



JOA JOURNAL

Articles Written by the Joan of Arc Society of Scholars

Class of 2020

Oakland Catholic High School

Foreword

As the Director of the JOA Scholar Program, I am excited to present the first issue of the Joan of Arc Society of Scholars Journal (the JOA Journal). As part of the JOA program, the Scholars attend a total of 14 cultural or intellectual events around the Pittsburgh area. These events range from performances and exhibits to lectures and panels. Over the last six years, I have enjoyed reading the thoughtful and insightful responses shared by the students as part of their program requirements. I have gained knowledge and understanding through the scholars own learning experiences and have longed for a way for the students to share their discoveries with a larger audience.

The JOA Journal gives the Senior JOA Scholars a chance to revisit one of the many events they have attended while at Oakland Catholic, and presents an opportunity for the student to look deeper into a variety of topics. Enclosed in this journal, you will find 21 essays on diverse topics based on events that each of the Scholars were inspired by.

I hope that you will find these papers with our OC Scholar's thoughts and insights as interesting

and inspiring as I do!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Heather Day". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the end of the word "Day".

Heather Day

Director of Joan of Arc Society of Scholars

May 2020

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CHAPTER 1

Ella Adams

Bringing New Life To Dying Languages

Abstract: One of the earliest forms of communication, languages have become a part of cultures and people's identities. As some languages such as English become more and more used, less popular languages tend to die out more quickly. Around half of the world's languages face extinction by the end of the century. This paper discusses the background of endangered languages and what is being done now to help save these dying languages.

About the Author: Ella Adams is planning to attending the University of Rochester, where she will be studying biomedical engineering in hopes of creating technology to help children with disabilities. In February 2020, She attended Dr. Carla Nappi's inaugural lecture where she discussed her new book, Illegible Cities. The book takes place at a dinner party with guests from different time periods who are translators of ancient Asian languages. Each performs their language during a course of the meal. This event inspired me to further research languages, specifically endangered languages.

Around 7,000 languages are spoken in the world today, with English, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish, as the most popular lan-

guages. Linguists predict, however, that almost half of these languages will become extinct by the end of the century. The world has become dominated by the English language. If not native speakers of the language, many parents have their kids learn English as a second language early in their life. Some of the world's less popular languages, considered endangered, face possible extinction. Replaced by more commonly used languages such as English or Spanish, many of the dying languages go unnoticed by the common people in most parts of the world. Through the assimilation of cultures over the years, many languages now face the problem of becoming extinct. As a group of people face cultural persecution, their language encounters loss in its speakers, with the English language playing a role in their extinction, while many linguists work to protect and bring new life to them.

With the clash of cultures and sometimes loss of an entire community of people, native languages often face the threat of endangerment and even extinction. Some languages die out quickly, while others gradually disappear from the world. Throughout history, minority groups have been persecuted and sometimes overthrown by big empires, most notably Britain, France, and the United States. As the empires conquered the minority groups, the leaders usually forced the minorities to practice their customs and speak their languages. In the BBC article, "Languages: Why we must save dying tongues," science journalist, Rachel Nuwer, explains how Native American children in the twentieth century "were sent to boarding schools, where they were often forbidden to speak their native language...Extreme persecution still happens as well. Last August, a linguist in China was arrested for trying to open schools that taught his native language, Uighur. He has not been heard from since" (Nuwer). Forcing minority groups to assimilate into a broader culture and society usually results in their native languages ceasing to exist. The Native Americans and Uyghurs are only two groups out of thousands, however, whose languages have become threatened by the expansions of larger groups of people. Journalist, Oscar Schwartz, writes that languages "do not become endangered peacefully, and the diminution of native speakers is often embedded in

histories of colonialism and suppression. For many communities who speak their tongue within a dominant culture, linguistic education is thus tied up with political resistance” (Schwartz). The endangerment, and sometimes extinction, of a language can be a direct result of persecution of their native speakers. A country’s desire to expand its land territories becomes another nation’s grief and loss for its culture. In some cases, the ability to speak one’s own native language under an oppressive government becomes the only lasting aspect of their culture. On the contrary, future generations may also be a cause of the loss of a language. In a World Literature Today article, Sydneyann Binion and David Shook suggest that languages “become moribund when children stop speaking them... however external factors work for or against it, if children quit speaking a language, it is only a matter of time before the language dies” (Binion and Shook 14). Once the younger generations stop using their parents’ native languages, the languages are more likely to become endangered. Because so many of the minority languages require the use of oral translation and interpretation, once many younger generations stop speaking the language, extinction becomes an imminent threat. At least half of the languages in the world will likely become extinct by the end of the century because of the loss of culture spread over generations upon generations.

The globalization of the English language, the most spoken language in the world with a little over a billion speakers, has played a major role in how languages become endangered. Known as one of the universal languages in the world, English has crossed many borders, dominating the minority tongues of some groups of people. The English language has become so popular, that most native-English speakers only speak one language. In cases where immigrants try to adapt to American society for a better life, they become ashamed of their native language and choose to teach their children English as their first language. Nuwer explains how speaking a more popular language for immigrants “is key to accessing jobs, education and opportunities. Sometimes, especially in immigrant communities, parents will decide not to teach their children their heritage language, perceiving it as a potential hindrance to

their success in life” (Nuwer). With English as the most spoken language in the United States, people are expected to know and understand the language. This aspect of the society in the US causes many second generations of immigrants to fully adopt English as their tongue and forget their parents’ native languages. Many languages express the culture and history behind its origins, differing from how the English language is used. Nuwer also describes the Cherokee language and how it “has no word for goodbye, only ‘I will see you again’. Likewise, no phrase exists for ‘I’m sorry’. On the other hand, it has special expressions all its own. One word—oo-kah-huh-sdee—represents the mouth-watering, cheek-pinching delight experienced when seeing an adorable baby or a kitten” (Nuwer). Languages provide a window into one’s culture, where certain phrases or words are not common to native-English speakers and their way of speaking. The culture and its language become one, and once one part is lost, both are lost. Because some of the endangered languages are so different from the English language, they become less popular and less used. The rapid growth of popularity and use of the English language has greatly harmed the lives of so many languages. Author of multiple novels and articles describing different cultures in the world, Dinitia Smith suggests that “half of the world's languages will be dead, victims of globalization. English is the major culprit, slowly extinguishing the other tongues that lie in its path” (Smith). Many people choose English over minority languages to better adapt in a world dominated by Western practices and customs. They see English as an easier way to adjust to western life and their native tongue as a hindrance or even an embarrassment to their success. Most of the world speaks English, which has affected the smaller languages greatly.

As many languages are passed through oral interpretation, linguists and native speakers are working tirelessly to preserve their languages. The majority of the world’s languages do not have a set alphabet, which means that they rely on oral translation to be passed through generations. About four thousand of the world’s languages do not have orthographies, or a language’s proper spelling of a word, contrary to the most spoken languages in the world. The

stories from these languages are best told by tongue and their “literatures are the oral inheritance of their ancestors; the stories' reliance on intergenerational transmission increases susceptibility to extinction. Even if those traditions were transcribed to the page, they would reflect mere skeletons of the original bodily and vocal performances” (Binion and Shook 14). If languages rely on only word of mouth, their lives are more easily threatened by extinction because there is no tangible record of the language. Without written literature of the language, many of the emotions and history conveyed through oral stories can be lost from generation to generation. Languages tell stories through telling stories, meaning the way in which the speaker articulates and pronounces the words can be another story in and of itself. Languages become “conduits of human heritage. Writing is a relatively recent development in our history (written systems currently exist for only about one-third of the world’s languages), so language itself is often the only way to convey a community’s songs, stories and poems” (Nuwer). Nuwer then explains how ancient Greek epics such as the Iliad and the Odyssey were once oral stories before they were written as poetry. Some of these minority languages do not have the luxury of written literature. So few people may speak these languages that, even if there were writings of the language, its history may become lost if extinct. Many native speakers of these languages, however, are working to preserve these languages through the use of modern technology. Duolingo is a website and mobile app where anyone can learn certain languages offered and is working with speakers of some of the endangered languages to help teach others their native tongue. Still in development, “the company, which was recently valued at \$700m, views the inclusion of languages with fewer speakers as part of a broader mission to become the most complete language education platform online” (Schwartz). To preserve these dying languages, applications such as Duolingo, combine their ancient history and culture with modern technology so that anyone can learn. Software and other technology used today can help revitalize the endangered languages with such few speakers. As English and other popular languages become more and more spoken throughout the world, more languages become extinct. Modern technology must be

used to reach those who want to learn these languages and helps preserve the languages' lives.

With so many communities and groups of people across the world come different ways of communication and thousands of languages. One of the earliest forms of communications with other humans, language is vital to one's identity as well as a community's culture and existence. As many minority groups face persecution and globalization of the Western world, their language becomes endangered. Linguists should look to the Hebrew language for hope, a language that died and is now the official language of Israel. Many linguists and other language experts work tirelessly to reduce the number of languages predicted to die by the end of the century. With the help of native speakers of these languages and modern technology, the dying languages may experience new life.

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CHAPTER 2

Anela Brown

The Influence Of Scottish Highland Games In America

Abstract: Throughout the history of Scotland, the Highland Games have been a major part of the culture and tradition. When immigrants started to move to America, Scottish immigrants brought the tradition of the Highland Games with them. Many people return to their roots by participating in the American version of the Highland Games. While honoring the Highland Games, the Americans draw on the traditions and values that come from the culture of the Scottish games.

About the Author: Anela Brown was inspired to write about this topic specifically because her own grandparents were from Scotland and she has always been interested in learning more about where her family comes from. More closely, she wanted to know more about the traditions she could get involved in here in America, and so attended the Ligonier Highland Games here in Pennsylvania. After leaving Oakland Catholic, Anela plan on studying Business, specifically either Marketing or Actuarial Science. She is currently undecided as to where she will pursue these goals.

When thinking of Scottish heritage and traditions, people tend to think of the Scottish Highland Games. It is said that the games

initially started in Ireland in 2000 BC but slowly moved to Scotland with the migration of people in the fourth or fifth century. However, the Highland Games do not only occur in Scotland anymore. Since Scottish immigrants started coming to America, the Highland games have continued in the United States. Many people return to their roots by participating in the American version of the Highland Games. While honoring the Highland Games, the Americans draw on the traditions and values.

The Highland Games provide a way for people to draw back on their roots. Even though the Highland Games date back to 2000 BC, the games in America began in 1866. In America, “The Caledonian Club of San Francisco held its first Games in 1866 and boasts the oldest continuously running Games in the USA with the St Andrew’s Society of Detroit hot on its tail” (“The Official Gateway to Scotland.”). This was due to the mass influx of Scottish immigrants flowing into America during the Industrial Revolution. These games go back to the old ways and “traditionally some events have become standard in these games such as the caber toss, stone put, Scottish hammer throw, weight throw, weight over the bar, sheaf toss and maide leisg (lazy stick). However, these gatherings now have a whole variety of events, stalls, entertainments, pipes, dancing and all kinds of competitions” (MacQueen). Like the older games, the American games value the old ways. While I attended the Ligonier games, they also had an informational session on the Clans of Scotland. Then later there was a rugby match from the local teams in the area.

The reason the games were started in America was to remember the traditions of the country and to help combat the discrimination they faced as immigrants. In order to relieve the stress felt by the immigrants, the games were started “To relieve indigent and unfortunate Scotchmen or their families; to foster and encourage a love of Scotland, its history, literature, and customs, and, for a number, is added encouragement of the national athletic games; and to promote friendly and social relation of members” (Miller). From that point of the beginning of the Highland Games in America, the games meant more than just tests of strength, they were a way of

expression. The events showed people from outside of the Scottish culture the appreciation Scottish people have for where they come from.

Continuing into today's society, the games still continue on in America. Over the years, there has been a "growing interest in Americans' cultural and ancestral ties to Scotland has produced hundreds of new clan and heritage societies and a steadily increasing number of Scottish Highland games" (Ray). The games, while popular in the north, have become increasingly popular in the South. During the games, the events that take place are the heavy events and the light weight or novelty events. However, the heavy events are the more popular and well-known ones.

According to Force Barbell, "there are seven events that make up the Heavy Events in the Highland Games: the caber toss, stone throw, 28 pound weight throw, 56 pound weight throw and toss, Scottish hammer, and the sheaf toss" (Miller). During the caber toss, which is the most well-known event of the Highland Games, the contestants participate in throwing a sixteen to fourteen foot tree trunk. The stone throw event consists of throwing a ten to thirty pound stone like how you would throw a shot put. Finally, while the twenty-eight pound throw and fifty-six pound are thrown for a distance record, the fifty-six pound toss is thrown for height record. While the light events consist of "high jumps, long jumps, triple jumps, pole vaults, sprints, and other similar events" (Miller). Most Highland Games also have dancing and bag piping.

The American version of the games is organized almost the same way as the Highland Games in Scotland, without the visit from the Royal Family, but American games may take liberties and at their own unique style to each game. Some games at food competitions into their activities or take out certain aspects they do not want. However, Scottish people rely on their traditions so most games continually stick to their roots. Stemming from these roots is also where many Scottish or Scottish-Americans get their values.

The Highland Games in America have also become a way for Scottish and Scottish-American to express their values as a collec-

tive. Since the beginning of the games in America, “The popularity of the Scottish-heritage movement in the South is partly due to its double celebration of a ‘reclaimed’ Scottish ethnicity and its particular relationship to southern regional identity. Southern Scottish-heritage societies emphasize kinship and bill clan society activities as family reunions” (Ray). Like people in the South, Scottish people also value tradition and history. The Americans with Scottish ancestry identified this and want to emulate the values in the games that their ancestors used to participate in. Scottish-Americans have a very strong will and strive to “reclaim” things that were once theirs. In continuing, “American celebrations of Scottish heritage draw on romantic nineteenth-century interpretations of Highland manners and Scottish identity--a mythic Scottish past that in the South blends harmoniously with nostalgic visions of antebellum southern society and the Lost Cause” (Ray). Scottish-Americans greatly appreciate the stories of their past as well. They value having a related history with others to share in because having strong family connections is very important in Scottish Culture.

Imagination is a key aspect of Scottish culture as well. Being able to dream also allows people to feel nostalgia for the culture and the people of Scotland. Both Americans and Scottish people, “derive from perceived historical injuries, strong attachments to place and kin, and links between militarism and religious faith, and both have produced symbolic material cultures” (Ray). Scottish people also have a strong attachment and connection to religion. Whatever they describe themselves as, Scottish people rely on their religion and the values they hold in it.

Highlandism has also become a huge part of Scottish-American values. In describing Highlandism, Celeste Ray states that “the celebrated heritage is that of one region of Scotland: the Highlands. How the Highlands came to represent the whole of Scotland is quite similar to the way in which plantation owners came to represent southerners generally” (Ray). Even though the region is specific, many Scottish and Scottish-American identify with the values of Highlandism.

Highlandism represents a time of struggle and acceptance which a lot of Americans identify with. Ray continues to say that "Highlandism celebrates clan society during the "Jacobite Risings," a period beginning in 1689 and punctuated by "Bonnie Prince Charlie's" defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746" (Ayoub). Highlandism celebrates gathering together as a community and being together. Scottish and Scottish American people as a whole strive for the best. Working as a community is a key value they have because of the history and tradition they share.

The Ligonier Camp Grounds Highland Games is a prime example of a traditional gaming event that took some liberties of their own. At the games, some liberties they took there were booths set up for attendees to trace their ancestry back as far as they wanted in Scotland. There was also Scottish food to eat and activities to participate in. Many vendors had set up shop to sell goods and gifts for people who could not travel to Scotland. Many of these things included were jewelry, clothing and homemade Scottish bread. Later on a rugby match was held with club teams from around the America.

However, the Ligonier games did not stray from their roots. The Ligonier games consisted of the regular events included in the games such as: the caber toss, stone throw, 28 pound weight throw, 56 pound weight throw and toss, Scottish hammer, the sheaf toss. Also, the games had dancing competitions and bagpipers from across the country played on a wide open field. The Ligonier games have a strong sense of Highlandism with them. The games help people reunite with forgotten information from their past.

In conclusion, the Highland games have become a rich part of culture for not only Scotland but America as well. The games were a way for immigrants to assimilate to life in America. By interacting with the competitions and events, Scottish people and Scottish-Americans are reminded of the history their heritage has in an exciting way.

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CHAPTER 3

The Holocaust Denial

Abby Burns

Abstract: The Holocaust occurred. It is a recorded that Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically killed about six million European Jews in a state-sponsored genocide campaign between 1941 and 1945. The denial of the Holocaust describes attempts to discredit the established facts of the genocide of European Jews by Nazis. Common denial arguments are: that the genocide of six million Jews during World War II never occurred; the Nazis had no official strategy or plan to exterminate the Jews; and that there never were poison gas chambers in the death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. The Holocaust denial comes down simply to a modern act of anti-semitism in an attempt to hurt the survivors and the relatives of those who lived through the Holocaust.

About the Author: Abby Burns will be attending Villanova University to study nursing next year. She chose to write her paper on the Holocaust Denial after being inspired by an event she attended her Junior year. At this event a Holocaust survivor discussed his experience in Auschwitz. Abby was struck when a question was posed about Holocaust Deniers, as she was not familiar with this concept so she decided to dive deeper into this phenomenon.

The Holocaust, also known as the Shoah, was the extermination of the European Jews during World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its allies systematically assassinated some six million Jews throughout German-occupied Europe, about two-thirds of the Jewish population in Europe. The attacks took place in pogroms and mass shootings. A policy of extermination was issued where most murders were through labor and starvation in concentration camps. Despite the immense amount of facts, statistics, and accounts of the inhuman events of the Holocaust there is an increasing number of people who claim the holocaust is illegitimate. This growing group of people are known as the Holocaust deniers. The roots of the Holocaust denial date back to the early 1900's, there are several different theories and beliefs about the existence of the Holocaust that are received because of the corruption of society and lack of knowledge of the truth.

The root of the Holocaust denial started post World War II. The first rumors of the denial were not attempts to completely refute the Holocaust but simply to revise the war's history and mitigate German intentions and actions. The actual denial of the Holocaust began in France in 1947 with a woman named Maurice Bardeche was, "the first to maintain that the gas chambers that were said to have been used to exterminate Jews had been used, instead, only to disinfect clothing; that the evidence, including photos, documents and testimonies regarding the annihilations of Jews, had been falsified; and that whatever sufferings the Jews had experienced had been deserved, since they had been enemies of the German state" (Bumbaca). Bardache's original claims about the Holocaust did not gain a lot of momentum, the events were too recent and not many people took an interest in this seemingly obscure topic. A few decades later, Austin J. App, a professor of English at the University of Scranton and La Salle College, wrote an argument published in 1973, "The Six Million Swindle: Blackmailing the German People for Hard Marks with Fabricated Corpses," would become the core of the deniers' arguments. His main argument was, "The Nazis, he insisted, never had a plan for exterminating the Jews: had the efficient Germans wanted to do so, he explained, no Jew would have survived

the effort” (Reich). Heinrich Himmler's secret speech to the SS leaders in Posen on Oct. 4, 1943 discounts this claim, by this date nearly five million Jews had already been killed. In his speech he states that his goal was the "extermination of the Jewish people...we have the moral right, the duty to our people, to destroy this people which wanted to destroy us” (Holocaust Denial). It was explicitly stated by a leader of the Nazis that their goal was to eliminate the Jewish race. Facts such as these that are so explicit make it difficult to comprehend how the Holocaust denial is a logical argument for many educated people. After the Allied Powers won World War II, many of the Nazis were put on trial and they admitted to involvement in the inhumane acts against the Jews. During these testimonies, “Mr. App dismissed all postwar testimonies by Nazis who admitted that they had participated in the mass killings of Jews as outright frauds” (Reich). This trend began to rise and gain attention in America in 1980, when both the Journal of Historical Review and the Historical Review Institute appeared. Since then, it has published articles that battle specific arguments about the accuracy of the Holocaust. It is unfathomable that as many as one-fifth of all Americans would be skeptical that the Holocaust ever occurred if it were not for the efforts of the Holocaust deniers over the last half-century, and particularly over the last 15 years, who have gained traction in their claims which are addressed and heard with receptiveness and respect.

Despite the evidence supporting the existence of the Holocaust, there is a vast number of people who still deny its existence or its magnitude. They have three main arguments that they base their arguments around. The primary argument of the Holocaust deniers is, “Gas chambers were never used to kill Jews. Those Jews who died while in German hands were, in the main, killed justifiably and legally on the grounds that they were subversives, partisans or spies” (Reich). This key argument of the deniers is faulty considering the hundreds of documented first hand accounts of the Jews watching their loved ones die in the gas chamber or being tasked with dragging the bodies from the gas chamber to be burned. It is difficult to discount these accounts that all paint the same horrific

picture of death. The secondary argument frequently made against the existence of the Holocaust is, “Many of the Jews who were supposedly killed by the Germans were, in fact, killed as a result of Allied actions, such as bombings, or while they were in lands occupied by the Soviets” (Reich). While there are certainly Jewish lives that were lost in the crossfires of war, the number of deaths is miniscule compared to the genocide orchestrated by the Germans. It is a normal consequence of war to lose innocent citizens amidst all of the violence, but the calculated extermination of the Jews cannot be chalked up to simply be a consequence of war. It seems as if even the foundation that the deniers base their argument on is faulty and ill factual, so why has this seemingly far fetched idea been a truth to so many people?

The tactics the Holocaust deniers used to misrepresent history, the reasons that led them to do so, and the flaws in our educational systems, our community and ourselves are the primary factors that made so many people ready to listen to them in our society. Why have they worked so hard to prove they never killed all those Jews? It is not because they were unable to comprehend the thought of 6 million deceased Jews? There is not one clear cut answer to this complex question and each person has their own motives for their beliefs. There is the simple fact that, "One revives the dead in order the better to strike the living, that is, in order to hurt the Jews who are still alive" (Reich). The deniers have a hateful opinion of the living Jews, a mind set which is known as anti-semitism, the extermination of 6 million jews while it may have impacted their Jewish ancestors it did not directly impact the 21st century Jewish community. By opening old wounds and denying the existence or magnitude of the Holocaust it is a method to directly target the living relatives of the Holocaust. The primary motivation for most deniers is anti-Semitism, “and for them the Holocaust is an infuriatingly inconvenient fact of history. After all, the Holocaust has generally been recognized as one of the most terrible crimes that ever took place, and surely the very emblem of evil in the modern age” (Bumbaca). It is difficult to attack a group of people who were targeted so heavily that they lost 6 million people. By attempt-

ing to discount the primary act of hatred in the history of Jewish people. It is much easier to treat people unjustly if they don't have the sympathy of the majority of the world. But the success of the Holocaust deniers, "is also the product of an age in which the freedom to express views is confused with an obligation to facilitate their expression. During the last two years, Holocaust deniers have managed to get advertisements promoting their views published in numerous college newspapers in this country on the ground, sometimes voiced by university officials, that to stop them from doing so would be to muzzle free speech" (Reich). In today's era there is a huge push towards expressing views and taking freedom of speech to a new level where it is acceptable to be hateful. A Jewish man speaks on the topic, he says "It would have made me happy to believe that the deep vein of sadness in my life caused by the knowledge that so many in my family had been gassed or shot, and that six million other Jews had been similarly murdered, was merely the product of a bad dream" (Reich). Unfortunately, there is no plausible way to deny the existence of the Holocaust. It was a monumental event that cannot be discounted. There is too much evidence supporting its existence. Ultimately, the Holocaust denial is a hateful act of racism that is based on a foundation of twisted facts and illogical arguments.

The distortion of facts and denial of the Holocaust is the dismissal of irrefutable and proven evidence that the Holocaust occurred. It demeans the agony of the victims and survivors of this horrific historical event. The denial of the Holocaust is a form of racism that dehumanizes victims and survivors, and aims at challenging and justifying the unthinkable actions of the Germans. Failure to discuss denial of the Holocaust raises the risk of false statements being passed on and which could blur the line between facts, beliefs and lies. It is essential to make sure that today's generation and generations to come are prepared to know the difference between the fact and fiction of the Holocaust so that the horrific events will never be forgotten and therefore will never be repeated.

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CHAPTER 4

Climate Activism Of Indigenous Groups

Teresa Davison

Abstract: Climate change has affected many, but none more strongly than the indigenous groups who are so dependent on their symbiotic relationship with nature. Indigenous groups have long acted as effective stewards of the land they live on, developing sustainable techniques in order to continue living off the land. However, this dependency on the land is the very factor that makes these groups so susceptible to the ill effects of climate change. Because of this and their connection to the earth, indigenous groups have taken up the burden of informing the rest of the world of the risks of climate change and attempting to teach them more sustainable ways of living.

About the Author: Teresa Davison is planning on attending the University of Pittsburgh in the Fall for Computer Science. She hopes to pursue a job in data science in the future. She was inspired to learn more about the ties between indigenous cultures and environ-

mental issues after attending a talk on the activism of indigenous women in Latin America.

“The planet's average surface temperature has risen about 1.62 degrees Fahrenheit (0.9 degrees Celsius) since the late 19th century, a change driven largely by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere” (“Climate Change Evidence”). This is a well-known fact as the global climate crisis has taken center stage. Climate change affects everyone around the globe, though some more than others. Since they have lived in cooperation with nature for thousands of years, indigenous groups have created strong connections to the earth. This dependency and connection with nature is threatened as indigenous groups begin to feel the effects of climate change, forcing them to become some of the strongest climate activists.

Indigenous groups have depended and cared for the land for countless generations, often connecting so strongly with the earth that their relationship takes on a spiritual aspect. Being the first to inhabit a place, the indigenous people naturally had to learn how to coexist with the land that was presented to them. With little technology available at the time of their settlement, indigenous groups learned the importance of maintaining a mutually beneficial relationship with the earth, “...a relationship in which life thrives on the recognition of an inalienable interconnectedness and delicate balance. In Māori communities, indigenous people grow native seeds and indigenous flora to restore rivers, which in turn enhance the livelihoods of communities that depend on the river systems” (“Values of Indigenous Peoples”). Through hundreds of years of trial and error, they developed sustainable techniques and protected their environment’s biodiversity, viewing nature with respect and creating spiritual rituals to maintain the sense of interconnectedness with

their surroundings. There are relatively few indigenous groups remaining, and “Although indigenous peoples constitute less than 5% of the world’s population, they safeguard 80% of the world’s remaining biodiversity, thereby playing a key role in climate protection. Indigenous peoples often have a spiritual connection to nature, which ensures that they take the protection of their habitat seriously” (“Values of Indigenous Peoples”). Rather than using up natural resources solely for economic or social gain, indigenous people took a more long-term approach, ensuring that the resources would be preserved for their descendents and creating traditions that would in turn protect the spiritual connection that is so crucial to their identity. With this forethought came the “responsibility for inter-generational equity – the principle that every generation holds the Earth in common with members of the present generation and with other generations, past and future. Their knowledge and practices are guided by the principle of how one’s action will affect the well-being of generations to come” (“Values of Indigenous Peoples”). While these traditions have so far persevered for many years, climate change now threatens the livelihood of many indigenous groups, and along with it the basis of their identity.

Drastically changing temperatures in the Arctic are already demonstrating the effects of climate change on the relationship of indigenous groups with nature. The identity of the Iñupiat people of Alaska is inextricably intertwined with whales, with their very name meaning “People of the Whales.” As temperatures climb and the ice melts, maintaining this connection to a dwindling whale population becomes increasingly difficult. In addition, the Iñupiat face “the loss of Qalgi — sacred ceremonial places that spiritually and physically connect the people to the sea. However, ... ‘contemporary storytelling among the Iñupiat both reveals and helps them cope with an unpredictable future and serves as a way to maintain a connection to a disappearing land’” (McLean). While adapting their customs, indigenous groups are also forced to reevaluate their connection to the land and adjust to the demands of climate change. In addition, due to their close dependence on nature, indigenous groups are usually the first to notice the effects of climate change. For instance, in

many cities people are merely experiencing slight changes in temperatures or general weather patterns, but for indigenous people who depend on the land for their entire livelihood, the effects can be much more drastic, “Climate change exacerbates the difficulties already faced by vulnerable indigenous communities, including political and economic marginalization, loss of land and resources, human rights violations, discrimination and unemployment” (“Climate Change”). Though being the original owners of the land they live on, indigenous groups are often pushed off, having their land rights violated outright in favor of government initiatives. Due to the diminutive number of indigenous people, their political clout is often very minimal, generally leading to violations of their rights. For example, indigenous groups who fall in the category of forest management often find lack of land rights to be a huge stumbling block in the fight for preservation:

For the Loita Maasai, forest resources are held in trust by the Marok County Council on behalf of the Kenyan government. For the Miskitu, access to and use and control of natural resources are impacted by government norms and regulations, and external settlers are causing deforestation. The Dayak Jalai are faced with government-promoted expansion of palm plantations and the continued operations of mining companies. (McLean)

Much of the expansion onto indigenous land is driven by economic gain. Consequently, indigenous groups either lose control over their land or lose the land entirely, being displaced from their homes. With the loss of control and stewardship over their land comes the loss of the techniques that had preserved it for so long, ultimately leading to the possibility of environmentally disastrous actions, such as deforestation or implementation of oil pipelines. Moved by such tragic consequences, many indigenous groups have taken up the burden of climate activism.

Many climate activists have taken to the global stage recently and among the strongest voices are those of indigenous people. The name most synonymous with the fight against climate change is that of Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old from Sweden who

made her statement first through weekly school strikes. In September of 2019, she delivered a searing speech to the UN climate action summit. Joining her on the forefront of the fight are many other young activists from around the globe. Xiuhtezcatl Martinez is a Mexican-American indigenous rights activist who joined the campaign against climate change when he was just six years old. Being only 19 years old now, Martinez was involved in a lawsuit against a fracking company in Colorado that ultimately failed but is currently involved in suing the U.S. government for inaction. Martinez holds slightly more positive views on how activism has inspired people to act, stating “I think the power of people is being recognised as an unstoppable force, both with the mobilisation of bodies on the streets, the mobilisation in our courts, the way that we are taking to the polls” (“Indigenous Activism”). He and many other activists worldwide are trying to make governments and large corporations take ownership over their roles in accelerating the effects of climate change. In particular, many groups have targeted the fossil fuel industry as a major offender in releasing carbon emissions and contaminating water sources. While holding polluters accountable for their actions is a large part of the fight, many indigenous activists have also taken to creating solutions.

Indigenous groups hope that spreading their values and customs will help the rest of the world take a more active role in caring for the earth and mitigating further effects of climate change. Indigenous practices have been proven by the tests of time to be effective in preserving a symbiotic relationship with the earth. The International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) emphasized the importance of sharing these practices, stating, “... [W]e reiterate the need for recognition of our traditional knowledge, which we have sustainably used and practiced for generations; and the need to integrate such knowledge in global, national and sub-national efforts. This knowledge is our vital contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation” (McLean). By adapting indigenous knowledge to modern challenges, the world will be better equipped to protect the environment from further damage. Youssef Nassef, Director of the Adaptation Programme of UN Climate

Change, acknowledges the two-fold benefits of learning from indigenous practices, stating, “these indigenous values can help societies to go beyond simply reacting to the symptoms of environmental challenges and help them adopt the mindset necessary to build long-term resilience for all” (“Values of Indigenous Peoples”). The best way to implement these changes is to start by educating the younger generations, who have already shown a propensity towards climate activism, so as to ensure a better future. In addition, there are growing economic opportunities in creating sustainable business models and promoting the use of renewable resources.

Climate change is pervasive, with its effects being felt around the world. However, those most affected by the changes are indigenous groups, who derive much of their identity from a connection to the earth. Though indigenous groups tend to be very small and have little political power, they are making their voices be heard as they advocate for environmental protections.

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CHAPTER 5

Gloria Steinem: Her Beginnings, Work, And Legacy

Carolyn Guzikowski

Abstract: In the years following the nineteenth amendment, women continued struggling to make their way in a male-controlled world designed to keep women at arms length from success and independence. From this oppression, however, grew a movement of women ready and willing to fight for their equality and increased social and professional opportunities. One of the greatest leaders of the women's movement, Gloria Steinem, worked tirelessly speaking at rallies, creating alliances, and reporting on the women's movement at a time when women's liberation was rejected by many in the United States. Through her early life experiences, work, and legacy, Steinem has become one of the most renowned social reformers and leaders of the 20th century women's movement.

About the Author: Carolyn Guzikowski will be attending Drexel University in the fall and majoring in Environmental Engineering. After college, she plans to work as a green building engineer to create more sustainable and environmental-friendly structures. Carolyn was inspired to write this piece about Gloria Steinem's life, career, and legacy after attending a JOA event at Heinz Hall where Steinem spoke about her passion for public speaking, journalism, and event organizing to bring about social justice and increased equalities among genders and races. Gloria Steinem continues to inspire her everyday to stand up for what is right and pursue her passions with courage and conviction.

Known today as one of second-wave feminism's leading activists, Gloria Steinem can attribute her strong-will and fortitude to her humble and rather difficult beginnings. She was born in Toledo, Ohio, on March 25, 1934 to parents Leo Steinem and Ruth Nuneviller. The youngest daughter of two, Steinem

often picked up the pieces of their broken family when older sister Susanne was away. Growing up in Toledo after her parents' divorce at the age of ten meant neglect, detachment, and immense responsibility. Her father, a charming but debt-ridden travelling salesman, made a new life in California and left his youngest daughter to care for her mentally ill mother (Kunhardt). In the years following their divorce, Steinem's mother suffered a nervous breakdown, could not hold down a job, and could not care for her children. During these years Steinem assumed the role of her mother while looking for every way and manner to leave Toledo for better opportunities for education and work. Finally, at seventeen, Steinem left Ohio for Massachusetts to attend Smith College on a scholarship. At Smith, Steinem studied government and politics, hoping to be a political reporter upon graduation. She noticed at Smith that "women in college were still being educated to be mothers and the wives of executives" (Kunhardt) instead of becoming professionals and developing their own potential as women. Upon graduation in 1956, Steinem moved to southern India on the Chester Bowles Fellowship that allowed her to research while also participating in peacekeeping operations during caste riots ("Gloria Steinem" 2). While in India, Steinem experienced grassroots activism that "would later manifest itself in her work with the women's liberation movement and the Equal Rights Amendment" (Michals). Wanting to return to reporting, Steinem moved to New York after leaving India but found it difficult to be taken seriously as a single woman. For many weeks she had to live with friends as landlords would not rent to a single woman, as they thought they were financially unstable (Kunhardt). Steinem eventually found work writing women-g geared articles about cooking, makeup, and dating that were "then called 'the women's pages'" (Michals). However, after countless frivolous articles and no prospects of serious work, Steinem's career took a drastic and irreversible turn.

In 1963, Steinem made a name for herself when she was hired by Show magazine to become a Playboy Bunny and report back on the working conditions. While working at Hugh Hefner's club, Steinem experienced the sexist, poorly paid, and degrading jobs of the bunnies and waitresses, that included constricting clothing and pelvic examinations. The publishing of this article, "A Bunny's Tale," unfortunately hurt Steinem's career and took away her integrity and seriousness as a reporter. It was not until 1968 when she co founded New York magazine that she redefined herself as a serious political writer and editor. Her new career at New York magazine gave her the opportunity to report on "political campaigns and progressive social issues, including the women's liberation movement" (Michals). Steinem began to make a title for herself as she began speaking at protests for the women's movement with her speaking partner, Dorothy Pittman Hughes. Together, they brought more attention to women's movements taking hold across the country concerning issues such as gender segregated spaces, the pay gap, and abortion. Seeing how women's rights and issues were not being adequately addressed in mainstream magazines and

newspapers, Steinem decided to create a magazine focused entirely on women's issues and the women's movement. This magazine was the first of its kind when it was published in 1972, and entitled "Ms." to create a marital-status-neutral title for women. The magazine exceeded sales expectations within the first week and strengthened the women's movement, which supported Steinem's belief that a "magazine controlled by women was necessary if a truly open forum on women's issues was to exist" ("Gloria Steinem " 3). For fifteen years Steinem was one of the magazine's editors and writers. The same year the magazine came out, Steinem joined forces with other feminist icons Bella Abzug, Shirley Chisholm, and Betty Friedan to create the National Women's Political Caucus. This Caucus "continues to support gender equality and to ensure the election of more pro-equality women to public office" (Michals). While the ratio of women to men in politics still favors the latter, the establishment of these organizations helped and supported the advancement of women in traditionally male-dominated professions. Steinem remained active in the women's movement by co-founding the Women's Action Alliance in 1971, the Women's Media Center in 2004, and creating the Take Our Daughters to Work Day which takes place on the fourth Thursday in April. These alliances and groups help foster inclusion, give women more opportunities, and provide a space for women to feel respected and heard. While Steinem's efforts were often seen as making women more important than men, she defended the movement by explaining its purpose being to "humanize both roles" (Kunhardt), instead of placing one gender above the other. Through her tireless work in the women's movement and passion for equality, Steinem has come to be known as "one of the most visible, passionate leaders and spokeswomen of the women's rights movement in the late 20th and early 21st centuries" (Michals). Standing in the face of criticism, hatred, and discrimination, Steinem gave her career to bettering the lives of all women and furthering equality for minorities. Her countless years of service for equality have not gone unnoticed, as condemnation of Steinem has turned to admiration.

Among many other honors, Steinem received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013 from President Barack Obama. Four years later, Rutgers University in New Jersey "created The Gloria Steinem Endowed Chair in Media, Culture, and Feminist Studies" (Michals). While it took the majority of society a few decades to really appreciate Steinem's work, she is now receiving the admiration and recognition she deserved all along for the life changing work she does to improve the lives of women in the workplace and in society.

Nearly fifty years since Ms. Magazine's first release and the establishment of the National Women's Political Caucus, women continue to fight and advocate for their equality and increased opportunities in the workforce, educational institutions, and politics. Among these fierce feminists that draw from Steinem's legacy are Adwoa Aboah, Sarah Sophie Flicker, and Audrey Gelman.

Supermodel Adwoa Aboah has transformed the world of modeling through her advocacy for social justice on social media using her #letsgetgurlstalking hashtag, designed to encourage “honesty and openness for young women ” (Okwodu). Aboah frequently reflects on her vintage copy of Ms. Magazine, and the messages of Gloria Steinem printed across pages to remember to stand firm in her beliefs for gender equality (Bobb). According to Aboah, anyone can be a modern-day feminist, from working women to stay-at-home moms as long as they believe in equality. Another modern feminist, Sarah Sophie Flicker, can be called many things from activist to entrepreneur to writer, the most important of things being activist. Flicker’s most important role was her work organizing the January 21st, 2017 Women’s March with Gloria Steinem which “advocated for legislative reforms on human rights such as women’s rights, reproductive rights, LGBTQIA rights, and immigration reform” (Weber). Flicker describes her interactions with Steinem during this time as providing a sense of solidarity and community. Since the Women’s March in 2017, Flicker has continued to advocate for equality through her art foundation, Firebrand, which seeks to promote social change using art and design. A feminist with a similar passion, Audrey Gelman, uses her women-only club, The Wing, in NYC to provide a safe space for women “to work, socialize, learn and seek shelter from the chaos of their daily professional lives” (Wang). The Wing was created in 2016 and is spreading across the country with new locations planned for Seattle, Boston, and international locations planned for Paris and London. Gelman recognizes Steinem as a “woman who showed us that our voices had true power in shifting and dismantling oppressive systems in America” (Bobb), and set to work creating a place where women can openly speak and foster positive change. Each of these women, who have accomplished a wide array of achievements, have all gained inspiration and a continued admiration for Steinem through her work in the women’s movements.

Without the work of Gloria Steinem and the other strong, resilient leaders like her, women would not have the amount of opportunities, freedom, and consideration they have today. Situations will need to continue improving at work, school, and in society to ensure equality among genders, but since the 1970s the lives of women have been drastically transformed in America. While society continues to grow and evolve, it is paramount to remember and recognize the work of Steinem for the advancement of equality for all women.

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CHAPTER 6

Fuel For Debate: Natural Gas As The United States' Political Savior

Jessica Huwar

Abstract: Every carousing American keeps close tabs on the price of gasoline; a classic illustration of supply and demand, fuel prices fluctuate depending on the rate of production and consumption, but there is more to the issue than meets the eye. The United States, as a major importer of Middle Eastern oil, is at the mercy of supply nations that manipulate prices in order to fulfill their political agendas. In the past ten years, a solution has emerged to alleviate the volatile political relationships intertwined with changing fuel prices. By exporting liquid natural gas from the shale regions of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and New York, the United States has the opportunity to regain economic stability and energy freedom.

About the Author: In October of 2019, Jessica was given the incredible opportunity to witness firsthand President Donald Trump's keynote address at the 2019 Shale Insight Conference in Pittsburgh. President Trump, along with the event's other panelists, spoke optimistically about the way natural gas, fracking, and LNG technology

are impacting the world. Fascinated by the impacts of changing fuel dynamics on political relationships, Jessica decided to dive deeper into the issue. Following graduation, Jessica will be pursuing a degree in biochemistry. She plans to continue her involvement and dedication to her faith, service, and politics in college and beyond.

In October of 2019, President Donald J. Trump addressed the Shale Insight Conference and its participants. Standing in the Pittsburgh David L. Lawrence Convention Center and looking out over an audience of company owners, geologists, and factory workers, President Trump declared, “We believe the United States should never again be at the mercy of a foreign supplier of energy. We were at their mercy for many, many decades. We are committed not only to energy independence but to American energy dominance” (“Remarks by President Trump at 9th Annual Shale Insight Conference”). For so long, American energy independence seemed like an unattainable goal, but for the first time, the United States has begun to take steps in the right direction. The energy source rising to the surface in the United States is fueling a heated debate concerning the economic implications of large-scale liquid natural gas (LNG) exports from the United States, and how those exports will influence American interests in terms of foreign political interactions, the domestic gas industry, and United States energy stability.

The recent investment in liquid natural gas exports is actively changing the global political landscape as the United States experiences new energy flexibility. A process known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, draws natural gas reserves out of the ground in the Marcellus and Utica shale rock layers in the northeastern United States. Pressurized fluid--mainly made of water--is forced deep into

the shale layers, cracking the rock and releasing fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas. The gaseous fuel is purified and filtered before being compressed into a liquid and being shipped out to residential and international consumers. The natural gas industry advertises itself as an intermediary energy source-- a less destructive alternative to coal and oil and less expensive in comparison to renewable resources such as wind and solar power. A preliminary report by the Rhodium Group estimates that, “coal generation in the U.S. fell by 18 percent [in 2019], the largest annual decline on record” (Kusnetz). This story of emissions decline has largely been one of market forces, in addition to policies, that have driven utilities to close coal plants in favor of cheaper natural gas. While fracking is by no means a new technique, recent innovations in the safety and efficiency of the process coupled with encouragement from the current federal administration have created an environment for the natural gas industry to thrive. In the summer of 2016, “China was able to receive its first US LNG shipment from [United States via the] Sabine Pass that sailed through the Panama Canal” (Grigas). This monumental fuel trade symbolized a shift in the power dynamic between two of the world’s most influential countries. In an attempt to keep up with the explosion of its manufacturing industry, China has been searching for economically advantageous alternatives to expensive fuel from the Middle East. As a result, “China imported \$254 million in LNG from the United States in January 2018” (Silverstein). The Chinese-American political dynamic is a very complicated relationship. Traditionally the United States has imported inexpensive Chinese-made goods, which exposed the U.S. to price-gouging and market manipulation. Introducing LNG trade to the equation allows the U.S. to regain leverage in negotiations and work towards a symbiotic relationship with China among other nations.

Liquid natural gas exports have a positive impact on the current climate issue while also providing a domestic economic boost. Arno Harris, the CEO of Recurrent Energy, a leading solar project developer, made waves in the renewable energy sphere when he announced his support for LNG exports. Harris believes that “exporting natural gas would likely result in displacement of coal both do-

mestically and abroad, resulting in lower net carbon emissions. Secondly, Harris recognizes that cheap natural gas hinders the development of renewable energy, and LNG exports could help boost the price of gas in the United States, making solar and wind energy more competitive” (Eldean). Of all the fossil fuels, burning coal releases the most greenhouse gases, specifically carbon, into the atmosphere. In the past decade, the United States has begun to look for a way to reduce carbon emissions without compromising productivity, and as Harris argues, the success of liquid natural gas inversely correlates to the decrease in coal burning. According to the American Petroleum Institute,

Current expectations for cheaper and more price-responsive natural gas mean that higher levels of U.S. LNG exports can be accommodated with much lower price increases (as measured as cents price increase per one Bcfd of incremental LNG exports) than what was expected. This suggests that the economic impacts from LNG exports will still likely be positive and substantial. (“Impact of LNG Exports on the U.S. Economy: A Brief Update”)

The American Petroleum Institute supports Harris’s economic views; the United States is well-positioned to profit off the international trade of LNG while the American economy remains stable. The inordinate amount of natural gas discovered in the Marcellus and Utica shale has the possibility to bring the United States colossal economic gains. LNG transfer technology not only ships fuel across seas, but also transports natural gas from the Appalachian shale region to destinations across the continental United States. In the recent past,

There were fewer gas suppliers and less export and import infrastructure available, liquidity and optionality were almost nonexistent for many importers. Thus, gas relations were long-term arrangements between two states and often had an even more politicized and strategic calculus than that of oil. Nowadays, however, trade dynamics have changed so that importers and exporters no longer interact simply on a bilateral basis, but are subject to the forces of the global natural gas markets. (Grigas)

This diversification of supply dynamics has brought unprecedented interconnectedness to regional gas markets. Now, regions that historically were stuck in vulnerable and unbalanced dependence on fuel suppliers have a newfound independence and protection from gas monopolists interested in isolating and exploiting the cost of gas. The flexibility in fuel supply provides regions and states across the country with an influx of revenue previously allocated to satisfy commodity prices. The recent changes to the natural gas supply chain have also attracted foreign interests. For example, “China has been looking to invest \$84 billion over 20 years into the state of West Virginia, all to get access to the Marcellus Shale basin. [At one point] it was seeking to also invest in Alaska” (Silverstein). For states like West Virginia that are economically disadvantaged, an infusion of Chinese cash has the potential to kickstart the economy and breathe life back into the region. Investments in natural gas drilling projects would create employment opportunities and draw individuals to the area, which would in turn circulate wealth and give residents greater financial liberty.

The development of liquid natural gas trade grants the United States a greater energy independence, releasing America from its foreign energy obligations. The recent shale revolution has “provided the United States with the power to take a leadership position in the global gas sector and the geopolitics of gas. Given the country’s long-standing history in support of open markets, Washington is well positioned to stand tall as the champion of global gas trade and the de-politicization of gas” (Grigas). The United States has maintained the position as an advocate of free trade in all business dealings, and its sanctions on Iranian energy exports and Venezuelan oil exports serve as proof. The United States’ reluctance to negotiate with manipulative, opaque entities sets a tone and standard for the rest of the world. The recent success of the natural gas industry provides the United States with the opportunity to pursue trade transparency, as “the State Department has noted it will not use American energy exports for coercive purposes, this does not mean that the United States should not pursue gas diplomacy to gain influence globally” (Grigas). Currently, the United States’ biggest competition

as an LNG supplier is Russia, who has been known to use energy supply to control the freedom of vulnerable nations, mainly those in Europe. As US exports to Europe increase,

Russia will have less leverage to threaten to hold its captive customers in Europe, among them US allies, hostage. Countries like Germany will likely never fully replace Russian gas, but their willingness to diversify imports by investing in LNG terminals is as much a strategic move as it is an economic one. Following price drops in Asia, US LNG saw a near fivefold spike in LNG sales to the continent, making Europe the top buyer of US LNG over the past five months. (Stern)

LNG exports give the United States the opportunity to pursue relationships of honesty and integrity with its allies, and form new alliances as well. As an energy provider, the US is in the position to restore stability and de-politicize Europe and Asia while combating the proliferation of oppression from some of the biggest threats to the free world.

The issue of liquid natural gas exports and energy codependence is a complex and multifaceted issue, but the bottom line remains true: the United States' LNG exports have the potential to be incredibly advantageous for American policy in both the domestic and foreign arenas. Natural gas production and exports are changing more than just markets; liquid natural gas will transform the geopolitical landscape and restore freedom and flexibility into the hands of the world's protectors of fair trade and democracy.

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CHAPTER 7

Revolutionizing Crime Investigation Through Science And Technology

Kathryn Kicinski

Abstract: Criminal investigation has always strived to find innovative ways to further increase the efficiency and accuracy of uncovering perpetrators to bring justice to their communities. Both organization difficulties from the mass amount of data they collected and the difficulty in thoroughly using all evidence presented at crime scenes hindered the work of criminal investigators. As technology and science evolved, criminal investigators worked effortlessly to implement these new advancements into their field to create a more successful and fair criminal justice system. At most crime scenes forms of DNA evidence is left behind, and the introduction of genetic profiling revolutionized the world of criminal investigation. However the new genetic profiles added even more information to the already cluttered and overwhelmed organizational systems in place. The Federal Bureau of Investigation needs to figure out ways to better organize the criminal profiles created and continues to update their computer software programs to further organize their data.

About the Author: Kathryn Kicinski plans on majoring in psychology with pre-med track through the University of South Carolina Honors College. Kathryn has had interests in criminal investigation and often reads books or watches documentaries involving this type of work. After attending a captivating lecture given by the Federal Bureau of Investigations agent, Andrea Dammann about the science behind analyzing crime scenes, she felt inspired to further research advancing tools and technologies utilized by criminal investigators.

“Nothing matters but the facts. Without them, the science of criminal investigation is nothing more than a guessing game.”

-Blake Edwards

A crime scene holds the most vital information necessary to reach justice and a conviction. Efficiently analyzing evidence, identifying the smallest trace of blood, thus simply uncovering all the facts presented at the scene potentially decides whether the case will close with the criminal behind bars, or grow cold with family forever looking for answers about their lost loved one. The safety of the public lies in the hands of criminal investigators and law enforcement officers and their ability to collect all the facts necessary to confidently and correctly solve crimes. Therefore, as technology and science burst with new ideas and innovations, the world of criminal justice works to take advantage of every advancement to more efficiently protect the public and find justice for those wronged. Prior to the modern day technology, many investigators found difficulty in confidently identifying perpetrators and resorted to faulty methods of investigating, however with more sophisticated means of organizing and retrieving data and the introduction of DNA profiling, investigators now are equipped with significantly better means of correctly identifying and catching criminals.

Traditionally, when faced with a crime scene, investigators established three methods typically used to analyze the scene to get a full understanding of the facts presented before them. The most basic methods include distinguishing the modus operandi and signature. Modus operandi or M.O. worked well for more organized offenders who rarely left any substantial or useful evidence at the scene of the crime. A criminal's M.O. may include the way they inflicted violence or death, type of victim they choose, or locations of burial. However, a repeat organized offender may change or refine their M.O as they incorporate their past experiences and new skills into their future behavior creating difficulty in tracing or connecting suspects through this tactic. The signature of a criminal differs from M.O because "it serves the emotional or psychological needs of the offender. The signature comes from within the psyche of the offender and it reflects a deep fantasy need that the killer has about his victims," (Bonn). While signatures add unique qualities to crime scenes that usually never change throughout a criminal's lifetime, not all criminals develop or entertain a signature. The usage of modus operandi, or M.O. and signature benefit the investigators of a crime only if a repeat offender committed the crime as they connect a distinct method of operation or an activity performed during the crime that is usually unnecessary or unusual. Not all criminals, repeat offenders or not, hold to a set M.O. or signature making it difficult to convict a person based on just these conjectures. In addition, M.O. and signatures from notorious criminals or popular cases often inspire 'copycats' or other criminals to mimic the methods of more famous criminals further decreasing the credibility of this analytical tactic. A more concrete method for attempting person identification before current day capabilities developed through analyzing fingerprints uncovered as evidence. In 1892, Sir Francis Galton established the exclusivity of fingerprints from person to person. From this moment on, the collection and identification of fingerprints proved vital to identifying the doer of a crime. Soon after Galton's discovery, the Illinois' Supreme Court ruled the admissibility of fingerprints as evidence and reliable forms of identification with the potential for use in criminal identification in court. This method however, as most things, lacks faultlessness. The presence of viable

fingerprints lacks a guaranteed at every scene of crime, further lessening the reliability and effectiveness of this method of investigation. In addition, Raymond B. Fosdick, an American lawyer wrote in 1916 in his *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* that the fingerprint identification system while it benefitted the police service immensely, "Their scope, however, is limited. They are of use only where the measurements of finger-prints of a criminal are already on file... In the discovery of an unknown criminal or of one known only by description they offer no assistance." If the discovery of a fingerprint occurs, but lacks a small pool of suspects to compare the print against, it deems itself almost useless because going through and comparing the print to all other prints on file would have been completely unreasonable. Now with the recent burst of science and technology this tedious practice has been rendered redundant.

At crime scenes, traces of blood, saliva, semen, skin, hair and even sweat often remain as evidence from either the perpetrator or victim. The ability to identify the owner of this biological evidence significantly increases the chance of a case being solved. In 1984, a genetics professor at University of Leicester, Alec Jefferies discovered that the variations of DNA in each individual are unique to the person. This breakthrough allowed for the introduction of genetic profiling. Genetic profiling tests the minisatellites contained from the enzyme fragments found in extracted DNA and these tests provide a pattern unique to each person, hence, allowing their use in forensic cases. In addition, the science behind identifying a person's DNA "is extremely accurate. The chances of one individual's DNA profile matching another person's are extremely small -- about one in a billion by some estimates," (*How DNA Evidence Works*). The accuracy of DNA analysis allowed this technique to develop into the most reliable and factual means of identifying criminals. The practice not only aids in convicting criminals, but it also eliminates suspects during investigations quickly. This allows law enforcement officials to spend their valuable time searching for a viable suspect that matches the DNA rather than needing to thoroughly investigate each individual. In 1986, the first official use of DNA profiling used occurred in the murder and rape of Dawn Ashworth. A man

falsely confessed and the police proved his false confession via the DNA analysis techniques. In order to find the true culprit, police compared the DNA with thousands of samples from men of the community and they found their criminal: “When Pitchfork’s DNA was checked, it matched the DNA at the crime scene. He was sentenced to life in prison in January of 1988,” (*How Is DNA Profiling Used to Solve Crimes?*). If not for the new DNA science, the true facts of the crime be unnoticed, an innocent man behind bars, and a murderer and rapists walking free on the streets. The introduction of DNA analysis not only aids in the investigation of crimes committed after its implementation, but also in cold cases in which DNA was collected from crimes in which a wrongful conviction took place. According to the CNN article, *Child-Killer Taunted Investigators for 30 Years with Disturbing Notes. DNA Ends the Mystery of Who Did It, Police Say*, the three-decade old case of murdered eight-year-old, April Tinsley reached justice in 2018 when a more advanced form of DNA analysis was conducted. In 2017, Craig Coley, a man convicted of a double murder in 1978 walked free from his life sentence after the DNA evidence failed to match his. Reuters estimates that over 350 wrongfully convicted individuals finally received justice through the work of DNA analysis since 1989. However, without a system to organize and file the DNA data collected and tested, this new innovation would prove ineffective.

As computer databases increased in integrity and effectiveness, criminal investigators took advantage of this technological advancement. The sheer amount of data and information obtained by those in law enforcement and legal industry poses a severe hindrance upon the capabilities and efficiency of their work. Therefore, the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Criminal Justice Information Services Division (CJIS) continuously work to update the databases used by the FBI and their partners. In 2011, the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) retired and the Next Generation Identification (NGI) system took its place. The NGI system now “provides the criminal justice community with the world’s largest and most efficient electronic repository of biometric and criminal history information,” (*Next Generation Identification*). This new sys-

tem increased the matching accuracy of fingerprints to those documented in the database from 92% to 99.6% in less than ten seconds according to the official website of the FBI. Prior to the implementation of databases and rapid comparison technology, even an attempt to try and match collected fingerprint samples to those previously collected seemed completely unreasonable, now this tactic transformed into standard procedure. In addition to fingerprints, the technological advancements made allow criminal investigators to not only document fingerprints, but document entire criminal profiles. The FBI reports that there now exists a National DNA Index (NDIS), a program of the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). After the enactment of the Federal DNA Identification Act of 1994, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's director created a national index to hold and share DNA records after piloting CODIS software in fourteen states. This software "blends forensic science and computer technology into a tool for linking violent crimes. It enables federal, state, and local forensic laboratories to exchange and compare DNA profiles electronically, thereby linking serial violent crimes to each other and to known offenders," (*Combined DNA Index System*). According to FBI.gov, as of January 2020, CODIS and NDIS contain over 14,117,945 profiles of convicts, 3,864,498 profiles of those arrested of certain crimes (the type of crime varies state to state) and 998,241 profiles of DNA collected as evidence. With the aid of CODIS and NDIS, the FBI and other law enforcement officials receive access to extensive DNA profile database allowing them to compare DNA they uncover to the thousands of profiles already documented. CODIS and NDIS assisted law enforcement officials in over 488,000 investigations and that number will only increase as more profiles are added and the systems continuously update as technology advance.

When it comes to solving crimes, every shred of available evidence stands vital to the overall success of a criminal investigation. With the introduction of the ever advancing technological advancements into the field of criminal investigation, the ability to analyze evidence more effectively, in particular, DNA evidence and quickly retrieve data from mass amounts of already documented criminal

profiles quickly and easily, the modern day criminal investigators are significantly better equipped to efficiently and accurately bring justice to their communities than past criminal investigators. It remains imperative that fields involved in solving crimes and criminal investigations continue to take every advantage of improvements in technology and science. Criminal investigators commit to maintaining the safety and well-being of the common people and hold accountability to ensuring they utilize the best and most advanced forms of investigation to continue to lead the fight for justice.

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CHAPTER 8

The Modern Supreme Court In An Age Of Polarization

Mary Laird

Abstract: The Supreme Court of the United States, existing since 1789, leads one of the pillars of American democracy: the judicial system. However, the polarization of politics has caused changes to the dynamics of the institution. Through the examination of the factors pertinent to the confirmation process, the increased utilization of media, and the public's understanding of the proceedings, the Supreme Court and its evolution can be discerned.

About the Author: Mary Laird is a senior at Oakland Catholic High School and will be attending college in the fall to study business and global affairs. She attended the Jeffrey Toobin Speaker Series lecture about the legal system and was inspired to write this piece.

In the Judiciary Act of 1789, George Washington established the United States Supreme Court. The highest court in the land and head of the judiciary branch of the government, the Supreme Court long endures as a pillar of American democracy. One fundamental characteristic of the court and their decisions has been the justices' separation from political affiliation. However, the modern era

brought a plethora of challenges to this idea through increased political polarization and fragmentation. By examining the factors influencing the confirmation process, the presence of media, and the role of public opinion in the court, the changing dynamics of the Supreme Court can be better understood.

Factors such as adherence to a particular ideology, composition of the Court, the majority party, and qualifications can lead to either the success or failure of nominations. In order to serve as a justice, judges need a nomination from the president. Justices work until their retirement or death so the confirmation process causes divisiveness across the political spectrum. Candidates who seem to follow a clear-cut ideology tend to face stricter opposition from legislators. Even though the Supreme Court strives to rule fairly and without bias, lawmakers pressure the nominees to divulge their political opinions. Since more ideologically-driven candidates face greater opposition, “The custom has always been for nominees to bob and weave to avoid discussing past decisions, possible future cases, their own writings and judicial decisions, and their overall judicial philosophy” (Stone 434). In current day, the divided Senate poses threats for potential justices. One misspoken quote or controversial opinion has the potential to alienate members of the Senate and risk nomination failure. A confounding factor that exacerbates the ideologically-polarizing candidates is the current composition of the court when the judge is nominated. During times when the court seems politically balanced, nominees have the potential to disrupt the balance. Due to this, “On average, nominees who are likely significantly to alter the balance on the Court get fewer votes to confirm than nominees who are unlikely significantly to alter the balance on the Court” (Stone 404). Senators risk their political life when they vote for or against nominees that will change the flow of court rulings. Similarly, the party controlling the Senate wields a great amount of power in the confirmation process. Candidates who seem to favor the majority party of the Senate will follow a much easier road to confirmation, despite the assertions of neutrality. Senators will feel more comfortable voting with the rest of their party rather than against, especially in regards to maintaining their seat. As seen

through the most recent confirmation of Justice Brett Kavanaugh, the Senate's majority determines the fate of the candidates, even when staunch opposition exists. In the confirmation process, Justice Kavanaugh faced intense questioning due to accusations of sexual assault. Despite the tensions, the Republican majority in the Senate chose to vote in favor of the Justice because of his conservative voting record. Most directly related to the impartiality of the court in the confirmation process remains the role of qualifications of a nominee. Especially in closely divided votes, the "perceived qualifications have a significant impact on the confirmation process when the Senate is in the hands of the opposition party. As a nominee's perceived qualifications increase, the percentage of affirmative votes increases" (Stone 410-411). Even if supported by the opposite party, Senators have an obligation to note and consider the work of each candidate. Each of these factors mentioned play a substantial part in the viability of a nomination. As illustrated through the failed nomination of Merrick Garland in 2016, the majority party in the Senate maintains the right to ignore a president's nomination. Former President Barack Obama nominated Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court in March 2016 after the death of Antonin Scalia. Despite the vacancy of a justice, the Senate refused to vote on his nomination since Obama was leaving office soon. The checks and balances central to a functioning democracy apply to the confirmation process of the Supreme Court. In addition to the influential considerations in the confirmation of a nominee, the media also shapes the current state of the Supreme Court.

The media's presence in the Supreme Court's confirmation hearings and coverage in general demonstrates the importance of modern forms of communications in government. In an effort to keep their Senate seat, incumbent senators must consistently prove their ability to serve as a helpful addition to the party. With the attention from the media, hearings "increasingly afford senators 'an attractive opportunity' to perform for their constituents. The result is that nominees now repeatedly confront the same 'tough' questions from a succession of senators, and unresponsive answers therefore must be repeated over and over again" (Stone 439).

Rather than seeking factually relevant information, senators display a lack of concern for the integrity of the Supreme Court. The prevalence of the news degrades the normality of the confirmation hearing proceedings because of the targeted questions to secure their seats. In regards to the general coverage of the rulings, the timing of the decisions diminishes the ability to properly discuss the proceedings. While the Court is in session from the end of October to next fall, the Supreme Court only hears oral arguments for cases from October through April. Since the Supreme Court recesses from June until early October, media discussions are limited. Their decisions do not have a set date for release and unanimous decisions are handed down first. The Court's calendar, "forces the media to pick and choose what should be covered because when decisions are released in clusters, there is not enough television time or column space to devote to the Court" (Katsh, 1983; Sobel, 1970)" (Johnson and Socker 436). The media can choose what cases to make the public aware of, a potential source of bias and distortion of the events in the Court. The news sources seek to cover material with simplicity, speed, and factual accuracy rather than dwelling upon the details of cases. Although contributing to the volume of cases mentioned, that method does not allow for in-depth analysis of decisions which could help the public understand the rulings. Roughly one-fifth of court cases receive media attention, leaving the rest for the public to seek out independently (Johnson and Socker 437). What does end up in the headlines or the front pages is driven by what analysts refer to as action, faction, and interaction variables (Johnson and Socker). The action variables mean the amount of cases that the Court must judge in a given year. The greater the volume of cases, the less screen time each one will be given. The faction variables signify the relationships with justices. Although civility and camaraderie exist outside the Court, the Constitutional interpretations of the justices vary greatly. Possible rifts between justices on cases will garner more media attention. Lastly, the interaction variables correlate to the court's role in the broader federal system. Depending upon the political climate, the Supreme Court could lose coverage. Another consideration about the state of the current Supreme Court remains the public's opinion.

While the public's opinion of the Supreme Court has diminished in recent years due to the spectacle caused by confirmation hearings and confusing language in rulings, the decisions seem to impact the public's beliefs long-term. In the future, bipartisan lawmakers must take effort to solidify public trust since, "No one is happy with the current state of affairs, and with good reason. It is chaotic, divisive, arbitrary, dishonest, insulting, polarizing, and damaging to the public's confidence in both the Senate and the judiciary" (Stone 466). The onslaught of opinions leads the public to lose interest in the Court's state of affairs. The modern political climate draws scrutiny toward most governmental institutions. Many critics assert that judges vote primarily off of pre-existing opinions and should not serve life-terms. Additionally, the language used in the briefs and the legal processes at the heart of the decisions confuses the public. Without a concrete understanding of the legal relevancy of the Court or an active commitment to following the news, people tend to lose sight of the Courts's significance in everyday life. The Justices' constitutional logic behind their rulings can be overlooked by the media, increasing the likelihood of public misconceptions. The rationale behind the Court's rulings often seems too vague for the average person to conceptualize. For these reasons, the Supreme Court increasingly seems irrelevant and out of touch to Americans. Even as the Court appears to lose relevance in Americans' eyes, the Court still maintains influence over the nation's political opinion. According to Supreme Court experts, "Though public opinion initially pushes back against the Court, over the long run the authoritative voice of the Supreme Court has the capacity to pull at least some of the disagreeing public toward its decisions" (Ura 111). In this sense, the rulings made by the Supreme Court cause people from opposing points of view to gravitate toward the political ideology practiced in the courts. Drawing from these assertions, the Supreme Court has not lost as much influence as other researchers had believed. The Supreme Court's decisions serve as a form of closure for heated issues, although appeals can be filed. Since the Supreme Court lies at the end of the road for many cases, people may adapt over time to accept the decisions since they have little choice in the matter. Even in the modern era when public opinion is

divided over opinion of the Court, their rulings impact the lives of all Americans.

Even amidst the swirl of rivaling political tensions, the Supreme Court's complex nature can be studied through the variables at play when confirming candidates, the media's impact, and the intricate relationship between the court and the public. Looking ahead, the Supreme Court must strive to remain neutral in potentially challenging situations. If the fundamental core of the Court was lost, the public would quickly lose respect for the proceedings. The confirmation processes of nominees must lose the spiteful and childish questions that inhibit a comprehensive assessment of their qualifications. Seeking one's political gain in the form of a reclaimed Senate seat over the purpose of the confirmation process risks not only their integrity, but the integrity of the Supreme Court. The media must recognize their duty to the public to clearly communicate accurate information. Even in tough times, the pillar of the judicial branch will not crumble.

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CHAPTER 9

The Rise Of Korean Pop Music

Mona Lin

Abstract: This article examines the financial, global, and social factors that helped the Korean pop music industry expand globally. It provides context about how the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis spurred government investment in the industry; to this day, the Korean government utilizes K-pop as both a cultural and political tool. Additionally, the paper explores the dynamics of fan culture and how K-pop agencies utilize fan culture to their advantage. When viewed through various lenses, the rise of K-pop becomes clearer and less surprising. Various academic and musical sources were used within this paper to provide a nuanced interpretation of the topic.

About the Author: Mona Lin is a student interested in pursuing a career related to technology. She developed her passion when recognizing the potential of using computers, data, and artificial intelligence, and other modes of technology to serve the common good of the public. She will be pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems with a possible double major/minor in computer science or human-computer interaction at Carnegie Mellon University. Her goal after college is to directly enter the workforce as a software engineer or a UX designer. The inspiration for this analysis on K-pop came from a lecture called, "What is K-pop?" held at the University of Pittsburgh by UCLA professor Suk-Young Kim. As K-pop grows increasingly more popular in the United States, I was interested in discovering what factors helped the industry break through the language barrier to become globally prominent. Out of the twenty most viewed videos among various online platforms, nine of the twenty

top spots are dominated by Korean pop, denoted more commonly as K-pop, music videos. Western K-pop sensation, BTS, takes the second place spot with their music video, Boy With Luv, garnering over 74.6 million views in 24 hours. Some may wonder how K-pop managed to gain such global traction. However, the surge in popularity is no coincidence; it all began when the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis devastated South Korea's economy. Though promoted out of necessity, the Korean pop industry, together with its fervent fan culture, emerged as one of the major global entertainment industries of the twenty-first century. On a broader scale, the rise of the K-pop industry can be explained as the culmination of impacts spurred on by economic necessity and passionate fans connected through technological globalization.

South Korea's desire to use Korean entertainment as a tool to exert soft power during the Asian Financial Crisis, in combination with the shrinking Korean domestic market allowed K-pop to distinguish itself from other Asian music industries in the 1990s. Though the government initially invested in K-pop to save the economy, it continues to promote Korea as a brand to expand the nation's influence on the world stage. During 1997, the Asian Financial Crisis led many of Korea's family owned conglomerates, also known as chaebols, to borrow money from banks to sustain their conglomerates. In an attempt to resolve the issue of increasing loans, Korean president Kim Dae Jung started enforcing policies that regulated these loans, which led many chaebols to bankruptcy. With the number of foreign investors quickly dwindling because of Korea's declining image, President Jung teamed up with PR company Edelman and determined that a focus on technology and pop culture would be the way to rebuild the national image (Roll). Recognizing that the economy was overly dependent on chaebol capital was crucial in the developing K-pop's image as a lucrative industry in the eyes of the

government. Thus, in 1998, merely a year after the crisis, South Korea more than sextupled their original budget for cultural development, with a focus on pop culture (“The Hallyu Wave: How Crisis Led to K-Pop”). Concurrently, the financial crisis also struck Korea’s domestic music industry. Micheal Fuhr, author of *Globalization and Popular Music in South Korea: Sounding Out K-Pop*, explains that “[w]hile the domestic music market went downhill, export-orientation became a necessary survival strategy” because of the shrinking purchasing power of domestic fans affected by the crisis. (Fuhr 55). Through the same push factor, the goals of the Korean government and domestic music industry aligned: grow the music industry by expanding outside of the country and tap into other lucrative markets. It becomes important to establish that while challenges faced the industry, these same challenges allowed K-pop to grow at a much faster rate than C-pop (Chinese pop) or J-pop (Japanese pop); the two latter industries faced no fears of weak domestic music markets. China possessed the benefit of a huge population while Japan regarded the intellectual copyright extremely seriously. Thus, the Korean pop music industry leapfrogged over the Chinese and Japanese pop music industries in terms of global popularity and continues to do so today.

The Korean government, utilizing K-pop’s global popularity, continues to grow their soft power, and hence, their national image, as a political strategy. As one of the only nations with a dedicated Ministry of Culture, with a specific subdivision growing into the Popular Culture Industry Division (“The Hallyu Wave: How Crisis Led to K-Pop”), it becomes no surprise that Korea takes advantage of their investments in the industry. The division, with a budget of “a staggering USD 500 million, ...[aims] to build a USD 10 billion cultural industry export industry by 2019” (Roll). The effects of continuous investment from the government can clearly be seen as the number of foreign tourists quadrupled from 300,000 in 1998 to 11.8 million in 2014 (Bae et. al). While South Korea desired to promote traditionally Korean culture more so than they wanted to promote pop culture, the nation could not ignore the significance of using K-pop to attract tourism. The culmination of this shift in inter-

ests manifests in recent tourism marketing strategies: Travel brochures now depict K-pop stars instead of the traditionally beautiful Changdeokgung palace (Kim). However, the usefulness of K-pop hardly contains itself to mere marketing strategies; it also presents itself as a tool for psychological warfare and diplomacy. Motoko Rich and Su-hyun Lee of the New York Times explains that because the South Korean military blasts K-pop “from loudspeakers in the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two countries[, d]efectors from the North have been known to cite K-pop as one of their inspirations for escaping to the South.” (Lee and Rich). In 2018, South Korea took popular K-pop girl group Red Velvet along with them in a diplomacy visit to North Korea, where they performed for Kim-Jung Un. All of these actions demonstrate the Korea government’s desire to paint K-pop not only as an lucrative industry, but also as a symbol of South Korean freedom and empowerment. Even during the 2018 Winter Olympics at Pyeongchang, K-pop group EXO and CL of now disbanded K-pop group 2NE1, closed the Olympic ceremony. Following the Olympics, EXO accompanied South Korean President Moon Jae-In in greeting President Trump on the last day of the 2019 G20 Summit (Andrew and Gray). Undoubtedly, South Korea understands that the global popularity of K-pop represents the nation as a whole; they lean into that association by asserting the soft power during national and political events. As the K-pop industry continues to receive support from the government, interconnected fans help expedite the growing power of the K-pop industry.

The fervent fan culture surrounding Korean pop groups and the connectivity that technology and globalization provides combine to help solidify K-pop’s status as a global industry. Seemly foreign to western fans, the competitive nature and unity of K-pop fandoms help the fans bring worldwide recognition to their favorite artists. An established norm in the K-pop industry revolves around music shows and awards; Artists compete against each other every time they release an album. Various music shows like Inkigayo, Show Champion, Music Core, M Countdown, broadcast weekly performances, with criteria based on digital views on Korean music platforms, Youtube views, album sales, live voting, and other categories.

To meet the winning criteria in order for their favorite groups to bring back a trophy, K-pop fandoms prepare themselves by organizing streaming groups or bulk-buying physical albums. Paul Han, co-owner of the blog All Kpop explains that “[a]lbum sales, digital sales,[and] streaming all help in the point system of Korean music shows[, which] only drives consumerism even further” (Han qtd. in Kelley). The materialistic nature of the K-pop industry cannot be ignored as merchandise releases in a constant stream for fans to purchase in the form of physical albums that contain photo books of group members, photo cards, stickers, yearly membership boxes, and other products. Everything becomes a competition, and competition motivates consumers to spend more money on their favorite idol group. Additionally, yearly music awards shows like the Mnet Asian Music Awards (MAMA) or the Asia Artist Awards (AAA) count the number of fan votes for their criteria of the daesangs, or the grand prizes. Consequently, these music show garner millions of votes per year worldwide. With the Korean pop music industry placing such heavy emphasis on fan interaction, it becomes no surprise that BTS gathered over 300 million votes worldwide when nominated for Billboard’s Top Social Artist in 2017 (Blake). In comparison to the votes gathered by top western artists like Ariana Grande or Justin Bieber, BTS, relatively unknown to western media at the time, won by a landslide of votes thanks to the competitive nature among K-pop fandoms. The massive amounts of YouTube records constantly broken by new K-pop music videos can be attributed to the same “winners” mentality. Later stagnation of views on the same videos demonstrate the fan power that fandoms hold when aiming to achieve a goal. The fervent nature of these fandoms helps magnify the real popularity of K-pop for media not familiar with competitive nature of the Korean pop industry. Nonetheless, the devotion of these fandoms come with reason as K-pop agencies use technology as a mode through which fans can connect with their favorite idols.

K-pop agencies use technology in their favor to help fans all over the world foster a deep connection with idol groups. Social media prevails as the most prevalent mode of technology that K-pop groups use to connect with their fans. With an abundance of con-

tent in the form of YouTube vlogs, twitter interactions, fan club blogs, reality TV shows, V-lives (a form of live broadcast where idols share snippets of their life), and other forms of media, fans of K-pop groups interact with artists on a more personal levels than fans of western artists. Being part of a K-pop fandom gives fans a sense of belonging because "fans construct authentic identities through a categorical/status lens specifically on a mainstream fan to saesang [stalker] fan spectrum" (Ho and Williams qtd. in Tinaliga 10). Current K-pop groups possess group colors by which their agencies can sell merchandise, group light sticks that fans bring to concerts, and fandom names by which they associate. In addition to physical factors, K-pop songs often contain snippets of English to attract international listeners, and the names of these K-pop groups are also often in English or a string of abbreviated letters. Such examples include NCT (Neo Culture Technology), SVT (Seventeen), BlackPink, B.A.P (Best Absolute Perfect), and TVXQ. All of these factors enable fans to develop a personal commitment to the success of their favorite group because oftentimes, the success of the group symbolizes the success of the fandom. Additionally, the multi-national nature of the K-pop group members allow them to communicate in a repertoire of languages. Twice, arguably one of the most popular K-pop girl groups in the current industry, consists of nine total members with three of Japanese nationality and one of Taiwanese descent (Herman). Through the internet, groups with multiple nationalities enjoy the benefits of being under the "K-pop" label while also appealing to fans all over the globe through social media.

Over the past two decades, the popularity of K-pop exploded and solidified its status as one of the most popular and influential industries on the planet. While its rise in the West seemingly emerged from nowhere, various factors helped Korean pop music break through the boundaries of language to establish itself as an increasingly relevant form of media. With continuous support from the Korea government and massive fanbases, K-pop touches both the political and cultural spheres of the world and positions itself to become more complex. As the most successful industry of Asian, it

becomes no wonder that people of Asian nationality aspiring to become a pop star often travel to Korea to fulfill their dreams.

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CHAPTER 10

Pangea, A Scientific Feat

Delaney McHugh

Abstract: The term Pangea, Greek for “Every Land,” refers to the supercontinent that existed millions of years ago when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. While nowadays Pangea is a relatively well-known concept, a surprising amount of evidence and reasoning went into the creation of this theory. Through analysis of fossil evidence based geographic location and inferences of animal behavior, scientist Alfred Wegener proposed the theory of Pangea. After the discovery of plate tectonics, which describes the motion of seven large plates in the Earth’s lithosphere, the supercontinent theory had enough evidence to convince the majority of scientists of its veracity. Due to the future importance of the plate tectonics theory, this topic remains entirely relevant today in order to predict future geological events. This paper seeks to explore the complexity of proving the supercontinent theory, as well as its future relevance in the world.

About the Author: Delaney McHugh will be studying Chemical Engineering at the University of Notre Dame. She was inspired to write this paper by a lecture through the Westinghouse Science Honors Institute by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History’s Matthew C. Lamanna on the age of dinosaurs.

Someone can easily recognize a map of the world, no matter how crudely drawn, due to the distinct pattern of the Earth’s continents. However, the world that dinosaurs knew 600 million years ago was much different than the Earth today. Scientists believe that the Earth was once made up of a “supercontinent,” commonly known as

Pangea, in which all of the continents known today were connected with each other. While there are still skeptics, Pangea remains the most probable theory of what the world looked like during the age of the dinosaurs. Pangea and its subsequent dispersal are important to understand because they explain countless things about our modern world, from why the continents have their shape to why there were once forests in Antarctica. Because of the large body of fossil evidence and the theory of plate tectonics, Pangea is one of the most ingenious and relevant theories in the history of geological science.

Analysis of fossil evidence uncovered strange anomalies, both in animal behavior and probability, that could be answered by Pangea. In the early 1900's, scientists noticed some strange occurrences in fossil discoveries on the east coast of South America and the west coast of Africa. Following a budding theory of a supercontinent produced by the realization that the continents fit together like puzzle pieces, German scientist Alfred Wegener began to look into the strange fossil evidence found on the coastlines of these two continents. He found that there were animals that had been found only on the coasts of Africa and South America, strongly affirming his theory that the two had once been joined. One of the first fossils found on both coasts was that of the Mesosaurus. These fossils were discovered to be exclusive to both Africa and South America, but this was not compelling evidence for a supercontinent to many scientists because the Mesosaurus was "a type of reptile, similar to the modern crocodile, which propelled itself through water with its long hind legs and limber tail" ("Alfred Wegener"), so it possibly could have swum the distance between the continents. The next discovery was that of the Lystrosaurus. This animal was also exclusive to the coasts of Africa and South America, but this animal clearly would not have the capability to traverse across the Atlantic Ocean because it was "an herbivore with a stout build like a pig" ("Alfred Wegener"). The discovery of the Cynognathus, another land animal found on both continents, similarly served as evidence for Wegener's supercontinent theory. When scientists began to recognize these discrepancies in location and probability, scientists began analyzing more pieces of fossil evidence for clues. One of the most prominent breakthroughs was with the fossils of the plant *Glossopteris*. Fossils of this plant were found in Australia, South America, Antarctica, India, and Africa. Upon further analysis, scientists discovered that the seeds

of this plant were large and heavy; they could not have floated to another continent. Scientists were left confused with this information and had to reason through these anomalies.

After analyzing all of this strange evidence using deductive reasoning based on animals and plants appearing on multiple continents, scientists were left with a few theories. Theories of land bridges, coincidental evolution, and swimming were popular, but all of these theories could easily be disproven. A land bridge would not account for the even dispersal over the regions. Coincidental evolution completely went against Darwinism, which was generally accepted at the time. separate coincidental evolution, a land bridge, or a supercontinent. However, a supercontinent would explain every piece of information that the discovered fossils presented. The discoveries of the *Mesosaurus*, *Ly-strosaurus*, and *Cynognathus* swayed the evidence in favor of Wegener's theory because there was no other plausible way that the animal could have migrated so far except the connection of the two continents. After scientists of the time became convinced that Africa and South America were once joined, the theory expanded. *Glossopteris*, especially, was crucial to the supercontinent theory because it brought in more continents than ever before because "the continents must have been joined at least one point in time in order to maintain the *Glossopteris*' wide range across the southern continents" ("Alfred Wegener"). From this discovery, scientists felt confident that every continent was once joined, instead of just Africa and South America. Even more convincingly, when the continents were arranged side by side, the locations of these fossils lined up perfectly to create continuous regions of discovery across continents. These fossils provided the basis for the theory of continental drift that exists today. These groundbreaking findings also opened doors for different interpretations of fossil discoveries. However, scientists were still left with the question of how such a process occurred.

The theory of plate tectonics, which explains the origin of Pangea and its breakup, proved to be a crucial discovery due to its importance in the supercontinent theory and its future implications. Plate tectonics became the primary basis the theory of Pangea. Before plate the theory of tectonics arose, "a fatal weakness in Wegener's theory was that it could not satisfactorily answer the most fundamental question raised by his critics: What kind of forces could be strong enough to move such

large masses of solid rock over such great distances?” (Historical Perspective). The tectonic plate theory was the answer to this question that cemented belief in Pangea for many scientists. The theory that was formed as a result of researching Pangea has helped to gain insight into both that past and had increasingly important repercussions for the future. Plate tectonics is a scientific concept that describes the movement of seven large plates in the Earth’s lithosphere. The shifting of these plates is caused by movement in the mantle underneath. This idea explains both the movement of continents and the formation of natural landforms. Plate tectonics allowed scientists to look into the past to discover what important events were caused by plate movement: “It has provided explanations to questions that scientists had speculated upon for centuries -- such as why earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur in very specific areas around the world, and how and why great mountain ranges like the Alps and Himalayas formed” (Historical Perspective). In addition to its importance in looking into the past, plate tectonics are also important in predicting the future.

The theory has also given the world crucial insight into what will happen in the future due to movement under the Earth’s surface. The idea of plate tectonics “has revolutionized our understanding of the dynamic planet upon which we live. The theory has unified the study of the Earth by drawing together many branches of the earth sciences, from *paleontology* (the study of fossils) to *seismology* (the study of earthquakes).” (Historical Perspective). Plate tectonics has united scientists and also allowed a glimpse into the future of continental drift and natural disasters, which will prove increasingly important. Scientists believe that “Earth’s tectonic plates continue to move, and their motions are slowly bringing the continents together once again. Within the next 250 million years, Africa and the Americas will merge with Eurasia to form a supercontinent that approaches Pangean proportions” (Rafferty). As a result, understanding plate tectonics will become increasingly important as the continents continue to shift. Without Wegener’s insightful theory and the work of the scientists that found evidence for his theory, scientists today may have never known that the continents might once again come together to form a supercontinent. The theory of plate tectonics also makes Pangea almost impossible to disprove. While the supercontinent model still has its critics, most scientists have come to accept the theory as a result of plate tectonics.

The strange fossil evidence found on Africa and South America produced evidence for the theory of Pangea, and the emergence of the tectonic plate theory provided a needed explanation for the movement of continents. Because of the intricacy of the theory and the amount of evidence needed to support the idea, Pangea stands as one of the greatest scientific feats in the history of geology. Because of the discovery of the supercontinent and the shifting tectonic plates, scientists have learned more about both the past and the future of the world we live in. What once started as a simple realization that two continents fit together like puzzle pieces has now become an intricate explanation for the formation of the world as it is known today.

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CHAPTER 11

Caroline McShea

The Disrespect The Vietnam Vets Received

Abstract: This paper highlights the disrespect and trauma the Vietnam War veterans had to face during and after the war. It includes stories from soldiers first hand detailing their personal experiences with depression, their return home, and protesting.

About the Author: Caroline McShea is currently undecided about where she plans to matriculate in the fall. She would like to pursue a career in the medical field. Caroline was inspired to write this paper by the Ken Burns documentary on The Vietnam War.

According to the National Archives “The Vietnam Conflict Extract Data File of the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) Extract Files contains records of 58,220 U.S. military fatal casualties of the Vietnam War.” (Defense Casualty Analysis System) On November 1, 1955 the Vietnam war officially started and lasted until April 30, 1975. This war was like no other because it was the first war the American people could have day to day news coverage of what was happening in Vietnam. This war was criticized and many Americans did not support it. The soldiers that fought in it were not treated well when they returned to the country they fought for. The disrespect the Vietnam War veterans faced, the chemicals they were exposed to, the protests, and limited access to help serves as a reminder to America that as a country we failed to support those who fight for us and should never happen again.

The outright disrespect for Vietnam soldiers comes from their first hand stories of what it was like for them after returning to America. Steven A . Wowwk arrived in Vietnam in January 1969 where he became part of the First Cavalry Division in Cam Ranh Bay at the age of twenty-one. In June of that year,

Wowwk had faced a major injury that forced him to return to America for healthcare. It was on his way to Boston's Chelsea hospital where he first encountered hostility from civilians he saw in the street. Wowwk recalls, "I remember feeling like, what could I do to acknowledge them, and I just gave the peace signal," Wowwk says. "And instead of getting return peace fingers, I got the middle finger" (Ciampaglia). After that encounter his excitement from returning home quickly became confusion. Wowwk's story unfortunately is only one of many. Other soldiers have shared stories of getting things thrown at them, sworn at, and spat on. Veterans returning home also did not receive promised GI benefits. Peter Langenus, one veteran, was educated at Notre Dame and realized he had Malaria after returning home. However, he was denied insurance because he was not showing symptoms of the disease in Vietnam. Christian Appy, professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, states, "They were not necessarily looking for a parade, but they were certainly looking for basic human support and help in readjusting to civilian life after this really brutal war" (Ciampaglia). Appy admits part of the issue had to do with the shape of the American Economy during and after the Vietnam war. Paul Critchlow, another Vietnam Veteran and winner of the Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Valor, returned home with his head down because nobody wanted to talk about the war. He was able to start a career and raise a family but suffered inside. He coped with the trauma by drinking heavily and compartmentalized the trauma. Critchlow started working for Meryll Lynch and worked to become head of communications. But one morning he could not get out of bed. He was physically ok and doctors diagnosed him with clinical depression. His family members and friends did not know the reason for his depression. Critchlow, on the other hand, knew exactly what triggered the depression. In his mind he knew that the depression was linked to, "a hill in the Central Highlands of Vietnam that the Army numbered 102. Many of his close comrades died there during the battle in which he was wounded. He blamed himself." One night at that hill, Critchlow was trying to direct a gunship when he saw a Vietnamese soldier with a rocket grenade launcher. The hill was shot and Critchlow remembers flying through the sky certain that he was dead. He woke up hours later on a helicopter back to the base. In that helicopter he prayed to go home but when he got home he felt guilty and wanted to be back with his men. That traumatic experience he has left him with the guilt of leaving his men behind. After his nervous breakdown, Critchlow started to talk to a therapist. Critchlow was closed off to talking about Vietnam and relaxed his breakdown to stress from work. In 1996, Critchlow finally went to the Vietnam War memorial and was surprised by its enormity in person. After that trip, he was ready to face the hill in person and went to Vietnam and found that hill where he was injured. Standing on the hill he fell to his knees and sobbed. Finally, Critchlow was ready to go home and realized he was punishing himself for no reason his entire life.

Another issue for Vietnam War Veterans was related to what chemicals they were exposed to. For the first time in a war, herbicides were used in mass quantities totaling 19 million gallons to destroy Vietnamese crops. The herbicide used in Vietnam was known as Agent Orange. Agent Orange is now known to cause various cancers and health issues because of the exposure to dioxin in the chemical. The health issues ranged from darkening of the skin and severe acne to type 2 diabetes, immune system dysfunction, nerve disorders, muscular dysfunction, hormone disruption, and heart disease. Other chemical herbicides were also used known as Agent Pink, Agent Green, Agent Purple, Agent White, and Agent Blue. Monsanto produced a majority of these herbicides. Dioxin was not in the herbicide, instead it was a byproduct of the herbicide. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency it, "Is a highly persistent chemical compound that lasts for many years in the environment, particularly in soil, lake, and river sediments and in the food chain" (EPA). The entire operation of spraying the herbicides was known as Operation Ranch Hand. Finally in 1988, Dr James Clary, and Air Force researcher wrote:

When we initiated the herbicide program in the 1960s, we were aware of the potential for

damage due to dioxin contamination in the herbicide. However, because the material was

was to be used in the enemy, none of us were overly concerned. We never considered a

scenario in which our own personnel would become contaminated with the herbicide.

After those remarks from Clary, a class action lawsuit was filed in 1979 on behalf of 2.4 million veterans who were exposed to herbicides in Vietnam. Five years later in an out of court settlement the manufacturers of the herbicide agreed to pay \$180 million dollars in compensation to the war veterans or their next of kin. The use of Agent Orange made an already unpopular situation even worse for U.S. soldiers returning and the treatment they received differed greatly compared to other veterans.

People who opposed the war were not afraid to share their opinion resulting in many different protests all across the United States. People from all different backgrounds did not support the Vietnam War. These protests started, 1964 as just small parades and rallies that grew in to national movements. A majority of those opposed were students, mothers, and hippies but soon after their message got out many new organizations and people joined the cause including soldiers. Jan Barry grew up in a small conservative town and enrolled as a soldier. She believed in the cause and was ready to serve her country. However, after some time in the army, she realized that she was not fighting for a war she

believed in anymore. She ended up resigning and joining the peace movement. She was not the only veteran who decided to also protest that way. In 1967 a new group, Vietnam war veterans Against the War, was formed. This group had demonstrations that were particularly strong including, "On national television, several hundred veterans flung war medals onto the steps of the Capitol in April 1971 during an encampment in Washington organized by Vietnam Veterans Against the War to protest the continuation of the fighting, which by then was over a decade old" (Fiest). While the soldiers in the peace movement were far from a majority they did make an impact.

Veterans from WWII came home to a welcoming America that was proud of what they did. World War II veterans were part of a more popular war that was seen as patriotic. At first Vietnam War Veterans were treated right and at first "American troops to be withdrawn from Vietnam in 1969 were greeted by a parade in Seattle at which the crowd yelled "Thank you! Thank you!" (Eric 61) Sadly all of that enthusiasm died down and those "thank you's" became swear words and anger. This can partly be related to the fact that the Americans were not winning the Vietnam war. Each day it became more and more clear that the U.S. was losing with a casualty count consistently going up. In modern times, most people in America are thankful to have brave men and women defend them every day and show their appreciation for veterans and active duty service members in many different ways. At a lot of stores and restaurants, soldiers are given discounts and are almost always thanked for their service. According to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs all honorable discharged veterans will receive, "receive the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA's) comprehensive Medical Benefits Package which includes preventive, primary and specialty care, diagnostic, inpatient and outpatient care services." Vietnam veterans are included in these benefits but when they first returned to the United States they were not eligible. With these changes, Vietnam war veterans are now getting the help they need.

In conclusion, the Vietnam Veterans fought a war like no other and should have been welcomed home. Some of them have had to suffer in silence and their true pain will never be clearly understood. But with their stories and service now recognized they are now appreciated for what they have done for America. While their appreciation should have started when they returned their legacy of courage and bravery will not be lost.

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CHAPTER 12

Turkey's Human Rights Violations

Dallas Mercurio

Abstract Inspired by a lecture from Mahir Zeynalov, a Turkish journalist, in my article I will discuss the history of Turkey, as a nation, and the current human rights violations in regards to violations of freedom of speech following the attempted coup in 2016. Since the coup, 50,000 people have been imprisoned, many of them on ludicrous charges such as tweets criticizing President Erdogan, downloading certain messaging apps deemed illegal by the president, and newspaper subscriptions to newspapers which criticize the President. The people of Turkey are being imprisoned for exercising their right to freedom of speech. Most of the imprisoned people in Turkey, which has one of the highest percentages of their population in prison, are teachers, doctors, artists, universal lecturers, journalists, and editors, who the only crime they can be accused of is saying something or doing something that is not morally wrong, but that President Erdogan does not like.

About the Author: Dallas Mercurio plans on attending the University of Pittsburgh and studying Linguistics, Psychology and Art, through the Honors College. As for plans after college, she is excited to discover the opportunities that await me in the future, whether it be in translation, research, or none of the above. This article is inspired by an intellectual event Dallas attended way back during her freshman year at Oakland Catholic. It has stuck with her since, and every year that lecture by the insightful Mahir Zeynalov grows more and more relevant. She hope you enjoy reading her arti-

cle about human rights violations, specifically violations of freedom of speech, in Turkey.

In the 1920s, the Ottoman Empire had been stripped of all of its territories except for Turkey by the Treaty of Sévres. As Greek soldiers moved into Turkey to enforce the terms of the treaty, Turkish nationalists began an armed resistance movement against the Greeks, who were attempting to control regions of the country. Eventually, under the leader Mustafa Kemal, who later adopted the surname “Atatürk,” the Greeks were driven out of Turkey. The Turkish nationalists took control of the government, and in 1923 the Republic of Turkey was established. The first president of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, meaning “father of the Turks,” sought to modernize and westernize the nation. A UN member since 1945 and a NATO member since 1952, the modern nation of Turkey has experienced periods of instability and four military coup d'etats, with a fifth most recent attempt at a coup in July of 2016. In the aftermath of the coup attempt, the current president of Turkey instituted a state of emergency in the nation, allowing for the massive government crackdown which has violated many rights of Turkey’s citizens following the attempted coup. The actions of the Turkish government led by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan violate the human rights of Turkey’s citizens. Since the crackdown which followed the failed July 2016 coup, the human rights violations in Turkey have increased in severity and occurrence, and seriously worry the global community.

Started by a section of the Turkish military, the attempted coup on July 15, 2016 was surprisingly short-lived, bloody, and ultimately unsuccessful, resulting in harsh crackdowns from the government. As the military group bombed and attacked several major government buildings in cities like Istanbul and the capital, Ankara, news of the coup spread on social media. Learning of the coup in this manner, thousands of citizens in the city Anatolia protested, resist-

ing tank fire and air bombardment with kitchen utensils and their number, according to Al Jazeera news. Overall, 241 people were killed and 2,194 others were injured. Finally the military group surrendered, and seven days later on July 22, 2018, president Erdogan declared Turkey to be in a state of emergency. Branding the coup instigators as terrorists, the government of Turkey instituted measures to be able to remove all elements and people involved with the terrorist organization involved in the coup. As of July of 2017, Al Jazeera reports that "...more than 100,000 people have been sacked or suspended and 50,000 arrested in an unprecedented crackdown. The government has deemed the crackdown necessary to 'root out all coup supporters from the state apparatus'" (Al Jazeera). The Turkish government blames the preacher and businessman, Fethullah Gulen, for instigating the coup from his self-imposed exile in the United States. Mr. Gulen denies these accusations, but in Turkey, anyone with relations or ties to the Gulenist leader or his media organizations, charities or schools has been arrested or sacked on basis of ties with that group (Al Jazeera). The state of emergency in Turkey has allowed for an over the top crackdown on dissidents and journalists that write in a negative light regarding the government or the president.

The censorship, mass arrests of journalists and intellectuals, police brutality incidents, and violence against Turkey's citizens accelerated after the failed coup when President Erdogan decided to crackdown on dissidents and critics of the government. While some regions of the country have been prospering under Erdogan's rule, many areas are wartorn, destitute, and dangerous for the citizens living there. Before the coup, police brutality was heavily prevalent in Turkey, with the major event of environmentalists peacefully protesting the destruction of Istanbul's Gezi Park, and being met with tear gas and violence from the police forces. Terrorism from groups such as the PKK, the Kurdish Workers' Party, and the Islamic State have shaken the country, causing heightened paranoia in many citizens and the government. However, the main human rights violation in Turkey, is the government's censorship of its people and therefore the denying of freedom of speech. Since the crackdown,

dozens of media outlets have been raided and hundreds of journalists have been arrested for slightest criticism of the government or President Erdogan. Many have also been arrested or suspended from their jobs as an attempt to round up supposed coup plotters, purge thousands of political opponents, academics and journalists. According to the journalist and representative of the group Reporters Without Borders, Erol Onderoglu, who is facing charges of 14 years in prison for “spreading terrorist propaganda,” says, “Erdogan directly or indirectly controls 80% of the media in Turkey... Any criticism of him is seen as criticism of the state. The definition of the job we do has been systematically eliminated from the Turkish dictionary” (Onderoglu). This is the sad truth that the government of Turkey attempts to cover up. Turkey claims to have the freest press in the world, but in reality the nation is the leading jailer of journalists of the world (Santhanam). Many of the critical voices in Turkey have either fled the nation, or reside behind bars. The international community responds to these human rights violations in Turkey with a serious concern for the welfare of its citizens.

As a NATO ally of the United States, and a country applying to become a part of the European Union, Turkey’s recent record on human rights deeply worries the global community. Many leaders have called on Turkey to lift the state of emergency decree which has allowed for this mass persecution of journalists, threatening to take away its chances at becoming a part of the European Union. All of Turkey’s citizens have the right to apply to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg if their human rights, such as freedom of speech or unjust imprisonment, are violated. About 120,000 government employees have appealed to have their cases reviewed in Turkey by the courts, and about 2,000 Turks have started appeals to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. If more of the cases of Turkey’s citizens followed through to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, it would ruin Turkey’s relationship with the United States and its chances at entering the European Union. The former United States Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has expressed serious concern over Erdogan’s crackdown, and former prime minister of Norway and current Secretary General of the

Council of Europe, Thorbjorn Jagland, has warned Turkey about the unjust imprisonment of its citizens. Not only has Turkey jailed its own citizens, but last summer a German national was jailed among 10 other human rights professionals while attending a conference in Istanbul, Turkey. In response to this, New York Times writers Carlotta Gall and Melissa Eddy write, “Germany’s foreign minister Sigmar Gabriel drew a line with Turkey... Germany issued a travel advisory warning business travelers and tourists that they risked arbitrary arrest if they traveled to Turkey” (Gall and Eddy). One of Turkey’s main industries is tourism. Due to this travel advisory, the already suffering economy has grown worse. In this way, Sigmar Gabriel attempted to pressure Turkey into releasing the German national, which it did months later. However, due to the large amount of refugees which Turkey allows in to the country, there are not many other European leaders who are openly critical of the journalist crisis in Turkey for fear that in response to the criticism, the nation would turn away the millions of Syrian refugees fleeing to its borders, and instead send them north to flood Europe.

Leaders that begin censoring the citizens who merely disagree with them, should be a warning sign in any democracy. When intellectuals and journalists are persecuted in a society it is a sign that something nefarious is going on behind the scenes; which the attacked intelligent persons would bring to light, if they had a voice. This is a warning bell in Turkey, and it should not be met with indifference nor allowed to slide under the world’s radar. The reporters who would be informing the global public about the mass jailings of journalists are the ones behind bars, or have been bullied into silence by threat of incarceration. This is something the world leaders must recognize: the dangerous censoring trend which President Erdogan’s nationalistic crackdown following the coup of July 2016 brings with it. But by becoming aware of this issue, average citizens, like me and like you, can pressure our government to take action to protect the voice of reason and the freedoms we as Americans take for granted everyday.

The lecture from the leading journalist, Mahir Zeynalov, was the first time I had heard about the Turkish government’s abuse of

power, and it was through the lense of someone who lived through, and played a part in opening the world's eyes to these injustices. That evening, although this is a somber matter, I felt inspired. From Mr. Zeynalov's talk I found hope that through asking the right questions, you can help people and correct injustices, or at least bring them to the attention of the entire world. When I asked Mr. Zeynalov, if going into his career as a journalist, he expected any of what has happened to him, he answered that no he did not, but that he would still "sign up for it" even if he knew that it might mean interrogation, deportation, and separation for his family. Mahir Zeynalov factually stated to me "You need to be brave, and you need to have a certain amount of courage." He continued to say that in journalism you are questioning the authority in charge, which might not always be the safest route. It is nothing short of bravery displayed by Mr. Zeynalov and all journalists who put their lives and livelihoods on the line to share the truth.

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CHAPTER 13

The U.S.-Iran Powder Keg

Madison Phillips

Abstract: The recent death of Iran's Major General Qasem Soleimani by the United States' drone attack foreshadows a possible explosion of the powder keg of war between the U.S. and Iran. This essay explores the current tensions between the two nations, as a result of the countries' political policies and military actions, which are rapidly changing and affecting the international community.

About the Author: Maddie will be attending Penn State University (University Park) where she will study at the Smeal College of Business. She also plans to perform in the university's musical theater organization, Penn State Thespians. After attending her lecture for the Pittsburgh Speaker Series at Heinz Hall, Maddie was captivated by Robin Wright's immense knowledge of the Middle East. Robin Wright has been a writer for *The New Yorker* since 1988, and has done a great deal of work in the Middle East as a foreign affairs analyst. Maddie knew she wanted to write about something that Ms. Wright also considered important. After researching her most recent articles, she discovered that Robin was reporting frequently on the crisis between the United States and Iran.

Since Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979, the U.S. has been concerned with Iran's support of armed factions and terrorist groups,

such as Al Qaeda and Hezbollah. The U.S. has urged other world powers that Iran needs to be put in its place, especially in regards to thwarting its nuclear and military power. The tension between the United States and Iran has heightened, especially after the assassination of Iran's Major General Qasem Soleimani by a U.S. airstrike on January 2, 2020. As a result of the hasty political policies and drastic military actions taken by both the U.S. and Iran, the conflict between these countries is constantly changing, so the issues will continue to affect the foreign policies of the international community.

The Trump Administration's "maximum pressure" campaign and Iran's determination for the expulsion of the U.S. presence in Tehran will result in the implementation of hasty policies by both countries. In April of 2019, the Trump Administration formally designated the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. This group was formed after the Iranian Revolution in 1979 by the Former Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, and was led by Major General Qasem Soleimani. Although they are part of the Iranian Armed Forces, the group supported many terrorist groups; the most concerning of those, Al Qaeda. The result of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was another critical crossroads in policy between the U.S. and Iran. It is commonly referred to as simply the Iran deal. Since the Trump Administration withdrew from the JCPOA addressing Iran's nuclear ambitions in 2018, the U.S. enacted a policy of "maximum pressure" on Iran, aimed at both the nuclear and economic ambitions of the Iranian rulers. In an effort to strain Iran's economic well-being, the United States via President Trump's policy imposed sanctions on Iran in order "to (1) compel it to renegotiate the JCPOA to address the broad range of U.S. concerns and (2) deny Iran the revenue to continue to develop its strategic capabilities or intervene throughout the region" (Katzman et al. 1). This was one of the most controversial foreign policy decisions thus far in Trump's term, and the decision heavily increased tensions between the United States and Iran. In an interview with Jeffrey Goldberg, editor in chief of *The Atlantic*, William Burns, one of the chief architects of the nuclear deal with Iran, ex-

plained how the Administration's plans were not naive, but rather patient. Burns explains: "And so our expectation always was with this nuclear agreement with Iran that we were then going to have to build on it to try to extend the timelines in terms of some of the constraints on Iranian capacities to push back in other areas in the Middle East" (Burns). So, the U.S. was hoping to initiate a plan that would result in the international community backing the country's plan to force more concessions from Tehran and prevent them from developing any more nuclear weapons.

With major backlash from the other nations included in the JCPOA, namely, France, Germany, and the UK, on the United States' decision to withdraw from the deal, Iran's response of also pulling out showed that the country could pose a serious threat to the U.S.. Iran's goal, although still intimidating, has remained the same since 1983: "'Military action like this is not sufficient,' Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader, said of the missile strikes. 'What is important is ending the corrupting presence of America in the region'" (Wright). Iran's chief strategy to achieve this expulsion of the U.S. presence has been to practice "gray zone" activities which, as Robin Wright explains in one of her articles for the New Yorker, are covert military operations such as proxy attacks and cyberwar. So, it is the responsibility of the Trump Administration for the development of new responses to this different style of war.

The military exploits of both Tehran and Washington have reignited the debate over the United States' military presence in Iran and Iran's unconstrained nuclear weapon programs. In the earlier phase of the Administration's plan of maximum pressure, along with various sanctions placed on Iran's oil-export-based economy, the U.S. enacted "immediate foreign military sales and proposed export licenses for direct commercial sales of defense articles ... including sales of precision guided munitions (PGMs) to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)" (Katzman et al. 2). The U.S. was testing just how much they could pressure and control Iran while deterring them from adventuring any further into the Middle East. When Iran did not show any signs of wavering to the U.S. pressure, the Trump Administration took a drastic step with the as-

sassination of General Soleimani. In the aftermath of General Soleimani's death, Iran ignited with public protests and the government responded by also withdrawing from the JCPOA. The Iranian Parliament also chanted "death to America" in a session days after the death of Soleimani. The U.S. Department of Defense was quick to justify the strike, explaining "Soleimani's responsibility for 'the deaths of hundreds of Americans and coalition service members' and his approval of the Embassy blockade, and stated that he was 'actively developing plans to attack American diplomats and service members in Iraq and throughout the region'" (Katzman et al. 10). Although President Trump proudly tweeted that Iran would be hit very hard if the U.S. were to be threatened in any way, Iran did not seem to falter, for this was not the first time the country had dealt with unwanted attempts at control from the United States.

The assassination of General Soleimani sent shock waves throughout Iran. Iran responded with an attack on a U.S. embassy. In the days following Soleimani's death, Iran carried out three days of rocket attacks. First, they fired them near the U.S. embassy, then at two coalition bases in Iraq. Additionally, Iranians flocked to the streets of Tehran where General Soleimani's body was carried through the streets. The implication of the people's demonstrations and government's rhetoric being that if the United States was able to commit a direct attack on Iranian soil, then Iran could take drastic measures too. Iran responded to Trump's decision of pulling out of the deal by announcing that they would "begin developing more advanced centrifuges that allow for more rapid uranium enrichment. Iran also said it was lifting all limits on research and development" (Haltiwanger). So, instead of limiting Iran's nuclear output, the Trump Administration's decision to withdraw from the JCPOA only caused more problems. This problem points to an important remark made by Max Fisher in his article about the "no-win game" between the U.S. and Iran. He explains how:

The nearly two-year episode is a lesson in the limits of zero-sum theories of conflict, which hold that one adversary's loss is invariably the other's gain. In this case, an accounting of the major gains and losses on each side, compiled below, suggests that at near-

ly every turn, escalations by the United States and Iran have ultimately left each side worse off. (Fisher)

From the JCPOA withdrawals to Iran's increased production of nuclear supplies to the United States' attack and murder of General Soleimani, the risks taken by both countries only increase the prospect of war. And with the no-win game in play, it seems that the end of this conflict is hard to predict.

Although the novel Coronavirus has taken hold of the world's attention - thus shifting Iran's and the United States' focus from their crisis - the conflict between the two countries is far from over. Media coverage has drastically decreased since the death of General Soleimani, when back-and-forth military threats eventually led to both countries declaring themselves winners. This shift in media coverage could prove to be a de-escalation of tensions between the countries. However, the possibility of a U.S.-Iran war should not be overlooked, for all it takes is a single strike to ignite the powder keg, and revenge can quickly turn into a war that neither side is prepared for.

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CHAPTER 14

Young Women Can Change The World

Sarah Pritchard

Abstract: This paper highlights two young women, Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg, who have both made great strides in fighting for what they believe in, showing that young women are able to rise up and make changes in the current political climate of the world. It highlights also the struggles that Malala and Greta have faced before rising to influence the world in a new way.

About the Author: Although still undecided about college, Sarah plans on studying aerospace or astronautical engineering. She was inspired to write this paper after attending an event where they screened the movie “He Named Me Malala.” Sarah believes that it is very important for young women to know they have a voice and that there are currently many young women role models to look up to in the world.

Young women are making headlines, and not just for winning beauty pageants. More now than ever before, young women are ris-

ing up and taking stands for what they believe in, causing a big shift in the global political climate. From Amariyanna Copeny, more famously known as Little Miss Flint, a 13-year-old girl fighting for awareness about the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, to Emma González, a 20-year-old survivor of the 2018 Stoneman Douglas High School shooting and gun control activist, women from all walks of life are fighting for a cleaner, safer, and more just world. However, none have quite been brought to the world's attention like Malala Yousafzai, a 22-year-old Pakistani activist fighting for equality in education and Greta Thunberg, a 13-year-old environmental activist. Although only a few examples of strong young women, Malala and Greta are two of the most prominent young women activists that have risen up in the past decade. Many young women are rising up and standing up for what they believe in, which is causing a great change in the climate of current global politics. By overcoming many challenges through their struggles to change global politics, Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg are making strides toward the goals that many before them have been too afraid to chase, and they show that young women can be a powerful fighting force in the world today.

Malala Yousafzai first became an inspiration to many in October 2012, when the Taliban shot her in the head for standing up for the right for girls to be educated. Before becoming this powerful and established force in the fight for women's education, Malala faced many struggles and injustices. When she was 10-years-old, her home village went from being a place of tourism and beauty, known as "the Switzerland of Pakistan," to a place of terrorism (Husain). At the young age of eleven, Malala started to fight for the right to education. However, this bold fight immediately made her a controversial figure in Pakistan. She knew that fighting for equal rights to education would make her a target for the Taliban. In Malala's Nobel Lecture after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014, she said, "When my world suddenly changed, my priorities changed too. I had two options. One was to remain silent and wait to be killed. And the second was to speak up and then be killed. I chose the second one. I decided to speak up." Even at such a young

age, Malala knew the difference between what was right and what was easy. She knew that, if she wanted to help children all over the world have access to quality education, she would be placing herself in grave danger. On 9 October 2012, her life changed forever. After school, she boarded a small bus in order to safely get home. Not far from the school, the bus was waved down by two young men, who then boarded the bus. One of the men asked the simple question, “Who is Malala?” and many of her friends turned to look at her. The young men, members of the Taliban, shot her in the head. After first taken to the local hospital, she was then brought in a helicopter to a hospital in Peshawar, then a larger hospital in Islamabad, and finally, to the Queen Elizabeth hospital in Birmingham. Only nine months after the shooting, she was able to give a talk to a specially convened youth assembly at the UN headquarters in New York. Thanks to the medical help she received and her own perseverance, she had a speedy recovery and got back to her work in no time. Malala’s struggles have allowed her to become a huge inspiration for many across the world.

Malala became an inspiration to many due to her passion for the right to equal education. After news of a young girl being shot by the Taliban spread across the world, Malala’s fight for equal education took on a greater audience. Even while still in the hospital, neurosurgeon Khan noticed that Malala was special. According to a BBC article, “he had never heard the name Malala Yousafzai, but he was soon left in no doubt that he was treating a high-profile patient. Camera crews besieged the hospital compound as a tide of shock and revulsion spread through Pakistan” (Husain). News of Malala’s shooting shocked the world, especially core countries, where no one could imagine a young girl being shot for standing up for her right to education. It seemed like everyone wanted to hear the story of this powerful young girl. On her 16th birthday, after a speech at the UN headquarters in New York, she said “When I looked at 400 youth and people from more than 100 countries... I said that I am not only talking to the people of America and the other countries, I am talking to every person in the world” (Husain). She realized the impact she was having and knew that she was mak-

ing an impact. This only inspired her to keep working. At only 17, Malala became the youngest person to ever win a Nobel Prize for her fight for education for everyone (“The Nobel Peace Prize 2014”). In her acceptance lecture, she boldly said that “I tell my story, not because it is unique, but because it is not. It is the story of many girls.” Malala knows that she is not alone in her fight, and she knows she speaks for many, all across the world. She truly believes in the importance of all children having a quality education, and knows that many others do, too. Malala, although a very prominent young woman activist, is not the only girl who stands up for what she believes in.

Greta Thunberg, a young and inspirational climate activist, also shows that young women can and will change the world. Although she previously faced, and still faces today, many struggles, none of her struggles have been nearly as violent or targeted as Malala’s main struggle. Mostly internal, she shows that all struggles are valid and anyone can overcome whatever they may face. Struggling with depression, eating disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, and Asperger’s, Greta’s life is anything but easy (Tapper). For over 3 years before she started her strikes, she struggled with depression. According to her mother quoted in an article from The Guardian, “She was slowly disappearing into some kind of darkness. She stopped playing the piano. She stopped laughing. She stopped talking. And she stopped eating” (Tapper). Greta faced many struggles, and was eventually hospitalized for her eating disorder. However, her school did not support her or try to understand what she was going through, and she was bullied. She first discovered her passion for the environmental crisis while watching a video in school about plastic in the Pacific Ocean. This video changed her life, and was unable to rest after what she saw. A turning point in her life, Greta never stopped caring about the climate crisis, even though her parents were not so supportive at first. Although they wanted to support her passions, they thought it was more important that she go to school and pay attention to her studies. However, she did as her heart desired and what she knew she had to do in order to make a change. While she still faces many of these challenges,

she has become a prominent and inspirational activist in the fight against climate change.

Greta gained and continues to gain influence through the powerful stands she takes against climate change. In just 18 months, Greta started a huge climate movement. Every Friday starting in 2018, she would sit outside of the Swedish Parliament building to protest climate change, and she still spends every Friday on strike. In April 2019, one month after being nominated for a Nobel Peace prize, she met with Pope Francis to discuss the fight to curb climate change. And then, one week later, she met with UK Parliament leaders and told them, “Many of you appear concerned that we are wasting valuable lesson time, but I assure you we will go back to school the moment you start listening to science and give us a future” (Woodward). She believes in the power she has, and understands the importance of what she is doing. She is true to her word and is never hypocritical in her actions. Instead of traveling in planes, as she knows of the high levels of carbon emissions produced by planes, she chooses to travel by train or boat. On 20 September 2019, Greta led the largest climate strike in history, which included over four million people from over 161 countries. Three days later, at the Global Climate Summit at the New York United Nations Headquarters, Greta said, “For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away and come here saying that you are doing enough, when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight,” (Woodward). She is calling people, especially politicians and world leaders, to pay attention to the science and stand up to make a change. For her work, TIME magazine named her person of the year 2019. She started a new uprising in the current political climate through her powerful words and actions, showing that young women can and will make a difference in the world.

Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg caused a shift in the global political climate, showing that young women can and will change the world, no matter what struggles they may face. Both of these young women have risen up and taken a stand for what they

believe in, showing that young women can change the world in whichever ways they believe.

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CHAPTER 15

Informal Housing Settlements: Brazil, Dubai, And Cape Town

Andalusha Reilly

Abstract: Informal housing settlements appear in cities and parts of the world where people are in desperate need of housing or a place to stay. However, there are enormous consequences when these areas go unchecked including lack of sanitation and organization. Many cities are working to lift people out of these areas and create a more stable and healthy lifestyle for the inhabitants of these informal housing settlements.

About the Author: Andalushia Reilly has not decided on a school yet but plans on attending college next year on the pre-med track. During her freshman year, Andalushia attended a documentary about the Favelas of Brazil that has always stuck with her. The event inspired her to write a paper that explored similar situations around the world and how they compare to the Favelas in Brazil.

All around the world people struggle financially and many may find themselves in temporary informal settlements or slums. Many issues surround these settlements ranging from health concerns, lack of organization, and people falling through the cracks. From one hemisphere to the other people struggle to make ends meet and

find themselves in communities of people in similar situations. These temporary settlements are both similar and different in their organization and records, health concerns, and future plans and three large examples are the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, Dharavi in Mumbai and Khayelitsha in Cape Town.

The word favela comes from when Brazilian author Euclides da Cunha called a hillside filled with the thorny favela plant as "mount Favela" where soldiers had camped in his book about Brazil's civil war of 1897. Similarly, the shantytowns in Rio fell under this name as the settlements grew with incoming migrants. According to an NBC News article by Erik Ortiz, "[Favelas] are home to about 1.5 million people, or close to 24 percent of the city's population" (Ortiz). The houses have become so dense that it has become nearly impossible to install infrastructure including from roads to sewage to electricity. Another issue that faces the residents of the favelas is mudslides. An article by Andrew Logan published on the Borgen project website states "Over the years, a lack of public services and precarious siting has literally eroded communities as mudslides 1966, 1996 and 2001 wiped away favelas" (Logan). The favelas are not just unsafe for outsiders but also for insiders who face severe health concerns and sanitary issues. A study done by AM J Public Health in 2011 found "The life expectancy at birth of men living in the richest parts of [Rio de Janeiro] was 12.8 years longer than that of men living in deprived areas" (Szwarcwald). They go on to discuss how this inequality could be due to the high rates of crime, violence, and murder in many of the slums, but it could also be because of the stress caused by living in these areas. This has also allowed crime to thrive in the favela towns as gang violence and the drug trade grow. Oftentimes people who live in the favelas face pressure to join gangs because it feels like their only option like Ricardo. In a 2015 article by Jo Griffin by the Guardian on the violence in the favelas, Ricardo was interviewed and said "I didn't know what else I could do" (Griffin). Gangs offer protection and security, which a lot of kids in the favelas do not feel often. It also is an opportunity and chance that they feel they must take advantage of because they do not know if they will get another. However, the Brazilian govern-

ment is taking steps, not to eradicate these homes, but to revitalize and take control of the favelas. One strategy is “to provide favela residents with titles to their homes. Not only does this provide the impoverished with dignity, but it also allows the cities greater regulation of the favelas” (Logan). This method helps to organize the area so that people do not fall through the cracks and infrastructure can be installed. In another program, residents can exchange a bag of trash for a bottle of milk. This may seem odd, but because of the narrow streets and unorganized structure trash collectors can not operate in the streets of the favelas. This program allows the residents to clean up their streets and receive better nourishment at the same time. The favelas came out of a need for more housing, but in turn, caused a need for better housing, which the government is currently not trying to meet.

Dharavi is home to more than 1 million people and many are even second generation, but the cramped conditions, even if it provides cheap rent, are causing major health issues within the city. Due to the extremely high rent in Mumbai, people have turned to this unorganized area of Mumbai in hopes of finding a cheap place to live. However, there are issues within Dharavi that threaten the people who live there. A testimony by Dr. Armida Fernandez, who worked at a hospital near Dharavi for twenty-five years, reveals some of the main issues that faced the residents of Dharavi: “Many came with serious conditions and infections – often preventable with vaccinations, improved infrastructure and more knowledge about hygiene and maternal and neonatal care” (Health in Indian Slums). It was the lack of access and the necessary resources that were killing the people of Dharavi, especially young children. Without many things such as running water or electricity that are necessary for proper hygiene, the inhabitants find themselves more susceptible to health hazards that they are already susceptible to from their lack of vaccinations. One interesting thing about Dharavi is that it “contains thousands of micro-industries, which collectively turn over \$650m annually”, which generally are potters, garment-makers, welders and recyclers who run their businesses out of their homes (Carr). While many people work out of their station in Dhar-

avi many other people find that Dharavi's extremely close proximity to close main train lines provides another upside to living in Dharavi. It is important to remember that the people living in this area are living there for a reason and are making the most with what they have. In previous years there have been movements to renovate Dharavi, but they have faced resistance from residents, and in February of 2004 all redevelopment plans for Dharavi were put on hold until 2019. However, a deal was just made with Sec-Link Technology Corporation (STC) and "The Dharavi Slum Redevelopment Project will cost around Rs 22,000 crore, which is over \$3 billion" (Savage). There are plans to add new homes and commercial areas, but residents are concerned that the small businesses who are their livelihood and community will be pushed out. One of the most important factors when trying to renovate these areas is that the residents are treated with dignity. It is key that they are not pushed aside or trodden on, but rather that they feel as if their needs and wishes are heard. This will allow for a smoother transition all around. This is a valid fear as the residents of Dharavi have grown to form their own community which may have issues, but has become a part of their lives and culture.

Khayelitsha is one of the largest slums in the world with a population of over 300,000 which suffers from extreme sanitation and water issues. Khayelitsha developed at "Crossroads", an area near the airport and is composed of shacks, tents, and shanties. At first, Khayelitsha formed in Capetown as a government project to provide housing in an organized way, however, the settlements slowly became out of control: "By 1990 the population of Khayelitsha was 450,000 and unemployment stood at 80%. Only 14% lived in core housing, with 54% in serviced shacks and 32% in unserviced areas. A handful of residents had electricity and most families had to fetch water from public taps" (Shanty Towns). Khayelitsha became exceptionally unorganized and created a new problem in and of itself. There have been multiple movements to evict the residents such as in 1975 when authorities received orders to evict the residents of Crossroads. However, oppositions formed in support of the "Crossroads" movement and the residents were left alone. Another issue

that faces Khayelitsha struggles with sanitation especially with access to restrooms and clean water which contributes to the problems in the town. In Khayelitsha oftentimes “one toilet is shared by five families on average. Most people use open fields or bushes to do their business, which contributes to the spread of diseases like cholera within communities. It’s also the best place for criminals to attack” (Habitat for Humanity). Not only does not have access to running water and clean toilets threaten the physical health of those who use them, but it also threatens their dignity. Not feeling safe to use a bathroom or not being able to use one at all can make many people in Khayelitsha feel dehumanized. Access to a bathroom is such a basic necessity that many people do not have and it can strip them of their esteem and dignity. However, there are proposals to provide better housing for those in the slums of Cape Town without having to wait for the long overdue and expensive brick houses. Some of these planners hope to build extremely temporary houses like “Jonny Anderton who has designed a safe sandbag-house called e-khaya for informal settlements. He once figured that for the price of its world cup stadium, Cape Town could build e-khaya for 2 million people” (Farkas). There is hope that by moving people out of these slums until they can be redone and more permanent organized housing can be put in place a better lifestyle can be made available to the people of Cape Town. Everyone who lives in a temporary settlement whether it is in a shack, tent or apartment deserves to have access to the basic needs of a person, family, and community.

Looking at all of these temporary settlements and shantytowns one similarity becomes glaringly clear: change needs to happen. There have been proposals and plans but not a lot of physical action, physical building, physical support has been done and that is the only way things will get better. These people are living in a place where they are making due, but are not receiving all of the necessary support that they deserve to have. The residents of these areas face gang violence, lack of medical care or unsanitary conditions every day with no relief, despite being human beings, the same as you and me. They are living in conditions that no one should have to survive and it is no longer acceptable. The people of favelas in Rio de

Janeiro, in Mumbai's Dharavi, and in Khayelitsha all deserve to live a better life with dignity and the only way to change their situation is through action.

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CHAPTER 16

Big Brother Is Watching: Technology Surveillance In China And The United States

Emma Shaughnessy

Abstract: In contemporary society, modern technological surveillance is giving countries more control over their citizens than in the past. Under China's communist regime, the government uses surveillance as a fear factor to ensure citizens abide by laws. Without checks and balances, the nation has gotten away with this invasion of privacy, and often does not disclose information to citizens. Contrary to China, Western democratic governments, such as the United States of America, have faced intense scrutiny for increased use of technological surveillance. The United States government has been accused of violating people's privacy, often without their knowledge or consent. Regardless of the countries' motives or repercussions, both government systems continue to incorporate technological surveillance into people's daily lives as technology advances, and this development seems to be gaining momentum.

About the Author: Emma Shaughnessy has been a member of the Joan of Arc Society of Scholars for three years. During her sopho-

more year, she attended a panel at the University of Pittsburgh about how technological surveillance has developed overtime, sparking her interest in the topic. She recalls that one of the panelists told a story about how he received multiple advertisements in the mail for pregnancy tests after purchasing one for his wife. After learning about how surveillance impacted people before modern technology, Emma wanted to learn more how surveillance impacts people today. Although she has yet to decide where she will attend college or what major she will pursue, Emma has interests in communications and business. Emma appreciates the opportunities she has received because of JOA, and looks forward to learning more about the world after graduation.

When George Orwell wrote the novel, 1984, about a futuristic, dystopian society to warn people around the world about the potential dangers of technological surveillance, most people thought his ideas were too absurd to come to fruition. Although technology was not advanced enough at the time to have a large impact on people's lives, many of the concerns Orwell raised in his novel have started to become larger problems today. Due to the popularity of mobile devices in the twenty-first century and more advanced technology in general, everyone's lives are on display, and privacy is becoming a value of the past. Because of the "Big Brother" government systems in China and the United States, as well as businesses in America, keeping tabs on people at all times, modern technology surveillance has transformed into a global issue.

Modern technology has granted communist China the ability to spy on its 1.4 billion citizens (Mozur and Krolik), giving the nation more control over inhabitants than before. As a communist regime, the Chinese government already has significant control over its citizens. For example, China implemented a nationwide policy in 1980, commonly known as the one-child policy, to control the size

of the country's rapidly increasing population. Under the policy, anyone who had more than one child was breaking the law and had to pay a fine. Though the rule is no longer enforced today because of the creation of the two-child policy in 2017, Chinese citizens still do not have much control over their lives (Fouberg). The introduction of modern surveillance technology has given Chinese political leaders the ability to take their power to a whole new level. Created by the Chinese government to promote surveillance in a positive light, "A recent state-media propaganda film called "Amazing China" showed off a [virtual map] that provided police with records of utility use, saying it could be used for predictive policing" (Mozur). Contrary to the purpose of the short film, which is meant to encourage Chinese citizens to abide by the laws, the propaganda video actually demonstrates the dangers of technology surveillance. By giving the police access to personal data that can be used against citizens, China may very well transform into a digital totalitarian state. Additionally, the fear instilled in people from knowing that the police can monitor their every move will give the government even more power. Because the Chinese government primarily uses the information they obtain for political power, most data is unsecured. According to an article in The New York Times, Chinese "...authorities parked the personal data of millions of people on servers unprotected by even basic security measures. It also found that private contractors and middlemen have wide access to personal data collected by the Chinese government" (Mozur and Krolik). Since the servers used by the government are unprotected, almost anyone in the world can have access to Chinese citizens' personal information. Another component that amplifies the surveillance problem with China is trade. China conducts trade with many nations, and the technologies discovered in the "Global Capital of Surveillance" are starting to spread to other places. People recognize the dangers of such technologies and "Critics warn that it could help underpin a future of tech-driven authoritarianism, potentially leading to a loss of privacy on an industrial scale" (Mozur et. al). If the surveillance technology in China starts flowing to other countries, not only will political repression be an issue, but also a lack of privacy among citizens.

As a democratic nation that values privacy, the United States of America has gone against the beliefs of most citizens by implementing technology surveillance tactics for criminal investigations, and allowing companies to conduct surveillance for capital gain. Though surveillance seems like a new issue in the United States, American citizens have had privacy concerns since the early 1900s when wiretapping, a phenomenon in which people would hire unofficial actors to listen to others' phone conversations, became a widespread issue. According to an article in the Smithsonian, "It's only in the 1920s that ordinary Americans start[ed] to take notice of wiretapping and it's not really until the 1950s that it's seen as a national problem" (White). Though American citizens voiced their concerns at the time, the amount of technological surveillance has increased since then, not only by independent organizations, but also by the government. In most cases, the government uses technological surveillance for criminal investigation, rather than for national security. However, "Since wiretapping in criminal investigations [disproportionately] targets African-Americans and Latinos as part of the 'war on drugs,' it isn't just a civil liberties issue; it's a civil rights issue" (White). In the United States, people from the African-American and Latino communities are often wrongfully targeted for crimes they did not commit, and technology surveillance escalates that issue. Since its creation in the 1970s, the War on Drugs, a United States government initiative to stop illegal drug use, has not been successful. By attempting to implement increased surveillance to solve this dilemma, the government only turned the problem into a larger human rights issue.

In addition to being a civil liberties issue in America, surveillance is also a privacy issue. A Forbes article explains how private data is used by companies as a means for profit. Biometric recording devices and facial recognition technology are used in public to gauge the interests of customers, generally without them knowing. Some American cities started to take action to stop this problem from progressing. In early 2019, "San Francisco became the first city in the United States to ban the use of facial recognition technology" (Vigo). San Francisco's new ban prevents mobile applications

from using facial recognition to identify users' appearances. Having to pass legislation to protect inhabitants from seemingly harmless technology shows the potential dangers of growing surveillance. In addition, many social media sites, such as Facebook, monitor users and nonusers to improve products and services by tracking their browsing data and locations. Even people who do not have a Facebook account can be monitored. According to Facebook product management director, David Baser, "When you visit a site or app that uses our services, we receive information even if you're logged out or don't have a Facebook account" (Hern). Some Americans may think they outsmarted the system by turning off their location services or staying away from Facebook altogether. However, because major corporations are sharing private information with other companies, privacy is ceasing to exist.

Although both China and the United States utilize advanced technology to monitor their citizens to an extent, the effects of modern technological surveillance in China extends much further than in America. The actions of the Chinese government clearly demonstrates that China watches all its citizens, whereas the United States primarily focuses on monitoring criminals and people of interest. For example, factories in Zhengzhou, China are working towards creating advanced technological tools that "...can help police grab the identities of people as they walk down the street, find out who they are meeting with and identify who does and doesn't belong to the Communist Party" (Mozur and Kroluk). Creating a system with the ability to determine the inner thoughts and beliefs of a person by scanning their face gives the Chinese government too much power. Facial recognition is a growing problem in China, but one that cities in the United States are trying to solve. This type of technology differs from that in the United States because China wants to track everyone, whereas America fundamentally tracks terrorists or drug lords (Mozur et. al). Additionally, all levels of Chinese government are involved in this endeavor. Unlike in the United States where the federal government controls surveillance networks, those in China "...are controlled by local police, as if county sheriffs in the United States ran their own personal versions of the National Secu-

rity Agency” (Mozur and Krolik). In China, the local police work in conjunction with the national government, since the nation prefers to work at smaller government levels to track people more closely. Since the local police control surveillance, China’s surveillance technology is on a much larger scale than the United States. An article from the New York Times states, “Already, China has an estimated 200 million surveillance cameras — four times as many as the United States” (Mozur). Because more police organizations are involved in carrying out this effort, more cameras can be placed around cities. These cameras work with other systems to track travel, internet use, and other aspects of people’s lives. Having four times as many cameras as the United States, a country where technology surveillance is also a rapidly growing issue, shows how severely Chinese citizens are affected.

With the increased use of mobile devices throughout the world, government systems can monitor their citizens constantly. As a communist country where privacy is already a significant national dilemma, technological surveillance makes citizens’ lives less private than they were before the creation of modern devices. Though the United States government has disclosed some information about surveillance to the public, statistics suggest that the problem may run deeper than most suspect. As unrealistic as 1984 may have seemed when George Orwell first wrote the novel, advancements in surveillance technology show that China and the United States resemble Orwell’s dystopian society more than people thought. As a new problem in the twenty-first century that will continue to escalate well into the future, the use of technological surveillance has the power to change the way the world operates on a global scale.

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Comic Relief: A Way To Inform, Persuade And Cope

Mallory Sherman

Abstract: The combination of flashy illustrations and dramatic print allows comics to serve as an effective platform to express ideas in a manner that attracts a diverse audience. Through this intriguing and informative art medium, artists initiate discussions centered around controversial, heavily debated, and entertaining topics with ease. After recognizing and valuing the relevant nature of comedic creations, society today uses this platform to communicate topics about medicine, politics, and general entertainment.

About the Author: Mallory Sherman plans to study finance at the University of Pittsburgh, Honors College. She was inspired by the event “Comics in Medicine” which featured comics created by medical staff, patients, and parents of sick children in order to raise awareness of particular medical conditions, help cope during difficult times, and reach out to others with similar experiences.

Immediately, the vivid color and bold print draws the attention of every wandering eye to focus on the comic’s intended message. Due to its versatile nature and relevance, comics are often used to portray a wide range of discussion topics and allow for all individuals to express their personal perspectives. The comic medium, combined with creative and critical thinking, provides an outlet for writers to transform their ideas into an easily sharable art form. Today, comics serve as an effective way to educate about modern medicine, influence political opinion, and bring joy to many individuals.

In order to raise awareness of rare medical conditions, expose a greater audience to common mental health concerns, and gather support for medical professionals, comics provide the perfect platform to fulfill these dire needs. Researcher and journalist Sarah Glazer emphasizes the importance of

the health care revolution that occurred once comics were paired with modern medical education in her scholarly article entitled “Graphic Medicine: Comics Turn a Critical Eye on Health Care.” Glazer explains that comics provide a sense of support and comfort to individuals who suffer from varying mental health conditions, such as depression and anxiety. The creation of comics addressing mental and physical health conditions allows for individuals, who are diagnosed with the condition, to feel connected to others who endure the same obstacles which they regularly face. Also, comics centered around health conditions help to educate and expose others to various diseases and disorders that affect their fellow peers. Once awareness is raised around different diagnoses, a more empathetic and caring community can develop, providing ill individuals with a network of understanding and helpful allies (Glazer). Supporting Glazer’s belief that comics provide medical comfort, literary scholar and author Nancy K. Miller used artistic watercolor imagery and comic literature to ease stress. After being diagnosed with stage III lung cancer, Miller began drawing cartoons depicting her medical journey and arising thoughts of worry, sadness, and desire for hope. Miller collected her drawings and presented her artwork depicting her cancer experience at the 4th International Conference on Comics and Medicine held in Brighton, England. Despite her lack of professional artistic training, Miller compiled cartoons that portrayed her internal struggle, which inspired other cancer patients to pursue art as well. Miller’s cartoon compilations provided other cancer patients with a sense comfort and support to persevere and continue their fight against the horrific condition. The comic medium allowed Miller to educate the public about the typical obstacles a cancer patient endures and become an inspirational and supportive role model for current cancer patients (Miller). Comics allow for ordinary individuals to connect with others who share similar interests and experiences, creating a connected community that provides support, entertainment, and friendship. Medical comics serve as a simple medium to convey information and gain support; a similar tactic used in politics to rally an agreeable crowd.

In the political realm, the American people view comics as a media outlet where even “the common man” had a voice that could not be silenced. Despite their level of professional experience in writing and artistry, a large range of individuals had the opportunity to produce a comic that depicted a personal viewpoint or important cause. The informative article “The Rise of the American Comics Artist: Creators and Contexts,” written by Scott McCloud explains the drastic ability for a single comic series to persuade the American public’s political opinion. In 1941, the newly released cover of a Captain American Comic portrayed superhero “Steve Rogers” aggressively punching Adolf Hitler in the jaw. Prior to publishment, 75% of Americans, despite disagreeing with Hitler’s policies, desired to not engage in another European war. As the Captain America cover appeared more frequently in the American media, the

publication forced many Americans to re-think their isolationist mindset. Although this single comic cover was not the sole motivation for America to declare war on Germany, the comic did effectively influence the mindset of many Americans to fight against injustice toward oppressed and persecuted individuals (McCloud). Comics have also drastically changed the outcome of various American political elections due to the information and deep messages expressed by the artist. In her article "Representation and Diversity in Comics Studies," Ellen Kirkpatrick illustrates how Thomas Nast, an extremely powerful cartoonist, influenced the public opinion of several American political figures. In 1864, Nast published a comic in Harper's Weekly depicting a Confederate soldier shaking hands with an extremely injured Union soldier; a cartoon that blasted the anti-Civil War platform of the Democrats. In the fall election, Lincoln's Republican party printed and distributed Nast's comic, which allowed Lincoln to gain popularity in the election. Nast's popularity greatly increased, and three years after Lincoln's assassination, Ulysses S. Grant partially attributed his own presidential victory to "the pencil of Thomas Nast" (Kirkpatrick). In the political scene, comics are viewed as an acceptable and accessible way to express an idea and share this viewpoint with the population majority. Comics create a platform to expose the wrongdoings, incorrect policies, and unjust actions of political figures and societal views. Political comics, when constructed with creativity and cleverness, have repeatedly and successfully persuaded the actions of the American people. Comics lead to the formation of like-minded communities in the political realm, and also provide a sense of joy to the included individuals.

Whether in the form of a paper book, rip-off calendar, television special, or newspaper clipping, comics maintain a strong relevance despite the rapid modernization of today's society. When analyzing the past nature of comics, from the perspective of a modern technology-focused world, the medium's beginnings seem quaint, nostalgic and humble. Past generations often saved up allowances or gift money in order to purchase new comic books from local convenience and book stores. By opening the comic book, the reader entered into a world where creativity and imagination thrive. Deceptions of flying cars, super humans, and monstrous creatures flood the pages of each vividly illustrated collection. The combination of subtle humor, intriguing storylines, charming characters, and eye-catching formatting cause comic books to be a cherished reminder of "the good old days" of simple and joyous childhood. When carefully maintained, comic books can be passed on for generations, allowing for new audiences to gain the same happiness that each story creates within the mind of its reader. Newspaper comics also provide a way to easily spread the joy and happiness of laughter around a family. By passing around "Funny Pages" to each family member, every person has an opportunity to enjoy. With a diverse selection of comic artists, a comic exists to brighten the day

of any individual despite their age. The nostalgia surrounded the tradition of reading Sunday newspaper comics is further explained in Leo Bogart's journal article "Adult Talk About Newspaper Comics." A simple weekly tradition of reading the "Funny Pages" together as a family sparks a happy and cherished memory of many Americans. Whether in book and newspaper form, comics had the ability to brighten childhood days and spark memories of joy during a period of reminiscing (Bogart). The development of comics into movie productions helped expose more audience members to the original idea. The Peanuts comic developed into both a Christmas and Halloween hit movie, which soon became a staple of many household holiday traditions. Scholar June Rose Richie describes, in her article entitled "The Funnies Aren't Just Funny...Using Cartoons and Comics to Teach," the important lessons illustrated throughout many comics. Depicted in both the Peanuts comic and movie adaptation, children learn the importance of kindness and tolerance while simultaneously watching an exciting story. Other comics such as "Fox Trot," "Richie Rich," and "Zits" teach about the importance of treating family members with value and respect. Similarly, superhero comics developed into movies that seek to teach a lesson to the audience in the midst of the action-packed plot. "Spiderman" demonstrates that every individual is responsible for their own actions, and hard work and persistence can always overcome failure (Richie). Despite the location, a movie theater, paper book, or newspaper, comics have the ability to portray an intriguing story, captivate the attention of many, and create memories associated with pleasurable experiences.

Comics hold an irreplaceable role in the medicine, political, and entertainment world where information portrayal occurs in a unique and revolutionary manner. With an extremely diverse purpose spanning from public influence to personal comfort, comics provide an easy outlet to express and enjoy.

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CHAPTER 18

Healthcare In Haiti

Margaret Smith

Abstract: In recent years, Haiti has suffered multiple environmental disasters. Although they received an immense amount of funding and assistance from outside countries, their healthcare system is still struggling. In this paper, I will discuss the factors contributing to the lack of proper healthcare in Haiti. Due to Haiti's lack of structure in their healthcare system, reliance on outside sources for funding rather than investment from the government, and their vulnerability to environmental issues, citizens are suffering immensely.

About the Author: Maggie Smith, four-year member of JOA, plans on attending college but does not know which one yet. She is interested in studying something in healthcare, which inspired many events and ultimately, the topic for her JOA Journal submission. She went to two separate lectures on the status of healthcare in Haiti. The first lecture was about a man who started a non-profit hospital in Haiti and how that impacted the citizens, and the second was a lecture about the status of Haiti's healthcare system. It discussed the poor system they are running and how preventative care scarcely exists.

Illness affects everyone, despite race, class, gender or location. In other words, illness does not discriminate. However, treat-

ment plans do. In recent years, Haiti has faced numerous natural disasters, making it a challenge to create an effective healthcare system. Citizens struggle to receive primary and preventative care, let alone treatment for serious illnesses. Due to Haiti's lack of structure in their healthcare system, reliance on outside sources for funding rather than investment from the government, and their vulnerability to environmental issues, citizens are suffering immensely.

Although Haiti has various hospitals throughout the country, they are in terrible condition, lacking the proper care and resources for the millions of citizens inhabiting Haiti. Haiti's attempts to expand their healthcare system have failed because they lack quality primary and preventative care for the citizens:

“...91% of the population lived within 5 km of a primary care facility, only 23% lived within 5 km of a facility with service delivery of good quality...indicating there are many gaps in the provision of high quality primary care. In general, the primary care facilities performed reasonably well on access indicators but poorly in terms of effective service delivery and management and organization, with particular deficits in provider motivation and quality improvement” (Gage et al).

Despite most citizens living close to a provider, they cannot receive the proper care for most ailments. In October of 2010, the cholera outbreak in Haiti affected millions, and could have been prevented. However, the disease spread exponentially “due to initial misdiagnosis, lack of oral rehydration treatment and an already overstretched medical infrastructure” (Elkine et al). Because of Haiti's lack of proper preventative care, outbreaks of diseases are more likely and the country does not possess the means to properly treat these outbreaks. Haiti relies on outside sources for help because “What healthcare facilities exist are wholly inadequate – insufficient medical staff, support staff, equipment and treatment. It is left to medical NGOs such as MSF, the Cuban Brigade and a few faith-based and charity clinics to provide what they can” (Elkine et al). Their lack of structure has begun to negatively affect those assisting Haiti, and is continually failing to improve. Their main hos-

pitals, “including the country’s main teaching hospital and clinical and trauma referral centre, L’Hôpital Université d’Etat d’Haïti (Haitian State University Hospital or HUEH), are in a terrible condition and have effectively been abandoned by all those involved in running the country – the government, the UN, USAID and other country donors, and the NGOs” (Gage et al). It seems as though Haiti has given up on attempting to improve their system and, as a result, “Life expectancy at birth is 65 years, and mortality among children younger than five years is more than double that in the neighbouring Dominican Republic. There is only one doctor or nurse per 3000 population and public sector health spending is among the lowest in the world” (Gage et al). As Haiti’s healthcare system continues to struggle to provide primary care for its patients, the citizens’ life expectancy will continue to decrease, and citizens will continue to suffer. Haiti relies too heavily on outside support, and as the support begins to wane, their population will as well.

Due to the Haiti’s suffering economy, they have received help from various outside sources, however, help from other countries and organizations is decreasing, and public funding is non-increasing, which is contributing to the lack of an equitable and efficient healthcare system. Haiti relies heavily on outside resources for assistance, especially after the various earthquakes they have faced. However, Haiti has not experienced an incident in years and, as a result, aid from other countries and organizations is starting to fade away. Haiti’s government, at this point, should be stepping in and increasing their investments in healthcare, however, “the annual per capita public health spending in Haiti is \$13...Public investment in health care has plummeted from 16.6 percent of the total Haitian government budget in 2004—under the administration of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide who was overthrown that year—to 4.4 percent in the current budget” (McCambridge et al). Their investment in healthcare has vastly decreased since the various environmental disasters they have been facing. Their reliance on NGOs has caused unnecessary suffering, and Cavagnero, a health economist for Haiti, believes that “A lot of the things that Haitians suffer from could be treated at the primary health care levels in a more

cost-effective way” (McCambridge et al). If Haiti’s government were to invest in primary care, there would not be as much of a need for emergency care from NGOs because illness could be treated before it spreads to become an epidemic. Dr. Ronald LaRoche, a primary care advocate who operates private hospitals in Haiti believes that “the shrinking of international assistance, the lack of income coming from the government side, the inflation rate, the increase of the population and the emergence of new hazards like cholera and Zika” is what is contributing to Haiti’s inability to move forward and invest in healthcare (McCambridge et al). They continue to get hit with various diseases and issues and, as a result, they cannot afford to rely on themselves, and lean on NGOs for help. Because of their reliance on outside organization for assistance and lack of public investment, Haiti is nicknamed the “Republic of NGOs” (McCambridge et al). Their lack of funding is contributing to Haiti’s poor healthcare system, especially as assistance from outside organizations decreases.

For the past couple of decades, Haiti has been susceptible to various environmental disasters, and their sanitation procedures are not safe, which is causing a loss of vital resources and creating a dangerous environment to live in. Their vulnerability to environmental disasters is not allowing Haiti to make any progress towards improving their healthcare system. In 2012, when the earthquake hit Haiti, over 200,000 people died, and Port-au-Prince’s society was destroyed:

The earthquake hit the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince where over one in five Haitians lived, destroying infrastructure, public buildings, and housing. The earthquake aggravated the already deteriorating infrastructure and poor living standards in the country. Despite the immediate intervention of the international community through the dispatch of rescue teams, and the infusion of financial and material support in the process of reconstruction and development, the situation has yet to normalize. (“Haiti”)

Although Haiti has been receiving help, they got hit with another earthquake in 2016 and had to basically start all over again.

Millions of people were affected by Hurricane Matthew, and they are still struggling to recover. Because of their struggles with environmental disasters, Haiti has had to focus on emergency care, rather than improving the infrastructure of their healthcare system. As these environmental tragedies continue, Haiti is losing vital resources, like water: “The country had enjoyed a surplus of water resources but no longer has enough to satisfy the needs of a growing population. The lack of water catchment and storage systems contributes to the under-supply of safe drinking water, particularly for the poorest strata of society” (“Haiti”). Their population is growing, however, their resources are decreasing and will not be able to sustain the citizens of Haiti. With a proper healthcare system, a growing population could be cared for, but Haiti cannot seem to catch up with the growth. As Haiti attempts to treat everyone with an illness, they do not properly treat their equipment, which can create a domino effect, causing more diseases to spread. Most health care facilities “have difficulties managing hazardous medical waste, with nonoperational waste management systems; personnel working under hazardous conditions; insufficient protection sites; and dysfunctional sorting, storage, and incineration equipment” (“Haiti”). Their lack of sanitary equipment and knowledge on how to clean it for future patients is contributing to the spread of the epidemics Haiti has been facing. Their experience with environmental disasters has not allowed Haiti to further their healthcare system and grow more knowledgeable on how to treat patients safely.

Haiti's does not have the means for furthering their healthcare system, because they are lacking structure, relying on outside sources for financial aid, and continue to get hit with environmental disasters. A proper healthcare system is vital to a successful country, and Haiti cannot improve the many issues they are facing without one. Primary and preventative care would immensely improve the quality of many citizens' lives. A healthy nation can turn into a wealthy nation, and if Haiti begins to focus more on the health of their citizens, they can begin to prosper as a nation.

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CHAPTER 19

Margaret Storti

The Dangers Of Vaping

Abstract: In today's society, there is a rise in teen use of vaping products across the nation. The effects of using these devices has had a severe effect on teenagers such as popcorn lung and even death. With the increase in damages, the United States government is attempting to control the big business corporations that are behind this, to help save the youth of America.

About the Author: Margaret (Maggie) Storti was inspired to write this paper by the "She Looks Like a Cardiologist" Intellectual Event from January of 2019 at the University of Pittsburgh. Her future plans as a graduating senior are that she commits to Case Western Reserve University's women's soccer team where she will be (hopefully) dual majoring in Biophysics and BioStatistics with a minor in Sports Medicine on a Pre-Med Track. She hopes to attend Medical School after her undergraduate degree and pursue a career in orthopedic surgery.

There is a rising epidemic in teenage behaviors. Vapes and other earlier e-cigarettes gained attention in the early 1990s. The presence and prevalence in addiction and need for nicotine has been on a steady increase recently. Teenagers, predominantly between ages 13-18 have developed a need for vapes and juuls to support their

nicotine addictions. Before February 2nd, 2020, the legal age to purchase nicotine/tobacco products was 18. Though it was raised to 21, teens are still finding ways of obtaining the addictive product. The increase of use in vapes, juuls, and other e-cigarettes is now starting to take a toll on many teenagers worldwide through them developing new medical conditions while also damaging their growth and development. The explanation of the effects, the market of the sales of these products, and the ways in which this epidemic is trying to be solved, are all affecting teen health and development.

So, one may ask, “What are the real effects of these devices?” What the public eye does not notice is that there are many more things that go into these devices rather than what society, especially impressionable teens, knows. Though deemed originally safe to use only as replacements for those with smoking addictions, they are no longer. There have been many researchers that have conducted projects to take a further look into what is in the vapor of a single puff of a JUUL, Njoy, and more in the same family of e-cigarettes and how it compares to a puff of a regular cigarette. “The e-liquid in vaporizer products usually contains a propylene glycol or vegetable glycerin-based liquid with nicotine, flavoring and other chemicals and metals, but not tobacco. Some people use these devices to vape THC , the chemical responsible for most of marijuana's mind-altering effects, or even synthetic drugs like flakka , instead of nicotine” (Center of Addiction). With thousands of dangerous chemicals lurking inside every single puff, it can cause immense damage to teenage lungs. With the same chemicals that go into lighters or asphalt, one can only imagine what those same chemicals are doing to the respiratory system of a developing individual. What’s hard to fathom is that there are still many chemicals inside these vaping products that scientists haven’t classified due to not having the right tests for them or from never seeing them before. But yet, many adults and teenagers look past the warning labels and still use the products anyways because most of the time, it feeds an addiction. To continue, “ The headlines are terrifying, especially for parents: ‘ Vaping illnesses soar past 1,000 with investigators no closer to pinpointing cause.’ ‘ More deaths expected from vaping lung illnesses, CDC

says.” (Mapes). Some distinguished repercussions seen from inhaling the vapor and/or simply using nicotine products such as vapes, JUULS, and more have caused a skyrocketing increase in hospital visits and deaths per year. More and more young people are

dying every year due to vaping and it is mainly from the addictive chemical known as nicotine that is causing these young teens to be consistently using these vaping products. Many cases of “popcorn lung” are now being seen in hospitals around the country which even leads to teenage deaths. According to WebMD, “ ‘Popcorn lung’ is the nickname for bronchiolitis obliterans. That’s a condition that damages your lungs’ smallest airways and makes you cough and feel short of breath. It’s sometimes caused by breathing in a chemical used to flavor microwave popcorn.” Popcorn lung is only one of many repercussions from using these vaping products and there are still many conditions out there that the world has not seen or classified. The conditions of popcorn lung can have severe damage on teenage lungs and can impact daily activities such as walking, but can extremely affect those who are athletes or those who are immunocompromised such as having asthma. Though the chemicals have been having a lasting, horrible effect on teenagers, the businesses selling these products to them have been flourishing through their lies.

The big business behind the newest trend of vaping is out for money, and their target? Impressionable teens with nicotine addictions. The vape product industry is now a multi-billion dollar industry. JUUL and other vape companies are making a pristine living by feeding off of selling to mainly teens, though they do not directly state that as their market. These businesses state that most of their products are for the sole reason to help cigarette smokers slowly stop smoking cigarettes and obtain a “healthier” lifestyle. But in reality, there are actually more harmful chemicals in these new e-cigarettes than the cigarettes themselves and yet, they both still contain nicotine. “Among youth – who use e-cigarettes at higher rates than adults do – there is substantial evidence that e-cigarettes use increases the risk of transitioning to smoking conventional cigarettes”

(Fernandez). Though there are ads and the main idea behind these vape

products is to help adults stop smoking cigarettes, yet there is an actual increase in percentages of people who end up smoking cigarettes from starting out with vapes. To continue, “One study reported adult smokers who used e-cigs were 28% less likely to quit successfully” (American Heart Association). The market targets teenagers. These companies make their ads geared more toward teens with pretty signs, convincing slogans, and just basic lies and deceit. Saying that it’s just flavoring is a complete lie, yet many teens and others who do not understand what is truly in these products have bought them and used them to the extent that they are now addicted. With these impressionable teens, another simple way they have started using these products is peer pressuring from their friends. “In 2018, vaping went up by 78 percent for high school students and 48 percent for middle school students” (American Heart Association). Though there have been attempts to shut down these companies entirely, there’s no stopping these big businesses now. It’s almost too late. Addiction and impressionable minds are where their targets are and they nail the bullseye almost every time. Addiction equals money making and the majority of the United States teens are paying hundreds of dollars a year to feed something they now can’t control. But now, the United States government is attempting to slowly diminish these corporations in attempts to save teenage health.

The United States government is trying to shut down not only the use, but also the production of vape products and their availability to teens. The original age to buy nicotine products was 18 years old, the legal age. But, one rising issue that was occurring, especially in high schools and even middle schools, was 18 year olds would purchase these products and then sell them or give them to younger friends and/or siblings. Though this caused more money and production for the big businesses, it caused the rise in damage to teenage health. That’s when the

CDC deemed them unsafe and the United States government passed a law that the minimum age to purchase nicotine products such as JUULS and vapes is now 21. “Inslee and public health officials also called for mandatory warning signs in retail outlets that sell vaping cartridges and full disclosure from manufacturers regarding vape ingredients and additives, and announced a new, science-based smartphone app to help teens and young adults kick the vaping habit” (Mapes). Raising the age to 21 is to help limit the purchasing power of the consumer and hopefully diminish the amount of passing down of products to younger people. Besides raising the legal age up, another way the United States is trying to shut down the use of vaping products is by having certain big business corporations, such as Walmart, stop selling e-cigarettes entirely. Also, certain states have also placed an immediate ban on all chemically flavored vapes and e-cigarettes. The ban of these products is to promote a healthier lifestyle in the citizens in the U.S. and especially teens with their developing lungs. With this, other steps for teens are being taken. Posters being posted in school and apps being made to help track and help teens quit vaping are now being used across the nation. All put in place solely to stop this epidemic. One example is in Washington State to keep teens young and healthy. “Offered free from the Washington State Department of Health via digital health company 2Morrow Inc. , the app was developed based on Bricker’s years-long research into quitting combustible tobacco. A psychologist and addiction expert, Bricker collaborated with 2Morrow in 2012 to create his first smoking cessation app” (Mapes) . The United States government realizes that there is a growing epidemic of teenage use of vapes and e-cigarettes around the nation and are planning on taking action. With the development of apps, posters, ads against vaping, and much more, there is hope to stop this growing epidemic and preserve teenage health across the nation. But, there is still

more controversy with what the government is contributing towards the stoppage of vape use among teens saying they have not done enough. In the end, the rise in awareness and knowledge will

help slowly but surely stop teen usage of vapes, JUULs, and any other type of product.

In conclusion, the world needs to be aware of the rise in teenage use of vapes, JUULs, and e-cigarette use. The high rate of hospital visits and deaths across the nation are becoming more and more prevalent and need to be put under control, but big business and capitalism has only helped increase these happenings. Luckily, there is hope for the future with new policies and laws being put in place and more research being conducted to fully understand the lasting effects of what is truly going on in these products. A revolution is on the way. Soon, we, as a society, can hope for a new era for teens where they won't damage their health by using these toxic vaping products.

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CHAPTER 20

Global Refugee Crisis

Kavya Weaver

Abstract: Right now, the world is experiencing the worst refugee crisis in human history. Across the globe, disasters such as war, violence, and persecution force thousands from their homes every day. As of the beginning of 2019, 70.8 million people are displaced (UNHCR), creating an unprecedented refugee disaster that will not be resolved without the immediate action of world leaders and the global community at large. This essay will provide an overview of the individual crises in Syria, Myanmar, and along the US-Mexico border.

About the Author: Kavya Weaver, while still undecided as to which college she plans to attend, plans to pursue a career in medicine. This paper was inspired by a lecture she attended during her sophomore year called “Muslims in Migration,” presented by anthropologist Heath Cabot.

Along the Greek- Macedonia border, ramshackle, rain-lashed tents cluster together under a stormy sky, rivulets of waste and trash flowing between them. Parents wait for hours in lines, desperate for food for their hungry children. Others huddle inside their tents, each passing moment adding to the painful and seemingly endless wait for a permanent home. This troubling scene reflects the dis-

turbing reality of life inside a refugee camp, sites where millions of people are forced to endure the unimaginably agonizing uncertainty of waiting to be accepted into a country as permanent residents. This tragedy is the consequence of the mass displacement of countless individuals from their homes because of war and persecution, causing an unprecedented catastrophe that has devastated all nations affected. The crises in Syria, Myanmar, and along the US-Mexico border illustrate the dire nature of the global refugee disaster and demand the attention of the global community.

The refugee crisis in Syria is the consequence of violent political unrest and has completely devastated the nation. According to data collected by the UNHCR, Over 5.6 million Syrians have fled the country and an additional 6.1 million are internally displaced. At least 400,000 Syrians have died, and the nation is now embroiled in a disastrous civil war. The conflict that led to these tragedies began in 2011 when Syrian authorities violently suppressed anti-government and pro-democracy protests, which quickly escalated into a nationwide crackdown, led by dictator Bashar al-Assad, on political dissidents. This government brutality incited "nationwide protests demanding President Assad's resignation...By July 2011, hundreds of thousands were taking to the streets across the country. Opposition supporters eventually began to take up arms, first to defend themselves and later to expel security forces from their local areas" (BBC). As the violence intensified, Syria descended into an ongoing civil war between rebel forces and the Syrian government. The Islamic State also emerged as a player in this conflict and has wrought mass destruction and terror across the country, capitalizing on the instability and turmoil caused by the war. Consequently, millions of Syrians have been forced to flee, leading to the creation of a catastrophic humanitarian disaster in the region. The neighboring countries of "Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey have struggled to cope with one of the largest refugee exoduses in recent history. About 10% of Syrian refugees have sought safety in Europe, sowing political divisions as countries argue over sharing the burden" (BBC). A recent outbreak of violence in the city of Idlib in northwest Syria has forced approximately 900,000 Syrians from their homes since De-

cember of 2019 (UNHCR). About 80% of these displaced people are women and children, and the refugee camps where they are currently staying are squalid and deplorable: “Resources are scarce, camps and settlements are becoming overcrowded and many are being forced to sleep outside in freezing temperatures” (UNHCR). Hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees live in similar conditions in camps. However, most Syrian refugees live in host communities in neighboring countries. Although the living situation for the residents in these communities is better than in refugee camps, most of these displaced people live in poverty and struggle to gain access to employment and education. Additionally, many Syrian refugee families are denied adequate food, water, psychosocial counseling, and medical care that they desperately need. As thousands of Syrians escape from their homes every day, it is imperative that national governments and NGOs are prepared and equipped to provide basic services to these needy individuals.

Decades of strife between the Rohingya and Burmese natives in Myanmar has culminated into a horrific conflict that has resulted in the deaths and mass displacement of thousands of Rohingya. The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic group who have inhabited Myanmar since as early as the 12th century (National Geographic). The current Rohingya population are descendants of Indian and Bangladeshi laborers who migrated to what is now Myanmar throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. When Myanmar gained its independence from Great Britain in 1948, the newly formed government declared the migration that took place illegal, justifying their decision to deny the Rohingya citizenship. Rendered stateless, the minority has been marginalized and discriminated against by the native Burmese for years. Most of the Rohingya have been forcibly confined in Rakhine, one of the poorest states in the country with ghetto-like camps and a lack of basic services. Additionally, the ethnic group is barred from voting, and their rights to work, travel, practice their religion, and access health care have been severely restricted. In October of 2016, nine Burmese police officers were killed under unclear circumstances, igniting an escalation of the violence that has morphed into one of the world’s most appalling conflicts. The

Burmese government claimed that an armed Rohingya group was responsible for the incident and sent the military into Rakhine where they ravaged villages, committing murder, rape, and arson. The Rohingya population has faced devastating losses, with thousands killed or forced to flee from their homes. The Burmese government has denied responsibility for these atrocities, as evidenced by their response to the UN's demands in January of 2020 that the nation to protect the Rohingya from genocide: "[T]he army in Myanmar has said it was fighting Rohingya militants and denies targeting civilians. The country's leader Aung San Suu Kyi...has repeatedly denied allegations of genocide" (BBC). Half a million Rohingya remain in Myanmar and are still subject to brutal persecution. Since the conflict began, hundreds of thousands have fled and now live in horrific conditions in Bangladeshi refugee camps, the largest of which is called Kutupalong (National Geographic). With over half a million residents, Kutupalong is the largest refugee camp in the world and is severely overcrowded with not nearly enough resources to provide for all of its residents. Poor hygiene conditions, a lack of clean water, and a shortage of medical resources have all contributed to the high death tolls. Pneumonia and diphtheria have claimed hundreds of lives, and thousands suffer from severe malnutrition. As of March 2019, Bangladesh is no longer accepting Rohingya refugees (BBC). This development makes the future of the Rohingya people even more uncertain and intensifies the urgency for international intervention to end the mistreatment of this minority to ensure their safety and basic human rights.

Another troubling humanitarian crisis is occurring on the United States-Mexico border where thousands of Central American refugees are stranded as they wait for the U.S. to process their asylum requests. These refugees "are fleeing war, military and gang violence, repression, and poverty in their home countries. Undertaking a dangerous journey to seek asylum in the U.S. is no small matter, but the alternative at home is often worse" (People's World). Seeking economic opportunity and an escape from the regime of drug cartels at home, these refugee families have traveled hundreds of miles in hope of finding refuge in the United States. Under the

Trump administration, however, the chances of these hopes being realized are becoming increasingly jeopardized. One of the main campaigns of the Trump administration has been to drastically reduce the number of Central American migrants entering the country. This goal has been executed through several measures designed to deter migrants. This has included forcing asylum seekers to wait in squalid camps in Mexico while their requests are being processed, decreasing the number of cases being processed each day, and separating families as they attempt to cross the border in an effort to discourage parents from bringing their children with them. In response to mass outrage among the American public over the practice of family separation, Trump supposedly ended the policy. However, “his administration used technical legal loopholes to quietly continue the policy. At least 700 more families have been separated since then, and at least five children have died while in Customs and Border Patrol custody” (People’s World). The conditions in the detention centers where detained migrants are being held are absolutely deplorable: migrants are denied basic hygiene products and are forced to sleep on concrete floors in crowded caged-in areas. The outdoor camps in Mexico that asylum seekers are waiting in are even more appalling. Thousands have been living in these squalid, make-shift camps for months and are in desperate need of aid. As these encampments continue to swell with asylum seekers, “both the U.S. and Mexico have left thousands in the camps without basic necessities like clean drinking water and warm clothes – and at risk for extortion, kidnapping, and rape at the hands of cartels and other criminal actors” (Vox). The least that these desperate people deserve is the assurance of safety as they wait, and the U.S. government needs to address the humanitarian crisis at the country’s doorstep.

One of the greatest calamities of the modern era is the global refugee crisis, a disaster of proportions greater than ever seen before in human history. The humanitarian emergencies in Syria, Myanmar, and on the US-Mexico border represent three of the most urgent crises fueling the wider phenomenon of the global refugee crisis, and each individual person has the ability and responsibility to help

alleviate these catastrophes. Although the scope of human suffering caused by this crisis may seem too great to be mitigated by the average person, there are many ways that everyday people can contribute to efforts to help refugees in need, such as supporting refugee resettlement and aid organizations and refusing to subscribe to the vilification of refugees. As nationalism and xenophobia surge across the globe in response to the desperate pleas of refugees for protection, it is imperative that those in positions of power and privilege resist the fear of the “other” and extend empathy to those suffering the unimaginable horrors of displacement.

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CHAPTER 21

Labor Camps

Around The World

Isabel Young

Abstract: This paper will examine labor camps throughout history. Looking at the ranging reasons for the creation of labor camps and the different brutality at each. In particular, camps from the Holocaust, gulags from the Soviet Union, current day re-education camps in China, and a couple refugee camps will all be assessed. Labor camps are horrific and abuse innocent people and therefore need to cease to exist. Demonstrated by the brutality of labor camps of the past and the present, it is clear to see that no one should ever have to endure the pain that comes with them. Younger generations need to be educated about the past and present labor camps so that they can prevent more from being created in the future.

About the Author: Isabel (Izzy) Young plans to study engineering at a competitive university following her high school graduation. At Oakland Catholic, she participated in cross country, lacrosse, student council, the Global Competence Initiative, and other activities. In the future, Izzy would like to work as an engineer, being able to put her problem solving skills to work. This piece was inspired by a lecture given by Father Patrick Debois that went into depth about

the untold stories of mass killings from the Holocaust. She is currently undecided for her future college plans.

Throughout history, communities have been oppressed, taken advantage of, and forcibly put to work. Unfortunately, groups are persecuted and many lose their livelihoods when governments create spaces to contain them. These spaces are often referred to as labor camps or concentration camps in worse cases. The concentration camps of the Holocaust are well known, but unfortunately, there are still many existing camps present day. Labor camps are horrific and abuse innocent people and therefore should receive more humanitarian aid to stop them from existing. Demonstrated by the brutality of labor camps of the past and the present, it is clear to see that no one should ever have to endure the pain that comes with them.

Historically, there were many labor camps, mostly across Europe, but the most well-known are the ones from the Holocaust and the gulags from Russia during Stalin's rule. The horrors of concentration camps are displayed at camps that the Nazi's patrolled during World War II. As Hitler rose to power in Germany, he began creating laws to isolate the Jewish population such as wearing a yellow Star of David. Soon, these laws escalated to creating ghettos and eventually entire labor camps for the Jewish population. Before World War II even began, the German's were capturing Jews and putting them into concentration camps: "Set up throughout Germany in spring 1933, concentration camps were the most violent instrument enforcing re-ordering of German society. Nowhere were people so radically reduced to categories and later numbers than at these extra-legal sites of terror" (Wünschmann 578). Hitler and the Nazis changed an entire population of people, they took away their identities and abused them into feeling worthless. Concentration camps during World War II were widespread, found in Germany, Poland, and other places the Nazis invaded. Hitler's goal of the con-

centration camps was to eliminate a race and create what he envisioned as the superior race, the Arian race. There were many terrible elements that made living in a concentration camp a horror: “A box-car of the kind the Nazis used to transport people like cattle. The barracks where they slept jammed into narrow bunks. The posts from fences that caged them in. A canister once filled with the poison gas pellets that sealed their fate” (Blumenthal and Berger). Nazis used all of these things at concentration camps, constantly making the Jews and other occupants feel less and less like humans and more like the means to completing a laborious project. The brutality displayed at camps like Auschwitz created a sense of hopelessness for the Jews. Often, within these horrible camps, there were rankings, the Jews were treated the worst. “Within the concentration camp population they held the status of outcasts among the outcast. Jews were ‘community aliens’, just like ‘Marxist agitators’, ‘gypsies’, ‘hereditarily-diseased’, ‘habitual criminals’, Jehovah’s Witnesses or homosexuals” (Wünschmann 579). There were many people housed and abused at the concentration camps of World War II. Everyone experienced terrible treatment and most people were murdered or died of starvation. It is evident that these labor camps ruined lives and should never have happened and therefore should be prevented in the future. Before the Holocaust, the Russian government had gulags across Russia that similarly harmed people.

Vladimir Lenin set up gulags in Russia that continued and reached their peak during Stalin’s rule. The camps began on April 15, 1919 with a Soviet decree. They underwent alterations throughout the 1920s and were finalized in 1930. As Stalin became the dictator of the Soviet Union, the severity and amount of gulags increased. The gulags in Russia were forced-labor camps for people ranging from criminals to political prisoners. The gulags’ “aim was mass production to build state power. Russia’s rulers thus became personifications of state-capitalist accumulation. But they also used their power to reward themselves richly, even as they plundered the peasantry, cut wages, increased work pressure, and filled the Gulags with slave-labourers” (Faulkner 247). The gulags in Russia were just a small part of the complete control of the state by the govern-

ment. Gulags were a way for the government to stay in power and display the brutality they could enforce on citizens if someone disobeyed. The conditions in the gulags were horrific: “Life in a camp zone was brutal and violent. Prisoners competed for access to all of life’s necessities, and violence among the prisoners was commonplace. If they survived hunger, disease, the harsh elements, heavy labor, and their fellow prisoners, they might succumb to arbitrary violence at the hands of camp guards” (“Living in the Gulag”). Living in these labor camps was torture and created a miserable life for everyone. Enhancing the terrors of regular prison, the gulags left many people facing starvation and constant violence. Over fifteen million people passed through a gulag from 1930 to 1955. Gulags were horrendous, “The Gulag was conceived in order to transform human matter into a docile, exhausted, ill-smelling mass of individuals living only for themselves and thinking of nothing else but how to appease the constant torture of hunger, living in the instant, concerned with nothing apart from evading kicks, cold and ill treatment” (“Living in the Gulag”). Life in the Gulag was inhumane, the Soviet Union’s abuse and overworking of the prisoners is evident. Clearly suffering was everywhere inside of the gulags. For many, the only way out was death. These work camps created a living disaster, many lives would have been saved if there were more regulations and aid given to those stuck inside. The brutality of labor camps needs to be recognized so that in the future, they can be prevented.

In Xinjiang, China and at refugee camps across the globe, there are new labor camps forming that mistreat tenants and have resemblance to ones of the past. In China, the Uyghurs are being persecuted for their religion and sent to labor camps that the Chinese government calls re-education facilities. Under Xi Jinping, Xinjiang, China has been operating re-education centers that have qualities parallel to labor camps. Since the camps are officially called Vocational Education and Training Centers, they are legal and it is difficult to discover true facts about them. There is a lot of mystery surrounding the situation, it is believed that “around one million Uyghurs and others have disappeared into these camps with no clarity about when they might be released” (Groot). There have been

over one million Uyghurs that have been sent to these labor camps, taken from their normal daily lives to be put to work for the government's benefit. For most, there is no hope of ever being released or allowed to return to their old lives. Unfortunately, it is difficult to make progress toward ending these camps when "Chinese officials have denied its engagement in arbitrary detention and political indoctrination. According to them, launching a system that they describe as 'vocational education and training institutions' represents broader 'de-extremification efforts'" (Soliev 72). The United Nations believes that the situation with the Uyghurs is a humanitarian crisis that needs to be addressed, but the Chinese government has tried to cover it up. The Party-state of China is saying they are just trying to teach the Uyghurs Mandarin and other skills, but in reality they are attempting to secularize the nation and use the Uyghurs to do work. There is clear proof that life inside the camps is horrible through the few that have escaped or been released: "The relatively few internees who have been released report brutality, abuse, mistreatment, overcrowding, poor sanitation, and inadequate food and water... Human Rights Watch reported the regular use of torture including, sleep deprivation, beatings, and suspension from the ceiling" (Groot). The viciousness of these camps demonstrates the unwillingness of the Chinese government to accept the Uyghurs and their traditional beliefs. The people inside the camps are facing brutal conditions when they never committed any crime besides practicing their religion. The re-education camps in Xinjiang, China need to be closed so the people within can be freed and return home. Although not as violent, people living in refugee camps are facing situations similar to those of other labor camps like in China.

Refugee camps in Somalia and at the border of some countries have terrible conditions and many are facing severe overcrowding and hunger. When facing war or other strenuous situations, many people flee their country to find safer places to live. These places are refugee camps, which often have terrible living conditions. Since the 1980s, there has been an aggressive civil war in Somalia, causing many people to need to flee their homes and go to refugee camps. Unfortunately, the conditions at these camps are

very poor. “This Horsheed refugee camp is a tight-packed clutter of about 2,500 tents, although in greater Mogadishu's landscape of war ruins and white tarp, it's difficult to tell exactly where one camp ends and another begins” (Rosen). The biggest problem at most refugee camps is overcrowding. When the amount of people outnumbers the beds available, issues begin to occur. The people living in the refugee camps are already displaced people, so not having a place to sleep makes their situation worse. Life at a refugee camp is not always better than life in a war zone. Extreme overcrowding can also be seen at migrant camps at the Mexican border: “The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) found 41 detainees living in a cell built for eight, and 155 occupying a room meant for 35. The people trapped in these rooms are largely asylum seekers who have not committed any criminal offense” (Levitz). People have not done anything wrong, but are subjected to horrific conditions because they have nowhere else to go. More space needs to be created for these people seeking a place to stay. Access to food can also often be a problem within refugee camps: “In 2010, the southern part of Somalia was gripped with one of the worst famines the country had ever seen, a catastrophe that killed well over a quarter-million people... a city-within-a-city of 400,000 refugees living in a spontaneous sprawl of rag tents on the city's devastated outskirts” (Rosen). When people cannot access food and people start dying, tensions rise, creating competition for the few resources available. Refugee camps are very disorganized and are usually overcrowded and low on resources, resembling conditions of a labor camp, and therefore need to be improved. There needs to be more aid directed toward assisting the people within overcrowded refugee camps.

Clearly displayed by the terrible conditions of the concentration camps from the Holocaust, Gulags, the Uyghur camps, and refugee camps, labor camps cause harm to innocent people and need to be stopped. There should be more global resources dedicated to helping the people trapped inside. The Holocaust is the most remembered of extreme labor camps, forcing millions of Jews to do strenuous work and then killing them after. When Stalin and Lenin ruled in the Soviet Union, Gulags were radical prisons that tortured

political prisoners. The Party-state in China is forcing Uyghurs to do unnecessary work and learn language at labor camps in attempts to erase the Uyghur's religious culture. Refugee and migrant camps face many issues of overcrowding and starvation, similar to the conditions of labor camps. The things that happen in labor camps and the way people are abused display that all labor camps in the future should not exist. This is a call to action to stop the injustices of labor camps, and to continue to educate future generations so that these never happen again.

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