many of whom pointed out the irony that C.K.'s winning album made light of the very misconduct that derailed his career years ago.

"Rewarding the man that makes light of sexual harassment and assault while having allegations levied against him?" one user tweeted.

"The Grammys are a great reminder that 'cancel culture' doesn't exist and no white dude has ever been successfully cancelled for anything terrible that they do," posted another.

In 2017, five women shared experiences with *The New York Times*, alleging that C.K. masturbated in their presence along with other sexually inappropriate behavior. The comedian had initially denied the allegations, NPR previously reported, but ultimately admitted to his wrongdoing.

"At the time, I said to myself that what I did was OK because I never showed a woman my dick without asking first, which is also true. But what I learned later in life, too late, is that when you have power over another person, asking them to look at your dick isn't a question. It's a predicament for them," C.K. said in a 2017 statement. "The power I had over these women is that they admired me. And I wielded that power irresponsibly."

The fallout after his admission came almost instantaneously. On top of the public outcry, networks such as HBO, Netflix and FX cut ties with the formerly revered comedian and pulled past and upcoming programs alike.

Not even one year later, C.K. was back onstage at a comedy club in New York City. However, C.K. has more or less remained out of the spotlight until his latest album. But now he's back on tour. According to his official website, C.K. will spend May and June visiting several European countries, with some of that tour's shows have already sold out.

The 2022 Grammy Awards

10 takeaways from a night of strong performances and curveballs at the Grammys

April 4, 2022 · 6:04 AM ET



STEPHEN THOMPSON



Billie Eilish pays tribute to the late Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins during her 2022 Grammy performance.

Rich Fury/Getty Images for The Recording Academy

1. Never, ever underestimate the Grammys' love for Bruno Mars.

3. Those 11 Jon Batiste nominations were no fluke.

Speaking of forces... bandleader, pianist and composer Jon Batiste was nominated across an astounding 11 different Grammy categories Sunday — including album of the year and record of the year, plus genres as far afield as jazz, R&B and contemporary classical. He'd won four trophies before the telecast even began, then locked down a fifth at the end of the night, when *We Are* won album of the year.

7. The Grammys did what the Oscars couldn't...

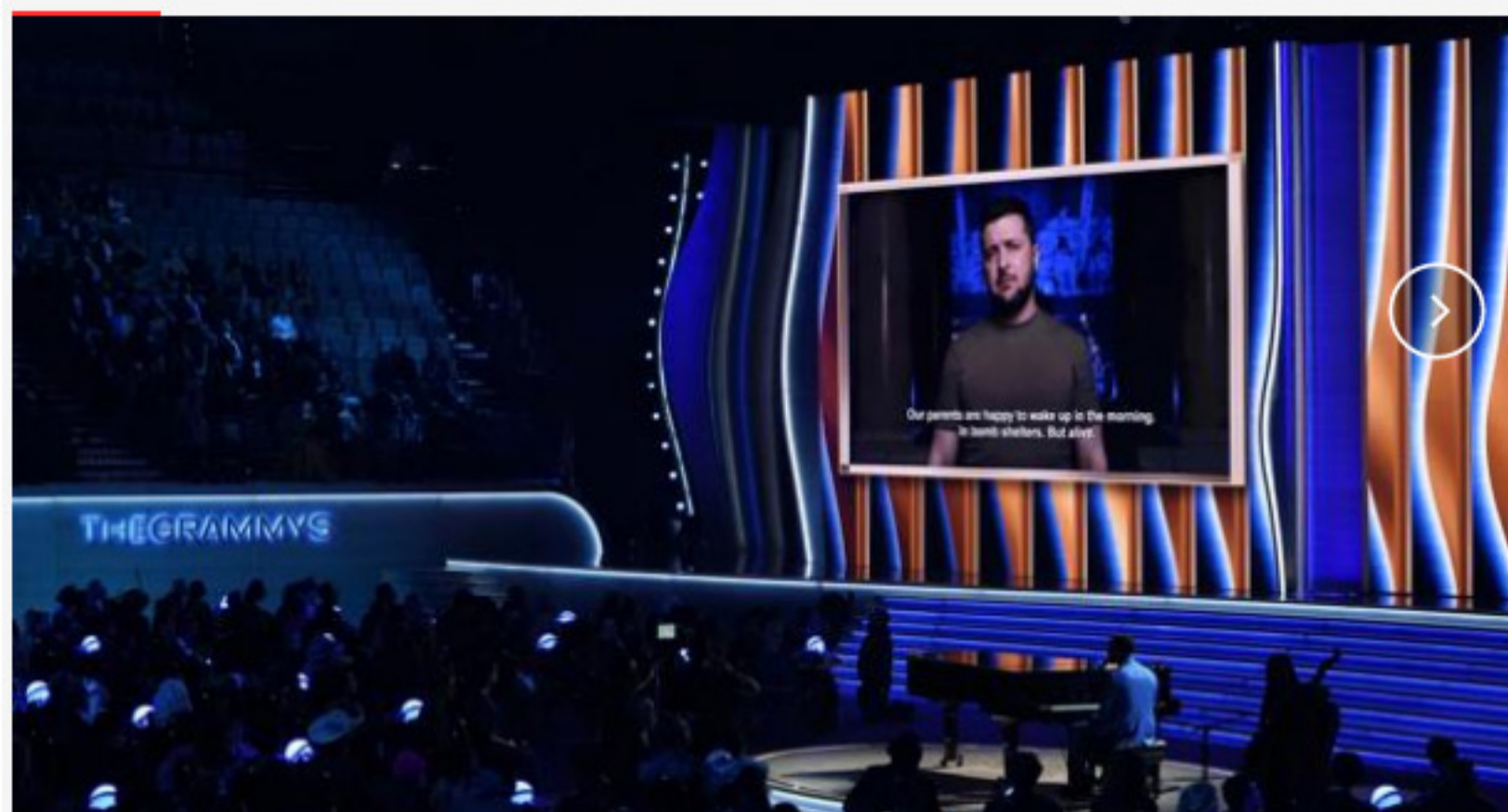
Not only did Questlove get to accept an award for *Summer of Soul* without it being overshadowed by a violent temper tantrum, but the **Grammys also did a far more effective job highlighting the plight of the Ukrainian people. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke via video about music and resilience before John Legend performed "Free" with the aid of musicians Siuzanna Iglidan and Mika Newton, as well as poet Lyuba Yakimchuk.** It was an elegant display and a good look for the Grammys.

8. ...but that Louis C.K. win will burn for a while.

The Grammys did so much right Sunday, and offered so many wins worth celebrating, but they couldn't help but step on a rake when it came time to pick a winner for best comedy album. Watching them reward Louis C.K., who has faced allegations of sexual misconduct from multiple women — and admitted that "the stories are true" — really stung. It's hard to make the (already specious) case that cancel culture is running amok and unfairly ruining lives when Louis C.K., of all people, wins a Grammy Award in 2022.

'Fill the silence with your music,' Zelenskyy tells Grammys

today



President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, speaks on screen at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards on Sunday, April 3, 2022, in Las Vegas. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appeared in a video message at the Grammy Awards to ask for support in telling the story of Ukraine's invasion by Russia.

During the pre-recorded message that aired on the show Sunday, he likened the invasion to a deadly silence threatening to extinguish the dreams and lives of the Ukrainian people, including children.

"Our musicians wear body armor instead of tuxedos. They sing to the wounded in hospitals, even to those who can't hear them," he said in English. "But the music will break through anyway."

The Recording Academy, with its partner Global Citizen, prior to the ceremony highlighted a social media campaign called "Stand Up For Ukraine" to raise money and support during the humanitarian crisis.

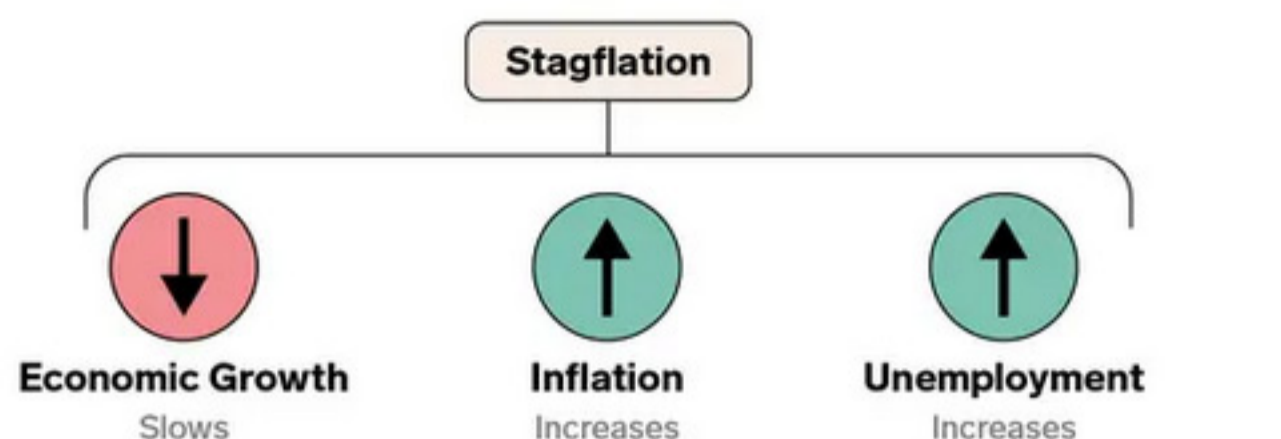
"Fill the silence with your music. Fill it today to tell our story. Tell the truth about the war on your social networks, on TV, support us in any way you can any, but not silence. And then peace will come to all our cities," Zelenskyy said.

Following Zelenskyy's message, John Legend performed his song "Free" with Ukrainian musicians Siuzanna Iglidan and Mika Newton, and poet Lyuba Yakimchuk, as images from the war were shown on screens behind them.

The war in Ukraine had taken a particularly gruesome turn Sunday when Ukrainian forces entering the town of Bucha, recently held by Russian soldiers, found bodies of people who had been shot, some after being bound and tortured. Ukrainian authorities accused the Russians of war crimes, and European leaders called for tougher sanctions against Moscow.



What causes stagflation?



INSIDER

In economics, **stagflation** or recession-inflation is a situation in which the inflation rate is high, the economic growth rate slows, and unemployment remains steadily high. It presents a dilemma for economic policy, since actions intended to lower inflation may exacerbate unemployment.

The term, a portmanteau of stagnation and inflation, is generally attributed to Iain Macleod, a British Conservative Party politician who became Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1970. Macleod used the word in a 1965 speech to Parliament during a period of simultaneously high inflation and unemployment in the United Kingdom. Warning the House of Commons of the gravity of the situation, he said: "We now have the worst of both worlds—not just inflation on the one side or stagnation on the other, but both of them together. We have a sort of 'stagflation' situation. And history, in modern terms, is indeed being made."

Macleod used the term again on 7 July 1970, and the media began also to use it, for example in *The Economist* on 15 August 1970, and *Newsweek* on 19 March 1973. John Maynard Keynes did not use the term, but some of his work refers to the conditions that most would recognise as stagflation. In the version of Keynesian macroeconomic theory that was dominant between the end of World War II and the late 1970s, inflation and recession were regarded as mutually exclusive, the relationship between the two being described by the Phillips curve. **Stagflation is very costly and difficult to eradicate once it starts, both in social terms and in budget deficits.**

[NOTE: While there is a short run tradeoff between unemployment and inflation, it has not been observed in the long run. In 1967 and 1968, Friedman and Phelps asserted that the **Phillips curve was only applicable in the short-run and that, in the long-run, inflationary policies would not decrease unemployment.**]

<https://www.politico.com> > [magazine](#) > [2022/03/14](#) > la...

Inflation, the economy, and China: Ray Dalio and ... - Politico

Mar 14, 2022 — Ray Dalio and Larry Summers look at what inflation could do to the country, ... And so I think we are entering a period of **stagflation**.

DALIO I'd agree with what you said before, which is that there is going to be, when you're stuck with two trade-offs, too much inflation or you're stuck with too much economic weakness, then you navigate through the middle, and that means something like **stagflation**. And so I think we are entering a period of **stagflation**. And I think the political and the wealth gap issues and so on create a set of circumstances that it's not easy to get out of, because everybody needs more money. And so, do you get real money? Taxation is the way to do it normally, but it's taking money away from somebody; whoever it is becomes controversial.



What countries have nuclear weapons, and where are they?

Published: April 1, 2022 1:53pm EDT

▼ Miles A. Pomper, Vasilii Tuganov, Middlebury



A U.S. Air Force jet performs a test drop of a B61-12 bomb in December 2021. That bomb can contain a nuclear warhead for use in wartime. Los Alamos National Laboratory

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has raised fears among the public about the use of nuclear weapons in Europe or against the United States. This level of concern has not been seen since the end of the Cold War.

NATO countries have been taken aback by Russian President Vladimir Putin's implied threats to use nuclear weapons against "whoever interferes with us" in Ukraine, and his placement of additional nuclear officers on shifts under a "special regime of combat duty."

Both Russia and the U.S. have thousands of nuclear weapons, most of which are five or more times more powerful than the atomic bombs that leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. These include about 1,600 weapons on standby on each side that are capable of hitting targets across the globe.

Those numbers are near the limits permitted under the 2011 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, often called "New START," which is the only currently active nuclear arms control treaty between Russia and the U.S. Their arsenals include intercontinental ballistic missiles, better known as ICBMs, and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, as well as missiles launched from specialized aircraft. Many of those missiles can be equipped with multiple nuclear warheads that can independently hit different locations.

To ensure that countries follow the limits on warheads and missiles, the treaty includes methods for both sides to monitor and verify compliance. By 2018, both Russia and the U.S. had met their obligations under the New START, and in early 2021 the treaty was extended for five more years.

Both nations' nuclear arsenals also include hundreds of shorter-range nuclear weapons, which are not covered by any treaty. Currently, Russia has nearly 2,000 of those, about 10 times as many as the United States, according to the most widely cited nongovernmental estimates. **About half of the roughly 200 U.S. shorter-range weapons are believed to be deployed in five NATO countries in Europe: Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey – though the U.S. does not confirm or deny their locations.** In wartime, allied planes would take off from those locations and fly toward their targets before dropping the bombs.

Two other NATO members, France and the United Kingdom, also possess their own nuclear arsenals. They have several hundred nuclear weapons each – far fewer than the nuclear superpowers. France has both submarine-launched nuclear missiles and airplane-launched nuclear cruise missiles; the United Kingdom has only submarine-launched nuclear weapons. Both countries have publicly disclosed the size and nature of their arsenals, but neither country is or has been a party to U.S.-Russian arms control agreements. The U.S., U.K. and France protect other NATO allies under their "nuclear umbrellas" in line with the NATO commitment that an attack on any one ally will be viewed as an attack on the entire alliance.

China's nuclear arsenal is currently similar in size to the U.K. and French arsenals. But it's growing rapidly, and some U.S. officials fear China is seeking parity with the United States. China, France and the U.K. are not subject to any arms control treaties.

India, Pakistan and Israel have dozens of nuclear weapons each. None of them has signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, in which signatories agree to limit the ownership of nuclear weapons to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, each of which possessed nuclear weapons before it was signed. North Korea, which also has dozens of nuclear weapons, signed that treaty in 1985 but withdrew in 2003. North Korea has repeatedly tested nuclear weapons and the missiles to carry them.

There used to be nuclear weapons in other places, too. At the time the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the republics that became Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan had former Soviet nuclear weapons on their territory. In exchange for international assurances for their security, all three countries transferred their weapons to Russia.

Fortunately, none of these weapons have been used in war since the U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. But as recent events remind us, the risk of their use remains a frightening possibility.

What countries have nuclear weapons, and where are they?

Published: April 1, 2022 1.53pm EDT

Miles A. Pomper, Vasilii Tuganov, Middlebury



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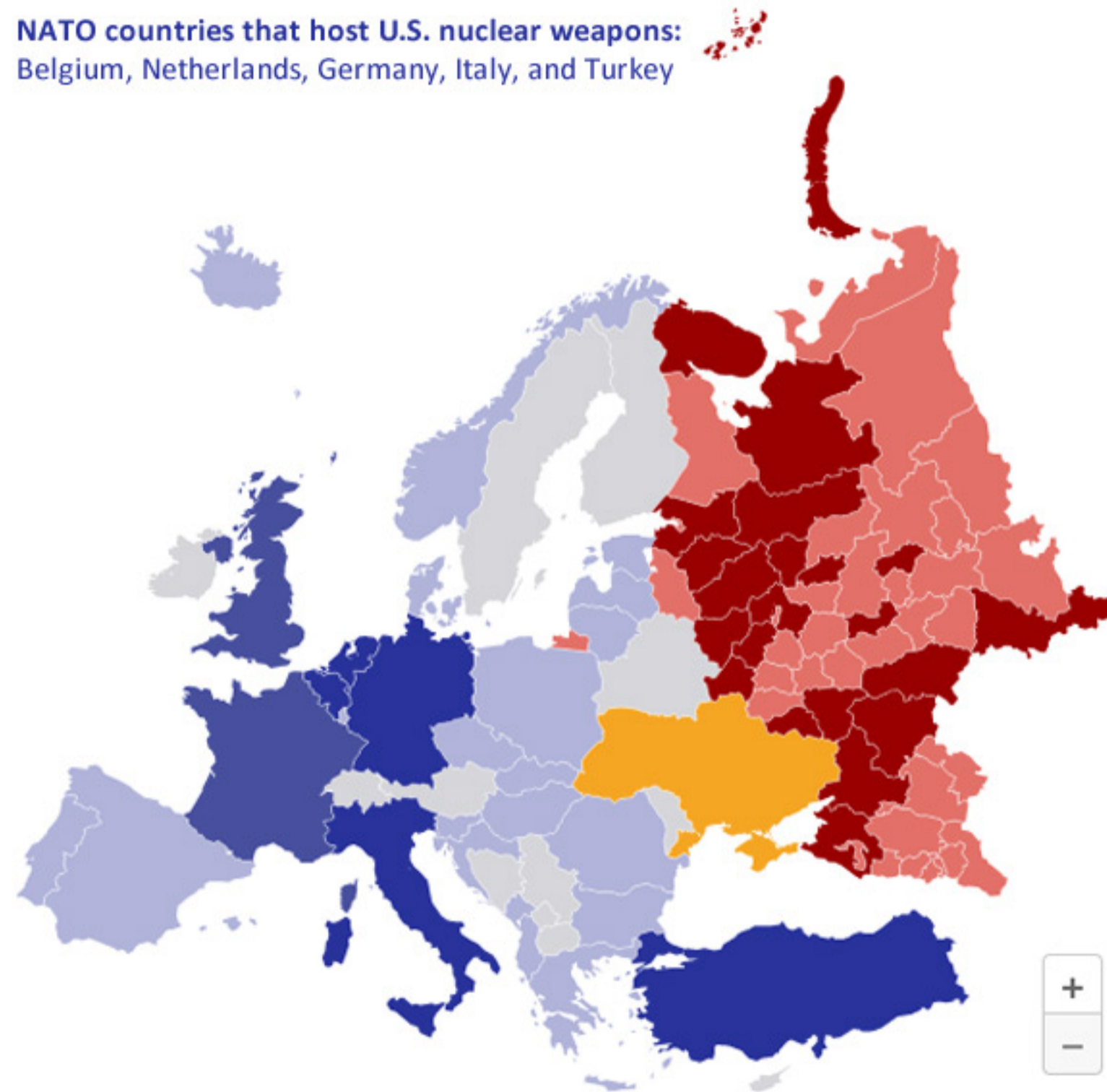
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NATO and Russia have nuclear weapons across Europe

As the conflict in **Ukraine** continues, concerns are rising about the potential use of nuclear weapons. Some Russian districts **have Russian nuclear weapons** stationed on their territory. **Others do not.** Similarly, some **NATO countries host U.S. nuclear weapons**. The United Kingdom and France don't host U.S. weapons, but **have their own.** Most NATO member countries **don't have any nuclear weapons.**

NATO countries that host U.S. nuclear weapons: Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and Turkey



The United States is a NATO member that hosts its own nuclear weapons. Canada is a NATO member that hosts no nuclear weapons. Russia has stationed more of its own nuclear weapons across the rest of Russia, much of which is outside this map.

Map: The Conversation, CC-BY-ND • Source: James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey • [Get the data](#) • [Download image](#)



Aliyah Boston

American basketball player

Overview

News

Stats

Videos

Highlights



South Carolina beats UConn to win 2022 NCAA women's championship

Updated April 3, 2022 · 11:13 PM ET

RINA TORCHINSKY



South Carolina players celebrate after winning the championship on Sunday night.

Eric Gay/AP

About

Aliyah Boston is an American college basketball player for the South Carolina Gamecocks of the Southeastern Conference. She plays the power forward and center positions. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: December 11, 2001 (age 20 years), [Saint Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands](#)

Height: 6' 5"

High school: Worcester Academy; (Worcester, Massachusetts)

Position: Power forward / Center

College: [South Carolina](#) (2019–present)

League: [Southeastern Conference](#)

The University of South Carolina triumphed over the University of Connecticut with a score of 64-49, crowning the Gamecocks as 2022 NCAA March Madness champions in the women's bracket.

After securing a lead at halftime, the Gamecocks continued plowing forward until the end of the game. Guard Destanni Henderson delivered on the scoreboard, earning 26 points — a career-high — for the Gamecocks.

Aliyah Boston, who is the national player of the year, dominated with 11 points and 16 rebounds. It was Boston's 29th double-double of the season, The Athletic reported.

Throughout the tourney, the Gamecocks trampled Howard, Miami, North Carolina, Creighton and Louisville before the final match-up against UConn.



Destanni Henderson

American basketball player

Overview

News

Videos

Stats

Highlights



<https://gamecocksonline.com> > sports > roster > destann...

Destanni Henderson - Women's Basketball - South Carolina

Destanni Henderson (3) Guard - Career Game-by-Game Stats (PDF) Awards Junior Year (2020-21) SEC All-Tournament Team SEC Academic Honor Roll Sophomore.



About

Destanni Mone Henderson is an American college basketball player for the South Carolina Gamecocks of the Southeastern Conference. She played for Fort Myers Senior High School in her hometown of Fort Myers, Florida, where she won three straight state titles. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: February 2, 1999 (age 23 years), [Fort Myers, FL](#)

Height: 5' 7"

High school: [Fort Myers](#); ([Fort Myers, Florida](#))

Current team: [South Carolina Gamecocks women's basketball](#) (#3 / Guard)

College: [South Carolina](#) (2018–present)

South Carolina beats UConn to win 2022 NCAA women's championship

Updated April 3, 2022 · 11:13 PM ET

RINA TORCHINSKY

Guard Destanni Henderson delivered on the scoreboard, earning 26 points — a career-high — for the Gamecocks.



South Carolina players celebrate after winning the championship on Sunday night.

Eric Gay/AP

Watch the frantic final minutes of Stanford's dramatic win over South Carolina



<https://youtu.be/gtfdS2doStE> | Apr 2, 2021

Sophomore season: "Boston had 16 rebounds in the season ending loss against Stanford and missed a potential game winning lay-up at the buzzer as South Carolina lost 66-65." ~ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah_Boston



| ESPN NCAA® WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 1 S CAROLINA 26-4 BONUS | 65 | 0.0 4Q | 66 |
| | | | 1 STANFORD 29-2 BONUS |

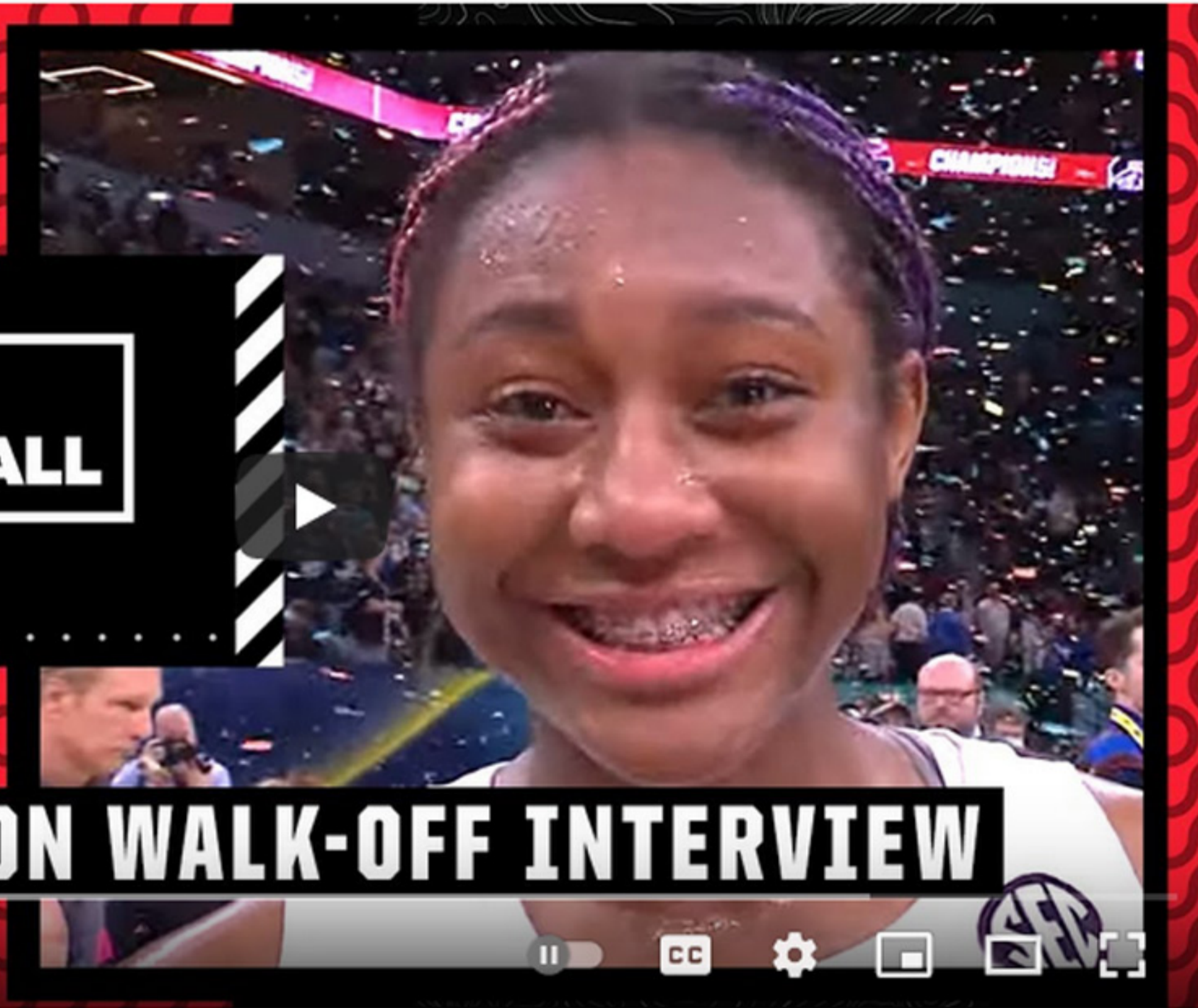
Play (k)



<https://youtu.t>

Sophomore season: "Boston had 16 rebounds in the season ending loss against Stanford and missed a potential game winning lay-up at the buzzer as South Carolina beat 55-55..."

- 1:03 all right we'll remember this night
- 1:05 aaliyah no more tears no more cheers
- 1:06 except for national champions baby
- 1:10 aaliyah boston
- 1:12 utter and complete dominance wire to
- 1:15 wire this season



ALIYAH BOSTON WALK-OFF INTERVIEW

'WE'RE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!' Aliyah Boston reacts to South Carolina beating UConn to win the title

10,373 views Apr 3, 2022

👍 312 🗨 DISLIKE ➦ SHARE ≡+ SAVE ...

Play (k)

Shanghai Bun
1029 Rosecrans St, San Diego, CA 92106



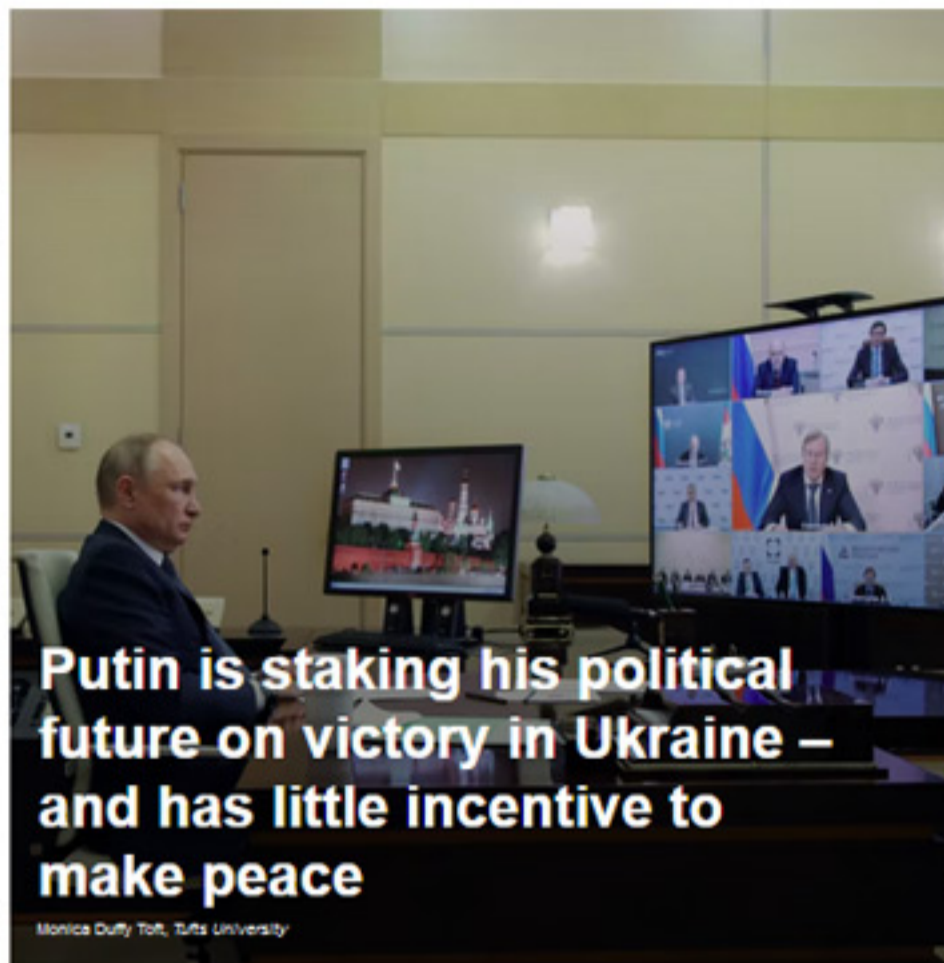
Broadstone *Little Italy*
1980 Kettner Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101





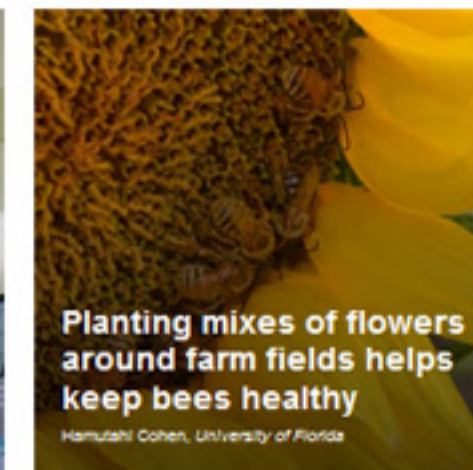
Revolutionary changes in transportation, from electric vehicles to ride sharing, could slow global warming – if they're done right, IPCC says

Alan Jans, University of California, Davis



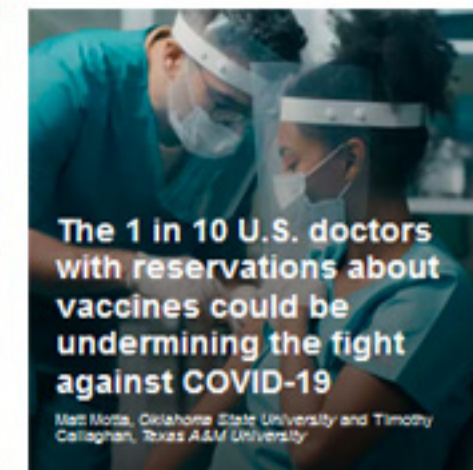
Putin is staking his political future on victory in Ukraine – and has little incentive to make peace

Monica Duffy Toft, Tufts University



Planting mixes of flowers around farm fields helps keep bees healthy

Hamutshi Cohen, University of Florida



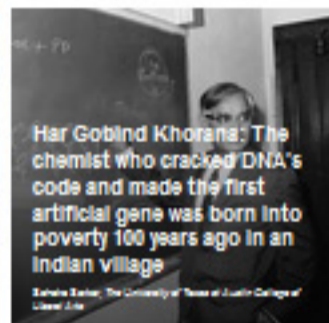
The 1 in 10 U.S. doctors with reservations about vaccines could be undermining the fight against COVID-19

Matt Norris, Oklahoma State University and Timothy Callaghan, Texas A&M University



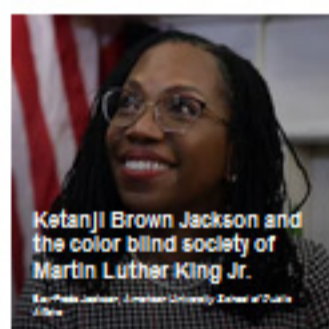
How Ukraine has defended itself against cyberattacks – lessons for the US

Ronald Probert, Florida International University



Har Gobind Khorana: The chemist who cracked DNA's code and made the first artificial gene was born into poverty 100 years ago in an Indian village

Bertha Bacher, The University of Texas at Austin College of Liberal Arts



Ketanji Brown Jackson and the color blind society of Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Paul Jackson, Southern University School of Public Affairs



Cyberattacks have yet to play a significant role in Russia's battlefield operations in Ukraine – cyberwarfare experts explain the likely reasons

Nadja Kostjuk, Georgia Institute of Technology and Erik Garste, University of California San Diego



Lessons in realpolitik from Nixon and Kissinger: Ideals go only so far in ending conflict in places like Ukraine

Jeffrey Fields, USO Domestic College of Letters, Arts and Sciences



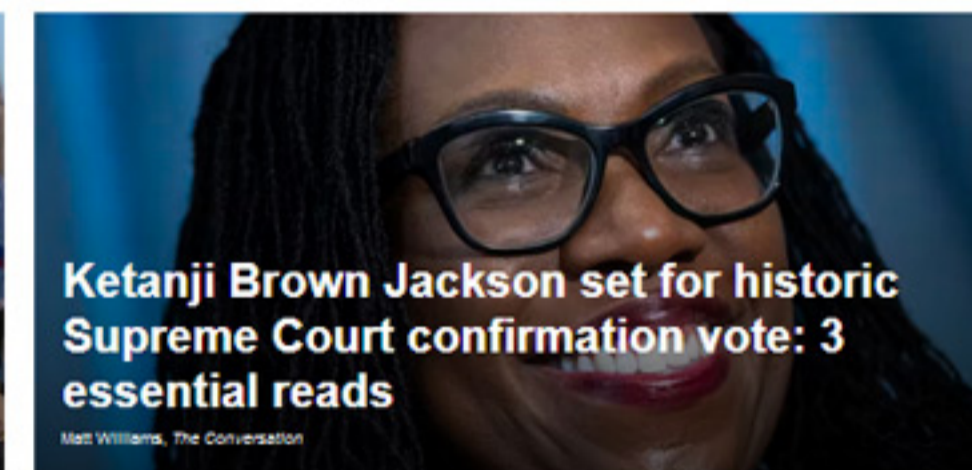
How the 'test to treat' initiative aims to get ahead of the next wave of COVID-19

C. Michael White, University of Connecticut and Adrian V. Hernandez, University of Connecticut



People are more likely to react to a Black person's story of injustice – even if it happened to someone who is white

Anne Hamby, Boise State University



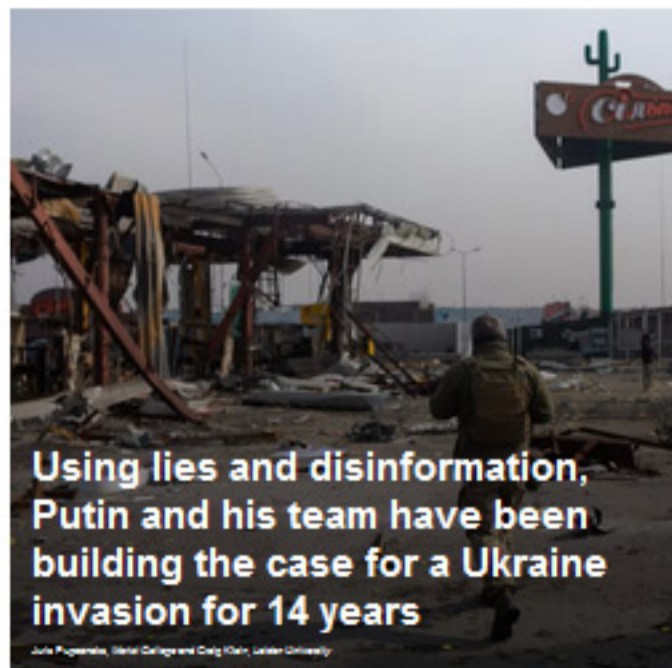
Ketanji Brown Jackson set for historic Supreme Court confirmation vote: 3 essential reads

Matt Williams, The Conversation



What are war crimes? 3 essential reads on atrocities in Ukraine and the likelihood of prosecuting Putin

Jay Lieberman, The Conversation



Using lies and disinformation, Putin and his team have been building the case for a Ukraine invasion for 14 years

Jane Pugonka, Saint College and Doug Klein, Lehigh University



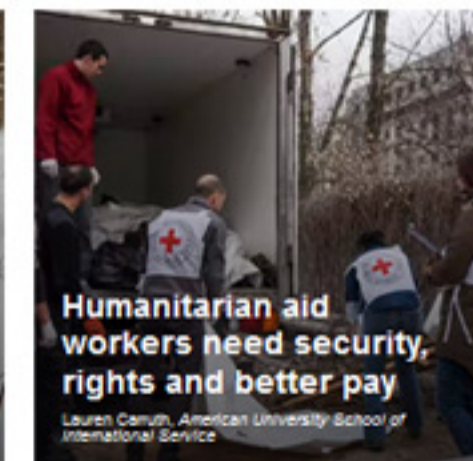
What countries have nuclear weapons, and where are they?

Miles A. Pomper, Middlebury and Vesilii Tuganov, Middlebury



Reliable death tolls from the Ukraine war are hard to come by – the result of undercounts and manipulation

Neta C. Crawford, Boston University



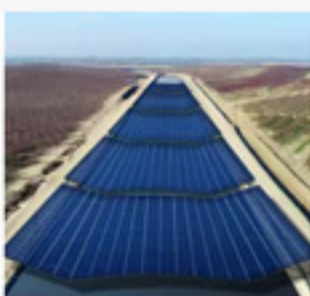
Humanitarian aid workers need security, rights and better pay

Lauren Canuth, American University School of International Service



Pope Francis' visit to Malta highlights the role of St. George Preca, an advocate for teaching the gospel

Joanne M. Pierce, College of the Holy Cross



These energy innovations could transform how we mitigate climate change, and save money in the process – 5 essential reads

Stacy Morford, The Conversation

From pulling carbon dioxide out of the air to turning water into fuel, innovators are developing new technologies and pairing existing ones to help slow global warming.



Nuclear fusion hit a milestone thanks to better reactor walls – this engineering advance is building toward reactors of the future

David Donovan, University of Tennessee and Livia Casali, University of Tennessee

In January 2022, the JET fusion experiment produced more power over a longer period of time than any past attempt. Two physicists explain the engineering advancements that made the result possible.



The Human Genome Project pieced together only 92% of the DNA – now scientists have finally filled in the remaining 8%

Gabrielle Hartley, University of Connecticut

Advances in technology have enabled researchers to sequence the large regions of repetitive DNA that eluded the Human Genome Project.

POLITICS

Charging Putin for potential war crimes is difficult, and any penalty hard to enforce

Neither Russia nor its president is likely to face an international tribunal — but that's not the only approach to war crimes, experts say.



Rodrigo Abd/AP

Spanish police and FBI seize a \$90 million oligarch-owned superyacht

19 hours ago

About two-thirds of Russian troops have left Kyiv, an official says

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Trevor Reed's family says he's back in a Russian prison hospital but not getting care

21 hours ago

Biden says atrocities in Bucha show Putin is a war criminal

21 hours ago

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Russia denies civilian deaths in Bucha, despite evidence

23 hours ago



CLIMATE

How the war in Ukraine could speed up Europe's climate plans



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Why nurses are raging and quitting after the RaDonda Vaught verdict

KAISER HEALTH NEWS



NATIONAL SECURITY

A Russian oligarch's \$90 million yacht is seized as part of U.S. sanctions



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Another booster? A vaccine for omicron? Here's what could be next for COVID vaccines



SPORTS

Kansas uses its historic rally to claim a fourth men's NCAA basketball title



CULTURE

Mystery recordings will now be heard for the first time in about 100 years

Jamba Juice
510 Robinson Ave, San Diego, CA 92103



The NEW Lord's Prayer

"The Lord" was once at the center, was a useful term to express, beyond belief the aspirations of exulted aspiration.

It began as homage, loyalty to the land "owner," the rules maker. And morphed to be a universal stand in for "a higher power."

But then, again, there is no higher, no lower. There's only the all of us, standing here in our unique place, in our sacred space, holding dear, one another.

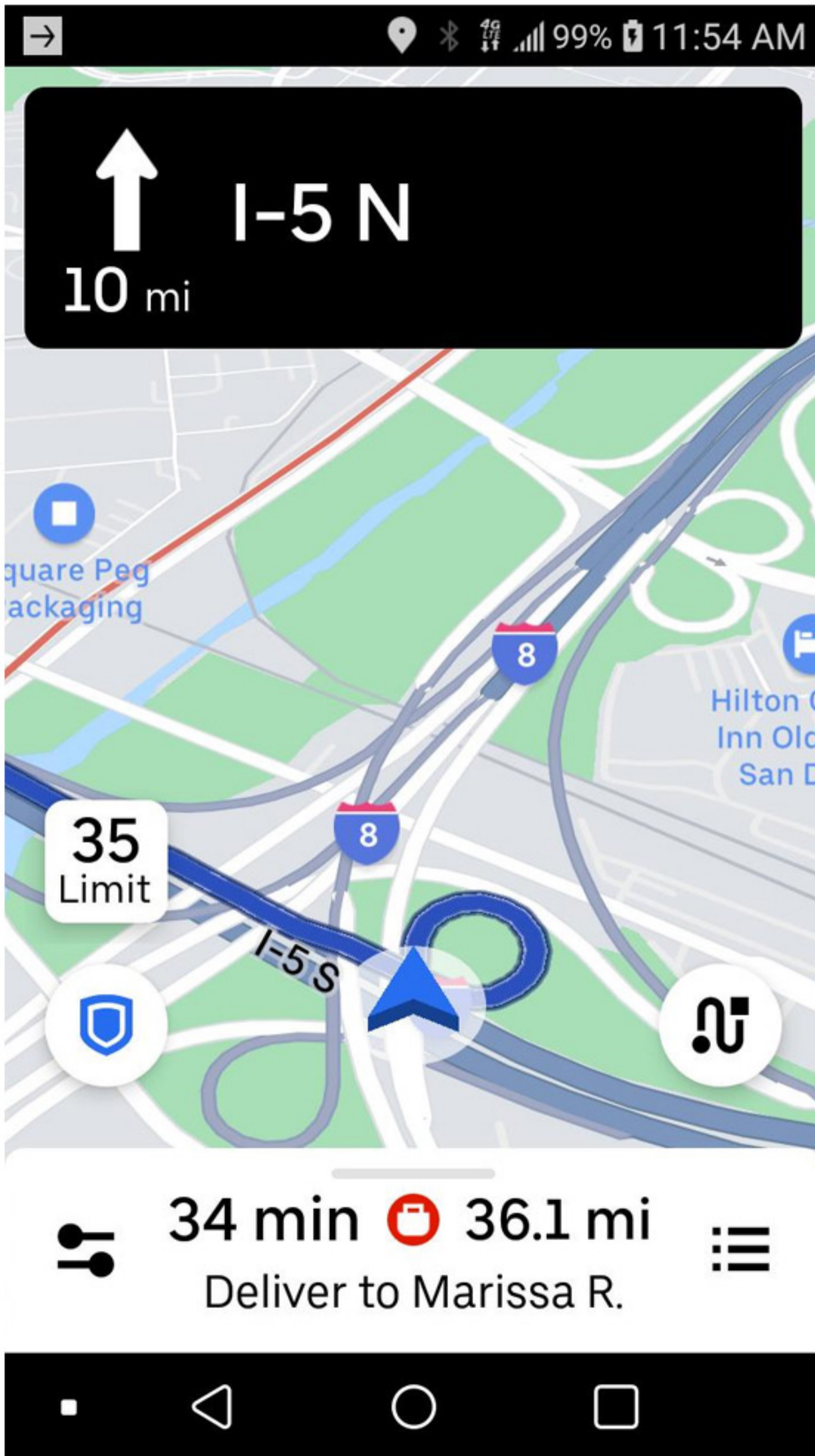


Well, which is it, license plate or bumper sticker?



Crumbl Cookies - Point Loma
2990 Midway Dr Ste B, San Diego, CA 92110

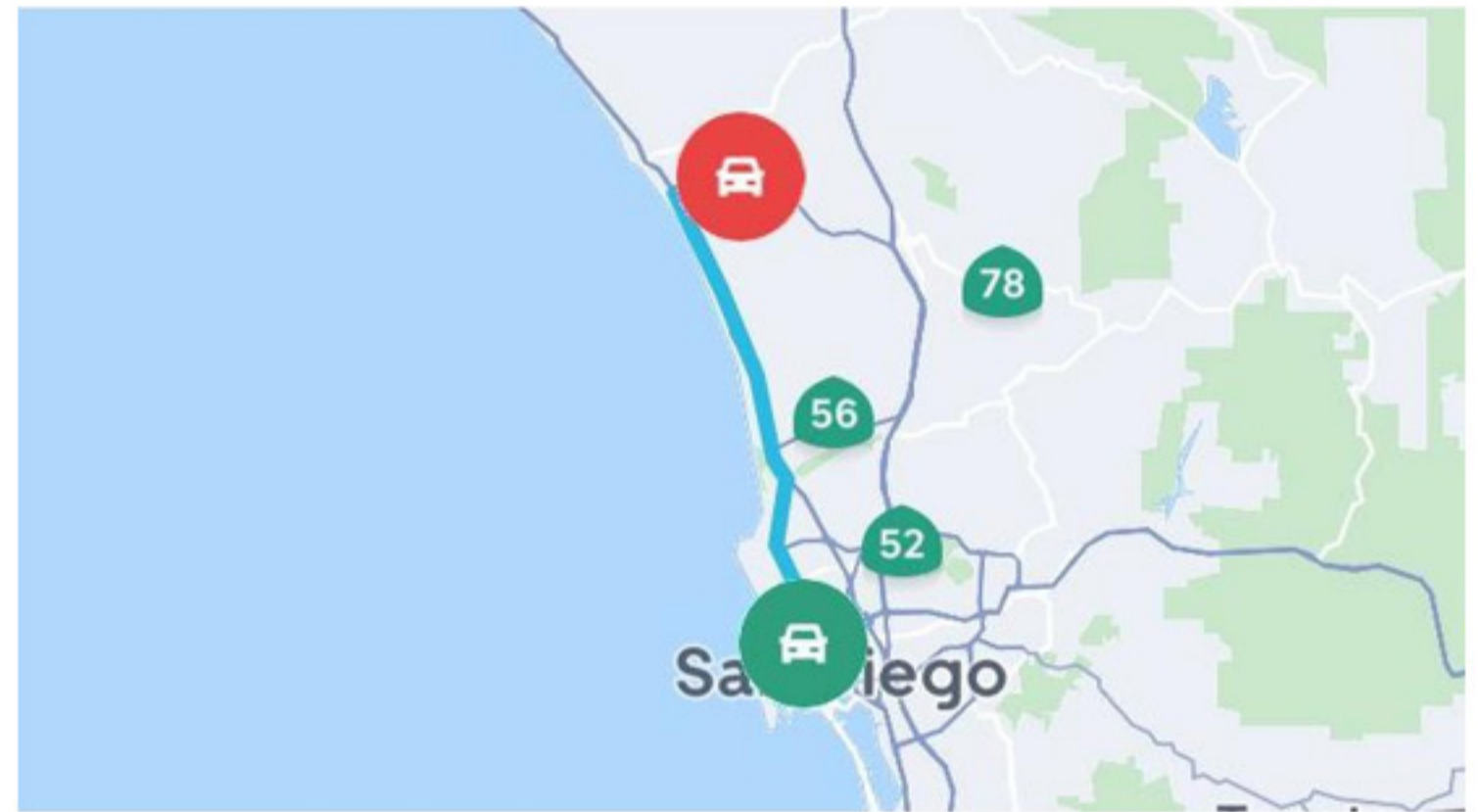




Crumbl Cookies - Point Loma
2990 Midway Dr Ste B, San Diego, CA 92110

Minutes & Miles to deliver 4 cookies

- Midway Dr, San Diego, CA 92110
- Grapevine Rd, Vista, California



| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Duration | Distance |
| 48 min 43 sec | 38.2 mi |

Your Earnings
\$20.20

My 2005 Toyota Camry gets 27 miles to a gallon of gas.
Round trip mileage = 76.4 miles or 2.83 gallons of gas.
Gas price is \$6.20 per gallon = \$17.54
1hour & 38minutes on job = \$2.65 after gas expense
not to mention the wear and tear on the car



What we know about the deadliest U.S. bird flu outbreak in 7 years

April 6, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

BILL CHAPPELL 

22,851,072 birds have been wiped out



The price of eggs has risen sharply since the start of a bird flu outbreak that has resulted in millions of birds being culled.

A highly pathogenic bird flu virus is tearing its way through U.S. farms and chicken yards, spreading to at least 24 states less than two months after the first outbreak was reported in a commercial flock. **Nearly 23 million birds have died. It's the worst U.S. outbreak of the avian flu since 2015, when more than 50 million birds died. The outbreak is driving up consumer prices for eggs and chicken meat that, like many costs, had already been rising due to inflation.** Some birds have died from the disease itself, but the vast majority are being culled to try to stop the deadly and highly infectious virus from spreading. That includes millions of chickens and turkeys in barns and backyards that had been raised to provide eggs or meat. One of the worst-hit states is Iowa, where more than 5 million birds died at an egg-laying facility in Osceola on March 31, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Overall, more than 13 million birds have been culled in the state. As of around noon ET on Tuesday, 72 commercial flocks and 46 backyard flocks were reported to be infected around the country.

The bird flu poses only a low risk to humans, the CDC says. It's rare for a human to become infected with the avian virus. No human infections of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), which includes the H5N1 bird flu virus, have ever been reported in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The virus does not pose a special risk in the nation's food supply, either; the CDC states that like any poultry or eggs, proper handling and heating food to an internal temperature of 165°F kills any bacteria and viruses present — including any HPAI viruses.

There have been only four human infections of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) viruses ever in the U.S., the CDC says, noting that those cases resulted in only mild or moderate illness.

The virus was first reported in wild birds The first U.S. warning of the new outbreak came on Jan. 13, when the USDA announced a strain of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus had been found in wild birds for the first time since 2016. Many of those first cases were in South Carolina and North Carolina, in birds killed by hunters. The cases then spread north as wild birds migrated and spread the virus to farms. On Feb. 9, an outbreak was confirmed at a commercial turkey flock in Dubois County, Ind.

Ben Slinger, whose family raises turkeys for a meat processor, recently told Iowa Public Radio that he's taking precautions to protect his flocks from infection, after they had to cull tens of thousands of birds in 2015. In addition to using disinfectant, workers wear separate pairs of boots for each barn. "We know what the aftermath of that is like, and it is pretty disheartening," Slinger said. Known cases now range from Maine to Texas, where the virus was found in a commercial pheasant flock in Erath County on Sunday.

Grocery prices for chicken are rising For the current week, the average U.S. price of chicken breasts rose to \$3.93 per pound at major supermarkets — sharply higher than last week's \$3.14 price. A year ago, the price was \$2.48, the Agriculture Department says. Egg prices have also gone up compared to 2021, and breast tenders cost a full dollar more now than they did a year ago, according to the USDA. "Prices for white parts are on the rise" with a few exceptions, the department said. "The cost for dark meat items are also increasing; bulk pack drumsticks, thighs, and leg quarters take up most of the spotlight."

The last outbreak lasted about 6 months The bird flu outbreak that peaked in the late spring of 2015 was "the largest poultry health disaster in U.S. history," the USDA says. Many of those infections were reported in Iowa and neighboring states near "the intersection of the Central and Mississippi flyways used by wild birds during seasonal migration," the agency said. That's the same region that's now being hit hard by the virus. In the 2015 outbreak, fomites — objects that can transfer disease — were seen as a key source of viral transmission. Such items include the boots and clothing of poultry industry employees and vehicles used to spread feed. Officials also pointed to the dense concentration of some production facilities as a source of case clusters. The 2015 outbreak tapered sharply and ended in June of that year — but 3 million birds still died in that final month. Because of the lingering effect on the supply chain, it wasn't until several more months later that some poultry prices peaked and then normalized, according to the USDA.

27 May 2021

Berkeley
California



Michael Lewis on the US Pandemic Response: Misaligned Incentives

By Lauren Foster

Michael Lewis can “untangle complex subjects like few others.” And few topics qualify as more complex — or more tragic — than the US response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the subject of his latest book, *The Premonition: A Pandemic Story*. **At the heart of Lewis’s narrative is a central question: Why did the United States fail in its response?**

“Gut Check” for the United States: The United States has fared poorly in terms of COVID-19 cases and deaths. “We have 4% of the world’s population and we have 20% of the deaths,” Lewis said. “No matter how you cut it, no matter how you dress it up, it is not a good response, it is not a good outcome.”

Part of the problem was a decentralized approach to fighting the pandemic. As Tanya Lewis points out for *Scientific American*, “the U.S. government’s structure meant that much of the pandemic response was left up to state and local leaders. In the absence of a strong national strategy, states implemented a patchwork of largely uncoordinated policies that did not effectively suppress the spread of the virus.” For a response to be effective, it must be unified, Michael Lewis said.

The United States has 4% of the world’s population and we have 20% of the COVID deaths. What Happened?

The CDC and Incentives: The problems at the CDC stem from misaligned incentives, according to Lewis, because institutions like the CDC have become politicized. **Key Takeaway:** Avoid short-term incentive structures.

How to Be a Charity Dean: While Lewis has only barbed words for the CDC, he finds a glimmer of hope in the form of **Charity Dean, MD**, an expert in communicable disease outbreaks and the former assistant director for the California Department of Public Health. and a group of doctors called the Wolverines who had all worked in the White House at various times and had stayed in contact because of their efforts fighting disease outbreaks. Dean was among a cohort of scientists and physicians who very early on sounded the alarm about the COVID-19 pandemic but were largely ignored. Dean pens inspirational messages on post-it notes and plasters them throughout her home to remind herself of the importance of being brave. One of her favorite lines is “Courage is a muscle memory.” **Key Takeaway:** “Courage is a muscle memory.”

Probabilities vs. Narratives: Risk is a topic that Lewis often explores in his books. Regardless of the character or story, one element always strikes him: the disconnect between the people who manage risk well and the rest of the society. **Key Takeaway:** When assessing risks, calculate probabilities. Don’t rely on narratives.

Finance as a Force for Good: While finance can have a positive influence on the world, Lewis believes the reality is not as straightforward. “[Finance is] a really important part of the economy,” Lewis said. “But the forces for good inside of it have an unusually difficult time getting their voices heard.” When finance is at its best, generally, it is rather boring, he said.

And in the future, when you find yourself facing a “zero-sum moment,” having to choose between doing something that is in your interests financially but not in the best interests of your client, don’t be seduced by the money. As for those already established in the investment industry, Lewis’s advice was simple: Control your expenses. “Live a life that is modest enough that if it all goes away, it’s not a catastrophe, so you aren’t in a position where you have to make those bad decisions.”

Key Takeaway: Remember your fiduciary duty and live modestly.

Bestselling author Michael Lewis on pandemic, new season of podcast

2,064 views • Apr 6, 2022

<https://youtu.be/PmafQPJ-Qv0>

The United States has 4% of the world's population and we have 20% of the COVID deaths. What Happened?



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MICHAEL LEWIS LIVE

BESTSELLING AUTHOR ON LATEST BOOK AND PODCAST "AGAINST THE RULES"

Author and journalist Michael Lewis joins "CBS Mornings" to discuss the paperback release of his latest book, "The Premonition: A Pandemic Story," and Season Three of his podcast "Against the Rules." He explores America's response to the pandemic and why he says the real experts rarely call the shots.



San Diego Community Power (SDCP) is a **local provider of electricity** that will serve our communities by bringing you cleaner energy at competitive rates.

<https://sdcommunitypower.org>

San Diego Community Power - Powering a clean, affordable ...

Founded: 2019

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) provides electricity and natural gas to 3.6 million people in San Diego and southern Orange County. SDG&E is a subsidiary of Sempra Energy, a Fortune 500 energy company, and was founded in 1881. Jan 28, 2021

San Diego Community Power is driven by consumer choice and consumers will always be able to decide who they want to purchase their power. Customers can opt-out **online** or by **calling 1-888-382-0169** or **emailing customerservice@sdcommunitypower.org**.

San Diego Community Power (SDCP) is a local provider of electricity that will serve our communities by bringing you cleaner energy at competitive rates. We will provide renewable electricity service to over 960,000 customer accounts in the cities of Chula Vista, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, La Mesa and San Diego starting in 2022, with the unincorporated communities of the County of San Diego and the City of National City served in 2023. We provide you with reliable, affordable electricity from renewable sources. We are focused on what families need and want most when it comes to their energy.

PowerOn is a significant emissions saver—it's 50% renewable plus 5% greenhouse gas free. Priced competitively to what you were paying before, yet higher in renewables and lower in carbon than the power you've been buying from SDG&E. PowerOn is a great way to reduce your carbon footprint, simply and effortlessly.

Power100 is our most effective tool to help you reduce your carbon footprint—100% renewable and 100% carbon-free! Priced at only \$0.0075/kWh (less than a penny per kilowatt-hour) more than our PowerOn standard service level. Power100 allows you to virtually eliminate your greenhouse gas production from electricity use.

| PowerOn | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 50% Renewable | |
| \$87.92 | |
| average cost | |
| \$55.72 | SDG&E Electric Delivery |
| \$22.05 | SDCP Electric Generation |
| \$10.15 | SDG&E Added Fees |
| No Action Needed | |

| Power100 | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 100% Renewable | |
| \$90.18 | |
| average cost | |
| \$55.72 | SDG&E Electric Delivery |
| \$24.31 | SDCP Electric Generation |
| \$10.15 | SDG&E Added Fees |
| Opt Up To Power100 | |

What is San Diego Community Power? As a locally-run not-for-profit, San Diego Community Power (SDCP) is powering a cleaner energy for today and as a legacy for future generations. SDCP is a Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) committed to providing clean, renewable electricity choices at competitive rates and investing in innovative programs that benefit residents, businesses, the environment and the economy in our communities. When customers enroll with SDCP, they help empower local control of electricity procurement decisions, reduce the carbon footprint associated with their electricity service, and help support the

growth of local renewable projects. Rather than providing profits to investors, SDCP's net revenue (after buying power and administrative expenses) can be used to help stabilize electricity prices, provide incentives for solar installations, support energy efficiency programs, and develop more local renewable energy sources in and near San Diego County. This will keep the electricity rates competitive and enable SDCP to invest in innovative, clean technologies and energy-related job training.

What is a Community Choice Aggregator? Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) were enabled by the California Legislature in the midst of the energy crisis. They are designed to be part of the solution by allowing local communities to take control of the energy they buy and to address constraints on competition that contributed to the crisis. Transparent, locally-controlled CCAs make energy markets less risky and protect taxpayers. CCAs are succeeding all over the state with 23 programs already providing reliable, affordable and clean energy to local customers and delivering innovative reinvestment programs that benefit local needs and state Climate Action Goals.

How does it work? San Diego Community Power sources clean electricity from a wide range of renewable sources at competitive rates. SDG&E delivers that electricity via the existing infrastructure and sends you a single consolidated bill. All revenue from energy procurement is reinvested back into local renewable energy development, local job training and support programs for Communities of Concern.

How clean will the SDCP offering be? At its initial launch, SDCP will offer two (2) clean energy packages for customer choice. The packages will range from 50 percent to 100 percent from renewable sources, offering customers choice in saving both money and the environment. Over time, more programs will be introduced including carbon-free packages.



What is going on in Pakistan? And why has the US been dragged into it?

Ayesha Jalal, Tufts University

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I no longer grade my students' work – and I wish I had stopped sooner

The Human Genome Project pieced together only 92% of the DNA – now scientists have finally filled in the remaining 8%



Ukrainian refugees might not return home, even long after the war eventually ends

Sandra Joireman, University of Richmond



War in Ukraine is testing some American evangelicals' support for Putin as a leader of conservative values

Melani McAlister, George Washington University



How should Dostoevsky and Tolstoy be read during Russia's war against Ukraine?

Ani Kokobobo, University of Kansas



Gaining a deeper understanding of our shared history can allow for healing. Terry Vine/The Image Bank via Getty Images

How a poet and professor promotes racial understanding with lessons from history

Published: April 6, 2022 8:24am EDT

👤 [Quraysh Ali Lansana](#), Oklahoma State University

Quraysh Ali Lansana is the director of the Center for Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation at Oklahoma State University in Tulsa, part of a nationwide, community-based initiative to “plan for and bring about transformational and sustainable change, and to address the historic and contemporary effects of racism.” He is also an author of 22 books in poetry, nonfiction, children’s literature and literary anthologies. Below are highlights from an interview with The Conversation. Answers have been edited for brevity and clarity. Quraysh Ali Lansana speaks about his love of history and his career path.

Why does your research matter? And why do you study it? Quraysh Ali Lansana: I am a historian and a political junkie. I think that my love for history and connecting - I call it the tenuous tether of yesterday and today – actually was born in my small town, Enid, Oklahoma. I grew up in a lower-working-class Black, very deeply segregated town where I did not learn much in K-12 education about Black history. My love of history began there in Enid with a growing understanding of what I didn’t know, what I didn’t learn, what I was not introduced to. Those questions led me into journalism.

How did you get to where you are today? Quraysh Ali Lansana: I attended the University of Oklahoma and studied print and broadcast journalism and started writing poetry as a sophomore. I could scream on a piece of paper as opposed to screaming at a human being. But I always had a love for poetry, and then I worked professionally in broadcast journalism in Oklahoma City for a year. And then I moved to Chicago in 1989 to get to a literary town, and also to move to a city where I saw folks who look like me engaged in every aspect of civic and cultural and political life, which is something that’s fairly rare in Oklahoma.

What’s the one thing you want people to take away from your research? Quraysh Ali Lansana: I want folks to learn from the past so the future can be different, the future can be better. A section of a poem that I wrote a couple of years ago reads,

Fear = ignorance.
Ignorance = lack of knowledge.
Lack of knowledge = lack of respect.
Lack of respect = hate.

And I think that frame in this poem really sums up what my work is about, right? It’s rooted in Black history, African American history and culture and politics. But it also is informed by the fact that we don’t live in a monolith, and Black culture and Black community are not monolithic either. Even my graduate and undergraduate creative writing course are rooted in BIPOC literature and sensibilities. Langston Hughes wrote, “If you’re going to write, it’s important to have something to say.”

What is something that people might be surprised by in the research you do? Quraysh Ali Lansana: In my work, I learned from Amiri Baraka and Mari Evans to speak truth to power. Some folks might be surprised that the work I do is primarily rooted in sharing knowledge of Black history and culture for Black folks. But it is not just for Black folks. It is for everyone. And I think that there are folks who ... might think or who may harbor an idea that my work is an assault or attack or affront on dominant culture. And it’s some of those things, and none of those things.

Because it’s really about how we as BIPOC folks define ourselves, how we understand the history that our elders and our ancestors endured to get us to this point. And then also seeing where we are now and how we can help young people. We want the future be much more welcoming and nurturing and positive for our young people.

Scans reveal the brain's early growth, late decline and surprising variability

April 7, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



JON HAMILTON



Scientists have analyzed a huge number of brain scans to learn more about how the brain develops, from infancy all the way until the end of life.

The human brain starts with a bang and ends with a whimper. That's the conclusion of a project that used more than 120,000 brain scans to chart the organ's changes throughout the lifespan. The results appear in the April 6 issue of the journal *Nature*. Among the key findings:

- The brain reaches 80% of its maximum size by age 3.
- The volume of gray matter, which represents brain cells, peaks before age 6.
- The volume of white matter — a way of measuring the connections between brain cells — peaks before age 29.
- The loss of white matter accelerates after age 50.

The ongoing study could eventually lead to brain growth charts that would allow doctors to look for signs of atypical development in young patients. But for now, the results are meant for scientists who study typical brain growth or brain disorders like schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease.

- *The brain reaches 80% of its maximum size by age 3.*
- *The volume of gray matter, which represents brain cells, peaks before age 6.*
- *The volume of white matter — a way of measuring the connections between brain cells — peaks before age 29.*
- *The loss of white matter accelerates after age 50.*

One goal is to "use this huge amount of existing data to help understand and treat psychiatric diseases," says one of the study's authors Dr. Aaron Alexander-Bloch, a psychiatrist at the University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The project began more than six years ago when two young researchers at a scientific conference began talking about a simple question: How does a person's brain change during their lifespan? They realized there was no good answer because most studies that involved MRI brain scans had been limited to a small number of people at a single point in time. Also, the studies used different designs and kept their data in different forms. So the researchers had an idea. Researchers decided to turn more than 100 small studies into one big one. "We could just stitch together all these other studies and all these common data sets to create some sort of ground truth and a common language," says Richard Bethlehem, a research associate in the psychiatry department at the University of Cambridge.

Bethlehem and Jakob Seidlitz, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Pennsylvania and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, began asking other researchers if they would contribute their study data to the effort. "And really everyone came back and said, 'This looks great, we should definitely be doing this,'" Seidlitz says. The pair assembled an international team and began the hard work of turning more than 100 small studies into one big one. "Richard and I spent months literally just curating a lot of these data sets," Seidlitz says.

They began to realize how different brains can be: Eventually, they had brain scan data from more than 100,000 individuals, ranging from a fetus to a centenarian. And when they analyzed the data, they began to realize how different brains could be.

"One of the fundamental things that we started to see was just the sheer variability of how big the brain gets throughout development," Seidlitz says.

The team also found variation in the growth patterns of several dozen different areas of the brain's outermost layer and in the volume of white matter, gray matter, subcortical gray matter and in the fluid-filled cavities known as ventricles. Despite its huge size, the study still has gaps, the researchers say, including a lack of racial and ethnic diversity. "That's one of the things we've been humbled by," he says.



A caution sign marks the Hanford Nuclear Reservation near Richland, Wash., where plutonium for nuclear weapons was made. Jeff T. Green/Getty Images

Russia is sparking new nuclear threats – understanding nonproliferation history helps place this in context

Published: April 7, 2022 8.25am EDT

▼ [Nina Srinivasan Rathbun](#), USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences



Students at a Brooklyn, N.Y. school conduct a nuclear attack drill in 1962. GraphicaArtis/Getty Images

U.S.-Russia cooperation declines: U.S.-Russia engagement on nuclear weapons changed when Russia forcibly annexed Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. Russia built up land missiles in Kaliningrad, an enclave of Russia in the middle of Eastern Europe, in 2014. The U.S. and NATO then accused Russia of violating a 1987 nuclear agreement on short- and intermediate-range land missiles. From Russia, these could travel between 500 to 5,500 kilometers (311 to 3,418 miles), hitting targets as far as London. The U.S. also terminated this agreement in 2019 due to Russian violations. Now, there are no international nuclear agreements in Europe. Yet, the main strategic nuclear weapons agreement, known as New START, remains in place, and will stay so until at least 2026.

Impact of Ukraine war: While Putin has not followed through on his threat of a nuclear strike, the potential for a nuclear attack has meant the U.S. and NATO response to Russia's attacks on Ukraine has landed far short of direct engagement. This is the first time that nuclear threats have been used by one country that's invaded another country rather than to defend a country. It also marks a step backward in international work to reduce the threat of nuclear war.



Peace protesters wear masks of Vladimir Putin and Joe Biden with mock nuclear missiles to call for more nuclear disarmament on Jan. 29, 2021, in Berlin.

Rape by Russian soldiers in Ukraine is the latest example of a despicable wartime crime that spans the globe

Published: April 7, 2022 8.25am EDT


Mia Bloom, Georgia State University



Defence of Ukraine

@DefenceU

Ukraine government organization

Dead civilians are seen near a highway 20 km outside of Kyiv. Under the blanket are 4-5 dead naked women whom the  barbarians tried to burn right there on the side of the road. Photo by @mpalinchak

#russiawarcrimes



12:07 PM · Apr 2, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone



As U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on April 5, 2022, "What we've seen in Bucha is not the random act of a rogue unit, this is a deliberate campaign to kill, to torture, to rape, to commit atrocities."

Rapes, torture and killings have all been reported from Bucha, Ukraine, where soldiers and investigators look at charred bodies lying on the ground.



Mia Bloom

Professor of Communication and Middle East Studies, [Georgia State University](#)

Affiliation: Georgia State University

Citations: 4,612

h-index: 27

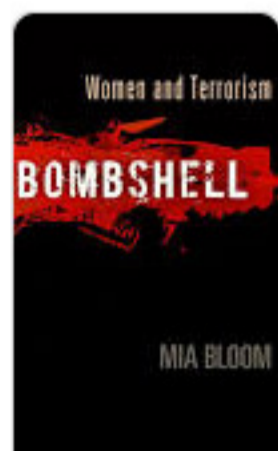
Education: Columbia University, Georgetown University, McGill University

Mia Bloom is Professor at Georgia State University and International Security Fellow at New America. She conducts ethnographic field research in Europe, the Middle East and South Asia and speaks eight languages. Bloom has authored five books and 80+ articles on terrorism and violent extremism including "Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror" (2005), "Living Together After Ethnic Killing" [with Roy Licklider] (2007) "Bombshell: Women and Terror" (2011) and "Small Arms: Children and Terror" (2019). Bloom is a former term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has held research or teaching appointments at Princeton, Cornell, Harvard and McGill Universities. Bloom's forthcoming book is "Veiled Threats: Women and Jihad."

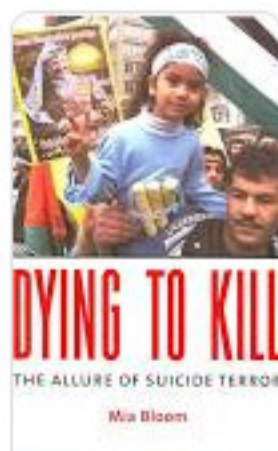
Under the auspices of the Minerva Research Initiative and the Department of Defense, Bloom conducts research on how children become involved in terrorist groups, how terrorists use social media to radicalize and recruit, and, recently, how conspiracy theories have been weaponized. This newly awarded project has resulted in "Pastels and Pedophiles: Inside the Mind of QAnon" (2021) co-authored with Dr. Sophia Moskalkenko.

Bloom has a PhD in political science from Columbia University, a Masters in Arab Studies from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and a Bachelors from McGill University in Russian, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies.

Bombshell: Women and Terrorism



Bombshell: Women and Terrorism
2011



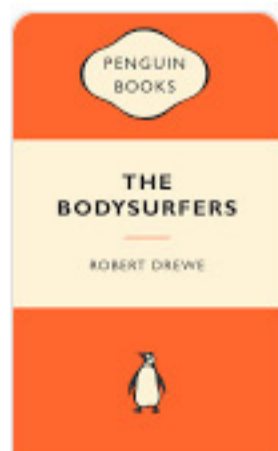
Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror
2005



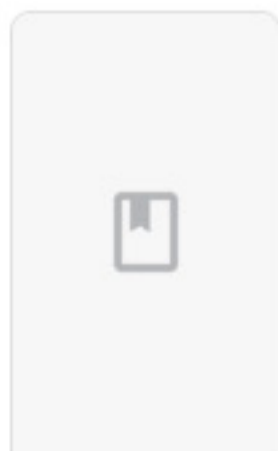
Pastels and Pedophiles: Inside the Mind of QAnon
2021



Small Arms: Children and Terrorism
2019



Bombshell: The Many
2011



Veiled Threats:
2022



April 7, 2022

Rape by Russian soldiers in Ukraine is the latest example of a despicable wartime crime that spans the globe

Mia Bloom, Georgia State University

An expert on rape during war examines the emerging evidence from Ukraine that Russian soldiers raped Ukrainian women and explains the role rape plays in conflicts.



April 4, 2022

Cómo los cuentos construyen el espíritu de lucha: la diferencia entre los relatos infantiles rusos y ucranianos

Mia Bloom, Georgia State University and Sophia Moskalkenko, Georgia State University

Al ejército ruso le ha ido mal y al ucraniano le ha ido bien, desafiando las predicciones de los expertos sobre la guerra en Ucrania. ¿Pueden los cuentos infantiles ayudar a explicar esta diferencia?

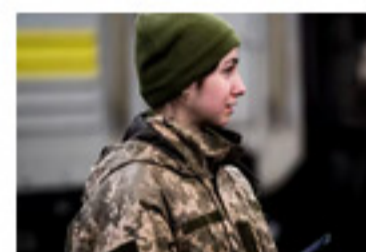


March 23, 2022

How fairy tales shape fighting spirit: Ukraine's children hear bedtime stories of underdog heroes, while Russian children hear tales of magical success

Mia Bloom, Georgia State University and Sophia Moskalkenko, Georgia State University

The Russian army has fared poorly and the Ukrainian military has fared well, defying experts' predictions about the war in Ukraine. Can children's fairy tales help explain the difference?



March 21, 2022

Ukraine's women fighters reflect a cultural tradition of feminist independence

Mia Bloom, Georgia State University and Sophia Moskalkenko, Georgia State University

In Ukrainian history and culture, women enjoyed independence and agency. The presence of women fighters in the war now is no surprise.



February 4, 2022

Afghan women face increasing violence and repression under the Taliban after international spotlight fades

Mia Bloom, Georgia State University

The Taliban's recent abduction of 40 people, and gang rape of eight women, has not captured Western media attention. But activists inside Afghanistan point to worrying levels of violence.



January 27, 2022

Behind the 11 Oath Keepers charged with sedition are many more who have been trained by the US military

Mia Bloom, Georgia State University and Sophia Moskalkenko, Georgia State University

About 10% of the Oath Keepers are active-duty military, and around two-thirds are retired military or law enforcement.



Once personalist rulers do bad things, it is often too late to stop them.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Crimea in 2014 remains popular in 2022.

Why the best way to stop strongmen like Putin is to prevent their rise in the first place

Published: April 7, 2022 8.25am EDT

Joseph Wright, Penn State, Abel Escribà-Folch, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Putin is what political scientists like us call a personalist dictator. The center of power in Russia is not a political party or the military. It's him, personally. Strongmen's choices are relatively unconstrained by these institutions. All power is thus concentrated in his hands, including, most notably, personal discretion and control over decision-making and appointments to state offices.

This is the type of dictator who causes much of modern global strife. They start conflicts with other nations, invest in nuclear weapons and repress their own citizens. In addition to Putin, notable examples from recent history include Moammar Gadhafi, Saddam Hussein, Idi Amin and three generations of North Korean leaders.

Our research has found that once these type of leaders start repressing their own citizens at home or initiating conflicts abroad, there are few good ways to stop them. But that doesn't mean their rise to power in the first place is inevitable.

Shielding the money: In recent decades, Western governments have aided – whether intentionally or by accident – the rise of personalist dictators in three ways. **First, Western governments enable dictators' cronies to launder the illicit gains paid by the dictator in exchange for their loyalty.** London and Miami have become havens for Russia's oligarchs to stash their payouts from Putin. To protect these investments, Russian oligarchs have funded political campaigns throughout Europe, and especially in the U.K., with well-heeled London lawyers lobbying Boris Johnson's government on behalf of Russian clients in a bid to prevent too harsh a crackdown. Some of this money flows to political campaigns in the U.S. as well. [Rudi Giuliani associate Lev Parnas was convicted on 6 campaign finance-related charges: <https://www.businessinsider.com/lev-parnas-andrey-kukushkin-convicted-trial-2021-10> -- Andrey Muraviev is also accused of conspiring to make illegal straw-donor campaign contributions, joining Lev Parnas, Andrey Kukushkin and Igor Fruman, who had been previously charged.]

Buying oil and gas: **Second, rising commodity prices, especially a spike in oil or gas prices, provide a windfall for many personalist dictators, enabling them to consolidate domestic power by using the extra revenue to pay loyal supporters.** In 2009, political commentator Thomas Friedman proclaimed the "First Law of Pétropolitics," which states that as oil prices rise, dictators undermine political freedoms. But recent research shows that increasing oil revenue facilitates the rise of personalist dictators, who are the ones largely responsible for repressing their citizens.

Military support: **Third, foreign military support for dictators helps them to consolidate power. In general, dictators have trouble purging military elites who oppose them: The men with guns can oust the leader anytime.** In most autocracies, therefore, the military acts as a limiting force on the leader's power. But with support from foreign allies, a dictator can more easily install a cadre of personally loyal military and security leaders.

Is it too late to respond effectively? Putin's regime joins personalist dictatorships – including those in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, North Korea and Venezuela – that have confounded policymakers for decades. Once a leader successfully consolidates power and transforms his rule into a personalist dictatorship, he is likely to keep causing trouble on the world stage. **And once these rulers do bad things, it is often too late to stop them.**

A Ukrainian mom scribbled her contact info on her daughter's back as the war erupted

April 8, 2022 - 7:05 AM ET



Aleksandra Makoviy said she isn't the only Ukrainian mother to write emergency contact info on their children since the war began.

Aleksandra Makoviy

Makoviy said the idea came to her as she and her husband realized the roads out of Kyiv were too congested and they'd be better off remaining in their own apartment until the shelling subsided. Before that, she said she prepared note cards with the same sorts of details that she planned to pin to Vira's clothing or slip them in her pockets.

But then, Makoviy said, "I realized that if we get into danger, or she gets injured, it could be taken off of her. So that's why I decided to write the information about her on her skin."

Aleksandra Makoviy couldn't stop the violent trembling of her hands.

The sound of bombs raining down on nearby streets of Kyiv, on the first day of the war in Ukraine, made it almost impossible to steady a pen on her daughter's tiny, naked back – and it was imperative to get the information down.

In the end, it was a messy scrawl: Vira Makovii, 10-11-19 – her child's name and birthdate. It was followed by two phone numbers, one belonging to "Mama," the other to "Papa."

"My hands were deeply shaking and that's why it's so horribly written," Makoviy told NPR in a phone interview.

Still, the message was clear enough that if the unthinkable happened, if somehow the petite 2 1/2-year-old were separated from Makoviy and her husband as the family tried to flee the capital city, the child could be reunited with them.

Through it all, though, Vira remained unaware of the horrific situation, Makoviy said. "I am glad she doesn't understand because she is so young," she noted, adding that if the child were a year or two older, she'd likely be scarred for life. "She feels the excitement, and that adults are sad and nervous, but she can't really understand why."



"I just want to let everyone know Vira and I are safe. We managed to cross the border, and now we're in the South of France," Makoviy wrote on Instagram April 5 along with this photo.

Aleksandra Makoviy

Republicans face a test of extremists' power in Idaho's primaries

Moderate Republicans are organizing in opposition to extremists gaining control of the party.

April 8, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

KIRK SIEGLER 



Anti-government militant Ammon Bundy is among a slate of far-right candidates running for office in Idaho in 2022

Where are "the grown-ups"?

This was rancher Jennifer Ellis' take as the Idaho legislature recently wrapped up its session. "I just have to wonder where the grown-ups in the room are on some of these things," Ellis says. "We have got infrastructure that is really in peril. We have got schools that have not been funded like they should."

"We're not conspiracy theorists in Idaho; that's never been how we've ran this state," Ellis says. "It's a meat and potatoes state. We do important things; we don't do juvenile things."

For Ellis and other moderates trying to pull the pendulum back toward the middle, the May 17 primary could be a big first test of that.



Jennifer Ellis, a rancher and lifelong Republican, helped form Take Back Idaho to push back against extremism in her home state



Former Montana Gov. Marc Racicot says the far-right leaders of his party are a threat to democracy.

huge amount of data, how to priorities and use it?

3 Steps to Prioritizing Data Requests | Chartio Blog

Here are the three steps to take when prioritizing data requests:

Establish the 'Why' Behind Requests...

If you haven't, implement a ticketing system....

Use Executive Weight and Authority... objectives and transparency are likely above your pay scale, so don't stress about it.

Let the executives or leads of the business teams decide on prioritization.

Team Chartio (L-R) Jennifer Hudiono and Emily Highstreet

Globalization and new technologies have sharply reduced the efficacy of command-and-control management and its accompanying forms of corporate communication. In the course of a recent research project, the authors concluded that **by talking with employees, rather than simply issuing orders, leaders can promote operational flexibility, employee engagement, and tight strategic alignment.**

Groysberg and Slind have identified four elements of organizational conversation that reflect the essential attributes of interpersonal conversation: **intimacy, interactivity, inclusion, and intentionality.**

Intimacy shifts the focus from a top-down distribution of information to a bottom-up exchange of ideas. Organizational conversation is less corporate in tone and more casual. And it's less about issuing and taking orders than about asking and answering questions.

Interactivity entails shunning the simplicity of monologue and embracing the unpredictable vitality of dialogue. Traditional one-way media—print and broadcast, in particular—give way to social media buttressed by social thinking.

Inclusion turns employees into full-fledged conversation partners, entitling them to provide their own ideas, often on company channels. They can create content and act as brand ambassadors, thought leaders, and storytellers.

Intentionality enables leaders and employees to derive strategically relevant action from the push and pull of discussion and debate.



Harvard
Business
Review

Leadership Is a Conversation

by Boris Groysberg and Michael Slind

From the Magazine (June 2012)

The command-and-control approach to management has in recent years become less and less viable. Globalization, new technologies, and changes in how companies create value and interact with customers have sharply reduced the efficacy of a purely directive, top-down model of leadership. What will take the place of that model? Part of the answer lies in how leaders manage communication within their organizations—that is, how they handle the flow of information to, from, and among their employees. Traditional corporate communication must give way to a process that is more dynamic and more sophisticated. Most important, that process must be conversational.

We arrived at that conclusion while conducting a recent research project that focused on the state of organizational communication in the 21st century. Over more than two years we interviewed professional communicators as well as top leaders at a variety of organizations—large and small, blue chip and start-up, for-profit and nonprofit, U.S. and international. To date we have spoken with nearly 150 people at more than 100 companies. Both implicitly and explicitly, participants in our research mentioned their efforts to “have a conversation” with their people or their ambition to “advance the conversation” within their companies. Building upon the insights and examples gleaned from this research, we have developed a model of leadership that we call “organizational conversation.”

Smart leaders today, we have found, engage with employees in a way that resembles an ordinary person-to-person conversation more than it does a series of commands from on high. Furthermore, they initiate practices and foster cultural norms that instill a conversational sensibility throughout their organizations. Chief among the benefits of this approach is that it allows a large or growing company to function like a small one. By talking with employees, rather than simply issuing orders, leaders can retain or recapture some of the qualities—operational flexibility, high levels of employee engagement, tight strategic alignment—that enable start-ups to outperform better-established rivals. Physical proximity between leaders and employees isn't always feasible. But mental or emotional proximity is essential.

A version of this article appeared in the June 2012 issue of Harvard Business Review. Boris Groysberg is the Richard P. Chapman Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, a faculty affiliate at the HBS Gender Initiative, and the coauthor, with Colleen Ammerman, of *Glass Half-Broken: Shattering the Barriers That Still Hold Women Back at Work* (Harvard Business Review Press, 2021).

huge amount of data, how to priorities and use it?

3 Steps to Prioritizing Data Requests | Chartio Blog

Here are the three steps to take when prioritizing data requests:

Establish the 'Why' Behind Requests...

If you haven't, implement a ticketing system...

Use Executive Weight and Authority...

objectives and transparency are likely above your pay scale, so don't stress about it.

Let the executives or leads of the business teams decide on prioritization.

America is the wealthiest, most innovative country in the history of the world. Yet, with only 4% of the world's population the U.S. has 20% of the COVID deaths, and 20% of our families needed food assistance last year. We call ourselves the 'United' states, but we're anything but.

Harvard
Business
Review

Leadership Is a Conversation

by Boris Groysberg and Michael Slind

From the Magazine (June 2012)

The command-and-control approach to management has in recent years become less and less viable. Globalization, new technologies, and changes in how companies create value and interact with customers have sharply reduced the efficacy of a purely directive, top-down model of leadership. What will take the place of that model? Part of the answer lies in how leaders manage communication within their organizations—that is, how they handle the flow of information to, from, and among their employees. Traditional corporate communication must give way to a process that is more dynamic and more sophisticated. More important, progress must be made in how leaders manage communication within their organizations—that is, how they handle the flow of information to, from, and among their employees. Traditional corporate communication must give way to a process that is more dynamic and more sophisticated.

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Populist Countries— Like The U.S.—Had More Excess Covid Deaths In 2020, Study Finds

Carlie Porterfield Forbes Staff

Updated Jan 27, 2022, 03:00pm EST



President Donald Trump greets Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro

Nations run by populist governments recorded an average rate of excess COVID deaths twice as high as countries with non-populist governments in 2020, according to a recent study, which illustrates that populists are “the worst crisis manager in the Covid-19 pandemic,” one of the paper’s authors said Thursday.

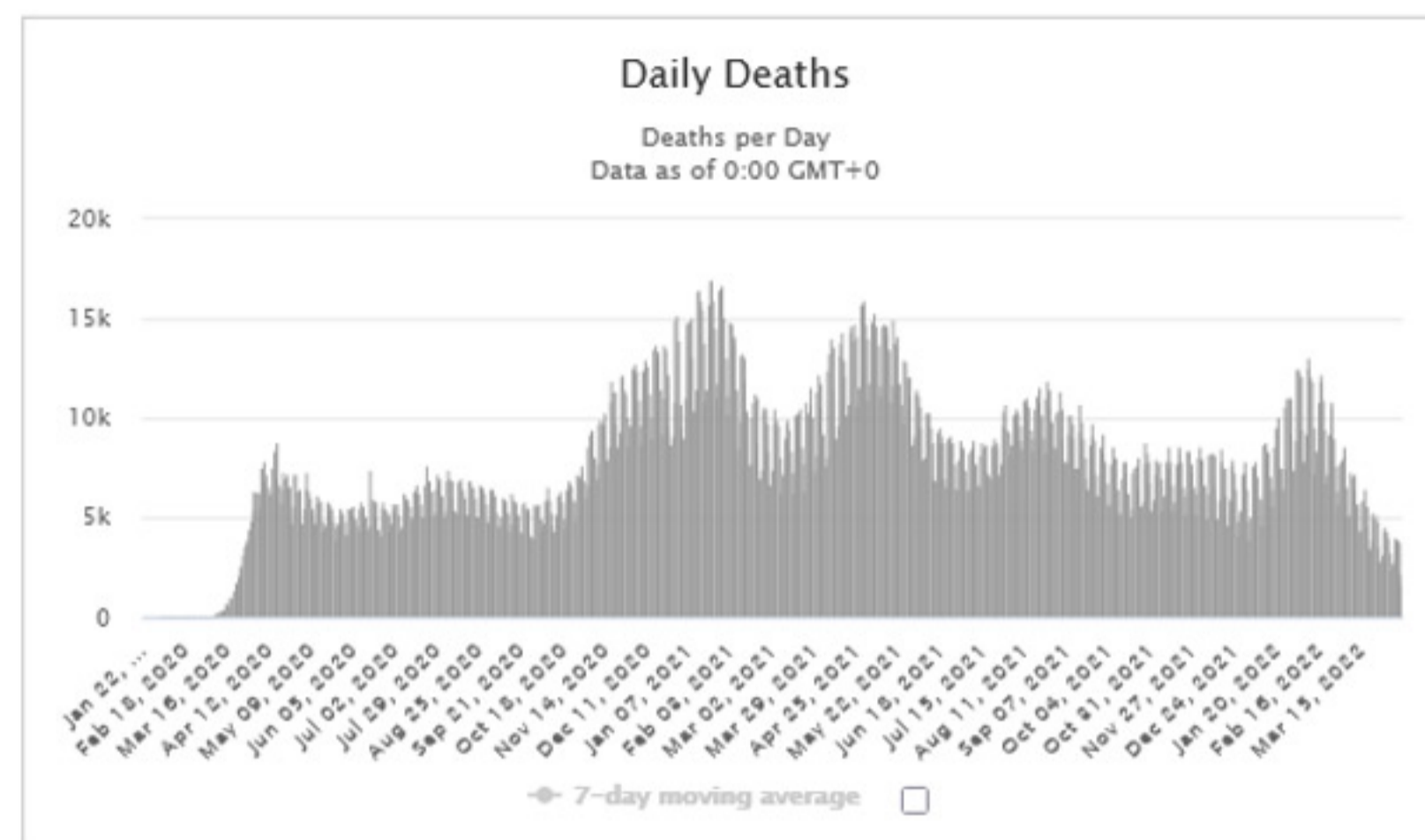
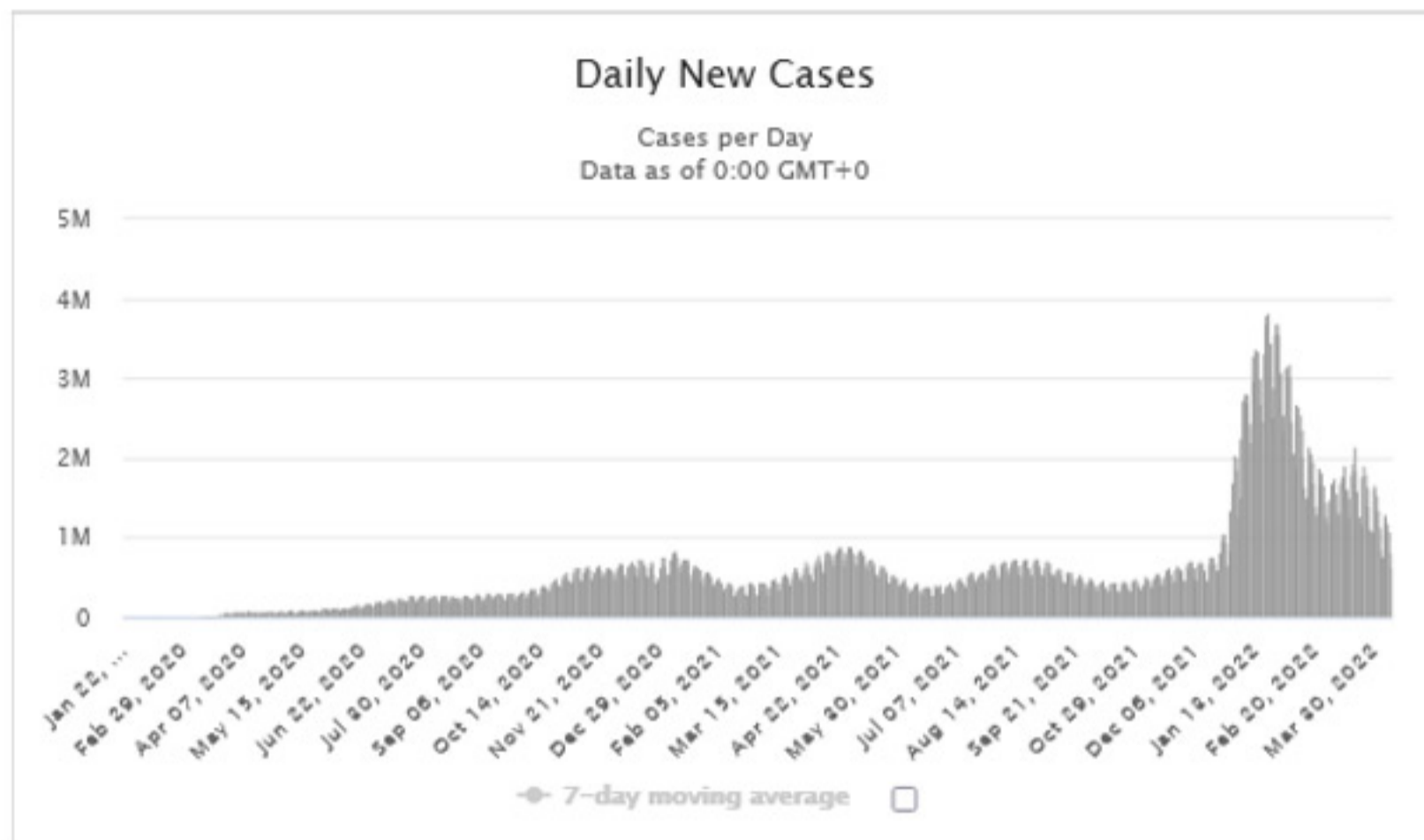
Excess deaths—or the fatalities beyond those expected without the pandemic—were 8% higher in populist countries, according to the peer-reviewed study, which was published in the Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy in November. For every 100 deaths, an additional 8.2 deaths from coronavirus were recorded in non-populist countries, on average, compared to 17.6 more deaths in populist-led countries. **The study's authors identified 11 countries as populist-governed—including the U.S., the U.K., Brazil and India**—based on the definition that populism splits society into “the people” versus “the corrupt elite,” and argues that politics should be determined by the people’s will. The additional deaths were driven by higher rates of movement from place to place in populist countries, which they observed using Google mobility data. The study’s authors also argued that populist governments were less likely to implement long-term pandemic policies and more likely to communicate messaging that downplayed the severity of the pandemic and discredited science, which made people less likely to restrict their movement of their own accord. “The numbers are clear—populists are the worst crisis managers in the Covid-19 pandemic and responsible for many avoidable deaths in the countries they govern,” Michael Bayerlein, a researcher on populism at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, said in a statement Thursday.

Populism isn’t tied to a specific side of the political spectrum. But a rise of right-wing populists swept the world in the years just before the coronavirus pandemic, with leaders like U.S. President Donald Trump, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson winning power. Last week, a study found populist leaders lost support during the coronavirus pandemic after polling more than half a million people. Public opinion for populist leaders fell because of leaders mishandling the pandemic, a decline in polarizing attitudes and a desire for more stability, according to researchers.

| # | Country, Other | Total Cases | New Cases | Total Deaths | New Deaths | Total Recovered | New Recovered | Active Cases | Serious, Critical | Tot Cases/ 1M pop | Deaths/ 1M pop | Total Tests | Tests/ 1M pop | Population |
|---|------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| | World | 499,620,269 | +515,633 | 6,205,220 | +1,873 | 449,356,323 | +1,085,353 | 44,058,726 | 44,892 | 64,097 | 796.1 | | | |
| 1 | USA | 82,082,897 | +13,509 | 1,012,242 | +77 | 79,930,005 | +15,169 | 1,140,650 | 1,634 | 245,436 | 3,027 | 991,552,802 | 2,964,836 | 334,437,650 |
| 2 | Brazil | 30,161,205 | +8,803 | 661,327 | +18 | 29,038,896 | | 460,982 | 8,318 | 140,133 | 3,073 | 63,776,166 | 296,312 | 215,233,355 |
| 3 | India | 43,036,573 | +441 | 521,723 | +1 | 42,503,383 | | 11,467 | 698 | 30,653 | 372 | 794,118,951 | 565,606 | 1,404,013,663 |
| 4 | Russia | 18,007,915 | +11,855 | 371,964 | +248 | 17,239,857 | +26,755 | 396,094 | 2,300 | 123,304 | 2,547 | 273,400,000 | 1,872,023 | 146,045,203 |
| 5 | Mexico | 5,722,933 | +392 | 323,725 | +5 | 5,022,194 | +1,049 | 377,014 | 4,798 | 43,577 | 2,465 | 15,674,047 | 119,349 | 131,329,847 |
| 6 | Peru | 3,551,540 | | 212,486 | | N/A | N/A | N/A | 395 | 105,123 | 6,289 | 29,204,946 | 864,447 | 33,784,532 |
| 7 | UK | 21,641,004 | +22,417 | 170,107 | +116 | 19,800,657 | +193,208 | 1,670,240 | 357 | 315,848 | 2,483 | 509,604,812 | 7,437,629 | 68,517,106 |
| 8 | Italy | 15,320,753 | +28,368 | 160,863 | +115 | 13,927,128 | +42,384 | 1,232,762 | 466 | 254,057 | 2,668 | 206,592,711 | 3,425,826 | 60,304,492 |

Coronavirus Cases:
499,239,266

Deaths:
6,203,927



| # | Country, Other | Total Cases | New Cases | Total Deaths | New Deaths | Total Recovered | New Recovered | Active Cases | Serious, Critical | Tot Cases/ 1M pop | Deaths/ 1M pop | Total Tests | Tests/ 1M pop | Population |
|----|---------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| | World | 499,239,266 | +253,091 | 6,203,927 | +979 | 448,851,399 | +590,750 | 44,183,940 | 45,318 | 64,048 | 795.9 | | | |
| 1 | USA | 82,062,989 | | 1,012,151 | | 79,908,520 | | 1,142,318 | 1,624 | 245,376 | 3,026 | 991,173,404 | 2,963,702 | 334,437,650 |
| 2 | Brazil | 30,152,402 | | 661,309 | | 29,038,896 | | 452,197 | 8,318 | 140,092 | 3,073 | 63,776,166 | 296,312 | 215,233,355 |
| 3 | India | 43,036,132 | | 521,722 | | 42,503,383 | | 11,027 | 698 | 30,652 | 372 | 794,118,951 | 565,606 | 1,404,013,663 |
| 4 | Russia | 18,007,915 | +11,855 | 371,964 | +248 | 17,239,857 | +26,755 | 396,094 | 2,300 | 123,304 | 2,547 | 273,400,000 | 1,872,023 | 146,045,203 |
| 5 | Mexico | 5,722,933 | +392 | 323,725 | +5 | 5,022,194 | +1,049 | 377,014 | 4,798 | 43,577 | 2,465 | 15,674,047 | 119,349 | 131,329,847 |
| 6 | Peru | 3,551,540 | | 212,486 | | N/A | N/A | N/A | 395 | 105,123 | 6,289 | 29,204,946 | 864,447 | 33,784,532 |
| 7 | UK | 21,549,830 | | 169,759 | | 19,707,160 | +99,711 | 1,672,911 | 357 | 314,518 | 2,478 | 509,604,812 | 7,437,629 | 68,517,106 |
| 8 | Italy | 15,292,048 | | 160,748 | | 13,884,744 | | 1,246,556 | 465 | 253,581 | 2,666 | 206,399,929 | 3,422,629 | 60,304,492 |
| 9 | Indonesia | 6,033,903 | +1,196 | 155,674 | +48 | 5,808,380 | +3,978 | 69,849 | 2,771 | 21,655 | 559 | 93,301,127 | 334,843 | 278,641,793 |
| 10 | France | 26,947,375 | | 143,288 | | 24,018,051 | | 2,786,036 | 1,541 | 411,227 | 2,187 | 260,504,402 | 3,975,399 | 65,529,123 |
| 11 | Iran | 7,194,768 | +3,125 | 140,650 | +34 | 6,922,629 | +3,769 | 131,489 | 1,487 | 83,762 | 1,637 | 50,079,995 | 583,036 | 85,895,228 |
| 12 | Colombia | 6,088,034 | | 139,719 | | 5,921,185 | | 27,130 | 342 | 117,433 | 2,695 | 34,135,355 | 658,442 | 51,842,598 |
| 13 | Germany | 22,679,247 | | 132,311 | | 18,618,400 | +203,800 | 3,928,536 | 2,494 | 269,164 | 1,570 | 122,332,384 | 1,451,878 | 84,258,058 |



Transcript

- 0:00 -Vaughn Smith can speak eight languages fluently,
- 0:04 and he can carry on conversations
- 0:06 in a total of 24 languages, by his count.
- 0:09 He's what's known as a hyperpolyglot.
- 0:12 -You can think of language kind of as a shortcut for telepathy.
- 0:15 Because we have thoughts in our heads,
- 0:17 and we use this common code,
- 0:19 which speakers of the same language have access to,
- 0:22 to basically share thoughts with each other.

Meet a man who can speak 24 languages

10K views... 172 DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...

10,411 views • Apr 5, 2022



Washington Post ✓

1.99M subscribers

Neuroscientists from MIT scanned the brain of hyperpolyglot Vaughn Smith, a carpet cleaner who grew up in the D.C. area and can carry on conversations in 24 languages. Read more: <https://wapo.st/3r3291c>.

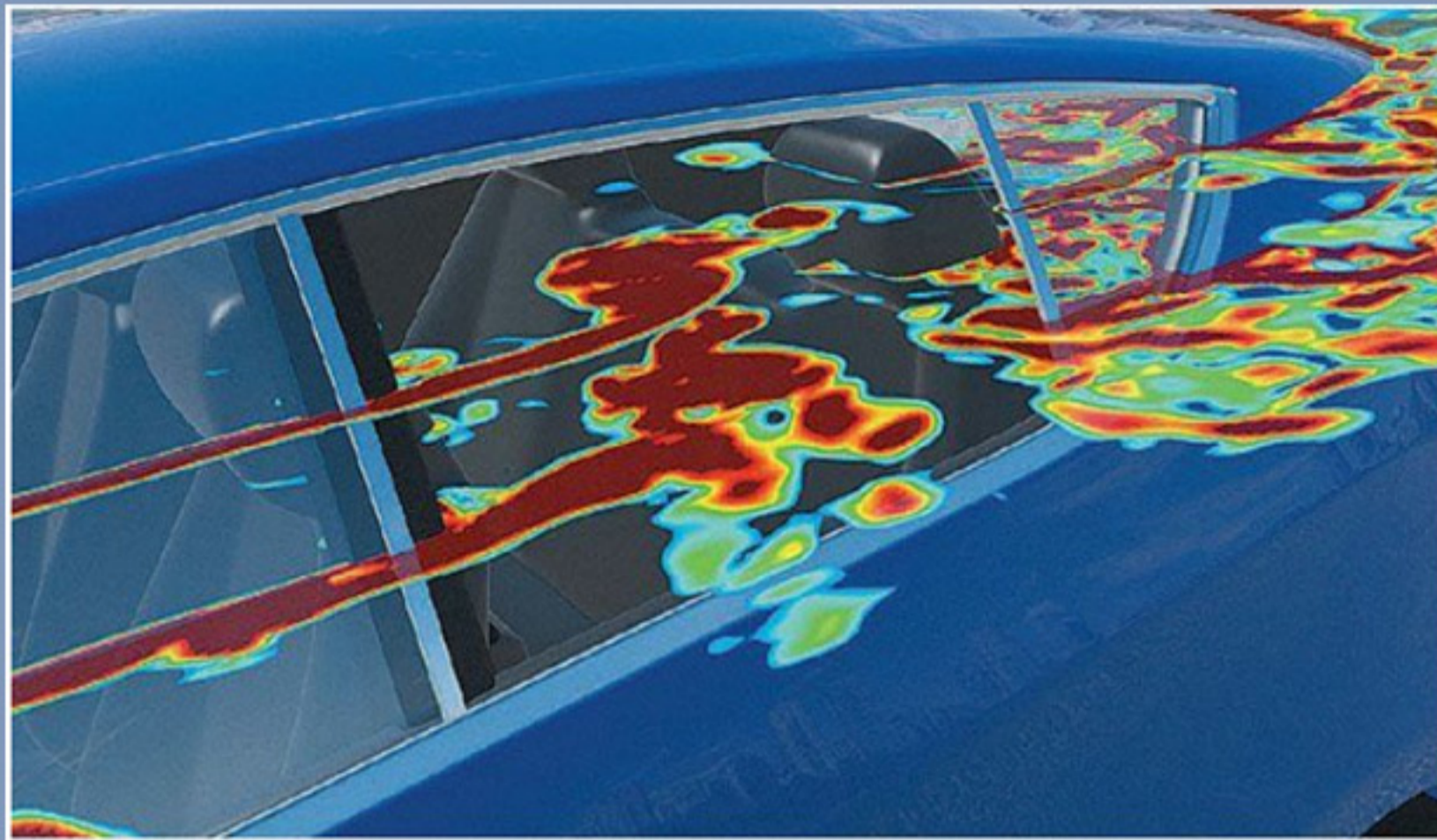
2:39: The research team later shared the results of our scans. I had assumed that Vaughn's language areas would be way bigger and more active than mine. But the scans actually showed the opposite. The parts of Vaughn's brain that are used to comprehend language are far smaller and quieter than mine. The brains of hyperpolyglots are simply more efficient.

3:03: What I'm currently working on, I try to see how your language network is recruited across the different languages that you speak. It seems to be that your language network is recruited less. You'd expect then for English to be, like, a smaller network. I didn't know Spanish was your mother tongue. So, I guess it would also -- You would expect to pattern it up with English because these are the two languages you've been speaking in since birth. And then, for the other languages, I would assume that then when he is, like, speaking Dutch, because he's not as good as he is with English, he'll still need more oxygen in order to engage those language regions in order to produce the language because maybe it's a little harder for him.

3:49: Yeah, I have to work -- It's like a logic puzzle, trying to put words together to find out what one word means. So, I'm using context and stuff. I don't even have to look at a dictionary. Usually I can just guess what it is or I have a bracket of what it is. It could mean seven different things.

4:03: Some polyglots don't even say that it's really easy for them. They say, no, they just work really hard and spend a lot of time, you know, kind of the whole "10,000 hours" idea.

You're going down the highway with your back windows cracked partially open, is the wind coming in or going out?

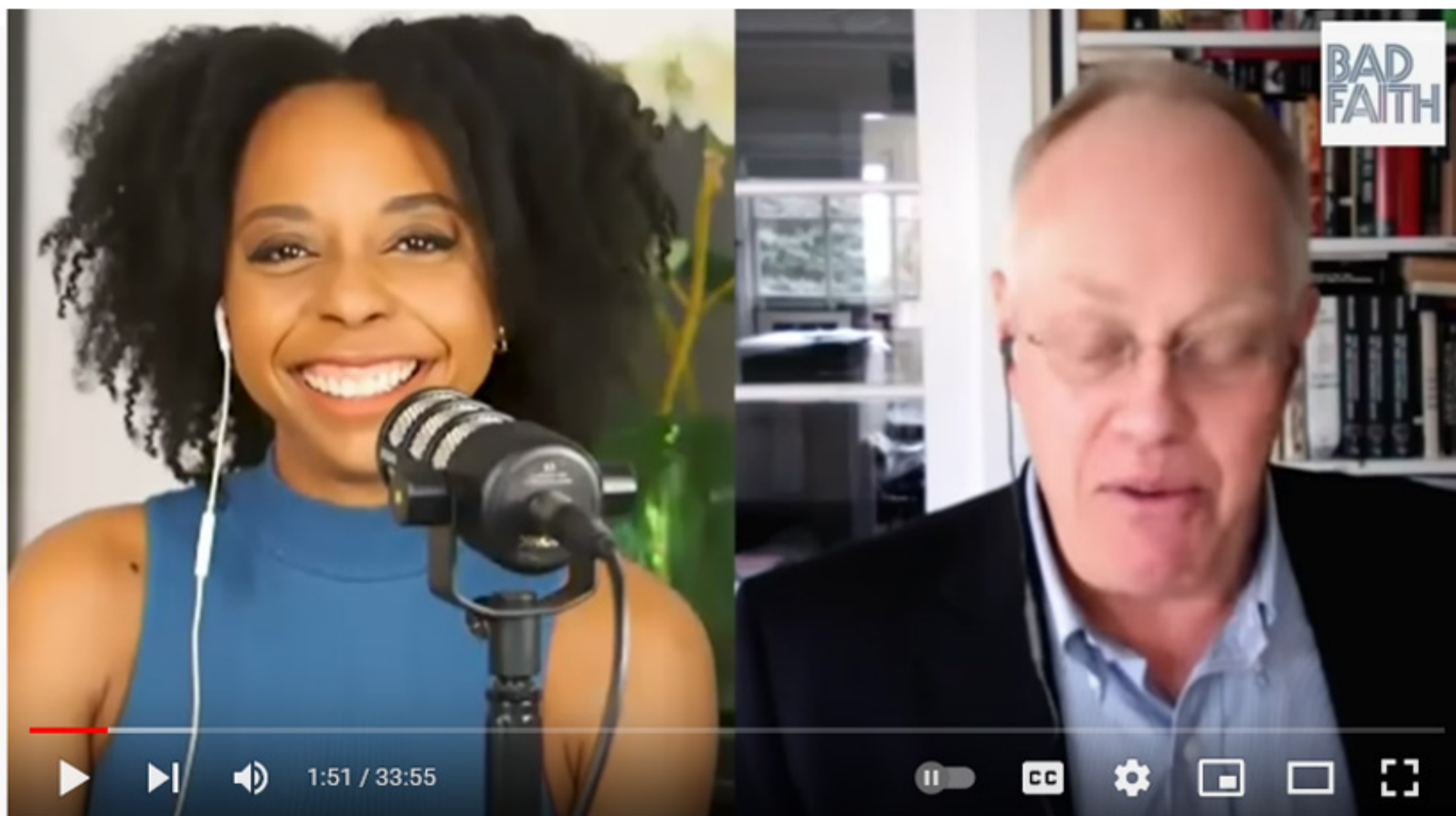


It's both: air in --<vortex>-- air out ...

Whether you call it wind throb or buffeting or just plain annoying, it happens when someone in the car opens a single window at speed and it stops when a second window rolls down.

The phenomenon that produces this noise is the Helmholtz Resonance, the same principle that makes a bottle hum when you blow over its open top. It's the interaction of the gas in a container with a single orifice and the other gases that are, um, passing over that orifice. In this case, the container is the car. The interaction between the two masses of air produces vortices that compress and decompress the air, producing the throbbing effect. Hermann von Helmholtz, the German physician and physicist who described this interaction, died in 1894 and was thus unavailable for comment.

Helmholtz resonance or wind throb is the phenomenon of air resonance in a cavity, such as when one blows across the top of an empty bottle. The name comes from a device created in the 1850s by Hermann von Helmholtz, the Helmholtz resonator, which he used to identify the various frequencies or musical pitches present in music and other complex sounds



The Progressive Misleadership Class (w/ Chris Hedges)

57,914 views · Premiered Apr 4, 2022

4.9K DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...



Bad Faith

62.1K subscribers

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and long time truth teller Chris Hedges sits down with Briahna for an intimate conversation about the recent purging of his RT show On Contact from YouTube, what to make of online criticism AOC received for "stealing valor" from the successful Amazon unionization effort, the limits of electoralism, and why he still fights despite it all. Briahna asks Hedges to respond to Ro Khanna's apparent surprise that esteemed public intellectuals like Hedges and Cornel West are not invited onto mainstream news outlets, and he even responds to his first ever clip from The View. The two spar over the relevance of social media to progressive movements, and have a solemn conversation about the personal risks of fighting for what you believe in.

Bad Faith

<https://badfaith.libsyn.com>

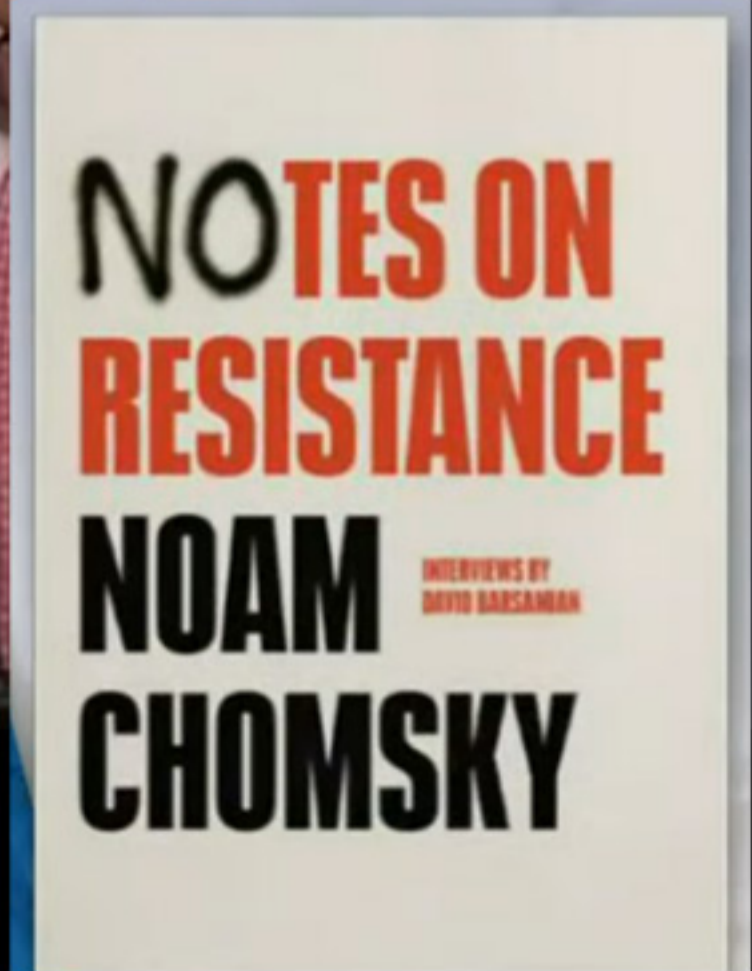
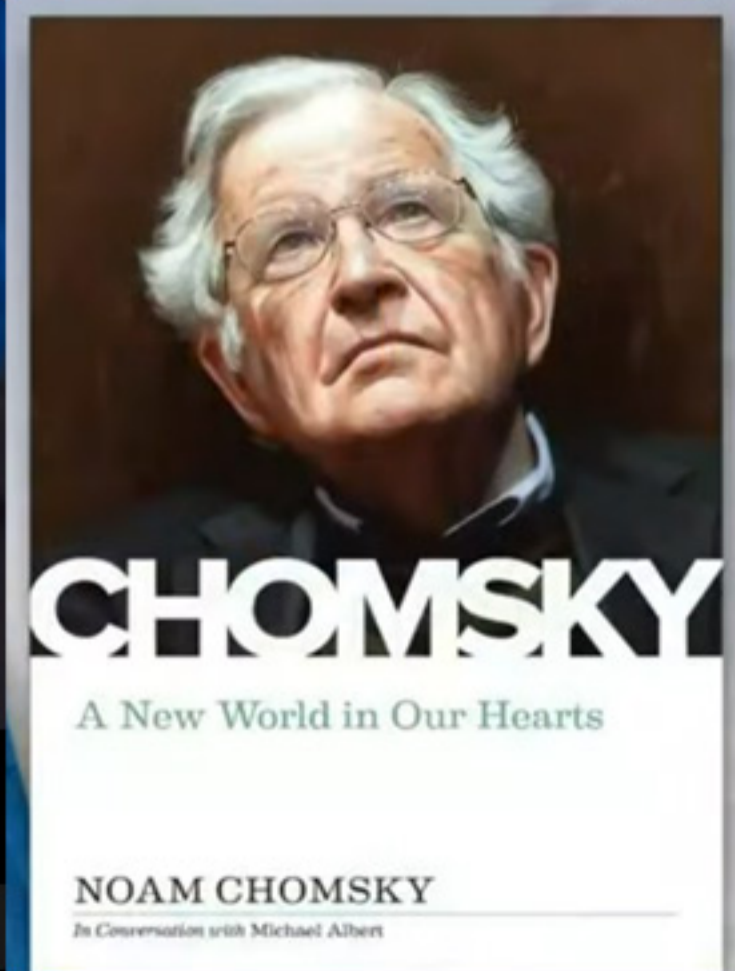
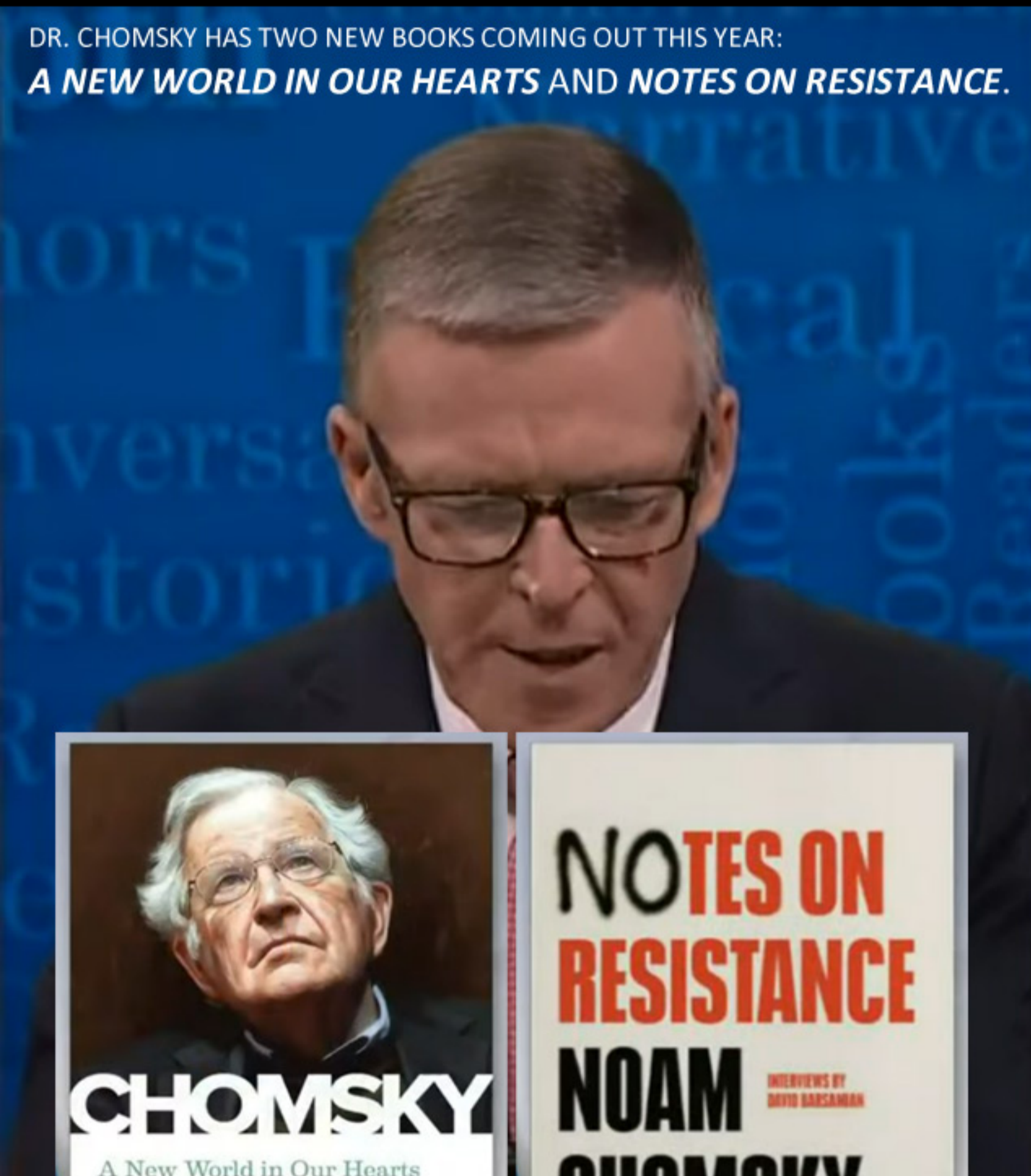
America's only podcast. // with **Briahna Joy Gray**

- 0:11 that's our only hope if you actually confront the centers of power the way julian did or
- 0:17 the way snowden did and hurt them then you get to see how power works and
- 0:25 how vicious they are that's what **politicians** do that's their job the gaslight and
- 0:30 manipulate people that's that is a politician i mean what do you think the main characteristics of a politician is
- 0:36 it wasn't because i was doing russia propaganda it's because with the 2017 director of national intelligence report
- 0:43 in those seven pages they gave a voice to black lives matter activists party candidates
- 0:49 anti-imperialists and that's one and that's why they came for me i mean look brianna they're just **politicians** i mean
- 0:56 you know that's who they are these are very flawed class of human beings yeah i mean i understand that but when you
- 1:02 don't have anything else when it feels like well we got we got something called amazon workers it's
- 1:08 that's that's what we got and they're not the left they're not like wasting their time destroying each other on twitter

<https://youtu.be/Edzm9xrcqWM>

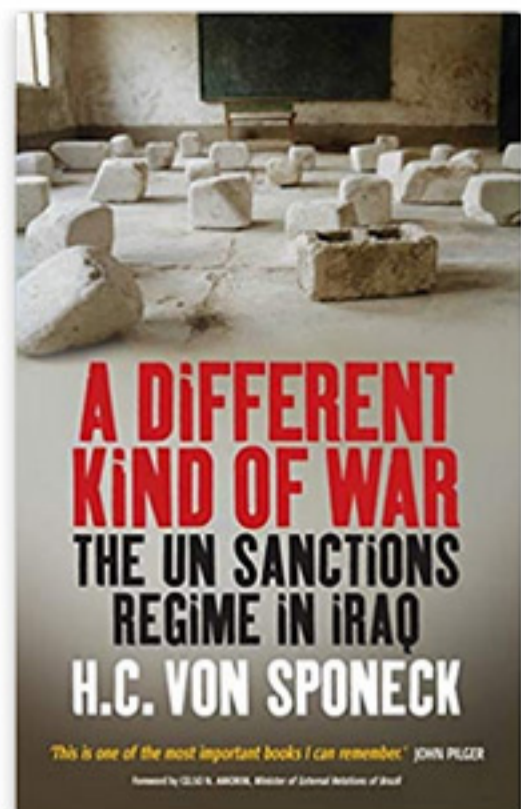
Author and professor Noam Chomsky joined Book TV to talk and take calls about capitalism, U.S. foreign policy, and social change. His books include Hopes and Prospects, Consequences of Capitalism, and the forthcoming Notes on Resistance

DR. CHOMSKY HAS TWO NEW BOOKS COMING OUT THIS YEAR:
A NEW WORLD IN OUR HEARTS AND NOTES ON RESISTANCE.



BOOKTV

C-SPAN2



Hans-Christof von Sponeck

A Different Kind of War: The UN Sanctions Regime in Iraq Hardcover –

September 15, 2006

by [H. C. von Sponeck](#) (Author)

At a time when the international community is again threatening some countries with sanctions, this book comes as a warning. It should be mandatory reading for all those politicians and their foreign-policy advisors who continue to consider sanctions an effective form of policy. The author not only offers us a critical, lucid, and well-informed survey of political developments in Iraq, but also a heart-rending account of the suffering of the Iraqi people. It was they who bore the brunt of the 13-year's sanctions, while the members of Saddam's regime continued to live in luxury and accumulate huge fortunes.

H.-C. von Sponeck, the former "UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq," explores the UN's sanction policies against Iraq, their consequences, and the domestic conditions during this period. His extensive research is based on previously unpublished internal UN documents and discussions with UN decision makers (such as General Secretary Kofi Annan), Iraqi officials and politicians (including Saddam Hussein), and ordinary Iraqis. The author's findings question who really benefited from the program, what role the UN Security Council and its various member states played, and whether there were then and are today alternatives to the UN's Iraq policies.

Hans-Christof Graf von Sponeck (born 1939) is a German diplomat. He was born in Bremen, Germany, the son of Hans Graf von Sponeck. He served as a UN Assistant Secretary-General and UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq. In 1957 he was one of the first conscientious objectors in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Sponeck studied history, demography, and physical anthropology in Germany and the United States and joined the UN Development Program in 1968, working in Pakistan and elsewhere. In 1988, he was admitted to the Order of Saint John (Bailiwick of Brandenburg), the Protestant chivalric order to which his father, too, had belonged. After Denis Halliday resigned as UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq in October 1998, Sponeck took over, heading all UN operations in Iraq and managing the Iraqi operations of the Oil-for-Food Programme. In February 2000, Sponeck and Jutta Burghardt, head of the UN World Food Programme in Iraq, both resigned for the same reason as Halliday, to protest against the Iraq sanctions policy of the UN. Sponeck and Halliday wrote an article for *The Guardian* explaining their position, accusing the sanctions regime of violating the Geneva Conventions and other international laws and causing the death of thousands of Iraqis.

He was equally critical of the "smart sanctions" policy several years later: "What is proposed at this point in fact amounts to a tightening of the rope around the neck of the average Iraqi citizen. The so-called 'new' sanction policy maintains the old bridgeheads of the current sanction regime: the oil escrow account remains with the UN, market-based foreign investment in Iraq will not be allowed and an oil-for-food program stays in the hands of the UN."

In June 2005, he served as an expert on the World Tribunal on Iraq, convened in the spirit of the Russell Tribunal.

His earlier work as a resident representative in Pakistan and elsewhere, led to him becoming, like Halliday, a highly respected figure within the UN. After his resignation, he sought funds for his anti-sanctions work from firms seeking to do business with Iraq. His actions came under some scrutiny from the Paul Volcker Committee, which held that he had not broken any rule, but recommended tightening the rules.

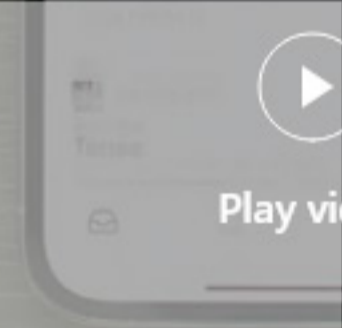
Sponeck was awarded the 2000 Coventry Peace Prize by Coventry Cathedral and the City of Coventry, the 2000 Humanitarian Award from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee[8] and the 2003 Bremen Peace Award of the Threshold Foundation. He is a member of the World Future Council.

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Substack is an American online platform that provides publishing, payment, analytics, and design infrastructure to support subscription newsletters. It allows writers to send digital newsletters directly to subscribers. Founded in 2017, Substack is headquartered in San Francisco, California.



Ian Bremmer

American political scientist

Overview

Education

Books

Videos



Us Vs. Them: The Failure of Globalism

The Power of Crisis: How Three Threats – and Our Response – Will Change the World

Ian Arthur Bremmer is an American political scientist and author with a focus on global political risk. He is the president and founder of Eurasia Group, a political risk research and consulting firm with principal offices in New York City. He is also a founder of the digital media firm GZERO Media. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: November 12, 1969 (age 52 years), [Baltimore, MD](#)

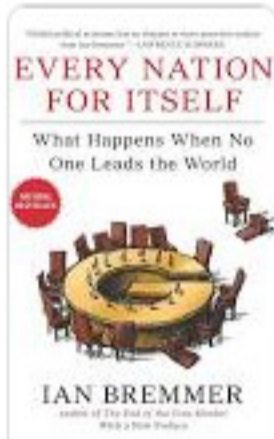
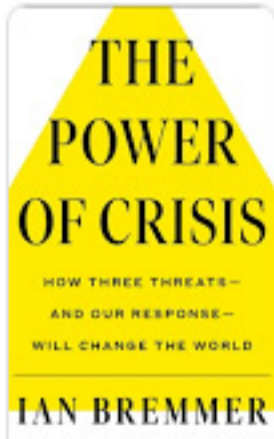
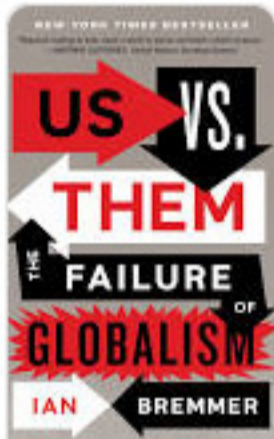
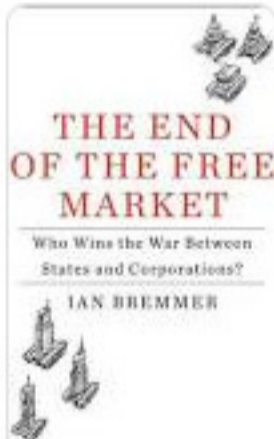
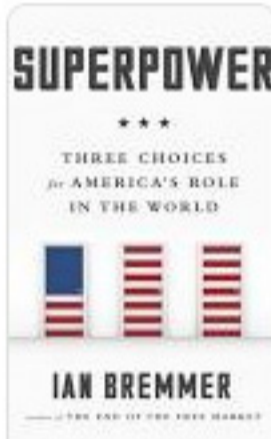

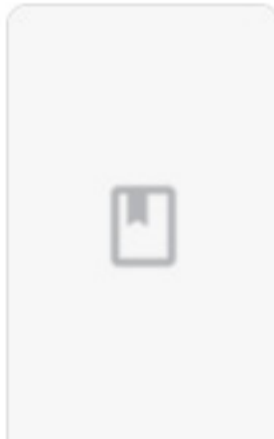

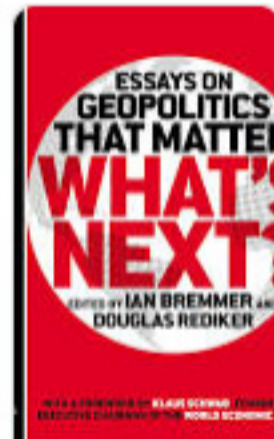
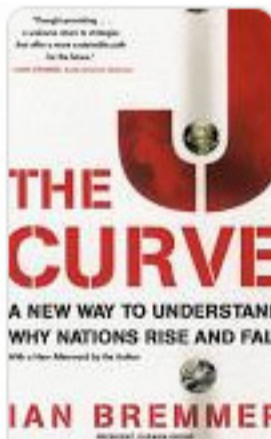
Parents: [Arthur Bremmer](#)

Education: [Tulane University](#) (1989–1989), [MORE](#)

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Ian Bremmer - Eurasia Group

Ian Bremmer is a political scientist who helps business leaders, policy makers, and the general public make sense of the world around them.

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|
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Sam Harris
561K subscribers

(Episode #277)

How Does the War in Ukraine End?: A Conversation with Ian Bremmer

105,765 views • Apr 3, 2022

In this episode of the podcast, Sam Harris speaks with Ian Bremmer about the ongoing war in Ukraine. They discuss the current state of the war, the power of sanctions, Biden's "gaffe" about regime change, fear of nuclear war, the logic of mutually assured destruction, the role of China, the most likely outcomes of the war, and other topics.

Ian Bremmer is a political scientist who helps business leaders, policy makers, and the general public make sense of the world around them. He is president and founder of Eurasia Group, the world's leading political risk research and consulting firm, and GZERO Media, a company dedicated to providing intelligent and engaging coverage of international affairs. Ian is an independent voice on critical issues around the globe, offering clearheaded insights through speeches, written commentary, and even satirical puppets (really!).

He is the host of GZERO World, and is the author of eleven books, including the New York Times bestseller Us vs Them: The Failure of Globalism. His forthcoming book The Power of Crisis: How Three Threats—and Our Response—Will Change the World will be published on May 17, 2022 and is available for preorder now. Ian also serves as the foreign affairs columnist and editor at large for Time magazine and teaches at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.



#conversation #stevenpinker #danieldennett

Steven Pinker and Daniel Dennett in Conversation. Where are we heading

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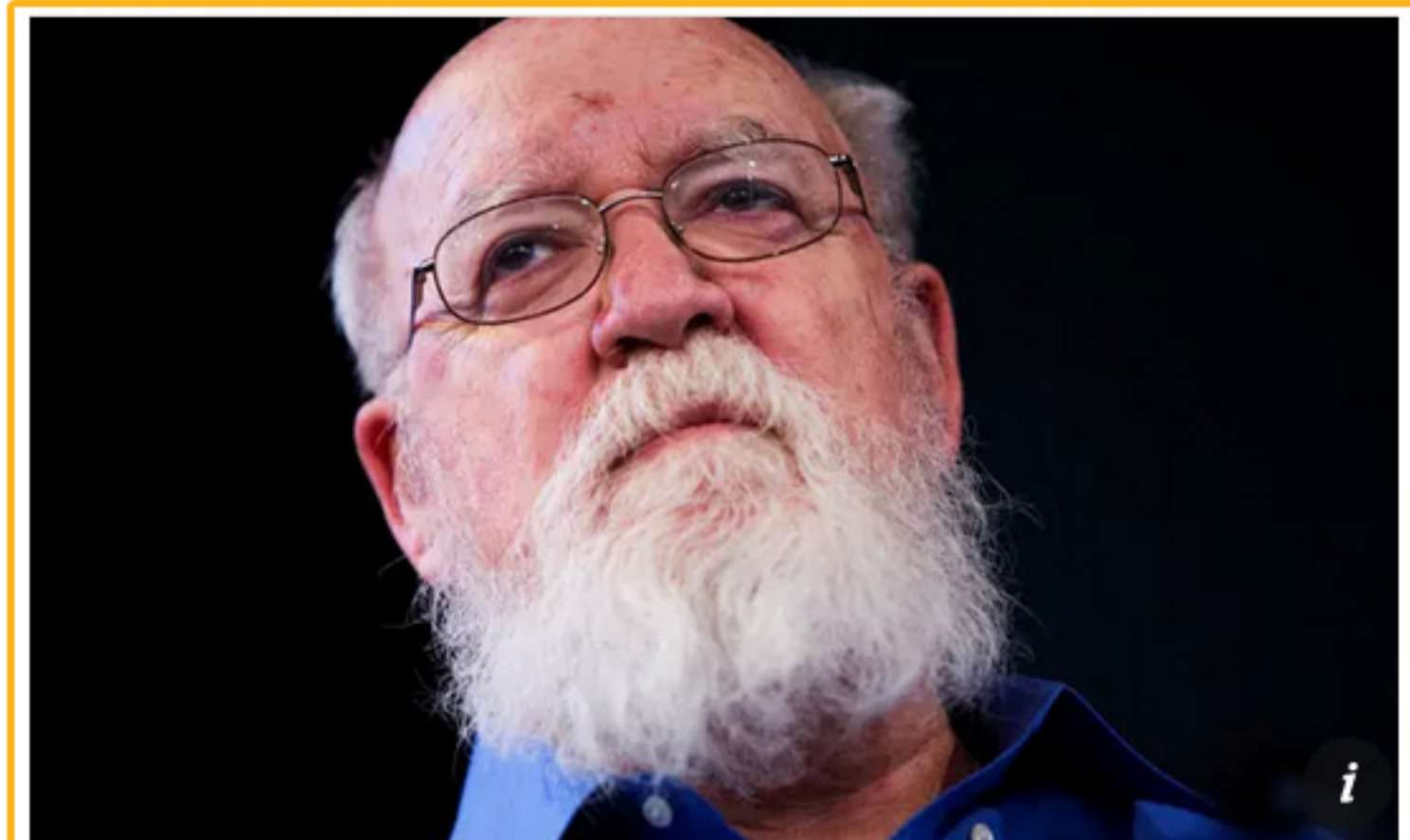


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#conversation #stevenpinker #danieldennett

Steven Pinker and Daniel Dennett in Conversation. Where are we heading.

Conversation was in 2015.



The Observer

Interview

Daniel Dennett: 'I begrudge every hour I have to spend worrying about politics'

Carole Cadwalladr

Truth has long been a key concern for the American philosopher. He's in the UK to discuss his latest book on consciousness, but there's just no escaping Trump...



@carolecadwalla

Sun 12 Feb 2017 04:00 EST

Are we already in a situation where the technology is too complicated even for the people who created it to understand it?

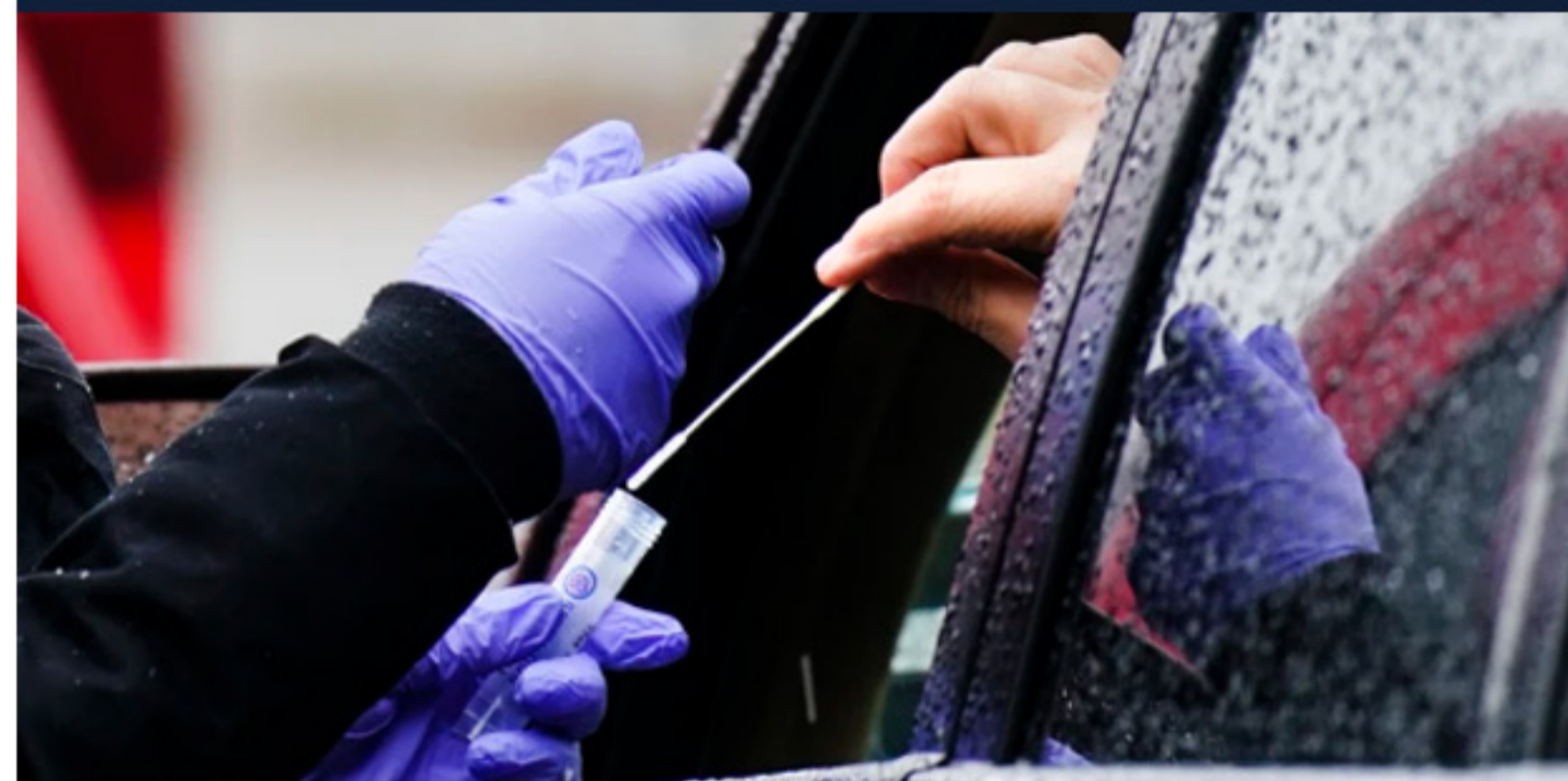
That's a worry and possibility. I don't think that point has been reached, but that point could be reached. What's interesting is that philosophers for hundreds of years have talked about the limits of comprehension as if it was sort of like the sound barrier. There was this wall we just couldn't get beyond and that was part of the tragic human condition. Now, we're discovering a version of it, which, if it's true is sort of true in a boring way. It's not that there are any great mysteries, it's just that the only way we can make progress is by division of labour and specialisation. For example, the papers coming out of Cern with 500 authors, no one of whom understands the whole paper or the whole science behind it. This is just going to become more and more the meme. More and more, the unit of comprehension is going to be group comprehension, where you simply have to rely on a team of others because you can't understand it all yourself. There was a time, oh, I would say as recently as, certainly as the 18th century, when really smart people could aspire to having a fairly good understanding of just about everything.

What are the implications of that?

Well that's the fragility, the hyper-fragility of civilisation right there. We could all be bounced back into the 19th century.

Incomplete data likely masks a rise in U.S. Covid cases as focus on infection counts fades

Experts agree that daily U.S. Covid cases are dramatically undercounted. Some have begun to question the stat's importance in this phase of the pandemic.



— A driver places a swab into a vial at a free drive-thru Covid-19 testing site in Darby, Pa., on Jan. 20. *Matt Rourke / AP file*

April 10, 2022, 1:30 AM PDT

By Aria Bendix and Denise Chow

At first glance, U.S. Covid cases appear to have plateaued over the past two weeks, with a consistent average of around 30,000 cases per day, according to NBC News' tally.

But disease experts say incomplete data likely masks an upward trend.

"I do think we are in the middle of a surge, the magnitude of which I can't tell you," Zeke Emanuel, vice provost of global initiatives at the University of Pennsylvania, said.

The BA.2 omicron subvariant, which now accounts for about 72 percent of U.S. cases and is more contagious than the original omicron variant, is fueling that spread, Emanuel added. "It's much more transmissible. It's around. We just don't have a lot of case counts," he said. Emanuel and other experts cite a lack of testing as the primary reason cases go underreported. At the height of the omicron wave in January, the U.S. was administering more than 2 million tests per day. That had dropped to an average of about 530,000 as of Monday, the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

At first glance, U.S. Covid cases appear to have plateaued over the past two weeks, with a consistent average of around 30,000 cases per day, according to "The milder symptoms become, the less likely people are to test or show up in official case counts," said David Dowdy, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

More people also now have access to at-home rapid tests that are free or covered by insurance, and most of those test results don't get reported to state health departments or the CDC. "Case counts and testing are progressively becoming shaky indicators because we're not catching everyone in the system," said Dr. Jonathan Quick, an adjunct professor at the Duke Global Health Institute.

Some local data, however, does reveal recent spikes. Average Covid cases have risen nearly 80 percent in Nebraska, 75 percent in Arizona, 58 percent in New York and 55 percent in Massachusetts over the past two weeks. Wastewater surveillance similarly suggests that infections are rising in Colorado, Ohio and Washington, among other states.

But some experts believe it's no longer crucial to track every case now that infections are mostly mild for vaccinated people. Moving forward, Dowdy said, it makes more sense for both health officials and careful citizens to pay attention to hospitalizations. The CDC's revised masking guidance already relies on county-level hospitalization rates and capacity. "We certainly don't try to track the number of cases of the flu or the common cold," he said. "So if we're seeing an increase in cases, but not an increase in severe cases, I think it's a very valid question of does that matter?"

Quick said that when traveling, he monitors local vaccination rates and hospitalization numbers to assess his own risk. Hospitalizations, though, lag behind infections. "Once we see hospitalizations going up, that's already the back half of the train," said Keri Althoff, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. "At that point, it takes time to slow things down."

The people most at risk because of the U.S.' artificially low case counts are the immunocompromised and children under 5, who are not yet eligible for vaccines. Experts said those groups — or their caregivers — should still have a way to accurately gauge transmission in their communities.

"We're going to continue to see outbreaks," Althoff said. "So we're constantly going to have to assess our individual risks and do more to protect people in our communities who are vulnerable."

Poet **Ocean Vuong** sifts through the aftershock of grief in 'Time Is a Mother'
<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/1090845515> | April 5, 2022

Grief is perhaps the last and final translation of love. [...] Two days - today without my mother, and yesterday, when she was alive. That's all I see. That's how I see my life now.

Ocean Vuong Wrote His Debut Novel in a Closet | 6:51
Late Night with Seth Meyers | Jun 13, 2019
https://youtu.be/cQl_qbWwCwU

In this culture we celebrate boys in the lexicon of violence.

Ocean Vuong (born Vương Quốc Vinh, Vietnamese: [viəŋ˧˥ kuək̚˧˥ viŋ˧˥]); October 14, 1988) is a Vietnamese American poet, essayist and novelist. Vuong is a recipient of the 2014 Ruth Lilly/Sargent Rosenberg fellowship from the Poetry Foundation, a 2016 Whiting Award, and the 2017 T.S. Eliot Prize for his poetry. His debut novel, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, was published in 2019. He received a MacArthur Grant the same year.

Vuong was born in Hồ Chí Minh City, Vietnam. His grandmother grew up in the countryside while his grandfather was a white American soldier in the Navy originally from Michigan. His grandparents met during the Vietnam War, married and had three children, Vuong's mother being one of them. His grandfather had gone back to visit home in the U.S. but was unable to return when Saigon fell to communist forces. His grandmother had separated his mother and aunts in orphanages, concerned for their survival before reuniting as adults. They fled Vietnam after a police officer came to suspect that his mother was of mixed heritage and in turn was working illegally under Vietnamese law. A two-year-old Vuong and his family eventually arrived in a refugee camp in the Philippines before achieving asylum and migrating to the United States, settling in Hartford, Connecticut, United States with six relatives. His father abandoned his family after that. Vuong was reunited with his paternal grandfather later in life. Vuong, who suspects dyslexia runs in his family, was the first in his family to learn to read, at the age of eleven. Vuong has described himself as being raised by women. His mother, a manicurist, gave him the name of Beach. During a conversation with a customer, Vuong's mother pronounced the word "beach" as "bitch". The customer suggested she use the word "ocean" to substitute for "beach". After learning the definition of the word ocean — the most massive classified body of water, such as the Pacific Ocean, which connects the United States and Vietnam — she renamed him Ocean. Vuong is openly gay, and is a practicing Zen Buddhist.



On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous

is a letter from a son to a mother who cannot read. Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late twenties, the letter unearths a family's history that began before he was born — a history whose epicenter is rooted in Vietnam — and serves as a doorway into parts of his life his mother has never known, all of it leading to an unforgettable revelation. At once a witness to the fraught yet undeniable love between a single mother and her son, it is also a brutally honest exploration of race, class, and masculinity. Asking questions central to our American moment, immersed as we are in addiction, violence, and trauma, but undergirded by compassion and tenderness, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* is as much about the power of telling one's own story as it is about the obliterating silence of not being heard. With stunning urgency and grace, Ocean Vuong writes of people caught between disparate worlds, and asks how we heal and rescue one another without forsaking who we are. The question of how to survive, and how to make of it a kind of joy, powers the most important debut novel of many years.

Ocean Vuong



Vuong in 2019

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Born | Vương Quốc Vinh October 14, 1988 (age 33) Hồ Chí Minh City, Vietnam |
| Occupation | Poet, writer |
| Language | English |
| Citizenship | American |
| Alma mater | Brooklyn College (B.A.) New York University (M.F.A.) |
| Genre | Poetry, essays, novel |
| Notable works | <i>Night Sky with Exit Wounds</i> (2016) <i>On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous</i> (2019) |
| Notable awards | Ruth Lilly/Sargent Rosenberg fellowship The Pushcart Prize T. S. Eliot Prize MacArthur Fellowship |
| | Website |
| | www.oceanvuong.com |

Poet Ocean Vuong sifts through the aftershock of grief in 'Time Is a Mother'

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VUONG: (Reading) "Beautiful Short Loser." Stand back. I'm a loser on a winning MacArthur streak. I got your wedding dress on backward, playing air guitar in the streets.

I taste my mouth the most, and what a blessing. The most normal things about Vietnam are my shoulders. You've been warned. Where I'm from, it's only midnight for a second. And the trees look like grandfathers laughing in the rain. For as long as I can remember, I've had a preference for mediocre bodies, including this one. How come the past tense is always longer? Is the memory of a song the shadow of a sound, or is that too much? Sometimes when I can't sleep, I imagine Van Gogh singing Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" into his cut ear and feeling peace. I am concerned for their survival before reuniting as adults. They fled Vietnam after

<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/1090845515>

turn was working illegally under Vietnamese law. A two-year-old Vuong and his family

MOSLEY: I want to talk with you more about the foundation of your understanding of language. But that humor, it definitely comes through in this book of poetry. And your dissection of language, there is one poem where you do this so well.

You take on the ways language is used to reinforce toxic masculinity.

Can I have you read a little of "Old Glory"?

Vuong has described himself as being raised by women. His mother, a mother

VUONG: (Reading) "Old Glory." Knock them dead, big guy. Get in there guns blazing, buddy. You crushed at the show. No, it was a blow out. No, a massacre, she

total overkill. We tore them a new one. My son's a beast, a lady killer, straight

the shooter. He knocked her up - a bombshell blonde. You'll blow them away.

the Pacific Ocean, which connects the United States and Vietnam — she renamed him

Ocean. Vuong is openly gay, and is a practicing Zen Buddhist.



Vuong in 2019

Born Vương Quốc Vinh
October 14, 1988 (age 33)
Hồ Chí Minh City, Vietnam

Occupation Poet, writer

On VUONG: (Reading) "Amazon History Of A Former Nail Salon Worker." March - Advil ibuprofen, four-pack. Sally Hansen pink nail polish, six-pack. Clorox bleach, industrial size. Diane hairpins, four-pack. Seafoam handheld mirror. I love New York T-shirt, white, small. April - Nongshim ramen noodle bowl, 24-pack. Cotton balls, 100 count. Thank you for your loyalty cards, 30 count. Toluene, POR 15 40404, solvent, one quart. UV LED nail lamp. Cuticle oil, value pack. Clear acrylic nail tips, 500 count.

works (2016)
On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous

MOSLEY: What does that Amazon cart tell us about your mom's existence?

Notable awards Ruth Lilly/Sargent Rosenberg fellowship

VUONG: I wanted to track, you know, the debris of living because I think sometimes the object speaks more clearly even than language itself. And I believe in William Carlos Williams' credo. No ideas but in things, he says, you know, while being part of this nascent images and movement of the early 20th century. And I wanted to track the debris of this nail salon worker's life.

On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous is as much about an aspirational quality and an evidentiary quality to buying something for yourself and your family. There's a hope there, right? We buy because we hope. And there's a lot to say about the critique of capitalism and how destructive it is in our culture. But also at the root of it, this acquisition of objects is also a DNA, the declaration of a selfhood. And I felt that my mother, at times, is more - made more clear in what she curated around her, you know, the objects of her livelihood and the objects of her pleasure often literally in one, quote, unquote, "Amazon shopping cart."

many years.

...in the shadow of Black thought

MOSLEY: You know, Ocean, though you've - through your work, you've also made not only other Asian American people who identify as such feel seen, but yo

u've made queer people feel seen. And I'm just thinking about that foundational experience of being othered. It often stays with us for the rest of our lives. In any way, though, do you feel full from the accolades and people telling you that they feel seen through you?

VUONG: I feel very blessed that I could participate in the tradition of oppositional work as a means of self-preservation for people who have been maligned politically and socially. And I have to thank and owe my tradition to Black artists and thinkers in this way because it was the Black artists and thinkers who came before us in this country that laid the foundation. And so I work in their shadow always.

And I think one of the drawbacks of diversity as an agenda is that it tokenizes us or it can tokenize us into slots, in individual traditions - right? - like Asian American, Latinx, Native American, Black writers. But, in fact, all of these traditions are woven in the shadow of Black thought - right? - from the Frederick Douglasses to the Phillis Wheatley, the Baldwins. That oppositional work of self-determination and self dignity - Toni Morrison - it goes on and on. We've come in in the middle of that project. Asian American writers come in in the middle. And so it's important for me at every stage to say I'm here because of these other folks, right? These are also my elders. They've made room for me to work.

Ocean Vuong



Vuong in 2019

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Website

www.oceanvuong.com

Does it matter to speak if no one listens?

MOSLEY: Ocean, children of immigrants and marginalized communities often hold this weight of wanting to share our parents' stories. At the start of this conversation, I introduced you by posing this question that you've asked so many times in relation to your mother and your writing. And that is, what does it mean to write for someone who will never read it? What does it mean? Have you found the answer to that question?

VUONG: I think I was interested in that aporia, that paradox, because, very quickly, the pressure falls on language itself. **Does it matter to speak if no one listens?** If the intended recipient is not there or cannot hear it, does my vote count? Do I have a voice? Does my voice matter? These are the perennial American questions, perhaps global questions. And I think, why not create the set-up in the novel to really put language to the test? Does it matter? Does it do anything for us if we are just using it, you know, in this cyclical way?

You know, in a way, language is a wheel. It comes back to us. And what if we closed off the possibilities of being heard? Would it matter? You know, **do we throw the message in a bottle into the sea?** And if we put everything that we wanted into it, do we reaffirm something in ourselves? And of course, I knew the answer was yes, but I had to prove it to myself. I had to see how. And, like, so much of literature is seeing the how. We read the backs of books, and we get the story, but we want to know how. And I think in this way, the sentence is a technology of expanding the world around us. **We all know what happens in the world, but the how, the deep interiority, is what makes it memorable.**

Ocean Vuong



Vuong in 2019

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Website

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Native grasses, long overlooked, have been shown to benefit cattle and diverse native animals. Patrick Keyser, CC BY-ND

Raising cattle on native grasses in the eastern U.S. benefits farmers, wildlife and the soil

Published: April 12, 2022 8:14am EDT

Patrick Keyser, *University of Tennessee*

Early on a cool June morning, heavy dew lies on the grass of rolling farm country somewhere in Tennessee, or Missouri, or Pennsylvania. Small patches of fog hang in low lying pockets of these fields. In the distance, hardworking farmers are starting their day. Farm equipment clangs, tractors roar to life and voices lining out the day's work drift on the air. This pastoral scene is repeated thousands of times each morning across rural America. But something is missing: the exuberant "Bob bob white!" call of the bobwhite quail that for generations was the soundtrack to summer mornings. Once abundant across the eastern U.S., bobwhite populations have declined by 85%. Calculations suggest that the remaining population could be cut in half within the next decade. Many other grassland birds, such as grasshopper sparrows and eastern meadowlarks, also are disappearing at an alarming rate. Taken together, grassland birds have experienced the worst population declines among all North American birds. **Why is this happening? In a word, habitat.** Native grasslands in the U.S., especially those east of the Great Plains, which once covered millions of acres, have almost completely disappeared. Some have been converted to croplands. Others have been allowed to grow back up into forests, where shade from the tree canopy prevents the growth of these grasses. Still others have been planted with grasses that are native to Europe, Africa or Asia. These introduced grasses tend to be shorter than our tall, native species and grow in dense, solid mats that cover the ground. Native species, on the other hand, are bunchgrasses: They grow in clumps, with spaces between plants that benefit many of these nesting birds, especially the bobwhite. One solution to these declines draws on the concept of working lands conservation – making agricultural lands productive not only for cattle, but also for declining species such as grassland birds. One compelling opportunity for such an approach is using some of the native grasses that have been lost from the eastern U.S. to provide pasture for cattle. Reintroducing these grasses to farms could benefit cattle farmers as well as birds. My new book, "Native Grass Forages for the Eastern U.S.," explains why and how these grasses can fit into working farms.

I have combined my research on native grasses over the past 15 years at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture with the work of many other scientists that has accumulated over the past 100 years. Collectively, this research suggests that native grasses can not only be brought back but can play a strategic role on our farms today. Growing forages requires fertilizer, diesel and seed, all of which are becoming more expensive. At the same time, climate change is making some parts of the U.S. wetter and other parts drier. In the face of these stresses, I see native grasses like big bluestem as a promising solution. These grasses, which have grown in North America for millennia, are naturally well adapted to the eastern U.S., and I believe they can once again benefit family farms.

Patrick Keyser interviews Brad Black of Color Wheel Farm in Monroe County, Tennessee, on his experience planting a native grass, switchgrass. As I show in my book, these grasses have roots that can extend as much as 8 to 10 feet deep into the soil. They are remarkably drought tolerant and can grow and thrive in soils with low fertility and high acidity. Their large root systems also help to increase the organic matter in soils, which makes the soil healthier and more productive. Building up organic matter, which consists mostly of carbon, stores carbon in the soil rather than the atmosphere. But what about the cattle? Numerous studies show that forage yields are high for these species. Cattle readily consume them, and this diet produces strong gains on the growing animals. This combination of high yields, strong gains and low input requirements means that these forages can be produced profitably.

A recent study conducted here in Tennessee resulted in strong animal performance for beef steers and heifers, with the cost of feed for the animals coming in at only \$0.29 per pound. This is a very good bargain: Cost ranges for many nonnative forages can be \$0.80-0.90 per pound, and purchased feed can run well over \$2.00 per pound of weight gain. In that same study, we monitored the nesting success of two at-risk species associated with eastern pastures: grasshopper sparrows and field sparrows. We found that compared to pastures growing a nonnative grass species called tall fescue, the native grass pastures produced between two and six times more fledgling birds per acre. This is the outcome that working lands conservation seeks to deliver: more beef and more birds, all at a fair price.

The biggest challenge of cultivating native grasses is getting the grasses established. Converting existing pastures to native grasses requires completely renovating the fields, and lots of patience as the native grass seedlings develop. These species are slow starters. Once they get a good root system under them, they can grow quite rapidly, but until then they are vulnerable to weed pressure. And converting fields is not cheap, due particularly to seed costs. However, farmers can receive financial support for planting native grasses from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. As the world's population grows, it will be a struggle to produce enough nutrient-dense proteins to feed everyone. Grasslands can produce high-quality dietary protein cost-effectively, while also reducing atmospheric carbon and supporting North American grassland birds and other wild species. As King Solomon said long ago, there is nothing new under the sun. Native grasses are not new, but today I see them as a modern solution to some of our planet's most pressing challenges.



A bobwhite quail nest nestles in a bunch of switchgrass, a native grass species also valuable for cattle forage. David Peters, CC BY-ND

Giants' Alyssa Nakken becomes 1st MLB female coach on field

By JANIE McCAULEY today



San Francisco Giants first base coach Alyssa Nakken runs to get in position, near San Diego Padres catcher Austin Nola, left, during the third inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Alyssa Nakken was hard at work in the batting cage, just a few steps from the dugout, when suddenly the call came: The San Francisco Giants needed her to coach at first base. She quickly pulled off her sweatshirt, grabbed her No. 92 jersey and found a bright orange batting helmet. A few minutes later, Nakken made major league history as the first female coach on the field in a regular-season game when she took her spot Tuesday night in a 13-2 win over San Diego. “I think we’re all inspirations doing everything that we do on a day-to-day basis and I think, yes, this carries a little bit more weight because of the visibility, obviously there’s a historical nature to it,” she said. “But again, this is my job.”

Nakken came in to coach first base for the Giants in the third inning after Antoan Richardson was ejected. When she was announced as Richardson’s replacement, Nakken received a warm ovation from the crowd at Oracle Park, and a congratulatory handshake from Padres first baseman Eric Hosmer. “Right now in this moment as I reflect back, I reflect back to somebody needed to go out, we needed a coach to coach first base, our first base coach got thrown out, I’ve been in training as a first base coach for the last few years and work alongside Antoan, so I stepped in to what I’ve been hired to do, is support this staff and this team,” Nakken said.

The baseball Hall of Fame was ready, too. Her helmet is already on its way to the shrine in Cooperstown, New York. San Francisco manager Gabe Kapler said Nakken had “prepared for this moment” while working with Richardson and others. “So it’s not a foreign spot on the field for her. She does so many other things well that aren’t seen,” he said. “So it’s nice to see her kind of be right there in the spotlight and do it on the field.” Nakken is an assistant coach who works heavily with baserunning and outfield defense. She watches games from an indoor batting cage near the steps to the dugout — and keeps a Giants jersey nearby, just in case she needs it. And in an instant Tuesday night, she needed it. The 31-year-old Nakken jogged onto the field four days after Rachel Balkovec became the first woman to manage a minor league affiliate of an Major League Baseball team. She guided the New York Yankees’ Class A Tampa club to a win in her first game.

Nakken had previously coached the position in spring training and during part of a July 2020 exhibition game at Oakland against now-Padres manager Bob Melvin when he was skipper of the Athletics. She started at first again a night later against the A’s in San Francisco as the teams prepared for the pandemic-delayed season. “You feel a sense of pride to be out there,” Nakken said at the time. “Me personally, it’s the best place to watch a game, that’s for sure.” The former Sacramento State softball star, whose blonde braid hung out from her orange protective helmet Tuesday, became the first female coach in the big leagues when she was hired for Kapler’s staff in January 2020. At Sacramento State from 2009-2012, Nakken was a three-time all-conference player at first base and four-time Academic All American. She went on to earn a master’s degree in sport management from the University of San Francisco in 2015 after interning with the Giants’ baseball operations department a year earlier. From Day One with the Giants, Nakken embraced her role as an example for girls and women that they can do anything. “It’s a big deal,” she said. “I feel a great sense of responsibility and I feel it’s my job to honor those who have helped me to where I am.”



San Diego Padres first baseman Eric Hosmer, left, shakes hands with San Francisco Giants first base coach Alyssa Nakken during the third inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

The New York Times:

All Children 8 and Older Should Be Screened for Anxiety, U.S. Task Force Says

News about screening, anxiety

The New York Times

All Children 8 and Older Should Be Screened for Anxiety, U.S. Task Force Says

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Children as young as 8 should be screened for anxiety: US task force

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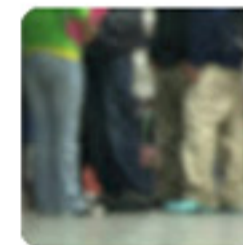
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RAW: TASK FORCE: CHILDREN 8+ SHOULD BE SCREENED FOR ANXIETY

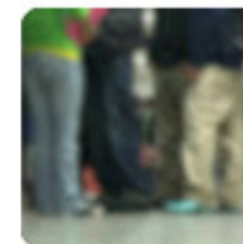
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RAW: TASK FORCE: CHILDREN 8+ SHOULD BE SCREENED FOR ANXIETY

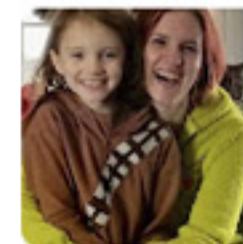
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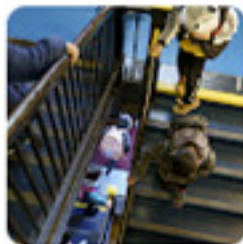
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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Children as Young as 8 Should Be Screened for Anxiety, Experts Recommend

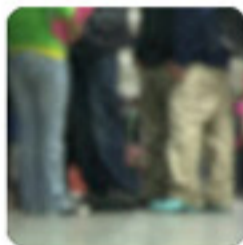
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As youth mental illness soars, US task force recommends screening children as young as age 8 for anxiety - WEIS ...

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US voting rights Florida Governor DeSantis given power to gerrymander state's electoral maps

Governor seems eager to eliminate two congressional districts with large Black electorates giving Republicans a 20-8 edge

Sam Levine in New York

Wed 13 Apr 2022 02.00 EDT

The Florida legislature will allow Governor Ron DeSantis to take the lead on redrawing the state's 28 congressional districts, a highly unusual move that will probably diminish Black political power in the state and allow Republicans to further distort the state's map to their advantage. State legislatures, including Florida's, usually draw a proposal for a plan that the governor approves or rejects. DeSantis vetoed the GOP-controlled legislature's proposed congressional districts on 29 March after proposing his own map that would increase the number of GOP seats while eliminating two districts represented by Black Democrats. Leaders in the legislature said on Monday that they would not try to draft a new plan ahead of a special session next week, but instead were waiting for DeSantis, a likely 2024 presidential candidate, to submit his own plan. "We are awaiting a communication from the Governor's Office with a map that he will support. Our intention is to provide the Governor's Office opportunities to present that information before House and Senate redistricting committees," legislative leaders said in a Monday memo.

The legislature approved a plan earlier this year that would have given Republicans an 18-10 advantage in the state's delegation. DeSantis's proposal would have given Republicans a 20-8 advantage. DeSantis appears focused on eliminating two congressional districts with sizable non-white populations. One of those is Florida's 5th congressional district, which stretches from Jacksonville to Tallahassee, is 46% Black and represented by Al Lawson, a Black Democrat. He has also targeted the state's 10th congressional district, which is majority non-white and is represented by Val Demings, another Black Democrat.

"The Florida legislature is caving to the intimidation of DeSantis and his desire to create additional Republican seats in Congress by eliminating minority-access districts," Lawson said in a statement. "Again, I am not surprised, but disappointed with the legislature's inability to fulfill their constitutional duties as elected officials without political interference from DeSantis." Mac Stipanovich, a longtime Republican strategist in Florida who has since left the party, told the Washington Post that Republicans were "prostrating themselves" for the governor. "It's just all about maintaining and acquiring power and holding on to office," he told the Post. "What we're witnessing is a mile marker on the road to one-man rule in Florida, at least for the time being."

The Florida legislature passed two versions of the 5th congressional district earlier this year to try to satisfy the governor, but DeSantis rejected both. His office argued that lawmakers had unlawfully sorted voters based on race. One version also lowered the share of the Black voting population, and DeSantis's office said they violated a provision of the state constitution that says the state cannot make it harder for minority voters who meet certain criteria to elect the candidate of their choice. That rationale is "headspinning" and "inconsistent", Michael Li, a redistricting expert at the Brennan Center for Justice, tweeted. The governor's office essentially argued that the maps violated the US constitution by taking race into account too much and the Florida constitution for taking race into account too little.

On the federal level, however, DeSantis's rationale echoes what the US supreme court has signaled about the Voting Rights Act recently. **The court's conservative justices have repeatedly voiced skepticism about the use of race in redistricting and are making it harder for litigants to show it is necessary to consider race when drawing district lines. DeSantis, a former congressman, is eager for a court fight over Florida's maps,** NBC News reported. He also is taking aim at a 2010 amendment to the Florida constitution, overwhelmingly approved by voters, that sets guardrails on the redistricting process. Part of that amendment says districts cannot be drawn to abridge "the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice". "I think our dispute very well may lead to saying that Florida's redistricting amendments are not consistent with the 14th amendment's equal protection clause," DeSantis said in March. Republicans hold a 6-1 majority on the Florida supreme court. The legislature is set to convene from 19 to 21 April for a special session on redistricting.

Florida, Missouri and New Hampshire are the last three states completing congressional districting. So far, there are 181 Democratic-leaning seats, 182 Republican-leaning seats, and 34 highly competitive seats among the 435 seats in the US House, according to FiveThirtyEight.

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Gracias



Ukrainians have arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border by the thousands

April 13, 2022 - 3:20 PM ET



ADRIAN FLORIDO



A makeshift shelter for Ukrainians in Tijuana, Mexico. Thousands who fled the war have been arriving here and waiting to be admitted by border agents into the United States.

Carlos A. Moreno for NPR

Ukrainians fleeing the war have been arriving at Mexico's northern border cities by the thousands. There, they are presenting themselves to U.S. border agents and asking for temporary admission to the United States on humanitarian grounds. Thousands of Ukrainians have been let in — availing themselves of the avenues that the Biden administration has opened to ease their admission into the U.S. faster than people who have come from other countries. But so many Ukrainians have arrived that a backlog has formed. In Tijuana, Mexico, across from San Diego, the swelling numbers spurred into action a massive volunteer effort organized by Ukrainian-Americans and others with ties to the region. They established a sprawling makeshift shelter, brought trays of Ukrainian food from Los Angeles and San Diego, and coordinated with immigration agents to shuttle large groups to the border for processing. Despite their quick mobilization to ensure a measure of comfort for thousands of refugees nearing the end of their journey to safety, their efforts have been overwhelmed by the unending flow of new arrivals. Here are some of the people whose lives have converged at the U.S.-Mexico border thanks to a war a half a globe away.

"The war is still affecting her"

It took weeks for Aleksey Ivkov to convince his mother Tatiana to leave Ukraine. She'd been determined to wait the war out by sheltering in a subway tunnel in their home city of Kharkiv. But as the war intensified, she finally agreed to evacuate — and to meet her son in Tijuana.

The trip took her nine days. Ivkov drove from north of San Francisco to pick her up. He noticed immediately that loud noises startled her. As they stepped out of the Tijuana airport, the rumble of a large truck made her jump. "The war is still affecting her," he said. On a recent day, Ivkov and his mother were sitting in folding chairs at the shelter housing Ukrainians as they await their turn to be processed into the United States. Tatiana, who shared only her first name, is 74, and after more than a month of anxiety said she was feeling more cheerful now, eager to see her relatives and grandchildren in California. But she's looking forward to her return to Ukraine, and to reuniting with her partner, who because he is in his late 50s is considered of fighting age and prohibited from leaving the country. "Once things calm down a little," she said, "I'll go back."

"Once things calm down a little, I'll go back."

TATIANA, with her son Aleksey Ivkov



Carlos A. Moreno for NPR

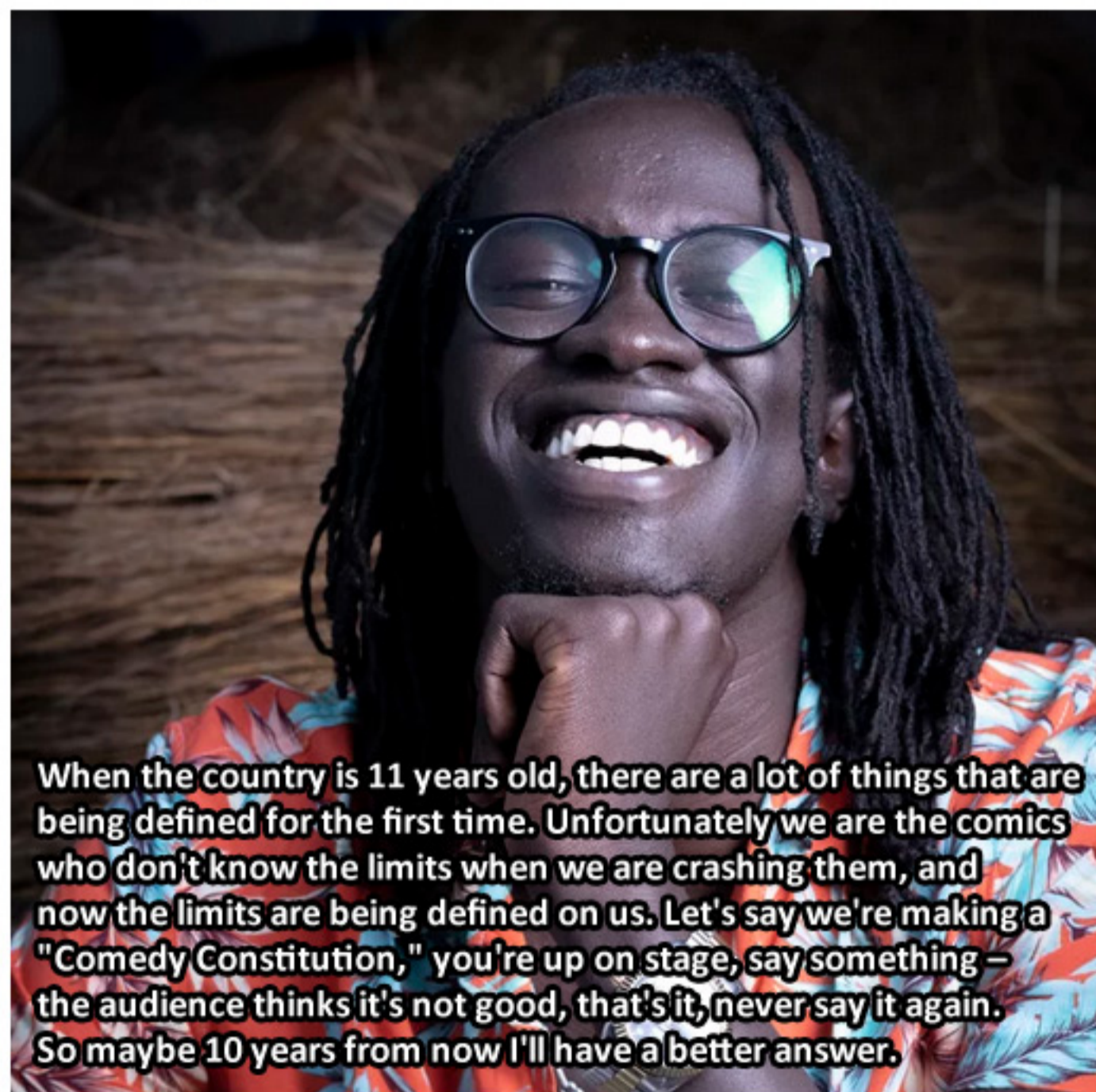
Ukrainians board a shuttle from the shelter to Tijuana's border crossing with San Diego. The United States is allowing Ukrainians fleeing the war temporary admission on humanitarian grounds. Volunteers worked with Tijuana officials to turn a municipal sports complex into a shelter to house thousands as they wait for their turn to be processed at the border. "We need more help". Olya Krasnykh is a Russian-American real estate executive in Silicon Valley. But when she learned of the Ukrainians arriving at the border, she set her job aside and came down to help. A tent city had formed within steps of the border crossing. Krasnykh and other volunteers worked with Tijuana city officials to move everyone into a municipal sports complex a short drive away. It became a sprawling operation. Ukrainian-American volunteers began greeting entire planes full of Ukrainians at the airport and shuttling them to the shelter, registering them and placing them into a queue. When it's their turn, they and their luggage are loaded onto another shuttle to the border. In recent days, people were waiting from two to three days at the shelter for their turn to come up. But the wait was getting longer, because Ukrainians are arriving in Tijuana faster than border agents can process them.

As of a few days ago, Krasnykh estimated that the shelter had registered about 10,000 people.

So a South Sudanese comic put on a comedy fest in a land of 'suffering.' How'd it go?

April 13, 2022 · 1:09 PM ET

NICK ROLL



When the country is 11 years old, there are a lot of things that are being defined for the first time. Unfortunately we are the comics who don't know the limits when we are crashing them, and now the limits are being defined on us. Let's say we're making a "Comedy Constitution," you're up on stage, say something – the audience thinks it's not good, that's it, never say it again. So maybe 10 years from now I'll have a better answer.

Stand-up comic Akau Jambo, 25, remembers a fellow comedian saying, "Dang, I never knew people were laughing in South Sudan." Jambo is out to prove him wrong.

Courtesy of Akau Jambo

Akau Jambo can find humor anywhere. In a joke about getting picked up by the police at a protest in South Sudan, he quips, "I was saying all sorts of crazy things, like I don't care, you can arrest me. Then when they finally arrested me I was like, 'Oh, you guys are serious?'" he says. "You people don't joke!" The 25-year-old South Sudanese comedian has spurred laughter across Africa, performing in clubs in Botswana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. He also aims to bring levity to South Sudan despite lingering ethnic tensions and armed clashes that have persisted after the country's civil war, which officially ended in 2018.

And even though the comedy scene — especially the English-language comedy scene — is small in Juba, the capital of 440,000, he has big dreams. Last weekend, he hosted the country's first-ever international comedy festival. Comics flew in from across the continent to perform — hopefully the first of many to come, Jambo says. He spoke to NPR by phone from his car on Tuesday while running errands before taking two comedians from Uganda who had missed an earlier flight to the airport.

How did you decide to start doing stand-up? I started comedy in 2016, from Uganda, where I was in school [at the Makerere University]. While I was there, I used to watch a lot of comedy, I used to watch a lot of South African comedians. And one day I told my mentor [Ugandan comedy mentor Timothy Nyanzi, who hosts free writing workshops in Kampala] I want to be a touring comedian. And he told me 'You need to start writing like a touring comedian.' So my mind was just right there — how can I get out of this bubble? Because I was born in a refugee camp [in Kenya] as well. I was like, how can I get out of this bubble, this life that I grew up in. I need to tour, I need to move, I need to see other people's stories. My first trip to South Africa in 2018, I was in Johannesburg doing a few comedy clubs, and I met a few comedians. I saw the comedy culture there — so many people coming to do comedy, and others to watch comedy. And I met this comedian who asked me where I was from, and I said I was from South Sudan — and he was like 'Dang, I never knew people were laughing in South Sudan.' And I felt like the world doesn't really know what we really do out here — people just think we're out here dropping bombs. They don't know what we really do, they don't know we have humor, that we have fun and all that. I was like, I think I want to do something that opens South Sudan to the rest of the world. I want people to travel to South Sudan to watch comedy, to come to South Sudan to perform. I want South Sudanese to have a full weekend of laughter — and we do it again and again, and I want bigger things than just a comedy festival.

How did the festival go? Really well. It was the first international comedy festival in the country, which means there's so much pressure because we have to set a standard. But it also means that it was easier for us to pass through with no standards — because no one knew what the right standard was. **The U.N. has referred to continued "suffering" in South Sudan. Yet you show that laughter is possible even under such circumstances.** Exactly. Life doesn't stop. Life doesn't stop — we keep living. **How important is to you to offer a different narrative about South Sudan?** I don't want to lie, it's not something that I'd say I'm doing for other people only. It's very important to me because I'm also doing it for myself. It's also very important for my mental health. I want Africa to look at South Sudan as a source of entertainment, as a cultural scene as well. It's very important for me to keep on pushing, because it won't stop with me. There will be other [South Sudanese] comedians who will be touring and trying to change the narrative, and trying to put out a better image of our country.

What is the Sikh festival of Baisakhi and why is it so sacred?

Published: April 13, 2022 1:52pm EDT

Simranjit Khalsa, University of Memphis



Sikh men and women during a prayer service during the Baisakhi festival.

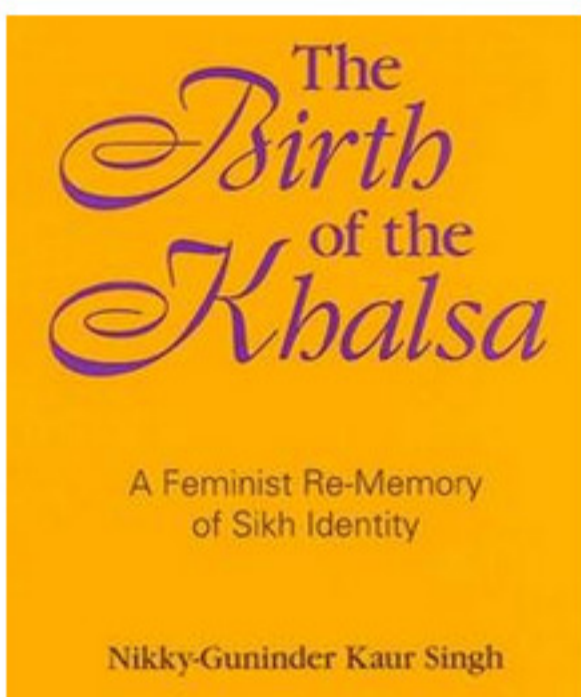


Sikhs in America: A History of Hate by A.C. Thompson, ProPublica | Aug 4, 2017

<https://www.propublica.org/article/sikhs-in-america-hate-crime-victims-and-bias>

Demonized as immigrants. Mistaken for Muslims. For more than a century, Sikhs in the U.S. have faced suspicion and violence.

The 1907 episode in a seaside timber town in Washington came to be known as the Bellingham Riots. Really, though, there were no riots. There was a pogrom. At the time, the U.S. was suffering through deep economic distress, a panic-filled recession that had begun the year before. Angry anti-immigrant sentiment was ascendant. And hundreds of Sikh men who had traveled from India to Bellingham to toil in the lumber mills paid the price. Some 500 white men, many of them members of the local Asiatic Exclusion League, descended on the Sikhs and other South Asians, routing them from the bunkhouses where they roomed and chasing them into the streets. Within hours, the entire Sikh population of Bellingham had fled, frantically piling onto trains and boats in search of some sort of refuge. Many had been physically battered. I knew nothing about this incident until I visited Washington state this spring and met with members of the Sikh community there. For them, it was easy to draw at least some parallels between that century-old ugliness and recent events. Immigrants were again being demonized. Lost jobs were fueling white working-class despair and resentment. Hate crimes were reported to be up. Yelling, "Get out of my country!" a gunman had shot two Indian software engineers in an Applebee's restaurant in Kansas. Closer to home, in Kent, a suburb of Seattle, a man had shot a Sikh in an apparent hate crime. There are an estimated 500,000 Sikhs living in the U.S., many in New York and California. In recent years, Yuba City, California, a small city in the middle of the Sacramento Valley, has become a major hub for Sikhs — Yuba City's annual Nagar Kirtan parade, a key holy event, draws as many as 150,000 people from around the world. In the U.S., Sikhs are a frequent target for xenophobes and haters. They are often immigrants or the children of immigrants. They tend to have brown skin. And their garb and personal grooming practices set them apart. Following the directives of the gurus, observant male Sikhs do not cut their hair — ever — and many keep their locks covered by a turban whenever they leave the house. They also typically refrain from shaving, often growing robust beards. Initially, the look was intended to distinguish Sikhs from the adherents of other religions. But in America, the bulk of the populace knows little to nothing about Sikhism, so they see a person with a turban and assume he's a Hindu or a Muslim. For a multitude of reasons, there are no credible statistics regarding the number of hate crimes directed at Sikhs each year. But it is not hard to appreciate the very real fact of those crimes. Talk to a member of the faith. They'll likely know of an incident. They for sure will know of their history of victimization. They might have a personal connection that explains the threat they feel at this moment. I spent time with three of them in recent months. I also researched the life of the American man who murdered six Sikhs at a temple in Wisconsin. What follows are four profiles, stories of hurt and worry and resilience.



Simranjit Khalsa's current project examines how members of two Sikh communities, one of mainstream Indian Sikhs and one of primarily white converts, experience practicing Sikhism as a minority religious tradition in the US and in England.



Nikky-Guninder Kaur Singh the author of several books, including *The Feminine Principle in the Sikh Vision of the Transcendent*.
<https://sunypress.edu/Books/T/The-Birth-of-the-Khalsa>

U.S. Rep. Mary Gay Scanlon, sponsor of H.Res.1007 - Supporting the designation of Vaisakhi, April 14 of each year, as "National Sikh Day". 117th Congress (2021-2022)

COVID remains a public health emergency for now, says WHO and Biden administration

April 13, 2022 · 9:58 PM ET

JACLYN DIAZ



A man wearing a face mask to curb the spread of coronavirus walks past a health campaign poster in the Westminster underground train station, in London.

The World Health Organization and the Biden administration are both saying that COVID-19 remains a public health emergency, even as global deaths from the virus have reached the lowest levels since March 2020. Both the WHO and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services first declared COVID-19 a public health emergency in January 2020. More than two years later, the pandemic situation has improved, but global health experts believe the virus is still a major health threat. More needs to be done before the WHO can lift this designation, the organization's Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Wednesday during a press conference. **"Some countries are still witnessing serious spikes in cases, which is putting pressure on hospitals. And our ability to monitor trends is compromised as testing has significantly reduced," he said.**

Under a public health emergency declaration issued by the WHO, a committee was formed and dedicated to tackling the virus. They were given the power to form formal health recommendations to prevent further spread of the disease.

That COVID-19 emergency committee will decide when to lift the emergency declaration. It's unclear when that may happen, but the group will consider the level of international effort to contain the virus as well as data on infection rates to decide on when to end the global health emergency.

Globally, 22,336 deaths from COVID-19 were recorded last week, according to WHO data. That's the lowest count since the week of March 30, 2020.

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said more needs to be done before the WHO can lift its emergency designation.

Tedros said this decision from the WHO's COVID-19 emergency committee stems from the still-high infection rate in some areas of Europe and China. He said COVID is still evolving to new strains that remain a concern. "This virus has over time become more transmissible and it remains deadly especially for the unprotected and unvaccinated that don't have access to health care and antivirals," he said.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced on Tuesday the extension of the nation's own, separate public health emergency declaration for COVID-19 for 90 days. This allows for federal funding to be used for tests, vaccines, and certain treatments for people covered by Medicare and Medicaid health insurance programs. Private insurers were also required to cover all costs associated with COVID tests and vaccines thanks to public health emergency funding. This would change once the health declaration is lifted in the U.S.

The Biden administration on Wednesday also announced the extension of the nationwide face mask requirement for public transit for another 15 days from when it was scheduled to expire. Travelers will still need to mask up in airports, planes, buses, trains and at transit hubs until at least May 3. The decision was made in response to the increasing spread of the omicron subvariant in the U.S. The nation has seen an uptick in the 7-day moving average of cases.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will keep this mandate in place "in order to assess the potential impact the rise of cases has on severe disease, including hospitalizations and deaths, and health care system capacity," according to an agency spokesperson.

The U.S. is averaging about 29,000 reported new COVID cases and 452 new deaths daily, according to the CDC.

Starbucks workers win streak of union elections, with no sign of slowing

April 14, 2022 - 5:01 AM ET



Starbucks shift supervisor Gailyn Berg and barista Tim Swicord outside of their store in Springfield, Virginia.

Michael A. McCoy for NPR

Worker organizing at Starbucks is on fire. What started with one store in Buffalo has swiftly spread to other locations across the country. Twenty stores have now unionized, including four so far this week in unanimous votes. The union has lost only once, when one of the first three stores in Buffalo to organize voted down the union back in December.

More than 200 Starbucks stores have sought elections, with more added every day.

The return of Howard Schultz to Starbucks as interim CEO on April 4 hasn't slowed the movement, despite his appeal to employees, known as partners at Starbucks, to trust him — not a union — to make things right for them. "My job in coming back to Starbucks is to ensure the fact that we... reimagine a new Starbucks with our partners at the center of it all, as a pro-partner company, as a company that does not need someone in between us and our people," Schultz told employees at a town-hall style meeting on his first day back. **But more and more workers at Starbucks believe otherwise. They say a worker-led union is exactly what they need to have a seat at the table.**

Starbucks workers were originally drawn to the company because of its culture. Starbucks has long prided itself on being a standout employer. Indeed, the generous benefits and socially progressive culture are a big part of what drew Tim Swicord, Gailyn Berg, Megan Gaydos and Claire Picciano to find jobs with the company in Springfield, Virginia. Their Starbucks store is voting this week on whether to organize. "The way that they treated their employees and also the work environment that I witnessed — it seemed very engaging and fun," says Swicord, a high school senior who sought out Starbucks for a part-time job last year. "I wanted to go to college for free," says Picciano, a barista trainer who has worked at Starbucks part-time for three-and-a-half years while also working toward a bachelor's degree in health sciences, thanks to Starbucks. The company offers free college tuition through an online program at Arizona State University, a perk Berg and Gaydos have also enjoyed. Berg, who joined four years ago and is now a shift supervisor, says they love Starbucks, or at least, loved it before. "Definitely, I felt that they had lived up to the culture, the promises of the culture that they had made," they say. **But in the pandemic, the goodwill faded fast.** And all four of the Springfield workers eventually became convinced that they would be better off with a union. It started in January, a month after a Starbucks store in Buffalo won a successful union drive. What started out as a casual, almost jokey conversation quickly turned serious, says Swicord. "We just started to think, 'Hey, this is something we should really do as a store.'"

Starbucks' anti-union campaign has riled the workers: Swicord became one of the organizers. He also became a target of Starbucks' anti-union campaign. At a closed-door meeting with his store manager and the district manager, he says he was warned that unionizing was a gamble, that the employees risked losing their benefits and that he in particular risked losing out on a promotion. "To me, it did not feel like a conversation," he says.

Above all, the workers want a say in how things are done at their store. They want their voices heard. "All of us would be happy to give this company everything we had if we were also treated the same way back," says Picciano. On Thursday, the workers hope to become the 21st Starbucks store to join the national union *Workers United*.

AN SEIU AFFILIATE

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A Labor Union For Today's Workplace Issues.

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 Workers United is a labor union built upon a foundation of social justice. For more than 120 years, members of our predecessor unions have played crucial ... **About Us:** We are a progressive and dynamic labor organization, shaped by ... **Our Leadership Team:** **Lynne Fox** is an Executive Board Member of the Service ... **Join the Movement:** Joining the Union = empowerment. Tired of bad bosses? Wish you ... **Our History:** Today, Workers United, an affiliate of SEIU, represents more than ...
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Is Workers United a good union?

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Lynne Fox has served as the International President of Workers United since 2016.



Workers United is an American and Canadian labor union which represents about 85,000 workers in the textile, commercial laundry, pharmaceutical, and gaming industries. It was established in its current form in 2009 and is affiliated to the Service Employees International Union. [Wikipedia](#)

- Founder:** Service Employees International Union
- Founded:** March 24, 2009
- Affiliation:** Service Employees International Union
- Headquarters:** Philadelphia, PA

WHO: COVID cases, deaths in Africa drop to lowest levels yet

FILE - Sandile Cele, a researcher at the Africa Health Research Institute in Durban, South Africa, works on the omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus on Dec. 15, 2021. The World Health Organization said Thursday, April 14, 2022 that the number of coronavirus cases and deaths in Africa have dropped to their lowest levels since the pandemic began, marking the longest decline yet seen in the disease. (AP Photo/Jerome Delay, File)

FILE - A help wanted sign is displayed at a gas station in Mount Prospect, Ill., Tuesday, July 27, 2021. Fewer Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week as layoffs remain at historically low levels. Jobless claims fell by 5,000 to 166,000 for the week ending April 2, 2022 the Labor Department reported Thursday. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

US jobless claims rise but remain near a half-century low
10 minutes ago

In this undated photo provided by Dalaine Bradley, Ahmad Waller, 11, Zion Waller, 10, and Drew Waller, 7, left to right, study during homeschooling, in Raleigh, N.C. (Courtesy of Dalaine Bradley via AP)

Homeschooling surge continues despite schools reopening
15 minutes ago

FILE- The roof is collapsed between the pews and the organ pipes in the First United Methodist church in Mayfield, Ky., on, Dec. 19, 2021, after the deadly tornado ravaged the city on Dec. 10. In a string of post-tornado firsts, church members will be celebrating Easter Sunday at their temporary home, Christ United Methodist Church. (AP Photo/Brynn Anderson, File)

For churches hit by disasters, Easter brings promise of hope
18 minutes ago

FILE- The roof is collapsed between the pews and the organ pipes in the First United Methodist church in Mayfield, Ky., on, Dec. 19, 2021, after the deadly tornado ravaged the city on Dec. 10. In a string of post-tornado firsts, church members will be celebrating Easter Sunday at their temporary home, Christ United Methodist Church. (AP Photo/Brynn Anderson, File)

For churches hit by disaster, Easter brings promise of hope
25 minutes ago

FILE - Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk arrives on the red carpet for the Axel Springer media award in Berlin on Dec. 1, 2020. Musk is offering to buy Twitter, Thursday, April 14, 2022. He says the social media platform he has criticized for not living up to free speech principles needs to be transformed as a private company. (Hannibal Hanschke/Pool Photo via AP, File)

Tesla CEO Elon Musk offers to buy Twitter
34 minutes ago

The father and a friend of Anatoliy Kolesnikov, 30, who was killed by Russian soldiers in his car trying to evacuate from Irpin, mourns his death while waiting outside the morgue in Bucha, in the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, April 13, 2022. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

Ukraine says it damaged Russian flagship, crew evacuates
14 minutes ago

FILE - History teacher Wendy Leighton holds a copy of "They Called us Enemy," about the internment of Japanese Americans, while speaking about marginalized with her students at Monte del Sol Charter School, Dec. 3, 2021, in Santa Fe, N.M. Americans are deeply divided over how much children in K-12 schools should be taught about racism and sexuality. That's according to a new poll from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. (AP Photo/Cedar Attanasio, File)

Talk of race, sex in schools divides Americans: AP-NORC poll
48 minutes ago

FILE - French President Emmanuel Macron, left, winks as he shakes hands with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after a joint news conference following their talks in Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022. France is thousands of miles from Ukraine, but what happens in French voting stations this month could have repercussions in Ukrainian battlefields. Nationalist candidate Marine Le Pen wants to halt arms supplies to Ukraine, improve Western ties with Russia and weaken the EU and NATO, which would undermine long-held Western alliances and efforts to stop the war. (AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky, File)

How France's presidential election could impact Ukraine war
55 minutes ago

People wearing face masks walk near blossoming trees at a public park in Beijing, Thursday, April 14, 2022. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein)

Anti-virus shutdowns in China spread as infections rise
57 minutes ago

In this photo provided by the North Korean government, Kim Jong Un visits the new house of Korean Central Broadcasting announcer Ri Chun Hi, second right, after attending an inauguration ceremony of Pothong riverside terraced residential district in Pyongyang, North Korea Wednesday, April 13, 2022. Independent journalists were not given access to cover the event depicted in this image distributed by the North Korean government. The content of this image is as provided and cannot be independently verified. Korean language watermark on image as provided by source reads: "KCNA" which is the abbreviation for Korean Central News Agency. (Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP)

Kim gives North Korea's most famous newscaster a luxury home
1 hour ago

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson delivers a speech at Lydd Airport, south east England, Thursday, April 14, 2022. Britain says it has struck a deal with Rwanda to send some asylum-seekers to the central African country, a proposal that has been condemned by opposition politicians and refugee groups. (AP Photo/Matt Dunham, Pool)

UK plan to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda draws criticism
1 hour ago

Pope Francis touches his face during a Chrism Mass inside St. Peter's Basilica, at the Vatican, Thursday, April 14, 2022. During the mass the Pontiff blessed a token amount of oil that will be used to administer the sacraments for the year.

(AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

Pope marks Holy Thursday ahead of prison feet-washing ritual
1 hour ago

Protesters gather near Rosa Parks Circle after Grand Rapids police released video of the shooting death of Patrick Lyoya in downtown Grand Rapids, Mich., on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. The 26-year-old Black man was fatally shot by a white Michigan police officer on April 4. (Joel Bissell/Kalamazoo Gazette via AP)

Video shows Patrick Lyoya shot in head by Michigan officer
1 hour ago

President Joe Biden speaks at POET Bioprocessing in Menlo, Iowa, Tuesday, April 12, 2022. With a sweeping domestic agenda on hold and the images of horror in Ukraine dominating headlines, Biden is scrounging for ways to demonstrate that he's still making progress for Americans at a time when many feel the country is heading in the wrong direction. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Thinking small: Biden scrounges for ways to break through
2 hours ago

President Joe Biden talks to guests after speaking at POET Bioprocessing in Menlo, Iowa, Tuesday, April 12, 2022. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Administration unveils steps to boost racial equity in govt
2 hours ago

Sri Lankans boil a pot of milk as customary to welcome the dawn of Sinhalese and Tamil new year at a protest site near the president's office in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Thursday, April 14, 2022. Sri Lankans boiled pots of milk and shared milk rice and oil cakes to celebrate their traditional New Year opposite the president's office where they have camped out for a sixth day Thursday demanding the president's resignation over the country's worst economic crisis in memory. (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena)

Sri Lankan protesters mark new year near president's office
4 hours ago

FILE - A worker paints over graffiti saying 'Yes to Peace!' on a wall of an apartment building in St. Petersburg, Russia, March 18, 2022. (AP Photo, File)

Kremlin crackdown silences war protests, from benign to bold
5 hours ago

Mother Ayan Muhammed sits with her severely-malnourished baby boy Fahir, as he receives life-saving nutritional treatment, at a UNICEF-supported stabilization center at Gode Hospital in the Shabelle Zone of the Somali region of Ethiopia Tuesday, April 12, 2022. Agricultural workers in the east and Horn of Africa are preparing for their most severe drought in forty years, as authorities warn that higher temperatures and less than normal rainfall were recorded by weather agencies in March and April this year. (Zerihun Sewunet/UNICEF via AP)

East and Horn of Africa prep for worst drought in decades
6 hours ago

A sign is posted on the mailbox of Frank R. James at his apartment Wednesday, April 13, 2022, in Milwaukee. James, accused of shooting 10 people on a Brooklyn subway train on Tuesday, was arrested Wednesday and charged with a federal terrorism offense after a daylong manhunt and a tipster's call brought police to him on a Manhattan street. (AP Photo/Morry Gash)

Police search for motive in Brooklyn subway suspect's videos
1 hour ago

Fire burns along a hillside in the Village of Ruidoso, N.M., on Wednesday, April 13, 2022. Officials say a wildfire has burned about 150 structures, including homes, in the New Mexico town of Ruidoso. (Alexander Meditz via AP)

Destructive wildfires rage in New Mexico, Colorado
6 hours ago

Rep. Jim Langevin, D-R.I., speaks with a reporter in his office, Friday, March 25, 2022, in Warwick, R.I. After the Capitol riot, Langevin said he thought briefly that the foolishness and recklessness of dividing the country would finally stop. That didn't happen, and the Rhode Island Democrat says it's one reason why he's leaving Congress. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

Rep. Langevin: Public service has changed since Capitol riot
7 hours ago

Men wearing protective gear exhume the bodies of civilians killed during the Russian occupation in Bucha, in the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, April 13, 2022. Dozens of bodies of civilians executed by the Russian troops have been exhumed already from the mass grave. (AP Photo/Efrem Lukatsky)

EXPLAINER: Why the term 'genocide' matters in Ukraine war
7 hours ago

FILE - Violent insurrectionists loyal to President Donald Trump storm the Capitol, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. An Ohio man charged with stealing a coat rack from the U.S. Capitol doesn't deny that he joined the mob that stormed the building last year. But a lawyer for Capitol riot defendant Dustin Thompson vows to show that former President Donald Trump abused his power to authorize the attack on Jan. 6. (AP Photo/John Minchillo, File)

Capitol riot defendant: I was following Trump's instructions
8 hours ago

Truckers block the entry way for commercial truckers to enter the Santa Teresa Port of Entry leading into New Mexico Tuesday April 12, 2022. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials confirmed Tuesday that there was another blockade at the Mexican customs facility at the Santa Teresa port of entry in southern New Mexico, not far from El Paso. Those protests are misguided since New Mexico has nothing to do with Texas' inspection policies, said Jerry Pacheco, executive director of the International Business Accelerator and president of the Border Industrial Association.

WHO: COVID cases, deaths in Africa drop to lowest levels yet

Associated Press 12 minutes ago



A Maasai woman receives the AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine at a clinic in Kimana, southern Kenya on Aug. 28, 2021. The World Health Organization said Thursday, April 14, 2022 that the number of coronavirus cases and deaths in Africa have dropped to their lowest levels since the pandemic began, marking the longest decline yet seen in the disease.

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The number of coronavirus cases and deaths in Africa have dropped to their lowest levels since the pandemic began, marking the longest decline yet seen in the disease, according to the World Health Organization.

In a statement on Thursday, the U.N. health agency said COVID-19 infections due to the omicron surge had “tanked” from a peak of more than 308,000 weekly cases to fewer than 20,000 last week. **Cases and deaths fell by 29% and 37% respectively in the last week; deaths decreased to 239 from the previous week.**

“This low level of infection has not been seen since April 2020 in the early stages of the pandemic in Africa,” WHO said, noting that no country in the region is currently seeing an increase of COVID-19 cases.

The agency warned, however, that with winter approaching for Southern Hemisphere countries, “there is a high risk of another wave of new infections.” The coronavirus spreads more easily in cooler temperatures when people are more likely to gather in larger numbers indoors.

“With the virus still circulating, the risk of new and potentially more deadly variants emerging remains, and the pandemic control measures are pivotal to effective response to a surge in infections,” said Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO’s Africa director.

Earlier this week, WHO said scientists in Botswana and South Africa have detected new forms of the omicron variant, labeled as BA.4 and BA.5, but aren’t sure yet if they might be more transmissible or dangerous.

To date, the new versions of omicron have been detected in four people in Botswana and 23 people in South Africa. Beyond Africa, scientists have confirmed cases in Belgium, Denmark, Germany and the United Kingdom. WHO said there was so far no evidence the new sub-variants spread any differently than the original omicron variant.

Despite repeated warnings from WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus that the coronavirus would devastate Africa, the continent has been among the least affected by the pandemic.

In an analysis released last week, WHO estimated that up to 65% of people in Africa have been infected with the coronavirus and said unlike many other regions, most people infected on the continent didn’t show any symptoms.

Scientists at WHO and elsewhere have speculated that factors including Africa’s young population, the lower incidence of chronic diseases like heart disease and diabetes and warmer weather, may have helped it avoid a bigger wave of disease. Still, some countries have seen significant increases in the numbers of unexplained deaths, suggesting authorities were missing numerous COVID-19 cases.

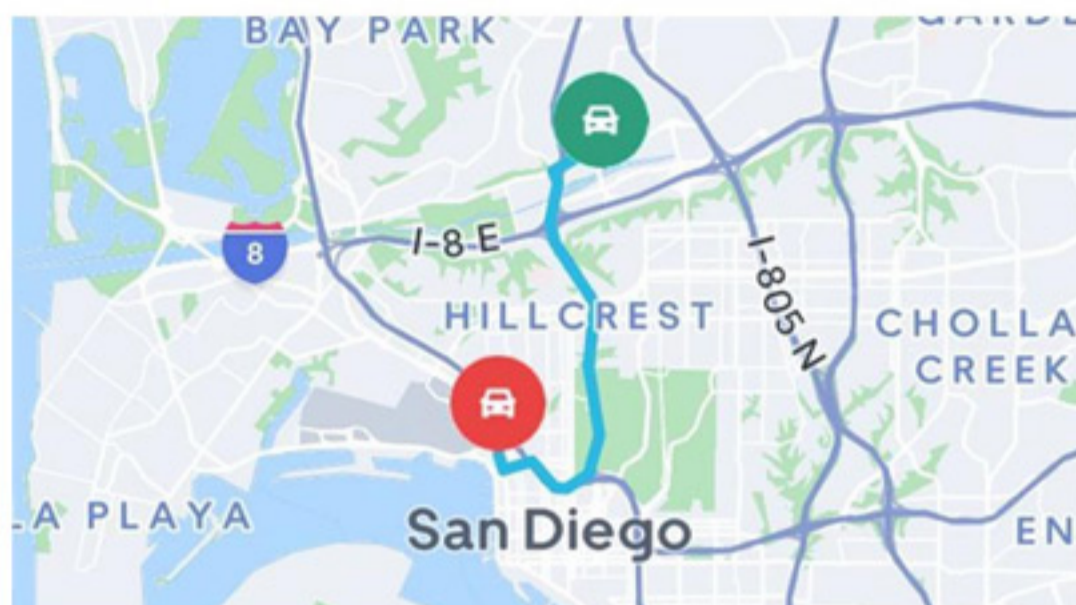
Westfield Mission Valley is a retail complex consisting of a traditional open-air shopping mall and a power center, in Mission Valley, San Diego, owned by Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield. Anchors stores include Macy's Home Furniture, Michaels, Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, and Nordstrom Rack. 1640 Camino Del Rio N, San Diego, CA 92108



→ 99% 10:53 AM

← Trip Details ?

- Mission Center Rd, San Diego, CA 92108, US
- Pacific Hwy, San Diego, CA 92101, US



Your Earnings

\$18.52

SEND THANKS FOR TIP

The estimate for this trip was \$14.44 including an upfront tip —and the customer tipped you even more after delivery. Nice!

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Duration | Distance |
| 25 min 27 sec | 5.8 mi |
| Vehicle Type | Delivery |
| Time Requested | 9:18 AM |

THANKS SENT

Picked up five Chick-fil-A meals with five large drinks to be delivered to a room at the Airport - Harbor Motel 6 on Pacific Highway. The drink holder only held 4 drinks, the fifth filled my other hand as I climbed the Motel Six stairs with the five Chick-fil-A meals in an insulated bag hanging off my elbow. As I reached the top of the stairs, the room door opened to a family of five, including three blonde preteen daughters. I handed them the drinks to free up my hands. The delivery required a PIN number, I explained, what is your PIN number? No one spoke English. Holding up 4 fingers, I said it's usually the last four numbers of your phone number, I repeated 't e l e p h o n e number.' The eldest daughter caught on and showed me her telephone number in her phone. I entered the last 4 numbers and it worked, the transaction completed. Good. They closed the door and I was half way down the stairs when I realized I still had their food hanging off my elbow. As I reached the top of the stairs, the room door opened again. I apologized as I handed over the meals. The mother said, "Da, something something" and closed the door. I was half way down the stairs when it occurred to me. I went back up and knocked gently on the door. "Are you Ukrainian?" The mother, with her three daughters crowded closely around her, nodded her head and said, "Da, something something." I fished out my wallet and gave her all my cash, saying only, "Bless you!"

My next food pick-up was from the IHOP on Fenton Parkway. The middle aged Mexican American server there asked me how my day was going. From his accent, it was clear that English is his second language. Excellent I said. I told him I had just delivered food to a Ukrainian family of 5 at Motel 6 who didn't speak English. "Wow!," he heartfully gushed. As I was leaving he smiles at me, "Bless you!"

The fare for the food delivery to the Ukrainians was \$6.74. They gave me an upfront tip of \$7.70, and after the delivery they added \$4.09 to the tip. The first time I've ever received an upfront followed by an after delivery tip.

RNC Officially 'Withdraws' From Commission On Presidential Debates

Nicholas Reimann Forbes Staff

I cover national politics, with a focus on Donald Trump.

Apr 14, 2022, 01:55pm EDT



Then-President Donald Trump participates in the first presidential debate against then-Democratic ... [+] GETTY IMAGES

Topline

The Republican National Committee voted unanimously Thursday to "withdraw" future Republican nominees from the bipartisan Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD), which has organized debates since the 1988 election but drew former President Donald Trump's ire in 2016 and 2020.

Key Facts

The RNC in a statement blasted the CPD as a "biased" organization and cited complaints appearing to largely stem from Trump as reasons for withdrawing, such as its move to make a "unilateral" format change for one of the 2020 debates.

Republicans will instead move toward "exploring other avenues for candidates to have a free and fair forum for all Americans," with the RNC vowing that "we are not walking away from debates."

The resolution the RNC passed Thursday requires all Republican presidential candidates to vow in writing they will only appear at party-sanctioned debates, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The decision on whether to accept an invitation to a debate is up to each party's nominee, but Thursday's move means future GOP nominees choosing to participate in a commission event would be directly opposing the wishes of the Republican Party's main fundraising arm: the RNC.

What We Don't Know: It's not clear what the future is of the CPD, which was formed in 1987 by the chairmen of the Democratic and Republican parties. The CPD did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Forbes. It's also unclear what shape presidential debates—huge opportunities for candidates to reach new or undecided voters—will take in the future.

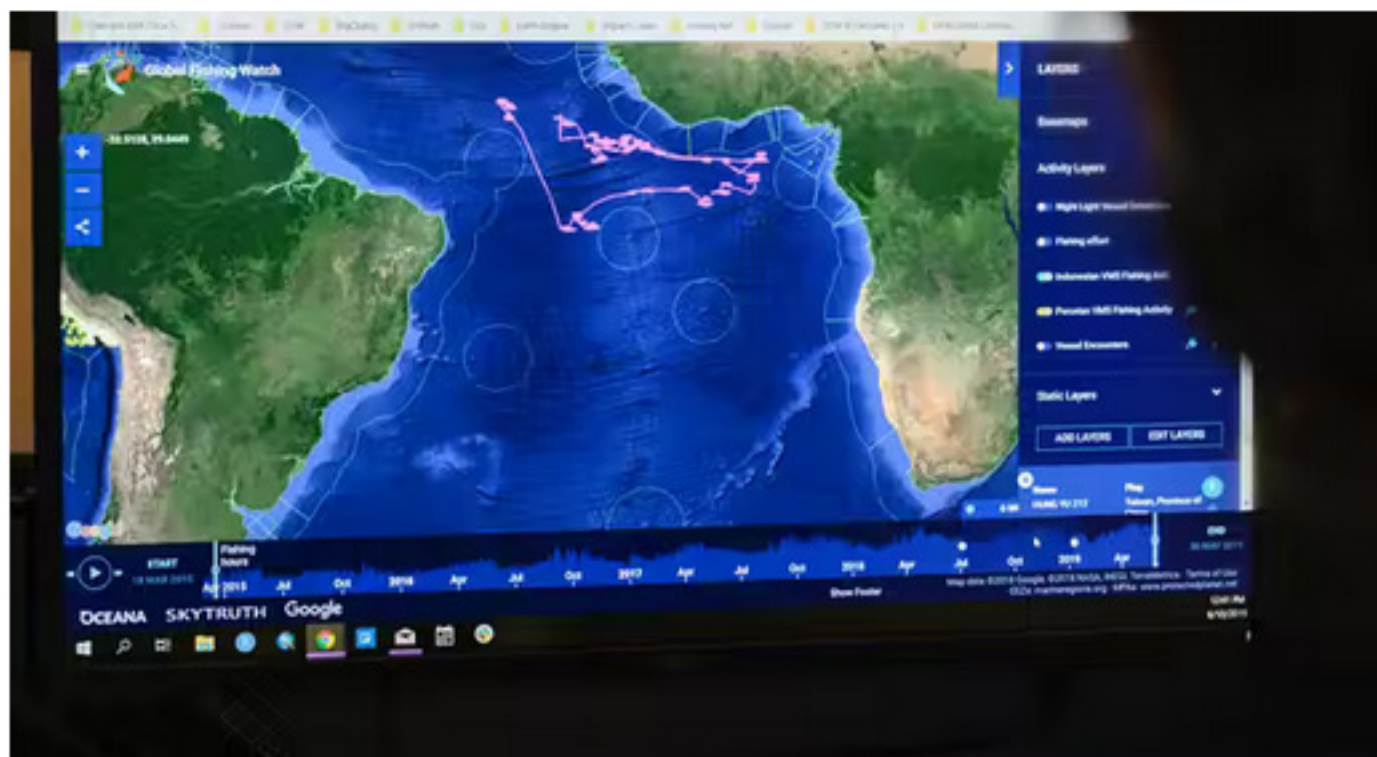
Crucial Quote: "We are going to find newer, better debate platforms to ensure that future nominees are not forced to go through the biased CPD in order to make their case to the American people," RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel said in a statement.

Key Background: Trump in 2020 threatened to sit out of debates after blasting the process in 2016, when he said it was a "rigged deal" that a commission co-chair was President Bill Clinton's former press secretary, even though the other co-chair used to head the RNC. Trump did end up withdrawing from one debate that was switched to a virtual format following his bout with Covid, calling the change "not acceptable" after it was made without consulting the campaigns. Trump also repeatedly claimed that debate moderators were biased against him.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commission_on_Presidential_Debates

The Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD) is a nonprofit corporation established in 1987 under the joint sponsorship of the Democratic and Republican political parties in the United States. The CPD sponsors and produces debates for U.S. presidential and vice-presidential candidates and undertakes research and educational activities relating to the debates. It has run all of the presidential debates held since 1988. The commission's debates are sponsored by private contributions from foundations and corporations as well as fees from hosting institutions. The commission's exclusion of third-party candidates from the debates has been the subject of controversy and legal challenges.

As of 2020, the board of directors consisted of John C. Danforth and 9 others. Janet H. Brown is the current executive director.



A researcher at the advocacy group Oceana uses GPS data to trace the activity of fishing boats.

The information age is starting to transform fishing worldwide

Published: April 14, 2022 8:14am EDT

 **Nicholas P. Sullivan**, *Tufts University*

People in the world's developed nations live in a post-industrial era, working mainly in service or knowledge industries. Manufacturers increasingly rely on sensors, robots, artificial intelligence and machine learning to replace human labor or make it more efficient. Farmers can monitor crop health via satellite and apply pesticides and fertilizers with drones. Commercial fishing, one of the oldest industries in the world, is a stark exception. Industrial fishing, with factory ships and deep-sea trawlers that land thousands of tons of fish at a time, are still the dominant hunting mode in much of the world. This approach has led to overfishing, stock depletions, habitat destruction, the senseless killing of unwanted by-catch and wastage of as much as 30% to 40% of landed fish. Industrial fishing has devastated artisanal pre-industrial fleets in Asia, Africa and the the Pacific. The end product is largely a commodity that travels around the world like a manufactured part or digital currency, rather than fresh domestic produce from the sea. An average fish travels 5,000 miles before reaching a plate, according to sustainable-fishing advocates. Some is frozen, shipped to Asia for processing, then refrozen and returned to the U.S. Don't let yourself be misled. Understand issues with help from experts But these patterns are starting to change. In my new book, "The Blue Revolution: Hunting, Harvesting, and Farming Seafood in the Information Age," I describe how commercial fishing has begun an encouraging shift toward a less destructive, more transparent post-industrial era. This is true in the U.S., Scandinavia, most of the European Union, Iceland, New Zealand, Australia, South Korea, the Philippines and much of South America.

Fishing with data: Changes in behavior, technology and policy are occurring throughout the fishing industry. Here are some examples: • Global Fishing Watch, an international nonprofit, monitors and creates open-access visualizations of global fishing activity on the internet with a 72-hour delay. This transparency breakthrough has led to the arrest and conviction of owners and captains of boats fishing illegally. • The Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability, an international business-to-business initiative, creates voluntary industry standards for seafood traceability. These standards are designed to help harmonize various systems that track seafood through the supply chain, so they all collect the same key information and rely on the same data sources. This information lets buyers know where their seafood comes from and whether it was produced sustainably. • Fishing boats in New Bedford, Massachusetts – the top U.S. fishing port, based on total catch value – are rigged with sensors to develop a Marine Data Bank that will give fishermen data on ocean temperature, salinity and oxygen levels. Linking this data to actual stock behavior and catch levels is expected to help fishermen target certain species and avoid unintentional bycatch.

- Annual catch limits, divvied up through individual quotas for each fisherman, have helped curb overfishing. Imposing catch shares can be highly controversial, but since the year 2000, 47 U.S. stocks that were overfished and shut down have been rebuilt and reopened for fishing, thanks to policy judgments based on the best available science. Examples include Bering Sea snow crab, North Atlantic swordfish and red grouper in the Gulf of Mexico.
- A growing "fishie" movement that mirrors the widespread "foodie" locavore movement has been gaining steam for more than a decade. Taking a page from agriculture, subscribers to community-supported fisheries pay in advance for regular deliveries from local fishermen. Such engagement between consumers and producers is beginning to shape buying patterns and introduce consumers to new types of fish that are abundant but not iconic like the cod of yore.

Growing fish on land: Aquaculture is the fastest-growing form of food production in the world, led by China. The U.S., which has exclusive jurisdiction over 3.4 million square miles of ocean, has a mere 1% share of the global market. But aquaculture, mostly shellfish and kelp, is the third-largest fisheries sector in the Greater Atlantic region, after lobsters and scallops. Entrepreneurs are also raising finfish – including salmon, branzino, barramundi, steelhead, eels and kingfish – mostly in large, land-based recirculating systems that reuse 95% or more of their water. Industrial-scale ocean salmon farming in Norway in the 1990s was largely responsible for the perception that farmed fish were bad for wild fish and ocean habitats. Today this industry has moved to less dense deep-water offshore pens or land-based recirculating systems. **Virtually all new salmon farms in the U.S. – in Florida, Wisconsin, Indiana, and several planned for Maine and California – are land-based. In some cases, water from the fish tanks circulates through greenhouses to grow vegetables or hemp, a system called aquaponics.** There is heated debate over proposals to open U.S. federal waters, between 3 and 200 miles offshore, for ocean aquaculture. Whatever the outcome, it's clear that without a growing mariculture industry, the U.S. won't be able to reduce and may even widen its \$17 billion seafood trade deficit.

Vancouver, Canada-based Willowfield Enterprises raises coho salmon in recirculating tanks on land.

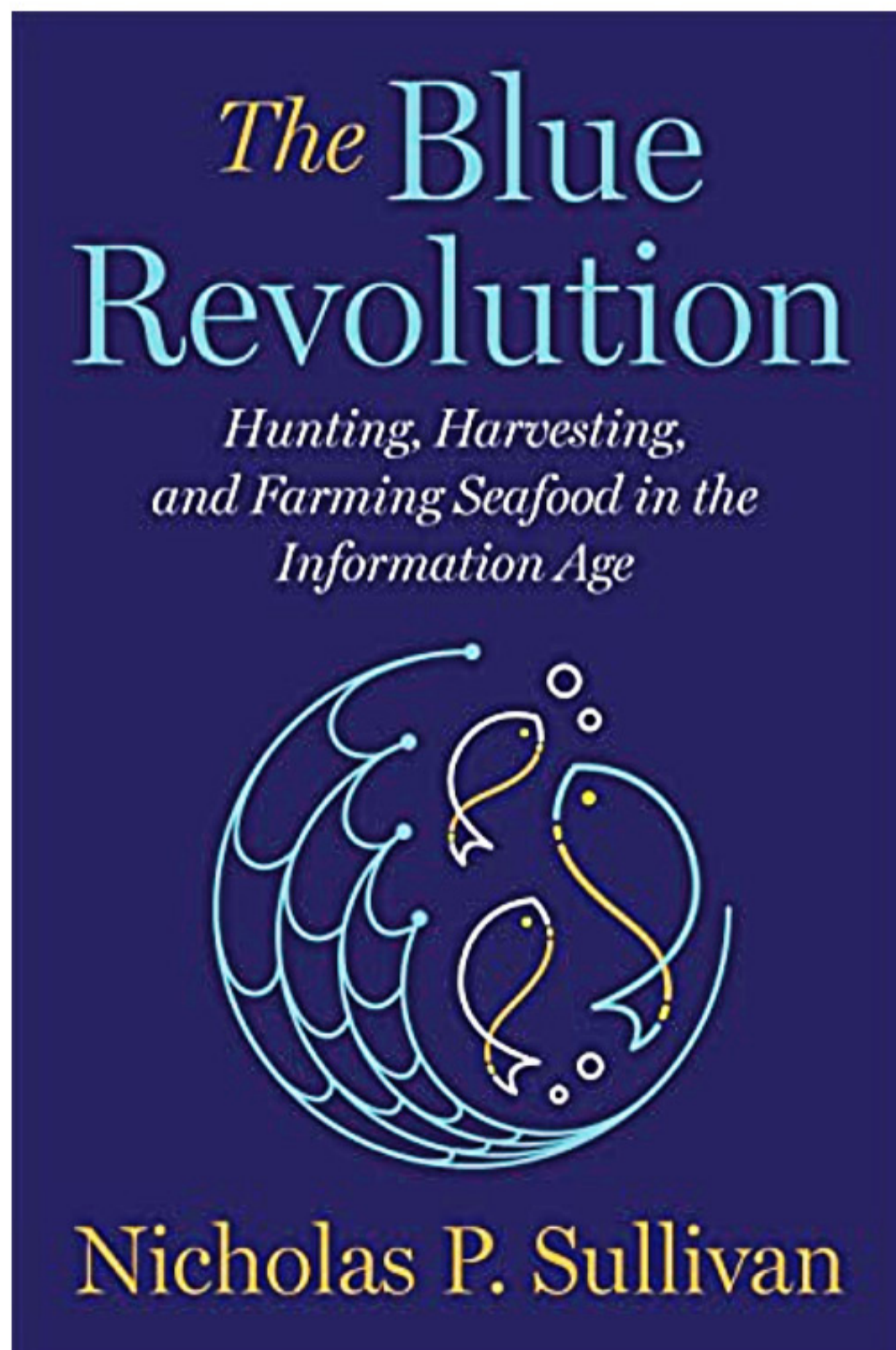
A voracious China: This kind of progress isn't uniform throughout the fishing industry. Notably, China is the world's top seafood producer, accounting for 15% of the global wild catch as well as 60% of aquaculture production. Chinese fishing exerts huge influence on the oceans. Observers estimate that China's fishing fleet may be as large as 800,000 vessels and its distant-water fleet may include up to 17,000 vessels, compared to 300 for the U.S. According to a study by the nonprofit advocacy group Oceana using Global Fishing Watch data, between 2019 and 2021 Chinese boats carried out 47 million hours of fishing activity. More than 20% of this activity was on the high seas or inside the 200-mile exclusive economic zones of more than 80 other nations. Fishing in other countries' waters without authorization, as some Chinese boats do, is illegal. Chinese ships often target West African, South American, Mexican and Korean waters. Most Chinese distant-water ships are so large that they scoop up as many fish in one week as local boats from Senegal or Mexico might catch in a year. Much of this fishing would not be profitable without government subsidies. Clearly, holding China to higher standards is a priority for maintaining healthy global fisheries.

The ocean's restorative power: There is no shortage of gloomy information about how overfishing, along with other stresses like climate change, is affecting the world's oceans. Nonetheless, I believe it bears emphasizing that over 78% of current marine fish landings come from biologically sustainable stocks, according to the United Nations. And overharvested fisheries often can rebound with smart management. For example, the U.S. east coast scallop fishery, which was essentially defunct in the mid-1990s, is now a sustainable US\$570 million a year industry. Another success story is Cabo Pulmo, a five-mile stretch of coast at the southeast end of Mexico's Baja Peninsula. Once a vital fishing ground, Cabo Pulmo was barren in the early 1990s after intense overfishing. Then local communities persuaded the Mexican government to turn the area into a marine park where fishing was barred. "In 1999, Cabo Pulmo was an underwater desert. Ten years later, it was a kaleidoscope of life and color," ecologist Enric Sala, director of National Geographic's Pristine Seas Project, observed in 2018. Scientists say that thanks to effective management, marine life in Cabo Pulmo has recovered to a level that makes the reserve comparable to remote, pristine sites that have never been fished. Fishing outside of the refuge has also rebounded, showing that conservation and fishing are not incompatible. In my view, that's a good benchmark for a post-industrial ocean future.

The Blue Revolution: Hunting, Harvesting, and Farming Seafood in the Information Age

Hardcover – April 19, 2022

by Nicholas Sullivan (Author)



Overfishing. For the world's oceans, it's long been a worrisome problem with few answers. Many of the global fish stocks are at a dangerous tipping point, some spiraling toward extinction. But as older fishing fleets retire and new technologies develop, a better, more sustainable way to farm this popular protein has emerged to profoundly shift the balance. The Blue Revolution tells the story of the recent transformation of commercial fishing: an encouraging change from maximizing volume through unrestrained wild hunting to maximizing value through controlled harvesting and farming. Entrepreneurs applying newer, smarter technologies are modernizing fisheries in unprecedented ways. In many parts of the world, the seafood on our plates is increasingly the product of smart decisions about ecosystems, waste, efficiency, transparency, and quality.

Nicholas P. Sullivan presents this new way of thinking about fish, food, and oceans by profiling the people and policies transforming an aging industry into one that is "post-industrial"—fueled by "sea-foodies" and locavores interested in sustainable, traceable, quality seafood. Catch quotas can work when local fishers feel they have a stake in the outcome; shellfish farming requires zero inputs and restores nearshore ecosystems; new markets are developing for kelp products, as well as unloved and "underutilized" fish species. Sullivan shows how the practices of thirty years ago that perpetuated an overfishing crisis are rapidly changing. In the book's final chapters, Sullivan discusses the global challenges to preserving healthy oceans, including conservation mechanisms, the impact of climate change, and unregulated and criminal fishing in international waters.

In a fast-growing world where more people are eating more fish than ever before, The Blue Revolution brings encouraging news for conservationists and seafood lovers about the transformation of an industry historically averse to change, and it presents fresh inspiration for entrepreneurs and investors eager for new opportunities in a blue-green economy.



Evidence shows that students are being arrested for minor misbehavior.

Police presence on school grounds poses potential risks to kids

Published: April 14, 2022 8:13am EDT

Elizabeth K. Anthony, Arizona State University

In fall 2020, I got an email from the Phoenix Elementary School District #1, a K-8 school district, requesting feedback on whether to continue using school resource officers in seven of the district's 14 elementary schools. As a researcher who specializes in the policing and development of children and adolescents, I responded by sharing a summary of the research on the subject of police in schools and offering my consultation. The school board president asked me to present research to the board on the effects school resource officers had on overall student well-being, school safety and school climate. The school board was under pressure to make a decision about a divisive issue with a pending deadline. Parents and teachers were split on the use of school resource officers. Youth were a small but vocal contingent most often against school resource officers. The school resource officer debate has many sides. This debate comes at a time when communities and police have increasingly strained relations due to police shootings and other negative encounters. It also comes at a time when cities such as Alexandria, Virginia, Washington and Milwaukee are wrestling with whether to have school resource officers or regular police officers on campus. I believe my experience presenting to the school board in Phoenix offers some important lessons for other communities as they try to figure out if putting police on school premises is an effective way to keep students safe.

A divided community: At the hearing, community members gave emotional testimony. One person said the school resource officer program is a "positive bridge between students, the community and our local police force." A teachers' union representative asked the board to take more time to research and allow

more time for a parent survey, which had a low response rate due to the short time parents had to complete the survey. Balancing these divergent perspectives, the superintendent wanted to make his decision based on what research shows. Timing was also an issue since a grant to fund school resource officers required a response within two weeks. Here are some highlights based on the research I discussed during my presentation to the school board: **Students are still developing:** Juveniles may not understand their rights, which is important whenever they could potentially be taken into police custody. Many children have also experienced trauma, such as being subjected to or having witnessed violence. These experiences can in turn affect their behavior at school. Trauma is most effectively treated with social and emotional support, which police may not be equipped to provide. **Schools counselors are scarce:** Despite increased demand for social and emotional support, schools are often short on staff to provide that support. In some states, the ratio of students to counselors is 1,000-to-1, which is four times the ratio recommended by the American School Counselor Association. With less counseling and support, students may be more likely to have negative encounters with police rather than positive ones with counselors. This is especially likely given that mounting evidence shows students are being arrested for minor misbehavior. **Black and Latino youth at greater risk for arrest:** A 2018 study of school resource officers found that Black and Latino students and students with disabilities – especially emotional behavioral disorders – were at increased risk for referral to juvenile courts. Increased police monitoring of young people leads to more school discipline referrals and arrests, typically of Black and Latino youth. An Orlando city police officer handcuffs a young Black child.

Difficult decisions: My recommendation was to take more time to consider the issue and the needs of the community. I had concerns that everyone did not have knowledge of the effects of school resource officers on school safety, student well-being and arrest rates. The superintendent asked me directly what I would do if pressed to make a decision right now. I told the board I thought the potential for harm outweighed the potential for good. Ultimately, the school board voted unanimously not to keep school resource officers in district schools for the next school year.

A national problem: Phoenix's elementary schools were not the only ones in or near the city struggling with whether to have law enforcement on school grounds. In 2020, Phoenix Union High School voted to remove school resource officers from campus. Nearby Tempe Union High School also voted in 2021 to phase out school resource officers by August 2022. School board decisions about school safety are difficult. Parents, teachers and students are often at odds about what makes a school safe and welcoming. As school communities continue to wrestle with whether to have police on school grounds, I believe the most important thing to consider is not what people believe, but what the evidence shows.



A smiling woman hands a dress to a clothing store cashier. Tom Werner/Getty Images

Store credit cards generate corporate profits and disgruntled workers

Published: April 13, 2022 8:15am EDT

▼ [Joya Misra](#), *UMass Amherst*, [Kyla Walters](#), *Sonoma State University*

Clothing retailers sell their shoppers more than jeans and sweaters. Major apparel companies also sell credit, often with very high fees, like The Gap's 21.7% starting interest rate, and US\$27 to \$37 late payment charge. In 2019, Macy's store credit card revenue of \$771 million accounted for more than half of Macy's operating income. As researchers studying retail clothing workers, we never expected to learn about credit cards. When we asked the workers about the worst part of their jobs, we expected to hear about low wages, inconsistent schedules and rude shoppers.

Those things matter, but many workers identified mandates to push credit card applications on customers as the worst part of their jobs. None of the retailers mentioned in this story responded to requests to explain their corporate policies on consumer store brand credit.

Ethical dilemma: Why do workers find this task so troubling?

Our research shows that they know – sometimes from personal experiences – how credit cards can ruin a person's finances.

Workers realize, as did Grace, a T.J. Maxx worker, that financially "it makes sense but morally ... it's not what's best for our customers." She further explained, "If they want to buy our products, that's their choice, but if we are going to charge them interest rates, that's another thing. It just seriously pisses me off."

"The credit cards have a 25% interest rate, and people don't always read that," Elise, a woman who had worked at Target, explained. "They saw it as 'something else I can use to pay later and not have to pay money now.'"

A Gap customer who buys \$300 of clothing, and pays the minimum each month of about \$25, will pay off that purchase in 14 months, and pay more than \$40 in interest. If they miss just one payment, they will likely pay more than \$75 in interest and fees.

Rachel has worked at American Eagle and pointed out how credit cards often hurt credit scores: "People, especially my age ... don't realize that. They're 18 years old and a credit card sounds awesome."

Old Navy managers also expected cashiers like Danielle to sell two cards per shift. Special sales events intensify these goals. For example, Danielle was told to sell five to 10 credit cards during Black Friday shifts.

Our research found that those who perform above expectations – for example, selling five credit cards during a normal shift – may get a gift card, a bonus of \$1-\$5 or a pack of gum. Stella, a Macy's worker, explained, "We get credit for people who don't even get approved for the applications."

Most of the workers that we interviewed said if they don't sell enough credit cards they may find themselves off the work schedule and without a job.

Corporate credit push: Workers shared our surprise: Many didn't expect clothing retailers to emphasize selling credit as much as selling clothes. As Melissa, a sales associate at J.C. Penney, told us, "Surprisingly, our main focus is credit applications. They really drive that back at home. They want as many as possible."

Our research finds that retail workers, despite being in low-paid jobs with unpredictable hours, often see credit card sales as the worst part of their jobs. And that's because they empathize with customers and want to help them – not lead them to financial ruin.

2 new omicron variants are spreading in N.Y. and elsewhere. Here's what we know

April 14, 2022 - 3:15 PM ET



MICHAELEEN DOUCLEFF



Paula Nelson for NPR

On Wednesday, health officials in New York said that two new omicron variants are spreading rapidly in the state. The variants appear to be causing a small surge in cases in central New York state, the department of health said. Known as BA.2.12 and BA.2.12.1, the variants are closely related to the BA.2 variant – a version of omicron that has caused surges across Europe and is now dominant across the U.S. **Together the two new variants now comprise 90% of cases in central New York.**

But one of them, BA.2.12.1, contains a mutation that appears to give the variant an advantage, computational biologist Cornelius Roemer wrote on Twitter. The mutation resides on the part of the virus that binds to human cells. And in previous variants, this mutation has helped the virus infect cells, studies have found. The BA.2.12. variant appears to have a growth advantage of about 30% to 90% per week over BA.2, Roemer estimates.

"It looks like [the variant] has an advantage ... It has certainly rapidly grown in some places," epidemiologist William Hanage, at Harvard University, wrote in an email to NPR. Some of the variants' mutations could help the virus evade the immune system, he notes.

But it's early days for this virus. Scientists have detected this variant in six countries, including Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Israel and Luxembourg, but the vast majority of cases are in the U.S. Those are localized primarily to central New York. "It is worth noting that the incidence [of this variant] is not very high at the moment," Hanage adds. "So the total numbers of cases are not huge at present."

And what does this new variant portend? After a few months of COVID cases declining across the country, several regions are starting to see cases rise again, including New England and Washington, D.C. But this rise seems independent of these new variants, says virologist Jeremy Luban at UMass Chan Medical School.

"In the Boston area where I am, the numbers came down, maybe as low as five new cases per day per 100,000. But now cases are creeping up again," he says. "We may be starting to see some of these new variants here now. But cases have been steadily going up before they were there."

Fortunately, he says, this rise is much slower and more gradual than the rise observed with the original omicron variant, BA.1, back in December, when the cases spiked incredibly quickly. "BA.1 just exploded. It appeared and dominated so dramatically. Then it came down quickly," Luban says.

Most scientists expect the surge by BA.2 – including all its different versions – will be much smaller than that observed with BA.1, Luban says. That's because many Americans have some immunity to these variants, given the massive number of people exposed to the virus during the first omicron surge. Nearly 50% of Americans could have been infected over the winter, Trevor Bedford at the University of Washington estimated last week.

Although BA.2.12.1 may be better at evading the immune system than other omicron variants, scientists still expect the vaccine to work well against it, at least in terms of protecting people from severe COVID and hospitalization.

"I'm relatively optimistic that, despite all of these changes in the virus, the vaccines will hold up," Luban says. "So people who have been vaccinated and boosted are not going to be hospitalized, by and large, unless there's some extenuating circumstances."

CLIMATE

Green infrastructure helps cities with climate change. So why isn't there more of it?

April 15, 2022 · 5:05 AM ET

LAUREN SOMMER



Climate change has already made storms more intense, flooding cities with more rainfall than they were built to handle.

Federal agencies are beginning to hand out billions of dollars in infrastructure spending, the largest investment ever made in the country's water system. Much of it will go to improving pipes, drains and stormwater systems. But some scientists and urban planners are pushing to fund projects that are better adapted to the changing climate. **Instead of just gray infrastructure, supporters say the answer is green.** Green infrastructure, whether it's large rain gardens or plants along a street median, has the same purpose as big storm sewers: to manage large amounts of water that can build up during heavy rains. Plants and soil absorb and slow runoff from rainstorms, while a stormwater drain captures water that runs down a street gutter and diverts it underground into pipes.

On a hotter planet, storms are getting more intense, and rainfall is often heavier. Flooding is on the rise in many cities. Stormwater systems are being increasingly overwhelmed by extreme rainfall. In the Northeast, the heaviest storms produce 55% more rain today compared to 1958. Last year, dozens of people drowned there when the remnants of Hurricane Ida flooded basements, streets and cars. Still, most cities face major backlogs in maintaining the aging gray infrastructure they already have, amounting to billions of dollars nationwide. In the rush to secure federal funding to fill that void, some worry that green infrastructure will be left by the wayside. "What good is a pristine road that's flooded?" says Marcus Hendricks, assistant professor of urban studies and planning at the University of Maryland. "Elevating the priority of green infrastructure and stormwater systems is critical."

How rain gardens help stormwater systems in storms: Downtown Oakland, like a lot of major cities, is mostly a hardscape of concrete. Still, on one block, the sidewalk is lined with a long strip of native California plants. "I feel so great looking at this," says Joshua Bradt, a project manager for the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. "I love that the plants are alive. They seem to be thriving." Bradt helped bring this rain garden to life, part of a \$4 million dollar project to add green infrastructure to a major thoroughfare in the east San Francisco Bay Area. When rain storms hit, the water is funneled into the rain garden from the street and sidewalk. As it soaks into the soil, it prevents that water from rushing to the stormwater drain on the corner. In big storms, that alleviates the pressure on the stormwater system, since those drains and pipes can only handle so much water at once based on their size. When storm drains are overwhelmed, water pools in the street and can inundate buildings. Bradt says even small rain gardens can make a difference in slowing the runoff that causes flooding. They also have the added benefit of filtering runoff to improve water quality.

Cities struggle to get green infrastructure built: Green infrastructure can also help when it's not raining. Summer heat waves are often more dangerous in cities, because concrete absorbs and radiates heat in what's known as the "urban heat island" effect. Plants and parks can provide much needed cooling. "If they were on every corner, it would make a tremendous difference," Bradt says. "The reality is that a lot of city departments are already overwhelmed, and this is a hard ask." While both gray and green infrastructure require upfront funding for construction, green infrastructure also requires ongoing maintenance to keep the plants healthy and clean up litter. Even if cities can secure funds to build the projects, maintenance generally isn't included. They face adding that to their annual budget, which can turn out to be a hurdle for doing green infrastructure. In addition, the most cost-effective time to build green infrastructure projects is when cities are already doing road or construction work. But because the projects are often managed by different departments, coordination doesn't happen.

The EPA also emphasized that states have discretion and flexibility to spend the funds as they see fit. The Biden Administration has already gotten pushback from Republicans about encouraging states to consider climate change in spending infrastructure dollars. In February, top Republicans sent a letter encouraging states to ignore similar guidance from the Department of Transportation. "It does put states in the driver's seat in terms of identifying and working with communities within their borders to find infrastructure projects," Fox says. The need to repair and upgrade gray infrastructure may take priority over green projects in many communities. In 2020, municipal utilities faced a funding shortfall of \$8.5 billion, according to a study from the Water Environment Federation.

<https://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h3810.html>

Louis J. Caldor

Discovered by the Art World

In 1938, Grandma Moses was discovered by **Louis J. Caldor**, an art collector who saw her paintings in a Hoosick Falls, New York, drugstore window. Caldor was so impressed with Moses' works that he drove to her farm and bought her remaining 15 paintings.

<https://www.u-s-history.com> > pages

[Grandma Moses - Introduction to US-History.com](https://www.u-s-history.com)



In October of the same year, three of those paintings were exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City as part of a show titled Contemporary, Unknown Painters. In 1939, art dealer Otto Kallir exhibited some of Grandma Moses' works in his Gallerie Saint-Etienne in New York City, attracting attention from art dealers all over the world, and her work became highly prized. Moses did not start painting until she was seventy-seven years old and looking for something to do "to keep busy and out of mischief" after her husband died. Moses had developed arthritis, which made embroidery painful. **Her sister Celestia suggested that painting would be easier for her, and this idea spurred Moses's painting career.** Her works belonged to the American Primitive style. From the age of 76, Grandma Moses created about 2,000 paintings, most of them on masonite board. Her naive style was acclaimed for its purity of color and its attention to detail. From 1946, her paintings were often reproduced on Christmas cards and in print. Her autobiography, *My Life's History*, was published in 1952.



Grandma Moses: Anna Mary Robertson Moses
(September 7, 1860 - December 13, 1961)

Emily Elizabeth Dickinson
(December 10, 1830 – May 15, 1886)

Lavinia "Vinnie" Norcross Dickinson
(February 28, 1833 – August 31, 1899)

<https://www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org/lavinia-norcross-dickinson-1833-1899-sister/>

sister Lavinia

There, she secretly created bundles of poetry and wrote hundreds of letters. Due to a discovery by **sister Lavinia**, Dickinson's remarkable work was published after her death — on May 15, 1886, in Amherst — and she is now considered one of the towering figures of American literature. Feb 27, 2018

<https://www.biography.com> > writer > emily-dickinson

[Emily Dickinson - Poems, Quotes & Death - Biography](https://www.biography.com)



When Emily died in May 1886, Vinnie burned her sister's correspondence, as requested, but to her amazement discovered hundreds of poems about which Emily had given no instructions. Determined to share these with the world, Vinnie spent the next thirteen years successfully urging and cajoling others — Susan Dickinson, Mabel Loomis Todd, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, the publishers Roberts Brothers — to edit and publish her sister's poems and letters. **Without what Emily called Vinnie's "inciting voice", we would know little or nothing of Dickinson's great lyric poetry.**

Vinnie grew to be the practical sister, who did the errands and managed the housekeeping. "I don't see much of Vinnie — she's mostly dusting stairs!" Emily once sighed. Clever and pretty, musical and an accomplished mimic, Vinnie had a sharp tongue and sometimes shaded the truth, nor was she a serious student. After eight years at Amherst Academy and two terms imbibing an "abbreviated course" at Ipswich Academy, she settled into an active social life in Amherst for several years. Her friendly flirtatiousness attracted the Amherst College students, but despite several proposals of marriage, including a long-term "understanding" with the Dickinsons' friend Joseph Lyman, Vinnie, like her sister, remained unwed.

“The question at issue is therefore the ultimate end of mankind, the end which the spirit sets itself in the world.”



“But even regarding History as the slaughter-bench at which the happiness of peoples, the wisdom of States, and the virtue of individuals have been victimised — the question involuntarily arises — to what principle, to what final aim these enormous sacrifices have been offered.”

— Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, *The Philosophy of History*

tags: slaughter-bench

In Money We **TRUST**



The singular myth in which all people trust is not God, not a nation-state, not what freedom is or what to eat ... no, the singular useful fiction in which most all people trust is money.



AT&T Inc.

NYSE: T

Market Summary > AT&T Inc.

19.54 USD

+2.04 (11.66%) ↑ past month

Closed: Apr 14, 7:59 PM EDT • Disclaimer

1D | 5D | **1M** | 6M | YTD | 1Y | 5Y | Max



| | | | | | |
|------|-------|-----------|---------|------------|-------|
| Open | 19.32 | Mkt cap | 139.57B | CDP score | A- |
| High | 19.59 | P/E ratio | 7.07 | 52-wk high | 25.83 |
| Low | 19.21 | Div yield | 5.68% | 52-wk low | 16.79 |

Discovery Inc

NASDAQ: WBD

Market Summary > Discovery Inc

24.88 USD

-0.62 (-2.43%) ↓ past month

+0.84 (3.49%) ↑ past 5 days

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After hours 25.05 +0.17 (0.68%)

1D | 5D | **1M** | 6M | YTD | 1Y | 5Y | Max



| | | | | | |
|------|-------|-----------|--------|------------|-------|
| Open | 25.89 | Mkt cap | 60.28B | 52-wk high | 41.32 |
| High | 26.58 | P/E ratio | 16.16 | 52-wk low | 21.66 |
| Low | 24.76 | Div yield | - | | |

AT&T spins-off Warner Bros. Discovery

What is WBD spin-off?

The spinoff of the Warner Bros. Discovery stock is tax-free to AT&T holders. It is only when investors sell either their AT&T or Warner Bros. stock that taxes could be due.

Will AT&T shareholders get discovery stock?

AT&T shareholders receive stock representing 71% of the new company; they received 0.24 WBD shares for each share of AT&T stock that they hold, according to Barron's. Discovery shareholders will own 29% of the new company.

Better Buy: AT&T vs. Warner Bros. Discovery by Leo Sun - Apr 13, 2022

- AT&T finally spun off Warner Bros. Discovery on April 8.
- Both stocks look cheap relative to their growth forecasts.
- However, one of these stocks has a much better shot at outperforming the market over the long term.

"As an AT&T investor, I currently own both of these stocks. But if I had to keep one over the other, I'd sell AT&T and keep Warner Bros. Discovery because it has more growth potential. It will face a lot of competition from Netflix, Disney, Paramount, and other media companies, but it can also resort to more aggressive tactics without being shackled to AT&T's sluggish telecom business."

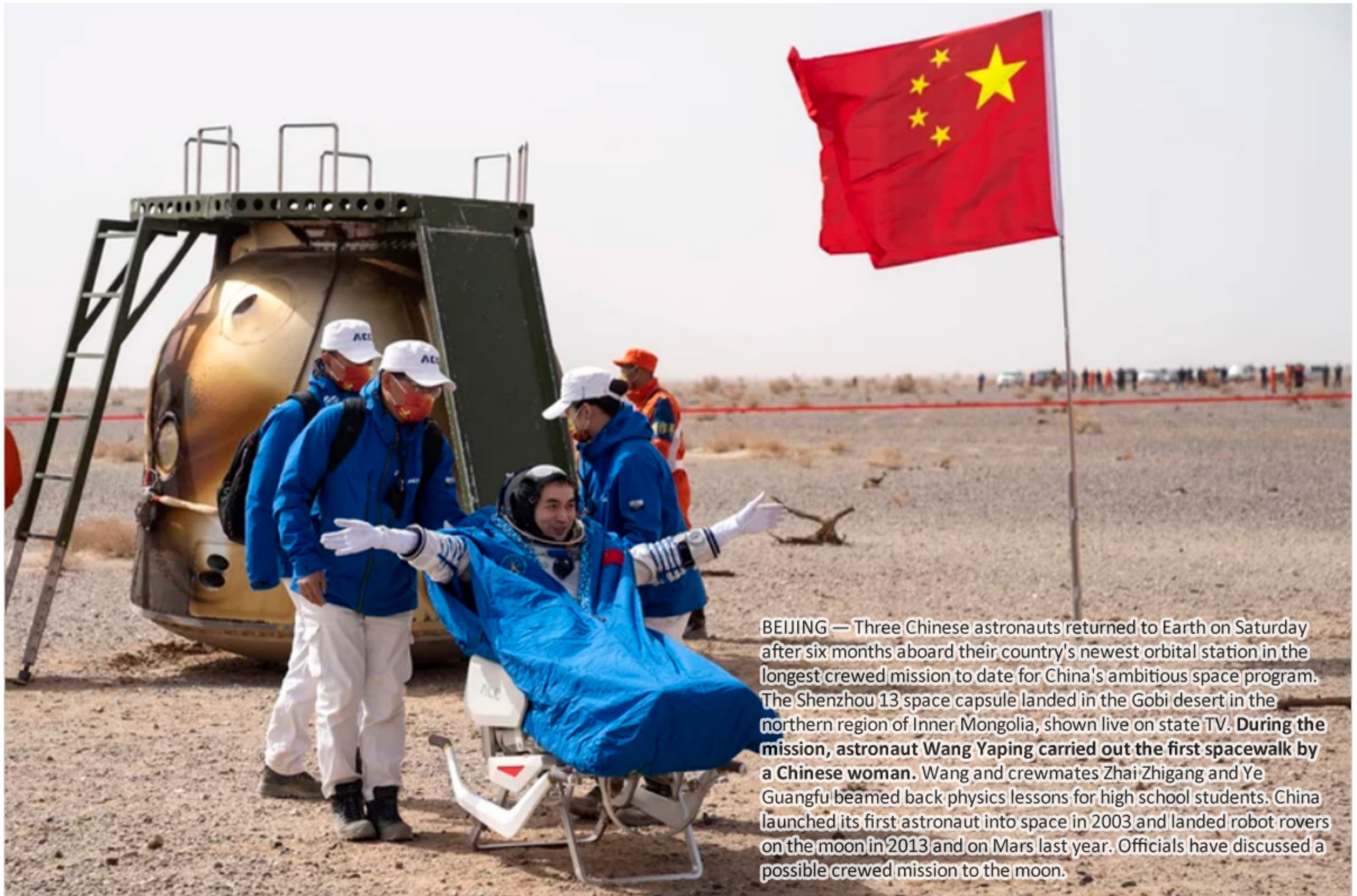
3 Chinese astronauts return to Earth after 6 months in space

April 16, 2022 - 8:02 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese astronaut Ye Guangfu sits outside the return capsule of the Shenzhou-13 space mission after landing at the Dongfeng landing site in northern China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on Saturday.

Cai Yang/Xinhua via AP



BEIJING — Three Chinese astronauts returned to Earth on Saturday after six months aboard their country's newest orbital station in the longest crewed mission to date for China's ambitious space program. The Shenzhou 13 space capsule landed in the Gobi desert in the northern region of Inner Mongolia, shown live on state TV. **During the mission, astronaut Wang Yaping carried out the first spacewalk by a Chinese woman.** Wang and crewmates Zhai Zhigang and Ye Guangfu beamed back physics lessons for high school students. China launched its first astronaut into space in 2003 and landed robot rovers on the moon in 2013 and on Mars last year. Officials have discussed a possible crewed mission to the moon.

Prayer, worship lift unaccompanied migrant teens in shelters

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO 41 minutes ago



Bob Guerra, a Catholic deacon, holds a crucifix he got to commemorate the visit of Pope Francis to the U.S.-Mexican border at his house in El Paso, Texas, on Sunday, April 3, 2022. Guerra takes the crucifix alongside other liturgical items to help clergy celebrate Mass for hundreds of teens held at a shelter on the Army's Fort Bliss base after crossing the border without parents or guardians.

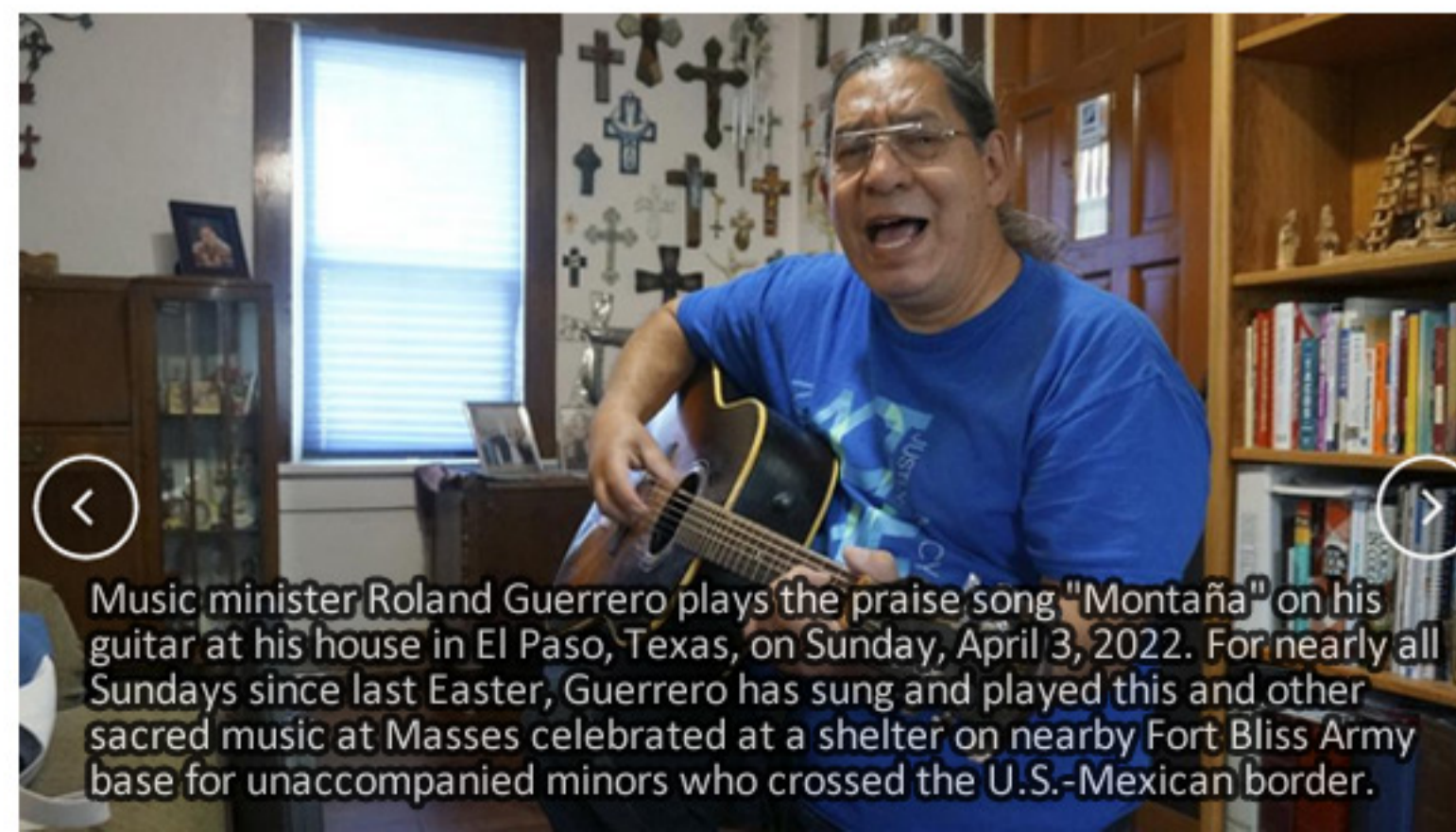
EL PASO, Texas (AP) — On all but three Sunday afternoons since last Easter, Bob Guerra — a Catholic deacon — has carefully packed his favorite crucifix, a Spanish-language Bible, hundreds of Communion wafers secured in Ziploc bags and other liturgical items into a plastic storage box. Then he lugs it a few miles to Fort Bliss, an Army base in the desert on the outskirts of El Paso, where he helps celebrate Mass for hundreds of migrant teens held at a vast tent shelter.

That shelter and similar facilities across the southwest were set up by the Biden administration and its predecessors to deal with surges of minors crossing the U.S.-Mexico border without parents or guardians. For the faithful young people they hold, the clergy and volunteers who visit bring comfort and healing through the sacraments. “They’re praying with such devotion you can see the tears rolling down their eyes,” Guerra says of the teens’ acts of faith he witnesses every Sunday after they receive Communion and kneel before a little cross. On Easter Sunday, he plans to gift them their own miniature crosses and cookies baked by local nuns.

Among the teens praying fervently at Fort Bliss during last year’s unprecedented arrivals of unaccompanied children was Elena, then 15. She asked that she not be identified further because of the dangerous circumstances she fled in Guatemala. Elena told The AP that for weeks she asked God to let her out of the shelter as soon as possible. Then, when other girls also being held grew “inconsolable,” she prayed they’d be released first. As the days went by, she started worrying God might be “bored” by her petitions, and prayed for forgiveness.

What sustained her for two months before her release was receiving the sacraments, including Communion distributed during a Mass celebrated by the Catholic bishop of El Paso, Mark Seitz. “When he arrived, you could feel like a peace, something that comforts you, something that you need,” Elena recalled during this Holy Week, which she’s observing with relatives far from El Paso. “God was with us to endure so many days without family.” In the shelter, she was so grateful for Mass, which she used to attend with her mother in Guatemala, that she braided a friendship bracelet for Seitz, who wears several on his right wrist. “They have this faith that if anything became stronger on their journey,” said Seitz of the hundreds of teens he has ministered to since last Easter at Fort Bliss.

His efforts for social justice and migrant rights extend far beyond this ministry. Bishop Seitz, the Jesuit priests and many other faith leaders also provide shelter, food and advocacy on both sides of the border. “I know what I’m doing is a Band-Aid,” said Guerrero of musical worship on a Sunday during Lent as he prepared to drive to the shelter. “That doesn’t denigrate it, because in faith there’s no way to know what’s going on inside an individual child.” He compares it to planting seeds of hope — just as in “Montaña,” a favorite song of Catholic and Protestant shelter children. It’s based on the Gospel verse that faith even as minuscule as a mustard seed is enough to move mountains. “Esa montaña se moverá (this mountain will move),” Guerrero sings, strumming his vintage acoustic Gibson guitar. “I have them sway. Then they start dancing again.”



Music minister Roland Guerrero plays the praise song “Montaña” on his guitar at his house in El Paso, Texas, on Sunday, April 3, 2022. For nearly all Sundays since last Easter, Guerrero has sung and played this and other sacred music at Masses celebrated at a shelter on nearby Fort Bliss Army base for unaccompanied minors who crossed the U.S.-Mexican border.

Some state lawmakers calling it quits, can't afford to serve

By SUSAN HAIGH 2 hours ago



Connecticut State Representative Joe de la Cruz (D-Groton) announces he will not be running for re-election during the opening day of the legislative session Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, at the State Capitol in Hartford, Conn. In efforts to raise the salaries of lawmakers, advocates in several states say there needs to be better pay to help improve diversity in statehouse ranks, in terms of race and ethnicity and economic background. Legislative proposals are pending in places including Connecticut and Oregon, states where lawmakers have recently announced they are not seeking re-election to part-time legislatures because they can no longer afford to serve. (Dana Jensen/The Day via AP)

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — When trying to decide whether to seek a fourth term in the Connecticut House of Representatives, Rep. Joe de la Cruz ran the question by his wife, who he jokingly refers to as his lawyer and financial advisor. “The \$30,000 a year we make to do this illustrious job, the one that we all really care for, is truly not enough to live on. It’s truly not enough to retire on.” Connecticut legislators haven’t seen an increase in their \$28,000 base pay in 21 years.

While it varies by state as to how legislative salaries are adjusted, bills increasing legislator pay were proposed in several states this year, including Connecticut, Georgia, Oregon, and New Mexico, which is the nation’s only unsalaried legislature. So far the bills have faltered as some lawmakers fear rankling voters by approving their own pay raises.

It’s also not clear whether higher salaries ultimately lead to more diversified legislatures, something proponents of pay raises say is at risk. A 2016 study published in the *American Political Science Review* determined there was “surprisingly little empirical evidence” that raising politicians’ salaries would encourage more working-class people to run for political office. The study found that higher salaries “don’t seem to make political office more attractive to workers; they seem to make it more attractive to professionals who already earn high salaries.”

Arturo Vargas, CEO of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, said he believes that low pay, coupled with the threats and picketing some lawmakers and their families have received over issues like COVID-19 rules, will discourage people of modest means from running. And that often means people of color.

This year, roughly 71% of state legislators are white, 9% Black, 6% Hispanic and 2% Asian or Hawaiian, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Legislative chambers continue to remain male-dominated on average. Nationally, around 29% of state lawmakers are women, up from about 25% five years ago.

There are roughly 1,600 millennial and Gen Z individuals serving in state legislatures and in Congress nationwide, and the Millennial Action Project said that number has grown in recent years. Reggie Paros, chief program officer for the nonpartisan organization supports legislators and members of Congress born after 1980, said younger lawmakers haven’t been in the workforce long enough to establish the financial stability needed to make up for a low-paying legislative job. “That financial barrier is one of the biggest struggles for getting into public office,” Paros said. Political polarization is another potential deterrent for new participants.

It's not over: COVID-19 cases are on the rise again in US

By LAURA UNGAR yesterday



A sign advising visitors to don face coverings stands outside the main entrance to UHealth University of Colorado hospital Friday, April 1, 2022, in Aurora, Colo. COVID cases are starting to rise again in the United States, with numbers up in most states and up steeply in several. One expert says he expects more of a “bump” than the monstrous surge of the first omicron wave, but another says it’s unclear how high the curve will rise and it may be more like a hill. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File)

Yet again, the U.S. is trudging into what could be another COVID-19 surge, with cases rising nationally and in most states after a two-month decline.

One big unknown? “We don’t know how high that mountain’s gonna grow,” said Dr. Stuart Campbell Ray, an infectious disease expert at Johns Hopkins University.

No one expects a peak nearly as high as the last one, when the contagious omicron version of the coronavirus ripped through the population.

But experts warn that the coming wave – caused by a mutant called BA.2 that’s thought to be about 30% more contagious – will wash across the nation. They worry that hospitalizations, which are already ticking up in some parts of the Northeast, will rise in a growing number of states in the coming weeks. And the case wave will be bigger than it looks, they say, because reported numbers are vast undercounts as more people test at home without reporting their infections or skip testing altogether.

Dr. Eric Topol, head of Scripps Research Translational Institute, said the numbers will likely keep growing until the surge reaches about a quarter the height of the last “monstrous” one. BA.2 may well have the same effect in the U.S. as it did in Israel, where it created a “bump” in the chart measuring cases, he said.

Keeping the surge somewhat in check, experts said, is a higher level of immunity in the U.S. from vaccination or past infection compared with early winter.

But Ray said the U.S. could wind up looking like Europe, where the BA.2 surge was “substantial” in some places that had comparable levels of immunity. “We could have a substantial surge here,” he said.

“We shouldn’t be thinking the pandemic is over,” Topol said. “We should still keep our guard up.”



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COMPLEXION GUIDE

Use the guide to determine which shade is best for you.



Browndages @browndages · Apr 15
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"I love the diversity in it. When this country has been separated for no reason, I find that when Black and White get together, we make green."
 Daymond John -- <https://abc.com/shows/shark-tank/video/most-recent/vdka27468616>

<https://youtu.be/8Jr0PCU4m7M> | <https://theintercept.com/staff/laurenfeeney/>

Noam Chomsky and Jeremy Scahill on the Russia-Ukraine War, the Media, Propaganda, and Accountability

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Renowned dissident and linguist Noam Chomsky joins The Intercept's Jeremy Scahill for a wide-ranging discussion on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, holding the powerful accountable, the role of media and propaganda in war, and what Chomsky believes is necessary to end the bloodshed in Ukraine.



JEREMY SCAHILL
@jeremyscahill

NOAM CHOMSKY

| | |
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Lauren Feeney

Lauren Feeney is a video journalist whose reporting has focused on poverty and human rights in the U.S. and abroad. Her work has appeared on-air and online on PBS, the New York Times, Al Jazeera English, and The Atlantic, among other outlets, and has been featured in film festivals around the world. Before joining The Intercept, she spent many years as a senior digital producer for various PBS programs, including Wide Angle, Women, War & Peace, and billmoyers.com. She is a graduate of Bard College and Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism. She is currently based in Brooklyn.

Saturday, April 16, 2022



Lauren Feeney

@lavrentia

Director of Video Production, The Intercept PGP: CE37 E44E 7836 7B8E 8844 5E5C DC13 A9E4 2AA7 0A62

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Kabuki (歌舞伎) is a **classical form of Japanese dance-drama**. Kabuki theatre is known for its heavily-stylised performances, the often-glamorous costumes worn by performers, and for the elaborate kumadori make-up worn by some of its performers.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabuki>

[Kabuki - Wikipedia](#)

What is the meaning of kabuki Theatre?

Kabuki is a **form of classical theater in Japan known for its elaborate costumes and dynamic acting**. The phrases Kabuki theater, kabuki dance, or kabuki play are sometimes **used in political discourse to describe an event characterized more by showmanship than by content.** Mar 12, 2018

[https://www.dictionary.com/.../Words/Pop Culture](https://www.dictionary.com/.../Words/Pop%20Culture)

[Kabuki theater - Dictionary.com](#)



Kabuki

Kabuki is a classical form of Japanese dance-drama. Kabuki theatre is known for its heavily-stylised performances, the often-glamorous costumes worn by performers, and for the elaborate kumadori make-up worn by some of its performers. [Wikipedia](#)

kabuki grew up from simple (if not sordid) origins, and worked for decades to create for itself a memorable style that would *keep the townsfolk returning to its theatres*.

{US Foreign Policy}

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Lindsey Kurowski

Big-dreaming entrepreneur Lindsey Kurowski turned her custom design shop *Knotty Pine* into the go-to full service agency for experiential builds.



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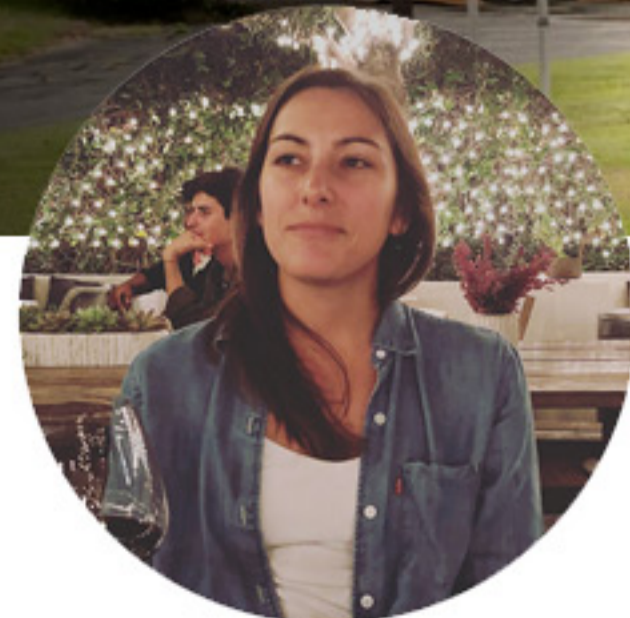
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ADD TO MY LIST

S1 E1 • A Big Risk in Big Bear

Lindsey Kurowski and her family restore historic motels, inns and lodges.

START WATCHING



Lindsey CEO

The boss. She'll be dressed fancy at a meeting or covered in paint at an overnight install. We really can't ever guarantee which version you'll meet.

Kelsey CFO

She counts her fingers for simple addition but manages to keep us out of trouble.



Riots erupt in Sweden over rallies by an anti-Islam group

April 18, 2022 · 7:18 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Riot police watch a city bus burn on a street in Malmö, Sweden, on Saturday. Unrest broke out in southern Sweden late Saturday despite police moving a rally by an anti-Islam far-right group, which was planning to burn a Quran among other things, to a new location as a preventive measure.

Johan Nilsson/AP

HELSINKI (AP) — Swedish police said they fired warning shots during a riot in an eastern city to disperse protesters angry about demonstrations over the past several days by a Danish anti-Islam group in Sweden. Three people were slightly injured during the clashes.

A crowd of about 150 people threw stones at officers and police vehicles, and set fire to cars. Police said they responded by firing warning shots and "three people seem to have been hit by ricochets" and were hospitalized in Norrköping, which has around 130,000 residents and is about 160 kilometers (100 miles) southwest of Stockholm.

Danish far-right politician Rasmus Paludan, Stram Kurs party:

"Paludan, a Danish lawyer who also holds Swedish citizenship, set up Stram Kurs, or "Hard Line" in 2017. The website of the party, which runs on an anti-immigration and anti-Islam agenda, says "Stram Kurs is the most patriotic political party in Denmark.""

"All three injured are arrested on suspicion of crime," police said, adding that none of them had serious injuries.

A photographer for Swedish news agency TT at the scene reported that several riot police officers were seen carrying a wounded man to an ambulance.

The riot broke out following Danish far-right politician Rasmus Paludan's meetings and planned Quran burnings in various Swedish cities and towns since Thursday.

Paludan and his Stram Kurs party had planned a demonstration in Norrköping on Sunday but he never showed up in the city, Swedish media reported. Unrest was also reported in the nearby city of Linköping.

Paludan said on the party's Facebook page that he decided to cancel Sunday's demonstrations in the two locations as the Swedish authorities in the region have "shown that they are completely incapable of protecting themselves and me. If I was seriously injured or killed due to the inadequacy of the police authority, then it would be very sad for Swedes, Danes and other northerners."

Apart from Norrköping and Linköping, unrest and violent clashes have been reported in Stockholm, Örebro, Landskrona and Malmö, Sweden third-largest city, in the past three days.

On Friday evening, violent clashes between demonstrators and counterprotesters erupted in the central city of Örebro before Paludan's plan to burn a Quran there, leaving 12 police officers injured and four police vehicles set ablaze.

In Landskrona, southern Sweden, a few hundred mostly young people threw stones and set cars, tires and dustbins on fire. They also erected a barrier fence that obstructed traffic on Saturday evening. Similar unrest took place in nearby Malmö, where a city bus was set on fire, among other things, late Saturday.

Paludan, a Danish lawyer who also holds Swedish citizenship, set up Stram Kurs, or "Hard Line" in 2017. The website of the party, which runs on an anti-immigration and anti-Islam agenda, says "Stram Kurs is the most patriotic political party in Denmark."

Hard Line (political party)

Hard Line (Danish: Stram Kurs "Tight Course") is a far-right political party in Denmark founded in 2017 by Danish lawyer Rasmus Paludan. The party is almost exclusively associated with its founder and his anti-Islam activism and demonstrations. The party was on the ballot in the 2019 Danish general election, where it gained 1.8% of the votes, below the 2% election threshold.

The party was founded on 16 March 2017 by Rasmus Paludan.] It ran in six municipalities in the 2017 Danish local elections, but it failed to receive more than 200 votes in any municipality, preventing the party from gaining a seat on any council. It also ran unsuccessfully in two of the five Danish regions. Paludan became known on YouTube on which videos from the party's channel have gained 20 million views as of April 2019. The videos were often filmed during demonstrations that Hard Line held in ghettos during which Paludan deliberately provoked Muslims, such as by drawing Muhammad to raise awareness. In 2018, the party held 53 demonstrations. The party gained mainstream attention on 14 April that year, when Paludan held a demonstration at Nørrebro in Copenhagen. At the demonstration, Paludan was throwing the Quran and was attacked shortly after the demonstration began. The demonstration caused massive unrest at Nørrebro when protestors attacked the police. On the following days, Paludan was barred from continuing his demonstrations because of the risk to the public order and the threats against Paludan.

It is unclear how many members Hard Line has. The party is run by Paludan and has no local or regional chapters and party officials are appointed by him rather than elected by the members as is customary with Danish parties. Their website hosts a single section of the party's by-laws. Hard Line (legally named Stram Kurs) was in March 2020 barred in 2.5 years from collecting voter declarations, due to fraudulent use of the system. Stram Kurs has instead since June 2020 collected voter declarations under the name "Hard Line", which legally is a distinct party. Paludan has characterised to the new party as a "sister party" of Stram Kurs, and said that it will have the policies and candidates of Stram Kurs. Should the new party manage to get ballot access, they would appear on the ballot as "Hard Line".

Danish far-right politician Rasmus Paludan, Stram Kurs party:

"Paludan, a Danish lawyer who also holds Swedish citizenship, set up Stram Kurs, or "Hard Line" in 2017. The website of the party, which runs on an anti-immigration and anti-Islam agenda, says "Stram Kurs is the most patriotic political party in Denmark.""

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Hard Line Stram Kurs | |
| Leader | Rasmus Paludan |
| Founded | March 17, 2017; 5 years ago |
| Headquarters | Engshavevej 166 2450 Copenhagen SV |
| Ideology | Ethnic nationalism ^[1] Identitarianism ^[2] Anti-immigration ^[3] Anti-Islam ^[3] Hard Euroscepticism ^[4] Right-libertarianism |
| Political position | Far-right ^[5] ^[6] |
| Colours | Blue |
| Folketing | 0 / 179 |
| Election symbol | P |
| Website | stramkurs.dk |
| Politics of Denmark | Political parties Elections |

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/05/danish-far-right-party-stram-kurs-calling-for-muslim-deportation-to-stand-in-election

https://www.theguardian.com › world › may › danish-f...
Danish far-right party calling for Muslim deportation to stand in ...
May 5, 2019 — The **Stram Kurs**, or **Hard Line party**, led by **Rasmus Paludan** — a lawyer who is currently appealing against a conviction for racism — is feared ...



📷 Stram Kurs leader Rasmus Paludan. Photograph: Liselotte Sabroe/Avalon.red

Viola Davis on Hollywood: 'You either have to be a Black version of a white ideal, or you have to be white'

She rose from poverty to become the first Black person to win acting's triple crown. Now she is playing Michelle Obama and opening up about her tough path to the top

by [Diana Evans](#)

Mon 18 Apr 2022 07.00 EDT

The memoir begins with a spunky eight-year-old Viola, a “sassy mess” with torn socks and too-big shoes who every day is chased home from school by a group of racist boys throwing rocks, bricks, tree branches and pine cones. In order to help her defend herself, her mother, Mae Alice Davis, who worked as a maid and factory worker and was active in the civil rights movement, gives her a shiny blue crochet needle to stab them with and tells her to walk, not run. They are the only African-American family in the densely populated, drug-stained town of Central Falls, Rhode Island, having relocated there from South Carolina. They live in a condemned building, often with no hot water, gas or electricity, and the rats are so bad and bold that they eat the faces of Viola's dolls and jump on to her bed at night searching for food. She never goes into the kitchen because of them. She wets the bed until she is 14; limited to soapless cold-water wipe-downs, she and her four sisters regularly attend school reeking.

[Davis is] gravely serious about the impact on her identity of being raised, not just poor, but “po”, an extremity beyond. “I have an understanding of poverty that probably a lot of people don't, so I don't romanticise it,” she says. “I know what deprivation feels like, and the most important thing that it gave me is compassion.” [Davis] is candid in the memoir about his frequent beatings of his children and, most particularly, his wife. Viola and her older sister Deloris would escape the trauma of “our mom being beaten and screaming in pain” by acting out role-plays of being “rich, white Beverly Hills matrons, with big jewels and little chihuahuas”. Her mother still bears the scars of the abuse, which might involve being stabbed in the leg or neck with a pencil, or being chased through the neighbourhood bloodied and fleeing for her life, leaving a trail of blood leading up to the front door. Davis writes: “Sometimes her head or arm would be split open. She would have a swollen face, split lip. I was always afraid when he picked anything up like a piece of wood because he would hit her as hard as he could and keep beating. Sometimes all night.” [...] She herself is forgiving, exposing her father as abuser and perpetrator, while acknowledging his imprisonment in a system of historic racial and economic oppression that maimed him. “I think that at some point, I had to make a choice – to see my father as just a demon or monster, or to see him as a man, as a man who's fighting who knows what kind of secrets, what kind of abuse, what kind of trauma. This is how we worked it out. Do I want to love my dad and have a relationship with him, or not? And I chose to want my father. And I think he chose us too.” Would she have published his portrayal in *Finding Me* if he were still alive? She says resolutely that she would.

Davis is equally frank about the ubiquity of sexual abuse in her home and neighbourhood while growing up, with her and her sisters being subjected to offences from a relative, as well as random perverts and paedophiles lurking in shops and other people's houses. On the set of *How to Get Away With Murder*, she worked with her longtime idol and original inspiration for wanting to be an actor, Cicely Tyson, and recalls her saying during a discussion about sexual assault: “It happened to all the women, that's our curse. It happened to my mother. It happened to her mother.” Part of Davis's intention in addressing it in the memoir is to work against any tendency to downplay sexual abuse as anything but a crime and, in exposing the truth of what she saw and experienced, to give others permission and courage to do the same. “I'm 56,” she says, “and most of the women I have met in my life – and I've met a lot of people – have been sexually abused. You can tell through their behaviour, in the partners they choose, in the way they communicate, the way they hold themselves.

It's almost like the secret that slowly bleeds out, even when you're trying to hold it back and you're putting Band-Aids on it. “Secrets are destructive. They're a side-effect of shame and trauma, and they make the abuser and the oppressor very happy. And really, not to sound egotistical or god-like, but I do feel like I have a job on this planet, in this life, to make people feel less alone.”

Unlike many female actors, Davis has not fallen prey to the culture of sexual abuse in Hollywood that accelerated the #MeToo movement, but she is keen to point out the reality of “deprivation” that characterises the industry, which predators take full advantage of. Around 90% of actors are unemployed, and only 2% earn enough to live on. As a Black woman entering the profession in the 1990s, her chances of success were even slimmer, and she quickly became aware of the double affront of racism and colourism, the scenario that in order to succeed “you either have to be a Black female version of a white ideal, or you have to be white”.



Brightside Barber

1050 University Ave #E101, San Diego, CA 92103



Ike's Love & Sandwiches

1010 University Ave Suite 101, San Diego, CA 92103






How a South African community's request for its genetic data raises questions about ethical and equitable research

Dana Avihiri, University of California, Davis and Britina Herr, University of California, Davis



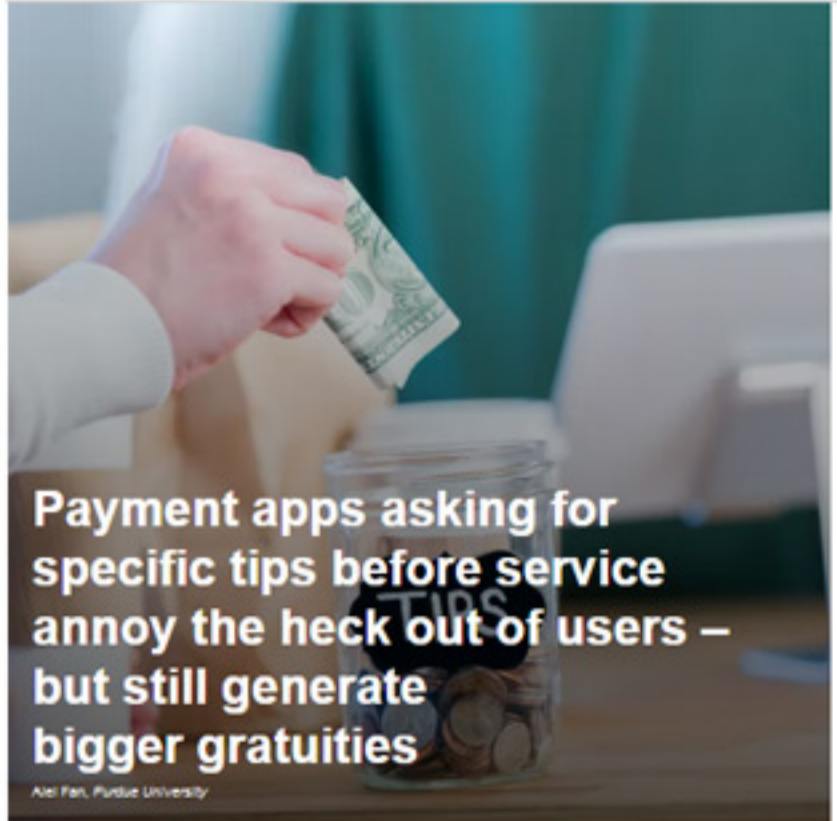
Do poison pills work? A finance expert explains the anti-takeover tool that Twitter hopes will keep Elon Musk at bay

Tuqil Chuluun, Loyola University Maryland



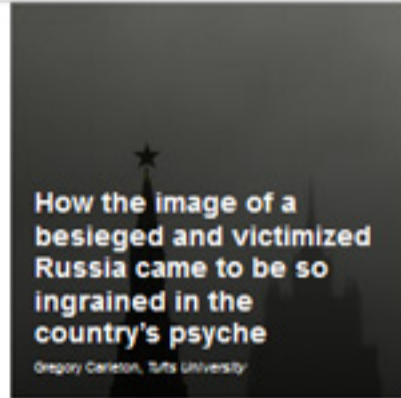
Jaguars could return to the US Southwest – but only if they have pathways to move north

Genesh Mann, University of Arizona and John Koprowski, University of Wyoming



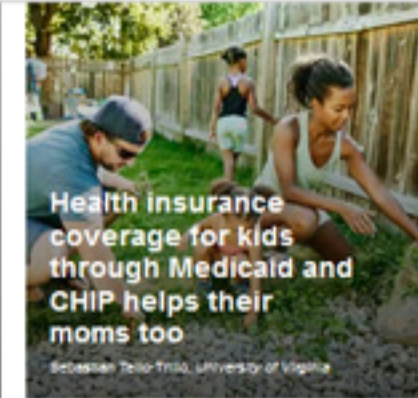
Payment apps asking for specific tips before service annoy the heck out of users – but still generate bigger gratuities

Nel Fan, Purdue University



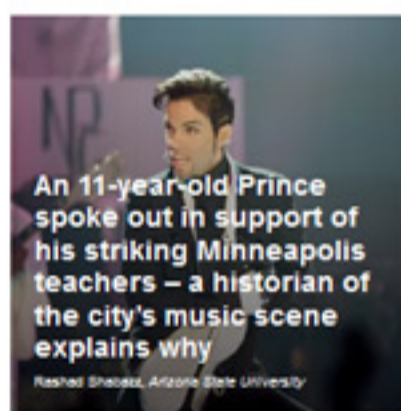
How the image of a besieged and victimized Russia came to be so ingrained in the country's psyche

Gregory Carleton, Tufts University



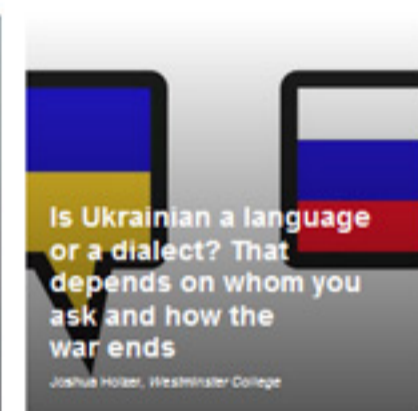
Health insurance coverage for kids through Medicaid and CHIP helps their moms too

Schlesier Tebo-Trois, University of Virginia



An 11-year-old Prince spoke out in support of his striking Minneapolis teachers – a historian of the city's music scene explains why

Rashed Shataq, Arizona State University



Is Ukrainian a language or a dialect? That depends on whom you ask and how the war ends

Joshua Hoyer, Westminster College



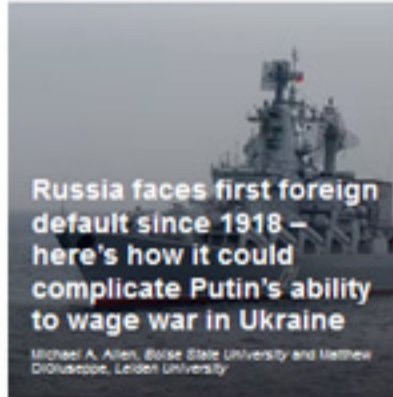
Pranks and propaganda: Russian laws against 'fake news' target Ukrainians and the opposition, not pro-Putin pranksters

Stanislav Buznau, Indiana University



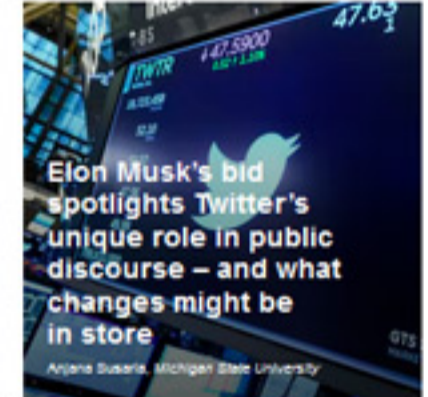
Pandemic decision-making is difficult and exhausting – here's the psychology that explains why

Elizabeth Truitt, Rutgers University - Newark and Wesley Ahester, Rutgers University - Newark



Russia faces first foreign default since 1918 – here's how it could complicate Putin's ability to wage war in Ukraine

Michael A. Allen, Boise State University and Matthew DiGiuseppe, Linden University



Elon Musk's bid spotlights Twitter's unique role in public discourse – and what changes might be in store

Ariana Suckers, Michigan State University



Climate change will transform how we live, but these tech and policy experts see reason for optimism

Robert Lempert, Pardee RAND Graduate School and Elisabeth Olimore, Carleton University



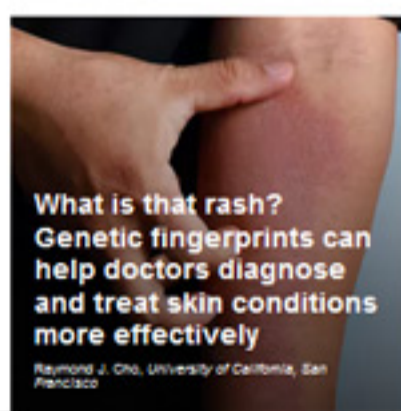
Want to know why India has been soft on Russia? Take a look at its military, diplomatic and energy ties

Sumit Ganguly, Indiana University



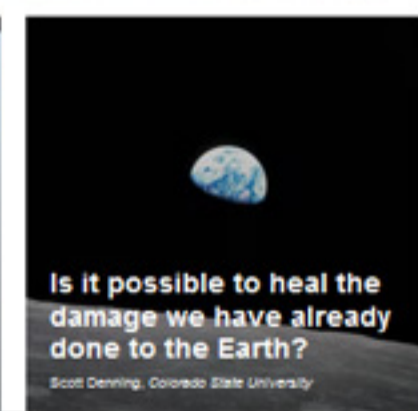
Christians hold many views on Jesus' resurrection – a theologian explains the differing views among Baptists

Jason Oliver Evers, University of Virginia



What is that rash? Genetic fingerprints can help doctors diagnose and treat skin conditions more effectively

Raymond J. Cho, University of California, San Francisco



Is it possible to heal the damage we have already done to the Earth?

Scott Denning, Colorado State University



NATIONAL

These airlines are dropping mask mandates after a federal judge's ruling

Delta, United, Southwest, American and Alaska Airlines say that masks are now optional for travelers on their aircraft.



Nam Y. Huh/AP

» **TSA will no longer enforce travel mask mandate after a federal judge strikes it down**

GOATS AND SODA

Ukraine crisis raises question: Does food aid go equally to 'Black and white lives'?

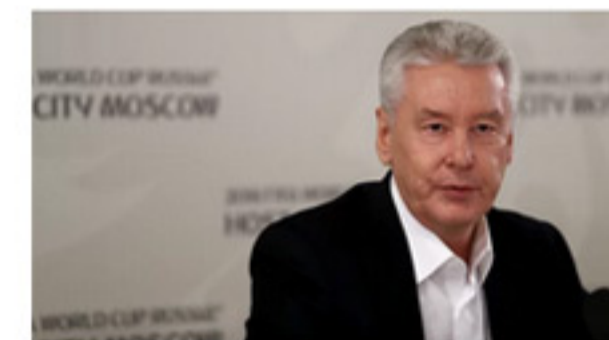
That's what Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of the World Health Organization and others ask in the wake of the outpouring of money to help Ukrainian victims of the war amid record levels of global hunger.

▶ LISTEN · 3:47

UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED

200,000 could lose their jobs as Western companies withdraw, Moscow mayor says

The city is preparing to retrain some workers and give temporary public works jobs to thousands more as a growing number of Western companies distance themselves from Russia.



POLITICS

The House and Senate are far apart on their bills to address computer chip shortage

Both bodies have passed legislation on the matter, and the effort is one of their last opportunities before the November elections to show voters they are addressing strained supply chains.



LAW

InfoWars files for bankruptcy in the face of lawsuits over Sandy Hook shooting denial

Founder Alex Jones, who's repeatedly called the 2012 shooting in a Connecticut elementary school a hoax, has been sued several times by the victims' families for defamation and emotional distress.



ELECTIONS

Republicans confront (or sidestep) abuse accusations against midterm candidates



NATIONAL

Federal judge says Georgia voters can challenge Greene's reelection run



TECHNOLOGY

Poison pills, white knights, 'Love Me Tender': What's next for Elon Musk and Twitter?



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Despite effective treatments, HIV drags on. Experts warn COVID may face the same fate



UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED

A Ukrainian family finds solace in America but cannot escape heartbreak



WORLD

Cristiano Ronaldo's newborn son has died



Documentary films

'Discrimination was their brand': how Abercrombie & Fitch fell out of fashion

A revealing new Netflix documentary looks back on the highs of the fashion brand that dominated a generation before controversies dragged it down



Adrian Horton

[@adrian_horton](#)

Tue 19 Apr 2022 01.39 EDT

'Discrimination was their brand': how Abercrombie & Fitch fell out of fashion

The Guardian · 7 hours ago

- 'White Hot' Review: A Retailer Whose Reputation Went Down in Flames

The New York Times · 17 hours ago

[View Full Coverage](#)



Since Jeffries left in 2014, the company has changed tack. Under CEO Fran Horowitz, appointed in 2017, the company's sales have rebounded from its mid-2010s nadir and a rebrand of its image to one of inclusivity, one more in line with the politics of Gen Z. "We run a company very focused on diversity and inclusion," Horowitz has said. The company has developed a cult following for its Curve Love jeans in a range of sizes.

Their marketing now "puts them in line with what good business looks like today", said Klayman. But "it's important to talk about it holistically, and I don't know how much they've truly reckoned with their past". That reckoning, the film ultimately argues, goes beyond a corporate rebrand; the brand was not so much exceptional as illustrative. It was not the pioneer of exclusivity nor whiteness but, for a time, one of the best at profiting on it – which, to be fair, is pretty classically all-American.



Malcolm Nance

American author

Overview

News

Books

Education

Videos



About

Malcolm Wrightson Nance is an American author and media pundit on terrorism, intelligence, insurgency, and torture. He is a former United States Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer specializing in naval cryptology.

[Wikipedia](#)

Born: 1961 (age 61 years), Philadelphia, PA

Spouse: [Maryse Beliveau-Nance](#) (m. ?–2019)

Rank: Senior chief petty officer

Service/branch: United States Navy

Education: Excelsior College, South Philadelphia High School, West Catholic Preparatory High School

Claim this knowledge panel

[Feedback](#)

Top stories

News about MSNBC, Malcolm Nance, and Ukraine



[The Daily Beast](#)

[Malcolm Nance Leaves MSNBC and Joins the Fight in Uk...](#)

4 hours ago

THE WEEK

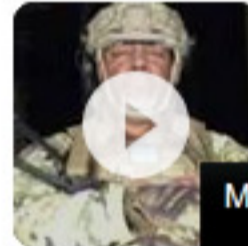
[MSNBC contributor explains why he's fighting in Ukraine's interna...](#)

9 hours ago

[MSNBC News](#)

[Ukraine's fight against Russia joined by Malcolm Nance of Internati...](#)

12 hours ago



MSNBC

THE REIDOUT

"I'm done talking": Nance on fighting in Ukraine with International Legion of Territorial Defense

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia has begun an all-out offensive in the east. In his latest video, the Ukrainian leader said that the Russian military has begun the battle for the Donbas. Malcolm Nance, executive director of the Terror Asymmetrics Project, joins us from Ukraine, where he is fighting with the International Legion of Territorial Defense of Ukraine.

April 18, 2022

MSNBC analyst quits to fight alongside Ukrainians: 'I'm done talking'



yahoo! entertainment

3527 Fifth Ave
 San Diego, California

Google

Street View - Mar 2018

Classic scene @ Ivy & 5th, 92103:
 Muscular shirtless white raving maniac
 arms flailing wildly confronting calmly
 stoic blue collar Hispanic yellow jackets.



Google

Amazing Lash Studio

2169 Fenton Pkwy Suite 104, San Diego, CA 92108

FIRST SET
OF LASHES
\$109⁹⁹
REGULAR
PRICE
\$199⁰⁰

**BEAUTY IN
A FLASH**

THE SECRET
TO INSTANT
CONFIDENCE

**ALL GENDER
RESTROOMS**

Trader Joe's

1090 University Ave Ste G100-107, San Diego, CA 92103

Seems like a good result.

Curious where they put this notice though,
next to the bathrooms in the back of the store.

You'd think they'd want to shout it from the rooftops.

**THANKS TO YOUR
SUPPORT IN 2021,
TRADER JOE'S HILLCREST
WAS ABLE TO DONATE
\$617,745 WORTH OF
GROCERIES TO OUR
LOCAL FOOD BANKS
AND CHARITIES.**

PRODUCTS THAT ARE CLOSE TO
DATE OR SLIGHTLY IMPERFECT
ARE PROVIDED THROUGH THESE
PROGRAMS WITHIN OUR OWN
COMMUNITY.

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE
ACCOMPLISHED THIS WITH
YOUR HELP. THANK YOU FOR
THE ENDLESS SUPPORT.

♥ TJ'S HILLCREST



Changes to COVID safety policies

Federal guidance has changed and we've revised our COVID-19 mask policy.



Masks are no longer required, but they're still recommended

As of today, couriers will not be required to wear masks when using Uber Eats.*

However, the CDC still recommends wearing a mask if you have certain personal risk factors and/or high transmission levels in your area. To learn more, go [here](#).



Masks may be required at restaurants

Remember: many restaurants will still require that you wear a mask before entering. It might be helpful to always keep one on you when picking up and dropping off orders.

Thank you for helping take care of each other

We know these last 2+ years have been difficult. But you've continued to go the extra mile to help protect our communities—whether it's wearing a mask, making space for each other, or getting people the food they need. Thank you for everything you do.

[Learn more](#)

*Masks may still be required by law in some areas. Please check your local requirements regarding COVID-19 safety protocols. All users of the Uber platform are required to comply with applicable laws and regulations while using Uber.

Pay-By-Plate Parking?? Huh?





Rudford's Restaurant

Circa-1949 spot with old-timey decor & booth seating serves classic diner fare around the clock.

2900 El Cajon Blvd, San Diego, CA 92104

June 6th 1963
 John F. Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States passes Rudford's restaurant in a presidential motorcade.

In a visit to San Diego on June 6th 1963 the president traveled down El Cajon Boulevard on his way to San Diego State College where he gave the commencement address to 2,097 graduates at the 65th commencement ceremony of San Diego State College.

This is an actual photo of the motorcade taken by local teenager James Daigh as it passed Rudford's Restaurant on that Thursday morning.

Only one hundred and sixty nine days later at 12:30 PM central time President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was assassinated as a similar motorcade to that shown here passed through Dealey Plaza in Dallas Texas.

© 2013 James Daigh



JFK in front of Rudford's Restaurant,

June 6th 1963

John F. Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States passes Rudford's Restaurant in a presidential motorcade.

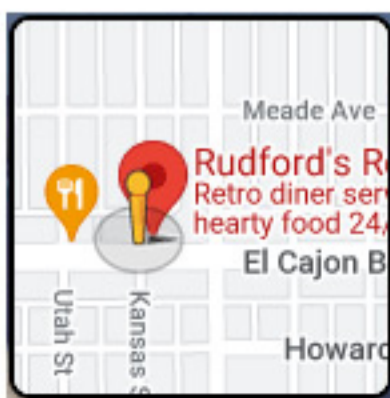
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This image is the result of a collaborative effort between Rudford's Restaurant, Frank Yetman Signs and CP Richards Signs.

JAMES Daigh
Photographer





Starbucks

1240 University Ave, San Diego, CA 92103



Space Blocs: The future of international cooperation in space is splitting along lines of power on Earth

Svetla Ben-Itzhak, *Air University*

In the next decade, both a U.S.-led group and a collaboration between Russia and China aim to set up bases on the Moon.

Published: April 21, 2022 2:38pm EDT
Svetla Ben-Itzhak, Air University

Even during times of conflict on the ground, space has historically been an arena of collaboration among nations. But trends in the past decade suggest that the nature of cooperation in space is shifting, and fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine has highlighted these changes.

I'm an international relations scholar who studies power distributions in space – who the main players are, what capabilities they possess and whom they decide to cooperate with. Some scholars predict a future in which single states pursue various levels of dominance, while others foresee a scenario in which commercial entities bring nations together.

But I believe that the future may be different. In the past few years, groups of nations with similar strategic interests on Earth have come together to further their interests in space, forming what I call "space blocs."



Svetla Ben-Itzhak

Assistant Professor of Space and International Relations, Air University



Air University

I am currently Assistant Professor of Space Seminar and International Security at Air University with the West Space Seminar, Air War College. Prior to my current position, I taught for many years at Kansas State University. As I have degrees in two fields: Applied Linguistics (MA) and Political Science (MA and PhD), I taught classes for two departments at K-State: the Department of Political Science and the English Language Program.

My disciplinary background is in the fields of International Relations (IR) and American Politics. In my doctoral dissertation, I examined empirically the effectiveness of sectoral foreign aid on subsiding terrorism. To uncover the conditions in which foreign aid is more likely to correspond to fewer terrorist events, I collected large-n, longitudinal, cross-national data on ten types of sectoral aid and twenty-seven indicators of socio-economic and political grievances in aid-receiving countries and tested their independent and interactive effects on decreasing terrorist events.



April 21, 2022

Space Blocs: The future of international cooperation in space is splitting along lines of power on Earth

Svetla Ben-Itzhak, *Air University*

In the past 10 years, international alliances on Earth have begun to expand into space. Nations with similar interests collaborate with one another while competing

with other space blocs.



March 1, 2022

An asteroid impact could wipe out an entire city – a space security expert explains NASA's plans to prevent a potential catastrophe

Svetla Ben-Itzhak, *Air University*

NASA has only mapped 40% of the potentially dangerous asteroids that could crash into Earth. New projects will boost that number, and upcoming missions will test tech that could prevent collisions.

Air University (AU), headquartered at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, is a major component of Air Education and Training Command (AETC) and is the lead agent for Air Force education. AU provides the full spectrum of Air Force education, encompassing precommissioning programs for new officers; graduate programs in specialized military disciplines; progressive, career-long professional military development for officer, enlisted, and civilian Airmen; and specialized programs for US cabinet appointees, senior executive service (SES) civilians, and general officers.

AU's professional military education (PME) programs educate Airmen to leverage air, space, and cyberspace power to achieve national security objectives. Specialized professional continuing educational programs provide scientific, technological, managerial, and other professional expertise to meet the needs of the Air Force. AU also conducts research on the evolving security environment; emerging threats; future uses for air, space, and cyberspace power; working in joint and coalition teams and multicultural environments; education; military leadership; management; and other topics that inform senior Air Force leaders and contribute to curriculum development. The university is engaged in community and public service, offering two citizenship programs: Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps and Civil Air Patrol–USAF.



<https://www.npr.org/>

RACE

Patrick Lyoya fled Congo to escape war. A traffic stop in Michigan cost him his life

Video of Lyoya's death has reignited protests over racial injustice. For those who knew him, he's remembered as a son, brother and father — a person of faith whose life was inextricably shaped by war.



Anna Nichols/AP



TED RADIO HOUR COMICS

How young people are taking action against climate change

Xiye Bastida was raised in the highlands of Mexico with an understanding that she had to thank the Earth for everything it provided. Now, she's dedicated her entire life to the issue of protecting it.



ENERGY

Despite U.S. sanctions, oil traders help Russian oil reach global markets



BUSINESS

These airlines are letting passengers banned for mask violations back on planes



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Here's why you might still want to wear masks on public transport

MIDDLE EAST

Israeli police storm Jerusalem holy site after rock-throwing incident

Israeli police in full riot gear stormed a sensitive Jerusalem holy site sacred to Jews and Muslims on Friday after Palestinian youths hurled stones at a gate where they were stationed.



Biden will order a study of old-growth forests in an Earth Day executive action



THE PICTURE SHOW

Possible mass graves near Mariupol are shown in satellite images



POLITICS

Audio shows Kevin McCarthy planned to urge Trump to resign after Capitol riot

SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Battle over CDC's powers goes far beyond travel mask mandate

A federal judge's decision to strike down the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's mask mandate for travelers is only the latest in a series of challenges that seek to rein in the agency.



▶ LISTEN - 3:47

NATIONAL

Southwest fire crews brace for return of dangerous winds

Firefighters are bracing for the return of ferocious winds in the Southwest after a brief reprieve allowed them to attack flames from the air for the first time in days.



On Earth Day, a few of our favorite books, movies and art installations

From documentaries to artistic projects, NPR has collected some of our favorite ways to celebrate the Earth and think about what we can do to protect its flora and fauna.

▪ This Earth Day, one book presents global warming and climate justice as inseparable



https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/community_epidemiology/dc/2019-nCoV/status/COVID19_Laboratory_Test_Positivity.html

COVID-19 Dashboard Navigation

This dashboard presents trends in total molecular COVID-19 tests performed and the percent of those tests that were positive.

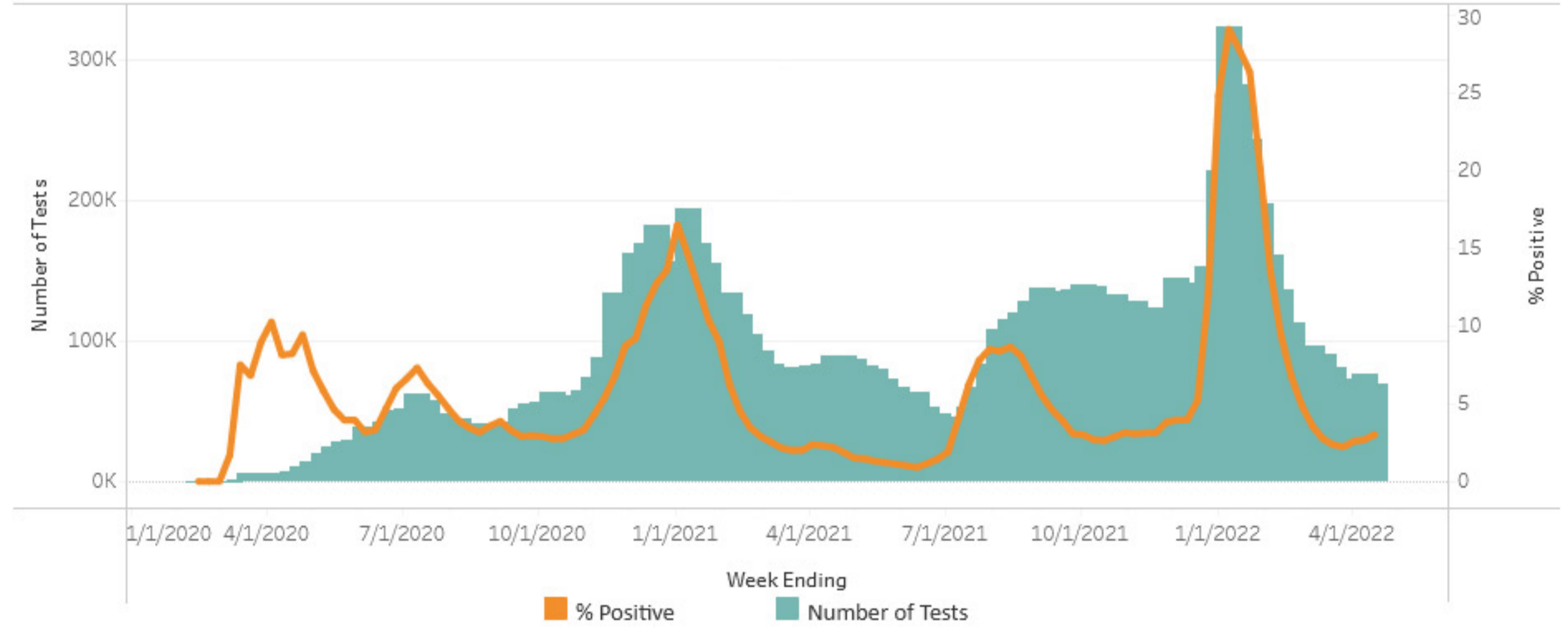
- 1. Adjust the date range by using the date slider above the chart.
- 2. Hover your mouse or finger over the bars and lines in the chart to see a pop-up that displays additional data.

View the dashboard on a web-enabled mobile device (phones and tablet)

Data through April 16, 2022. Updated April 20, 2022. Data are preliminary and subject to change.



COVID-19 Testing Volume and Positivity by Week of Specimen Collection, San Diego County



Total molecular tests since February 14, 2020, including non-residents who tested in San Diego County. Molecular tests are polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and other nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT). Graph includes molecular tests performed by COSD Public Health Laboratory, hospital, and commercial laboratories and reported via Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) and line lists, and excludes invalid, indeterminate, and unsatisfactory results.

| | San Diego | %Pos/7day |
|-----|-----------|-----------|
| Wed | 2/23/2022 | 4.7% |
| Sun | 2/27/2022 | 6.8% |
| Wed | 3/2/2022 | 4.4% |
| Sun | 3/6/2022 | 3.6% |
| Wed | 3/9/2022 | 3.0% |
| Sun | 3/13/2022 | 2.7% |
| Wed | 3/16/2022 | 2.8% |
| Sun | 3/20/2022 | 3.2% |
| Wed | 3/23/2022 | 2.8% |
| Sun | 3/27/2022 | 2.2% |
| Wed | 3/30/2022 | 3.1% |
| Sun | 4/3/2022 | 3.2% |
| Wed | 4/6/2022 | 2.7% |
| Sun | 4/10/2022 | 2.8% |
| Wed | 4/13/2022 | 2.6% |
| Sun | 4/17/2022 | 2.9% |

| New Tests Reported | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| 3/17/2022 | = 16,515 |
| 3/18/2022 | = 12,877 |
| 3/19/2022 | = 7,949 |
| 3/20/2022 | = 6,037 |
| 3/21/2022 | = 10,393 |
| 3/22/2022 | = 12,067 |
| 3/23/2022 | = 14,326 |
| 3/24/2022 | = 11,610 |
| 3/28/2022 | = 18,133 |
| 3/29/2022 | = 7,575 |
| 3/30/2022 | = 15,738 |
| 3/31/2022 | = 11,865 |
| 4/1/2022 | = 10,081 |
| 4/2/2022 | = 8,595 |
| 4/3/2022 | = 5,386 |
| 4/4/2022 | = 10,165 |
| 4/5/2022 | = 10,227 |
| 4/6/2022 | = 13,298 |
| 4/7/22 | = 14,614 |
| 4/8/22 | = 14,415 |
| 4/9/22 | = 7,472 |
| 4/10/22 | = 5,879 |
| 4/11/22 | = 13,043 |
| 4/12/22 | = 8,902 |
| 4/13/22 | = 17,043 |
| 4/14/2022 | = 13,280 |
| 4/15/2022 | = 10,222 |
| 4/16/2022 | = 9,166 |
| 4/17/2022 | = 5,278* |
| >SDCgov STOPPED REPORTING< | |



Space Blocs: The future of international cooperation in space is splitting along lines of power on Earth

Svetla Ben-Zohar, *Air University*



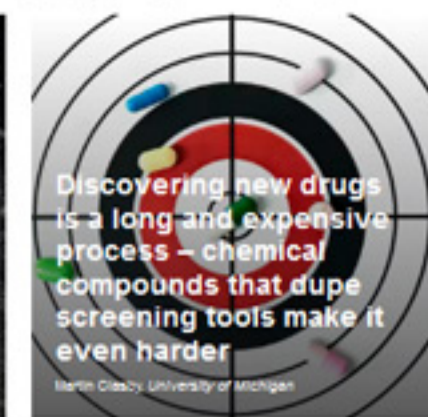
Opposition to abortion doesn't stop some Americans from supporting friends and family who seek one

Tricia O. Bruce, *University of Notre Dame*



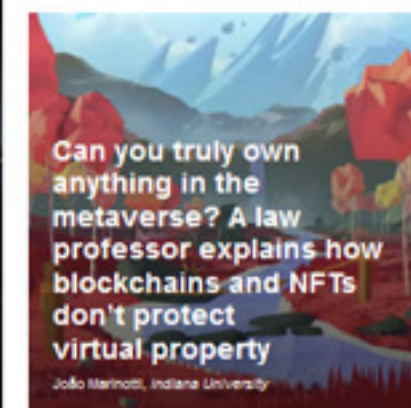
Achoo! 5 essential reads for pollen season

Jennifer Weeks, *The Conversation*



Discovering new drugs is a long and expensive process - chemical compounds that dupe screening tools make it even harder

Martin Glasby, *University of Michigan*



Can you truly own anything in the metaverse? A law professor explains how blockchains and NFTs don't protect virtual property

Joko Marriot, *Indiana University*



Many young French voters are approaching the presidential runoff with a shrug and vow to 'vote blank'

Juliea Kresten-Holmager, *Colorado State University* and Eugenia Pyroskaya, *University of South Florida*



As Ukraine war deepens great-power divisions, a revitalized non-aligned movement could emerge

John Giorlani, *University of Michigan*



Protecting biodiversity - and making it accessible - has paid off for Costa Rica

Alejandra Echeverri-Cohn, *Stanford University* and Jeffrey R. Smith, *Princeton University*



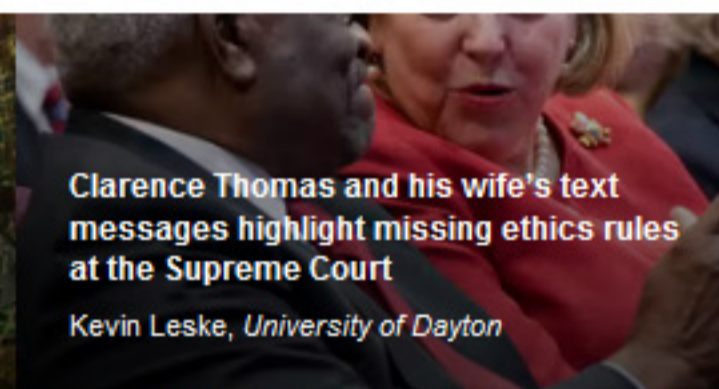
How culture informs people's emotional reaction to music - podcast

Daniel Merino, *The Conversation*



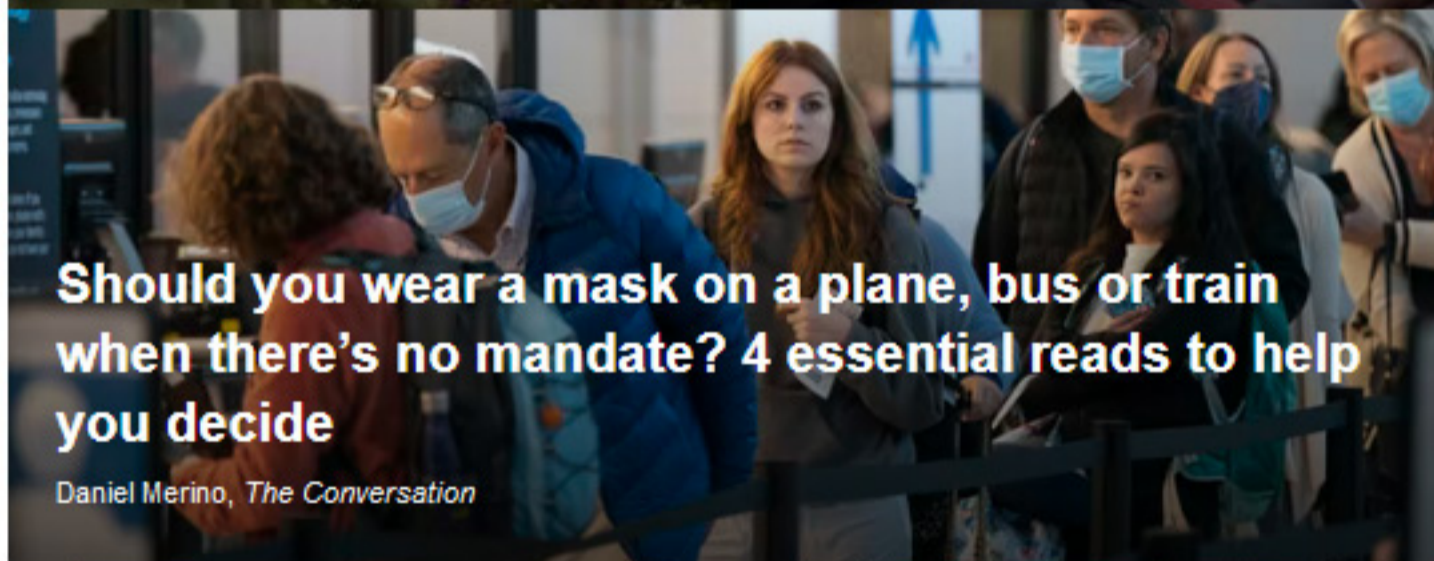
The pandemic's gardening boom shows how gardens can cultivate public health

Alessandro Ossola, *University of California, Davis*



Clarence Thomas and his wife's text messages highlight missing ethics rules at the Supreme Court

Kevin Leske, *University of Dayton*



Should you wear a mask on a plane, bus or train when there's no mandate? 4 essential reads to help you decide

Daniel Merino, *The Conversation*



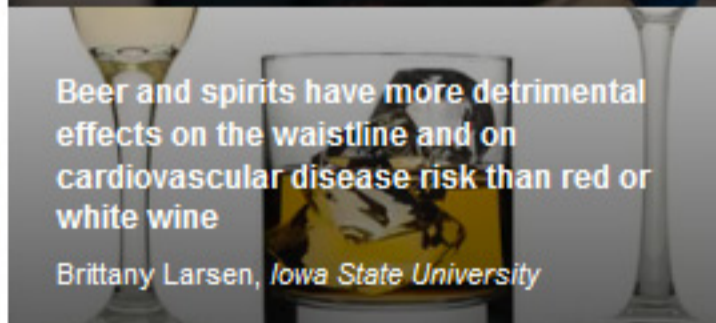
People of color have been missing in the disability rights movement - looking through history may help explain why

Jennifer Ekwueme, *University of Richmond*



How Muslim Americans meet their charitable obligations: 3 findings from new research

Shara Siddiqui, *IUPUI*, Michal A. Hughes, *IUPUI*, and Rafael West, *Portland State University*



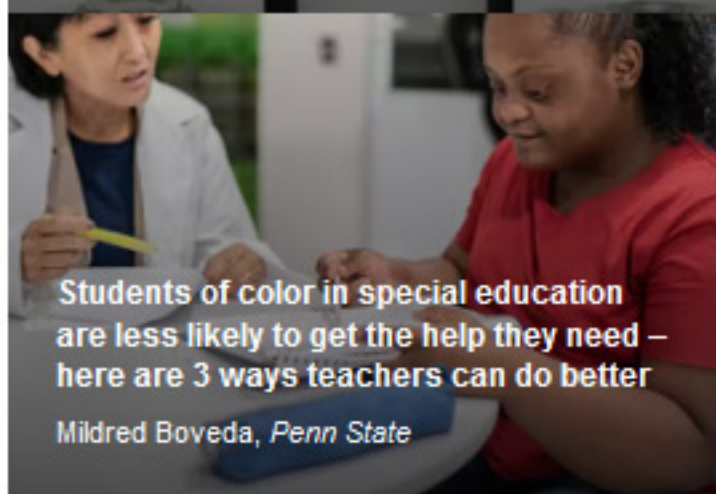
Beer and spirits have more detrimental effects on the waistline and on cardiovascular disease risk than red or white wine

Brittany Larsen, *Iowa State University*



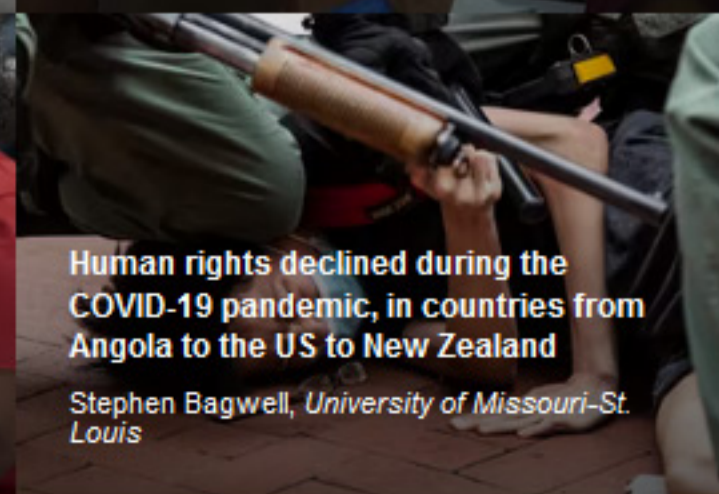
Biology with Tibetan Buddhist monks: What I'm taking back to my college classroom from teaching at a monastery

Daniel Pierce, *University of Richmond*



Students of color in special education are less likely to get the help they need - here are 3 ways teachers can do better

Mildred Boveda, *Penn State*



Human rights declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, in countries from Angola to the US to New Zealand

Stephen Bagwell, *University of Missouri-St. Louis*

This Earth Day, one book presents global warming and climate justice as inseparable

April 22, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

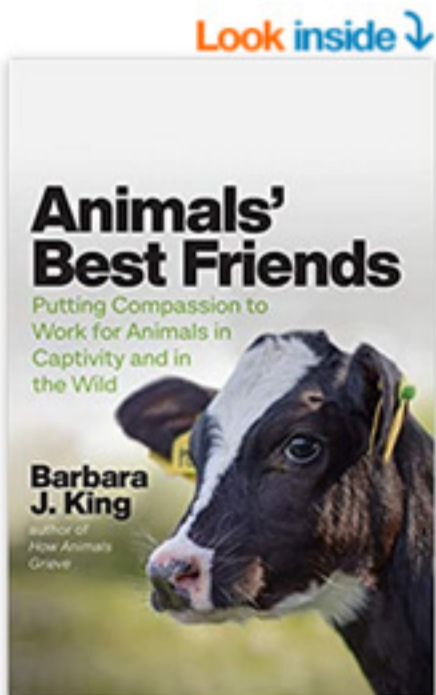
BARBARA KING

On this Earth Day, it's still an open question to what degree our planet will remain habitable in the coming years.

To increase chances that it will, it's critical to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy internationally, and on the individual level for each of us to reduce carbon emissions stemming from individual habits. These are among the main takeaway messages from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report released on April 4.

That report led to worldwide headlines about the climate crisis. **Moral philosopher and former journalist Elizabeth Cripps offers an equally urgent message in *What Climate Justice Means and Why We Should Care*, published in the U.S. last week: Efforts to contain global warming will succeed only if they are coupled with policies of climate justice.**

Why is this so? Let's start with exactly what "climate justice" means. Climate justice rests on two major premises. Rich nations contribute disproportionately to global warming, leading to violations of human rights across the world. Poor, vulnerable people suffer the brunt of extreme weather including heat waves and so-called "natural" disasters that are actually human-caused. Second, those rich nations, and wealthy individuals too wherever they live, must take extra responsibility for fighting this crisis while keeping uppermost in mind the needs of those most grievously affected.



Animals' Best Friends: Putting Compassion to Work for Animals in Captivity and in the Wild Hardcover – March 23, 2021

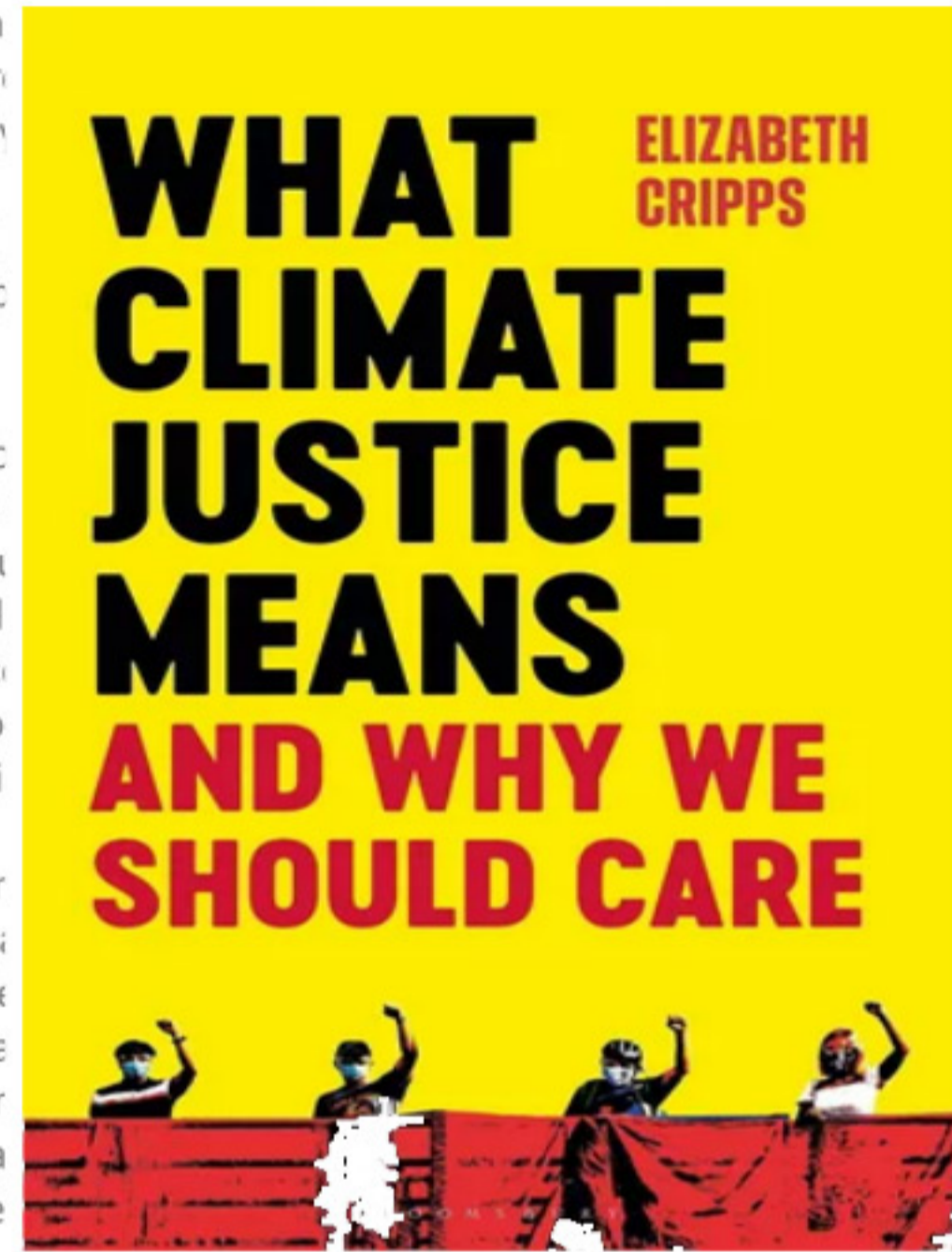
by Barbara J. King ~ (Author)

Barbara J. King is a biological anthropologist emerita at William & Mary. ***Animals' Best Friends: Putting Compassion to Work for Animals in Captivity* is her seventh book. Find her on Twitter @bjkingape**

Cripps yearns for us to see beyond these alarming statistics. "Envisage," she asks, each person for the future, manized, in 11-year-old flooded and of disabled p extra risk?

As an anthro often aren't munity, culti states stand Women of c "revolve aro mercy of risi

Further, anir question as i heightened e vidual anima tioning envir a key goal; a animal suffe



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Elizabeth Cripps @ebcripps
 Philosopher & writer. Author of *What Climate Means & Why We Should Care*. Occasional cat tweets. Agent: JP Marshall. She/her
 Edinburgh, Scotland elizabethcripps.weebly.com Joined August 2016
 1,032 Following 1,396 Followers

About Spheres of Influence

Ambassador Chas W. Freeman, Jr. (USFS, Ret.) | 2022-03-09

Security is a prerequisite for the prosperity, welfare, and economy of any society. Throughout history, nations have sought security through the establishment of empires, no-go zones [cordons sanitaires], buffer states, as well as military, economic, political, or cultural spheres of declared strategic interest or dominant influence. There are alternatives to these safeguards, among them systems based on the shifting coalitions of balances of power. But it is natural for states to want to have friends rather than enemies on their borders and for great powers to expect deference rather than challenges to their security from the collusion of lesser states with great power rivals.[1] Both nations and empires wax and wane. As they do, they shape political, economic, and military interactions in the regions around them or dependent upon them. Some states seek the protection of greater powers. Others reject and resist others' hegemony.[2] Spheres of influence are creations of statecraft intended to fend off potential competitors.

Why Spheres of Influence are Established: U.S. secretaries of state have recently taken to declaring that "the United States does not recognize spheres of influence."[3] **In light of Americans' continued insistence on the validity of the Monroe Doctrine, this is more than ironic.**[4] **The United States may refuse to recognize or respect other nation's spheres of influence or their right to establish them, but it insists on enforcing its own, which, though officially undeclared, is no longer limited to the Western Hemisphere but worldwide.**[5] [...]

<RE: Russia/Ukraine>

Belying its original purely defensive raison d'être, NATO then vivisected Serbia (ripping Kosovo from it), joined the post-9/11 American effort to pacify and transform Afghanistan, and helped overthrow the government of Libya. Russia and other great powers came to see NATO as a threateningly offensive tool of American foreign policy. Meanwhile, the alliance, which was coterminous with an American sphere of politico-military influence in Europe and the Mediterranean, resumed justifying its continued existence by reference to the threats from Russia it had helped to resurrect.[42] Eventually, Russia resorted to shows of force followed by military intervention in Ukraine to block any further expansion of the American military sphere of influence in Europe.[43]

[42] In 2020, when the United States and other NATO countries, citing election fraud, refused to recognize the Lukashenko government, Belarus placed itself under Russian protection, thus confirming its position as part of a residual Russian sphere of influence in eastern Europe.

[43] By 2021 – 2022, Russia had built enough military strength to mount a diplomatic challenge to the continued expansion of NATO. Moscow demonstrated its ability to overwhelm Ukraine and to signal that admitting it to NATO membership might trigger a nuclear confrontation with the United States. It demanded that the United States and NATO end the menace such expansion posed to its peace of mind. Russia initially denied that it had any intention of invading Ukraine. But when it received no U.S or NATO answer to its demands, it attacked, changing its apparent objective from strategic denial of Ukraine to the U.S. sphere of influence to the incorporation of Ukraine into a reestablished

Charles W. Freeman



United States Assistant Secretary of Defense (Regional, then International Security Affairs)

In office

July 6, 1993 – September 14, 1994

President Bill Clinton

United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia

In office

January 14, 1990 – August 13, 1992

President George H. W. Bush

Personal details

Born March 2, 1943 (age 79)
Washington, D.C., U.S.

Education Yale University (BA)
Harvard University (JD)

As the world traverses the third decade of the 21st century, the worldwide ascendancy and global sphere of influence of the United States is under challenge from its designated adversaries, particularly Russia and China: In Europe, Russia insists, at a minimum, on strategic denial of Ukraine to the U.S. sphere of influence represented by NATO, demands the rollback of the U.S. sphere to limit potential threats to it from its immediate neighbors, and may, at a maximum, be seeking to incorporate Ukraine into a reestablished, broad Russian sphere of influence.

[5] The U.S. continues to attempt to bring Cuba and other countries in Latin America, like Venezuela, to heel. Yet it rejects any effort by Russia to incorporate Georgia or Ukraine into a Russian sphere of influence as illegitimate, while insisting on its right to include both countries in its own sphere admitting them to NATO.

[41] In 2008, when NATO declared it would be prepared to admit Georgia and Ukraine to membership, Russia warned that it would regard this as "a direct threat" to its security.

[53] Austria and Switzerland are officially neutral and internationally recognized as such. Finland, Ireland, and Sweden have remained outside alliance structures, though all three are part of the American politico-economic sphere of influence in Europe. Bosnia & Herzegovina and Ukraine aspire to join NATO. Moldova is constitutionally neutral. Serbia seeks to join the EU but not NATO.

In effect, Washington now claims and seeks to exercise a right to help determine the policies and international alignments of all the world's countries other than China, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation, all of which it regards and has designated for military planning purposes as implacable adversaries. In what some have called "a contest for the allegiance of humanity," countries in the spheres of influence of other great powers or not yet incorporated into the U.S. sphere are either courted (for example, Ukraine) or subjected to coercive diplomacy through sanctions[86] or thrown into anarchy by regime-change operations. (For example, Libya and Syria.)

[88] The exchange of technology may be regulated by governments, but it takes place without much reference to them through companies, universities, and research institutes. Non-state actors play a significant role, as illustrated by the cyber attacks on Russia by 'Anonymous' following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

About Spheres of Influence

Ambassador Chas W. Freeman, Jr. (USFS, Ret.) | 2022-03-09

Conclusion

In the beginning, there were military empires forged through conquest. Then there were trading empires that evolved into political control of areas like India and Indonesia. Some spheres of influence were devoted to denying other powers influence in areas of strategic interest to those proclaiming them. Now the norm is spheres of influence that seek a measure of exclusivity through demands for deference and the power to veto the decisions of the countries they incorporate about military, economic, technological, informational, or political matters. The global U.S. sphere of influence is comprehensive but of this kind. It is now being challenged in various regions of the world and globally, through the rise of other innovative economies and information systems. Rivalry between the world's greatest powers directed at defending or expanding the arenas in which they exercise primacy may still drive their strategic decisions. But regional powers have their own ideas about this, and their views are gaining ground.

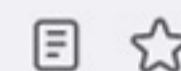
As the world traverses the third decade of the 21st century, the worldwide ascendancy and global sphere of influence of the United States is under challenge from its designated adversaries, particularly Russia and China:

- Latin America is building new relationships with China, Russia, Iran, and Turkey in defiance of the Monroe Doctrine.
- In the Asia-Pacific, China proposes the negotiation of a "new type of great power relations" that would give it a significant role in the management of the region. In the absence of such an agreement, it is exploring the possible use of force to remove Taiwan from the U.S. sphere of influence and integrate it with the Chinese mainland.[89]

- In Europe, Russia insists, at a minimum, on strategic denial of Ukraine to the U.S. sphere of influence represented by NATO, demands the rollback of the U.S. sphere to limit potential threats to it from its immediate neighbors, and may, at a maximum, be seeking to incorporate Ukraine into a reestablished, broad Russian sphere of influence.
- In the Middle East, previous great power spheres of influence, including the six-decade-long primacy of the United States, are challenged by Islamism and nationalism, and are giving way to regional dynamics driven by local religious and geopolitical rivalries.
- In Africa, new regional alignments are emerging, as the French retreat from Islamist attacks in Françafrique, Nigeria establishes a regional order through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), South Africa exercises dominant influence in its neighbors, and other local spheres of influence emerge.
- The global dominance of U.S. media has been greatly eroded by the emergence of foreign competitors,[90] unattractive parochialism, corporate censorship, and increasing domestic focus. U.S. information dominance is challenged by locally sponsored social media and the emergence of sequestered national media zones in places like China and Iran.

These are strategic developments with enormous implications for global peace and development. Denying the validity and role of spheres of influence neither erases them nor helps deal with them or the process of their demise. Understanding what is at stake is essential to dealing effectively with conflicts between great powers. Spheres of influence have been an integral part of great power competition. They differ in their purposes and consequences in the varying domains they affect. They are now generating more instability and conflict than they confine. Spheres of influence have been an abiding phenomenon of statecraft and diplomacy that deserves a great deal more study than it has so far received. It is time to consider the alternatives to them.

  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chas_W._Freeman,_Jr.#Iraq_War



Iraq War

In 2004, Freeman was among 27 retired diplomats and military commanders who publicly said the administration of President [George W. Bush](#) did not understand the world and was unable to handle "in either style or substance" the responsibilities of global leadership.[48] On June 16, 2004 the [Diplomats and Military Commanders for Change](#) issued a statement against the [Iraq War](#).^[49]

<https://youtu.be/0vxufUeqnuc> | Mar 22, 2022

**PUSH
BACK**

CHAS FREEMAN

RETIRED US DIPLOMAT

Chas Freeman, a retired senior US diplomat, analyzes Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the US role, and the geopolitical fallout. "Everything we are doing, rather than accelerate an end to the fighting and some compromise, seems to be aimed at prolonging the fighting," Freeman says. Guest: Chas Freeman. Veteran U.S. diplomat and public servant who has served in many senior positions, including as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Director for Chinese Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, and as the principal US interpreter during President Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972.

Andrew Yang & Yuval Noah Harari: Tech, Public Policy & the Future of Work



<https://youtu.be/jvFgOdEVf98> | Apr 5, 2022

A conversation about tech, public policy, and the future of work – between Andrew Yang, former US presidential candidate and founder of the Forward Party, and Yuval Noah Harari, historian and bestselling author – moderated by Fortune magazine's Michal Lev-Ram.

Forward Party

<https://www.forwardparty.com>

A new political party fighting to save our democracy through open primaries, ranked choice voting, and compassion for our fellow citizens.



Play (k)

▶ ⏩ 🔊 54:26 / 54:28



WORLD

It's planting season in Ukraine, and that means problems for global food supply

Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent ripples beyond the immediate conflict zone, breaking supply chains and creating food shortages as two of the world's biggest food exporters went to war.



▶ LISTEN · 4:14

CLIMATE

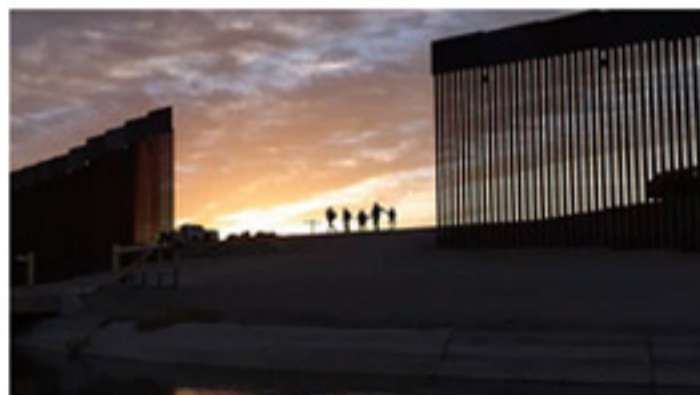
To fight climate change, and now Russia, too, Zurich turns off natural gas



POLITICS

As Biden plans to lift Title 42, Democrats want details on how he'll address influx

The Trump-era public health order was put in place in early 2020 and prevented migrants and asylum-seekers from crossing the border into the U.S. due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 1, the Centers for Disease Control said the measure was no longer necessary from a public health standpoint.



EDUCATION

A university pays \$400K to professor who refused to use a student's pronouns



- **TSA will no longer enforce travel mask mandate after a federal judge strikes it down**
- **These airlines are dropping mask mandates after a federal judge's ruling**

SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

The judge who tossed mask mandate misunderstood public health law, legal experts say



SCIENCE

Taylor Swift was the inspiration for the name of a new millipede species



GOATS AND SODA

A 4-year-old can run errands alone ... and not just on reality TV



ASIA

Shanghai eases COVID rules and allows 4 million more people out of their homes

An official says the virus is under control in some parts of the city. Meanwhile, the IMF cut its forecast of Chinese economic growth and warned the global flow of industrial goods might be disrupted.



NATIONAL

Delta updates its statement calling COVID a 'seasonal virus' after a backlash

The airline changed its announcement about the end of the federal mask mandate after a firestorm of criticism from public health experts who called it inaccurate and misleading.



The judge who tossed mask mandate misunderstood public health law, legal experts say

April 19, 2022 - 6:23 PM ET

JOE HERNANDEZ



SELENA SIMMONS-DUFFIN



Airline passengers, some not wearing face masks following the end of the federal mask mandate, sit during a American Airlines flight operated by SkyWest Airlines from Los Angeles International Airport to Denver, on Tuesday.

Patrick T. Fallon/AFP via Getty Images

What counts as 'sanitation'? When U.S. District Judge Kathryn Kimball Mizelle tossed out the federal government's transportation mask mandate on Monday, she relied in part on her interpretation of the term "sanitation." In her opinion, Mizelle says that a common way judges decide the meaning of words in laws is to look up dictionary definitions that were contemporaneous with the passage of the law. In this instance, that's 1944. Mizelle says "sanitation" could have been taken to mean either actively cleaning something or measures to keep something clean, but ultimately settles on the former definition. "Wearing a mask cleans nothing. At most, it traps virus droplets," Mizelle wrote. "But it neither 'sanitizes' the person wearing the mask nor 'sanitizes' the conveyances." Mizelle says her reading is bolstered by the fact that other words listed alongside "sanitation" in the 1944 law — such as "fumigation" or "pest extermination" — refer specifically to cleaning something or trying to wipe out a disease.

But Erin Fuse Brown, a law professor at Georgia State University, says that while this understanding of "sanitation" may be true for lay people, it's not how the term is used in the public health field or understood by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which issued the mandate. "Sanitation was just the old way in public health parlance of taking traditional public health steps to prevent the spread of disease," she said. Fuse Brown points to the widespread mask-wearing during the 1918 influenza outbreak, which came roughly two and a half decades before the passage of the Public Health Service Act. She suggested the opinion will make it harder for the Biden administration to control the spread of COVID-19. "The reasoning is poor, but it also has really drastic and dire consequences for public health, which is the part that makes it not just a joke, but it actually makes it really frightening," she said.

The opinion could have lasting effects on the CDC's authority: Mizelle's opinion also restricts the CDC's ability to respond to public health emergencies in ways it deems appropriate, and if the opinion is upheld by a federal appeals court or the U.S. Supreme Court, legal experts warn it could hobble the government's ability to control future outbreaks. "If this particular type of opinion took on greater precedential value as it rises up through the court system, if that happens, it's big trouble for CDC down the road," said James Hodge, a law professor at Arizona State University.

Mizelle substituted her own definition of "sanitation," Hodge said, **brushing aside a legal norm known as "agency deference" that compels judges to yield to the interpretation of federal agencies when a law's language is unclear. Mizelle also criticized the agency for not following standard rulemaking procedures before instituting the mandate. Hodge said she misunderstood how the federal government operates during a national public health emergency.**

"This is really a serious deviation from not just what we're trying to do to protect the public's health, but a misstatement of federal authority in emergencies to a great degree," Hodge said.

Fuse Brown agreed, suggesting the opinion amounted to a "breathhtaking amount of political judicial activism" that "should chill us all."

"Even if we're skeptical about agencies or even about Congress's ability to make good judgments in this ... time, we certainly do not want these decisions to be in the hands of a single unelected judge," she said.

GOATS AND SODA

The mask mandate is off for U.S. travelers. In other countries it's definitely on

In China, for example, not only are masks required on planes but gloves are recommended — and passengers are urged not to touch their face during the flight. Here's what you'll find around the globe.



Hector Retamal /AFP via Getty Images

Firearms overtook auto accidents as the leading cause of death in children

April 22, 2022 · 4:58 PM ET

DUSTIN JONES



Firearms were the leading cause of children under the age of 19 in 2020. Until then, motor vehicle accidents had spent the last 60 years as the leading cause of death for kids.

Brian Blanco/Getty Images

For decades, auto accidents have been the leading cause of death among children, but in 2020 guns were the No. 1 cause, researchers say.

Overall firearm-related deaths increased 13.5% between 2019 and 2020, but such fatalities for those 1 to 19 years old jumped nearly 30%, according to a research letter in *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Researchers analyzed data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing that there were a record 45,222 firearm-related deaths in the U.S. in 2020.

Patrick Carter, one of the authors of the research letter and co-director of the University of Michigan's Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention, said **about 10% of those deaths — 4,357 in total — were children**. Studies have shown that firearm violence increased during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, according to the research letter, the reason behind the increase in child deaths attributed to guns is unclear.

For decades prior to 2020, motor vehicle accidents were the leading cause of death among children. Carter tells NPR that the reason the two have swapped places is a "tale of two stories." "Firearm deaths we haven't made much progress on, in fact it increased in recent years. And we have had a decrease in motor vehicle deaths," he said.

According to a separate study, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of child deaths for more than 60 years. But over time, cars have become safer and driver education has improved. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and others have pushed for better child safety in cars, taking a scientific approach to the problem, Carter said. "We can do the same thing with firearms. We just haven't been able to do that in the same amount of years yet," he said. "It takes time to figure out what the underlying issues are with the problem and then finding the solutions."

The figures between adults and children and firearms are almost an inverted image of each other. For adults, 65% of gun related deaths are attributed to suicide, while 30% are homicides and about 2% come from accidental discharges, Carter said. For children, 65% of firearm deaths are homicides and 35% are categorized as suicide, he said. And though mass shootings, which have drastically increased over the past 30 years, are clearly part of the problem, the vast majority of kids are killed by guns in smaller, day-to-day incidents.

"Most commonly what makes the news is these horrific mass shootings, but they are a small aspect of the overall problem," Carter said. "The smallest portion are the mass shootings. ... it's these daily deaths that are occurring making up the totality of what we are seeing."

LAW

[Gun violence is killing more children. The pandemic may be playing a role](#)

GOATS AND SODA

[Gun Violence Deaths: How The U.S. Compares With The Rest Of The World](#)

causes of death

gun deaths

The Dow had its biggest drop in 18 months amid fears of an interest rate hike

April 22, 2022 · 4:57 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The Dow Jones industrial average slumped 2.8%, its biggest drop in 18 months, after briefly skidding more than 1,000 points.

NEW YORK — Stocks tumbled on Wall Street Friday, leaving the S&P 500 with its biggest one-day loss in almost seven weeks, as worries deepen about a surge in interest rates and the U.S. central bank's efforts to fight inflation. Several disappointing profit reports from companies also shook what's been the market's main pillar of support. The S&P 500 sank 2.8% and marked its third losing week in a row. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slumped 2.8%, its biggest drop in 18 months, after briefly skidding more than 1,000 points. The Nasdaq also had its worst day in nearly seven weeks, closing 2.6% lower.

A day earlier, Wall Street seemed set for healthy gains for the week after American Airlines, Tesla and other big companies reported strong profits or better forecasts for future earnings than analysts expected. Such corporate optimism has helped stocks remain relatively resilient, even as worries swirl about the highest inflation in decades, the war in Ukraine and the coronavirus.

But markets buckled as the chair of the Federal Reserve indicated the central bank may indeed hike short-term interest rates by double the usual amount at upcoming meetings, starting in two weeks. The Fed has already raised its key overnight rate once, the first such increase since 2018, as it aggressively removes the tremendous aid thrown at the economy through the pandemic. It's also preparing other moves to put upward pressure on longer-term rates. By making it more expensive for businesses and households to borrow, the higher rates are meant to slow the economy, which should hopefully halt the worst inflation in generations. But they can also trigger a recession, all while putting downward pressure on most kinds of investments.

"After years of being very accommodative, the Fed has made it clear that policy is going to be tighter for the foreseeable future," said Brian Price, head of investment management for Commonwealth Financial Network. "Their hawkish stance is giving investors pause as many are left to evaluate the impact on profit margins and (stock) multiples moving forward."

A preliminary report on Friday indicated the U.S. services industry's growth is slowing, hurt in particular by surging costs for fuel, wages and other expenses.

Treasury yields have soared as investors prepare for a more aggressive Fed, and stocks have often moved in the opposite direction of them. The yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped to 2.90% from 2.91% late Thursday, but remains close to its highest level since 2018. It began the year at 1.51%. The two-year Treasury yield, which moves more on expectations for Fed action on short-term rates, has zoomed even more. It was at 2.69% late Friday after more than tripling from 0.73% at the start of the year. Markets around the world are feeling similar pressure on rates and inflation, particularly in Europe as the war in Ukraine pushes up oil, gas and food costs.

On Wall Street, most stocks fell, including more than 95% of the companies in the S&P 500. Technology and health care companies were among the biggest weights. Apple fell 2.8% and Microsoft dropped 2.4%. Verizon Communications slid 5.6% after it said it expects earnings for the year to fall at the lower end of the range it had previously forecast. The company also reported slightly weaker revenue than expected for the first three months of the year.

The disappointing company earnings and outlooks, plus Powell's remarks Thursday, have ratcheted up worries for investors already trying to navigate economic uncertainty over the lingering global supply chain issues, the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, said Greg Bassuk, CEO of AXS Investments. "Looking ahead, that's putting a sour taste in investors' mouths around the likelihood of corporate earnings being stronger for the balance of 2022," he said.

Female artists dominate the Venice Biennale for 1st time

By COLLEEN BARRY 42 minutes ago

American sculptor **Simone Leigh** smiles during the unveiling of the United States' pavilion at the 59th Biennale of Arts exhibition in Venice, Italy, Thursday, April 21, 2022. The first Black woman to headline the U.S. Pavilion, Leigh won Best participant in the main exhibition, including the sculptures "Anonymous" and "Last Garment," and Brick House," part of the "Sovereignty" installation.



Female artists dominate the Venice Biennale for 1st time

By COLLEEN BARRY 42 minutes ago

Simone Leigh (born 1967) is an American artist from Chicago who works in New York City in the United States. She works in various media including sculpture, installations, video, performance, and social practice. Her work is concerned with the marginalization of women of color and reframes their experience as central to society.

Leigh has often said that her work is focused on "Black female subjectivity," with an interest in complex interplays between various strands of history. Leigh was born in 1967 in Chicago, Illinois to Jamaican missionaries. She grew up on Chicago's South Side in a highly segregated neighborhood. Describing her childhood in an interview, Leigh stated "Everyone was black, so I grew up feeling like my blackness didn't predetermine anything about me. It was very good for my self-esteem. I still feel lucky that I grew up in that crucible."



American sculptor Simone Leigh, right, and curator Eva Respini attend a press conference in front of the "Satellite" sculpture part of the "Sovereignty" installation during the unveiling of the United States' pavilion at the 59th Biennale of Arts exhibition in Venice, Italy, Thursday, April 21, 2022. The first Black woman to headline the U.S. Pavilion, Leigh has posted the monumental 24-foot sculpture called "Satellite" outside the neo-Palladian brick structure, which is hidden beneath a thatched raffia roof and wooden columns. (AP Photo/Luigi Costantini)

Simone Leigh



Leigh in 2017

Born 1967 (age 54–55)
Chicago, Illinois

Nationality American

Alma mater Earlham College

Awards

- Guggenheim Fellowship
- Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Award
- Creative Capital grantee
- Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Michael Richards Award
- Joan Mitchell Foundation grant
- Artist-in-Residence The Studio Museum in Harlem
- NYFA fellowship
- Art Matters Foundation grant
- Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grants to Artists award (2018)
- The Hugo Boss Prize (2018)

Website simoneleigh.com

Female artists dominate the Venice Biennale for 1st time

By COLLEEN BARRY 42 minutes ago

A view of an installation part of "We Walked the Earth" by artist Uffe Isoolto at Denmark's pavilion during the 59th Biennale of Arts exhibition in Venice, Italy, Tuesday, April 19, 2022. (AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)



Female artists dominate the Venice Biennale for 1st time

By COLLEEN BARRY 42 minutes ago



A view of an installation at a square titled "to Ukraine" at the 59th Biennale of Arts exhibition in Venice, Italy, Tuesday, April 19, 2022. (AP Photo/Antonio Calanni)

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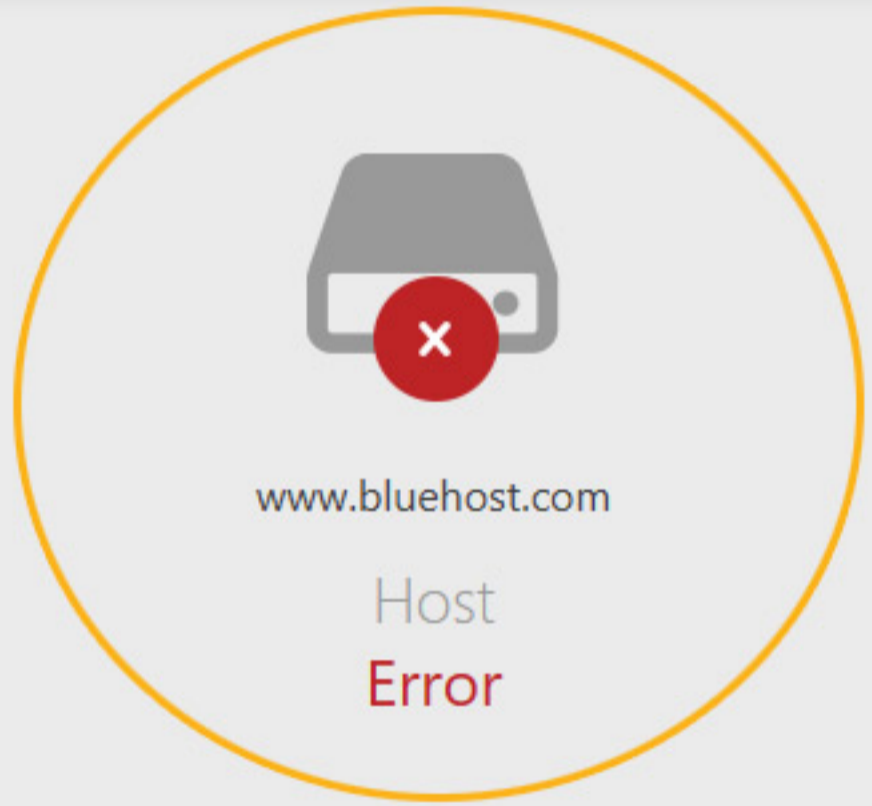
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Aaron speaks to Francis Fukuyama, author of 'Liberalism and its Discontents'.



**LIBERALISM
AND ITS
DISCONTENTS**

**FRANCIS
FUKUYAMA**

Author of *The Origins of Political Order*



Francis Fukuyama

Fukuyama in 2015

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Born | October 27, 1952 (age 69) Chicago, Illinois, U.S |
| Alma mater | Cornell University (BA) Harvard University (PhD) |
| Spouse(s) | Laura Holmgren |
| Children | 3 |
| Era | 20th-century philosophy |
| Region | Western philosophy |
| Institutions | George Mason University ^[1] Johns Hopkins University Stanford University |
| Main interests | Developing nations Governance International political economy Nation-building and democratization Strategic and security issues |
| Notable ideas | End of history |
| Influences | [show] |
| Website | fukuyama.stanford.edu |

<https://youtu.be/xiRJ5mo3DWY>



Guest host Jane Coaston joins Jon, Jon, Tommy, and Dan live in the nation's capital! Donald Trump makes his first major campaign investment while many question if his endorsements are losing their political power, Republicans remain intent on fighting culture wars over abortion, Disney, and LGBTQ rights while voters care most about the economy, and **White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki and comedian Mike Birbiglia join for a game called As The President Has Long Said.**

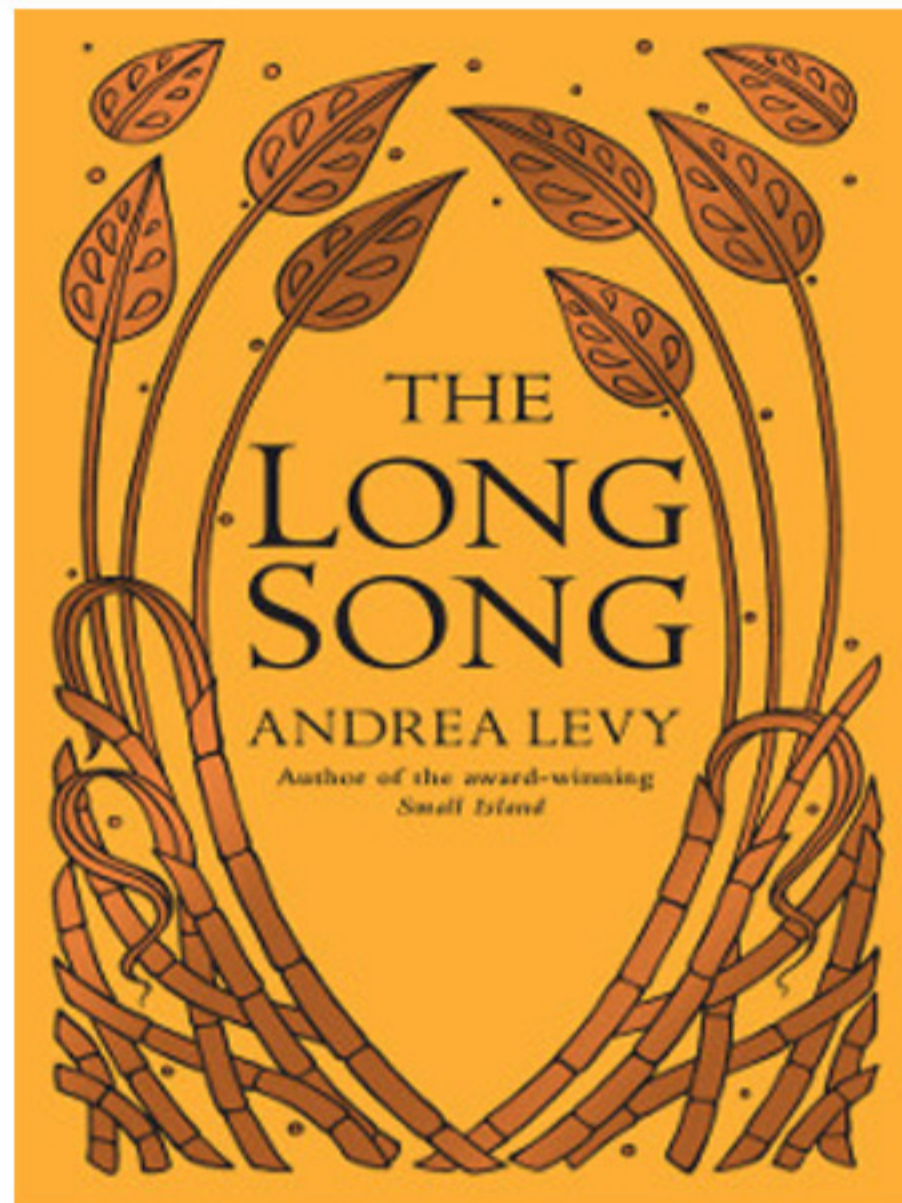
CROOKED

The Long Song

TV Mini Series · 2018 · TV-PG · 1h

IMDb RATING

★ 7.2/10
1.6K



The Long Song is a historical novel by Andrea Levy published in 2010 that was the recipient of the Walter Scott Prize. It was Levy's fifth and final novel, following the 2004 publication of *Small Island*. In December 2018, a three-part television adaptation of the same name was broadcast on BBC One; *The Long Song* was aired on PBS in February 2021.

The *Long Song* is written as a memoir by an elderly Jamaican woman living in early 19th-century Jamaica during the final years of slavery and the transition to freedom that took place thereafter. It tells the tale of a young slave girl, July, who lives at Amity – a sugarcane plantation. She lived through the 1831 Baptist War, and then the beginning of freedom. Her mother, Kitty; the slaves working the plantation land; and the owner of the plantation, the white woman Caroline Mortimer, are other characters in the novel.

The themes of the book incorporate: how it feels being an immigrant Jamaican, racism, black versus white, landlord versus tenant, slavery and its abolition, slave uprisings, rape, the 1831 Baptist War in Jamaica, the clergy, and love triangles.

Reception: Kate Kellaway in *The Observer*, Tayari Jones in the *Washington Post*, Fernanda Eberstadt in *The New York Times*, and Amanda Craig in *The Telegraph* were among those who gave the novel positive reviews.

Drama

An adaptation of the award-winning novel by [Andrea Levy](#). Set during the final days of slavery in 19th century Jamaica, following the trials, tribulations and survival of July and her odious mistress Caroline on a sugar plantation.

Stars [Tamara Lawrance](#) · [Hayley Atwell](#) · [Ayesha Antoine](#)



Top review: 7/10: *Imperfect but absorbing*

Other critics have touched on the shortcomings of this production. I have only seen the first episode but find the series to be engaging and atmospheric. I don't think July's trickster ways were uncommon for enslaved people. She becomes a lady's maid under painful circumstances. There's an act or two that are somewhat comic. Then comes the cruelty and violence that are certainly omnipresent in the lives of the enslaved. Nevertheless, the first episode ends on an intriguing note. I am here for the rest of this program, and feel viewers of *Masterpiece* will not be disappointed. Historically accurate? It might fall short, but so does *Downton Abbey* and there are no complaints. Allow yourself to enter July's world for a spell and let's find out what she does next.



Since her death earlier this year one of my difficult but strangely uplifting tasks has been to assemble and go through her archive of written material – all her early notes, ideas for novels, research material, tape recordings, character sketches, handwritten drafts, annotated printouts, reworkings, letters, notes to herself. There are crates and crates of material all labelled and box-filed in her careful, slightly cautious manner. Although I know it was done over a long time, 20 years or so, I'm still staggered by the sheer amount of work she did. I was with her all this time but I still can't quite grasp how, and when, she managed to do it all. We had a full life with friends and family and fun, and problems and crises and heartaches. But in among it all was this fat, fat story that, in a suite of beautiful, powerful novels, she patiently worked through. It was a courageous achievement that in the words of July's son, Thomas, she clearly felt impelled to do. When I think about Andrea, of all the rich, complex and loving feelings I have for her memory – her humour, her talent, her humanity – one thing keeps coming to my mind. She was quite simply the most intelligent person I have ever met. Not in the way we sometimes misuse the word, not clever-clever, or self confident, or good at general knowledge (she was none of those), but just a sure-footed thoughtfulness that had such depth, breadth and insight. She was a wise and wonderful woman. At a personal level to say that I miss her doesn't even come near. At a public, cultural level I know that she is missed by very many people. Through her body of work she has made a small but real difference to Britain's view of itself. Right to the end of her life her down-to-earth modesty meant I was never sure if she quite understood or totally accepted that fact. I just hope that she did.

Thomas Kinsman, one of the characters in *The Long Song*, the last novel that Andrea wrote, describes at the beginning of the book how his mama, a Jamaican woman called July, "... had a story – a story that lay so fat within her breast that she felt impelled, by some force that was mightier than her own will, to relay this tale". It's a description that fits the author herself rather well. Andrea made a good graphic designer, she could think visually and had great ideas; but now she had a story, the story of her own heritage, and she wasn't going to be able to tell that through graphic design.

She began to write. Just little scenes, memories from her childhood. She joined an afternoon-a-week writing course. I guess I would have said nice things whatever she read to me, but I soon found I didn't need to flatter her. I remember her reading out an early story, just a snippet, where I laughed out loud and then welled up with tears within the space of a single paragraph. Wow, I thought, how did she do that?



Andrea Levy and Bill Mayblin in 2004. Photograph: Bill Mayblin



By pairing solar power and battery storage, hybrids can keep providing electricity after dark. Petmal via Getty

Meet the power plant of the future: Solar + battery hybrids are poised for explosive growth

Published: April 25, 2022 8:10am EDT

Joachim Seel, Bentham Paulos, Will Gorman, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

America's electric power system is undergoing radical change as it transitions from fossil fuels to renewable energy. While the first decade of the 2000s saw huge growth in natural gas generation, and the 2010s were the decade of wind and solar, early signs suggest the innovation of the 2020s may be a boom in "hybrid" power plants. A typical hybrid power plant combines electricity generation with battery storage at the same location. That often means a solar or wind farm paired with large-scale batteries. Working together, solar panels and battery storage can generate renewable power when solar energy is at its peak during the day and then release it as needed after the sun goes down. A look at the power and storage projects in the development pipeline offers a glimpse of hybrid power's future.

Our team at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory found that a staggering 1,400 gigawatts of proposed generation and storage projects have applied to connect to the grid – more than all existing U.S. power plants combined. A third of these projects involve hybrid solar plus storage plants. While these power plants of the future offer many benefits, they also raise questions about how the electric grid should best be operated. **Why hybrids are hot:** As wind and solar grow, they are starting to have big impacts on the grid. Solar power already exceeds 25% of annual power generation in California and is spreading rapidly in other states such as Texas, Florida and Georgia. The "wind belt" states, from the Dakotas to Texas, have seen massive deployment of wind turbines, with Iowa now getting a majority of its power from the wind.

This high percentage of renewable power raises a question: How do we integrate renewable sources that produce large but varying amounts of power throughout the day? That's where storage comes in. Lithium-ion battery prices have rapidly fallen as production has scaled up for the electric vehicle market in recent years. While there are concerns about future supply chain challenges, battery design is also likely to evolve. The combination of solar and batteries allows hybrid plant operators to provide power through the most valuable hours when demand is strongest, such as summer afternoons and evenings when air conditioners are running on high. Batteries also help smooth out production from wind and solar power, store excess power that would otherwise be curtailed, and reduce congestion on the grid. **Hybrids dominate the project pipeline:** At the end of 2020, there were 73 solar and 16 wind hybrid projects operating in the U.S., amounting to 2.5 gigawatts of generation and 0.45 gigawatts of storage.

Today, solar and hybrids dominate the development pipeline. By the end of 2021, more than 675 gigawatts of proposed solar plants had applied for grid connection approval, with over a third of them paired with storage. Another 247 gigawatts of wind farms were in line, with 19 gigawatts, or about 8% of those, as hybrids. Of course, applying for a connection is only one step in developing a power plant. A developer also needs land and community agreements, a sales contract, financing and permits. Only about one in four new plants proposed between 2010 and 2016 made it to commercial operation. But the depth of interest in hybrid plants portends strong growth. In markets like California, batteries are essentially obligatory for new solar developers. Since solar often accounts for the majority of power in the daytime market, building more adds little value. Currently 95% of all proposed large-scale solar capacity in the California queue comes with batteries. **5 lessons on hybrids and questions for the future:** *The opportunity for growth in renewable hybrids is clearly large, but it raises some questions that our group at Berkeley Lab has been investigating.*

Here are some of our top findings:

- The investment pays off in many regions. We found that while adding batteries to a solar power plant increases the price, it also increases the value of the power. Putting generation and storage in the same location can capture benefits from tax credits, construction cost savings and operational flexibility. Looking at the revenue potential over recent years, and with the help of federal tax credits, the added value appears to justify the higher price.
- Co-location also means tradeoffs. Wind and solar perform best where the wind and solar resources are strongest, but batteries provide the most value where they can deliver the greatest grid benefits, like relieving congestion. That means there are trade-offs when determining the best location with the highest value. Federal tax credits that can be earned only when batteries are co-located with solar may be encouraging suboptimal decisions in some cases.
- There is no one best combination. The value of a hybrid plant is determined in part by the configuration of the equipment. For example, the size of the battery relative to a solar generator can determine how late into the evening the plant can deliver power. But the value of nighttime power depends on local market conditions, which change throughout the year.
- Power market rules need to evolve. Hybrids can participate in the power market as a single unit or as separate entities, with the solar and storage bidding independently. Hybrids can also be either sellers or buyers of power, or both. That can get complicated. Market participation rules for hybrids are still evolving, leaving plant operators to experiment with how they sell their services.
- Small hybrids create new opportunities: Hybrid power plants can also be small, such as solar and batteries in a home or business. Such hybrids have become standard in Hawaii as solar power saturates the grid. In California, customers who are subject to power shutoffs to prevent wildfires are increasingly adding storage to their solar systems. These "behind-the-meter" hybrids raise questions about how they should be valued, and how they can contribute to grid operations.

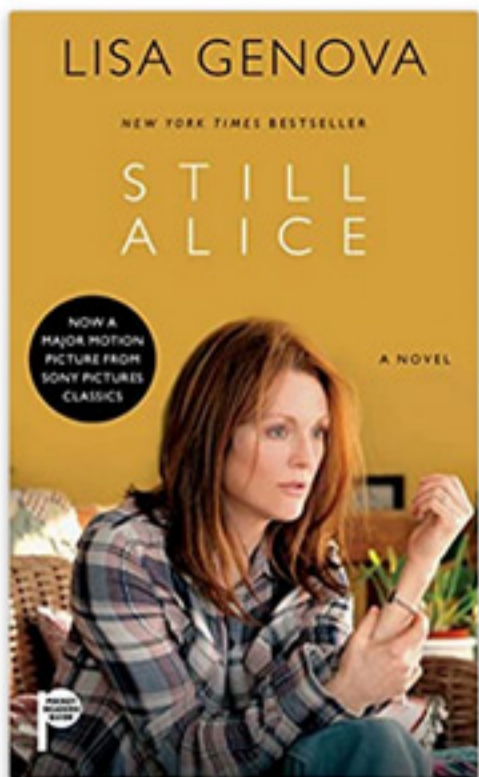
Hybrids are just beginning, but a lot more are on the way. More research is needed on the technologies, market designs and regulations to ensure the grid and grid pricing evolve with them. While questions remain, it's clear that hybrids are redefining power plants. And they may remake the U.S. power system in the process.

Climate change Renewable energy Solar power Solar Energy
Energy storage Batteries Innovation Clean energy Global warming
Renewables Solar energy Power grid Battery storage PV solar



Jersey Mike's Subs

8590 Rio San Diego Dr Suite #109, San Diego, CA 92108



Still Alice Mass Market Paperback – December 16, 2014

by [Lisa Genova](#) (Author)

★★★★☆ 10,473 ratings

From *New York Times* bestselling author and neuroscientist Lisa Genova comes the definitive—and illuminating—novel about Alzheimer's disease. Now a major motion picture starring Oscar winner Julianne Moore! Look for Lisa Genova's latest novel *Inside the O'Briens*.

Alice Howland is proud of the life she worked so hard to build. At fifty years old, she's a cognitive psychology professor at Harvard and a world-renowned expert in linguistics with a successful husband and three grown children. When she becomes increasingly disoriented and forgetful, a tragic diagnosis changes her life—and her relationship with her family and the world—forever. As she struggles to cope with Alzheimer's, she learns that her worth is comprised of far more than her ability to remember.

At once beautiful and terrifying, *Still Alice* is a moving and vivid depiction of life with early-onset Alzheimer's disease that is as compelling as *A Beautiful Mind* and as unforgettable as *Ordinary People*.

Lisa's first TED talk, What You Can Do To Prevent Alzheimer's, has been viewed over 5 million times. Her latest TED talk, How Memory Works (and Why Forgetting Normal), will be released April 21, 2021.



- 11:39 Let's say it's about me.
- 11:41 You know that Lisa Genova wrote "Still Alice,"
- 11:43 and that's the only thing you know about me.
- 11:46 You have that single neural connection,
- 11:48 that one synapse.
- 11:50 Now imagine you have Alzheimer's.
- 11:52 You have plaques and tangles and inflammation
- 11:55 and microglia devouring that synapse.
- 13:44 And you are more than what you can remember.



Lisa Genova: How your memory works -- and why forgetting is totally OK | TED

Still Alice is a 2007 novel by Lisa Genova, a neuroscientist and author. The novel is about a woman who suffers early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Alice Howland, a 50-year-old woman, is a cognitive psychology professor at Harvard University and is a world-renowned linguistics expert. [Wikipedia](#)

What you can do to prevent Alzheimer's | Lisa Genova

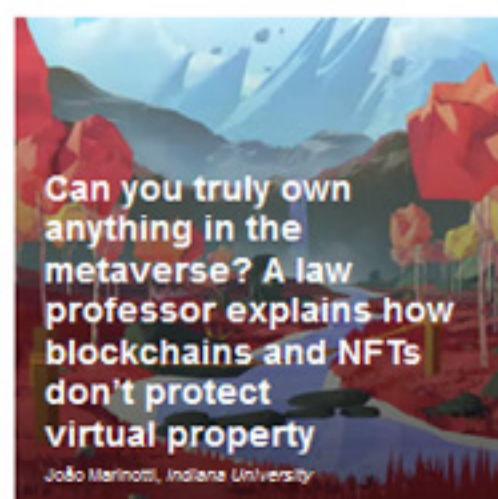
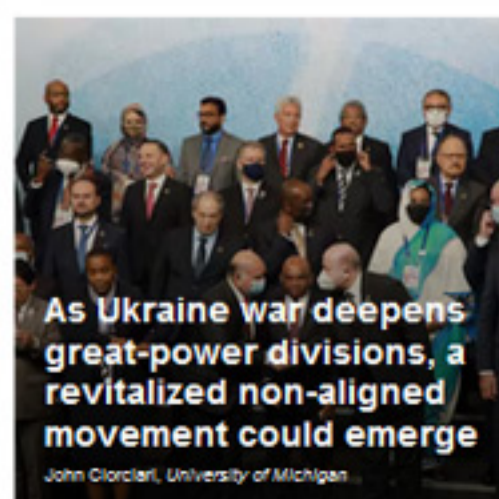
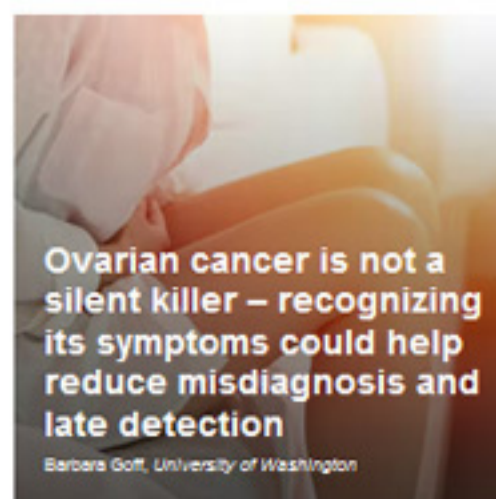
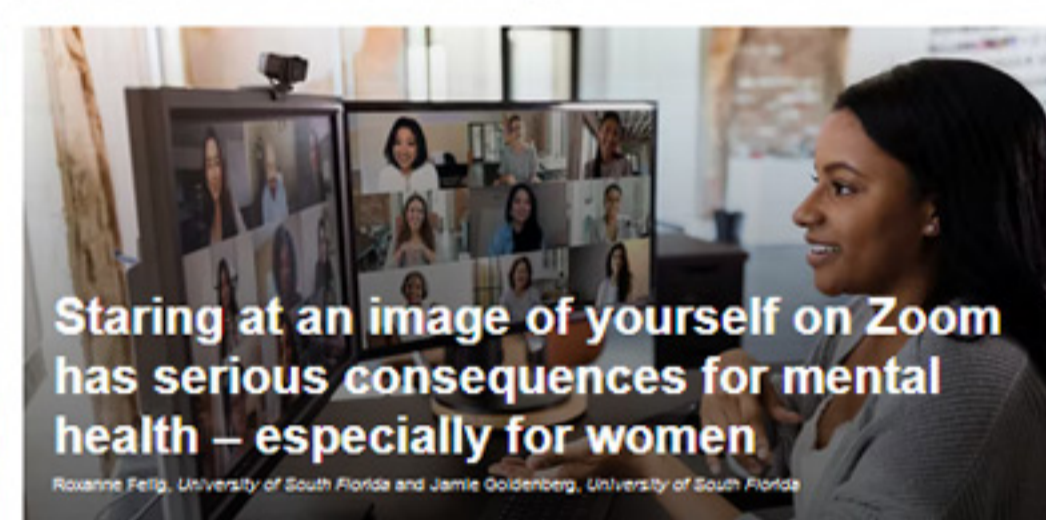
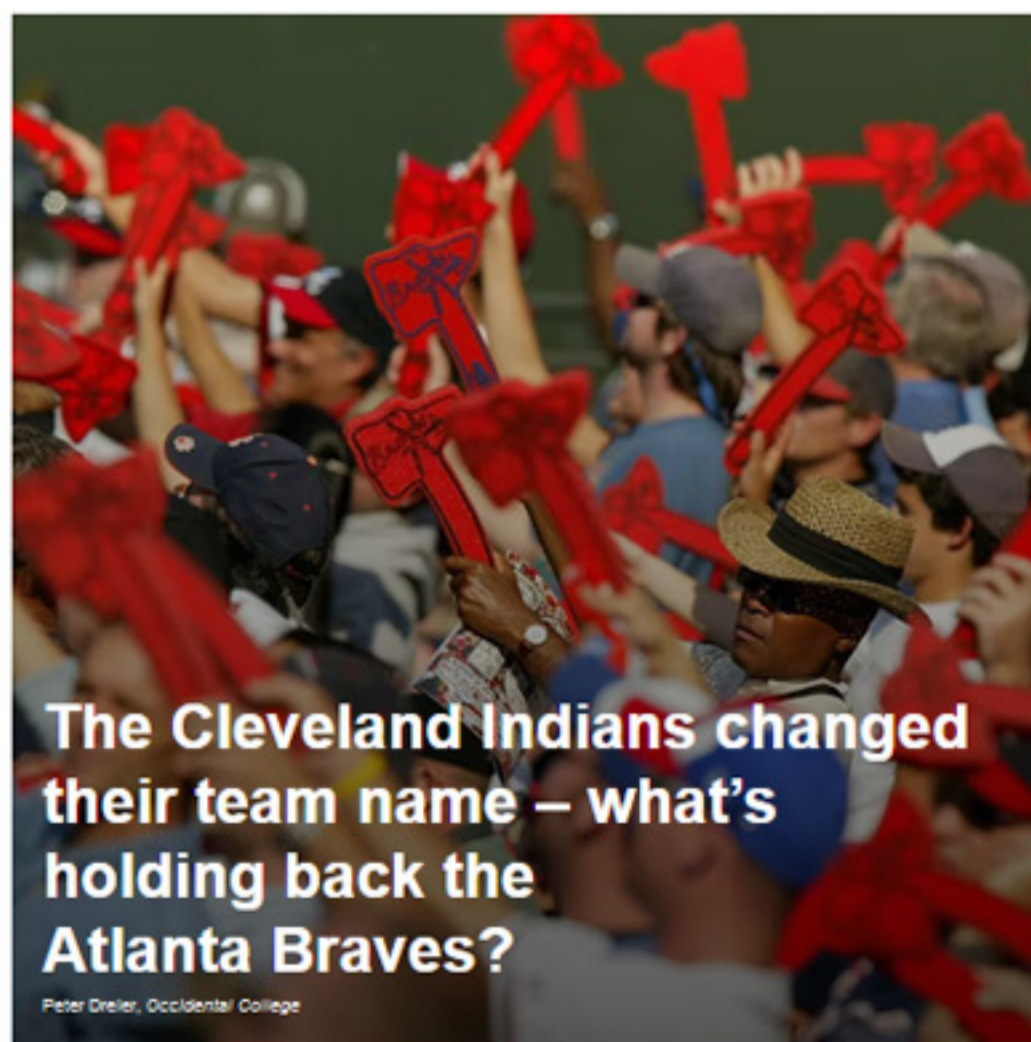
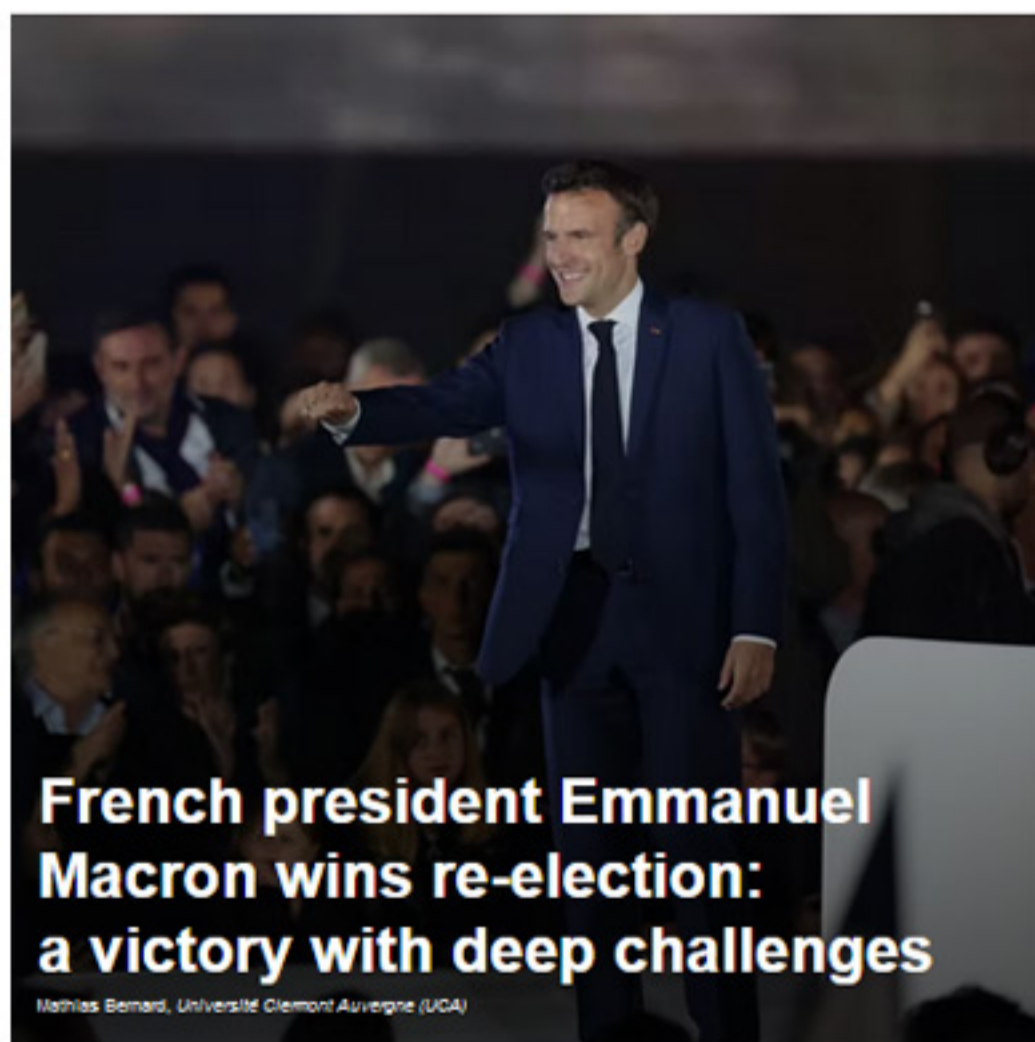
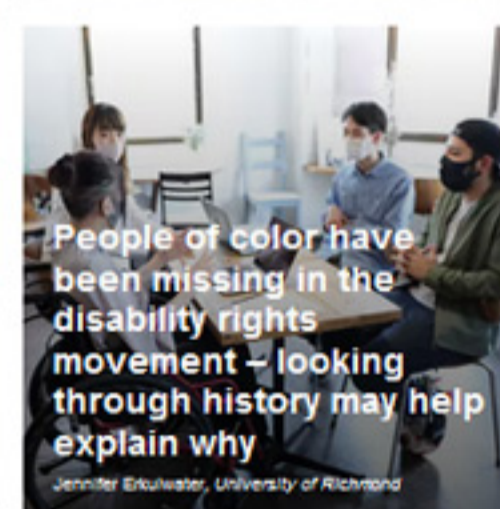
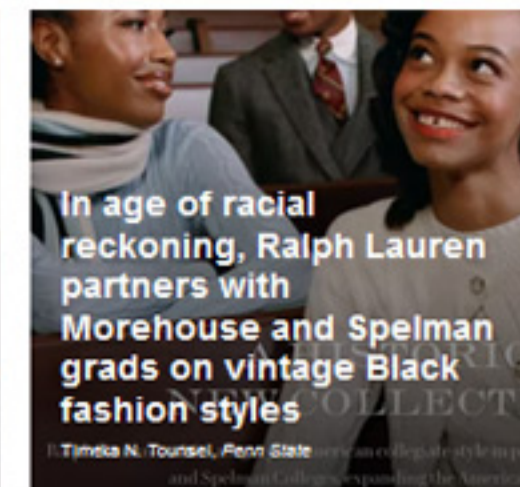
2,544,647 views • May 19, 2017

44K



TED 21.1M subscribers

Alzheimer's doesn't have to be your brain's destiny, says neuroscientist and author of "Still Alice," Lisa Genova. She shares the latest science investigating the disease -- and some promising research on what each of us can do to build an Alzheimer's-resistant brain.





SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Brain scans may reveal a lot about mental illness, but not until studies get bigger

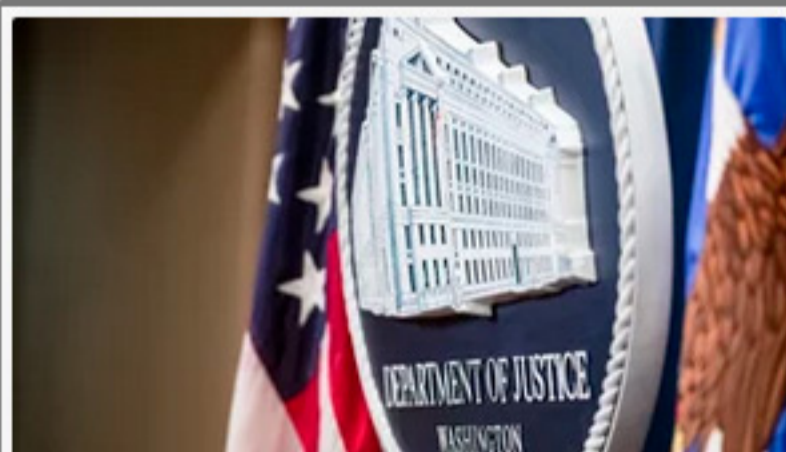
MRI scans have allowed researchers to peer inside the human brain. And the technology is great at revealing damage from a stroke, or areas that light up when we see a face. But brain scan studies have yet to offer much insight into the underpinnings of traits like intelligence, or mental health conditions like anxiety and depression. A key reason is that these studies need to include scans of thousands of brains, instead of the dozens typically used, a team reported in the March 16 issue of the journal Nature.



NATIONAL

Florida man asks schools to ban the Bible following the state's efforts to remove books

A Florida activist known for his tongue-in-cheek petitions to local government agencies has asked school districts in Florida to ban the Bible. In petitions sent to public school superintendents across the state, Stevens asked the districts to "immediately remove the Bible from the classroom, library, and any instructional material," Chaz Stevens wrote in the documents, which were shared with NPR. "Additionally, I also seek the banishment of any book that references the Bible." His petitions cited a bill signed into law last month by Gov. Ron DeSantis, which lets parents object to educational materials. That bill came about after some parents complained about sexually explicit books being taught in Florida schools.



NATIONAL


Biden says he will grant millions to jobs, housing for formerly incarcerated people

The Biden administration unveiled a plan Tuesday that will allocate \$145 million to developing "reentry plans" for incarcerated persons, which would connect them to resources, such as jobs, housing and loans upon being released. The plan is the latest Biden initiative to tackle criminal justice reform that the president made part of his 2020 presidential campaign. Reentry plans should begin as soon as a person is incarcerated and no later than 18 months before a person's sentence is complete, Biden's office said. Biden said in a statement that "...helping those who served their time return to their families and become contributing members of their communities is one of the most effective ways to reduce recidivism and decrease crime." The plan will mostly be funded by grants, according to the proposal.

Gregory Joseph Gillespie (November 29, 1936 – April 26, 2000) was an American [magic realist](#) painter.

Magic realism (also known as magical realism or marvelous realism) is a 20th-century style of fiction and literary genre. The term was influenced by a German painting style of the 1920s given the same name. As a literary fiction style, magic realism paints a realistic view of the world while also adding magical elements, often dealing with the blurring of the lines between fantasy and reality

Gregory Gillespie

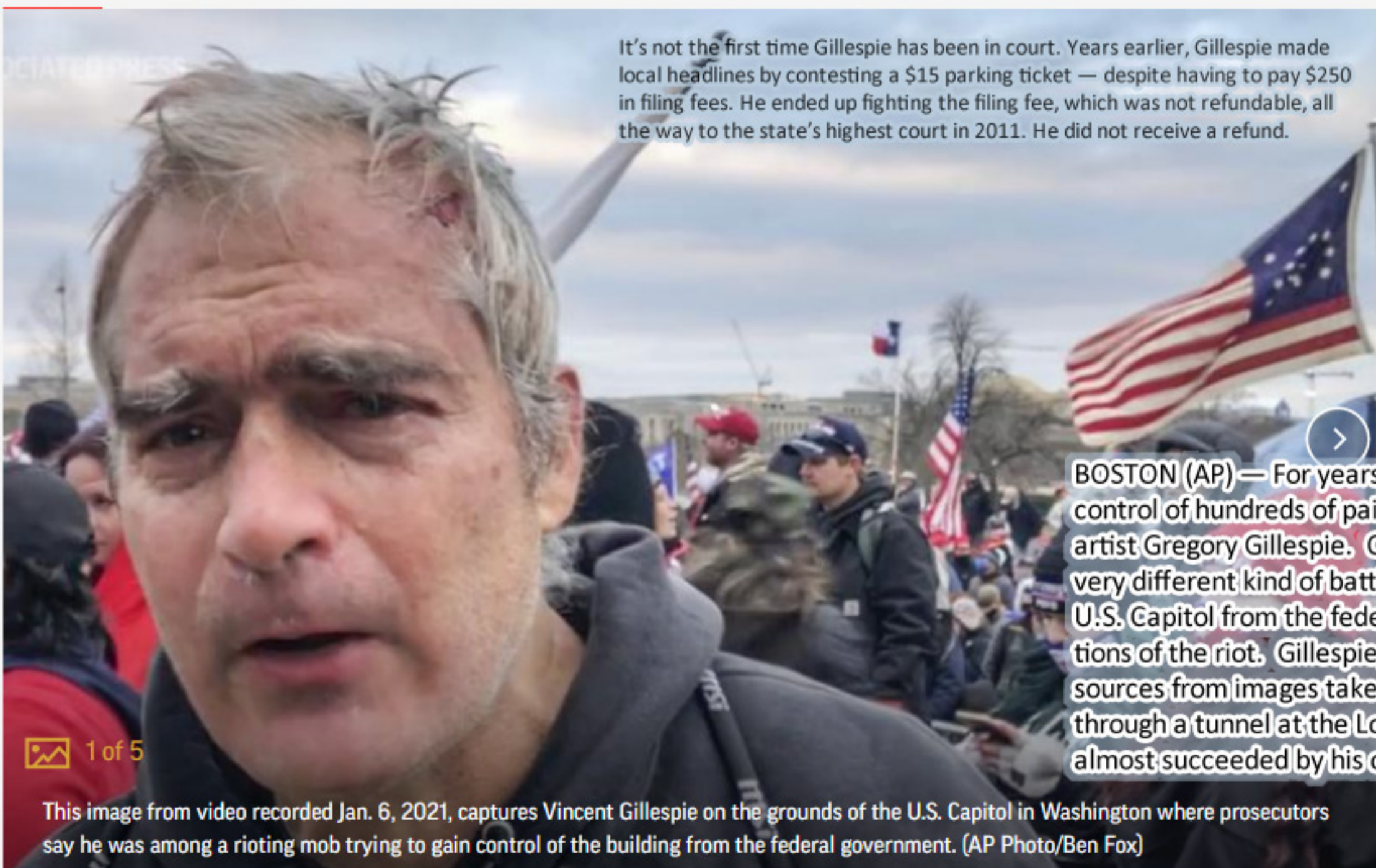


Gillespie with self-portrait in his Rome studio c. 1969

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Born | November 29, 1936 Roselle Park, New Jersey |
| Died | April 26, 2000 (aged 63) Belchertown, Massachusetts |
| Nationality | American |
| Education | San Francisco Art Institute |
| Known for | Painting |

Son of famed American artist charged in Jan. 6 Capitol riot


By STEVE LeBLANC and BEN FOX today



It's not the first time Gillespie has been in court. Years earlier, Gillespie made local headlines by contesting a \$15 parking ticket — despite having to pay \$250 in filing fees. He ended up fighting the filing fee, which was not refundable, all the way to the state's highest court in 2011. He did not receive a refund.

BOSTON (AP) — For years, Vincent Gillespie waged a legal battle to try to gain control of hundreds of paintings by his father — renowned postwar American artist Gregory Gillespie. On Jan. 6, 2021, prosecutors say, Gillespie engaged in a very different kind of battle, joining rioters as they tried to wrest control of the U.S. Capitol from the federal government in one of the most violent confrontations of the riot. Gillespie, who investigators say was identified by half a dozen sources from images taken that day, was among a mob trying to force its way through a tunnel at the Lower West Terrace of the Capitol — an assault that almost succeeded by his own description.

This image from video recorded Jan. 6, 2021, captures Vincent Gillespie on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol in Washington where prosecutors say he was among a rioting mob trying to gain control of the building from the federal government. (AP Photo/Ben Fox)

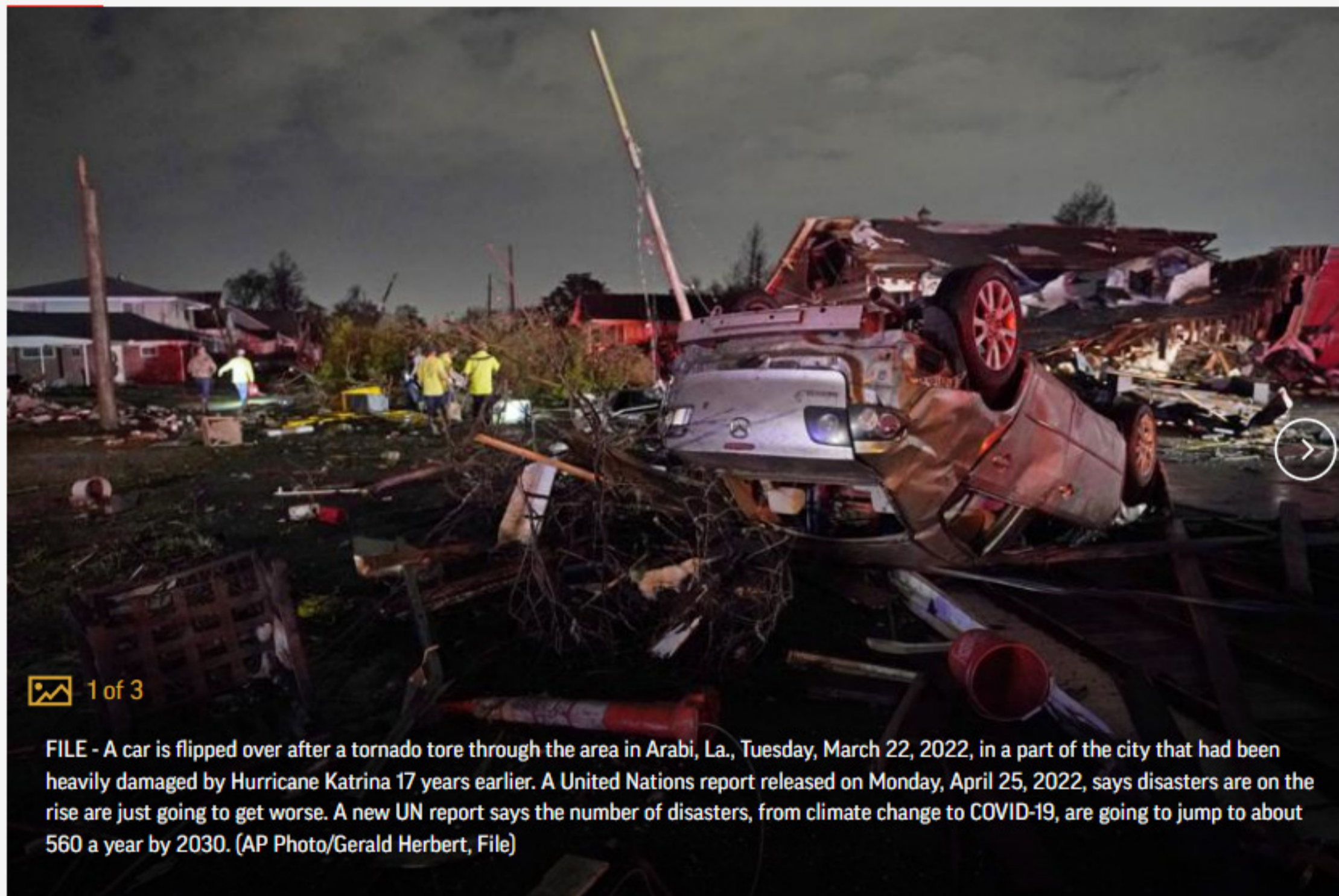
 **Magical thinking**, or superstitious thinking, is the belief that unrelated events are causally connected despite the absence of any plausible causal link between them, particularly as a result of supernatural effects. Examples include the idea that personal thoughts can influence the external world without acting on them, or that objects must be causally connected if they resemble each other or came in contact with each other in the past. Magical thinking is a type of fallacious thinking and is a common source of invalid causal inferences. Unlike the confusion of correlation with causation, magical thinking does not require the events to be correlated.

~https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magical_thinking

“We were almost overpowering them,” Gillespie, blood visible on his scalp from the clash, told an Associated Press journalist at the scene that day. “If you had like another 15, 20 guys behind us pushing I think we could have won it.” The AP video that captured a flushed Gillespie that day milling about outside the Capitol speaking defiantly about his role in the attack — and his lament that more like-minded individuals didn’t join the fight — reveal both the depth of resolve of many of the rioters, and the uncertainty others felt about just what they would do once inside the building.

Weary of many disasters? UN says worse to come

By SETH BORENSTEIN today



1 of 3

FILE - A car is flipped over after a tornado tore through the area in Arabi, La., Tuesday, March 22, 2022, in a part of the city that had been heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina 17 years earlier. A United Nations report released on Monday, April 25, 2022, says disasters are on the rise and are just going to get worse. A new UN report says the number of disasters, from climate change to COVID-19, are going to jump to about 560 a year by 2030. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert, File)

A disaster-weary globe will be hit harder in the coming years by even more catastrophes colliding in an interconnected world, a United Nations report issued Monday says.

If current trends continue the world will go from around 400 disasters per year in 2015 to an onslaught of about 560 catastrophes a year by 2030, the scientific report by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction said. By comparison from 1970 to 2000, the world suffered just 90 to 100 medium to large scale disasters a year, the report said.

The number of extreme heat waves in 2030 will be three times what it was in 2001 and there will be 30% more droughts, the report predicted. It's not just natural disasters amplified by climate change, it's COVID-19, economic meltdowns and food shortages. Climate change has a huge footprint in the number of disasters, report authors said.

People have not grasped how much disasters already cost today, said Mami Mizutori, chief of the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction, "If we don't get ahead of the curve it will reach a point where we cannot manage the consequences of disaster," she said. "We're just in this vicious cycle."

The report calls for an overhaul in how we speak about risk. For example, instead of asking about the chances of a disaster happening this year, say 5%, officials should think about the chances over a 25-year period, which makes it quite likely. Talking about 100-year floods or chances of something happening a couple times in 100 years makes it seem distant, Mizutori said.



Mami Mizutori

Japanese diplomat

Mami Mizutori is a Japanese diplomat. She has been the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction since March 2018. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: November 1960 (age 61 years), [Tokyo, Japan](#)

Nationality: Japanese

Education: [Hitotsubashi University](#)



#seafood #thebluerevolution #fisheries

Seafood - The Blue Revolution, with Nicholas P. Sullivan

3,706 views • Apr 21, 2022



Nicholas P. Sullivan is my guest on Episode 158 of Inside Ideas with Marc Buckley.

Nicholas is a writer and editor focusing on the impact of business and technology on international development. The Blue Revolution is his fourth book. The Blue Revolution tells the story of the recent transformation of commercial fishing: an encouraging change from maximizing volume through unrestrained wild hunting to maximizing value through controlled harvesting and farming. Entrepreneurs applying newer, smarter technologies are modernizing fisheries in unprecedented ways. In many parts of the world, the seafood on our plates is increasingly the product of smart decisions about ecosystems, waste, efficiency, transparency, and quality.

Sullivan, 28:24: I heard someone from the nature conservancy head of aquaculture the other day which is focusing on you know shellfish and kelp, which is quite restorative to waters doesn't use food and so forth and he said that 70 percent of the marine aquaculture or mariculture now is shellfish and kelp, which is you know very healthy for the oceans **Sullivan, 33:06:** blue revolution is that and they of course refer to it as a farming, farming should be either near shore shellfish and kelp or offshore finfish or land-based, you know water tanks -- all the new fin fish farms in the u.s now basically are these land-based recirculating aquaculture systems which are basically huge tanks of water, 95% of which is purified and recirculated. So the jury is still a little bit out on the economics of those systems but it does remove a lot of the issues of the environmental issues from the ocean and you know in a much more controlled environment on land but they're very high tech, kind of wastewater systems or life support systems, highly automated with machine learning and sensors and um automatic feeding. so there's probably more you know technology going into the farming than there is into the wild capture at the moment. **Sullivan, 1:11:40:** uh yeah the shellfish and the kelp that I mentioned, the nature conservancy said that 70% of the marine or the mariculture is bivalves and kelp and it's very restorative, um you know, it cleans up near shore waters it excess nitrogen and kelp is a buffer against CO2 it absorbs CO2 and they've been in in you know maine mussel farmers will tell you that growing kelp and mussels together or in close proximity the mussel shells are much stronger and grow faster because they're not getting this the acidity is being absorbed by the kelp and it means the meats grow plumper and faster because the acidity is a major concern on shell building and more so with mussels than oysters even though it's a thinner shell.



- 00:00 - Seafood - The Blue Revolution
- 00:45 - Introduction Inside Ideas guest Nicholas P. Sullivan on Episode 158 with Marc Buckley
- 03:25 - Knowledge about the Ocean
- 05:25 - Food security
- 08:35 - The Blue Revolution - Hunting, Harvesting, and Farming Seafood in the Information Age
- 09:15 - OURZ - traceability through blockchain
- 10:10 - The Codfather story
- 13:20 - Policies and catch quotas
- 14:25 - Global Fishing watch
- 16:38 - Is it possible to fish on a post-industrial scale?
- 18:05 - Bycatch
- 28:05 - Farmed fish
- 33:00 - About Blue Revolution
- 38:35 - Eating with the Ecosystem
- 44:07 - Food as a commodity
- 46:05 - Local fish markets
- 51:55 - Cod Survey technique - Emerging tools
- 56:19 - Forms of food production
- 58:44 - Better models
- 1:03:40 - Fish for a small planet
- 1:09:19 - The Limits to Growth book
- 1:11:40 - Restorative for the Ocean
- 1:12:40 - Climate change impact on the sea
- 1:16:14 - Microplastic in our food
- 1:21:46 - The Seafood print metric
- 1:24:18 - Level of marine extinction
- 1:30:03 - What does a world that works for everyone look like for you?
- 1:31:31 - Sustainable Takeaway
- 1:35:11 - What I wish I knew from the start



Aquatic Network

Resources for Aquaculture & Aquaponics



Israel

Fish production in Israel is divided into two main areas, marine (the Mediterranean and the Red seas) and freshwater (Lake Kinneret-Sea of Galilee). Total fishery production in the 2016 was about 16 500 tonnes. The bulk of production comes from aquaculture (91 percent), capture production from the Mediterranean accounts for 6 percent and the inland water fisheries for 2 percent, whereas catches from the Red Sea are marginal. (Source: [FAO](#))

- [Aquaculture in Israel](#)
- [Aquaculture in Israel: Current Status and Innovative Approaches](#)
- [Aquaculture Tour – Fish Farming in Israel](#)
- [Aquafarming - Israel Agricultural Technology Hub](#)
- [Aquaponics: Farming with the Fish](#)
- [Development of Polyculture and Integrated Multi - Trophic Aquaculture \(IMTA\) in Israel](#)
- [Israeli Firm’s ‘Plug-and-play’ RAS Solution Attracts Investment](#)
- [Israel sees Aquaculture as Engine for Growth](#)
- [Israeli Systems Aiding Fish Farmers in Congo and Indonesia](#)
- [Israeli Technology Behind Europe's Largest Fish Farm](#)
- [Overview on Desert Aquaculture in Israel](#)
- [Overview of Fish Culture in Israel](#)
- [Sustainable Aquaculture in the Mediterranean Sea](#)
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Located in
Jacksonville, FL

The 'Codfather' was a seafood kingpin, until fake Russian mobsters took him down. Now he'll never fish again.



By [Antonia Noori Farzan](#) August 20, 2019



Carlos Rafael, seen at Homer's Wharf in 2014 in New Bedford, Mass. (John Sladewski/New Bedford Standard-Times/AP)

... the agents were there as part of a joint operation between the IRS and NOAA, and in February 2016, Rafael was arrested during a raid at his New Bedford warehouse. He pleaded guilty in March 2017 to falsifying fish quotas, tax evasion, and conspiracy, saying that he wanted "to get this over with," and was sentenced to 46 months in prison. "I did it because I wanted to make sure my people kept getting a paycheck," he wrote in a statement that was read out loud by his attorney at the sentencing hearing. "The waterfront is a hard world we work in."

Once behind bars, Rafael still faced a lawsuit from NOAA. The pending litigation meant that his boats were grounded and their crews went without work, which had a devastating ripple effect on New Bedford's economy. Under the terms of Monday's settlement, Rafael will be allowed to sell those boats and keep the proceeds. The resolution, New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell told The Washington Post in a statement, "enables the Port of New Bedford to turn the page on the Carlos Rafael saga."



Nicholas P. Sullivan [Follow](#)

Oct 14, 2019 · 16 min read · [Listen](#)

Sacred Cod, Sustainable Scallops

"It is the same old story. The buffalo is gone; the whale is disappearing; the seal fishery is threatened with destruction. Fish need protection." *Edwin W. Gould, Maine's fishery commissioner, 1892*



"I am a pirate," Carlos Rafael once told a group of federal regulators at a Fisheries Management Council meeting. "It's your job to catch me." And they did.

Rafael, aka the Codfather, was one of the most successful fishermen on the East Coast. He owned more than 50 boats, both scallopers and ground-fishing vessels, in New Bedford, the #1 value fishing port in the US. All the boats were emblazoned with his trademark "CR."

In 2016, after an undercover sting, he was arrested on charges of conspiracy and submitting falsified records to the federal government to evade federal fishing quotas. In addition to his boats, the Codfather owned processors and distributors on the docks. When he caught fish subject to strict catch limits, like cod, he would report it as haddock, or some other plentiful species. He got away with it, at least for a while, because he laundered the illegal fish through his own wholesalers, and others at the now defunct Fulton Street Fish Market in New York City.

"We call them something else, it's simple," Mr. Rafael told undercover cops who feigned interest in buying his business. "We've been doing it for over 30 years."

He described a deal he had gone with a New York fish buyer, saying at one point

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

GOVERNOR

Mariana B. Dawson | NO PARTY PREFERENCE

F all politicians.



<https://www.marianadawsonforgovernor.com/>

Mariana Dawson for California Governor

F means Forget. Don't be dirty-minded.

Not Accepting Donations.



I am a self-made woman of mixed heritage – half Creole, half Salvadorean – who has worked across a full spectrum of California jobs, from low wage worker to C-level executive. I have no political resume or affiliations. I have lived in the city, and in a rural community. I am not a millionaire. I value success and successful people, but do not support corporate monopolies.

I am one Californian ready to take a stand and work toward solutions that are doable and that prioritize harmony of life for everyday people in our state. Winning means real help is coming. And losing will only make me fight harder for my economic existence, and my ability to stay in the state I love.

There are others like me who are ready to help, and, win or lose, here we come.

Primary Election

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Polls Are Open From 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day!



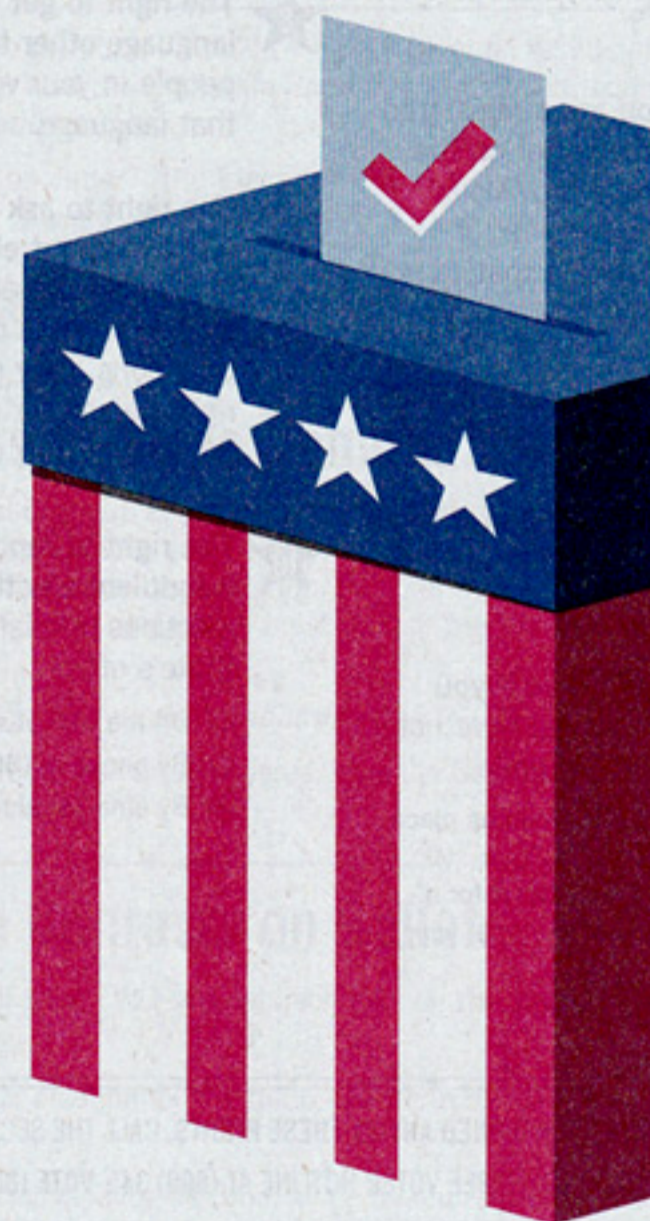
VOTE SAFE CALIFORNIA

Every registered voter in California will receive a vote-by-mail ballot in the Primary Election. County elections officials will begin mailing vote-by-mail ballots on or before May 9.

Drop boxes open May 10.

In-person voting options will be available in all counties.

Learn more inside.



Official Voter Information Guide



Certificate of Correctness

I, Shirley N. Weber, Secretary of State of the State of California, do hereby certify that the information included herein will be submitted to the electors of the State of California at the Primary Election to be held throughout the State on June 7, 2022, and that this guide has been correctly prepared in accordance with the law. Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the State in Sacramento, California, this 14th day of March, 2022.

Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D.
Secretary of State

★ You may request additional copies of the Official Voter Information Guide by contacting your county elections official or by calling (800) 345-VOTE (8683). ★

The statements and opinions expressed by the candidates are their own. Statements have not been checked for accuracy and do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Secretary of State's office. The order of the statements was determined by randomized drawing. Each statement was submitted and paid for by the candidate. A candidate who did not submit a statement may be otherwise qualified to appear on the ballot.

Harvard releases report detailing its ties to slavery, plans to issue reparations

April 27, 2022 - 5:53 AM ET

AYANA ARCHIE



A general view of Harvard University campus is seen on April 22, 2020 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Harvard University has released a report detailing the school's involvement in the U.S. slave trade, including faculty and staff owning slaves and professors teaching racial eugenics.

In 2019, Harvard President Lawrence Bacow formed a committee that included representatives from all the schools on campus, and asked them to uncover Harvard's ties to slavery. The committee's work should "have a strong grounding in rigorous research and critical perspectives that will inform not only our understanding of facts, but also how we might address the ramifications of what we learn," he said at the time. The committee found that Harvard faculty and staff enslaved 70 people from the school's founding in 1636 to the banning of slavery in Massachusetts in 1783. Some of those who were enslaved lived on campus and were responsible for providing care for Harvard's presidents, professors and students. Additionally, the report discovered many of the university's donors profited directly from the slave trade in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Some used labor from enslaved people in the Caribbean and the American South. Others obtained their wealth from selling goods to plantations. Donors in the textile industry sourced cotton that was grown by enslaved persons. "During the first half of the 19th century, more than a third of the money donated or promised to Harvard by private individuals came from just five men who made their fortunes from slavery and slave-produced commodities," the report said. The university also heavily supported the study of eugenics, the concept of encouraging selective breeding for the purpose of purifying the human race.

Dudley Allen Sargent, director of Harvard's Hemenway Gymnasium from 1879 to 1919, "implemented a 'physical education' program that involved intrusive physical examinations, anthropometric measurements, and the photographing of unclothed Harvard and Radcliffe students," according to the study. The school has made a plan to administer some form of reparations

Harvard outlined several next steps it said it would take in an attempt to atone for its involvement in the slave trade, including monetary reparations for Black and Indigenous students who are descendants of enslaved persons in the U.S.

"The profound harm caused by the university's entanglements with slavery and its legacies cannot be valued in monetary terms alone," the study said. "Nevertheless, financial expenditures are a necessary predicate to and foundation for redress."

The Legacy of Slavery Fund will be kept in an endowment "strategically invested to support implementation of these recommendations," the report said.

The Ivy League school also plans to further partner with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) through initiatives, such as appointing visiting HBCU professors to Harvard for one year and subsidizing summer, semester or yearlong studies at Harvard for HBCU students.

The school said it is working to identify Black and Indigenous students who are direct descendants of people enslaved in the U.S.

"We further recommend that, in recognition of this lineage, the university engage with these descendants through dialogue, programming, information sharing, relationship building, and educational support," it said.

The recommendations will be evaluated through annual reports, Harvard said.



Musk's Twitter ambitions to collide with Europe's tech rules
<https://apnews.com/article/elon-musk-...>

INDEPENDENT
 Susan Collins says that Trump should get his Twitter back
 14 hours ago




Typically when people hear about **plastic pollution**, they might envision seabirds with bellies full of trash or sea turtles with plastic straws in their noses. However, plastic pollution poses another threat that's invisible to the eye and has important consequences for both human and animal health. Microplastics, tiny plastic particles present in many cosmetics, can form when larger materials, such as clothing or fishing nets, break down in water. Microplastics are now widespread in the ocean and have been found in fish and shellfish, including those that people eat. As researchers studying how water-borne pathogens spread, we wanted to better understand what happens when microplastics and disease-causing pathogens end up in the same body of water. In our recent study published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, we found that pathogens from land can hitch a ride to the beach on microscopic pieces of plastic, providing a new way for germs to concentrate along coastlines and travel to the deep sea.

=====
Elon Musk, the world's richest person, acquired Twitter in a US\$44 billion deal on April 25, 2022, 11 days after announcing his bid for the company. Twitter announced that the public company will become privately held after the acquisition is complete. In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission for his initial bid for the company, Musk stated, "I invested in Twitter as I believe in its potential to be the platform for free speech around the globe, and I believe free speech is a societal imperative for a functioning democracy." As a researcher of social media platforms, I find that Musk's ownership of Twitter and his stated reasons for buying the company raise important issues. Those issues stem from the nature of the social media platform and what sets it apart from others.

=====
Domestic abuse can involve one parent using a child as a weapon against the other parent, which harms the child in immense ways. My research has identified how these dynamics play out and examines the damage. There are approximately 5.7 million cases of domestic abuse in the U.S. each year, and in some of those, mothers and fathers use children to manipulate and harm the other parent. This behavior can include directly pressuring the child to spy on the abused parent or threatening the abused parent that they will never see the child again if they leave the relationship. Another way a parent can use a child as a weapon involves turning the child against the other parent. In this case, the abuser makes the child believe the other parent never loved them, abandoned them or is dangerous and unsafe to be around. In this way, the abuser corrupts the child's reality, even convincing the child that the abuser is the victim of abuse. The outcome of this process is what psychologists like me call "parental alienation." The child feels betrayed, hurt and very angry toward the alienated parent – much like a spurned lover, but worse, because it involves a parent the child had a primary attachment to and who comprises half of their identity. What happens next is a cascade of losses associated with great harm to children.

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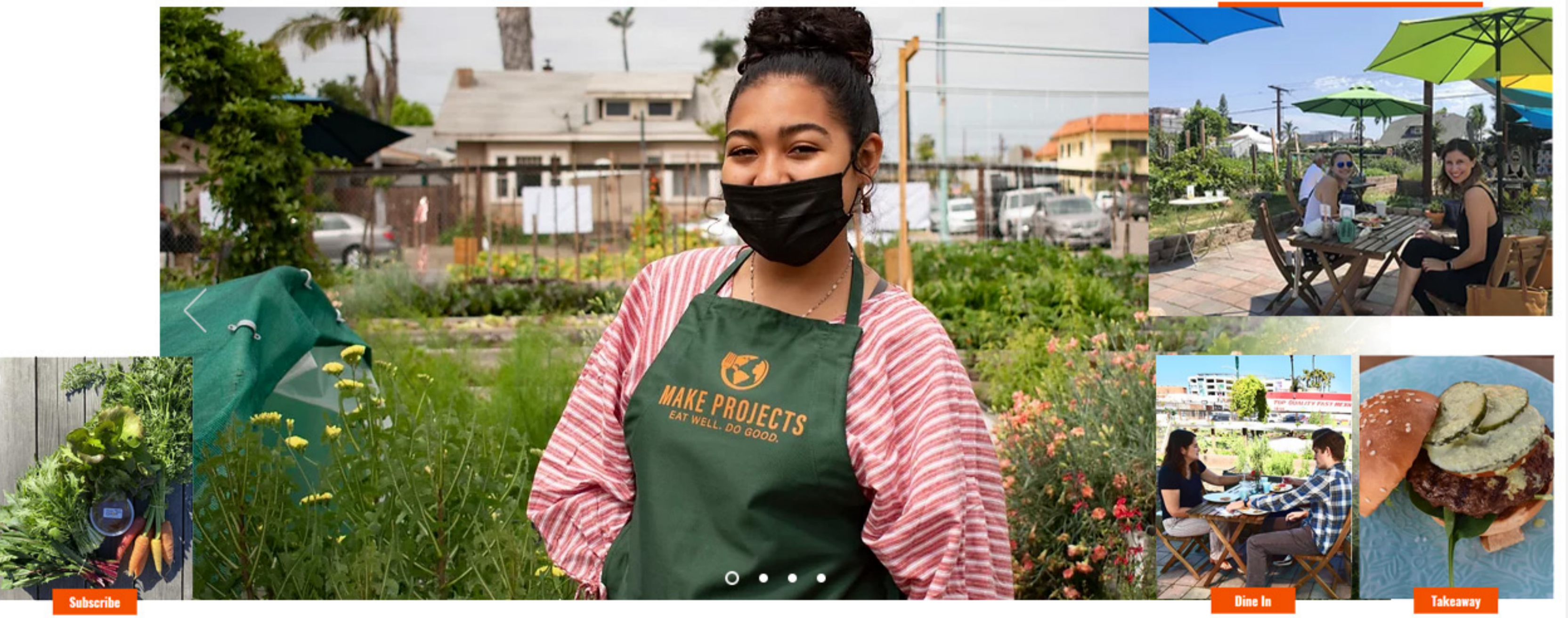
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Executive Director



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MAKE Projects is an employment social enterprise. We operate an urban farm, restaurant, and events/catering company to provide a paid, real-world work experience for low-income refugee and immigrant women and youth. Our mission is to provide our trainees with job readiness skills to help them achieve their dreams.

One-fifth of reptiles worldwide face risk of extinction

By CHRISTINA LARSON today



Similar prior assessments had been conducted for mammals, birds and amphibians, informing government decisions about how to draw boundaries of national parks and allocate environmental funds.

Work on the reptile study – which involved nearly 1,000 scientists and 52 co-authors – started in 2005. The project was slowed by challenges in fundraising, said co-author Bruce Young, a zoologist at the nonprofit science organization NatureServe.

“There’s a lot more focus on furrier, feathery species of vertebrates for conservation,” Young said, lamenting the perceived charisma gap. But reptiles are also fascinating and essential to ecosystems, he said.

Science

Ideas on mute? Study: Remote meetings dampen brainstorming

SpaceX launches 4 astronauts for NASA after private flight

One-fifth of reptiles worldwide face risk of extinction

What do we know about the new omicron mutant?

The Galapagos marine iguana, the world’s only lizard adapted to marine life, is classified as “vulnerable” to extinction, said co-author Blair Hedges, a biologist at Temple University. It took 5 million years for the lizard to adapt to foraging in the sea, he said, lamenting “how much evolutionary history can be lost if this single species” goes extinct.

Six of the world’s species of sea turtles are threatened. The seventh is likely also in trouble, but scientists lack data to make a classification.

Worldwide, the greatest threat to reptile life is habitat destruction. Hunting, invasive species and climate change also pose threats, said co-author Neil Cox, a manager at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s biodiversity assessment unit.

Reptiles that live in forest areas, such as the king cobra, are more likely to be threatened with extinction than desert-dwellers, in part because forests face greater human disruptions, the study found.

FILE - A dead green sea turtle washes up on the beach in the Khor Kalba Conservation Reserve, in the city of Kalba, on the east coast of the United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022. More than one in five species of reptiles worldwide, including the green sea turtle, are threatened with extinction, according to a comprehensive new assessment of thousands of species published Wednesday, April 27, 2022, in the journal Nature. (AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even the king cobra is “vulnerable.” More than 1 in 5 species of reptiles worldwide are threatened with extinction, according to a comprehensive new assessment of thousands of species published Wednesday in the journal Nature. **Of 10,196 reptile species analyzed, 21% percent were classified as endangered, critically endangered or vulnerable to extinction — including the iconic hooded snakes of South and Southeast Asia.** “This work is a very significant achievement — it adds to our knowledge of where threatened species are, and where we must work to protect them,” said Duke University ecologist Stuart Pimm, who was not involved in the study.



Barack Obama

'Democracy will wither': Barack Obama outlines perils of unregulated big tech in sweeping speech

In a keynote address at Stanford University, the former president made his most extensive remarks yet about the tech landscape

Kari Paul

Thu 21 Apr 2022 19.27 EDT

Technology companies must be reined in to address the “weakening of democratic institutions around the world”, Barack Obama said Thursday, in a sweeping keynote speech on the perils of disinformation. “One of the biggest reasons for the weakening of democracy is the profound change that’s taken place in how we communicate and consume information,” he said. The address came as Obama has increasingly focused his post-presidential messaging on misinformation and what should be done about the largely unchecked power wielded by big tech. On Thursday, he solidified those calls, endorsing specific legislation. “Do we allow our democracy to wither, or do we make it better?” Obama asked. “That is the choice.” ‘People are dying because of disinformation’ Obama’s speech called attention to the grave impacts of disinformation and misinformation – including manipulation of the 2016 and 2020 elections and the rise of anti-vaccination sentiments. He was candid about regrets he had surrounding Donald Trump’s election, saying his administration had long known that Russia had incentive to manipulate US democracy but he underestimated the effectiveness of the efforts. “What still nags at me is my failure to appreciate at the time just how susceptible we had become to lies and conspiracy theories,” Obama said.

A Senate panel report in 2020 found conclusively that Russia had interfered in the 2016 elections to sway votes in favor of Trump, echoing findings from a prior report published by the Department of Justice. In addition to impacting the results of those elections, disinformation and misinformation has also caused many Americans to reject the results of democratically sound elections, Obama said – noting that the majority of Republicans doubt the legitimacy of Biden’s 2020 win. Much of these issues can be attributed to a decline in media literacy, the erosion of local news sources, and an “information overload” as we come into contact with limitless content each day. “The sheer proliferation of conflict and the splintering of information and audiences has made democracy more complicated,” Obama said. **‘Need another north star’** Obama took aim at the business models at the heart of big tech firms, noting that “inflammatory content attracts engagement” and that “the veil of anonymity platforms provide” make it easier to spread misinformation. He said while rising industry standards are helpful, solid regulation is needed to address social media companies’ business models and the way they design their products. “These companies need to have some other north star other than just making money and increasing market share,” Obama said. In particular, Obama addressed the frequent refrain of tech companies that their algorithms are proprietary business secrets, saying they have become “too guarded” and “need to be subject to some level of public oversight and regulation”. To do so, Obama endorsed the Platform Accountability and Transparency Act, a bill introduced by US Senators Chris Coons, Amy Klobuchar and Rob Portman that would require social media companies to share certain platform data and allow vetting from independent researchers. He also called for reform of Section 230, a law that shields platforms from legal liability for content posted on their sites, saying that “wholesale repeal is not the answer” but “we need to consider reforms” to the measure. “As the world’s leading democracy, we have to set a better example. We should be at the lead on these discussions internationally, not in the rear.” **‘Yes we can’ for the age of disinformation** Despite dire warnings about the imminent crumbling of democracy under the disinformation epidemic, Obama called for a return to the hope present in the early days of big tech. “Today’s social media has a grimness to it,” he said. “We’re so fatalistic about the steady stream of bile and vitriol that’s on there. But it doesn’t have to be that way. In fact, if we’re going to succeed, it can’t be that way.” Obama’s tone harkens back to an age of tech before the 2016 elections shook the world’s faith in companies like Facebook. His own presidency took place at a time when social media was still thought of as a force for good – stoking democratic revolutions like the Arab Spring. His election in 2008 is also largely thought of as one of the first to be fueled by grassroots social media campaigns – with supporters of Obama having been significantly more engaged online than those of McCain. Obama said at the time there was “a certain joy of finding new ways to connect and organize”. **“Social media is a tool. At the end of the day, tools don’t control us, we control them,” Obama said. “It’s up to each of us to decide what we value and then use the tools we’ve been given to advance those values.”**



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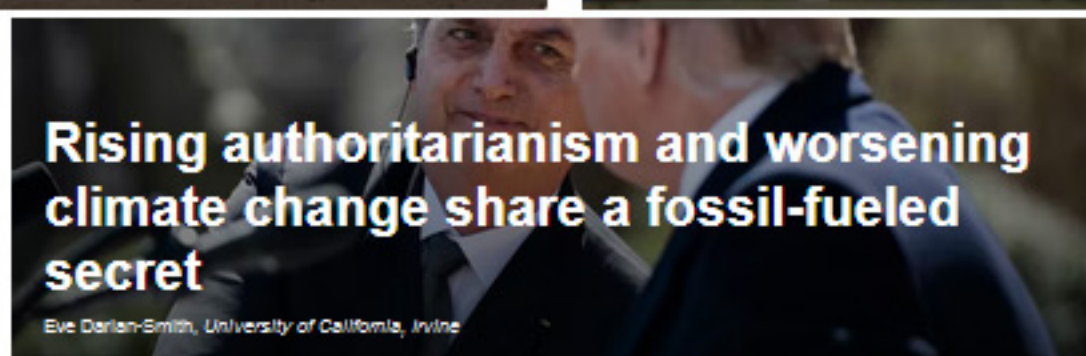
Elon Musk's plans for Twitter could make its misinformation problems worse

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Editor's Picks:

Elon Musk's bid spotlights Twitter's unique role in public discourse – and what changes might be in store | April 15, 2022 | Anjana Susarla, Michigan State University



Bulgaria, officially the Republic of Bulgaria,[a] is a country in Southeast Europe. It occupies the whole eastern part of the Balkans, and is bordered by Romania to the north, Serbia and North Macedonia to the west, Greece and Turkey to the south, and the Black Sea to the east. Bulgaria covers a territory of 110,994 square kilometres (42,855 sq mi), and is the sixteenth-largest country in Europe. Sofia is the nation's capital and largest city; other major cities are Plovdiv, Varna and Burgas.

One of the earliest societies in the lands of modern-day Bulgaria was the Neolithic Karanovo culture, which dates back to 6,500 BC. In the 6th to 3rd century BC the region was a battleground for ancient Thracians, Persians, Celts and Macedonians; stability came when the Roman Empire conquered the region in AD 45. After the Roman state splintered, tribal invasions in the region resumed. Around the 6th century, these territories were settled by the early Slavs. The Bulgars led by Asparuh of Bulgaria attacked from the lands of (Old Great) Bulgaria and permanently invaded the Balkans in the late 7th century. They established (Danubian) Bulgaria, victoriously recognised by treaty in AD 681 by the Eastern Roman Empire. It dominated most of the Balkans and significantly influenced Slavic cultures by developing the Cyrillic script. The First Bulgarian Empire lasted until the early 11th century, when Byzantine emperor Basil II conquered and dismantled it. A successful Bulgarian revolt in 1185 established a Second Bulgarian Empire, which reached its apex under Ivan Asen II (1218–1241). After numerous exhausting wars and feudal strife, the empire disintegrated in 1396 and fell under Ottoman rule for nearly five centuries.



Location of Bulgaria (dark green) in the European Union (green)

What Russia cutting off energy to Poland and Bulgaria means for the world

April 28, 2022 | <https://www.npr.org/2022/04/28/1095113387/what-russia-cutting-off-energy-to-poland-and-bulgaria-means-for-the-world>

The Russo-Turkish War of 1877–78 resulted in the formation of the third and current Bulgarian state. Many ethnic Bulgarians were left outside the new nation's borders, which stoked irredentist sentiments that led to several conflicts with its neighbours and alliances with Germany in both world wars.

In 1946, Bulgaria came under the Soviet-led Eastern Bloc and became a socialist state. **The ruling Communist Party gave up its monopoly on power after the revolutions of 1989 and allowed multiparty elections. Bulgaria then transitioned into a democracy and a market-based economy.** Since adopting a democratic constitution in 1991, Bulgaria has been a unitary parliamentary republic composed of 28 provinces, with a high degree of political, administrative, and economic centralisation.

Bulgaria is a developing country, with an upper-middle-income economy, ranking 56th in the Human Development Index. Its market economy is part of the European Single Market and is largely based on services, followed by industry—especially machine building and mining—and agriculture. Widespread corruption is a major socioeconomic issue; Bulgaria ranked as the most corrupt country in the European Union in 2018. The country also faces a demographic crisis, with its population shrinking annually since around 1990; it currently numbers roughly seven million, down from a peak of nearly nine million in 1988. Bulgaria is a member of the European Union, NATO, and the Council of Europe; it is also a founding member of the OSCE, and has taken a seat on the United Nations Security Council three times.

Bulgaria has made numerous contributions to space exploration.

These include two scientific satellites, more than 200 payloads and 300 experiments in Earth orbit, as well as two cosmonauts since 1971.[280] Bulgaria was the first country to grow wheat and vegetables in space with its Svet greenhouses on the Mir space station. It was involved in the development of the Granat gamma-ray observatory[283] and the Vega program, particularly in modelling trajectories and guidance algorithms for both Vega probes.[284][285] Bulgarian instruments have been used in the exploration of Mars, including a spectrometer that took the first high quality spectroscopic images of Martian moon Phobos with the Phobos 2 probe.[280][283] Cosmic radiation en route to and around the planet has been mapped by Liulin-ML dosimeters on the ExoMars TGO.[286] Variants of these instruments have also been fitted on the International Space Station and the Chandrayaan-1 lunar probe.[287][288] Another lunar mission, SpaceIL's Beresheet, was also equipped with a Bulgarian-manufactured imaging payload.[289] **Bulgaria's first geostationary communications satellite—BulgariaSat-1—was launched by SpaceX in 2017**



The launch of BulgariaSat-1 by SpaceX

Why this economy may be sturdier than it looks

April 28, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET
Heard on Morning Edition



People stand in a security line at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City on April 19.

From inflation to the war in Ukraine, there seem to be plenty of reasons to worry about the economy these days, but things are looking pretty good for the busy Hotel Haya in Tampa, Florida.

Even with gasoline prices topping \$4 a gallon, people are making the drive from neighboring states and flocking to the hotel. "They've been saving their money during the pandemic, and now they want to get away, wherever it takes them," says the hotel's general manager, Peter Wright.

That may not be obvious when a new economic report card comes out Thursday. The Commerce Department is expected to report little or no growth — or possibly even a contraction — in the nation's gross domestic product for the first three months of this year, a marked contrast from the final months of 2021, which saw some of the fastest growth in decades.

But economists say that's not as worrisome as it might seem. Consumers continue to spend freely, and businesses are still investing, despite the sharp drop in headline GDP growth. "We should not take that as a signal of the direction of the economy," says Ben Herzon, senior U.S. economist with S&P Global Market Intelligence. "If we peel back a couple of layers and just look at underlying domestic demand, the economy looks to be picking up a little bit of steam."

"We see a lot of staycations as well," Wright says. "There was a lot of pent-up demand, so we see a lot of local people coming for a few nights and enjoying the restaurant and the pool. They're looking to spend money."

While the omicron wave of coronavirus infections discouraged some people from traveling and eating out in the first weeks of the year, that has given way to what Herzon calls a "COVID spring."

"People are taking their masks off," he says. "They're getting back to consuming the services they were consuming before the pandemic. That's a pretty powerful push that will help to propel consumer spending — and GDP broadly — higher into the second half of the year."



Fatboy Slim performs onstage at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif., on April 24. Festivals and other gatherings are coming back despite the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.

Two Democratic progressives plot new ways to fight back against Republican gains

April 28, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET



CLAUDIA GRISALES



Democratic Reps. Ro Khanna of California, left, and Jamie Raskin of Maryland.

Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call/Getty Images; Alex Wong/Getty Images/Getty Images

"What people say about the Democrats is, 'You guys are too big and disorganized and chaotic. And what's the message?' and all that I hear, I agree with all of that," Raskin said. "But that is democracy."

"So we're going to work it out," Raskin added, "and we want people to come and join us and to be part of this big, sometimes messy conversation, but the conversation that's actually moving America forward and making progress for the people."

Republicans are threatening to take over the House of Representatives in this year's midterm elections. More than 30 House Democrats are heading for the exits. And progressives have seen several major legislative proposals stall out.

But two progressive lawmakers in the House, Democratic Reps. Jamie Raskin and Ro Khanna, say they're developing a plan to turn around the cascade of bad news for their caucus.

Raskin of Maryland and Khanna of California tell NPR they're on the ground floor of talks to fuel new victories for the party's liberal wing.

"We need to defend American constitutional democracy with everything we've got at this point," Raskin said from his office in the Rayburn House Office Building while seated next to Khanna. **"And that calls upon us to be as ambitious as we can be in terms of reaching out to people all over America."**

Raskin and Khanna are trying to shake up discussions for the progressive caucus and the Democrats ahead of the midterms and map out a new winning strategy beyond.

They say this includes coalition-building, sharing a more optimistic message with voters and less preaching. Democrats should also reclaim issues of patriotism, stay out of the political correctness business and improve their dialogue on racial divisions, they said.

Khanna warns if the GOP does indeed take over the House next year, President Biden will be impeached and certain Democrats will be forced off committees. But Khanna is trying to stay optimistic they can defy the political handicappers.

"I think the polling is in a vacuum because elections are a choice," Khanna said. "And I don't think people fully have grasped the choice of what it means for the Republicans to actually win the House."

A political reckoning in Sri Lanka as economic crisis grows

April 28, 2022 · 2:46 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



People shout slogans against the government during an ongoing protest outside president's office in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Saturday, April 23, 2022.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sherry Fonseka joined millions in 2019 in electing President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a military strategist whose brutal campaign helped end Sri Lanka's 30-year civil war 10 years earlier.

Now he is one of thousands who, for weeks, have protested outside the president's office, calling on Rajapaksa and his brother, Mahinda, who is prime minister, to resign for leading the country into its worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948.

With the island teetering near bankruptcy, Fonseka, who owns a small garment business in the capital, Colombo, has resorted to spending his own savings to pay the salaries of his 30 employees. But he knows he will soon have to let them go and is clear about who is to blame.

"All of us thought we made the correct decision (to elect Rajapaksa), but we've realized we were wrong. We should have the backbone to tell people, and the world, that we made a mistake," he said.

In recent weeks, protests have erupted across the country demanding that Rajapaksa quit.

President Rajapaksa has defended his government, partly blaming the pandemic and Russia's war in Ukraine. "This crisis was not created by me," he said in a speech last month, adding that his government was working hard on solutions. They include approaching the **International Monetary Fund and World Bank** for assistance, after repeated calls to do so.

Middle class enters the streets in protests: Analysts say the Rajapaksas' response to the economic challenges underscored the limitations of their strong-man politics and their family's near-monopoly on decision making, heavily relying on the military to enforce policy and passing laws to weaken independent institutions.

Three other Rajapaksa family members were in the Cabinet until early April, when the Cabinet resigned en masse in response to the protests. "Their entire political ideology and credibility is in serious crisis," said Jayadeva Uyangoda, a veteran political scientist.

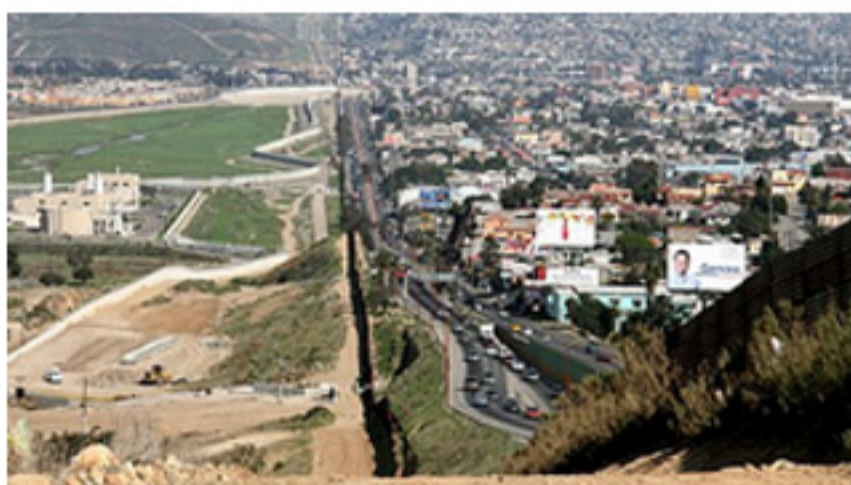
But many fear that things will only get worse before improving. A divided and weak opposition without a majority in Parliament has kept the Rajapaksas in power. **An IMF bailout could see austere measures intensifying hardships for people before there is relief.***

Meanwhile, the focus remains on the protests, which are drawing people across ethnicities, religion and class. For the first time, middle-class Sri Lankans have taken to the streets in large numbers, Uyangoda said.

[an example of the circumstance and conditions utilizing the International Monetary Fund and World Bank that both Titus Alexander and Joseph Stiglitz say lead to economic **global apartheid.**]*

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international financial institution, headquartered in Washington, D.C., consisting of 190 countries. Its stated mission is "working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world." Countries contribute funds to a pool through a quota system from which countries experiencing balance of payments problems can borrow money. As of 2016, the fund had XDR 477 billion (about US\$667 billion)

Overseas Development Institute (ODI) research undertaken in 1980 included criticisms of the IMF which support the analysis that it is a pillar of what activist Titus Alexander calls global apartheid



Global apartheid is a term used to describe how Global North countries are engaged in a project of "racialization, segregation, political intervention, mobility controls, capitalist plunder, and labor exploitation" affecting people from the Global South. Proponents of the concept argue that a



Titus Alexander

Author



Titus Alexander has been described as a **one-man think tank and practical radical**. He works on a wide range of issues, from animal welfare, community development, family learning, schools and self-esteem to climate change, democratic reform and global governance.

<https://titusalexander.com> › about

[About - Titus Alexander](#)



titusalexander.com

7 Impact

8 Criticisms

8.1 Conditionality

8.2 Reform

8.2.1 Function and policies

8.2.2 US influence and voting reform

8.3 Support of dictatorships

8.4 Impact on access to food

8.5 Impact on public health

8.6 Impact on environment

9 IMF and globalization

9.1 Impact on gender equality

10 Scandals

11 Alternatives

International Monetary Fund



IMF Headquarters (Washington, DC)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Abbreviation | IMF |
| Formation | 27 December 1945; 76 years ago |
| Type | International financial institution |
| Purpose | Promote international monetary co-operation, facilitate international trade, foster sustainable economic growth, make resources available to members experiencing balance of payments difficulties, prevent and assist with recovery from international financial crises ^[1] |
| Headquarters | Washington, D.C., U.S. |
| Coordinates | 38°53′56″N 77°2′39″W﻿ / ﻿38.899°N 77.044°W﻿ / 38.899; -77.044 |
| Region | Worldwide |
| Membership | 190 countries (189 UN countries and Kosovo) ^[2] |
| Official language | English ^[3] |
| Managing Director | Kristalina Georgieva |
| First Deputy Managing Director | Gita Gopinath ^[4] |
| Chief Economist | Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas ^[5] |
| Main organ | Board of Governors |
| Parent organization | United Nations^{[6][7]} |
| Budget (2022) | \$1.2 billion USD ^[8] |
| Staff | 2,400 ^[1] |
| Website | IMF.org ^[9] |

The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants to the governments of low- and middle-income countries for the purpose of pursuing capital projects. It was established along with the International Monetary Fund at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference. For the last 30 years, it has included NGOs and environmental groups in its loan portfolio. Its loan strategy is influenced by the Millennium Development Goals as well as environmental and social safeguards. The World Bank is run by a president and 25 executive directors, as well as 29 various vice presidents. The U.S., Japan, China, Germany and the U.K. have the most voting power. The bank aims loans at developing countries to help reduce poverty. The bank is engaged in several global partnerships and initiatives, and takes a role in working toward addressing climate change. The World Bank has been criticized as promoting inflation and harming economic development. The way it is governed has been criticized. There have been major protests against the bank. There has also been criticism of the bank's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The World Bank has long been criticized by non-governmental organizations, such as the indigenous rights group Survival International, and academics, including Henry Hazlitt, Ludwig Von Mises, and its former **Chief Economist Joseph Stiglitz**. Hazlitt argued that the World Bank along with the monetary system it was designed within would promote world inflation and "a world in which international trade is State-dominated" when they were being advocated. Stiglitz argued that the free market reform policies that the Bank advocates are

often harmful to economic development if implemented badly, too quickly ("shock therapy"), in the wrong sequence or in weak, uncompetitive economies.

One of the most common criticisms of the World Bank has been the way it is governed. While the World Bank represents 188 countries, it is run by a small number of economically powerful countries. These countries (which also provide most of the institution's funding) choose the Bank's leadership and senior management, and their interests dominate. Titus Alexander argues that the unequal



Global apartheid is a term used to describe how Global North countries are engaged in a project of "racialization, segregation, political intervention, mobility controls, capitalist plunder, and labor exploitation" affecting people from the Global South. Proponents of the concept argue that a



voting power of western countries and the World Bank's role in developing countries makes it similar to the South African Development Bank under apartheid, and **therefore a pillar of global apartheid**.

- 15 Criticisms and controversy
 - 15.1 Structural adjustment
 - 15.2 Fairness of assistance conditions
 - 15.3 Sovereign immunity
 - 15.4 PricewaterhouseCoopers
 - 15.5 COVID-19



Joseph Stiglitz

American economist

Joseph Eugene Stiglitz is an American economist, a public policy analyst, and a full professor at Columbia University. He is a recipient of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences and the John Bates Clark Medal. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: February 9, 1943 (age 79 years), Gary, IN

Spouse: Anya Schiffrin (m. 2004)

Influenced: Paul Krugman, Ha-Joon Chang, Jason Furman, Stephany Griffith-Jones, Xavier Briggs, Huw Dixon

Influenced by: John Maynard Keynes, Paul Samuelson, MORE

Children: Siobhan stiglitz, Julia stiglitz, Michael stiglitz, Edward stiglitz

Education: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1966–1967), Amherst College (1964), Fitzwilliam College



The World Bank Group building in Washington, D.C.

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Established | July 1944; 77 years ago |
| Type | International financial institution |
| Legal status | Treaty |
| Headquarters | 1818 H Street NW Washington, D.C., U.S. ^[1] |
| Membership | 189 countries (IBRD) ^[2] 174 countries (IDA) ^[2] |
| Key people | David Malpass (President) ^[3] Anshula Kant (MD and CFO) Carmen Reinhart (Chief Economist, 15 June 2020) ^[4] |
| Parent organization | World Bank Group |
| Website | www.worldbank.org ^[5] |



The End of Citizenship and Our Current Cultural Crisis – A Conversation with Victor Davis Hanson

76,722 views • Apr 6, 2022 2K



Albert Mohler

8.42K subscribers

In this edition of the popular podcast series "Thinking in Public," Albert Mohler speaks with Victor Davis Hanson, the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. Professor Hanson's scholarship has earned him numerous awards including the National Humanities Medal and the Bradley Prize. His latest book, *The Dying Citizen*, explores the history and importance of citizenship and the many threats it currently faces by our culture. It is the topic of this "Thinking in Public" episode.

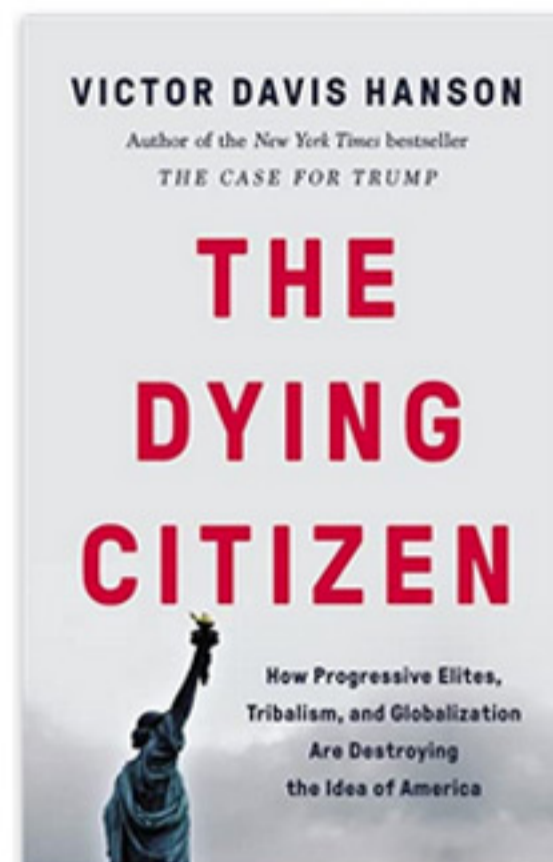
Victor Davis Hanson (born September 5, 1953) is an American commentator, classicist, and military historian. He has been a commentator on modern and ancient warfare and contemporary politics for *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *National Review*, *The Washington Times*, and other media outlets. He is a professor emeritus of Classics at California State University, Fresno, the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow in classics and military history at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, and visiting professor at Hillsdale College. Hanson was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2007 by President George W. Bush, and was a presidential appointee in 2007–2008 on the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The Dying Citizen: How Progressive Elites, Tribalism, and Globalization Are Destroying the Idea of America

October 5, 2021

by [Victor Davis Hanson](#) (Author)

★★★★★ 2,489 ratings



Human history is full of the stories of peasants, subjects, and tribes. Yet the concept of the "citizen" is historically rare—and was among America's most valued ideals for over two centuries. But without shock treatment, warns historian Victor Davis Hanson, American citizenship as we have known it may soon vanish.

In *The Dying Citizen*, Hanson outlines the historical forces that led to this crisis. **The evisceration of the middle class over the last fifty years has made many Americans dependent on the federal government.** Open borders have undermined the idea of allegiance to a particular place. Identity politics have eradicated our collective civic sense of self. And a top-heavy administrative state has endangered personal liberty, along with formal efforts to weaken the Constitution.

As in the revolutionary years of 1848, 1917, and 1968, 2020 ripped away our complacency about the future. But in the aftermath, we as Americans can rebuild and recover what we have lost. The choice is ours.

Victor Davis Hanson



Hanson giving a lecture at Kenyon College in May 2005

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Born | Victor Davis Hanson September 5, 1953 (age 68) Fowler, California, U.S. |
| Occupation | Historian, professor, author |
| Education | University of California, Santa Cruz (B.A.) Stanford University (Ph.D.) |
| Subjects | Military history , ancient warfare , ancient agrarianism , classics , politics |

California is investigating Big Oil for allegedly misleading the public on recycling

April 28, 2022 · 4:08 PM ET



The office of California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced it is investigating oil and gas companies for allegedly deceiving the public into believing most plastic could be recycled.

Accusing the country's largest oil and gas companies of "a half-century campaign of deception," California's attorney general opened an investigation Thursday into the possible role the companies played promoting the idea that plastics could be recycled, in an effort to manipulate the public to buy more of it.

Attorney General Rob Bonta said the fossil fuel industry benefited financially from the industry's misleading statements which he said go back decades. Bonta has so far subpoenaed ExxonMobil seeking information and documents. "For more than half a century, the plastics industry has engaged in an aggressive campaign to deceive the public, perpetuating a myth that recycling can solve the plastics crisis," Bonta said. "The truth is: The vast majority of plastic cannot be recycled."

The announcement cited NPR and the PBS series *Frontline's* 2020 investigation into the oil and gas industry which uncovered documents showing top officials knew that recycling plastic was unlikely to work but spent tens of millions of dollars telling the public the opposite. Starting in the 1980s, the industry launched dozens of ads, nonprofits, and campaigns touting the benefits of recycling plastic – and placing the responsibility on consumers – even as their own documents warned that recycling was "infeasible" and that there was "serious doubt" that plastic recycling "can ever be made viable on an economic basis," the investigation found.

Graham Forbes, plastics global campaign lead at Greenpeace USA, said California's investigation is welcome news. "For too long, ExxonMobil and other corporate polluters have been allowed to mislead the public and harm people and the planet," Forbes said. "It is encouraging to see the state of California stand up to the fossil fuel industry. Hopefully, this is a sign that policymakers are ready to start holding corporations accountable." In a statement, ExxonMobil said it rejects the allegations made by the California attorney general, and highlighted that it is the first company to use what it referred to as an "advanced recycling technology" to recycle used plastic. "We are focused on solutions and meritless allegations like these distract from the important collaborative work that is underway to enhance waste management and improve circularity," the statement said. The industry group, the American Chemistry Council, said in a statement it is committed to keeping plastic out of the environment and has "proposed comprehensive and bold actions at the state, federal, and international levels." Industry officials have told NPR in the past that the industry has never misled the public and believes it can make plastic recycling work, though they were not able to specify how. In 40 years, no more than 10 percent of all plastic has ever been recycled.

At a press conference, Bonta said his office's preliminary findings have provided them with enough information to proceed with an investigation. "We are not prejudging this, but there is information, significant amounts of it, that is compelling and in the public sphere that has led us to a good faith belief that we should be subpoenaing ExxonMobil to get more information," Bonta said. "There is a broad belief that plastics are recyclable. That has been the result of the misinformation campaign, of the deception, that consumers have been manipulated to believe that plastic is recyclable. It was a strategy as far as we can tell." Officials say the investigation also hopes to determine whether any deception is still ongoing. Critics of the oil industry have raised concerns about the industry's current \$1.5 billion effort, which launched in 2019 under the banner "The Alliance to End Plastic Waste" and is made up of the country's largest oil and plastic producers. Through glossy ads and small demonstration projects, the group promotes plastic recycling and clean up efforts rather than using less plastic.

Texas stumbles in its effort to punish green financial firms

April 29, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET

MARIO ALEJANDRO ARIZA

MOSE BUCHELE



Fossil fuels power the Texas economy, accounting for some 14% of gross state product between 2019 and 2020. Now, Texas is the first state in the nation to pass anti-divestment laws for fossil fuels.

EMILY HOLDEN, *Floodlight* Founder and Editor-in-Chief.

Emily is an investigative environmental journalist with a decade of reporting experience in Washington, D.C. She was most recently the environment correspondent for the Guardian. Emily has covered the White House, federal agencies, Congress, the courts, and electricity regulation, through the Obama and Trump administrations. She grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where her father works in the oil industry.

emily@floodlightnews.org



For years, fossil fuel producing states have watched investors shy away from companies causing the climate crisis. Last year, one state decided to push back. Texas passed a law treating financial companies shunning fossil fuels the same way it treated companies that did business with Iran, or Sudan: boycott them. "This bill sent a strong message to both Washington and Wall Street that if you boycott Texas energy, then Texas will boycott you," Texas Representative Phil King said from the floor of the Texas legislature during deliberations on the bill, SB 13, last year. But the Lone Star state is straining to implement the law. Loop-holes and exceptions written into the law could sap its impact on financial firms that have aggressive climate policies.

This March, the Texas State Comptroller began sending letters out to financial institutions, probing their climate policies. Leslie Samuelrich, president of Green Century Capital Management, a fossil fuel-free mutual fund, says her firm recently received its letter. "It felt very politically motivated," she says. Samuelrich says she plans to ignore the one she got. Even so, Samuelrich says the law could have a "chilling effect" on some investment firms. Despite Texas's emerging problems in implementing the first law penalizing companies for fossil fuel divestment, the concept of boycotting green finance is spreading. At least seven other states are now considering or have passed similar legislation, raising the prospect of a coalition of fossil fuel producing states putting pressure on Wall Street. "The state of Texas is a large state with a lot of money," says Rob Greer, associate professor in the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. "They can certainly sort of make a difference. But when you're talking about the largest financial institutions...the global trends are going to be those that dictate a lot of this - and the state of Texas may maybe be out of sync with some of those global trends."

Samuelrich, the mutual fund manager, says that for her firm, being listed as a boycotted entity might not be such a bad thing. "I don't think this is going to affect demand at all," she says. "In fact it might spur more people to realize that they can invest fossil fuel free."

This story is a collaboration with Floodlight, a non-profit environmental news organization.



THE ENVIRONMENTAL
NEWS COLLABORATIVE

<https://www.floodlightnews.org/> **floodlight**

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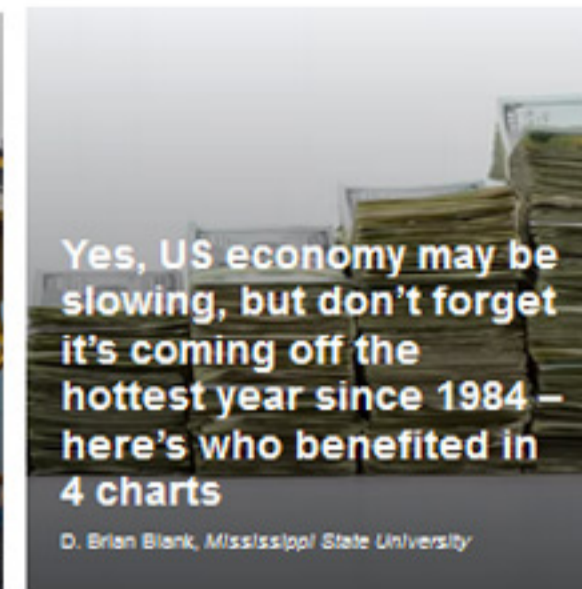
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Ameerah DeCuir, American University



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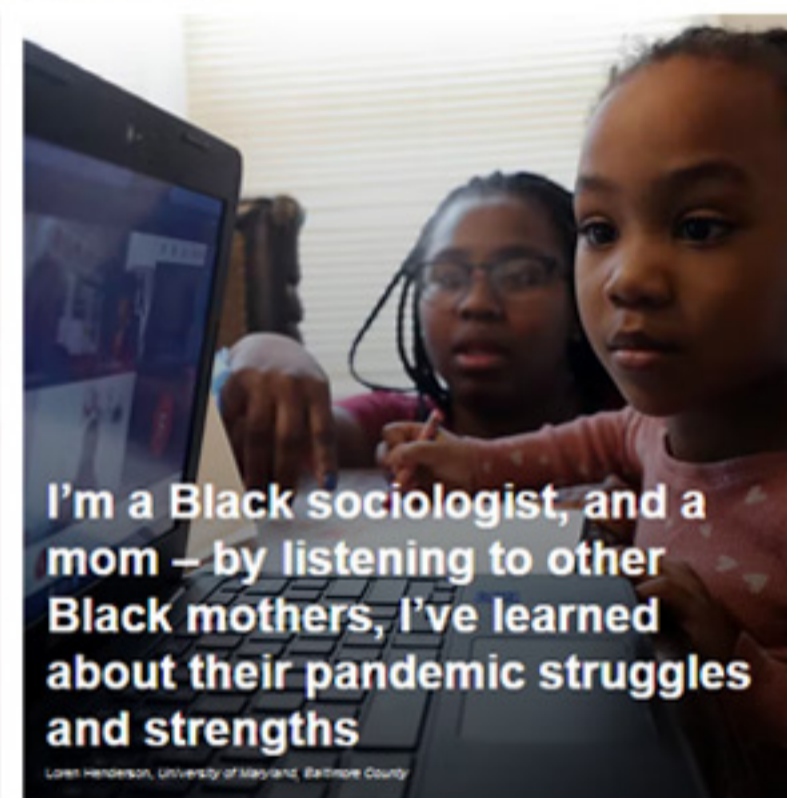
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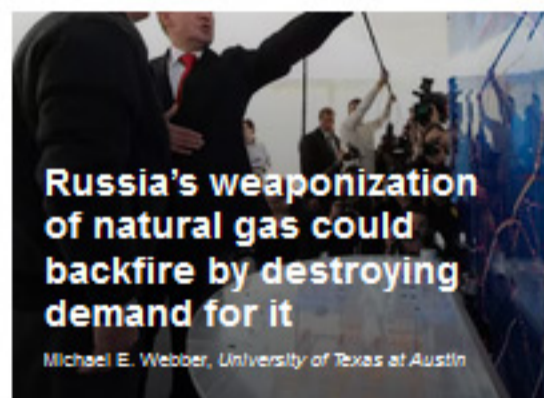
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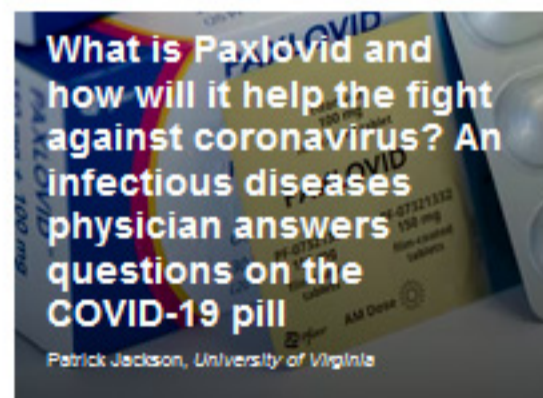
I'm a Black sociologist, and a mom – by listening to other Black mothers, I've learned about their pandemic struggles and strengths

Loren Henderson, University of Maryland, Eastern Shore



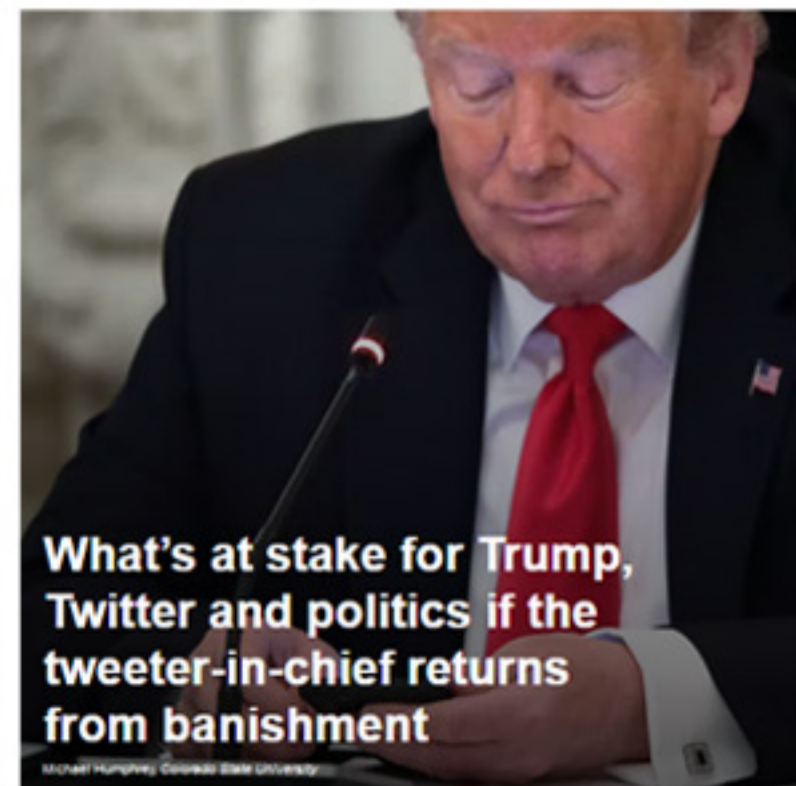
Russia's weaponization of natural gas could backfire by destroying demand for it

Michael E. Weber, University of Texas at Austin



What is Paxlovid and how will it help the fight against coronavirus? An infectious diseases physician answers questions on the COVID-19 pill

Patrick Jackson, University of Virginia



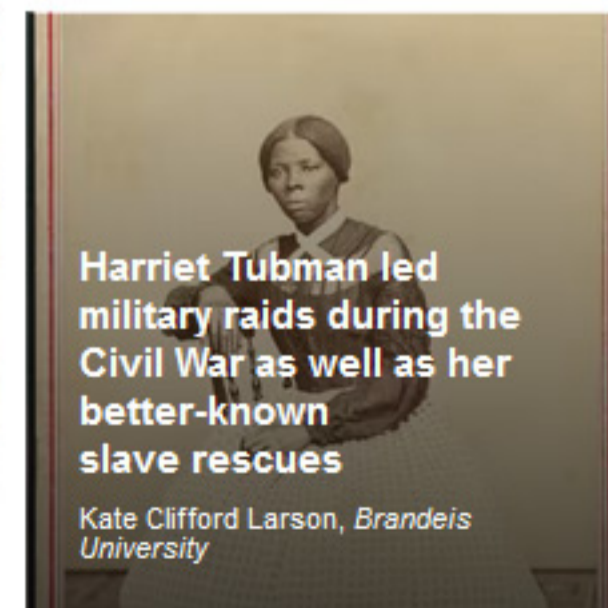
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Michael Humphrey, Colorado State University



How race and religion have always played a role in who gets refuge in the US

Laura E. Alexander, University of Nebraska Omaha; Jane Hong, Occidental College; Karen Hooge Michalka, University of Mary, and Luis A. Romero, Texas Christian University



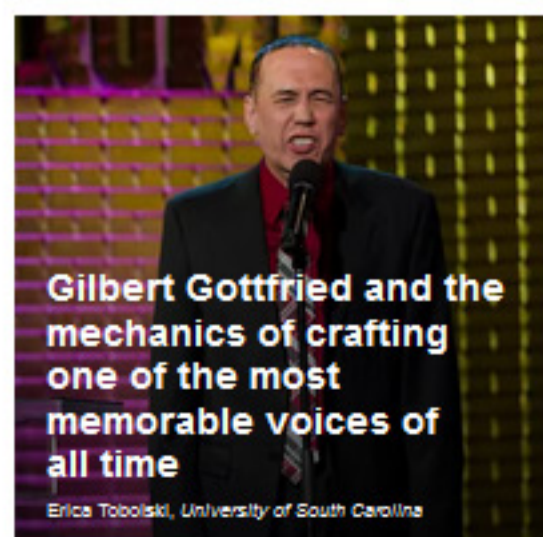
Harriet Tubman led military raids during the Civil War as well as her better-known slave rescues

Kate Clifford Larson, Brandeis University



Psychologists are starting to talk publicly about their own mental illnesses – and patients can benefit

Andrew Devendorf, University of South Florida and Sarah Victor, Texas Tech University



Gilbert Gottfried and the mechanics of crafting one of the most memorable voices of all time

Erica Tobolski, University of South Carolina

Students lead more public schools to close for Islamic holidays

Published: April 29, 2022 5.08pm EDT



Amaarah DeCuir

Senior Professorial Lecturer in Education, American University

Some public school districts across the nation will be closed on Monday, May 2, 2022, or Tuesday, May 3, 2022, in observance of the Islamic holiday Eid al-Fitr, a festive celebration marking the end of the month of Ramadan, a month of fasting observed by Muslims worldwide. In the following Q&A, Amaarah DeCuir, an education researcher who specializes in issues of concern to Muslim students, illuminates some of the forces that are moving more school districts to close in observance of the Islamic holiday.



A Russian naval base is defended by dolphins. It's not as unusual as it sounds

April 29, 2022 · 3:22 PM ET

RACHEL TREISMAN



Russia's military is using specially trained dolphins to defend a critical naval base off Crimea, according to an analysis published by U.S. Naval Institute News.

Submarine analyst H I Sutton wrote this week for the online news and analysis outlet — which is editorially independent from the nonprofit USNI — that satellite imagery from Maxar Technologies shows two dolphin pens at the entrance to **Sevastopol's harbor**, the Russian navy's "most significant" naval base in the Black Sea. He said the pens were moved there in February, around the time that Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The Maxar News Bureau confirmed to NPR that it agrees with that analysis. The firm also provided new satellite images, taken on Friday and showing a closer view of dolphin pens in the water at the entrance to the bay.

Andrew Lambert, a professor of naval history at King's College London, told NPR that he isn't surprised by the use of defense dolphins in the conflict, since they were in Sevastopol's harbor "long before it started."

Indeed, the Soviet navy ran several marine-mammal programs during the Cold War, including training dolphins near Sevastopol. That particular unit transitioned to the Ukrainian military when the Soviet Union collapsed, Sutton explained, but "barely stayed open," despite attempts to remain operational. Russia took control of the unit after it annexed Crimea in 2014, and it expanded the program once again.

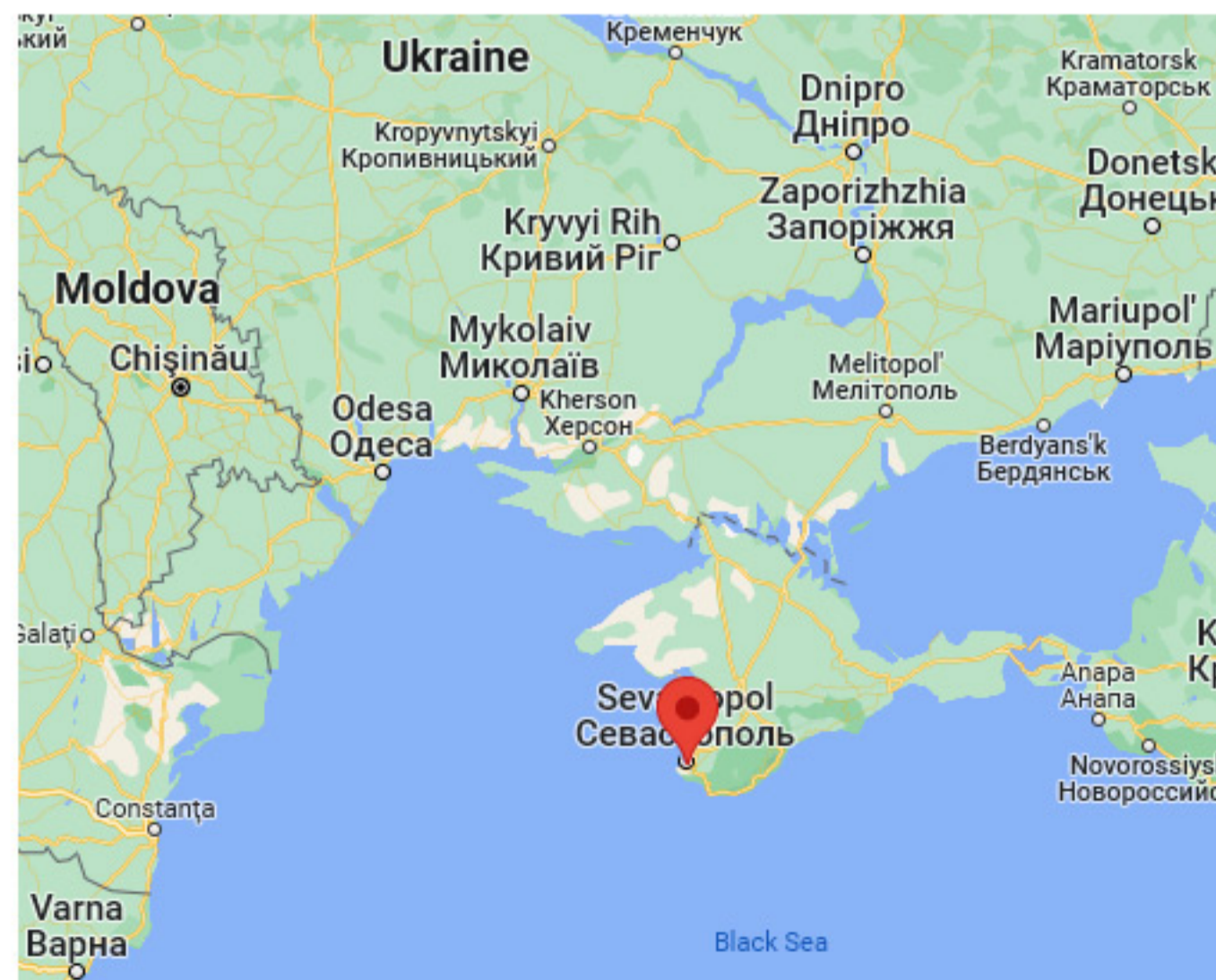
"The Ukrainian work that pre-dated the seizure of Crimea was a continuation of existing programmes, and we know the Russians seem to be using other marine mammals, including belugas in the Arctic," Lambert added in an email.

And Russia isn't the only country to do this kind of work with marine mammals. In fact, the U.S. Navy has a history of similar programs, and it trains dolphins as well as seals for similar purposes to this day. Here's a look at why dolphins make good defenders and which countries rely on them.

Dolphins' agility, speed and sonar make them valuable assets



Dolphins play at the Sevastopol State Oceanarium in Crimea on March 30, 2014. After Russia annexed Crimea, its military revived a Soviet-era dolphin-training program.



A new Iron Curtain is eroding Norway's hard-won ties with Russia on Arctic issues

April 30, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



QUIL LAWRENCE



CONNOR DONEVAN



7-Minute Listen



Norwegian coast guard cutters are used for rescue, fishery inspection, research purposes and general patrols in Norwegian waters.

Capt. Pal Bratbak has patrolled the Barents Sea for decades. His Norwegian coast guard search and rescue cutter mostly chases after distress calls from fishermen. The fishermen are chasing the cod — and the cod sometimes lead them astray. "The codfish, they don't see the border, so we help every boat in our area," he says, and that means as many Russian boats as Norwegian. A treaty allows both nations to catch a quota, and that management of the Barents Sea Arctic cod fleet is considered a success worldwide, both economically and environmentally. "That's important for Norway and the European Union and NATO and the whole world. And it's important for the Russians," he says. Cooperation like that has been a given on the Russian-Norwegian frontier for decades, if not centuries. The Norwegians call it "high north, low tension."

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, though, that tension isn't so low, and Bratbak is worried. The coast guard also enforces the fishing laws in the Barents Sea. Years ago, in a rare case, a Russian trawler fled from a coast guard ship, into Russian waters — with Norwegian inspectors on board. Back then, Russian authorities promptly arrested the captain and returned the inspectors. Bratbak hopes the same cooperation would happen today, but his confidence is a bit shaken by recent events. "In these days, Russia can use other methods to negotiate. Like in the Ukraine conflict, they are willing to use power (more) than talking," he says.

Critical climate work is on hold

As a founding member of NATO, Norway's government has joined the rest of Europe in isolating Russia. But as a country bordering Russia, it's feeling the effects more immediately than some others — in everything from Arctic climate action and nuclear waste control to cross-border trade and regional sports leagues.

The protection of the pristine waters of the Arctic, as well as that cod fleet Capt. Bratbak mentioned, falls under an international group called the Arctic Council. The rotating chair of that group is currently Russia, and as such the council has suspended all activities, including crucial research on climate change. "It's not something you can point out that failed today, but it's ongoing," says Kim Holmen with the Norwegian Polar Institute in Tromsø, where the Arctic Council would normally be coordinating research.

"It will take many, many years I'm afraid, to get back to that trust that we have gained through these 25 years of cooperation. So, yeah, it is frightening times," he says.

Ukraine fights to hold off Russian advances in south, east

1 hour ago



Wives of Mariupol defenders appeal for soldiers' evacuation

3 hours ago



'Our roots are there': Ukrainians cross front line for home

4 hours ago



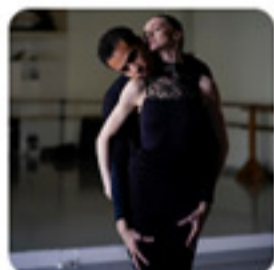
UN works to broker civilian evacuation from Mariupol

10 hours ago



Foreign ballet dancers leave Russia over war with Ukraine

14 hours ago



Relatives: Former US Marine killed while fighting in Ukraine

14 hours ago



Kateryna Prokopenko, wife of Denys Prokopenko, commander of the Azov regiment, right, and Yulia Fedosiuk, wife of Arseny Fedosiuk, another member of Azov regiment get emotional as they show photos of their husbands on their phones during an interview with the Associated Press in Rome, Friday, April 29, 2022. Two Ukrainian women whose husbands are defending a besieged steel plant in the southern city of Mariupol are calling for any evacuation of civilians to also include soldiers. They say the troops stand to be tortured and killed if left behind and captured by Russian forces. (AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

EXPLAINER: How China is using metal barriers to fight COVID

By HUIZHONG WU today



Residents holding umbrellas line up in the rain along the barricaded fence for COVID tests outside the locked-down apartment building on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, in Beijing. China employs a variety of metal barricades, metal sheeting and door locks to keep people inside their apartments, buildings or complexes during lockdowns. The barriers have been deployed in multiple cities across China as part of the fight against COVID-19. (AP Photo/Andy Wong)

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Several districts in Shanghai put up metal barriers last weekend as part of the city's battle against a COVID-19 outbreak, in a move that drew protests and anger from some residents.

Workers in white head-to-toe protective gear erected mesh wire fences and metal sheets to block off roads, residential communities and even the entrances of some apartment buildings. A majority of the city's 25 million residents had already been prevented from leaving their homes during a month-long lockdown, though some neighborhoods have since opened up.

The barriers are deployed to ensure control over movement and often leave only a small entrance that can be easily guarded.

IS THE USE OF METAL FENCING OR BARRIERS NEW?

The barriers are new to Shanghai but have been deployed throughout the pandemic in other cities across China. For example, early in 2020, some neighborhood committees — the lowest rung of local government — erected metal sheets and fences in parts of Beijing to control access points to homes. Wuhan, where the first cases of COVID-19 were reported in December 2019, also erected metal barriers across the city.

[...]

In Beijing, many barriers were removed after the city went without a major outbreak during the past two years. Now, however, residential complexes with positive cases are once again being barricaded.

Deaths by Country or Territory

The coronavirus COVID-19 is affecting 226 countries and territories.

By far, the USA leads in Total Deaths. China is 87th.

Also note Deaths/1M population

| # | Country, Other | Total Cases | New Cases | Total Deaths | New Deaths | Total Recovered | New Recovered | Active Cases | Serious, Critical | Tot Cases/ 1M pop | Deaths/ 1M pop | Total Tests | Tests/ 1M pop | Population |
|----|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | World | 512,988,861 | +184,039 | 6,259,706 | +697 | 466,865,358 | +210,733 | 39,863,797 | 41,154 | 65,812 | 803.1 | | | |
| 1 | USA | 83,037,059 | | 1,020,660 | | 80,655,685 | | 1,360,714 | 1,562 | 248,214 | 3,051 | 1,005,251,244 | 3,004,892 | 334,538,223 |
| 2 | Brazil | 30,433,042 | | 663,484 | | 29,507,557 | | 262,001 | 8,318 | 141,344 | 3,082 | 63,776,166 | 296,204 | 215,311,673 |
| 3 | India | 43,075,864 | | 523,803 | | 42,533,377 | | 18,684 | 698 | 30,665 | 373 | 837,442,023 | 596,164 | 1,404,717,429 |
| 4 | Russia | 18,182,354 | +7,363 | 375,884 | +157 | 17,539,985 | +11,022 | 266,485 | 2,300 | 124,495 | 2,574 | 273,400,000 | 1,871,982 | 146,048,440 |
| 5 | Mexico | 5,738,769 | +958 | 324,294 | +40 | 5,038,150 | +677 | 376,325 | 4,798 | 43,674 | 2,468 | 15,801,675 | 120,256 | 131,400,125 |
| 6 | Peru | 3,564,558 | | 212,810 | | N/A | N/A | N/A | 324 | 105,434 | 6,295 | 29,813,461 | 881,836 | 33,808,382 |
| 7 | UK | 22,038,340 | | 174,912 | | 21,168,267 | | 695,161 | 302 | 321,561 | 2,552 | 517,337,635 | 7,548,453 | 68,535,581 |
| 8 | Italy | 16,409,183 | | 163,377 | | 14,998,689 | | 1,247,117 | 371 | 272,126 | 2,709 | 213,390,610 | 3,538,822 | 60,299,895 |
| 9 | Indonesia | 6,046,796 | +329 | 156,257 | +17 | 5,882,660 | +598 | 7,879 | 2,771 | 21,689 | 560 | 95,495,775 | 342,534 | 278,791,850 |
| 10 | France | 28,595,803 | | 145,869 | | 26,693,852 | | 1,756,082 | 1,677 | 436,333 | 2,226 | 266,484,045 | 4,066,187 | 65,536,600 |
| 11 | Iran | 7,221,653 | +532 | 141,083 | +11 | 6,983,502 | +3,019 | 97,068 | 996 | 84,021 | 1,641 | 50,914,586 | 592,367 | 85,951,036 |
| 12 | Colombia | 6,092,403 | | 139,793 | | 5,926,016 | | 26,594 | 342 | 117,454 | 2,695 | 34,465,052 | 664,441 | 51,870,736 |
| 13 | Germany | 24,704,597 | | 135,794 | | 22,307,900 | +80,300 | 2,260,903 | 1,446 | 293,153 | 1,611 | 122,332,384 | 1,451,639 | 84,271,929 |
| 14 | Argentina | 9,072,230 | | 128,542 | | 8,895,999 | | 47,689 | 372 | 197,432 | 2,797 | 35,716,069 | 777,261 | 45,951,194 |
| 15 | Poland | 5,996,514 | +842 | 116,059 | +17 | 5,334,680 | +61 | 545,775 | 1,321 | 158,759 | 3,073 | 36,092,285 | 955,553 | 37,771,112 |
| 16 | Ukraine | 5,001,719 | | 108,391 | | N/A | N/A | N/A | 177 | 115,633 | 2,506 | 19,521,252 | 451,303 | 43,255,264 |
| 17 | Spain | 11,896,152 | | 104,456 | | 11,389,694 | | 402,002 | 339 | 254,258 | 2,233 | 471,036,328 | 10,067,511 | 46,787,764 |
| 18 | South Africa | 3,785,398 | | 100,360 | | 3,646,241 | | 38,797 | 192 | 62,393 | 1,654 | 24,454,151 | 403,064 | 60,670,648 |
| 19 | Turkey | 15,030,321 | | 98,760 | | 14,936,277 | | -4,716 | 975 | 174,787 | 1,148 | 158,905,150 | 1,847,905 | 85,992,077 |
| 20 | Romania | 2,893,876 | +887 | 65,486 | +8 | 2,606,660 | | 221,730 | 198 | 152,277 | 3,446 | 22,702,071 | 1,194,595 | 19,003,982 |
| 87 | China | 215,667 | +1,424 | 5,022 | +47 | 184,078 | +3,127 | 26,567 | 458 | 150 | 3 | 160,000,000 | 111,163 | 1,439,323,776 |



LOCAL NEWS

40% increase reported in L.A. County COVID cases

by: [Sareen Habeshian](#)

Posted: Apr 29, 2022 / 04:12 PM PDT

Updated: Apr 29, 2022 / 04:31 PM PDT

Coronavirus infections are back on the rise in Los Angeles County with a 40% increase in cases over the past week, officials said Thursday. The weekly case rate is now 126 new cases per 100,000 residents, meaning the county is again experiencing a high rate of transmission for the first time since early March. Hospitalizations are also slowly beginning to rise, Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said, and although the numbers remain relatively low, they are increasing each day, with 253 people hospitalized with the virus Friday.

With L.A. County experiencing a high rate of transmission and cases steadily rising, the department encouraged residents to use caution to avoid getting infected with COVID-19 and transmitting it to others.

While masks are no longer required indoors at schools, health authorities continue to strongly recommend them — particularly for younger children who are not vaccinated and as the highly contagious BA.2 omicron subvariant circulates.

While not yet a cause for significant concern, outbreaks at skilled nursing facilities and sites serving the homeless have recently started to rise as well, health officials said.

391 New COVID-19 Infections Reported as Weekly Cases Up in San Diego County



by Elizabeth Ireland

13 hours ago



Hospitalman Apprentice Jewel Guese, a sailor assigned to Naval Medical Center San Diego's Naval Branch Health Clinic, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, prepares vaccines at the clinic. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Luke Cunningham)

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency Friday reported 391 new COVID-19 infections and 3,025 new cases in the past week, a slight increase over the week prior. Friday's data increased the county's cumulative coronavirus totals to 759,696 cases. The death count remained at 5,238.

The number of COVID-positive patients in San Diego County hospitals decreased by eight people on Friday to 95, according to the latest state data. Of those patients, 13 were being treated in intensive care, up two from the previous day. The total number of available hospital beds countywide decreased by 16 to 258.

More than 2.94 million or 93.4% of San Diegans age 5 and older are at least partially vaccinated, while more than 2.6 million or 82.8% are fully vaccinated. A total of 1,301,056 or 58% of 2,242,187 eligible San Diegans have received a booster shot.



#MayimBialik #IlizaShlesinger #MindBodySyndrome

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Mayim breaks down how our overall stress can have real physical impacts and Iliza Shlesinger discusses being a female among men in her profession, how we as a society struggle to communicate, and how her hectic work life caught up with her in the form of debilitating nerve pain. This plus lots of jokes on Episode 3 of the show.