



The Diplomatic Envoy

WESTERN NATIONS PLEDGE TANKS TO UKRAINE

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On January 25, U.S. President Joe Biden announced that the United States would send 31 M1A2 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, although they would not be from America's current stockpile, reports Politico. The war in Ukraine has brought armored combat back into focus in a way not seen since the Gulf War. For the first time in thirty years, tanks once again bear the brunt of large-scale offensives, as the Russian Army fields an army of tanks not seen since the last time Russia marched west in World War II. Ukraine, however, will now be bolstered by advanced tanks donated by the U.S. and Germany. This comes as a reversal of President Biden's earlier statements, which indicated he was holding off on sending tanks as he was worried about escalation, as reports the Associated Press. The M1A2 tank is

the most advanced tank that the US currently operates and is also operated by the Australian, Polish, and Saudi Armed Forces.

Within the same two days as President Biden's announcement, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced that his government will send 13 Leopard 2A6 tanks and training crews to Ukraine as well, and also allow other European countries to send their Leopard stockpiles, reports NPR. Sweden and Poland have both expressed interest in sending their Leopard tanks through this initiative as well. These two deliveries come around a month after the United Kingdom decided to send 14 Challenger 2 tanks to Ukraine, contributing to what outgoing Ukraine Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov has repeatedly referred to as a "tank coalition," reports The Hill.

Tanks have played an important part in the Ukrainian conflict and

continue to show their dominance on the battlefield. Russia has recently made the move to introduce their supposed cutting-edge T-14 Armata tank onto the battlefield, although intelligence reports have shown that the T-14s have been plagued with problems ever since they were introduced in 2015, reports Newsweek. The slew of tanks going to the frontlines also raises the question of what else will be sent—will European countries soon start sending fighter jets as well? According to The Guardian, the U.S. and UK have both ruled out sending their own jets for fear of provoking escalatory moves from Putin. However, three months ago, these same nations also ruled out sending their own tanks, so many analysts have pointed out that this position may evolve over time. Many Eastern European countries are also looking to offload their antiquated Soviet jets, and would like



M1A2 Abrams tank, like the ones the U.S. has promised to Ukraine. Courtesy of 7th Army Training Command (Flickr) CreativeCommons 2.0

to replace them with western-made equipment. If smaller nations are given the go-ahead by NATO or the EU then Ukraine might have a load of jets arriving in Kyiv in the near future.

The role of military aid to Ukraine cannot be understated. It has fundamentally kept Ukraine from falling to Russia and had allowed the country to keep fighting. The sheer amount of economic and military aid to Ukraine has

kept a war-torn nation alive and ready to fight, and the shipment of nearly sixty tanks over the next few months will provide yet another edge in the war as Russia prepares for another offensive on the first anniversary of the beginning of the war, reports BBC News. Support from western allies and the continued lend-lease programs enacted by them will keep making a difference in Ukraine, and the impact of tanks

as a representation of this aid is a perfect example. In four months, when there will likely be a summer offensive in Ukraine, one only needs to look at the number of tanks used in battle to see the true impact of this growing tank coalition and how it is altering the face of the war.

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IS WESTERN CRITICISM OF QATAR A REFLECTION OF COLONIALIST THOUGHT?

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When Qatar was chosen to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, several soccer fans and people around the world were disappointed, given that Qatar is responsible for violating many human rights. Others, however, responded that the West is hypocritical in its criticism since they have been responsible for human rights violations as well. There is no doubt that the West tends to critique the countries in the East. It makes it easier for the West to judge when they hold power worldwide and have gotten away with many controversial and questionable ac-

tions domestically and internationally. However, Qatar should be held accountable and criticized like any other Western or Eastern country.

Expatica reports that Qatar is a "fascinating cultural mosaic and home to the second-largest expat community in the world." Its culture is already fascinating to foreigners, and the economy has flourished throughout these decades. But unfortunately, the beauty of the culture becomes less significant when one learns about Qatar's dark and dehumanizing present.

One of the controversies is how the migrants in Qatar were treated like slaves. The Guardian indicates that the treatment

resulted in the death of at least 6,500 migrants since the World Cup was awarded to Qatar in 2010. The brutal conditions for the migrant workers and how little they were paid were causes for criticism. These critiques are said to be hypocritical considering the working system in the United States. Workers are also exploited and not paid well, working conditions are unsafe, and there are reports that modern-day U.S. slavery exists in the form of trafficking and forced labor. A lot of workers in the U.S. who work as janitors, cooks, and cleaners are hired from Iraq and Afghanistan. But unfortunately, these issues in the U.S. are lesser known

than what is happening in Qatar. Yet, just because one issue is getting more coverage, that does not mean what Qatar has done should be ignored. To dehumanize humans to the point that they die while working is a massive violation of human rights. Human rights and worker's rights violations should be condemned whether in the Global South or in the West.

The other criticism is over how Qatar treats members of the LGBTQ+ community and women. According to VOX, there exist laws prohibiting sexual relationships between people of the same sex, and "LGBTQ+ Qataris continue to report widespread

police harassment and intimidation." Though, VOX reports, organizers of the event have stated that LGBTQ+ fans would be "welcome and safe," those criticizing Qatar and the World Cup's organizers continue to be wary.

Some people have argued in response to this controversy that the West should not enforce its beliefs on others. In some ways, this is arguably correct, as the West is known for pushing its ideologies worldwide. But to assume that LGBTQ+ people and their rights are a Western ideology is an ignorant statement, considering there are many queer and transgender people in the Middle East that have to live secretly in a scary

world where they could be killed for their identity. Qatar is undeniably a part of this scary world. Others argue that homophobia is not limited to Qatar; it still exists in the West despite all the hard work of activists for decades.

Some critiques of Qatar appear colonialist and hypocritical, but that does not change the fundamental truth about Qatar: it is a dystopian petrostate built on slave labor where migrant workers, women, non-muslims, and queer people are treated as less than human. The West may have its own problems, but its critiques of Qatar's wealthy elites whose houses are built and staffed by an oppressed underclass of noncitizen workers are no less warranted.

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MOSQUE BOMBING IN PAKISTAN LEAVES OVER 100 DEAD

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On January 31, 100 people were killed and more than 225 people were wounded in a suicide bombing attack at a mosque in Peshawar, a city located in Northwestern Pakistan. According to Al Jazeera. The blast brought down the roof on over 300 worshippers as they began their prayers. This was the first attack in Peshawar since last March when a Shia Mosque was targeted by the Islamic State of Khorasan Province, the Pakistani/Afghan branch of ISIS, which killed almost 60 people.

Peshawar is the largest city in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, located in a region has been dominated by a Taliban resurgence that Pakistan's government and military is struggling to contain. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which is separate from the Tal-

iban in Afghanistan but share the same fundamentalist interpretation of Islam, has maintained an insurgency throughout Pakistan for the past 15 years. The Guardian reports that the group has claimed responsibility for some of the deadliest terrorist attacks in the country including a 2014 massacre at a school in Peshawar where 132 children were killed. Since the Afghan Taliban took power in 2021, the TTP has been bolder in their actions. They have instilled more fear in communities who now believe that a TTP takeover of the country is no longer impossible.

There is a debate about who is responsible for the attack, the TTP has released mixed reports about claiming and denying responsibility. After the bombing a low level TTP commander claimed responsibility for the attack, but ten hours later the official TTP spokesperson, Mohammad Khu-



Aftermath of devastating attack in Peshawar. Courtesy of Kamal13 (Wikimedia commons) Creative Commons 3.0

rasani, denied the TTP's role in the event and reaffirmed that it is not their prerogative to target religious sites and those that violate their policies will be held accountable. Khurasani did fail to account for why the Commander affirmed being responsible for the bombing. The Associated Press reports that "The TTP's denial also came after the Afghan Foreign Ministry condemned attacks on worshippers as contrary to the teachings of Islam".

The Afghan Taliban are accused of sheltering TTP leadership and

fighters and the mosque bombing would place more pressure on the tense relationship between the two organizations. The Afghan Taliban used to secretly provide sanctuary to TTP fighters but had been open about sheltering the TTP after coming to power in 2021, according to the United States Institute of Peace. The Taliban has said multiple times that they will not support anyone, even the TTP, to use their territory for attacks against another country. Pakistani officials have critiqued these claims and brought

up how there is a difference between the Taliban's words and actions.

Prior to this attack, Pakistan has faced lots of political and social instability on many ends. Last April a vote of no-confidence took place in Parliament, and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was removed from office. Since then, Khan has led a growing opposition movement against the coalition government and military holding the nation together. Pakistan's economy has also been rapidly declining and in a crisis for months now. Reports that, "Inflation is backbreaking, the rupee's value has fallen sharply, and its foreign reserves have now dropped precariously low to \$4.3 billion, enough to cover only one month's worth of imports, raising the possibility of default."

There is a cycle within Pakistan's economy of a poor economy being formed from too much

spending and not enough producing and needing to rely on external debt, such as the IMF. Pakistan also faced a significant amount of flooding during the summer that wrecked entire villages destroying homes, infrastructure, crops, etc. The flooding has further strained an already volatile government, and has forced them to turn to countries like the UAE for aid, reports Reuters. This poor economic situation, political instability, and growing infrastructure crisis lessened trust in the government, which the TTP is now working to fill. The mosque attack is one event in a play for power by the Pakistan Taliban and as violence ensues, their power and influence is only expected to grow.

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SOMALIA HOSTS SUMMIT ON COMBATING AL-SHABAAB

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The 2023 Somalia-Frontline States Summit hosted by Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud invited President William Ruto of Kenya, President Ismail Omar Guelleh of Djibouti, and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia, on February 1 to discuss security measures against the terrorist group al-Shabaab in the Horn of Africa, reports Al Jazeera. al-Shabaab, or "the Youth," is a militant group that adheres to a fundamentalist interpretation of Islam that was formed in the early 2000s and has carried out deadly attacks across much of East Africa, according to The Council on Foreign Relations. In order to develop a strategy to counter al-Shabaab, the leaders discussed military offensive strategies against the group.

According to AfricaNews, al-Shabaab has been waging an insurgency against the Somali government for about fifteen years. Once President Mohamud took office in May 2022, he declared an all-out war on the Jihadist group. Moreover, in recent months, local militias as well as the Somali military have begun to take back sections of territory the militants had taken. However, more is needed to stop the rebels, as they have fought back numerous times in fortified regions, including the Somali capital Mogadishu.

In 2006, the transitional government of Somalia was undergoing a civil war against the rapidly expanding Islamic Courts Union (ICU) according to the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. The ICU then controlled much of Southern So-

malia before the United States provided support to Ethiopian troops who took back Mogadishu. Once the ICU lost control of Mogadishu, they switched their objective to taking down the Ethiopian military, beginning their insurgency campaign under the name of al-Shabaab. The group adopted hardline ideologies similar to terrorist groups in the Middle East such as al-Qaeda and announced their motivations to eliminate Christian populations in Africa. By 2009, they reclaimed Mogadishu and were responsible for bombings, deadly raids, and other terrorist attacks. al-Shabaab has since been engaged by Kenyan, Ethiopian, and Somali troops. Once the group hit around 9,000 members, they joined al-Qaeda to promote the spread of their violent interpretation of Islam in the region back in 2012, ac-

ording to CNN. Rather than aligning themselves with an all-out global Jihadist movement, however, al-Shabaab's territorial expansion goals seemed to be confined to the Horn of Africa. In 2014, members of the African Union and the United States joined forces and began air strikes in the al-Shabaab-controlled territory. This allowed the Somali government to regain control over its capital and fill the power vacuum left by the terrorist group. They have since been embroiled in al-Shabaab's insurgency campaign in the region as they try to keep Somalia free from terrorism. In the recent February meeting, President Mohamud, promised to rid the region of terrorism permanently as the streets of Mogadishu faced regular attacks from Al-Shabaab. Since the group has weakened, they have

turned to targeting civilians as opposed to opposing military forces. This means that vulnerable regions in the rural parts of Somalia, which already suffer from extreme poverty, must also face attacks from al-Shabaab insurgents. The United Nations documents that Somalia faces catastrophic levels of famine. A few months ago, Somalia underwent the most devastating drought in its history.

According to the International Rescue Committee, the situation in Somalia is not naturally occurring as droughts have become more frequent and severe due to human-inflicted climate change and decades of violence caused by al-Shabaab have severely damaged the nation's infrastructure. All of these factors have contributed to making Somalia dangerously dependent on foreign grains. The United Nations Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) predicts that the crisis will triple between now and June of 2023, going from affecting 214,000 people to 727,000 people, as famine, drought, and violence continue to endanger lives. Additionally, the famine crisis in Somalia has displaced hundreds of thousands of people leaving them even more susceptible to the potential harms of al-Shabaab and the ongoing climate crisis. There is hope for the region and future of Somalia, however, as The Council on Foreign Relations reports that al-Shabaab is declining in strength and is currently at the weakest point it has ever been.

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PROTESTS SURGE IN PERU AMID GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWN

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On January 30, 20 members of the U.S. Congress sent a letter to President Joe Biden pleading for him to halt all security assistance toward Peru. The group of mostly progressive Democrats demands that the Biden administration publicly condemn the immense number of human rights and due process violations that are being conducted by the Peruvian government on protestors within the densely populated areas of Peru. The letter calls for the administration to resume funding only when it can confirm that the repression of protestors by the government has ceased, reports NBC News. The reaction to the Peruvian government's actions comes after the death toll during the protests has risen to over fifty and various due process and civil liberties violations have been

committed by the government. The Democrats who have signed the letter are primarily Hispanic progressives including Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Jesús "Chuy" García, Raúl Grijalva, and several more.

Democrats in the U.S. Congress recognized that some of the protestors have contributed to the violence, yet added that most of the violent acts have been committed by Peruvian authorities. As many as fifty-eight people have died since the protests began, with more than forty of them being protestors, reports The Washington Post. The violence continues to surge in Lima and several other populated areas, with protestors recently burning down a police precinct and setting an officer ablaze. According to Reuters, in early January, the protest's deadliest day concluded with seventeen protestors killed according to the Office of

Human Rights of Peru.

The unrest and violent sequence of events have been going strong for months now, beginning on December 7, when former president Pedro Castillo was swiftly ousted by Congress. This came after Castillo attempted what experts have called a "self-coup," dissolving the legislature in fear of a third impeachment being finally successful against him, according to Foreign Policy. Members of Congress resigned en masse, denouncing Castillo's dissolution of Congress and accusing the president of corruption. Castillo was quickly arrested by authorities and is now awaiting trial. Castillo's supporters immediately erupted in an uproar, taking to the streets to protest the president's arrest and removal from power. Peru has a history of Congress making politically motivated removals of presidents, so in context, recent events

have spiraled out of control. It is especially significant considering the large, mainly rural, indigenous, populist movement that was long marginalized in Peru and which largely backed Castillo.

Because Castillo is now being detained and awaiting trial, Vice President Dina Boluarte has been appointed to the executive office. As acting president, Boluarte has already made decisions that have fueled the violent unrest on the streets of Peru. Boluarte immediately restricted civil liberties, including freedom of assembly. She further mobilized the military and riot squads, allowing them to forcefully coerce the protestors with violence. To try to soften the situation and ease tensions, Boluarte has appealed to congress in attempts to push for early elections in 2024, hoping that protestors would see this as an effort to solve the political crisis. Congress has repeat-

edly voted against moving up the elections, leading Boluarte to threaten to "propose a constitutional reform so that a first round of elections would be held in October and a runoff in December" reports The Guardian.

The political polarization in Peru runs deeper than just the removal of Castillo, however. According to Foreign Policy, "a hemispheric public opinion survey run by Vanderbilt University, Peru had both the highest level of perceived political corruption, with 88 percent of Peruvians believing that 'more than half' of politicians are crooked, and the second-lowest level of 'satisfaction' with democracy in the region." Historically, Peru's constitution makes it especially hard for the executive and congress to get anything done together, according to PBS Newshour.

A large demographic of protestors is of the nation's indigenous

people, who have felt excluded and discriminated against for decades. The rural indigenous population has especially felt the lasting effects of a weakened economy, widespread poverty, and violence. A report by Human Rights Watch shows that since Peru gained independence in 1821, it has been plagued by extreme economic inequality and systemic racism against indigenous populations in rural areas. Since these areas are most likely to experience poverty and make up a small portion of the total population, most of whom reside in big cities such as Lima, voices like Castillo's were important to those who had felt forgotten by Peruvian society for decades.

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VIOLENCE ON THE RISE AFTER RIGHT WING GOVERNMENT ELECTED IN TEL AVIV

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Karam Ali Salman, an 18-year-old Palestinian man, was killed on January 28 during an attack by Israeli settlers in a West Bank settlement. The Washington Post reports that this was just one of at least 144 reported attacks in the West Bank that day alone. It followed the January 27 shooting in occupied East Jerusalem, in which a Palestinian shooter killed 7 people outside of a synagogue. The shooting, the deadliest attack on Israelis since a 2008 shooting that killed 8 people, came just one day after an Israeli military raid killed 9 Palestinians in the West Bank on January 26, reports the Associated Press.

This violence follows the deadliest year for Palestinians in the West Bank recorded since 2004. The Associated Press reports that in 2022, nearly 150

Palestinians were killed in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, and 30 people were killed in Palestinian attacks against Israelis. In January alone The New York Times reports that more than 30 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank, making it one of the territory's deadliest months in recent history.

The recent uptick in violence coincided with United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit with the president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, which took place on January 31, writes The New York Times. The New York Times continues that following the meeting, Blinken called for an end to the violence in the region, as well as announcing an additional \$50 million in U.S. funding for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, the oldest UN Agency that specifically

aids Palestinians. While The New York Times reports that the U.S. remains hopeful for a peace agreement that would establish a Palestinian state, there are many obstacles to achieving peace in the region. Perhaps the most serious threat to stability in the region is Israel's newly sworn-in far-right government, experts say.

The New Yorker reports that part of the danger with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new government is that it will not prioritize its relationships with Western countries. Prior governments were motivated to avoid escalation in order to remain in the international community's good graces, but this administration has been particularly open about its policies towards Palestinians, which have been described as discriminatory. As such, the New Yorker furthers that the Israeli government is not likely

to change its policies or actions to accommodate or appeal to Western human rights organizations.

In fact, despite having only been in power for just over a month, Netanyahu's administration has already significantly increased tensions with Palestine. On January 3, Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir led a visit to the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, which is Islam's third holiest site, reports Al Jazeera. The action was seen as a direct provocation in part because it represents a disruption of the status quo. Ben-Gvir has previously called for increased Jewish access to the site, which Palestinians believe to be a sign that Israel plans to take complete control over the site, and by extension annex the occupied territories. The visit, which has been condemned by nations such as Jordan, the United Arab Emirates,

and Egypt as a "storming" of the holy site, was seen by Palestinians as a threat to the status quo, which currently only allows Muslim worship at the site, explains Al Jazeera. While Israeli far-right extremists have called for this to change in the past, Al Jazeera notes that most leading rabbis and other prominent Orthodox Jews oppose this idea.

As Netanyahu's government has already shown a willingness to provoke tensions in the region, it is evident that the administration poses a remarkable shift from the previous status quo of a two-state solution. Reuters reports that the situation is made only more worrisome to Palestinians because, while Israel has normalized relations with other Arab states, Palestine has grown more isolated. The New Yorker also points out that while Israel's government could be compared to other far-

right movements that have gained traction in recent years, the stakes are higher in Israel because of its superior military capabilities compared to the rest of the region and the implications for further conflict. Reuters states that progress toward a peace agreement has stalled and the situation has steadily worsened. If violence continues to escalate, the consequences could be dire for Palestinians.

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BOLSONARO AND KEY ALLIES UNDER INVESTIGATION AFTER ATTACK ON BRAZIL'S GOVERNMENT

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The administration of newly sworn-in Brazilian President Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva (Lula) has begun investigations into former President Jair Bolsonaro, members of his family, and other powerful individuals and organizations suspected of funding and organizing the capital riots earlier this year, reports PBS. On January 8, 2023, thousands of Bolsonaro's supporters invaded and vandalized important federal buildings in the nation's capital, Brasilia, in hopes of overturning the 2022 election, which Bolsonaro lost. Two days later, Bolsonaro posted a now-deleted video to Facebook from Florida in which he explicitly denied the results of the 2022 election, and accused his successor of being chosen by the Supreme

Court. Federal prosecutors have cited the video as grounds to investigate the former president's conduct and possible incitement of the anti-democratic riots, PBS furthers. The government has also issued an arrest warrant for Bolsonaro's former justice minister, Anderson Torres, who similarly fled the country for the United States shortly before the unrest. No definite connection has been made between Bolsonaro and the rioters yet, but investigations are ongoing. Other individuals under investigation for their roles in the events of January 8 include Atilio Rovaris, the wealthy heir to a soybean farming empire built on deforestation and exploitation of natural resources in the Amazon Rainforest, according to the Associated Press. Also under investigation is Leonardo Rodrigo de Jesus, a far-right per-



President Luiz Ignacio Lula da Silva at his 2022 re-election. Courtesy of Midia NINJA (Flickr) Creative Commons 2.0

raids are part of a wider campaign to flush out Bolsonaro loyalists from positions of power, such as Brasilia's governor Ibaneis Rocha, who was placed on a 90-day suspension by the Supreme Court to ensure that he would not interfere with the prosecutions of officials accused of abetting the riots, says Time. Police say that the goal of the raids is to identify those who "participated in, funded or fostered" the riots, reports Al Jazeera. The

investigations into Bolsonaro and his allies are the most recent additions to a list of troubles faced by the ex-president. In addition to the possi-

bility of criminal charges, he will likely face sanctions for electoral violations, which could result in heavy fines and bans from running for political office again, writes The Washington Post. Evidence that could be used against him in 16 pending electoral cases includes the aforementioned Facebook video and a document found at Anderson Torres' home which outlines a process of dubious legality by which Bolsonaro could have attempted to stay in power. Investigators have yet to find a 'smoking gun' connecting him to a coup attempt, however. The Lula administration's handling of those behind the attack may not accurately represent the sentiments of his constituents, however. Despite 76 percent of Brazilians polled condemning the attack, with only 18 percent supporting it, the public remains heavily divided on Lula's

mandate to rule. In the same poll cited by Time, 40 percent of respondents believed that Lula did not win more votes than Bolsonaro and 37 percent favored military intervention. Bolsonaroistas, as the former president's supporters are called, still comprise a sizable chunk of the nation's voting population. The Washington Post reports that Brazil is highly polarized, as demonstrated by Lula's narrow victory, and that many fear the direction the country is going. Although Jair Bolsonaro has left office, many of his allies hold power in Congress and local governments. As Lula may soon learn, individuals can be investigated and charged, but deep political and cultural divisions are far more difficult to eradicate.

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MYANMAR MILITARY GOVERNMENT EXTENDS STATE OF EMERGENCY AND DELAYS ELECTIONS

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On February 4, the military junta in charge of Myanmar imposed martial law in several strongholds of anti-military resistance, Al Jazeera reports. In the numerous townships affected by the new measures, the citizens of Myanmar will be tried for various charges from treason to spreading fake news. As announced by state-controlled media, the junta will not hear any appeals, except in cases involving the death penalty. This new measure by the military government suggests an increasingly concerted effort to suppress resistance in regions where protests have taken place since a military coup occurred two years ago. Such a measure comes after Myanmar's military government announced the extension of a two-year state of emergen-

cy on February 1, the Associated Press adds. This decision delays their plans for an August election, which the government has justified as necessary to maintain peace and stability in the country. The emergency will be extended for another six months to prepare for peaceful and fair elections due to what the junta describes as ongoing abnormal circumstances. Myanmar has a long history of military rule, Al Jazeera explains. Armed forces controlled the country until a fragile democracy was briefly established just over 10 years ago. Myanmar first achieved independence in 1948 after long struggles with Great Britain and Japan. Unfortunately, democracy did not last long; in 1962, the military staged a coup and took control leading to economic stagnation and suppression of opposition

parties. In 1977, Aung San, who helped lead the country to independence, was assassinated. His daughter, Aung San Suu Kyi, founded the National League for Democracy (NLD), the leading party behind the nation's long and winding path to democracy. In 1988, pro-democracy protests were met with a brutal military crackdown. Amid international pressures, the military government held an election in which the NLD won in a landslide, but the military refused to hand over power. Aung San Suu Kyi has been arrested multiple times and supporters were beaten to death in 2003. After years of protests and the Cyclone Nargis disaster, democratization began with a controversial constitutional referendum in 2008. In 2015, the NLD finally gained power with Aung San Suu Kyi as state coun-

selor, although the military continued to play a prominent role in politics. Al Jazeera details that after the NLD's resounding victory in the 2020 election where they garnered even more votes than in the 2015 election, the military's proxy party, the USDP, demanded a rerun and requested military assistance to ensure fairness, citing alleged irregularities. While an independent election commission rejected these claims of voter fraud, on February 1, 2021, the military imposed a state of emergency and transferred power to military chief Min Aung Hlaing, best known for his staunch anti-democratic stances. This came after Aung San Suu Kyi and other top government officials were arrested in early morning raids. In the immediate aftermath of the coup, the Associated Press reports how the ouster of the

elect government provoked widespread protests and civil disobedience. As time passed, the military used violence to suppress any displays of opposition. Several governments rejected the army's leadership and imposed sanctions, restricting some financial flows. However, Myanmar's neighbors in Southeast Asia and its most powerful ally, China, hesitated to take similar actions. Since the military takeover, they have employed increasingly harsh tactics, including the first executions in 30 years, the economy has severely declined, due to both the instability of the government and the various restrictions imposed by other nations. Deutsche Welle estimates that thousands have died and over a million have been displaced. There have been multiple attacks and kidnappings throughout

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TÜRKIYE CONTINUES DELAYING SWEDEN'S NATO BID

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In January 2023, President Erdogan of Türkiye stated that Sweden and Finland must deport some 130 "terrorists" to Türkiye before Ankara will approve their bids to join NATO. Reuters reports that analysts expect the application process of Sweden to become a NATO member at least until Türkiye's elections are complete, even if Sweden meets the requirements to join. Türkiye's elections will be held in June of 2023. Türkiye's reluctance to endorse Sweden's NATO application has caused friction between the two nations and casts doubt on the future of NATO's expansion. Sweden has been actively pursuing closer relations with the alliance through increased participation in joint military exercises and other cooperative measures while aggres-

sively seeking NATO membership partly in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Despite this, Ankara has stood as a roadblock to Sweden's NATO accession because of claims that Sweden supports the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK), designated in Türkiye as a terrorist organization, Reuters explains. According to Türkiye, Sweden, in particular, is linked to individuals Ankara claims are PKK terrorists who began a guerilla campaign against the Turkish government in 1984. According to The New York Times, Sweden "has a tradition of openness to refugees from Kurdistan," which has led Sweden to become the target of Turkish President Erdogan's demands. In June of 2022, Sweden agreed to address Türkiye's "pending deportation or extradition requests of terror suspects expeditiously and thoroughly," according to BBC News.

Many critics from Western countries have cautioned against making political concessions to Türkiye, claiming that any deportations could violate both the sovereignty of each nation and the human rights of those involved. In recent years, freedom of speech and other civil liberties have been curtailed in Türkiye as critics have accused Erdogan of increasing authoritarianism, writes The Washington Post. On January 23, a Quran was burned outside of Türkiye's embassy in Stockholm, further angering Erdogan, who warned Sweden that they should not expect his backing to join NATO following this incident, reports EuroNews. Swedish leaders condemned the far-right politician Rasmus Paludan, who led the Quran burning incident, but defended their country's broad definition of free speech. Erdogan said the burning of the holy Muslim book was a hate

crime that could not be defended by free speech. Along with its issues with Sweden, Türkiye does not have a good relationship with other NATO members. Tensions have been rising in recent years between Türkiye and fellow NATO member Greece over maritime rights in the Aegean Sea. After Türkiye deployed a survey ship to search for underwater oil and gas in waters Greece claims are within its sovereignty under international law, Greek and Turkish warships monitored each other's vessels throughout the entire summer in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean. "Until 2019, 2020, 2021, I supported that there was no chance of war. I can no longer say that," retired Greek Admiral Alexandros Diakopoulos told Al Jazeera. Existing U.S.-Türkiye tensions worsened after a failed 2016 coup in Türkiye, as Türkiye accused the U.S. of alleged-

ly backing forces within the country that initiated the coup attempt. President Biden of the United States also decided to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide in 2021, which Türkiye continues to deny. While some have floated the prospect of kicking Türkiye out of NATO if they do not comply, there is no mechanism in the NATO Treaty to expel member states, reports Newsweek. Sweden and Finland are looking to join NATO as a package deal, and both of these nations provide strategic value to NATO. Finnish and Swedish membership is expected to bolster the alliance's eastern flank and its collective defenses in northern Europe, according to The Council on Foreign Relations. With the current war in Ukraine, many countries that are in close proximity to Russia are worried about their own security. Finland shares over 800 miles of border with Russia and Sweden

shares the Baltic Sea with Russia and many other nations. The importance of joining NATO cannot be understated for these two nations, as NATO membership would guarantee them security with military assistance provided by Western nations. Regardless of these challenges, Sweden has persisted in seeking NATO membership and has sought to address Türkiye's concerns by affirming its dedication to the alliance's fundamental principles and objectives. Although both Sweden and Türkiye have reaffirmed their commitment to finding a solution to this problem, the success of NATO's ability to expand will depend on each member state's capacity to cooperate and resolve any outstanding issues.

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POPE FRANCIS VISITS DR CONGO ON HISTORIC TRIP TO AFRICA

Charlotte Sens
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, January 31, Pope Francis arrived in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to begin his six-day visit to the African continent, according to the Associated Press. The Pope was greeted by roaring crowds as he left Ndolo airport, as the majority Catholic nation received its first papal visit since Pope John Paul II in 1985, reports Al Jazeera. This is Pope Francis' fortieth trip abroad and his fifth to Africa since he was elected to the Papacy in 2013. After he arrived in the nation's capital, the pope and his motorcade were followed by thousands as he made his way to Kinshasa's national palace. There, he gave a speech to Congolese officials and the diplomatic corps. In his speech he condemned western nations' economic involvement in the region, calling for them to stop

carving up the nation and acknowledge the role they are playing in the economic enslavement of the Congolese people, exclaiming "Hands off the Democratic Republic of the Congo! Hands off Africa!" Pope Francis' visit comes at a critical time as he hopes to reinvigorate the flow of donations to the region as the war in Ukraine distracts many people from struggles elsewhere, reports Al Jazeera. The pope wanted to bring attention to the ongoing instability and poverty in both the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, reminding the world that they should not turn a blind eye to these conflicts even as they disappear from the nightly news. The DRC has been in a state of ongoing conflict as more than 100 para-military groups are active in the nation's east, including the M23 rebel group and militants linked to the Islamic State. This

conflict has displaced up to 5.7 million people, with up to a fifth of this number fleeing just last year. DRC president Felix Tshisekedi said that he hopes the Pope's presence will draw greater attention to the nation as he accused the international community of ignoring the pain and suffering of his people. He once again claimed that neighboring Rwanda continues to support M23 rebels, a claim that Rwanda has denied, and that it has taken part in the economic exploitation of the nation. Pope Francis had planned to travel to Goma, the capital city of North Kivu, a hot spot of rebel activity; however, fighting had grown too intense for him to make the journey. He will instead meet with a delegation of citizens from the eastern DRC at the Vatican embassy in Kinshasa, where they will participate in a ceremony and promise to forgive their assailants. South Sudan experienced widespread insta-

bility and poverty after its split from the Republic of Sudan in 2011 and civil war in 2013. The people of South Sudan continue to experience conflict and insecurity as parts of the civil war's 2018 peace agreement have yet to be implemented. Roughly 2.2 million South Sudanese have been internally displaced due to the violence while another 2.3 million people have fled the country. More recently, the United Nations cut food aid to the nation due to a lack of funding as international attention turned toward the war in Ukraine. It is expected that roughly 7.76 million of the country's 10.75 million people will experience acute food shortages, according to the UN. The Pope's visit also indicates that the Catholic church is at a turning point. The Conversation reports that Pope Francis convened a worldwide consultation on the future of the Catholic church, known as a synodal pro-

cess, which began in 2021 and which will conclude in 2024. Through this process, the Pope will hear from members of the church across the world, letting his congregation voice what changes must be made to the institution. This process has revealed issues surrounding women's rights, celibacy, sexuality, marriage, clericalism, and hierarchism. This arises as the number of Catholics in the West continues to dwindle. For this reason, NPR reports that the church has identified Africa as the future of Catholicism, as it is the only continent where membership in the church continues to rise. This places the church in a position to be a driver of social, political, and spiritual life on the continent. In fact, the Catholic church runs about 60 percent of health and education services in the DRC, cementing itself as a central figure in Congolese society. Throughout his trip, Pope Francis met with

many African Catholics, political leaders, youths, women, and impoverished people. On Wednesday, February 1, Pope Francis performed a mass at Kinshasa airport to a crowd of a reported 1 million people, according to NPR, where he continued to speak out against violence in the region. Pope Francis stayed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo until February 3, then visited South Sudan until his departure on February 5, returning to Rome.

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ORIGINS AND DIRECTION OF COOPERATION

Andrea Hebel
Managing Editor

Signed amid the ashes and devastation of World War II and the looming threat of the Cold War in Europe and North America, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has become one of the most sprawling symbols of international cooperation of the 20th century. Initially a treaty between 10 European nations, the United States, and Canada, NATO has expanded to include much of the traditionally Western World, according to the Council on Foreign Relations. Created with the mindset that “an armed attack against one or more [member states] in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all,” NATO has largely set the framework for international cooperation—and conflict—since its inception, with controversies surrounding its expansion and use shaping much of the international post-Soviet Union alliance system.

New threats to European security and the expansion of new world powers have set a different tone for NATO cooperation since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. However, many of the fears and divisions that led to the creation of NATO in the first place—such as the spread of communism and the ideological differences separating the West from the East—remain. This thread has stayed constant, even as global threats have shifted. This constancy can be seen throughout the breakup of Yugoslavia and the resulting pressures on Balkan states to align with either Russia or the West, explains GIS Reports. It can be seen in the alliances drawn between Russia and the Middle East during and after the War on Terror and related conflicts, the only time NATO’s Article Five has been invoked, according to The Wilson Center. And it can be seen now, as NATO member states grapple with Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and growing relationship



NATO Ministers for Defense and the 2016 Warsaw Summit. Courtesy of Tom B. Godbee (Wikimedia commons) Creative Commons 2.0

with China’s looming international presence. For a time after the breakup of the Soviet Union, it appeared that European unification might have stretched into Russia and beyond. In 1994, Russia joined The Partnership for Peace, an agreement between NATO and many former Soviet states that called for increased cooperation and better relations. Beyond this, The Guardian reports that at the beginning of Russian President Vladimir

Putin’s tenure, he expressed interest in joining NATO. However, repeated threats and aggression by Russia against neighboring sovereign states has deteriorated the country’s relationship with the bloc. These past actions are a far cry from Russia’s current accusations that NATO is directly participating in its current war with Ukraine, according to Reuters. The spread of NATO membership to include more and more post-Soviet states only

amplifies this tension. As the West expands, the East is following in tow. As NATO strengthens its alliances with Russia’s neighbors, Russia is expanding its relationship with China, as The Associated Press reports. This has led to an increased desire by NATO to expand its cooperation within Asian allies, namely Japan and South Korea, coming amid fears that China may mimic Russia’s aggression. Japan in particular has focused significantly on

strengthening its diplomatic ties with NATO in the past month. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg visited Tokyo in late January, releasing a statement condemning Chinese aggression against Taiwan, emphasizing the “strong and natural partnership” between NATO and Japan, and calling on China to halt its growing military activity near Japan’s waters, according to The Epoch Times. Japan and Greece have also recently increased their military ties, according to The Associated Press, further demonstrating the ways that NATO influence is spreading along Western ideological lines. NATO’s expanding influence in the wake of Russian aggression is no surprise, as this aggression shows a clear threat to European sovereignty. But for broader Eastern-Western relations, the ideological and relational gap is only getting wider, with no end in sight.

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DECISION MAKING

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From Sweden’s bid to enter the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was further complicated on February 1, when Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan announced Türkiye was not supportive of their application. Reuters explains that Sweden and Finland both applied to join the defense pact in May, following the outbreak of the Russo-Ukrainian war, but have faced significant resistance from Türkiye.

NATO’s decision-making mechanism requires that all 30 member nations agree on a measure, ensuring that all of the blocs decisions are an expression of the “collective will,” according to NATO. Article 10 of the treaty explicitly outlines that the acceptance of new member applications is subject to unanimous approval by the current members. So,

when Türkiye announced its hesitance in allowing Finland and Sweden to join last year, both countries knew they would face an uphill battle to attain membership, the Atlantic Council explains.

According to Reuters, political leaders in Finland, Sweden, and the United States had anticipated Erdogan would move to approve the applications prior to Türkiye’s presidential election in May. However, BBC News explains that being firm on Sweden’s application has turned into a key political issue for Erdogan, who is seeking reelection.

The Associated Press reports that tensions were inflamed when protests in Stockholm resulted in pro-Kurdish activists burning a Quran outside of the Turkish embassy and hanging an effigy of Erdogan. Erdogan requested Sweden extradite Kurdish protestors to Türkiye, accusing them of terrorism. While

Swedish officials have denounced the nature of these protests, they have refused to extradite the protestors, citing the country’s free speech laws.

At the end of January, Türkiye called off a meeting between Türkiye’s and Sweden’s defense ministers in response to the protests, according to

the Associated Press. The demonstration outside of the Turkish embassy in Stockholm was approved and observed by Swedish police, leading Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar to declare that the planned meeting no longer had “any importance or point.”

Even before the Jan-



Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Courtesy of Brookings Institution (Flickr) Creative Commons 2.0

uary protests complicated Sweden’s negotiations with Türkiye, Ankara had been dragging their feet on approval. The Cato Institute warns that Tür-

kiye’s actions may not always be in the best interest of the alliance, and NATO’s decision-making mechanism enables the country to have a signifi-

cant amount of influence. Erdogan has frequently exerted this influence.

While not applicable to the Sweden case, Article 4 of the treaty holds a significant amount of power, enabling a member to bring an issue to the North Atlantic Council—NATO’s primary decision-making body—to be acted upon. NATO outlines that of the seven times Article 4 has been invoked, Türkiye has been behind five of them. Notably, the two invocations that Türkiye was not included on both involved Russian aggression against Ukraine, the very reason Finland and Sweden are seeking membership to the defense pact.

NATO’s decision-making process can become divisive for member countries, as domestic politicians grow irate over decision delays. The Hill explains that while U.S. President Joe Biden has been relatively silent on Türkiye’s hesitance to

allow Finland and Sweden join the alliance, the leaders of the Senate NATO Observer Group announced their intention to halt the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Türkiye until Türkiye allows the bids to go forward.

While Hungary has also yet to ratify the accession protocols, experts anticipate Budapest will do so by the end of February.

As the war in Ukraine drags on, NATO continues to serve a vital geopolitical role. As the alliance continues to grow, NATO’s unanimous decision-making mechanism will only become more difficult to reckon with. But before NATO deals with the problems associated with growth, they will have to overcome the challenge of getting new members approved in the first place.

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GIVING AID

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As the war in Ukraine stretches on, many NATO member countries and their allies are stepping up the aid that they are giving to Ukraine. Most recently, the United States and Germany have agreed to send tanks to Ukraine, reports The Associated Press. This comes as an addition to other combat vehicles that the two countries have pledged to send. This comes after concern from Germany about being the only state to send such advanced weapons into Ukraine, and facing Russian push-back alone, according to The Associated Press.

According to Newsweek, Germany is preparing to give Ukraine 14 of its Leopard 2 main battle tanks, while the U.S. is sending approximately 30 of its M1A2 Abrams. In addition to supplying the tanks, training will be given to Ukrainian military members in Germany. Germany will also supply logistics assis-

tance and maintenance. The U.S. and Germany are not the only NATO members looking to give aid to Ukraine. Newsweek reports that Poland and Finland, which are not a part of NATO but have requested to join the alliance, have both publicly voiced willingness to send tanks to Ukraine. Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, France, and the United Kingdom are reportedly assessing the possibility of sending their own tanks to the Ukrainian forces as well.

With the arrival of the new weapons, Ukrainian leaders are now requesting Western fighter jets to advance their efforts. According to Al Jazeera, Ukraine’s air force consists of Soviet-era fighter jets, many of which were made before Ukraine gained its independence over 30 years ago. Many Western leaders are still against this idea, but Ukrainian leaders have cited that until recently many leaders were against sending tanks to them as well.

This has also been an opportunity for NATO to attempt to increase its connections in Asia. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg recently visited South Korea, reports NATO, where he spoke at the CHEY Institute. In his speech, Stoltenberg cited the growing relationship between South Korea and NATO, as well as the threats posed by North Korea. Stoltenberg thanked South Korea for condemning Russia’s actions and cited the relevance of the Ukrainian war to people everywhere threatened by authoritarian leaders.

While Stoltenberg’s speech generally had an appreciative tone, many NATO members hope that South Korea and other Indo-Pacific allies will do more to support the Ukrainian efforts. According to Reuters, Stoltenberg also urged South Korea to step up their support in terms of military means. Many of NATO’s allies in that region have voiced their support but have not given weap-



EU civil protection delivering aid to Ukraine. Courtesy of EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (Flickr) Creative Commons 2.0

ons to Ukraine. South Korea has signed many deals providing large amounts of military equipment to NATO member Poland since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, but President Yoon Suk-yeol has cited a South Korean law that prevents the nation from giving military aid to a country in active conflict as the reason the country has not given the same type of support to Ukraine. Another one of NATO’s key concerns with the conflict is that a

that many other NATO leaders have taken, as well as the stance that Croatia’s Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic has taken. While President Milanovic says he hopes to keep Croatia out of the conflict as much as possible, Prime Minister Plenkovic has claimed that these comments hurt Croatian foreign relations.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz emphasized the importance that Western leaders are putting on the issue, saying that they want to continue supporting Ukraine but also prevent the war “from escalating into a war between Russia and NATO,” reports Al Jazeera. The one thing that has been made clear is that there is no chance of troops being sent from the West into Ukraine, but as the one-year mark of this war approaches it is expected that other forms of Western aid will continue to flow into Ukraine.

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RECEIVING AID

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A new plan will allow Ukraine to receive military aid from countries including the United States and Germany, which may begin a new chapter in the Russo-Ukrainian war. According to the U.S. Department of State, the intended effects of providing aid include reinforcing support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and allowing Ukraine the necessary equipment to defend itself against Russian forces. The offensive weapons the U.S. and Germany are allocating to Ukraine stand in stark contrast to the defensive weapons that Ukraine currently uses and will alert Russian President Vladimir Putin that Ukraine is prepared to reclaim territory.

The threat of an impending Russian counter-offensive this spring has led Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to repeatedly ask Western allies for modern tanks, CNN states. CNN provides background on the conflict that led up to the plan concerning military aid, explaining

that for weeks, Poland and members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) pressured Germany to allow Poland to supply the much-needed Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine.

An estimated 2,000 German-made Leopard tanks are held across more than 12 European nations. Poland had expressed intent to send its supply to Ukraine, even without the approval of Germany, which is required by the treaty. Ultimately, Germany will allow Poland to send its Leopard 2 tanks, a decision following the announcement of a U.S. plan to provide tanks to Ukraine, resolving U.S. apprehension to comply with Ukrainian requests for more sophisticated weaponry.

Ukraine will receive 14 Leopard 2 tanks from Germany, 31 Abrams tanks from the U.S., and 14 Challenger 2 tanks from the United Kingdom, in addition to the military equipment provided by upwards of 30 countries since the beginning of the invasion in February 2022, lists BBC News. The German

Leopard 2 tanks are easier to maintain and require less fuel than some other Western tanks, while the 31 American tanks are of limited use on the battlefield and are thus more of a display of support than an attempt to change the Ukrainian strategic outlook. Although the Challenger 2 tanks are not as modern as some military options, they are more advanced than many tanks currently available to Ukrainian armed forces.

NATO’s new move regarding military aid helps to reinforce the organization’s strength and support for Ukraine. However, although offensive, the new military aid being provided in Ukraine is not an attempt from NATO to threaten Russia. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg regards the tanks as a way to “significantly strengthen [Ukraine’s] combat capabilities,” CNN reports. The aid will be utilized in the continuous effort to reclaim Ukrainian territory, and more than anything, is a message to Russia that Western aid to Ukraine is unrelenting. In addition to the

West’s late-January decision to increase military aid, NATO has supported allies of Ukraine as they provide humanitarian and non-lethal aid, NATO explains. Its overarching goal is to support Ukraine as the country maintains its United Nations Charter-protected right of self-defense. NATO has also committed to support Ukraine as it rebuilds and reforms after the war. For now, Ukraine continues to wait for tanks to arrive, and even after the arrival of the tanks, members of the Ukrainian mil-

itary must receive proper training to operate them. All of this contributes to the delay in Ukraine getting these necessary tanks onto the battlefield. As many Western officials believe that Russian forces are in a weak position, Zelensky believes that the forces supplied by the West will not only allow Russia to defend itself but may allow Ukraine to retake territory. While the new kind of aid Ukraine is receiving may increase chances of success within the war, the Center for Strategic and Interna-

tional Studies acknowledges that the new tanks alone will not guarantee a Ukrainian victory, but will instead bolster the estimated 800 tanks it already possesses. Victory for Ukraine will be secured with combinations of training for soldiers, the continuation of aid being provided by NATO, and with the resistance of Ukrainian citizens.

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Ukrainian tanks marching into action, Courtesy of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (flickr) Creative Commons 2.0

FENTANYL IS AN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE

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In 2022, fentanyl killed 70,000 people in America. The drug's overdose death toll per week, the Drug Enforcement Agency reports, is the equivalent of an entire Seton Hall graduating class. Fentanyl, contrary to popular belief, is not just a domestic issue but a foreign policy one. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, fentanyl is a dual-use synthetic opiate that produces a highly addictive, intensely euphoric feeling irreproducible by other drugs. Small amounts of fentanyl, particularly for first-time users, can be deadly, and the DEA alleges a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl can fit on the tip of a pencil. The scope and speed of the fentanyl epidemic, nearly unheard of a decade ago, has shocked officials; more than two-thirds of drug overdoses reported in 2022 were fentanyl-related. Last

year, the DEA seized enough fentanyl to kill every single American, and sixty percent of all illegal pills tested in DEA labs tested positive for deadly doses of fentanyl. Fentanyl's production, according to the Brookings Institute, can be sourced to Chinese criminal syndicates, which manufacture and smuggle fentanyl's chemical components into Mexico and sell them to cartels. These Chinese gangs, which have recently deepened their ties to Mexico, are able to operate unbothered by Beijing as they promote the government's political, social, and economic interests. Once the narcotics arrive in Mexico, cartels (namely the Sinaloa and Jalisco Cartels) cut and press the fentanyl, assembling them into counterfeit opiates, which can then pass for legitimate prescription drugs. According to the Cato Institute, these cartels hire American citizens to smuggle drugs across crowded southern ports.

Colorado's 17th Judicial District Attorney's Office, reports that fentanyl is particularly attractive to cartels because it is cheap to manufacture, difficult to differentiate its high when mixed, and easy to smuggle because lower doses produce euphoric highs. The profit yielded from its sale offsets the loss of thousands of users from overdoses. Finding a solution to fentanyl production and trafficking is a pressing national security issue. While Biden has made the opioid epidemic a fixture of his presidency, the administration has neglected to properly address its root cause: the illegal manufacturing of its components by Chinese gangs and its trafficking into the U.S. by Mexican cartels. Fentanyl trafficking, fundamentally, is a foreign policy issue. Bilateral cooperation with China is difficult, and the Brookings Institute writes that there has been minimal cooperation between the United States and China regard-

ing fentanyl and product trafficking. While China has ramped up its domestic and Southeast Asian counternarcotics operations, Beijing's ties to the Chinese mob and lack of strategic or cultural interest in helping the United States combat fentanyl makes it unwilling to participate in bilateral cooperation. Beijing has repeatedly refused to engage with the U.S., blaming American culture instead. Inflaming tensions further is unproductive. Cooperation with Mexico has proven more fruitful. The Congressional Research Service writes that Mexican President Obrador has pursued extensive counternarcotics operations, using the Mexican Army and Navy to seize product, control ports and airports, and raid processing facilities. On several occasions, the DEA has worked with the Mexican Navy to apprehend traffickers in the Gulf of Mexico, and a few years ago the US-Mexico High-Level Security Dialogue was

formed to discuss drug policy and enhance future cooperation. However, US-Mexican cooperation has faltered since 2020, according to Congressman David Trone, when a top Mexican official was arrested on a drug conspiracy charge. The key then lies in creating policy that stops the flow of drugs from the source. Cutting the illegal chemical supply chains between China and Mexico appears to be the most fruitful plan of action. This entails enhancing US-Mexico cooperation in states that house major seaports and increasing oversight and security funding. Practically, this means encouraging the Mexican government to allocate thousands more soldiers to staff ports and airports and enhance end-destination documentation of goods. Given Mexican governmental corruption, the DEA and American government should offer their training and documentation services to better train investigators,

disincentivize corruption, and improve counternarcotics bureaucracy. It is also important that America reaffirms Mexican sovereignty and refrains from charging Mexican officials with drug-related crimes; the enhanced cooperation of our neighbor is far more valuable than prosecution. While undertaking these actions would admittedly be expensive, the social and economic toll that fentanyl takes on the United States is far more costly. While the War on Drugs has been deeply flawed, fentanyl is a deadly drug that poses an unparalleled danger to the well-being of Americans. Treating fentanyl as a foreign policy issue by undertaking measured, cooperative policy with Mexican officials allows America to bypass sources of tension with Beijing, saving American lives.

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GERMANY'S FAILED COUP HIGHLIGHTS THE THREAT OF NEO-NAZISM

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In December 2022, German police arrested 25 individuals for suspicion of involvement with a plot to overthrow the German government. These individuals were associated with the Reichsbürger movement, a far-right group that considers the current government illegitimate and laments the end of the Third Reich in 1945, according to The Washington Post. The group is founded on antisemitic and racist conspiracies and has been investigated for reports of members committing violent attacks in recent years, BBC News explains. Their recent plot follows years of increased public far-right activity and a more lenient attitude towards such groups both in Germany and internationally. BBC News reports that 50 people are believed to be involved in the plot, including prominent individ-

uals such as parliamentary figures, judges, policemen, and military personnel. The police searched 130 properties across 11 states and found weapons in 50 of the accused plotters reports Reuters. Some members were involved with QAnon, whose supporters participated in the January 6 insurrection in the United States, and the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) far-right party. The group was reportedly led by aristocrat Heinrich XIII Prinz Reuss, who would have been instated as the leader of Germany had the coup succeeded. Their new government, complete with a planned military arm, took inspiration from the second Reich, BBC continues. Some of the coup plans included armed violence, and as many plotters were affiliated with the military and law enforcement and were willing to recruit military members, General Prosecutor Peter Frank believed they posed a real

threat, Reuters continues. While, in hindsight, it seemed the plot could not have been successful, the increase in riots such as the January 6 insurrection shows that with enough coordination and knowledge of military affairs, an armed coup is a real possibility for Germany. Far-right and neo-Nazi groups in Germany have been continuous issues even after 1945. These groups and the original perpetrators of the Third Reich's crimes have been active in the area, yet remain ignored by the government. This coup plot shows that groups of this nature internationally are becoming increasingly bolder and if not addressed properly, there is a real possibility of Germany's democratic government turning fascist once again. Germany, while more active in combating right-wing and Nazi ideals than other states, has had an issue with Fascist ideology lingering after 1945.

One major reason is that after the war, Nazism was not properly addressed or corrected by Germany or the states it occupied. The United States and the Soviet Union, for example, relocated Nazi war criminals and scientists, many of whom were directly involved in the operation of concentration camps and the "mittelworks," the Nazis' attempt to create superweapons in underground bases. Secondly, the Nuremberg Trials only tried a very small number of high-ranking Nazis; many SS and SA officers were not tried for their crimes and roamed free. Other Nazi officials also kept their government jobs, including in law enforcement and intelligence divisions, according to the Washington Post. Lastly, in a state where hatred and propaganda were so ingrained into the very fabric of society even before the Third Reich came to power, many felt

they benefitted from its existence and held the sentiment that the Third Reich did nothing wrong. The Washington Post also points out that amidst the cold war, Germany focused more of its intelligence efforts on left-wing and communist groups instead of the neo-Nazi groups that began to resurface in the region. In recent decades, the country has also become more lenient with far-right groups and even allowing one, the aforementioned AfD, to have seats in the Bundestag for the first time since World War II, The Washington Post reports. Germany also recorded 15 times as many neo-Nazi attacks and "propaganda crimes" than it did in 1990 and just recently increased measures to respond to right-wing extremism, The Washington Post continues. German intelligence also failed to uncover a large neo-Nazi cell called the National Socialist Underground (NSU) until

2011 after they killed 9 immigrants, Reuters explains. Despite Germany's efforts to combat neo-Nazi groups, they are becoming increasingly influential and their ideology rampantly spreading to the point of plotting takeovers and coloring the thoughts of large portions of the German military and police. With the rise of far-right groups and conspiracies across the world, the threat of fascism must be recognized in all its modern forms. The suffering of those victimized by these groups must be mitigated by combatting the threat of Nazism influencing institutions of power. In a state that has seen the full horrors of Nazism, it is a very real possibility that these forces may take hold in the descendants of those who were never prosecuted.

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THE TALIBAN: A SUFFOCATING NIGHTMARE FOR UNMARRIED WOMEN

Pranali Jain
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It has only been a year and a half since the Taliban took over Afghanistan. But for the Afghan women living in this nightmare, 18 months becomes an eternity. The Taliban's control of Afghanistan has been detrimental to most Afghans. Radio Free Europe states millions of families have been struggling to survive in a crashing economy in what was already one of the world's poorest countries. The absence of a proper meal and electricity in tandem with the harsh cold and drought has made an already disastrous situation worse, BBC News writes. According to Human Rights Watch, the Taliban has also stopped public welfare programs, pensions, and other humanitarian support for the citizens. This is partly due to a lack of funds after Western countries sanctioned Afghanistan's cen-

tral bank reserves, which prevents money from circulating in the country. Afghans have been forced to resort to desperate survival measures, going as far as selling their kidneys or their children, particularly daughters, to buy a meal for their families, Radio Free Europe says. The consequences, though, are significantly worse for women. When the Taliban took over Afghanistan in August 2021, they promised to respect women's rights. However, according to The Associated Press, that promise was short-lived, as women and girls were banned from obtaining secondary education within a month of the Taliban's takeover. Moreover, since May 2022, the Taliban has been slowly yet steadily suffocating women through heavy restrictions on various aspects of women's lives, from education and employment to social interaction and leisure. BBC News reports that between May

and November 2022, women were required to wear a burqa and a niqab in public places, allowed to travel only with a male companion, and banned from universities and educational institutions past the sixth grade as well as parks, gyms, and places of employment. These bans have become prison sentences for the 14 million women and girls in the country, HRW reports. RFE states that economic sanctions imposed on Afghanistan's government had already proved to be a significant obstacle to getting foreign aid inside the country. To make matters worse, the ban on women's employment paralyzed the only source of support the Afghans had under Taliban control – humanitarian aid from nongovernmental organizations. Al Jazeera explains that female aid workers play a crucial role in serving women in these conservative communities, especially when it comes to rec-

ognizing their needs. With millions already suffering, the prohibition on women serving as aid workers meant that the Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), the International Rescue Committee, and other nongovernmental organizations were forced to halt operations. Though women are able to work in a limited capacity in healthcare, NGOs pulling out has had an especially devastating impact on the most vulnerable Afghans – widowed and single women. While 95 percent of all Afghan citizens suffer from hunger, according to RFE, 100 percent of female-led households struggle with access to food. With a ban on women's employment, education, and mobility, widows and single women suffer the most as they do not possess the only key to some sort of relief in the Taliban's Afghanistan — a male relative. According to The Con-

versation, single women and widows have no source of income. Before the Taliban took over, women who did not have a university education worked in the informal employment sector; they could pursue babysitting, farming, or cleaning houses, for example. However, with the current ban coupled with high inflation, widowed and single women have no avenue for survival. RFE highlights that women-led households are only able to consume, if they are lucky, a fraction of the food they used to before the Taliban came into power. NGO-sponsored food distribution centers are crowded by men, posing another barrier for women-only households to receive food, RFE notes. The Norwegian Refugee Council further noted that some women would send their male children to beg so they could buy bread for the day. But the Taliban has banned begging as well, closing the

only door single women and widows had to access food and other necessities. The walls are closing in on unmarried women, and the probability of survival for Afghans, especially those in women-led households, is diminishing with each new restriction put forth by the Taliban. The international community widely recognizes the dystopian reality of the 38 million people in Afghanistan. Efforts are underway to implement training programs and development assistance so Afghans can sustain themselves instead of relying on food imports and foreign aid. Nevertheless, tomorrow every Afghan citizen will wake up to another day of suffering under the Taliban. As for widowed and single women, this unpredictable nightmare seems to have no end in sight.

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TÜRKIYE'S RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTER WILL DETERMINE THE NATION'S POLITICAL FUTURE

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Digital Editor

During the early hours of February 6, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake shook Türkiye and neighboring countries, including Syria and Lebanon. Hours later, a magnitude 7.5 aftershock decimated more buildings. As of February 10, more than 20,200 people have died in Türkiye, says The New York Times, making it one of the worst natural disasters to hit the region in the last decade. Türkiye was not prepared for the tremors, though it should have been, given its geographical location between two fault lines. More than 6,000 buildings collapsed in areas the government worked to reinforce during the Turkish earthquake-proofing movement from 2008 through 2013. Although humanitarian aid and rescue efforts are pouring in from around the world, the tragedy

further compromises Türkiye's economic agenda and political efficiency. It raises the question of who is responsible for such devastation. Prominent political figures and Turkish citizens are looking at President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and his Justice and Development Party (AKP) for their role in failing to provide a quicker response to the disaster, which they initially deemed was under control. In the first hours of the disaster, opposition leaders from Ankara and Istanbul deployed aid and criticized Erdogan's slow and disjointed response, according to CNBC. Since then, Erdogan has issued a state of emergency that will last three months in the ten provinces to provide victims with 10,000 Turkish Lira (\$531), relocation services, mobilization of all national forces, and a promise to rebuild all affected homes in one year. Before the earthquake, Türkiye was already strug-

gling with inflation, monetary policy, military, and political turmoil, taking back two decades of economic growth as the consumer price index spiked an average of 10 percent every month in 2022, according to CNBC. 2023 is expected to be crucial as Türkiye approaches a presidential election on May 14- now determining whether President Erdogan will continue to lead reconstruction and the nation's political future. The election will likely become a referendum on his effectiveness and legitimacy as a leader, especially as millions of people in the Middle Eastern country suffer amid sub-freezing temperatures. The election will also provide Turks with the opportunity to judge the rescue effort and the extent to which modern "earthquake-proofing" codes were implemented. In addition, Türkiye's hyper-declining economic path before the catastrophe is attributed

to the President's unorthodox economics. To battle crippling inflation, Erdogan pressured the Central Bank of Türkiye to keep borrowing rates low as he increased wages by 55 percent to bolster economic activity; this approach continues to fail as he faces severe criticism from Turkish economists and investors. Though no country can be expected to solve such economic and environmental crises without shortcomings, strict building regulations paper did not protect those still under the rubble, and neither did taxpayer money supposedly dedicated to such infrastructure projects. The scale of destruction is such that urban planning and building codes are still woefully inadequate, according to Al Jazeera. Moreover, though homeowners have been paying earthquake-proofing taxes since the early 2000s, which is somewhere in

the billions of US dollars, Erdogan's government has not been clear about where the money was spent, according to German-Arabic news outlet Qantara. The situation raises more questions about Türkiye's censorship of the government's spending reports in the last ten years. Worse still, these questions may go unanswered, as under Türkiye's current political climate, investigative journalism is under threat. The government can be expected to launch campaigns to absolve itself of responsibility and blame contractors instead. Currently, Erdogan's priorities are likely to minimize negative political implications and contain the possible fallout, says Middle East Institute, which may result in using aid and rescue efforts as a launchpad for reelection. The President has been in the affected provinces meeting with survivors and assessing the damage. At the same

time, deployed rescue teams face setbacks due to winter conditions, rubble blocking the road, and the possibility of further tremors in the region. As the humanitarian crisis builds, experts say aftershocks will continue to compromise infrastructure throughout the country. Losing more buildings will also slow rescue efforts to find survivors and remains under the rubble. Anger is building among families that expect nothing less than hardship in the coming years. Meanwhile, Erdogan's economic policies impede efforts to reduce inflation, and the Turkish Lira is expected to keep falling against the dollar. One of the largest economies in the world now faces one of the worst economic and humanitarian crises of the century and has little time to turn the tide.

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ARCHBISHOP CHRISTOPHE PIERRE ATTENDS SHU WORLD LEADERS FORUM

Joseph Brennan
Staff Writer

On February 1, Seton Hall University's School of Diplomacy and International Relations hosted Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre as part of the school's World Leaders Forum series.

An Apostolic Nuncio is a Roman Catholic archbishop who serves as the Vatican's ambassador to a particular country or group of countries. He is responsible for maintaining the Holy See's diplomatic relations with the country or countries assigned to him and for communicating the Pope's messages and directives to the Catholic Church in a diplomatic setting.

During His Excellency's lecture, he discussed three main points: bilateral relations, multilateral relations, and the promotion of dialogue and peace. He also addressed

the relationship between the Holy See and the Vatican. Archbishop Pierre explained that the Vatican diplomatic does not exist as the Vatican does not send or receive Ambassadors; Vatican City is where the Pope lives and does not engage in diplomatic activities. However, the Pope is the principal diplomatic component of the Holy See. The Pope has full diplomatic status in 183 states, and 91 states have full-time ambassadors at the Holy See. The Holy See is present in international organizations such as a Permanent Observer at the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Archbishop Pierre was born in France on September 30, 1944. He attended school at the Seminary in the Archdiocese of Rennes and at the Catholic Institute of Paris, according to Nunti-

us USA. His Excellency also received a Canon Law doctorate from Pontifical Lateran University. In 1997, the Papal Nuncio began his diplomatic work at the Holy See. Prior to being appointed Apostolic Nuncio of the United States, the archbishop served in New Zealand, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Cuba, Brazil, Haiti, Uganda, and Mexico, utilizing his proficiency in languages including French, English, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese.

The now-archbishop was ordained a priest of the Society of Foreign Missions of Paris (MEP) in 1970 and worked as a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Algiers. In 1979, he joined the diplomatic service of the Holy See and served in various nunciatures in Africa, Asia, and Europe. In 1998, he was appointed as the Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda and to Rwanda and later to Burundi.

In 2005, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Archbishop Pierre as the Apostolic Nuncio to Mexico, where he served for nine years. During his time in Mexico, Archbishop Pierre was known for his strong commitment to the promotion of human rights, especially for marginalized and vulnerable groups. He also worked closely with the local Catholic Church and the Mexican government to address social and political issues such as poverty, corruption, and drug trafficking.

In 2016, Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Pierre as the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. In this role, he has been a visible presence in the American Catholic Church, regularly participating in national and regional events and meetings. He has also been instrumental in promoting the Pope's initiatives, such as the World Meeting of Families and the National

Catholic Prayer Breakfast.

Throughout his lecture, Archbishop Pierre highlighted his key priorities as the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, including the promotion of ecumenism and interfaith dialogue. He explained to the audience that he aims to encourage Catholic leaders to reach out to their counterparts within other Christian denominations and to those who practice differing religions in an effort to build bridges of understanding and cooperation. He told Catholic churches in the United States to heighten their engagement in addressing social and political issues such as immigration, race relations, and climate change.

Archbishop Pierre's work as the Apostolic Nuncio has earned him widespread respect and admiration. He has been praised for his dedication to the Church and his commitment to promoting peace and justice.

In recognition of his contributions, he has been awarded several honors, including the Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Sylvester from Pope Benedict XVI in 2006 and the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross from Pope Francis in 2019.

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CONVERSATIONS WITH DR. MARGARITA KONAEV

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Dr. Margarita Konaev, Deputy Director of Analysis and Research Fellow at Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET), spoke at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) Innovations Dialogue for Artificial Intelligence (AI) Disruption, Peace, and Security in December 2022. As a member of the event's second panel, Dr. Konaev tackled conversations on the uses of AI in military operations, including the potential risks and rewards of AI use in international peace and security.

Dr. Konaev discussed the relationship between the use of AI and United States autonomy. The speaker elaborated on the value of strategic implications and the trust between humans and machines while attempting to enhance collaboration be-

tween militaries. She noted that the development of AI is not a weapon, but an enabler. As modern warfare is so complex, Dr. Konaev noted, speed and precision are crucial. Even if it is precise, AI cannot replace humans, as they must interact with the military. More research is needed before using AI in war is a possibility, and it should be noted that not every military needs AI strategy, the formal recognition of AI depends on nations' tradeoffs, and AI comes with much uncertainty.

In a one-on-one interview with Dr. Konaev, she discussed transparency within the military, the challenges to achieve transparency in a commercial space, and the impact of intelligence sharing. Several prestigious periodicals have included Dr. Konaev's research on international security, armed conflict, non-state actors, and urban warfare in the Middle East, Russia, and Eurasia. Her focus is

U.S. military involvement in the international community and its influence in international security.

Dr. Konaev has found that the foundation of security is based on a nation's will to fight and the principle that independent states are built around international integrity. It can be challenging to discuss military uses of autonomy and AI without bringing up the topic of "killer robots," which presents another obstacle to establishing international cooperation on AI-related concerns. The incorporation of AI into military systems and operations raises significant moral, ethical, and legal issues that demand attention.

There is a range of AI applications that the military can deploy, and most are innocuous. The limitations of emerging technology, constraints of operating within military organizations' rules of engagement, and discussions concerning AI

in safety-critical systems need to be more precisely addressed. There are already systems in place for the production and use of new weapons, and command and control structures. Naturally, there are concerns regarding the assurance and safety of AI. Dr. Konaev urges the U.S. to proceed with extreme caution when it comes to new AI, but she believes that spreading the message that AI can choose and eliminate any target they like without any human control is detrimental.

When asked about constraints in technology regarding Russia and the war in Ukraine, Dr. Konaev noted that the technology-centric analyses of the strategic competition that overlooks Russia lacks a clear understanding that technology does not have to be shiny, exquisite, or expensive to be detrimental to U.S. interests. Russia tests military technology, semi-auton-

omous, and autonomous systems in Syria less than Ukraine as they are involved in theaters of war.

While answering questions on her career and role at CSET, she acknowledged that CSET has a variety of publications concerning cooperation with U.S. allies in research and development, setting AI standards, collaborating on defense projects, and making sure AI technologies represent common democratic ideals. AI engagement and close cooperation with U.S. partners are strongly encouraged, but Dr. Konaev believes that it is crucial to recognize that every nation has a different set of goals. The discussion of AI is not as heavily policed in Europe as it is in the United States. The use of AI in transport, banking, health care, and medicine are among the areas that are accumulating attention. However, there are limitations on the use of AI because most U.S. al-

lies have a smaller defense budgets than the U.S.

Dr. Konaev explained that as she moved from academia into the think-tank world, she hit a learning curve concerning the best ways to cover policy implications and package policy recommendations. When someone is an expert on a topic and they want to make that knowledge useful, it can be difficult to figure out who to speak to and what to share. Dr. Konaev offered advice to international relations students interested in shaping policy, stating that they aim to learn about domestic issues such as budgets and interest groups, how American institutions work, and how policy is made and implemented.

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AMBASSADOR CSABA KÖRÖSI ATTENDS SHU WORLD LEADERS FORUM

Ashley Skladany
Staff Writer

On January 26, Seton Hall University's School of Diplomacy and International Relations hosted its first World Leaders Forum event of the year, welcoming President of the 77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Ambassador Csaba Kőrösi. The World Leaders Forum serves as a series of public lectures and dialogues for distinguished visitors to share their insights and valuable perspectives on global topics. Ambassador Kőrösi's visit included a presentation outlining how the world can and should aim for peace, as well as opportunities for small groups of students to ask the Ambassador questions relating to his experience as President of the UNGA.

The forum opened with introductory remarks from Dean of Seton Hall University's School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Courtney Smith, who outlined the complex and chal-

lenging role which Ambassador Kőrösi is tasked to take on as President of the UN. Smith acknowledged that as the leading figure of 193 countries in the United Nations, the ambassador must put aside his own biases and try to balance the interests of nations facing geopolitical divides. Seton Hall University President Joseph Nyre recognized the difficulty of the position, mentioning the Doomsday Clock's warning of "90 seconds until a global catastrophe" regarding ongoing crises surrounding global affairs. Nyre expressed that Ambassador Kőrösi has a responsibility to inspire progress to alleviate human suffering and address the world's most pressing issues.

Former UN Hungarian ambassador to the U.S., László Szabó, was introduced as a visiting scholar prior to Ambassador Kőrösi's speech. He set the stage for the following lecture by sharing Kőrösi's experiences as a leader

for climate action. Prior to assuming his current position, Ambassador Kőrösi had served as the Director of Environmental Sustainability for the former president of Hungary, where he worked with high-profile political figures. This background served as a perfect segue for Kőrösi's lecture on the critical topic of promoting international peace, where he related much of his lecture to the issues of the global climate.

Ambassador Kőrösi detailed his discussion with alarming statistics to punctuate his message. According to Kőrösi, many nations will be on "death row" due to a rising global surface temperature and will average 250,000 additional deaths per year by 2030. Displacement, food insecurity, and droughts continue to plague society presently, Kőrösi noted. Despite the urgency of these issues, global governance has weakened, worsening the conditions

in which policymakers must address global issues.

Throughout his talk, Ambassador Kőrösi emphasized the crucial role that individuals play on the world stage. The Ambassador spoke of "a great acceleration" that propelled the world towards facing various crises. The Ambassador pointed out that the globe has "never had this many armed conflicts" waged at once since World War II. Regarding the invasion of Ukraine, Ambassador Kőrösi delved into the war's devastating effects on food accessibility and prices, as well as the global economy's potential for a worldwide recession. He shared that 76 countries, more than one-third of the world, currently verge on financial collapse. Ambassador Kőrösi also expressed concern towards the disproportionate effects of energy and water crises on vulnerable countries and stressed the importance of alleviating vulnerable nations' suffering.

Though the ambassa-

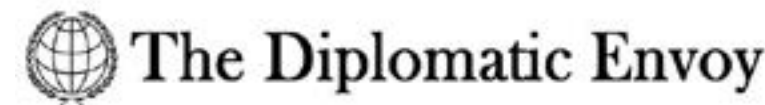
dor's discussion began by reminding listeners of global hardships, Ambassador Kőrösi delivered a message of hope, emphasizing that work towards peace is not impossible. He shared promising news surrounding potential breakthroughs in fusion and quantum energy that can offer reliable solutions to ongoing conflicts such as climate change. The ambassador aimed to encourage conversations and reflection, as well as underscore the important role individuals play in creating a sustainable future, especially through scientific discovery. Weighing in on the lecture, Dean Smith shared:

"The President of the General Assembly's remarks reflected both realism and optimism. Realism is important given the significant array of global challenges that we face, but it must be balanced with optimism about humanity's capacity to transform current thinking and practice into new oppor-

tunities for progress. This is an essential message for all of us to hear, but it is especially important for our students since it will be in the hands of future leaders to continue the work that the ambassador and others have started."

Kőrösi expressed hope that through shared solidarity and efforts towards sustainability and science, humanity has the power to implement radical change to transform the current course of development. After articulating a clear vision of what is at stake, Ambassador Kőrösi closed his lecture by imploring his audience to join the movement for change and to become an active participant in supporting the scientific and technological advancements that will transform our future.

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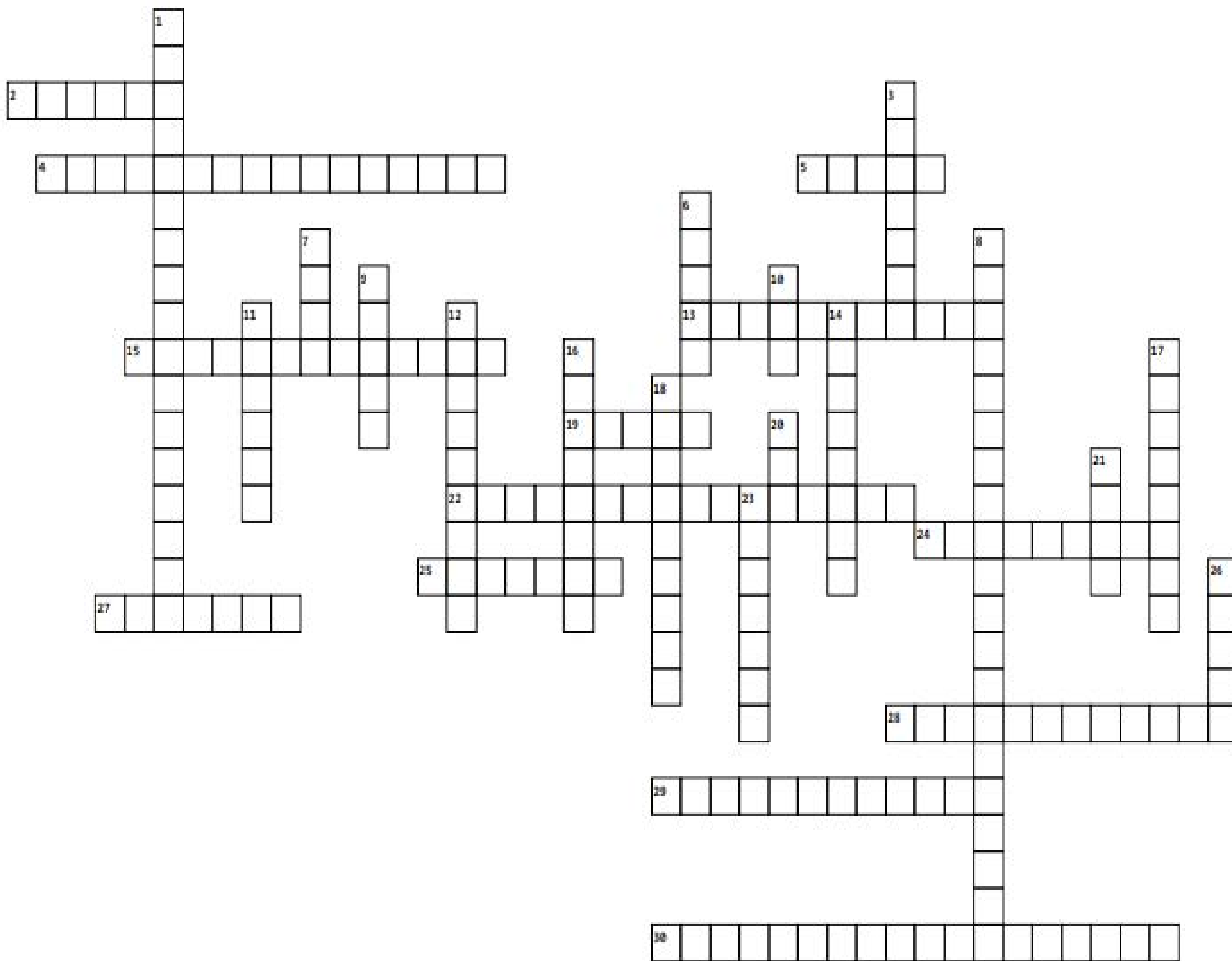
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For more information on sources, go to blogs.shu.edu/thediplomaticenvoy

February Edition Crossword



All crossword answers related to this edition

Created by Anna Thibodeau using <https://www.crosswordlabs.com>

Across

- 2. 95 percent of all ___ citizens suffer from hunger
- 4. Religious leader who recently visited Seton Hall
- 5. This nation has been focusing on strengthening diplomatic ties with NATO
- 13. President of the 77th UN General Assembly
- 15. Peruvian president recently ousted by Congress
- 19. The majority of Muslims in Pakistan are this sect
- 22. Prime Minister of Israel
- 24. Sweden has a history of openness towards refugees from here
- 25. This group has stripped Afghan women of many rights
- 27. This nation also promised the answer to 26 to Ukraine
- 28. Türkiye is calling for Sweden and Finland to make 130 of these
- 29. Current acting president of Peru
- 30. Full name for the ICU

Down

- 1. NATO Secretary-General
- 3. This nation is being run by a military junta
- 6. In 1994, Russia joined the Partnership for ___
- 7. New Brazilian president
- 8. Far-right group in Germany
- 9. Host of the 2022 FIFA World Cup
- 10. Pope Francis recently visited this majority Catholic nation
- 11. One of multiple countries currently applying to join NATO
- 12. Terrorist group active in the Horn of Africa
- 14. Capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 16. Largest city in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region
- 17. This drug killed 70,000 Americans in 2022
- 18. NATO decisions must be ___
- 20. Christophe Pierre is the Apostolic Nuncio to this nation
- 21. Treaty signed in the wake of WWII
- 23. This country was recently hit by a 7.8 earthquake
- 26. USA recently promised to send 31 of these to Ukraine