Through the months of putting the ranks of power in Saudi Arabia, crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, often referred to as MBS, has cultivated an image as a reformer. But the controversial murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a well-known journalist and critic of MBS, has tarnished this image.

On October 2, Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi national contributing to the Washington Post, walked into the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul to pick up marriage papers and never walked out.

In the month between his disappearance and the official report from Turkish prosecutors, the case of the missing journalist became a murder case directly implicating the Crown Prince and Royal Family. According to BBC, Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, spoke to Saudi King Salman and the two agreed to cooperate on the investigation.

For weeks, Riyadh has engaged in a series of obfuscations, denials, and delays as the world watched with a skeptical eye. When Khashoggi first disappeared, the Saudi government claimed he had walked out of the building alive. Then, the story became, Khashoggi had died in its custody after a “rogue operation” to detain him was botched. Eventually, BBC reports, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the United States all agreed that Khashoggi was killed at the consulate but there was initially no consensus on how.

Nearly a month after his disappearance, Turkish key released a report on the murder. “In accordance with plans made in advance, the victim, Jamal Khashoggi, was choked to death immediately after entering the Consulate General of Saudi Arabia,” it read. It continues, “His body was then dismembered and destroyed again, in line with advanced plans,” thus stressing the fact that the murder was indeed premeditated. According to The Washington Post, the story became, Khashoggi had walked out of the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul to pick up marriage papers and never walked out.

MBS, has cultivated an image as a reformer. As of now has a debt to pay on such lawsuit files as the 2008 financial crisis, Germany’s turn away from nuclear power, and the Syrian migrant crisis.

Still on October 14, local elections in Bavaria saw the CSU lose 16 seats in the regional parliament, while the left-leaning Green Party gained 20 seats, and the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) Party gained 22

Merkel has stated that the President’s function is more symbolic than strategic in asserting power within the state’s political system. As such, it seems there will not be any major changes in the country’s political or economic strategy with Mr. Quang’s death.

In asserting Vietnam’s image and power on the world stage, Mr. Quang delivered a speech at the 38th Singapore Lecture, the first by an acting President at the time, reports Asia Times. In his speech, the late President emphasized the importance of the “might makes right” mindset and how major powers can still resort to the use of force in regional or international disputes. Mr. Quang focused

Continue on page 2...

The Chancellors has deftly maneuvered in politics for over 13 years. Courtesy of German Pulse.

Jarrett Dang Staff Writer

Germany’s mammoth political leader, Angela Merkel, announced on October 29 that she will not seek re-election as German Chancellor in 2021. Merkel also stated that she would step down as the head of her political party, the center-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU), at its conference in December, according to BBC News reports that the shocking announcement came after a string of local elections proved disastrous for the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU). Mrs. Merkel has been the head of Germany for over 13 years, seeing the country through milestone events in history such as the 2008 financial crisis, Germany’s turn away from nuclear power, and the Syrian migrant crisis.

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India Unveils Statue of Unity

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the statue in the Narmada district of Gujarat. Courtesy of L.A.T.

On Wednesday October 31, 2018 India unveiled their “Statue of Unity,” paying tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a leader of the Indian independence movement who helped wrest the country from British control. The statue is a colossal monument, standing at 597 feet tall it is twice the size of the Statue of Liberty, the New York Times reports. The newly inaugurated statue is the largest in the world, and looks over green hills and the Narmada River in the western State of Gujarat.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was on hand at the inauguration to promote a sense of pride in the country’s history. In a report from the Irish Times, he stated “The height of the statue is to remind the youth [of India] that the future of the country will be as huge as this.”

Sardar Patel was India’s first deputy prime minister and worked to bring together more than 500 princely states ruled by indigenous monarchs. He negotiated with the various rulers, persuading all but a few to join the newly formed Indian union within two years. According to the New York Times, he represents the historic unity of the country, with the date of his birthday celebrated as National Unity Day.

The reveal of this statue came with large celebrations in a colorful event with traditional folk dancers and helicopters brought in to drop flower petals on the statue, seen in pictures from The Guardian. According to the BBC, the bronze-clad statue cost 29.9bn rupees ($430bn). Moreover, Gujarat’s government is reported to have paid a bit more than half of that amount, while the remainder came from the federal government of public donations.

This statue did not come without its problems, however, and was built and inaugurated within the palace. With this scandal and its domino effects, allies and enemies alike. The risk of reputational damage and negative PR are placing an overwhelming amount of pressure on King Salman to reign in his son.

Prime minister of the country will be as huge as this.”

The king acted fast to remove a top adviser to MBS, Bloomberg reports. With this critical situation weighing down on the Saudi government, reports of the return of the king’s youngest brother, the 76-year-old Prince Ahmad bin Abdulaziz, deepen speculation over manoeuvring taking place within the palace.

This speculation and its domino effects, allies are being forced to rethink doing business with the 33-year-old ruler, thus hurting the prospects of his “Vision 2030” project, the biggest overhaul of the Saudi economy in its modern history. According to the New York Times, the government of Saudi Arabia over other issues.

An Arab diplomat told Bloomberg that MBS is beginning to look “dangerous” for western leaders. Another Arab official, however, claimed that the only pressure that counts is American pressure.

According to The Washington Post, President Trump has been a “soldier cheerleader” of MBS. But even he eventually spoke out against Riyadh’s handling of the case. “Obviously there’s been deception and there’s been lies,” Trump stated. “Their stories are all over the place.” Nevertheless, he defends MBS, saying, “He’s seen as a person who can keep things under check.” Meanwhile, there is an outcry from Washington and the international community. A number of prominent lobbying firms have dropped their Saudi contacts. Politicians in Congress, including senators, have loudly decried Riyadh’s handling of the case.

Bloomberg, two top officials in Washington demanded an end to the Saudi-led war in Yemen. As Bokhari continued, though, “To what extent the Trump administration will use this opportunity to shape behavioral change remains to be seen.”

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Axel Sontgerath Staff Writer

Continued from page 1...

to The Washington Post, Turkish investigators are now reportedly pursuing a theory that Khashoggi’s body was dissolved in acid.

Throughout the investigation, Turkey has steered away from publicly blaming Saudi Arabia for Khashoggi’s death. A senior spokesperson from the ruling Justice and Development party (AKP), however, has stated that the murder could not have been carried out without orders from someone in a senior position, reports BBC.

Saudi Arabia, on the other hand, denies any involvement from the royal family. At the investment conference in Riyadh, MBS denied his involvement, calling the murder a “heinous crime that cannot be justified.”

Regardless of the chronology of blame that transpired since the investigation began, the irrefutable fact is that this happened on the crown prince’s watch and that it happened on the crown prince’s watch and that it happened on the crown prince’s watch.

Meanwhile, there is a sal monument, standing where farmers in the district of Patel’s story by the Indian government. “We want to ask the government: why can’t they fund a project to support farmers and improve their standard of life?” said Lakhani, a tribal activist, in a report from the BBC. “We were promised water for irrigation, but the situation remains the same.”

According to the 2011 census, some 85 percent of the district’s working population is engaged in agriculture, a sector which is dominated by small farmers who own two to four acres of land, according to a report from the BBC. Some farmers have resorted to stealing water illegally, laying pipes underground through a canal that is connected to a nearby dam. One farmer stated to the BBC, “We don’t have any option but to take the water illegally as there are no sources of water left for us.”

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At the investment conference in Riyadh, MBS was forced to remove a top adviser to his son, King Salman to reign in his son.

The king acted fast to remove a top adviser to MBS, Bloomberg reports. With this critical situation weighing down on the Saudi government, reports of the return of the king’s youngest brother, the 76-year-old Prince Ahmad bin Abdulaziz, deepen speculation over manoeuvring taking place within the palace.

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Peru’s Keiko Fujimori Jailed Until Bribery Case Trial

Santiago Losada  
Staff Writer

A high court judge in Peru recently sentenced opposition leader, Keiko Fujimori, to three years in prison as she awaits her trial on corruption charges. Judge Richard Concepcion reasoned that there was a high risk of Ms. Fujimori fleeing Peru if she was not sentenced to prison, reports Rappler.

Ms. Fujimori has so far been accused of taking $1.2 million in bribes in 2011 from the Brazilian construction company, Odebrecht. In addition, she is suspected to be the manager of a led faceto criminal organization that is within her Popular Force political party.

According to The BBC, the current case surrounding Ms. Fujimori is part of a wider scandal that involves the entire Peruvian government. In early 2018, former Peruvian President, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, resigned due to a link to Odebrecht.

While she was being escorted out of the courtroom, Ms. Fujimori told the Peru21 newspaper that both men are teaming up to conspire against her. Channel News Asia reports that in the Peruvian constitution, suspects for complex cases, like Ms. Fujimori’s role with Odebrecht, can be held without trial for up to 36 months. Suspects, also, cannot interfere in any way with evidence or witnesses in an ongoing investigation. If the case comes to fruition, it would end all hope of Ms. Fujimori campaigning for the presidential election in 2021.

The arrest of both Ms. Fujimori and her father demonstrate a dramatic shift for one of Peru’s most powerful families. Ms. Fujimori’s father was elected president in 1990 and brought in a right-wing populist government. Today, his daughter, whose party controls the largest share of seats in Peru’s Congress, has become one of the most powerful politicians in Peru. According to The New York Times, the recent events show a weakening of the Fujimori family and to some, the strengthening of Peru’s democratic institutions.

Peruvians have become more involved in recent months and public anger first turned to Ms. Fujimori when tapes of judicial officials holding unofficial meetings with a “Ms. K” were first leaked to the media. The Guardian shows how, given these new cases, prosecutors are now under more pressure to demonstrate that they themselves are also clean of any political influence.

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Faulty Sensor Causes Russian Rocket Launch Failure

Natalie Sherman  
Staff Writer

A Russian investigation into the cause of last month’s failed Soyuz rocket mission has identified a faulty sensor as the culprit. Reuters reports that the investigators believe that it was inadvertently damaged during the on-site assembly of the rocket at the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

This incident, compounded with the discovery of a hole in the hull of a Soyuz, has exacerbated the doubts held by many concerning the reliability of the Soyuz. The rocket, which docked at the International Space Station (ISS) in September, has made some question the competency of Russia’s space program by extension.

According to Space.com, the October 11 launch failure forced Nick Hague, an American astronaut, and Alexei Ovchinin, a Russian cosmonaut, to scrap their mission and escape using the Soyuz’s escape system just two minutes after their launch. There was a malfunction during the first and second stages of their rocket’s separation from its booster. The investigation into the incident concluded that a “deformation of the stem of the contact separation sensor” was to blame.

The pair were supposed to arrive at the ISS, but as of now, their mission is indefinitely postponed. In the footage of the incident, released by Roscosmos, three of the Soyuz boosters proceed with separating, but one falls towards, rather than away from the rocket, and knocks it sharply off course. The impact also caused a sudden loss of pressure, visible in the footage as a cloud of white vapor.

The chief investigator in Russia’s probe, Igor Skorobogatov, revealed that two more Soyuz rockets could have had the same defect in their contact separation sensors.

The probe has instituted new checks that should prevent such oversights and system failures in the future, but only time will tell if the revisions to the Soyuz rockets are able to end the series of failures that have plagued the program throughout 2018.

As Radio Free Europe states, “Russia is having a bad year.” At the beginning of 2018, there was a massive explosion at the Vostochny cosmodrome that resulted in the destruction of multiple satellites, one worth fifty million dollars. All that damage was caused by a software programmer who simply forgot to input new launch coordinates.

On August 29th, space programs throughout the world noticed that there was a loss of oxygen and pressure throughout the cabins of the ISS. The source was identified as a small hole in the hull of a Soyuz docked at the ISS.

The incident caused a flurry of conspiracies to circulate about deliberate sabotage by the Russian astronauts. During their attempt to make a temporary patch for the hole, the astronauts noticed that an attempt had been made to patch the hole with glue. In their investigation, Russia discovered that an employee at Energiya, who manufactured the Soyuz rocket, had accidentally drilled the hole and plugged it with glue in an attempt to fix the mistake. All three of the major incidents Russia’s space program has weathered this year have one thing in common; they were caused by small oversights and carelessness.

Despite it all, Roscosmos would like to get back to business as usual as soon as possible. They hope to resume manned missions as early as December third, so as to avoid leaving the ISS unoccupied for any long-duration, though unmanned launches have already resumed. Above all else, this year has certainly proven that the actions of each individual matters in humanity’s scientific efforts in space.

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**EU Bans Single-Use Plastic Amongst Member States**

As of October 28, two Hesse state elections formed poorly in the 2013. The CDU also performed poorly in the Hesse state elections held on October 28, two weeks after the Bavarian elections. According to official election results, the party lost 6 of its 46 seats, while the Greens and AfD advanced considerably, gaining 16 and 19 seats respectively. Merkel’s party scraped by with 27 percent of the vote, taking a turn down 11.3 percent from the previous election.

Merkel has been struggling politically since the pivotal German federal elections in late 2017 when her own CDU, the CSU, and her “grand coalition” partners in the Social Democratic Party (SPD), suffered significant losses in the wake of a nationwide increase in support for the far-right, anti-immigrant, and Eurosceptic AfD. In the federal elections, the AfD, which had previously in 2013 missed the 5 percent threshold needed to have seats in the German parliament, smashed previous election records and garnered 12.6 percent of the vote with 94 seats.

The humiliating string of election downturns has come amid popular backlash against the Merkel government’s migration policies pertaining to the Syrian refugee crisis. Merkel and her supporters spearheaded a German-led European response to the escalating crisis. According to the Washington Post, Germany took in nearly 1 million refugees and migrants at the height of the crisis in 2015. Merkel promoted German openness to taking in hundreds of thousands of migrants, proclaiming on the international stage that Germany had shown “Europe can do it”, and welcomed refugees and migrants at airports across the country. Foreign Policy says that this openness to refugees sparked outrage among many conservative German electorate. Many previous CDU voters have become disillusioned with the Merkel government in reaction to what they perceive to be lax migration policies towards Middle Eastern immigrants. AfD ramped up its anti-migrant and nationalist rhetoric, peeling away many conserva- tive voters from the CDU, CSU, and SPD. The CDU tried to sway these voters by toughening its stance on migration. Merkel cracked down and cut the number of accepted refugees, hoping to win back those who defected to AfD. However, Foreign Affairs says that this shift backfired, causing many conservative German voters unhappy with the party’s turn to the right to vote in favor of the left-leaning Greens, while those that defected to AfD were largely unworried.

Chancellor Merkel’s exit will have significant implications in Europe and abroad. Merkel has been a staunch supporter of the liberal international order and has stressed European unity amidst rising populistism on the continent. New populist governments in Italy, Hungary, and Poland pose a challenge to European unity and territorial stability. The United States from the world stage has put European governments in the spotlight to stand up for human rights and democ- racy. With her departure, one of Europe’s strongest voices for greater integration and human rights will be gone. Ms. Merkel’s exit will leave a vacuum that her party is seemingly ready to fill, according to The Economist. When she finally steps down from the Chancellorship in 2021, she will have led Germany for 16 years. Her succep- tor will have the daunting task of filling big shoes, including taking on issues like an increasingly Euros- sceptic continent, while combating a resurgent far-right movement in Germany.

Merkel Will Not Seek Re-Election

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Saveria Antonacci  
Staff Writer

According to BBC News, the European Union (EU) voted to ban single-use plastic among member states by the year 2021. After 2021, these items will be composed of more sustainable materials and their consumption will be reduced by 25 percent. This decision is a reaction to the increasing amount of plastic that has found its way into waterways and oceans. By definition, single-use plastic is disposable in nature and includes items such as plastic cutlery and plates, cotton buds, drink-stirrers, and straws. These items were chosen because alternatives for them already exist in reusable forms and paper forms. The EU states that the use of plastic food and drink containers must also decrease, and cup or container lids can no longer detach.

According to Forbes, single-use plastics compose around 70 percent of all marine litter in Europe’s waters. Other components of marine waste that will be reduced in plastic content are cigarette filters and fishing gear, as NRP states. Cigarette filters may take up to 10 years to decompose, while monofilament fishing line and other fishing tools that utilize plastic represent 27 percent of waste found on European beaches. In addition to plastic’s harmful effects on human health, this statistics reflects a major issue for marine life. The EU cited a report that predicts by the year 2050, there will be more plastic than fish in the sea, according to CNN. In 2016, Chinese politicians decided to end the importation of plastic waste into China. This move forced Europeans to deal head-on with the plastic that they consume and stopped the major importation of waste into developing nations, per France24. The stipulations have not been met without criticism. Some EU member states are worried the ban will hurt industry, especially those located in the southern and eastern regions of Europe. The New York Times states that, “The European Parliament will next enter into negotiations with the European Council of government ministers for the 28 member states, who are expected to make a final decision on the legislation by Dec. 16.” Each country involved will be able to tailor the stipulations to their own conditions and needs, which helps to ensure that the ban will run smoothly and successfully.

In addition to the ban of single-use plastic, some European countries have implemented their own methods of further combating an abundance of trash. According to UNEnvironment, islands off of the Adriatic coast in Italy have instituted a total single-use plastic ban and fines up to 500 euro for those who violate this law. Norway introduced reverse vending machines to collect recyclables in exchange for a monetary reward. In Ireland, shop- pers have vowed to leave behind plastic packaging for the items they buy at supermarkets during a “shop and drop” day. Lastly, the Netherlands charges its citizens to pick up their trash but not recyclables. This is done to make a statement to stores on the amount of unnecessary plastic they package groceries in. As a result, an incentive to recycle is created so that residents may avoid this unnecessary expense.

The advent of plastic has led to an over-dependency on its use in the modern day world. Politicians have recognized its negative effects on the environment and hope to lessen the footprint that plastic leaves on the earth for centuries to come. The EU’s ban on single-use plastic is a bold and swift call to action, in the hopes that other nations around the world will follow in its footsteps. After the overwhelming 571-53 vote, Belgian politician Frederique Ries, tweeted that it was “a victory for our oceans, for the environment and for future generations.”

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**Egypt Mediates Rising Israeli-Palestinian Tensions**

The region may need Egypt’s mediation more than ever before. Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

**Brazilian President-Elect Jair Bolsonaro Threatens Amazon Rainforest**

**Continued from page 1.**

Business survives thanks to the destruction of forests.

TheBrazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural, called Ibama, is one of two as-

sociations that direct the environment ministry, according to CHN. In a campaign speech, Bol-

sonaro stated the Ibama “will be stripped of its environmental licensing powers.”

Ibama barred recent attempts to construct BR-

319—a proposed 890km highway that would run through one of the most pres-

erved areas of the Amazon Rainforest. Now it may not face any legal opposition without Ib-

ama jurisdiction, reports Wic News.

In addition, BR-319 will allow for secondary roads, which encour-

ages the destruction of the Amazon.

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Kaitlin Principato  
Staff Writer

Fireworks lit up the sky as supporters cried tears of joy and hugged one another after the results of the presidential race were announced on Friday, reports for the Economist. Brazil, Latin America’s largest nation, experienced a radical shift in democracy as far-right candidate Jair Bolsonaro won the election.

Since Brazil restored democracy 30 years ago, the nation has not seen such a dramatic change. According to The Economist, Bolsonaro clinched 55.2 percent of the vote, beating out the left-leaning Worker’s Party opponent, Fernando Haddad.

Bolsonaro is a 63-year-old former military captain who became a politician in over three decades in Brazil’s congress. Through his campaigning, he has appealed to domestic and international critics with his comments and ideology.

As reported by USA Today, Bolsonaro claimed that, “since I was a bachelor at the time, I used the money to have sex with people,” when explaining why Qatar that began in paper interview how he spent the official housing allowance money he received as a congressman. As Bolsonaro has stated that Bolsonaro’s comments in a 2014 interview glorify rape. In an interview, Bolsonaro said, “a woman was not worth raping; she is very ugly.” He also proclaimed, “I wouldn’t rape you because you don’t deserve it.”

According to USA Today, when sharing his views on sexual orientation, Bolsonaro said, “I prefer my son to die in an accident than be gay.” He added, “I would be incapable of loving a homosexual son. If a gay couple were to live in my building, my property will lose value. If they walk around holding hands, kissing, it will lose value.”

Although Bolsonaro has been highly criticized in the media, his popularity grew as he presented himself as the alternative to rising crimes and two years of political and economic corruption.

As The New York Times reported, Mr. Bolsonaro said, “We have everything we need to become a great nation. Together we will change the destiny of Brazil.”

Brazil is currently facing its deepest recession in its history, political turmoil, 13 million unemployed citizens, and a record high homicide rate of 63,880 people. Bolsonaro has vocalized his agenda in order to tackle these compromising issues.

Bolsonaro will likely stack the Supreme Court with an overwhelming number of judges, jumping from 11 to 21, in order to address an immense amount of issues, says The New York Times.

Bolsonaro has also expressed his plan to expand the jurisdiction of police, lower the age of criminal liability, impose stricter sentences on violent crimes, and mitigate gun control laws so that civilians can have ownership.

Matias Spektor, a professor of international relations at the Fundação Getulio Vargas in São Paulo, Brazil, told The New York Times, “The way he’s run his campaign is very clever. He has managed to align himself with the instableness that Brazilians still believe in religion, family, and armed forces.”

67-year-old Gauzy Pedro Moraes, a Brazilian citizen who voted for Bolsonaro, is most attracted to Bolsonaro’s clean criminal record. Corruption in Brazil, especially in politics, is a prevalent issue that sparks fear among citizens, reports The New York Times.

Moraes stated, “I’m looking forward to see the public safety promise implemented the most.”

Bolsonaro’s win, however, did not come with ease. On September 6th, he was stabbed with a knife in his lower stomach during a campaign event. This incident left him with slashed organs and intestines, adding medical recovery to an otherwise difficult campaign. Bolsonaro has vowed to protect Brazil from communists, fake news, and thieves, however, some critics say he will virtually accomplish nothing from his campaign rhetoric.

On the contrary, says Foreign Affairs, Brazil’s government system is widely different from the United States. The executive branch is practically unmonitored by the legislators, making it extremely easy to push a certain political agenda, even if it is unpopular. It is also possible that Bolsonaro will use foreign policy to distract the international community while he implements unpopular policies to tackle Brazil’s economic disaster. Brazil’s fate will ultimately be determined by policy implementation rather than the assumptions of the media, supporters, and critics.

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Sam Adams  
Staff Writer

The face of Saudi Arabia has drastically changed over the course of Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman’s (MBS) leadership. His turbulent rise to power began in 2017, when he was appointed a special adviser to his father, Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, then governor of Riyadh, reports The BBC.

Following the death of King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz in 2015, bin Salman’s father ascended to the throne. King Salman made the surprising decision to appoint his son as Minister of Defense and well began his nephew, Mohammad bin Nayef, Crown Prince. One of his first acts as newly appointed Defense Minister in 2015 was to interfere in the affairs of other Arab states in the brutal civil war in Yemen. In an effort to counter what was seen as a growing Iranian influence on the Arabian Peninsula, MBS along with allied United Arab Emirates launched a brutal air campaign on rebel targets as well as training and supplying the Pro-Government forces in Yemen, reports The BBC.

While meddling in Yemen’s affairs MBS was viewed as spearheading what the Atlantic called “into battle their cases in court, reported on government.”

Contrary to his military strategies and his forced imprisonments, MBS has attempted to imitate his name on the nation in the form of technological and economic innovation. Salman is attempting to fulfill his “Vision 2030” into fruition. The broad ranging plan includes the construction of a restructured town outside Riyadh as well as moving the country away from its oil dependencies, according to The Business Insider.

Many throughout the kingdom would welcome a shift in the economic base, while his recent emphases on social reform has caught conservatives and traditionalists in his nation by surprise, reports Business Insider.

In a recent interview with the Atlantic, bin Salman talked about the kingdom’s recent change of policy allowing women to drive. The law was widely seen as a push by MBS himself. Albeit groundbreaking, the policy change overshadowed by the arrest of several women and human rights activists that led to an international al row with Canada that resulted in the freezing of trade ties.

Furthermore, Salman has floated the idea of re- voking guardianship laws that require women to travel with a male when in public, a move that raised eyebrows of advisors, reports The BBC. Mohammad bin Salman, before October 2 of this year, had seemed inimicable from foreign and domestic pow- er. The kingdom and the Crown Prince’s story have continued to change over the course of the events, looking more and more suspicious as evidence emerges.

According to the BBC there were even calls for the Crown Prince to be removed and replaced, speculation that was spurred by the return of the king’s youngest brother Prince Ahmed bin Ab- dulaziz.

Prince Ahmad was one of three to vote against MBS ascension to position of Crown Prince according to Reuters, this return would indicate that the King is increasingly becoming more involved in Khadoggi’s murder.

MBS, assuming he will survive the careless acts in Istanbul regarding Khashoggi, has the potential to reshape the Middle East for decades to come. A shifting econ- omic and social change on the surface, amid his brunt foreign policy have the potential to take Saudi Arabia to unknown lands. Whether these lands will be prosperous for the Saudis remains to be seen. Mohammad bin Salman, if allowed, will continue his vision at whatever cost he deems necessary.

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November 2018  Page 6

Jair Bolsonaro

Mohammed bin Salman

Brazil’s Jair Bolsonaro. Courtesy of Wikimedia.

Saudi Arabia’s Mohammed bin Salman. Courtesy of Wikimedia.
Vladimir Putin

Julia Nicolls
Staff Writer
The Russian oligarch, Vladimir Putin, is known for assassinating journalists and money laundering in offshore bank accounts. Putin accomplishes all of this while maintaining his status as arguably one of the most powerful men in the world.

Putin describes himself as growing up in a mundane Russian working-class family. According to his biographical webpage he states, “I come from an ordinary family, and this is how I lived for a long time, nearly my whole life. I lived as an average, normal person and I have always maintained that connection.” Since his time as a KGB officer in East Germany, Putin has consistently gained power and money, pushing him out of the realm of ordinary.

In March of 2018, Putin submitted an official income declaration stating he owns an 800-square-foot apartment in St. Petersburg and has made 38.5 rubles (US$765,000) in the last six years from his presidential salary, says the New York Times.

Bill Browder, a Russian investor and critic of Putin, testified to the US Senate that Putin has over $200 billion in wealth. The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and the Organization for Crime and Corruption Reporting Project have concluded that Putin and the people closest to him shield his true wealth from the public.

Tom teguhdant, UK foreign affairs committee chair, said to CNN, “I believe Putin has the wealth to be able to use the Black Sea Fleet here through offensive and defensive measures in Syria, providing use of the Crimean region.

With Putin’s unknown wealth and divisive strategies, in 2007 Putin refused to US anti-missile plans by threatening to target missiles at the European Union. Putin’s power gains stretch beyond his political assassinations to his overt use of military force for political and territorial gains. Russia annexed Crimea in 2014 in order to access their two major ports, Crimea is also very rich.

Paul Kagame

Jarrett Dang
Staff Writer
Paul Kagame, the current president of Rwanda, took power in 1994 after the Rwandan Genocide, in which the majority Hutu ethnic group murdered an estimated 800,000 people from the Tutsi and Twa ethnic groups. According to The Economist, Kagame runs one of the most repressive regimes in Africa, complete with secret police, censorship of the press, and complete political control with no meaningful opposition party. Dissidents inside and outside the country mysteriously end up missing or dead. The BBC reports that Patrick Karegeya, a former intelligence chief and prominent critic of Kagame living in South Africa, was murdered in 2014 by suspected Rwandan agents after providing Tanzanian and South African forces with information about M23, a Rwandan-backed proxy army in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Ordinary people in Rwanda live in fear of the Kagame regime and the absolute power that it wields. According to the New York Time Magazine, normal Rwandans are subject to overbearing regulations on everything from a ban on grass-roofed huts to not being allowed to dress in dirty clothes. In the streets of Kigali, the capital, “undesirables” like prostitutes and beggars are rounded up, beaten, and sent to camps.

A free press is nearly non-existent in Kagame’s Rwanda. Kagame’s government was instrumental in the death or disappearance of five journalists that criticized the regime, according to Transparencyt International’s Corruption Perceptions Index, published by Transparency International.

Kagame has presided over an economy that few thought possible. Rwanda gained independence from Belgium in 1962 and Tutsis in peace again in 1994. Yet, Putin is not like the regular African strongman that pillages the country and takes for himself; rather, he has brought Rwanda from the brink of becoming a failed state to becoming one of the least corrupt countries in Africa with strong economic growth and a seemingly successful recovery from the genocide.

The Russian military was effective at gaining use of the Crimean region, and the people closest to Putin shield his true wealth. Putin has consistently gained power and money, pushing him out of the realm of ordinary. Putin has also acted against Russia’s former richest man, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who has resided in Russia’s penal system for 6 years, reports the New York Times. The accusation that landed him in this position is connected to his alleged involvement in an “organized criminal group” which stole 350 tons of oil. He still maintains that he does not understand the case brought against him.

Charges like these are not uncommon in Russian society. Celebrity cases, like Khodorkovsky’s, have involved journalists, businessmen, and religious advocates, anyone that threatens the Putin regime. The international community, especially Western states, put pressure on Putin’s actions to gain power intolerable. Because of this, Putin takes decisive action against those entities, the US, which has occurred since the beginning of the Putin era. For example, BBC states that Moscow is responsible for assassinating journalist Anna Politkovskaya.

The results of this process seem to indicate a level of societal healing that few thought possible in 1994; Hutus live next to Tutsis in peace again and most want to forget about the past and move on with their lives. Paul Kagame’s iron grip over the country seems to have turned out dividends for Rwanda for the price of despotic one-man rule. The improved economic situation and impressive societal recover from the genocide are crowning achievements of Kagame’s rule. His oppressive rule, however, strips ordinary Rwandans of personal freedoms in exchange for post-conflict civility.

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Russian's Vladimir Putin. Courtesy of Wikimedia.

Paul Kagame

Russia’s Vladimir Putin. Courtesy of Wikimedia.


Paul Kagame. Courtesy of Reuters.

Rwanda's Paul Kagame. Courtesy of Wikimedia.

Russia's Vladimir Putin. Courtesy of Wikimedia.

Kagame’s government recently amended the constitution to allow him to rule until 2034. The move came in the wake of a petition that was signed by 3.5 million people – 60 percent of the electorate. The Council on Foreign Relations holds that his petition was not freely or fairly circulated; the government recorded people’s names and addresses if they refused to sign.

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Mr. Kagame has a knack for orchestrating compromise and ensuring that no opposition rises against him. Kagame’s government is one of the most repressive regimes in Africa, complete with secret police, censorship of the press, and complete political control with no meaningful opposition party. Dissidents inside and outside the country mysteriously end up missing or dead. The BBC reports that Patrick Karegeya, a former intelligence chief and prominent critic of Kagame living in South Africa, was murdered in 2014 by suspected Rwandan agents after providing Tanzanian and South African forces with information about M23, a Rwandan-backed proxy army in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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Argentina’s IMF Bailouts Are a Neoliberal Trojan Horse

Nathaniel Purtell
Staff Writer

The economic future of millions remains uncertain as an economic crisis ravages Argentina. The Argentinian peso has lost nearly half of its value against the U.S. dollar since December, reports CNBC. In May, President Mauricio Macri has asked the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for additional bailouts to stabilize the country, against popular opinion.

This move follows a history of borrowing and bailouts. In the 1990s the IMF lent $135 billion that Argentina later defaulted on causing an economic crisis, as outlined as IMF documents. The country eventually paid off the debt and President Nestor Kirchner vowed that the country would never again borrow from the IMF.

While the government’s lack of cash is intangible, what is noticeable is the real suffering and pain that the economic crisis has caused the average citizen. As with Greece, the perception of the country becomes that its citizens are lazy and unwilling to work, but in reality, the failure of proper governance has reduced their ability to provide for themselves. People’s livelihoods are being attacked on all sides by inflation, unemployment, and a decrease in social welfare.

The IMF forces its version of “growth” upon countries with strict economic controls, but the reality on the ground is that the quality of life in developing countries has come under strain. An estimated 28 percent of the country remains in poverty, though GDP has

Failed Trade Aspirations Affect China’s Biggest Import Expo

Axel Songerath
Staff Writer

From November 5 to 10, China held its first International Import Expo in Shanghai. The event highlights China’s efforts to narrow trade gaps and eliminate worldwide perceptions their overreliance on exports, China Briefing reports. Consisting of over 150,000 professional buyers, 2,800 foreign companies, and 300 onsite events, the expo has garnered much publicity. Unfortunately, its size does not translate into international trade value. It is a big show with very little depth.

China’s market has dwindled since US President Donald Trump’s tariffs were implemented on July 6. The aggressive behavior of President Trump is worrying China, as they do not know how to react when faced with unpredictable American leadership. Further adding to the expo’s fervor, China knows it can no longer count on Trump to support trade deals through diplomatic negotiations. Trump has envisioned a “great deal with China,” but if negotiations fail America will impose blanket tariffs on Chinese goods, The Economist reports. Trump has already hit $250 billion worth of annual Chinese imports with tariffs, but could target the remaining $367 billion. This increase could catapult the trade war to new heights and would be disastrous for international relations.

China’s only response to this dilemma is a blinded trade war with names like Bill Gates, Generals Motors, Google, and many more. By painting itself as a victim, China is first to target specific industries to achieve their aspirations. However, this expo covers fields like bio-medical research to furniture and much in between. Even with all the talk about imports, the expo is not as distinctive in that area as billed, the Economist notes. Also, firms are frustrated with the political climate’s increasing pressure. One participant stated, “it might not benefit you much, but staying away will bring unwelcome attention.”

In a report from CNN, Craig Allen, president of the U.S.-China Business Council said the expo will mean little to foreign business unless President Xi Jinping’s promises to further open the Chinese economy are implemented. The world has heard these promises repeatedly, but no policy has been presented. During his opening speech, President Jinping reiterated these political aspirations in attempt to placate Western business critics. Still, many are unconvinced. “What matters to us is that concrete actions are forthcoming and that reforms are clearly timetabled,” stated Carlo D’Andrea, VP of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China to CNBC.

Intriguingly, some American companies have made moves to collaborate with China in order to return business to the home front. According to a joint statement by the Chinese electronics manufacturer Foxconn and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, ten technology companies from Wisconsin will participate with this goal in mind, Xinhuanet reports. Their specialties include healthcare and smart city applications.

This example sums up the expo in whole and brings to light an apparent PR stunt by the Chinese government. China needs to prove that it can make hard policy actions in order for the country to benefit from this over-blown showcase. What is likely to happen is something similar to the Foxconn investment in Wisconsin. China will make a big show, puff out its chest by displaying its economic power, but ultimately disappoint investors by ignoring its restrictive policies on international trade.

Governor Scott Walker that a new flat screen TV plant would create 13,000 new jobs. Spearheaded by Governor Walker, the Wisconsin legislature gave Foxconn a rich package of tax breaks estimated to be worth more than $4 billion, CNN Business reports. With the state enjoying a record low unemployment rate, this deal seems just another move for a Chinese business to improve its image.

This example sums up the expo in whole and brings to light an apparent PR stunt by the Chinese government. China needs to prove that it can make hard policy actions in order for the country to benefit from this over-blown showcase. What is likely to happen is something similar to the Foxconn investment in Wisconsin. China will make a big show, puff out its chest by displaying its economic power, but ultimately disappoint investors by ignoring its restrictive policies on international trade.

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Russia and the Future of the International Space Station

Jackson Lied
Staff Writer

Russia announced on November 1 that it will send three astronauts to the International Space Station in its Soyuz spacecraft on December 3, 17 days before the projected December 20 launch date. This news comes despite the fact that last month, a mission shuttleing two crew members to the ISS came plummeting to the ground. The reason for the failure, according to The Houston Chronicle, was a fault in a sensor due to damage from the central core as boosters made contact with the ISS.

This is not the only shortfall Roscosmos has been faced with recently. There has been a number of failed unmanned satellite launches. A leak caused by a small hole was also discovered in the hull of the currently docked shuttle. According to The New York Times, this hole makes some believe that NASA was responsible in what may have been an act of sabotage. Such implications against NASA could spiral into an international community and construct its own permanently crewed space station. According toTimes Live of South Africa, China unveiled a model of this station on November 6.

China’s “Heavenly Palace,” as it is being called, is expected to be completed in 2022. That would come two years prior to the expected retirement of the ISS in 2024. If China’s plan works, it will hold the only operational continuous manned space station, placing China as the premier space power in less than six years. It is unclear whether China or the U.S. plans will come to fruition. However, it appears that someone will replace Russia as the global leader in space.

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How Can Future Migrant Caravans Be Prevented?

Mark Gorman
Staff Writer

In 2009, former Honduran President Manuel Zelaya was ousted in a coup d’état staged by the national army and backed by the Honduran Supreme Court. This event is a major driving force behind the migrant caravans coming to the United States, most recently, the one being rallied against by Republicans during the 2018 Midterm Elections.

How will the caravan be handled once it reaches the U.S. border? Looking at how the last one was handled will give us a hint. According to CBS, the last caravan, numbering around 1,500 people, arrived in April 2018. Of those 1,500, only about 250 legally remain in the U.S. pending an immigration hearing.

Since that time, former Attorney General Jeff Sessions made the process for asylum even harder through changes to what could be considered a “credible threat.” President Donald Trump has also threatened military intervention, turning away the entire caravan, reducing all foreign aid to the nations involved, namely Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, and even threatening to shut down the U.S. border with Mexico.

Few of these threats are likely to amount to anything. Many of them will require Congressional approval, which is not likely since the Republicans lost a majority of the House of Representatives in the midterm elections. Furthermore, the U.S. has to consider claims for asylum under international law. If any of them did come into effect, some actions like cutting aid would be more likely to encourage more migrant caravans.

This begs the question, how can we prevent migrant caravans? The first thing we should scrap is the idea that harsh laws will keep migrants and refugees away. The current caravan coming to the U.S. is one of the largest in American history, despite almost two years of harsh treatment towards migrants by the Trump Administration.

Instead, we should look to why the migrants and asylum seekers are coming. According to Vox, there are a variety, but most tend to fall into one of three categories: violence, poverty, and family. Dealing with the third category and helping the origin nations deal with the other two would likely stop future migrant caravans from forming in the first place.

The first reason will be the most difficult to address. Gang violence in these nations is allowed, in no small part due to government corruption resulting from the 2009 coup. The best course of action to decrease violence is to tie aid to reforms and finance organizations whose goal is fighting corruption in Latin American nations. Another solution comes from The Atlantic. According to them, Honduras considered building an autonomous charter city similar to Hong Kong, which could set its own laws and regulations. This project could be revived, and provide a theoretical safe city for migrants to move to and work their way out of poverty.

As for those who want to come here, there really is only one solution. The United States needs to reform its immigration system. Everyone acknowledges that it is broken, but the real question is how to change it. Addressing the first two issues would deal most of the migration problem, so this is not as necessary as stopping the caravan issue, but it would make caravans less of an issue in the future. As to how the immigration process could be reformed, if the goal is to stop caravans’ desire to come, the only practical solution would be to reform it in a way that would make immigration in a reasonable timeframe. Another solution would be to help prevent caravans rather than endorse them. According to Huff. Post, the previously mentioned coup was orchestrated by General Romeo Vásquez Velás, who “was a graduate of the notorious School of Assassins” for the sizable number of graduates who have engaged in coups, as well as the torture and murder of political opponents.

There is no evidence that either then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton or then-President Barack Obama supported the coup, but their willingness to work with the new government and reluctance to denounce the coup gives a sign of tacit approval. Actions like these undermine the stability of these nations and only encourage migration from them to the U.S.

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Russia’s recent Soyuz and ISS incidents could foreshadow larger problems ahead.

Courtesy of NASA.
A Flashpoint in Saudi-U.S. Relations

Josh Newman
Staff Writer

The Trump administration called for an immediate cease-fire in the Yemen conflict and for United Nations-led political talks to follow in an attempt to end the deadly Iran-Saudi Arabia proxy war, according to U.S. News & World Report.

In a joint effort, United States Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called for the cease-fire to take place within 30 days, reports the Telegraph. From a humanitarian standpoint, this cease fire cannot come soon enough.

Yemen is teetering on collapse and almost 10,000 have been killed in the conflict, according to Sky News. Of course, one cannot forget the looming threat of a famine that could strike Yemen at any time. UN humanitarian chief Mike Lowcock, as quoted by Sky News, stated that this famine could cause a “huge loss of life.” As the fighting over the port city of Hodeidah shut down grain mills, this possibility only became more imminent.

However, the timing of these calls after the confirmed death of Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi is the most intriguing part of this dilemma. The Saudi government is certainly in a precarious position diplomatically, and are in no way capable of ignoring their U.S. backers.

This could be the beginning of a serious turning point in Saudi-U.S. relations. Historically, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia have been close economic and military partners. According to the Saudi Arabian Oil Company, known as Aramco, Saudi Arabia has more than $200 billion in active foreign military sales (FMS) cases. This makes the kingdom the United States’ largest FMS customer. Saudi Arabia’s largest trading partner is currently the United States, and likewise the largest trading partner of the U.S. within the Middle East is Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia and the United States have been a souring of their relationship before. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, issues have ranged from human rights abuses to lack of democracy, but each instance relations have rebounded. This time seems different, however. Since Saudi Arabia’s initial involvement in the Yemen conflict, the U.S. has called for restraint and has disapproved of the Saudi’s indiscriminate bombing, in which civilians have often been killed. Interestingly enough, the U.S. has supplied the Saudi military with arms, intelligence, and aerial refueling throughout the conflict. There was a pause in the supplies right at the end of the Obama administration, but this was a blip in the radar and was immediately overturned by the Trump administration.

President Trump threatened serious repercussions for the death of Khashoggi, NBC News reports. It seems that the U.S. is following through by openly calling for an end to hostilities in Yemen. Sky News further reports that UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt welcomed the U.S. statements and stressed that he did not believe continued conflict was the answer in Yemen. The United Kingdom also has a historically close relationship with Saudi Arabia according to the Saudi British Joint Business Council. Saudi Arabia is also the United Kingdom’s biggest trade partner in the Middle East and their change in stance on Yemen points to a major change in military policy. Regardless of this conjecture, what happens when the deadline of 30 days is reached will be crucial to future relations between the countries. If the U.S. doubles down on its new position, there could be serious repercussions for Saudi Arabia and the U.S. are playing a dangerous game with the Yemen conflict, and it looks like the U.S. is finally backing out.

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Facebook’s Hidden Truth: Privacy is the Price We Pay for Knowledge

Stevie Miller
Staff Writer

Following the expansion of a joint “international grand committee” to include officials from the United Kingdom, Canada, Argentina, Australia, and Ireland, social media titan Mark Zuckerberg has been called to testify on Facebook’s disinformation campaigns and data misuse.

Previously, Zuckerberg declined an invitation from British and Canadian parliamentarians to attend their first joint hearing, which will take place on November 27, according to CBC News. Facebook representatives claimed that “It is not possible for Mr. Zuckerberg to be available to all Parliaments” and called attention to the fact that he had previously appeared before both the U.S. Congress and the European Union’s Parliament within the past year. However, a growing committee of five nations, all of whom represent huge populations of Facebook users, is becoming too big to ignore.

In response to Zuckerberg’s declined invitation, the committee wrote “We were very disappointed with this dismissive response...Five parliaments are now calling on you to do the right thing by the 170 million users in the countries they represent.” Zuckerberg’s declination arrives during a tumultuous era for his social media empire. Britain’s Information Commissioner just issued an update on the office’s investigation of the use of Facebook data by political organizations in both the Brexit and Trump campaigns, and all findings indicate to the use of targeting techniques developed for the express purpose of selling products and pushing various political agendas.

According to Business Insider, British Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham reported that “Facebook...failed to keep the personal information secure because it failed to make suitable checks on apps and developers using in platform.”

Self-admittedly, Facebook has played a key role in the spread of disinformation and fake news. The now-defunct consulting firm Cambridge Analytica deployed improperly harvested data to push right-wing agendas, and unknowingly aided Russian interference during the U.S. Presidential election in 2016. With these facts now indisputable and bipartisan condemnation in the air, the international community must decide how to handle this social media crisis.

Regarding the idea of social media regulation, Sen. Bill Nelson stated in April 2018 that “If Facebook and other online companies will not or cannot fix the privacy invasions, then we have nothing to go with. We the Congress.” Almost seven months later, the issue is still on the table, this time with the backing of President Trump himself. According to CNBC, President Trump told reporters on November 7 that he is “open to working across the aisle with Democrats to regulate social media.”

Following the implementation of the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which requires companies to request explicit consent to send data collection from users; it seems more likely that Congress will draft its own data privacy law. Such legislation will determine how the U.S. government will combat future predatory privacy practices, but to do this, Congress will have to define what constitutes as “personal information.” The terms of proposed legislation will hinge upon this very term, which has the capability to redefine how both governments and corporations view privacy itself.

Information like Social Security numbers, biometric data, and precise geolocation data have always been considered sensitive. It is a given that any proposed bill Congress will cover these basics. However, in Facebook’s case, Cambridge Analytica harvested data points that don’t fall under this category: user demographics, interests, and location check-ins, just to name a few published by the Washington Post. Any legislation that Congress passes will have to address the status of these points, and should it be decided that such data points continue to remain public, these loopholes will continue to remain vulnerable to exploitation.

Privacy is the price we pay for knowledge. We cannot continue to call for transparency and truth while expecting our personal lives to remain untrapped and unknowable. In an age of globalization and technological innovation, when we willingly sacrifice pieces of ourselves for convenience, such a demand is no longer feasible. While the threat posed to Facebook users’ privacy is over, another just like it may be right around the corner.

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Professor Rios’ extensive background includes legal studies in Spain. She completed her law degree in Spain, and decided to further her studies in the United States due to employment constraints in Spain. She completed her PhD in Political Science at the Graduate Center of The City University of New York. While studying, she had the opportunity to teach courses on American Government, in Spanish, at Hostos Community College. Rios applied for a teaching position at Seton Hall, due to a colleague’s recommendation. She had a special interest in the online course covering accountability. She is also currently an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Speaking about Seton Hall, Rios was particularly impressed by the close-knit community and the interest students demonstrated academically. “The students show an incredible drive not only in learning but actually going out there and applying this knowledge to the real world,” she commented.

Professor Rios talked about the upcoming trip to the United Nations Headquarters in New York that she is planning with her undergraduate class. “I think it will be a great opportunity for the students to get a first-hand look at how the UN functions and get a sense of the international community.” She expressed that the trip “will hopefully develop within them a deepened interest to work as diplomat for the UN.” When she is not teaching, Rios spends her time attending conferences or doing research for future publication opportunities. Through the International Studies Association, she attends at least four conferences per year, to which she sends abstracts, or summaries of complex written work, on the areas she wants to study.

She describes these conferences as excellent opportunities to network with different people, and explore myths of research areas. “It is a good way to be in contact with other people’s research and explore what is new in the field because there are so many publications coming out constantly.” Rios believes that the best way to develop her knowledge is by analyzing publications by other experts through varying perspectives. “This helps in getting to know about different opportunities out there for students as well.”

Rios recently attended a seminar at the Schusterman Center’s Summer Institute for Israeli Studies in Israel, through a fellowship. Stating that it “brought a better understanding of ISSI, Rios has worked out how to have self-sustaining communities based on the principles of community within their communities.” She described her experience as a unique one which allowed her to the interact with several groups of people including: economists, Palestinians, minority groups from Africa which settled in Israel, lawyers from major firms, members of the Arab Knesset, and former members of the Israeli army. Professor Rios also had the opportunity to interact with several sectors of Israeli society. “This immersion program was an excellent way to experience firsthand the Israeli culture and understand the different aspects involved in the conflict.” Having presented her abstracts at forty-five different conferences and delivered several lectures on accountability for human rights violations and international law, Rios now hopes to get into publishing. She is currently working on publishing her dissertation, which is centered around the ban on torture and disappearances in the jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) and the Spanish court system. She also expressed an interest in future publications concerning counter-terrorism in the United States and Spain.

When asked about a piece of advice she would share with her students, Rios said, “This field of study will one day provide you with an excellent platform to help people and it will then be your duty to use your knowledge to change or improve legislations to the lives of countless people.” She wants to remind students to “always be appreciative of the knowledge you are receiving and use it for the betterment of society.”

Contribute your views on the future of Israeli Studies to our website. The views expressed in The Diplomatic Envoy are those of the writers and are not intended to represent the views of the School of Diplomacy, Seton Hall University, or the CJM Fund. For more information on sources, go to TheDiplomaticEnvoy.com.

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For more information on sources, go to TheDiplomaticEnvoy.com.
Grace O’Malley  
Staff Writer

This semester, the students in the School of Diplomacy were introduced to one of the Seton Hall’s newest professors, Robert Shaver. He is teaching Comparative Foreign Policy in Seton Hall, as he works on his PhD for Social Research.

Professor Shaver grew up in Massachusetts but went to St. John’s college in Maryland. For him, going to St. John’s was his most formative educational experience and has left him with an appreciation for liberal arts. After finishing his undergraduate degree, Professor Shaver interned at a few Israeli-Palestine related NGOs and advocacy groups. He, then, lived in DC for two years, before moving to South Korea to teach English.

For three years he was moving back and forth between South Korea and DC to complete his master’s degree in International Affairs, where he got a dual degree in Korean studies from Korea University in South Korea and American University in DC. While finishing his master’s degree, he interned with the State Department’s office of monetary affairs. Once he graduated, he moved to New York to start his PhD at the New School.

Aside from teaching, he stated that he would like to work in the UN. His main interests are international relations and the international political economy. As seen from his experience abroad, he is interested in South Korea, especially in its developmental model.

More broadly, he is interested in economic nationalism and its relation to the liberal world order. However, even moving has always been interesting in the field of International relations, if he did not get into the field of IR, he would have studied economic history, philosophy, or the classics.

When discussing Seton Hall, he said that it is very pleasant and up here, because of the School of Diplomacy’s reputation and the small school atmosphere of the campus. He also believes that students here are curious, inquisitive, and fun to teach. Because of his teaching experience here and in South Korea, he would love to be a tenure-track professor and teach the history of Diplomacy in the future.

When asked about what he wishes under-graduates in the School of International Affairs, around the Globe” host a globalization of Migration expert and Vien

Harsha Ghoorhoo  
Staff Writer

On November 6, 2018, Yan Matusevich delivered a lecture on “The Politicization of Migration around the Globe” hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences at Seton Hall.

Matusevich is a migration expert and Vienna-based journalist. He completed his Master of Science in migration from the University of Oxford and holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Bard College.

Initially, his research only focused on the rights of marginalized migrant workers in Russia. Matusevich admits he had no real understanding of what migration meant on a global scale, but after getting into the program he realized a lot of parallels about everything happening around the globe.

Matusevich later joined the International Center for Migration Policy Development where he was responsible for several research projects on labor migration and causes of mass displacement.

As migration gained prominence, due to the Syrian conflict, the organization gained the interest of state actors and received more funding. As such, Matushevich was able to experience first-hand how an international organization responds to such issues.

During the Politicization of Migration Event, Matusevich drew attention on how migration is being tackled as a major challenge. “The problem with using the term migration is that it shifts the attention away from the problems that the society is facing on a global level. While people tend to view migration as a severe challenge, Matusevich points out that there are in fact bigger challenges such as urbanization and climate change which need to be addressed with a greater sense of urgency.

When interviewed, Matusevich has been particularly interested in the global trend in migration. “There is a pattern of curtailing norms for immigration which needs to be addressed. There are fewer possibilities for people to apply for asylum at the border even though this is a right they possess according to the Geneva Convention,” he revealed.

He further elaborated that there are no actual consequences for states that do not uphold international law and that act illegally to push back refugees from their borders. The current situation is such that there is no actual global arbitrary that can call out these states. By extension a domino effect is created whereby more states feel validated to overlook such referents.

When asked about the migrant caravans, Matusevich remarked about the extent it has been politicized as a midterm elections. “It is an example of creating a term, launching it into the public sphere which takes a life of its own and becomes highly politicized,” he claimed.

Overall, both Matusevich’s lecture and the film provide an important insight on how the issue of migration is currently being addressed. Therefore, it becomes important to reconsider how we view migration and whether it is indeed a challenge or a situation that needs to be more widely accepted and integrated within society.

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Engy Nader  
Staff Writer

On the topic of contemporary migration, Matusevich pointed out “Migration is not politicized as a result of public grievances but instead from government actors that professionalize the public discourse and start debating it.” He also emphasized that migration is a “hot button” topic that is politicized at its lowest and not when there are unprecedented crises.

“Survey data shows that people from countries in the EU who have never been exposed to immigration have the worst anti-immigrant attitudes as they are influenced by government messengers and certain media.” Therefore, these conflicts would remain latent unless they are activated on high political levels to serve the purposes of political parties. He explained that the emphasis placed on migration is quite problematic because it shifts the attention away from the problems that the society is facing on a global level. While people tend to view migration as a severe challenge, Matusevich points out that there are in fact bigger challenges such as urbanization and climate change which need to be addressed with a greater sense of urgency.

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Staff Spotlight: Robert Shaver

Yan Matusevich: The Politicization of Global Migration

Matusevich (right) records an interview post-lecture for the Global Current. Courtesy of Mariath McCluskey.

Men and women, the former and the latter, the U.N. (or the Office of Global Resource Center, the Geneva Convention, or the Global Current) responds to migration as a phenomenon. The global trend in migration is quite problematic because it shifts the attention away from the problems that the society is facing on a global level. While people tend to view migration as a severe challenge, Matusevich points out that there are in fact bigger challenges such as urbanization and climate change which need to be addressed with a greater sense of urgency.

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