Opinion: Ebola Spreads in the Congo Amidst Rising Ethnic Tensions

Jarrett Dang

Joseph Kabila, the current president of The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), took power in 2001 after his father and former president, Laurent-Désiré Kabila, was shot by his own bodyguard. Since then, Kabila has done nothing to raise his country out of the dirt. Kabila, who was supposed to step down in 2016, continues to stay on as president even though the constitution mandated his departure. As a result, his grip over the country has diminished significantly and violence has resurfaced.

Fighting is rife in the DRC, with 10 out of its 26 provinces embroiled in civil conflict. Eastern Congo is one of the deadliest conflict zones in the world, with fighting so bad that the country hosts the largest United Nations peacekeeping mission ever assembled, reports the UN. Along with the areas of violence, there is also a new outbreak of Ebola in the North Kivu province in the Eastern Congo, where some of the worst fighting is taking place, and presents the direst conditions for Congolese citizens and health workers. The country is on the brink of collapse as Joseph Kabila clings to power amidst a growing ethnic conflict. As a result, a coordinated response to the latest Ebola outbreak seems much harder.

The World Health Organization (WHO), armed with a new Ebola vaccine which has proven its worth in West Africa, has been trying to inoculate those most susceptible for contracting the disease in North Kivu.

In October, the WHO reported 181 total cases of Ebola in North Kivu and 115 total deaths in the latest outbreak. Getting the vaccine to all of those affected has been a monumental task as accessibility in the region is nearly non-existent, reports The Economist. Government forces have long vowed with ethnic rebel groups for control of Eastern Congo, and UN peacekeepers are spread thin. Mike Ryan of WHO told The Economist that, “we are dealing with security problems, a weak health system, and disease. We have to balance access with security all the time.”

Health workers trying to deliver vaccines and prevent the spread of the disease are at risk of being shot or killed. The Associated Press reports that on October 2, three health workers were burning. The Associated Press reports that on October 2, three health workers were burned.

So, can the UN achieve these goals at all? Yes, although not as the organization stands right now. The first area that needs reform is the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The UNSC is structured so that the United States, Russia, China, Britain, and France have permanent member status. The remaining 10 are chosen by elections in staggered cycles. Failing in the past is the problem: The United Nations Charter, the UN was established with four goals: to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations, to achieve international cooperation, and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations. More than 70 years later, the ability of the UN to achieve any of these goals is questionable at best. The Syrian Civil War, the continued flauting of international law by an increasing number of nations, and the Ukrainian Civil War are merely the latest examples of this.

So, can the UN achieve these goals at all? Most observers believe the UN has the knowledge to accomplish these goals to keep the peace. So, can the UN achieve these goals at all? So, can the UN achieve these goals at all? So, can the UN achieve these goals at all? So, can the UN achieve these goals at all? So, can the UN achieve these goals at all? So, can the UN achieve these goals at all?
**International News**

**Egypt Mediates Rising Israeli-Palestinian Tensions**

On October 4, a senior delegation belonging to the Palestinian fundamentalist movement Hamas concluded its trip to Cairo, signaling the end of another round of Egyptian-mediated negotiations between Hamas and rival Palestinian faction, Fatah.

The Middle East North African Financial Network reports that the meetings lasted over four days, taking place at the headquarters of Egypt’s General Intelligence Service. Amongst proposals for reunification efforts, the talks allegedly included plans for a long-term ceasefire between Hamas and Israel, which could lead to a potential reprieve from the continuing regional violence.

Meanwhile, just outside Hamas’s home city of Gaza, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) continues to reinforce its regional military presence to prevent further terrorist infiltration. The Jerusalem Post reports that these movements are in direct response to Hamas’s vow in the Gaza Strip, which began as protests against Israeli military presence in the Gaza Strip, that would potentially escalate violent rioting in response to Hamas’s vow. The National reports that Israel’s military presence to prevent further terrorist infiltration is very important. We are all supposed to arrange the Palestinian house and then look for deals with foreign entities.”

Since the weekly Middle East protests began in Gaza on March 30, 2018, almost 200 Palestinians have been killed in clashes with the IDF on Gaza’s border. The casualties also include some 50 guards members, according to Al Jazeera.

Since the Arab Spring, Egypt has had to focus its attention on a number of internal issues including sex and labor trafficking, terrorism, and continuous social upheaval. However, Emirati newspaper The National reports that the giving the prevailing political tensions between the authorities in Cairo and Gaza, Egypt has started to move back into its traditional role in the region as conflict mediator – a role that the United States has been unable to fill the vacuum of influence left over, and according to Egyptian news sources Mada Masr, those efforts have culminated in general success.

Anonymous Palestinian sources close to the talks confirm “the terms of the truce aim to keep violence between Palestinian militant factions and Israel to a minimum... The Egyptian government asked the Egyptians to solve this matter with the fewest political losses possible, since Egypt did a great job as the middleman in mediating the [2011] Shalit [prisoner exchange] deal, further reports Mada Masr.”

In addition to acting as the primary mediator in the current Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, Egypt has also stepped up to lead efforts to prevent the violence for the people in the Gaza Strip. According to Egyptian newspaper Al Badea, the Egyptian government has successfully lobbied the Arab League to condemn the U.S. decision to stop funding UNRWA, stressing that it was not entitled to do so and that the UN General Assembly Resolution of 1949 still mandated that UNRWA should provide services in all fields to Palestinian refugees until their issue is resolved “in all aspects.”

In an interview with Bloomberg Press, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry addressed the standing question as to whether Egypt and the Arab League were providing relief to UNRWA in response to the absence of American funding. He states, “Since the commitments made by the Arab and non-Arab states to fill the gap that has been created by the withdrawal of American support to UNRWA, [we do so] out of the recognition of the important role that UNRWA plays in the humanitariand needs of the Palestinian people.”

Stevie Miller
**Staff Writer**

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**2018 Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to Advocates Against Sexual Violence**

Continued from page 1.

Stevie Miller, a member of the Yazidi minority that lives in northern Iraq. In 2014, her town came under siege by ISIS and she was taken as a sex slave by the terrorist group. Both use their experiences with abuse to speak up and inspire other women and girls about what it means to be vulnerable. As Nadia Murad told the Washington Post in an interview last year, “Somebody had to tell these stories. It’s not easy.”

In an interview with the United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking, Nadia Murad, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in honor of their work to help relocate those fleeing from persecution and violence.

The awardees challenge the idea of what it means to be a survivor of sexual violence in war. It is systematic and strategic. It is intended to control and take advantage of others. The 2018 Nobel Peace Prize awardees inspire other women and witnesses to speak up and break the stigma that surrounds sexual violence. The awards challenge the idea of what it means to be vulnerable. As Nadia Murad told the Washington Post in an interview last year, “Somebody had to tell these stories. It’s not easy.”

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Dublin Reveals Plans to House Homeless on Cruise Ship

Ciana Vritkapo
Staff/Writer

In any other situation, being told that you might get to live on a cruise ship would come with excitement and a feeling of luxury. However, if you live in Dublin, Ireland, the proposition of moving onto a cruise ship means that you are currently homeless. The homeless epidemic in Ireland is currently running rampant. According to The Sun, in Dublin there are currently 1,367 families in homeless accommodation. This figure has only grown as time has gone on. This epidemic is plaguing those of every age and family status.

Ireland is not doing poorly economically and socially. According to The Guardian, the economy in Ireland is cruising forward with a 5.6 percent GDP growth. However, there is currently no dent in the Irish economy. Similarly, in 2008, the Celtic Tiger, the nickname of the decade-long economic boom that ended in a financial crash, had ravished the country. However, a bounce-back lead by domestic demand, lead Ireland to near full employment.

With the progressive social movements and economic stability, why are there so many homeless in the Dublin? The numbers give a chilling feeling to the country that prides itself in equality. No matter the cause, the issue is present and painfully clear.

As reported by The Sun, the idea of housing homeless families on a rented cruise ship has been proposed before, but was shelved. However, the severity of the situation has caused the City Council to re-visit the idea. Fox News quoted the Irish minister for housing, Eoghan Murphy, for his target to house 300 homeless families. He was reportedly told by the council that this was “unlikely to be achieved” unless they looked at the prior ideas.

There are many problems with the cruise ship idea, the clearest being the price of renting the cruise ship, and another being the amount of people a cruise ship can house. The cruise ship that is being considered can hold about 200 homeless people, which barely puts a dent in the 1,367 families that are currently in homeless accommodation as displayed by The Sun. The price for these 200 people is also hefty. The cost of hiring a 200-person cruise ship is around $500,000 a week, which is around $2,300 per person.

Irish Times quotes Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy, president of Focus Ireland, an organization dedicated to fighting homelessness in Ireland. He states, “Unfortunately, Government has adopted the commodity model for housing. We cannot entrust a social need to the market. The market has different values.”

Many agree that a more humanitarian approach should be used, while some citizens are just happy that it appears some action will be taken. All seem to agree that the homeless crisis can be solved. Again, a quote from Stanislaus Kennedy sums up the resilience to crisis by the Irish. He says, “Homelessness is solvable. It isn’t a natural disaster.”

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The Changing State of Media in China

Jackson Lied
Staff/Writer

Concerns over China’s censorship practices are rising again due to recent concerns over Google’s project titled Dragonfly. If completed, it would reestablish a search engine in China and most importantly, it would be programmed to conform directly with China’s will regarding censorship.

On Thursday, October 4, at the Hudson Institute, Mike Pence listed many of his, and the United States, quarrels with China. On the topic of Google’s project, he was reported by the Wall Street Journal as saying, “Google should immediately end development of the Dragonfly app that will strengthen Communist Party censorship and compromise the privacy of Chinese customers.”

This project has also been found to be decisive within Google itself. Multiple senior staff have resigned due to moral issues regarding the project, according to The Mercury News. According to the Wall Street Journal, Google has officially stated that the project is not near completion; regarding those who left, Google refused to “speak privately about individual employees.” However, this issue with Google’s Dragonfly app is only one issue in a complex and changing media situation in China.

Now more than ever, China’s control over its media is strong, pervasive, and pointed. Participating in a trade war with the U.S. and facing ever-more foreign pressure, China has been forced to appear still powerful to its domestic audience as well to smaller countries that are, or will be, arenas for Chinese investment and manipulation in the future.

The foundation on which China builds its self-image is its president Xi Jinping. He is portrayed, unlike past leaders, as reliable and vibrant, yet also powerful and controlling. State media outlets, such as China Daily, ensure Xi is always the front page or top story. NPR after interviewing two of China Daily’s reporters made note that Xi and Premier Li Keqiang are always the first and second story respectively whether they had done or said anything that day or not.

The reach of this increased control is not limited to only the traditional media—rather, it has extended to internet memes, a newer source of information and entertainment. The Chinese government, through the creation of its own memes and control over internet access in general, has managed to put together a system used to deliver subliminal messages in a way that attracts younger generations.

Older generations of Chinese citizens mount photos of Xi on their living room walls, but the younger generation now posts pictures of Xi on an entirely different type of wall. Chinese-controlled media was not always in such high gear. NPR showed that the amount of money and the amount of media being produced increased dramatically directly following the 2008 Olympics in China. This is because China received significant foreign criticism following the games and was forced to begin reestablishing its image. This is not so different a reestablishment as that beginning to take place due to criticism coming in from the current trade war. And though this pervasive media campaign may work on certain audiences, this does not translate well to the western world. China’s control over its media can make it seem overly impressive and economically gigantic, but to the liberal western world who values universal beliefs such as freedom, specifically freedom of speech, it has the opposite effect.

This failure then, is perhaps due to a lack of an alternative. China has spent so much time and effort tearing down these western values such as freedom and democracy, but it has not expounded on its own values. Thousands of years of Chinese political and philosophical tradition are simply being ignored by the current media structure, causing a lack of an ideological ground in China’s messages.

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Dublin has toyed with the idea of cruise ship housing before. Courtesy of Vidar Nordli-Mathisen.
North Korean Hackers Linked to Banking Heist

Mia DiPaola Staff/Writer

Several signs indicate that the hackers’ ability has been increasing as they operate with codes that are so advanced that they cannot be detected by any antivirus program, according to the Wall Street Journal reports.

Many hackers are incorporating perfect language skills into coding, which gives the impression that the hacks come from another country. According to The Wall Street Journal, John Halquist, director of intelligence analysis at U.S. cybersecurity firm FireEye, ranked North Korea as part of the world’s mature hacking operations and said the whole world should take notice.

North Korea has created the world’s great cyber programs, “not be the world’s most successful that, unlike its competitors, it has achieved all of their cause it’s technically so cyber programs, "not be the world’s most successful."

The US. Justice Department resources the two Irelands, but discovering a “no-deal” Brexit. The recent proposal of a temporary backstop including the entirety of the U.K. may best suit the needs of Ireland. The EU has assured Varadkar in the past that a no-Brexit deal will be passed without including an element on the Irish border, “no Deal” Brexit. The recent proposal of a temporary backstop including the entirety of the U.K. may best suit the needs of Ireland.

The New York Times reports. The Government of Ireland has expressed its disapproval over a possible regulatory check point in the Irish Sea. If the U.K. stays in the custom union, there will be no regulatory check points between the two states. Officials on both sides are optimistic so far. According to The New York Times, a Dublin official said of the backstop negotiations that “it doesn’t look like it’s going to fall apart. There’s been a lot of pushing and shoving and our European partners have been rock solid.”

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United Kingdom Approaches EU Customs Deal

Judith Koren Staff Writer

In its most recent report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) announced the Sixth Assessment Cycle. The international organization’s periodically released reports range from covering the impacts of global warming to the impacts of a rapidly changing climate on the ocean and cryosphere. The first special report was released in early October 2018, covering the impacts of a rapidly changing climate on the ocean and cryosphere. The special report was released in early October 2018, covering the impacts of a rapidly changing climate on the ocean and cryosphere.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an international body for the assessment of climate change. Established by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the IPCC website states that they were developed to provide the world with the current information on climate change and the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.

The beginning of the Sixth Assessment described a far more catastrophic image of the impacts climate change will have on the Earth if global leaders do not step up and demand change. The New York Times sums up the Special Report in two points: “the IPCC describes a world of worsening food shortages and wildfires, and a mass die-off of coral reefs as soon as 2040.” This timeframe gives the global population no more than 12 years until there are intense droughts and poverty specifically caused by an increase of the atmospheric temperature by 1.5 degrees Celsius. Bill Hare, a physicist with Climate Analytics and an author of previous IPCC Assessments, told The New York Times that the report “is quite a shock, and concerning. We were not aware of this just a few years ago.” The Washington Post states that in order to prevent the current trend they operate with codes that are so advanced that they cannot be detected by any antivirus program, according to the Wall Street Journal reports.

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United Nations Report Warns 12 Years to Control Climate Change

In contrast, U.S. President Donald Trump cast doubt on the UN report, according to Business Insider, President Trump suggested that the IPCC report is no more credible than others that claim the environment is “not a crisis,” but he did not specify any. Business Insider reminded that President Trump called climate change a “hoax” and even tweeted in 2012 that “the environment is fine.”

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bating the Financing of Terrorism.

Iran, the world's top sponsor of terrorism, has been targeting companies and individuals that do business with Iran since the former pulled out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), more commonly known as the nuclear deal. The U.S. has been pressuring companies that do business with Iran and has demanded an oil embargo on Iran by all nations by November 4. According to The Guardian, The Trump administration said it was ultimately seeking a new deal that addressed “the totality of the Iranian threat.”

Furthermore, the Iranian Parliament has also been pressuring Iran since the former pulled out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), more commonly known as the nuclear deal. The U.S. has been pressuring companies that do business with Iran and has demanded an oil embargo on Iran by all nations by November 4. According to The Guardian, The Trump administration said it was ultimately seeking a new deal that addressed “the totality of the Iranian threat.”

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North Korea

Julia Nicolls  
Staff/Writer

North Korea’s team of over 5,000 hackers is growing and improving faster than most have predicted. Despite only recently recognizing the magnitude of this threat, the U.S. and other countries claim that North Korea poses a significant threat to their national security, says the Wall Street Journal. According to the Wall Street Journal, cyber-security experts traditionally viewed North Korean hackers as second-rate when compared to their Russian, Iranian, or American counterparts. Therefore, it came as a surprise when these hackers made headlines by hacking into Sony Entertainment’s online databases and erase company information in 2014. Bred for espionage, the government plucks these soon-to-be hackers from the masses as early as age 11. These hackers are sent to elite cyber schools to train and compete with those of the rest of the world and live in poverty, hacking is considered an ideal opportunity. The hackers have become increasingly skilled and intelligent over time. Many of them speak fluent English and hide malware in bible apps. According to the New York Times, in 2016 these cyber warriors sought a more ambitious target. They went after an account managed by the Federal Reserve: the Bangladesh Central Bank. By hacking their servers and using fabricated transfer requests, they attempted to drain over $1 billion from the account. The results of such an attack could have been catastrophic due to the large amount of research held by central banks. According to the New York Times, the only thing that stopped them was a weakness in the banking system of North Korea. The hackers still managed to steal $81 million.

Attacks are not infrequent. South Korean officials estimate that they experience around 1.5 million cyber-attack attempts by North Korea daily. European financial institutions, as well as the U.S., are subject to these intrusions constantly. Global Post Investigations says one of the many reasons behind these attacks is the sanctions placed on North Korea by western nations like the U.S. These attacks act as an alternative source of revenue for the reclusive Pyongyang regime. “A nation state robbing banks… that’s a big deal.” This is different, says Richard Ledgett, former deputy director of the National Security Agency.

Most recently, North Korea hacked the National Health Service, which canceled scheduled operations, diverted ambulance, and made patient records unavailable. According to The Guardian, this attack cost hospitals over 150 countries.

The attack allegedly affected over 19,000 computers. A government report found that the NHS was vulnerable because they did not follow recommend cyber-security guidelines, exposing them to threat. The U.S. Justice Department charged suspect North Korea spy Park Jin Hyok for his involvement in the NHS attack, in addition to his involvement in the Sony Entertainment and Federal Reserve attacks. The different cyber-attacks to the U.S. and the UK are so frequent that it is hard to discern between isolated attacks and larger campaigns. As Steve Rodhouse, director of operations at the UK’s National Cyber Agency, said to The Guardian, “The ransomware attacks that affected the UK appear to be part of a series, and it’s right that they are prosecuted together to show the full scale of the threat.”

Israel

Joshua Newman  
Staff/Writer

Israel is leading the world in cyber security and warfare, reports Foreign Policy. As a result, they are also a leader in producing cyber mercenaries. When these highly-trained Israeli cyber soldiers leave the army, they enter the private sector and begin selling their skills to the highest bidder. These mercenaries come from the Israeli military’s elite cyber security and warfare units. Vice reports that Israel recruits the brightest teenagers into units like Unit 8200, believed to be the origin of the famed STUXNET attack, and train them to become elite cyber soldiers. According to Dr. Zvi Marom, the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of BATM Advanced Communications, the reason for this superiority is simple: necessity. When his country was under Israel’s technological superiority, Dr. Marom told Forbes “the good education system, and the competitive nature of the Israeli society,” is partly responsible. Dr. Marom also points out that in Israeli society, the highest educated members are the most valuable, and that there is an inherent technological nature to the Israeli Defense Forces. Nevertheless, the most telling reason according to Dr. Marom, is that Israel is always being threatened. “Israel is constantly under attack. The secret to our existence is having a constant threat and a contributing factor as to why Israel is a consistent country,” meaning all citizens must partake in mandatory military service. As Roni Zehav puts it, the Israeli military is akin to being “the largest HR organization in the world,” one in which almost every citizen in Israel is involved. This means that everyone interested in IT fields join the military and end up specialized in cyber security, cyber defense, and cyber offense. Then, when their service is up, they leave and find a job in a sector that is also often highly profitable, Vice reports. The skills these veterans gain in the military are sought after by businesses and are profitable in the free-market. These profits are then increasing as demand grows. According to Mar- ket Watch, the cyber security market is expected to be worth 170 billion U.S. dollars by 2022. Israel is poised to be leader in this market, already having an edge in cyber security companies compared to other countries. For example, one company where a veteran may find a job is the mysterious NSO group. This group is believed to have sold their software to the United Arab Emirates, who then used it to spy on their most famous critics. According to Liran Toker, head of Aperio Systems and a former intelligence officer, as quoted by Foreign Policy, “NSO is actually somewhat incredible, says Citizen Lab. Foreign Policy reports that this spyware targets a vulnerability in iPhones, often viewed as the most secure cellphone on the market. Citizen Lab said in a report that the attack is unique and that they “are not aware of any previous instance of this.” The question needs an expert: “State-sponsored hackers will always have more resources.” The question that needs addressing: “How far ahead are the state actors, are compared to non-state actors. The greater the disparity, the less threat they pose.” The key word is ‘yet.’ According to Reuters, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently put out a report saying that the Pentagon found “mission-critical cyber vulnerabilities in systems” that are under development. Though some officials think the test results may be unrealistic, the GAO found that “using relatively simple tools and techniques, testers were able to take control of systems and largely operate undetected.” However, the report also points out that poor password management and unencrypted communications caused many of these problems, which the report describes as “basic issues.” This report, also picked up by National Public Radio (NPR), describes vulnerabilities that were reported about, but never fixed. All of the doubts raised by this report add credence to the theory about states always being ahead of independent hacking groups. This leads to further questions about the companies in Israel that are taking advantage of these “basic issues” for a profit.

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Focus on North Korea

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Government plucks these soon-to-be hackers from the masses as early as age 11. These hackers are sent to elite cyber schools to train and compete with those of the rest of the world and live in poverty, hacking is considered an ideal opportunity. The hackers have become increasingly skilled and intelligent over time. Many of them speak fluent English and hide malware in bible apps. According to the New York Times, in 2016 these cyber warriors sought a more ambitious target. They went after an account managed by the Federal Reserve: the Bangladesh Central Bank. By hacking their servers and using fabricated transfer requests, they attempted to drain over $1 billion from the account. The results of such an attack could have been catastrophic due to the large amount of research held by central banks. According to the New York Times, the only thing that stopped them was a weakness in the banking system of North Korea. The hackers still managed to steal $81 million.

Attacks are not infrequent. South Korean officials estimate that they experience around 1.5 million cyber-attack attempts by North Korea daily. European financial institutions, as well as the U.S., are subject to these intrusions constantly. Global Post Investigations says one of the many reasons behind these attacks is the sanctions placed on North Korea by western nations like the U.S. These attacks act as an alternative source of revenue for the reclusive Pyongyang regime. “A nation state robbing banks... that's a big deal.” This is different, says Richard Ledgett, former deputy director of the National Security Agency.

Most recently, North Korea hacked the National Health Service, which canceled scheduled operations, diverted ambulance, and made patient records unavailable. According to The Guardian, this attack cost hospitals over 150 countries.

The attack allegedly affected over 19,000 computers. A government report found that the NHS was vulnerable because they did not follow recommend cyber-security guidelines, exposing them to threat. The U.S. Justice Department charged suspect North Korea spy Park Jin Hyok for his involvement in the NHS attack, in addition to his involvement in the Sony Entertainment and Federal Reserve attacks. The different cyber-attacks to the U.S. and the UK are so frequent that it is hard to discern between isolated attacks and larger campaigns. As Steve Rodhouse, director of operations at the UK’s National Cyber Agency, said to The Guardian, “The ransomware attacks that affected the UK appear to be part of a series, and it’s right that they are prosecuted together to show the full scale of the threat.”

Israel is leading the world in cyber security and warfare, reports Foreign Policy. As a result, they are also a leader in producing cyber mercenaries. When these highly-trained Israeli cyber soldiers leave the army, they enter the private sector and begin selling their skills to the highest bidder. These mercenaries come from the Israeli military’s elite cyber security and warfare units. Vice reports that Israel recruits the brightest teenagers into units like Unit 8200, believed to be the origin of the famed STUXNET attack, and train them to become elite cyber soldiers. According to Dr. Zvi Marom, the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of BATM Advanced Communications, the reason for this superiority is simple: necessity. When his country was under Israel’s technological superiority, Dr. Marom told Forbes “the good education system, and the competitive nature of the Israeli society,” is partly responsible. Dr. Marom also points out that in Israeli society, the highest educated members are the most valuable, and that there is an inherent technological nature to the Israeli Defense Forces. Nevertheless, the most telling reason according to Dr. Marom, is that Israel is always being threatened. “Israel is constantly under attack. The secret to our existence is having a constant threat and a contributing factor as to why Israel is a consistent country,” meaning all citizens must partake in mandatory military service. As Roni Zehav puts it, the Israeli military is akin to being “the largest HR organization in the world,” one in which almost every citizen in Israel is involved. This means that everyone interested in IT fields join the military and end up specialized in cyber security, cyber defense, and cyber offense. Then, when their service is up, they leave and find a job in a sector that is also often highly profitable, Vice reports. The skills these veterans gain in the military are sought after by businesses and are profitable in the free-market. These profits are then increasing as demand grows. According to Market Watch, the cyber security market is expected to be worth 170 billion U.S. dollars by 2022. Israel is poised to be leader in this market, already having an edge in cyber security companies compared to other countries. For example, one company where a veteran may find a job is the mysterious NSO group. This group is believed to have sold their software to the United Arab Emirates, who then used it to spy on their most famous critics. According to Liran Toker, head of Aperio Systems and a former intelligence officer, as quoted by Foreign Policy, “NSO is actually somewhat incredible, says Citizen Lab. Foreign Policy reports that this spyware targets a vulnerability in iPhones, often viewed as the most secure cellphone on the market. Citizen Lab said in a report that the attack is unique and that they “are not aware of any previous instance of this.” The question needs an expert: “State-sponsored hackers will always have more resources.” The question that needs addressing: “How far ahead are the state actors, are compared to non-state actors. The greater the disparity, the less threat they pose.” The key word is ‘yet.’ According to Reuters, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently put out a report saying that the Pentagon found “mission-critical cyber vulnerabilities in systems” that are under development. Though some officials think the test results may be unrealistic, the GAO found that “using relatively simple tools and techniques, testers were able to take control of systems and largely operate undetected.” However, the report also points out that poor password management and unencrypted communications caused many of these problems, which the report describes as “basic issues.” This report, also picked up by National Public Radio (NPR), describes vulnerabilities that were reported about, but never fixed. All of the doubts raised by this report add credence to the theory about states always being ahead of independent hacking groups. This leads to further questions about the companies in Israel that are taking advantage of these “basic issues” for a profit.

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North Korea

Students train in Masanport, a prestigious school in Pyongyang. Courtesy of KONA

NSO has been involved in a number of international cyber scandals. Courtesy of Heinrich. October 2018  
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Iran

Madison Feser
Staff Writer

It is highly sophisticated. It causes physical damage to industrial machines. It spreads via USB memory ports. It destroys Iranian centrifuges. Moreover, it is ushering in a new era of cyberwarfare.

This is the Stuxnet worm. Described as a “cyber-missile” by The Economist, this computer worm is capable of targeting specific equipment designs while leaving non-targeted pieces of technology unharmed. A mysterious group of hackers, calling itself the Shadow Brokers, stole a few disks full of National Security Agency secrets in 2013. They have waited to unleash those disks’ secrets onto the Internet—until now.

The Atlantic reports that this hacking group “has publicly embarrassed the NSA and damaged its intelligence-gathering capabilities,” barring not only the NSA, but the reputation of the United States. But they do more than just damage reputations; the report continues by stating that the Shadow Brokers have leaked information and harmed government organizations, “while at the same time have put sophisticated cyberweapons in the hands of anyone who wants them.”

The Shadow Brokers group offered multiple new alleged attack tools for sale via ZevNet, a peer-to-peer encrypted network. Data Breach Today states, “The tools include exploits and software implants obtained from the Equation Group, which is the nickname for an advanced hacking group that experts say is likely the NSA’s Tailored Access Operations team.”

Despite the worm’s discovery in 2009, little is known about its origins or its implications for the future of cyber-attacks, says The Economist. Over a six-month period in late 2009, Iran dismantled more than 10 percent of its 9,000 uranium enriching centrifuge machines in the city of Natanz, according to a report by the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS).

Iran has not openly acknowledged a Stuxnet attack, but experts at ISIS say the crashing of 1,000 centrifuges in a relatively short period can only be the result of a targeted cyberattack. Almost as astounding as the new cybersecurity technology is the speed at which Iran was able to recover.

Despite international sanctions preventing Iran from purchasing nuclear equipment, UN video footage from Natanz shows workers replacing malfunctioned machines with a summer of new centrifuges, reports The Washington Post.

“They [Iran] have been able to quickly replace broken machines,” a Western diplomat speaking on the condition of anonymity told the Washington Post. “The Iranians appeared to be working hard to maintain a constant, stable output [of enriched uranium].”

Although Iran seemed newly recovered very quickly, with Natanz production rates of uranium resuming pre-Stuxnet levels, the ISIS report implies that the mysterious worm had deep effects, says the Washington Post. More difficult to account for were the psychological effects on Iranian officials — the centrifuges may have been replaced this time, but with finite resources, could another attack decimate the nuclear program?

The following June, a Belarus security firm identified and named the worm. According to The Economist, the worm spreads via infected USB memory sticks. Once the memory stick gets plugged into a computer, the worm immediately begins searching for the Microsoft program WinCC. If the program is running, the worm installs a backdoor program to Malaysia and begins searching for its target, that is, a specific industrial control system made by Siemens. If WinCC cannot be found, the worm searches for other programs in which it is run away, such as USB drives, shared folders, and print spoolers, says the Economist.

Ralph Langner is CEO of Lancer Communications, the German consulting company that analyzed the worm’s structure. Langner told IEEE Spectrum that Stuxnet is the first true weapon of cyberwarfare.

According to Langner, Stuxnet can infect thousands of computers. It is so sophisticated that even less about everything except that it is run away and causes physical damage to the external machine while deployed against a military target. Stuxnet’s potency cements the theory that it is the work of highly trained experts.

Is not the only person to question who created Stuxnet. Having eliminated common hackers and coders, the blame, or credit, for Stuxnet falls to government operatives. These operatives most likely have insider knowledge about the Siemens’ machines and Iran’s enrichment facility.

Unsurprisingly, the United States and Israel are the prime suspects.

While neither country has admitted to creating Stuxnet, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former chief of the Israeli Mossad Meir Dagan praised the potential setbacks Stuxnet caused to Iranian nuclear capabilities, reports The New York Times.

With so many countries and private companies analyzing Stuxnet, Langer warns The New York Times that soon the worm will “read like a playbook.” Potential replication may normalize a new form of cyberwarfare to which every country is vulnerable.

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Mariah McCloskey
Managing Editor

A mysterious group of hackers, calling itself the Shadow Brokers, stole a few disks full of National Security Agency secrets in 2013. They have waited to unleash those disks’ secrets onto the Internet—until now.

The Atlantic reports that this hacking group “has publicly embarrassed the NSA and damaged its intelligence-gathering capabilities,” barring not only the NSA, but the reputation of the United States. But they do more than just damage reputations; the report continues by stating that the Shadow Brokers have leaked information and harmed government organizations, “while at the same time have put sophisticated cyberweapons in the hands of anyone who wants them.”

The Shadow Brokers group offered multiple new alleged attack tools for sale via ZevNet, a peer-to-peer encrypted network. Data Breach Today states, “The tools include exploits and software implants obtained from the Equation Group, which is the nickname for an advanced hacking group that experts say is likely the NSA’s Tailored Access Operations team.”

Although, as Data Breach Today states, researchers also don’t believe that the Shadow Brokers “did not expose the actual code. The Shadow Brokers have released the personal computer distribution database created in 1991, quickly became one of the lead- ing operating systems and now has ‘the largest installed base of all general-purpose operating systems,’” according to NetMarketShare. Linux is now used in most Android and Smartphones operating systems, giving the Shadow Brokers the ability to grow with it.

The breach has exposed vulnerabilities in Linux mail servers and “proven their exploit capabilities,” authors of the WannaCry ransomware used to infect an estimated 400,000 computers in more than 150 countries,” Naked Security reports. This means the Shadow Brokers have created one of the world’s largest ransomware outbreaks in history.

But to those wondering how they were able to breach the NSA database and take this information, the answer is no one knows.

There have been a wide-range of investigations by the NSA’s counterintelligence arm, known as Q Group, and the FBI, but the New York Times reports that, “officials still do not know whether the NSA, the victim of a brilliant executed hack, with Russia as the most likely perpetrator, an insider’s leak, or both.”

These leaks have been incredibly damaging to our intelligence and cyber capabilities,” Leon E. Panetta, the former defense secretary and director of the Central Intelligence Agency says to The New York Times. “The fundamental purpose of intelligence is to be able to effectively penetrate our adversaries in order to gather vital intelligence. By its very nature, that only works if secrecy is maintained and our codes are protected.”

But to popular belief, this attack is not similar to the exposure of the NSA by Edward Snowden. According to The New York Times, Snowden released code words, while the Shadow Brokers have released the actual code. The Shadow Brokers “did not expose illegal surveillance, but it made the hacking tools used by the NSA worthless.” Naked Security continues. The hack undermined NSA’s reputation that it could effectively guard its secrets.

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United States

"The effects of Stuxnet spread far and wide across the globe. Courtesy of Wikimedia."
Domestic Unrest Remains Iran’s Greatest Adversity

Felipe Bueno
Editor-in-Chief

The Trump administration has no qualms expressing its feelings towards Iran’s leadership. From threatening “consequences of the likes of which few through-out history have ever suffered,” to claiming that a regime change will occur in the near future, to blaming Iran for the Middle East’s problems, the U.S. is remarkably candid, report CNN and The Hill, respectively.

U.S. policy toward Tehran is by nature an anomaly. Iran is currently entangled in a proxy war with Saudi Arabia, with both sides slaughtering each other’s troops in Yemen, Syria, Bahrain, and Saudi Arabia’s Eastern Shire Province, says Foreign Policy. Closer to home, Saudi Arabia funds an Iranian separatist group, the century-old Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), bent on creating discord inside of Iran, reports Foreign Policy.

With a new round of sanctions looming around the corner, many key U.S. allies have also turned their back on the Islamic Republic, reports The Economist. Japan, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and European countries all plan to reduce imports from Iran amidst sanctions targeting the country’s oil industry. Bpifrance, a French state-owned bank, recently backedpedaled its initiative to help French companies that wished to trade with Iran, a move that contradicts France’s desire to uphold the requirements set out in the Nuclear Deal, says Reuters.

Amidst these external pressures, Iran turned to Russia and China, who also declined to act. Russia is more than happy to fill Iran’s gap in the oil market; meanwhile, China is equally preoccupied with its own series of U.S. sanctions.

However, Iran’s biggest threat burns inside its very own borders. Iran’s oil industry, despite facing sanctions from abroad, is plagued internally by unrest in the country’s oil-producing province, reports the Wall Street Journal.

Khuzestan, located on the country’s southwest border with Iraq, holds 70 percent of Tehran’s oil reserves. Despite possessing the country’s largest revenue source, the region is poor and neglected. Khuzestan is home to Iran’s Muslim-minority, a perfect breeding ground for ethnic tensions. Iranian Arabs say they are left out of local legislature while the country’s Persian majority reaps the benefit of its oil exports.

The economic problems Iran faces disproportionately hurt Khuzestan, says Reuters. The region’s unemployment rate is 14.5 percent, higher than the national rate of 11.8 percent. Water and electricity shortages, along with a severe drought, have only compounded Muslim plight.

Subjecting an ethnic minority to poverty while denying them the benefits of the region’s economic contribution has led to the increasing popul arity of the MEK. Recently, gunmen associated with the MEK opened fire at a military parade in the capital of the Khuzestan province, reports Foreign Policy.

The MEK gunmen killed at least 24 people, including 4-year-old boy, and wounded nearly 70. While Iran has attempted to divert the blame to the United States and Saudi Arabia, citing the former’s support of the MEK, unrest throughout the country, caused by poor management of the banking system and the depreciation of the country’s national currency, continues to spread.

Following the closure of numerous financial institutions in recent years, most notably the Caspian Finance and Credit Institution, Iranian citizens protested the government of the New York Times. Political corruption facilitated the failure of these financial institutions, which allowed well-connected elites to gamble with bank deposits and afforded them immunity while doing so. In a statement that only galvanized protesters further, the government deflected blame by claiming that victims should have been more careful with their money.

The rial’s depreciation only led to further unrest. Having lost 35 percent of its value earlier this year, the rial plummeted again early this month, reports the New York Times. Every time the rial faces severe depreciation Iranians default to the world’s reserve currency, the dollar.

When Rouhani took office in 2013, the rial’s going rate was 36,000 rials to the dollar. When the currency plummeted in early September, any currency exchange shops that were still willing to trade offered 150,000 rials to the dollar.

Households everywhere felt the immediate impact of this depreciation as Iran faced a serious diaper shortage. Around 70 percent of the material for disposable diapers are import ed. As the rial loses value, diapers become much more expensive to house hold. While the government has been able to unify the country using Persian nationalism in the past, the current unrest is unlike anything it has faced before. The outside pressures faced by Iran might prove too much to handle if domestic dissident groups continue to gain momentum.

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Japan and Pakistan Struggle to Help Afghan Refugees

Tien Phan
Staff Writer

Despite good intentions in trying to assist Afghanistan, Japan and Pakistan are suffering from unexpected blowbacks from different directions due to their desire to assist. For almost four decades, Afghanistan has suffered through numerous conflicts. As the result of everything from invasion to regime changes, the country is almost unable to recover without foreign aid.

Both internal and external conflicts seem to be a never-ending tale of misery for the people of Afghanistan.

Because of good relations and geographical similarities, both Japan and Pakistan contribute aid to Afghanistan. According to Menah, the Japanese government agrees to provide $2.7 million to refugees inside Afghanistan and to humanitarian communities in host countries where these refugees reside.

Recently, Imran Khan, the newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan, promised to grant citizenship to refugees from Afghanistan, a decision that can affect millions of individuals, says CNN. This aid will certainly help the refugees in these unfortunate times The National Bureau of Asian Research states that since 2001, only the United States has done more than Pakistan and Japan in terms of aiding Afghanistan in their restoration process.

Other than preventing the spread of terrorism, Japan’s motivation in their ties with Afghanistan is unclear. Regardless, it is necessary to assist those in need, which is precisely what Japan is doing.

Furthwermore, with Imran Khan as Pakistan's head of state, many Afghans are hopeful that they can stay permanent in Pakistan. Despite minimal opportunities, they will at least have a nation to call home.

While not specifying whom he would grant citizenship to, Mr. Khan leans more toward those who are born on Pakistan soil saying that, “when you are born in America, you get the American passport. It is the practice in every country in the world, so why not here? Why are we so cruel to these people? They are humans.”

However, every action has consequences, and even those with good intentions are not exceptions. These humanitarian efforts are creating burdens for the very countries willing to help. For instance, Japan's economy has not performed well for over 20 years, and this aid can further regress the economy. As of 2017, Japan is the fifth largest economy in the world, but their growth is estimated to be only 1.5 percent, reports the Balance.

Because of their dependence on automobile manufacturing exports, an external pivot towards electric vehicles might slow down Japan’s economy.

Moreover, since retaking office in 2012, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has imposed “Abenomics” in an effort to combat recession. This move has proven to have its own series of setbacks. Abenomics appears to be effective on paper, however, it is rather harmful in practice. Mr. Abe expects that with the devaluation of the yen would increase exports by making Japanese goods more competitive abroad. However, due to outsourcing from foreign companies to countries that can produce goods at a lower-cost that did not work.

As for Pakistan, granting another 1.5 million individuals citizenship may be a quick path to chaos given its existing population. With decades of an unstable economy and limited international donors, it is difficult to believe that accepting new citizens will be a net benefit.

The Pakistani Prime Minister plans to ask the International Monetary Fund for a bailout in order to focus on development issues. Either that, or Pakistan will continue to develop on China for more years, adds Reuters.

If Mr. Khan is willing to further his promise of granting citizenship to refugees, according to The Tribune, political backlash inevitable. Despite the fact that the plan is idealistic, individuals on either side of the political spectrum have advised Mr. Khan to keep focusing on domestic development.

Individuals also disagree with Mr. Khan over issues of national security. Many refugees are second- or third-generation, so they are more prone to terrorist exposure in their surroundings, and adding them naturalization can be costly in a near future.

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New NATO Admissions Spark Military Tensions

Kaitlin Principato
Staff Writer

The recent admission of the Baltic nations of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia to the NATO alliance is a clear warning sign to Russia to steer clear of the western European countries’ collective military force. This move has intensified military tensions across Europe and increased Russia’s military operations.

In September, Russia held its biggest military maneuver in decades, mobilizing over 300,000 troops, 36,000 tanks, 1,000 aircrafts, and 80 warships, reports Euractiv. Along with their own subjects, the Chinese and Mongolian militaries took part in these exercises, sparking speculation about their military tie.

German-born Constanze Stellenermuller, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, commented that, “our alliance [NATO] is not just a military one; it’s a political alliance of like-minded nations who will come to each other’s defense if attacked” according to USNI.

The expansion of NATO’s alliance will only benefit and secure the well-being of Europe in the long run. Prior to the alliances’ formation in 1949, it would have been Vladimir Putin seized control of Crimea amid the chaotic fleeing of the pro-Russian governments of USN states. With the entrenchment, Putin armed rebels in the eastern part of the state as well as supplying them with forces to oppose the new government in Kiev.

Michael Kofman, a CNA senior research scientist, told USNI, “Russia made a case [that it] for the Russian government. These extreme tensions have not gone unnoticed. They also force Russia to prioritize the security around their own border.

Regarding the drills, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told Tass, “we have to state that such irresponsible actions will inevitably destabilize the military and political situation in the north, increase tensions, and undermine the fabric of Russian-Norwegian relations,” Zakharova said.

She continued, “all these NATO preparations cannot be ignored, and the Russian Federation will take the necessary tit-for-tat measures to ensure its own security.”

Zakharova has also warned that low-tension must remain constant in calm regions or there will be far-reaching consequences to follow, not through the fault of the Russians.

Despite the reasonable, yet threatening, backlash from Russian officials, NATO has refused to step down. As reported by Euroactiv, operation “Trident Juncture 2018” is set to take place in Norway in late October and early November. Euroactiv also stated that according to NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, this military maneuver would include approximately 45,000 soldiers from 31 NATO allies and partner countries. In addition, 150 aircrafts, 60 ships, and more than 10,000 military vehicles will engage in this simulated collective response to an attack on an ally.

A senior NATO official told USNI that the alliance had “nothing to hide” and added “we would like to see this from the Russian side as well. Russia has not invited observers in recent years and given them full access under the agreements on mutual inspections of military exercises.”

Despite the current political climate, new NATO members will enhance the protection and security of fellow allies as well as Europe as a whole. Although Russia does have legitimate concern for its own stability, NATO is following strict and just precautions based on Russia’s previous actions.

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Both Abe and Khan have faced domestic opposition to providing aid. Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

“-all these NATO preparations cannot be ignored, and the Russian Federation will take the necessary tit-for-tat measures to ensure its own security.” - Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova

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The United Nations Is Broken

Luisa Chaineferber  Staff Writer

In the first round Brazil's elections on October 7, the right-wing presidential candidate, Jair Bolsonaro, failed to secure the 50 percent majority vote needed for an outright win, says The Guardian. A second round of voting is expected for October 28, in which Mr. Bolsonaro will have to compete against Fernando Haddad, the candidate from the Brazilian Workers' Party (PT).

Many groups in Brazil have blamed the PT and its recent administration for the economic crisis in Brazil. While much of this criticism should be regarded as legitimate, Brazil has something greater at stake with the upcoming round of the presidential election.

As the Independent reports, Mr. Bolsonaro is famous for his appeals to violence as the solution to insecurity and disorder as well as his attacks on women's rights, LGBT rights, immigrants.

His recent stalling at a political rally is perhaps the best metaphor to what kind of government Mr. Bolsonaro would create: a government in which citizens believe that violence is the only means to governance.

Mr. Bolsonaro is not just a presidential candidate, but rather a personification of the worst aspects of Brazilian society, such as the tendencies to authoritarianism, militarism, structural racism, sexism, nepotism, and homophobia.

His rhetoric is powerful in the sense that it touches the sentiments of a wide base of voters who are long tired of systematic violence and no longer believe in other politicians. These citizens either agree with his controversial comments or are willing to overlook his remarks for the sake of his agenda.

Unlike Mr. Bolsonaro, Haddad was relatively unknown outside of the state of São Paulo, where he was the mayor of one of Brazil's biggest cities, says Al Jazeera. Mr. Haddad is endorsed by Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, one of Brazil's most controversial former presidents who is currently in jail for money laundering and corruption charges.

While the endorsement expanded Haddad's public profile and voting base, a large number of voters who vehemently oppose Lula use the association between Lula and Haddad to discredit the latter.

Even though many perceive Haddad as a less-than-ideal option, voters still need to realize that the second round of elections is not a choice of a 'lesser' evil. If elected, Mr. Bolsonaro would be the latest of example of Latin America electing self-declared saviors during crises.

Yet Mr. Bolsonaro is far from a savior; he is a perfect example of the evil twists that democracy must endure. The rise of fake news can also explain why Mr. Bolsonaro became so appealing to voters.

Fulha de São Paulo, one of Brazil's major journals, reports that on the day before the election, Brazil's Superior Electoral Court demanded the removal of 35 fake news publications harmful to Haddad's public image within 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bolsonaro has been able to recreate his image and present himself as an outsider from politics, despite an almost 30-year long political career.

In fact, as Rede Brasil Atual reports, Mr. Bolsonaro has presented 170 bills of law to Congress during 27 years, but only two have ever been ratified.

Mr. Bolsonaro’s supporters correctly critique the long chain of inefficiency that slows Brazil's economic and social development. However, they fail to recognize that Mr. Bolsonaro is part of this chain. He will continue to be, regardless of which political office he comes to hold.

It is likely that neither candidate will be able to implement their campaign promises, as they will suffer strong opposition from Congress, says BBC. For far too long, Haddad's political party has failed to uphold the promises that contributed to the previous successful presidential campaigns for former presidents Lula and Dilma Rousseff.

In spite of all the mistakes the Workers’ Party has made, nothing can justify the election of a candidate who has no respect for democracy and the rule of law. Voters want change, but the opportunity cost cannot be the election of a poorly prepared candidate.

Mr. Bolsonaro refers to the country's previous military dictatorship, one of the most violent periods of Brazilian history; with nostalgia. His election would mean throwing democracy under the bus, and with it, the very institutions that could create the changes that voters seek.

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OPINION

Brazillian Elections Devolve
Internship Spotlight: 150 Hours at Business Insider

Felipe has found his current full-time job at Business Insider provides a new perspective on financial and business news.

The legacy brand behind the New Yorker, Vogue, Vanity Fair, and Wired – disclosed its recent losses and put three of its own imprints up for sale.

As a bight-eyed new hire exploring a career in journalism, I was terrified. It seemed like I was climbing aboard a ship with a hole in it.

Nich however, proved this was not the case. Business Insider has been growing at a remarkable rate. For the first time in its history it was profitable and is projected to remain profitable for the foreseeable fiscal year.

Additionally, Nich stressed that Business Insider’s growth meant that it could hire some of the reporters laid off by the New York Daily News. “You should never cheer for a journalist getting laid off. There are great employees there and if you know of any please refer them to the hiring team.”

I was looking at Joseph Schumpeter’s creative destruction in its purest form.

Months later, I spoke to Nich in person about this and he reiterated his belief. “It’s not scary to be a disruptor. The stakes are infinitely higher, and the payoff is much larger.”

I apply the knowledge I learned as a student in the School of Diplomacy and International Relations, while learning new skills that I can take back to the classroom. Working full-time at Business Insider is challenging while being a full-time student and serving as the Envoy’s Editor-in-Chief.

However, because these positions are so interrelated, I usually operate at the intersection of the three. My ability to do so speaks volumes about the School of Diplomacy’s curriculum and the experience I gained at the Envoy. Without either of these, I would have been unable to accomplish this feat.

The job is very similar to my position as the Editor-in-Chief of the Diplomatic Envoy. I pitch, edit, and reframe articles. I collaborate with talented editors, and I even get to write my own articles. The stakes are infinitely higher, and the payoff is much larger.

Felipe has found his current full-time job at Business Insider provides a new perspective on financial and business news.
Andrew Wilson
Associate Editor

On October 2, the former Deputy Chief of Staff of the Department of Homeland Security, Alan Metzler, visited Seton Hall University’s School of Diplomacy and International Relations to give insights on strategic United States national security initiatives, and reflect on his past role in analyzing homeland security threats.

During his near thirty-year tenure in the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, the National Security Council, and the U.S. Air Force, Metzler served as Chief of Staff at the Transportation Security Administration and as a Senior Counselor to the Secretary of Homeland Security. His portfolio included aviation security, counter-terrorism, immigration enforcement, and the safety of national leaders.

Following his graduation from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1985, Metzler joined the U.S. Air Force as an officer and military policeman. There, he quickly became involved in the military politics of the Cold War while working at an intercontinental ballistic missile base in North Dakota. Recounting this time, Metzler narrated an incidence when he “became a nuclear power for one day,” after a truck in his warhead transport convoy caught fire. This forced him to declare a national defense area, an area established on non-Federal lands within the U.S. for safeguarding classified defense information or protecting Department of Defense equipment and/or material, in which he was the senior executive official.

Later, beginning his service on the home front, Metzler served two assignments in the U.S. nuclear commitment to NATO in Germany and the United Kingdom. While stationed in the U.K., Metzler recalled the dramatic geopolitical changes that occurred after the Berlin wall fell, and the evolution of European governance and economic development caused by it.

Although it seemed a period of peace was imminent, Metzler recounted his transition to war on terrorism long before 2001. “I had airmen in Khorab Towers, Saudi Arabia,” he said. More memorably, on September 11, Metzler was the chief of security at a fighter plane base in North Carolina. That morning, he started the grimm process of arming jets to shoot down hijacked U.S. civilian airliners.

Following this assignment, Metzler transferred to Washington, D.C. to work in the Pentagon’s famed “E-Ring,” and then to the White House for the National Security Council.

At the NSC, Metzler worked to ensure that the U.S. Constitution’s Advice and Consent Clause was not imposed on the President’s ability to negotiate a strategic framework agreement with the Iraq Government. In other words, Metzler worked to retain President Obama’s authority over the terms of this agreement without having to negotiate through Congress. In 2009, he worked to implement this agreement on the ground in Iraq. Metzler specifically secured detainee assurances at Camp Bueca in the southern Umm Qas region.

In the Pentagon’s Legislative Affairs Office, Metzler reviewed the Freedom of Information Act requests for counterterrorism defense policy meetings in September 2001. These included disputes about whether or not Iraq could be linked to Al-Qaeda, and therefore regarded as a state sponsor of terrorism. This link would then justify the U.S. invasion and subsequent overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

When questioned about personal morals on similar positions, Metzler stated that it took the strength of his personal ethics to align himself with the institutional values of the U.S. Armed Forces. “You have a set of your own core values that allow you to make decisions… When I see an unlawful order, I can identify it.”

Metzler concluded by noting the significance of his appointments within both the Obama and Trump administrations. Reflecting on the differences between his assignment to President Obama’s executive actions on immigration and his implementation of President Trump’s travel ban, he stated, “Not too many people get the privilege of working both sides. I liked it.”

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Julia Nicolls
Staff Writer

With this school year already in full swing, the Student Government Association (SGA) is ready to make beneficial changes for the University. Specifically, the Executive Board promoted bringing back a Presidential Cabinet in order to connect the SGA with the University community.

This Cabinet will bring together non-student government affiliate students from a range of backgrounds and experiences. Their role as Cabinet members will be to inform the President and Student Government on student and club needs.

Rishi Shah, the SGA President, and his executive board ran on this idea during the March elections. He states, “This will lead to a more connected and unified student body. And will present a more unified front on behalf of SGA.” Years ago, a Presidential Cabinet did exist, however, it did not carry over through past administrations. According to Shah this “just phased out and didn’t occur for any negative reason.”

The current executive board noticed a need within SGA to become more interconnected throughout campus and amongst students. At the time, many Senators only received information about the student body through fellow Senators or ad hoc members. Shah aims to fix this problem, stating, “I saw the need on campus. We don’t really connect with minority groups on campus.” Shah looks at the reimplementation of the Presidential Cabinet as that way to connect.

According to Emma Murphy, an Education Senator and Academic Affairs Committee Chair, “The Bill specifically stated that the Presidential Cabinet would have up to 20 members from the Senate community meet monthly to discuss pertinent issues of student and academic life.”

Senators seem to be boasting about this new program and its benefits. Diplomacy Senator and Senate Speaker Jacob Abel says, “I believe this Cabinet will make our organization more effective in writing legislation and allow SGA to have a more unified front with students when we seek to make change.”

With the program and the SGA already seeking out members for the Cabinet, Shah is ready to begin discussing ways that the SGA can improve the Seton Hall experience. Shah states that, “The first thing I hope to talk about is mental health resources on campus and how we can improve those resources.” Murphy stated that she also views the Presidential Cabinet as a significant step to promote advocacy for all students, and to remain aware of improvements that can be made on campus.

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SGA Brings Back the Presidential Cabinet

The Cabinet is meant to promote SHU-SGA interconnection. Courtesy of SGA.

Rishi Shah, the SGA President, visited SHU to discuss the Presidential Cabinet. Courtesy of SGA.

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SGA is the main governing body of students. Courtesy of SHU.