



The Diplomatic Envoy

HISTORIC EARTHQUAKE DEVASTATES MOROCCO

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On September 8, 2023, hundreds of lives were harmed in several cities across Morocco. The European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) data recorded a devastating 6.8 magnitude earthquake in the country. With the earthquake's epicenter striking several small villages in the High-Atlas Mountains, the damages were experienced throughout the state. The earthquake hit the nation's capital, Rabat, as well as Marrakesh, Casablanca, Agadir, and Essaouira, according to Disaster Philanthropy. Morocco hasn't seen an earthquake of this magnitude in nearly six decades.

The earthquake struck at 11 p.m. local time. According to NPR, as of September 19, the disaster's official death toll in Morocco had reached around 3,000 people. At least 380,000

more individuals suffered damages in addition to the 3,000 confirmed cases. According to the New York Times, the earthquake occurred in the African Plate, which is "about 340 miles south of the African-Eurasian plate boundary, which is seismically active." Because tremors frequently happen at very shallow levels, earthquakes at the meeting point of these plates can be more deadly.

The Moroccan government has been quickly and efficiently responding to the crisis. While they prioritize sufficient blood supply for the injured and non-food essentials for the displaced, the Moroccan Red Crescent Teams have been implementing both physical and mental health support for the victims. Although, the likelihood of discovering survivors is now highly slim. As temperatures in the mountains are anticipating their seasonal drop and hundreds of people are living

in improvised homes, the relief efforts focus on providing the populace with drinkable filtered water, sanctuary, blankets, and mattresses according to the Red Cross. Regarding the level of assistance, the Moroccan Red Cross and the Moroccan government have been picky in their acceptance to deal with the natural disaster. Officials reportedly stated they wish to maintain control and refuse to take the chance that the search-and-rescue operations would become disorganized and overwhelming. In the village, the majority of the homes are utterly unusable. Many have fallen, and those that are left standing are unstable and deadly. Some of the structures appear to have unfurled; entire walls have been removed, revealing the interior's ruins. CNN noted that Moroccan locals believe the structures in the mountainous region could collapse at any mo-

ment, so the villagers have been avoiding the buildings at large. Because the pipes have been destroyed, there is currently no water. The New York Times also suggests, given the severity of this region's history with natural disasters, the more populated towns such as Marrakesh, Agadir, and Rabat, have been able to improve upon their infrastructure. Since the 1960 earthquake disaster in Agadir extinguished 12,000 individuals, Le-Monde notes that the lessons of enhanced building codes for Agadir have yet to be circulated to the micro-villages of the mountains. This raises further infrastructure concerns regarding the quality of life in the mountainous region and the ability to get aid circulated within the area. According to Dr. Iyd al-Tarazi, the earthquake had the devastating power of 25 nuclear bombs. According to Sputnik Arabic. The scramble to find

survivors has quickly become a humanitarian nightmare, as the tiny villages throughout the High Atlas Mountains are incredibly inaccessible. Due to their accessibility issues, the mountain villages are difficult to assist and supply with materials. Most of the region is cut off from them due to telecom disruptions. As responders rummage through the wreckage of collapsed homes in isolated regions, the death toll is anticipated to increase. Luck and time are working against the rescuers. Noted by CNN, finding survivors is vital in the first 72 hours following an earthquake since after this time frame, the conditions of trapped and injured people can swiftly deteriorate. This 72-hour window is called the "golden period" for retrieving individuals from the rubble alive by Joe English, spokesperson of the United Nations Inter-

national Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). As of current, the situation and climate in Morocco is stable. The state is no longer at risk for another wave of natural disasters. The main priority amongst international organs providing aid for Morocco is to get the Moroccan government to actually accept aid outside of the Red Cross. The international community has become baffled at Morocco's resistance for international assistance. Sources have theorized Morocco's nationalization of aid as a way for the state to demonstrate strength in economic and environmental resources amongst the adversity the region has faced the past few weeks.

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RUSSIA LOOKS TO NORTH KOREA TO RESUPPLY ITS ARSENAL

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Vladimir Putin invited Kim Jong Un to Russia in hopes of striking a deal with the leader of North Korea to replenish its depleting weapons arsenal. This meeting has stirred fear in the West as many are concerned that it may lead to Russia giving North Korea the nuclear weapon technology it's been lacking for the last decade due to United Nations (UN) sanctions, according to CNN.

Russia and North Korea have been historic partners, with their alliance dating back to the Korean War when the Soviet Union backed the Communist North against the United States-sponsored South, reports The Guardian. Throughout the Cold War, North Korea relied heavily on the

Soviet Union for funding and support. The alliances dwindled in the years since the fall of the Soviet Union, with Russia drifting away from the ostracized North Korea in hopes of affiliating more with the West, reports Gaudian. According to The Guardian, the relationship between the two countries has been rocky in recent years as Russia has been supporting UN sanctions against North Korea's nuclear weapons program. The relationship has only started to improve during the war in Ukraine. According to The Associated Press, as the war trudges on, Russia has lost support from Western states it was once trying to appease and has turned back to its old ally in Pyongyang.

When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 22,

2022, Putin foresaw the war only lasting a week. A year and a half later, it seems that Russia vastly underestimated Ukraine's resolve and is now in need of more ammo, reports The Associated Press. This necessity will be hard to fulfill because Russia has become a pariah state by starting the largest land conflict in Europe since the collapse of Yugoslavia and the proceeding Bosnian war. Now, only a handful of countries are willing to cooperate with Russia; namely North Korea. North Korea has a large but dated arsenal of weapons that can help prolong the war in Ukraine, but they are not likely to give Russia this ammunition for free, reports by the Associated Press. North Korea would most likely ask Russia to exchange the ammunition with nu-

clear weapon technology. The West has shown concern about what this alliance could lead to. Even with UN sanctions North Korea has been able to develop their ballistic missile program at unprecedented rates, including intercontinental ballistic missiles that, in theory, could reach U.S. mainland, according to CNN. Russia could trade their advanced nuclear weapon technology for more ammunition, and the west worries that this new acquisition of advanced technology could then be used against U.S. and its allies, continues CNN. An alliance with Russia will also make North Korea appear less isolated, according to CNN. The West is also concerned about how this exchange could extend the war in Ukraine. Earlier in the war,

Russia obtained drones from Iran, and they have played a crucial role in destroying Ukrainian infrastructure says The Associated Press. Some analysts like Joseph Dempsey believe that the weapons acquired by Russia will not heavily affect the outcome of the war. The newly obtained weapons would reload Russia's depleted arsenal and extend the war, but they would not turn the tide of the war, reports CNN. CNN reports that on September 17 Kim Jong Un left the eastern Russian city of Vladivostok with new weapons in hand. It has been reported that Russia gave Kim a new set of drones and a bulletproof vest as a friendly send-off gift. According to Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, no arms negotiations have been an-

nounced, reports CNN. However, there is still much concern about what this alliance could lead to in the future.

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JOIN THE TEAM!


DESERT METH LABS: AFGHANISTAN IS NOW THE WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING PRODUCER OF METHAMPHETAMINES

Ashley Joann Yomtob
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In April 2022, the Taliban, the governing body of Afghanistan since 2021, banned the production of illicit drugs, including methamphetamines, as part of its “war on narcotics,” as explained by the Associated Press. According to Reuters, the nation has been known as the world’s largest producer of opium for years, including heroin. However, a new illegal substance in Afghanistan is now on the rise: methamphetamines. A recent report released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) showed a “nearly twelvefold increase in methamphetamine seizures between 2019 and 2021 from 2.5 tons to 29.7 tons.”

Angela Me, the chief of UNODC’s Research and Trend Analysis Branch, gave the Associated Press insight into

why Afghanistan has such an advantage in producing methamphetamines, noting, “You don’t need to wait for something to grow. You don’t need land. You just need the cooks and the know-how. Meth labs are mobile, they’re hidden.” Me also explained that Afghanistan’s legal and plentiful access to the ephedra plant gives an even greater advantage over the world’s other large producers, Myanmar and Mexico, that who cannot cultivate it.

ABC News reports Abdul Mateen Qani, spokesperson for the Interior Ministry, explained in great detail the efforts that the Taliban is taking to halt this illegal production in a statement made to the Associated Press. This includes the destruction of 644 factories and around 12,000 acres of land for possible narcotic cultivation. Additionally, there have been over 5,000 raids and a resulting 6,000 arrests.

These measures are yet to yield any effective results. Qani also mentioned a four-year strategic plan that would “finish” meth and narcotics in general.

ABC News, however, further elaborates that in a United Nations report from last November, opium production alone increased by 32 percent since the Taliban takeover, and the resulting income of opium sales more than tripled from \$425 million in 2021 to \$1.4 billion in 2022. The Taliban appears to have very little control over this rapidly spreading industry. Furthermore, it has been revealed that the growth of methamphetamine production in Afghanistan will cause more than just domestic disruption. NBC News reports that the UNODC’s report warns that it could cause chaos within synthetic drug manufacturing and allow for a rise in substance abuse and addiction.



A farmer holds an opium poppy in Afghanistan. Courtesy of United Nations Photo (Flickr) Creative Commons 2.0

Additionally, it has been documented that Afghan methamphetamines have been seized as far away as Europe and East Africa. Chemical and Engineering News elaborates on this issue by explaining that a lack of efficient data makes determining the “true size and nature of Afghanistan’s meth

problem,” difficult. C&En News also notes that a report conducted by the European Union in November 2020 revealed that Afghanistan was beginning to appear in international markets through both new routes and already well-established heroin trafficking routes. Ad-

ditionally, C&En News reported that, according to the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, seizures have been doubling every year since their first seizure in May 2009.

These two notions alone reveal that the rise of methamphetamine production in Afghanistan has been a trend for over a decade. It is also quite evident that the Taliban and other international organizations are likely to have to deploy a new course of action if there is any chance of managing this growing issue. The political, social, and religious conflicts within Afghanistan and neighboring regions already creates great tension in the area, adding a boom to an already massive illicit drug industry.

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AT LEAST 40 KILLED AFTER AIRSTRIKE IN SUDAN

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On September 10, an airstrike on an open marketplace in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum resulted in over 40 deaths and more than 55 wounded, reports The Associated Press. The attack was the latest carried out by the Sudanese army as Khartoum has become an open battleground between two rival military factions in the country since April 2023. Videos released by witnesses showed dozens of bodies being covered in white shrouds although it is unclear whether the victims were all civilians, according to Al Jazeera. Khartoum has borne the brunt of the fighting as much of its infrastructure, including famous buildings like the Greater Nile Petroleum Oil Company Tower, has been damaged, reports BBC.

Sudan has been embroiled in an open conflict between the country’s military, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and a

paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), led by General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, since April 15, 2023. The two groups were initially allies as they orchestrated a coup against the civilian government in Sudan in October 2021, according to the Council on Foreign Relations. General Burhan became the de facto ruler of Sudan and Dagalo, also known as Hemedti, became his second-in-command, according to Al Jazeera. Both the RSF and military were accused of killing pro-democracy protestors who took to the streets after the coup.

The fighting has so far killed more than 4,000 people, although experts believe the death toll to be much higher. A further 7 million have been internally displaced and around 1 million have become refugees, reports The Associated Press. Beyond the fighting, lack of humanitarian aid has led to the deaths of nearly 1200 children in Sudan’s

refugee camps, reports Reuters. Measles and cholera have also spiked in the country as the healthcare system nears collapse.

The New York Times describes the current conflict between Burhan and Dagalo as a power struggle between the two rival generals for control of Sudan after the coup. General Burhan rose through the ranks of the military during his 30-year career while Sudan was ruled by its longtime

dictator, Omar al-Bashir. Bashir was later brought down by the military after overwhelming protests in the country against his rule back in 2019, Al Jazeera furthers. The subsequent transitional government consisted of civilian factions as well as military and paramilitary groups like the RSF. The army consists of nearly 300,000 soldiers and dominates much of the country due to its superior air and manpower,

while the RSF has a strong grip in the southern region of Darfur as well as enclaves in Khartoum. Multiple ceasefires were agreed to and then immediately violated, while humanitarian aid has become increasingly difficult to access.

The Rapid Support Forces was created in 2013, evolving from the Janjaweed militias that carried out horrific atrocities on ethnic groups in Darfur in the mid-2000s. Former dictator Bashir and leaders of these militias were indicted by the International Criminal Court in 2009 over accusations of genocide, reports Amnesty International. Dagalo has led the RSF since its establishment and commands nearly 100,000 fighters. The RSF was legitimized under Sudanese law in 2017, which concerned many members of the military at the time, reports Reuters. Since then, they have functioned as a second military in the country, often working in tandem to put down pro-democracy protests. The main point of con-

tention between the two groups is the extent to which the RSF should be integrated into the army. Dagalo wants the RSF to maintain a level of independence, while the army wants to consolidate the country’s military forces. Both generals were also under pressure from the West as well as African and Arab states to transition to democracy, something they both wanted to avoid, according to The New York Times. Six months into the conflict, the civilian death toll continues to rise as diseases rip through the country and the refugee crisis worsens.

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Conflict in Sudan has internally displaced 7 million. Courtesy of United Nations Photo (flickr) Creative Commons 2.0

LULA ANNOUNCES PUTIN CAN ATTEND NEXT G20 SUMMIT WITHOUT FEAR OF ARREST

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Staff Writer

The G20 summit took place in India this month, featuring a particular focus on the international response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The G20 member countries that gathered in New Delhi refrained from issuing explicit condemnation directed towards the Russian Federation regarding its aggressive actions against Ukraine. However, the states collectively referenced the “human suffering and adverse repercussions of the conflict in Ukraine on global food and energy security,” in the Delhi declaration, according to BBC News.

In March 2023, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a Warrant for the arrest of Russian President Vlad-

imir Putin for unlawful deportation of children and unlawful transfer of population, Al Jazeera reports. As a consequence of this warrant, Putin chose to abstain from participation in the scheduled G20 Summit, as a way to avoid international judicial prosecution while in New Delhi.

Next September, the G20 summit is scheduled to convene once again in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. According to The Guardian, left-wing President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva commented, that Putin can go easily to Brazil. Lula further asserted, “... if I’m Brazil’s president, and if he comes to Brazil, there’s no reason he’ll be arrested,” eliciting much criticism, largely because of Brazil’s inclusion in the 1998 Rome Statute.

Brazil was a signatory



Brazil’s President Lula at the opening of the G20 summit. Courtesy of Palácio do Planalto (Flickr) CreativeCommons 2.0

of the Rome Statute, a 1998 treaty that established the ICC, thereby committing itself to collaborative efforts with the ICC on matters pertaining to human rights, international criminal law, and enforcement of punishment. Through Lula’s statement pertaining to Putin’s inclusion in the G20 Summit at Rio, the Brazilian president signifies a potential breach of the stipulations delineated

within the Rome Statute. According to Bloomberg, because Russia pulled out of the Rome Statute in 2016, it is unlikely that Putin will surrender to the ICC and recognize their crimes. However, considering Brazil’s continued status as a signatory to the Rome Statute, affording President Putin the opportunity to enter Brazilian territory without the threat of legal prosecution would

be against the treaty.

Historically, Brazil has been a staunch supporter of multilateralism, exemplified in its active engagement in major intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and Inter-American Institute (IAI). However, Brazil’s recent policy orientation has placed an emphasis on the cultivation of alternative forums in collaboration with India, China, and Russia. An example of this alternative forum is the establishment of BRICS as reported by Washington Post. Founded in 2009, the BRICS framework is deliberately geared towards the advancements of economic synergies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa to address the global apprehension felt by countries wielded

by the dominance of the United States (U.S.) and other Western powers in the international economy as reported by Reuters. Such organizations have brought Russia and Brazil closer, and this growing relationship could be backed by Lula’s role in Ukraine Russia conflict.

Da Silva has openly condemned the U.S. for its role in the war, stating that the U.S. must stop “encouraging war,” garnering Russian praise, BBC describes. As the war in Ukraine continues to play out, eyes are on da Silva and the Brazilian government to see how he continues to associate with Putin.

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THE US AND VIETNAM STRENGTHEN TIES WITH NEW PARTNERSHIP

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In the wake of mounting concerns over China, United States President, Joe Biden, and the General Secretary of the Communist Party in Vietnam, Nguyen Phu Trong, solidified a new “Comprehensive Strategic Relationship” in Hanoi on September 10. This move not only furthers the United States’ goals of strengthening ties in the Indo-Pacific region but also aligns with Vietnam’s economic and security ambitions. Though neither party directly cited China in the joint statement released on the matter by The White House, the decision to reinforce their relationship directly relates to the growing influence of China on a global scale.

In line with the Indo-Pacific Strategy document out of The White House, the Biden Administration has been dedicated to shoring up relationships in the Indo-Pacific region, and the decision

to reaffirm relations with Vietnam seems to be an extension of this goal. The U.S. has partnered with allies in the region to maintain stability while China “actively [seeks] to overturn the international rules-based order that has kept peace in the [Indo-Pacific],” according to the Department of Defense. As the network of allies to the U.S. expands, Reuters reports that partnering with Vietnam, a country closely related to China both physically and economically, would be a key piece in the strategy to contain Beijing, something officials in Washington are keenly aware of. The statement made on September 10 reflects two years of the Biden Administration’s continuous efforts to win over Vietnam. “It reflects the leading role that Vietnam will play in our growing network of partnerships in the Indo-Pacific as we look to the future,” says Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor, in a press briefing by The White House.

But the decision to strengthen ties to Vietnam is for more than just security reasons. Vietnam is an attractive destination for U.S. tech companies, with supplies of rare earth elements and a young, educated workforce, and it is a promising market for the weapons industry, says Reuters. Additionally, Vietnam is poised to become a part of the semiconductor supply chain. Since President Biden has restricted U.S. investments in and exports to China, further developing the electronics and tech sector in Vietnam could be integral to U.S. success in these industries.

And for Vietnam, the U.S. offers an appealing alternative to Chinese partnership. The U.S. has agreed to support Vietnam in training a “high-tech workforce” and is pouring money into boosting Vietnamese tech sectors and entrepreneurs, as detailed by the White House and Vietnam’s joint statement. As Vietnam aims to become a high-income country in



Vietnam has become an attractive host for many industries. Courtesy of Travel and Snap (flickr) CreativeCommons 4.0

the next 20 years, as detailed by the World Bank, investing in global in-demand assets over the stalling economy of Beijing is simply more practical. Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong detailed in a statement to Vietnam’s state media by their Ministry of National Defense how these economic cooperations were a driving force for bilateral relations.

Vietnam could also be sending a warning to Beijing with its new ties to the U.S. as China continues to encroach on Vietnam’s claims in the South China Sea. As detailed by the Harvard International Review, China has contested Vietnam’s claims in the

South China Sea leading to age-old conflicts that still last today as aggression from China is only becoming more common. Vietnamese Ministry of Defense reports that just a few weeks ago, Chinese warships attacked Vietnamese fishermen while in Vietnamese waters, and Voice of America has cataloged almost 100 of the same incidents happening since 2014. Decreasing reliance on China would give Vietnam a greater capacity to push back on this type of aggression. Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong seems to have highlighted the warning to China by stating, “Vietnam values the U.S.’s affirmation to

support a strong, independent, self-reliant, and prosperous Vietnam.”

U.S. Human Rights organizations have also raised concerns about the new ties between the U.S. and Vietnam, reports the New York Times. Vietnam remains an authoritarian and communist country, recently cracking down on activism promoting democracy. The president hesitated to answer questions on this particular issue, avoiding them by accentuating a “noninterference in each other’s domestic affairs.”

The new connection between the U.S. and Vietnam undeniably sends a message to Southeast Asia, building a more stable economic platform for the two countries and projecting unity in the face of increasing aggression in the region. Whether this new partnership ends as a rhetorical deterrent or a cause for a new economic boom is yet to be seen.

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G20 SUMMIT WRAPS UP IN NEW DELHI

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World leaders met in New Delhi, India's capital, on September 9-10 this year for the G20 Summit, an annual climate change conference organized by the United Nations (UN) as explained by the Council on Foreign Relations. This year's theme, "One Earth, One Family, One Future", revolved around the value of humans, animals, and plants, and their connection to Earth and the climate, as reported in SDG Knowledge Hub, a project by the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

The G20 Summit is composed of 20 countries with high economic output or European Union (EU) membership, reports PBS News Hour. While many Western powers such as the

United States, France, and the United Kingdom attended, other countries involved in climate change issues, such as Indonesia and Saudi Arabia were there as well.

This two-day meeting involved some of the world's most prominent leaders, including UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. In a press conference General Guterres comments on the theme and its importance to focus on our global community when it comes to the tackle against climate change, according to the UN "[I]f we are indeed one global family – we today resemble a rather dysfunctional one," Guterres said. "Divisions are growing, tensions are flaring up, and trust is eroding – which together raise the specter of fragmentation, and ultimately, confrontation." Not only does

Guterres mention the need for unity within the world, he mentions the need for a reform of the United Nations Security Council in order to make the organization as a whole function in the ways necessary for combatting climate change.

Faces such as French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also appeared at the G20 conference, according to Reuters. One specific person missing was Russian President Vladimir Putin.

According to Al Jazeera, the nations present agreed that states cannot obtain territory by force, specifically mentioning the people of Ukraine. That being said, there wasn't any direct criticism of Russia in the comments made about the war. These statements stark in contrast

to last year, where Russia was directly condemned for the war and leaders demanded withdrawal from Ukraine. Despite the absence from a global superpower, much was done regarding the issue at hand- climate change and further representation in the committee.

A win for diversity was made during these two days, as mention by Reuters. The G20 countries formally accepted the African Union to the bloc. This was impactful for African countries, who typically do not get representation in these kinds of conferences, yet are affected most by the effects of climate change. Until this year South Africa was the only African member of G20, now the 55-member Union is a permanent member, on par with the membership of the European Union. The addition of the African Union

not only adds diversity to this summit but also further equalizes power within the committee, where the G7 countries have long had a more dominant role until now.

United States President Joe Biden was also in attendance. Although there are no details about financials or a timeline, the Biden administration is looking to counter China's Belt and Road global infrastructure plan with a plan proposed by Washington to be an alternative partner and investor for the developing countries in the G20 group, explains Reuters. This proposition involves laying railroad lines in the Middle East and a port in India.

The European Parliament Think Tank mentioned that the G20 leaders have also agreed to triple renewable energy capacity globally by 2030, as well as ac-

cept the importance to phase-down the use and manufacturing of coal power. Despite this, they have not provided any plans to fix existing policies to achieve their new targets. It has been calculated that it will cost \$4 trillion a year to pay for the transition to green energy, a pathway to get these funds has yet to be laid out.

While developments were made at this year's G20 Summit, the consequences of these decisions haven't shown themselves yet. The next UN climate summit will be COP28, a two-week affair in November through December which will be held in the United Arab Emirates.

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VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN CHILE DURING MARCH TO COMMEMORATE PINOCHET VICTIMS

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On Monday, September 11th, Chile marked the 50 anniversary of Augusto Pinochet's overthrowing of Socialist President Salvador Allende, which began two decades of military tyranny. The coup on September 11, 1973, began when tanks started to occupy the streets of Santiago, the capital of Chile. According to Reuters, this marked the start a series of U.S.-friendly, right-wing dictatorships, which governed much of South America well into the 1980s.

Chile's history under the Pinochet dictatorship, which followed the coup, was a difficult and chaotic time. Pinochet's regime, which ran from about 1973 to 1990, was known for its violations of human rights and suppression of political dissent. During this time, Reuters reports, thousands of Chileans were

imprisoned, tortured, and executed. Many more Chileans were sent into exile abroad. The Pinochet government imposed strong controls on the media and political institutions, creating an atmosphere of fear and censorship that effectively silenced any resistance. More than 3,200 people were killed or "disappeared" Al Jazeera reports. In Chilean society, Pinochet's legacy continues to be a highly polarizing and controversial subject. While some see him as a necessary stabilizing force during a period of political unrest, others criticize him for the rampant human rights abuses and authoritarian rule that characterized his regime. The 50th anniversary of Pinochet's coup is a sobering reminder of the negative effects of political repression and the ongoing struggle in Chilean society for truth and justice. Pinochet died of a heart attack on December 10,



Protests erupted on the streets of Santiago, Chile on September 11. Courtesy of Márcio Cabral de Moura (Flickr) Creative Commons 2.0

2006, aged 91, according to NPR. Pinochet was never held liable for his actions.

The march on September 10, 2023 was to commemorate the victims of the dictatorship led by Augusto Pinochet. Chile's young, left-leaning president Gabriel Boric participated in a march honoring those slain and who disappeared under the Pinochet regime, The Washington Post reports. Boric gave a speech on September 10, condemning the actions of Pinochet. "Problems with democracy can always be solved ... and a coup d'état is never justifiable – nor is

endangering the human rights of those who think differently," said Boric in his speech, The Guardian reports. During the speech, the presidents of Chile and Mexico called for the strengthening of democracy in Latin America during a joint address, according to Reuters "The visit of President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador ... is a concrete example of this history that unites us and of his commitment to strengthening democracy in Latin America," said Boric. His counterpart, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador stated, "We are united by history,

brotherhood and the desire to continue building an authentic democracy."

Although the march was meant to be a peaceful demonstration, it quickly turned violent. According to France 24, a small group of men in hoodies threw stones at the presidential palace and the police guarding it. There were also clashes with police at other points during the march, with a few of the protesters throwing Molotov cocktails. The police retaliated and fired water cannons at demonstrators, according to Reuters. The protesters were able to break into a cemetery containing the graves of some figures in the Pinochet regime. Some mausoleums within the cemetery were damaged, among them the grave of a right-wing senator killed in 1991. In total, three people were arrested for their actions. Along with the three people who were arrested, three police of-

icers were injured. None of the officer's injuries were life-threatening.

As Chile continues on its path toward a more equitable and just society, these protests show that both the government and the civil society remember the mistakes of the Pinochet regime and are working towards a shared vision for a brighter future. It is these types of actions that will help shape the trajectory of Chile's future.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

TOP SPANISH SOCCER OFFICIAL RESIGNS AFTER KISSING SCANDAL AT WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

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The Royal Spanish Football Federation president, Luis Rubiales, has finally resigned amid weeks of pressure over his unwarranted kiss with Women's World Cup star Jenni Hermoso. Rubiales has also stepped down from his role as vice president of Union of European Football Association (UEFA), the governing body of European soccer. He made his official decision on September 10 and informed the public in a letter via X, formerly known as Twitter. The scandal has led to accusations of his abuse of power, macho behavior, and even the continuance of sexism in soccer, according to the New York Times.

International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), world soccer's governing body, has suspended Rubiales for 90 days. In addition,

Hermoso has filed a criminal complaint of sexual assault and coercion against him, contributing to his recent decision, Reuters reports. The complaint is now part of an investigation carried out by Spain's High Court prosecutor to determine Rubiales' guilt in the incident and whether a trial should take place, according to NPR.

During the infancy of the scandal, Rubiales had initially rejected calls for his resignation, even insisting that the kiss was "mutual," CNN reports. He received these calls from politicians, governing bodies in soccer, and even the players, who vowed not to play for the Spanish national team unless he was no longer his role. On the other hand, Hermoso deliberately denied Rubiales' claims and said, "I felt vulnerable and a victim of an impulse-driven, sexist, out of place act without

any consent on my part," according to CNN.

As pressure intensified upon Rubiales from government officials and other prominent figures, in addition to a criminal complaint against him, he chose to step down while considering the impact this scandal had on those related to him, NBC reports. He addressed the rationale behind his decision in an interview with British journalist Piers Morgan, where he explained that after consulting with his family over the severity of the, he decided that remaining in the position would only make matters worse.

The Guardian reports that Rubiales' interview with Morgan has been criticized due to certain statements made throughout the interview. Famous journalist Piers Morgan has also been on the side of controversy during his time in the profession, and Rubiales' engagement

with him has not been taken lightly. Spanish media has capitalized on the recent interview, stating an issue with Rubiales conducting the interview in English instead of Spanish, the language of his people, and being interviewed by Morgan, who is not well known in Spain. He also used the interview as an opportunity to solidify his position, saying he would not apologize to Hermoso.

The Guardian reports that another reason behind Rubiales' resignation is the potential risk the scandal has on Spain's 2030 World Cup bid. The controversy has already tainted the current image of Spanish football and culture, giving rise to an outbreak of dissatisfaction with macho behavior and sexism. In fact, Bloomberg reports that since the incident, a universal movement has come to fruition supporting Hermoso and the Spanish women's national team.

The move has transpired across social media, using the phrase "Se acabó," which means "it's over" in Spanish; a reference to Rubiales and the widespread issue of sexual harassment worldwide, according to Bloomberg.

As this movement grows within Spain, the question is whether issues of macho behavior, sexual harassment, and sexism will be expunged from society. The success of Spain's women's national team in winning their first ever World Cup victory has been clouded by this scandal, but some see the turn of events as a victory for feminism and the stance against gender inequality. On September 15, Rubiales testified in a closed court session in Madrid, claiming that the kiss was consensual despite Hermoso's denials, according to The Guardian.

CNN reports that the Spanish Court where Rubiales testified has imposed a restraining order

on him, which prevents him from speaking with and reaching within 200 meters (650 feet) of Hermoso. As this case continues, as well as the growing movement in Spain against sexism, the goal of justice that many in soccer, Spain, and the world are seeking is fast approaching.

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THE ENTRAPMENT AND RESCUE OF CAVER MARK DICKEY

Megan Pitt
Staff Writer

Expert caver, Mark Dickey, became trapped in Morca cave in Southern Turkey on Saturday, September 2, when he began to battle gastrointestinal bleeding, NPR reports. As a result of his poor health, Dickey could not hike back to the cave's entrance which, from his location, would span approximately eight hours. The Hungarian Cave Rescue Service arrived on September 3, with aid teams from Bulgaria, Italy, Croatia, Turkey, and Poland close behind, NPR also stated. The European Cave Rescue Association said that the rescue would "need many very experienced cave rescuers."

Dickey explained that his consciousness was challenging to hold on to, according to

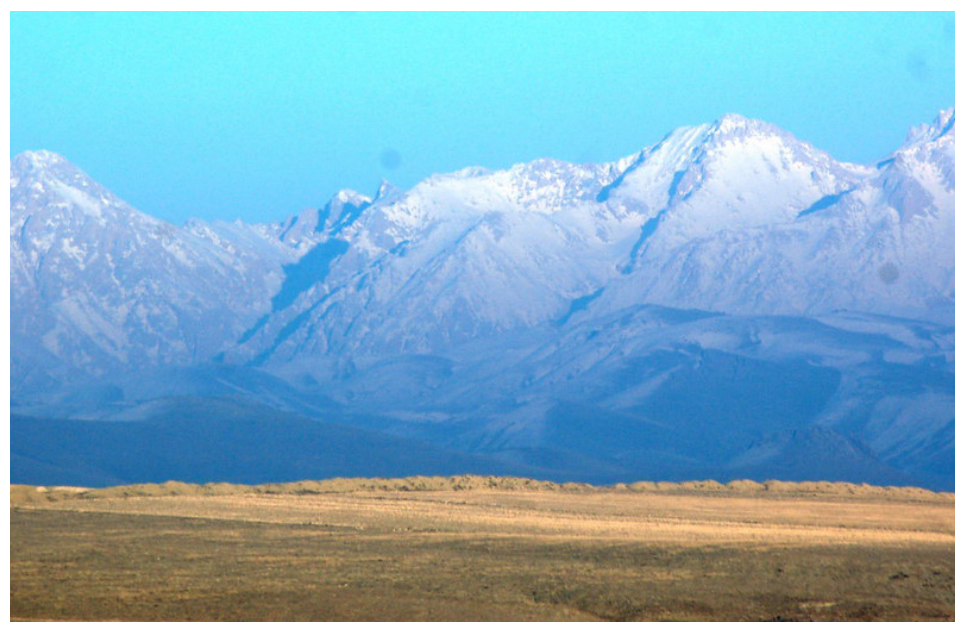
The Guardian, saying, "I reached the point where I thought: I'm not going to live." He had also begun to throw up copious amounts of blood. The cause of the illness is unknown. The Guardian further said that Turkey's emergency response service was able to "[resolve] his stomach bleeding issues with plasma and serum support." Ultimately, 190 rescuers tended to Dickey. Medics were tasked with providing the 40-year-old explorer with a blood transfusion while he remained in the cave. Doctors inside the cave with Dickey spoke with rescue teams through "an established communications line," according to CNN.

CNN also explained the complications of Dickey's rescue as a result of the complex structure of the cave consisting of narrow

and vertical paths. The news outlet also noted that the climate in the cave was very wet and the temperatures were cold, hovering around 39 degrees Fahrenheit. CBS News reported that rescuers had to "zig-zag [Dickey] up a path higher than New York's Empire State Building." Al Jazeera said that teams were required to use ropes to make their way through the cave.

Finally, at 12:37 am local time on Tuesday, September 12, Dickey was lifted from the cave and transported to a nearby hospital, according to Al Jazeera. The Associated Press noted that Dickey was in the cave for 500 hours, 11 days, in total. The rescue took 60 hours.

Once extracted, Dickey was eager to thank those who had participated in his saving. Specifically, he recognized



The Taurus mountains rise above southern Turkey's Nigde Province. Courtesy of Dan (flickr) Creative Commons 2.0

his fiancée, Jessica Van Ord, for her contributions. The Associated Press reported that Van Ord climbed out of the cave and returned with four bags of fluid.

He also mentioned his gratitude to the public for paying attention to his entrapment. The Associated Press reported that Dickey specifically thanked the na-

tion of Turkey for their devotion to his cause, saying he learned that the nation was watching, hoping, and praying he would survive.

The Associated Press also said that Dickey plans to continue caving despite his recent experiences. Specifically, he noted that would enjoy returning to Morca Cave. Dickey said, "there's risk

in all life and in this case." While Dickey admits his medical emergency was completely unpredicted and unknown, he also believes it was a one-off. He is currently recovering at Mersin City Hospital in Southern Turkey.

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GLOBAL ECONOMICS

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The closest thing the global economy has ever faced to the eruption of generative artificial intelligence (AI) currently being experienced across the world was the creation of the internet and its subsequent boom in the mid-1990s, according to *The New York Times*. This time, however, experts foresee generative AI to have both a larger and quicker effect on global GDP. This is creating an increasing number of fears and questions on how AI will affect the future.

The New York Times reports that the McKinsey Global Institute released a report in June claiming that generative AI is set to add \$4.4 trillion to the global economy annually. Reuters reports that this addition could be as much as \$14 trillion to \$22 trillion annually. The McKinsey report also predicts a productivity boost that could save 60 to 70 per-



AI could shrink the technological divide between developing nations.

Courtesy of Asia Development Bank (flickr)
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cent of workers' time through automation, says *The New York Times*.

Some fear AI will replace workers, while others see it as an opportunity to augment productivity. Brookings explains that this swing will depend on whether industries move towards AI that complements or substitutes labor. AI that substitutes labor has the possibility of displacing jobs, while AI that complements labor makes human intervention indispensable to the success of the AI. One study that analyzed call centers that augmented their calls with AI saw up to a 30 percent increase in productivity and found that customer sen-

timent was higher as well.

AI also presents potential opportunities and barriers in developing countries. AI could be used to offer better or more readily available medical diagnostics in areas with low access to sufficient medical care, reports *Foreign Affairs*. AI advances could also fill a need for therapy in areas with high rates of mental illness and limited access to therapy, help people find and fill out all the necessary permits to start a business more quickly, tutor students in areas or countries with limited opportunities or weak education systems, or even identify the poorest households in a given area to help decide

how to distribute aid in a crisis. However, while all of these innovations could be life changing for people in developing countries, *Foreign Affairs* also mentions that much of the developing world still does not have access to basic technologies such as wide use of smartphones and broad band internet, which are necessary in order to implement AI.

The World Economic Forum reports that AI preparedness needs to be a top priority in these developing countries. Without immediate public-private cooperation, these countries risk facing an even larger technological divide, job market disruption, and a decrease in public trust leading to further political instability. However, policymakers in these economies seem to only have vague ideas on how to approach AI legislation and weak understandings of the power of this technology.

It is clear that the goals of AI usage in

Western countries are already different than what they would be in developing countries. *The New York Times* adds that some companies have started using generative AI to keep medical records and summarize patient visits. The medical field does not have room for error though and does not plan to adopt a wide usage of AI in its current form, as it is susceptible to mistakes and falsifying information. In developing countries, however, *Foreign Affairs* reports that less than half of all clinical cases are currently handled correctly. This suggests that while an imperfect AI would be a risk in the medical field in the Western world, it may be an improvement to the medical world in some developing countries.

The New York Times also reports, however, that widespread use of AI in any country is likely still years away; McKinsey predicts mainstream adoption to take eight to 27 years. Companies such as JP Morgan are in the

experimental phase with AI and are not yet ready to use it in their everyday business practices with real clients. The main goal of most businesses right now is using generative AI to save time and streamline work inside their companies.

The long-term effects of generative AI on the global economy are generally still a mystery. Brookings reports that AI technologies could eventually affect as much as 80 percent of the U.S. workforce in some form and will need less oversight as it continuously and rapidly gets more accurate. The development of generative AI also marks the first time that automation has threatened a change in creative and unstructured cognitive jobs. What is known, however, is that AI will undoubtedly change the workforce and economy. The question that remains is how that change will affect human jobs.

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WARFARE

Madeline Field
Staff Writer

Vladimir Putin, speaking in 2017 at a meeting with students, according to *The Associated Press*, said of AI that "Whoever becomes the leader in this sphere will become ruler of the world." Sure enough, AI has the capacity, like gunpowder, radar, and nuclear weapons, to completely reinvent warfare.

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) released the *Global Trends 2040* project in May 2021, which predicts that AI, as well as improvements in automation, sensors, and hypersonic technologies, will produce deadlier, faster, and more accurate weapons that will proliferate on a broader scale than ever before. While combat, they argue, is unlikely to be made more decisive, war may become more violent than ever before.

These battlefield revolutions, the DOD alleges, are likely to occur in "four broad areas—connectivity, lethality, autonomy, and sustainability." What

this will concretely look like is not yet understood by the general public, but vast arrays of global resources are being committed to the research and design of AI military concepts, from reconnaissance to surveillance.

Regardless, the rapid development of inexpensive autonomous, artificial submarines such as Australia's *Ghost Shark*, which is set to be operational by 2025, makes clear how many militaries see AI as a force multiplier. According to Reuters, autonomous submarines allow ships to reach depths and perform riskier maneuvers that humans cannot handle, greatly expanding spying and combat capabilities in the ocean.

Submarines, Reuters adds, are hardly the only vehicles being developed with AI software. A variety of machines, from subs to "warships, fighter jets, swarming aerial drones and ground combat vehicles" are likely to launch with AI components in the following years. However, simpler AI

systems have already begun to be used in warfare.

According to *The Defense Post*, the Israeli military began using AI systems this July for target identification and war action plan creation. The Israeli AI can calculate munition loads, create schedules, and crunch vast arrays of data, allowing for better target selection. Israel's AI-generated decisions remain subject to the approval of human operators, but the pioneering Israeli system has reportedly vastly enhanced decision-making speed, making broader adoption likely.

Most critical to the development of AI technology and innovation has been the war in Ukraine, *The Washington Post* reports.

Both Ukraine and Russia have used AI to enhance drone capabilities. In the past, when trained using more simple technology, drones were unable to complete targeted maneuvers when the target moved or when electrical interferences occurred. Now, advanced AI embedded in drones have enabled drones

to stay locked in on targets, giving them the ability to complete its missions even if they go offline.

Admittedly, such drones, limited in range and untrained for complex environments, are unlikely to shift the war's landscape drastically. However, the real-life application of AI in warfare, from Israel to Ukraine, raises ethical issues about not only its use, but the relative ease with which it can proliferate. Dangerous AI technologies can be downloaded off the internet to be used by rogue governments and non-state actors alike, almost democratizing the spread of advanced lethal weaponry.

Naturally, such developments have led to concerns and attempts to regulate the military proliferation of AI. According to PBS, roughly 30 countries have expressed interest in drafting a "preemptive legally binding treaty that would ban autonomous weapons before they can be built," but none of those 30 are leading military powers. The U.S. and China, the

two largest world powers, have not engaged in dialogue about controlling the military spread of AI.

The United States has displayed caution towards widely adopting AI technologies in the armed forces, publishing a *Responsible Artificial Intelligence Strategy and Implementation Pathway* in 2022 and creating the *Responsible AI Working Council* to manage AI's broad implementation.

But China, amidst great power rivalry with the U.S., leaves less to the imagination. China has expressed a desire to become the world's leading AI superpower by 2030, outlined in their 2017 *New Generation AI Development Plan*. While U.S. officials have stated that they have attempted to speak to the Chinese about regulating AI in the military, discussions have not been fruitful.

Luckily, AI in warfare does not yet pose a real threat to human existence. Anthony King writing for *War on the Rocks* argues that AI can only function well in perfect environ-

ments and with perfect data. Strategic command decisions, which must take into account dozens of complexities, are hardly that.

Military leaders, aware that AI is only capable of interacting in environments it is trained in, have displayed extreme caution towards adopting it unilaterally.

But, what AI will look like five years from now is impossible to predict; its computational power, according to *Time*, is doubling every six to ten months. As such, it remains critical in the coming years that countries slow the proliferation of AI in warfare and refrain from designing systems that give AI undue autonomy in decision-making on human lives.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

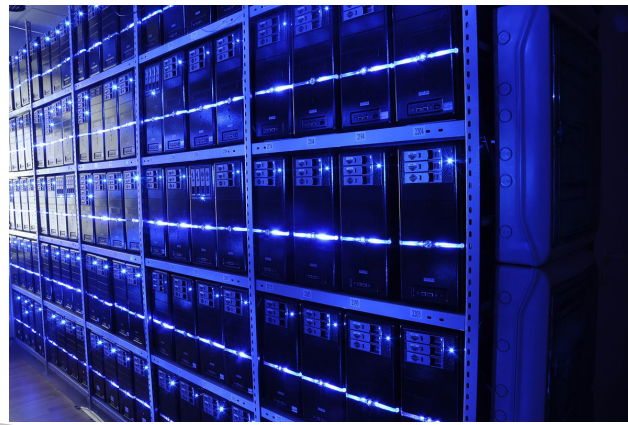
Hamzah Khan
Managing Editor

Since Chat-GPT burst onto the scene last November, advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology have exploded across industries. According to McKinsey, “artificial intelligence is a machine’s ability to perform the cognitive functions we usually associate with human minds.” The ability of AI to analyze data, respond to complex problems, and assist with research is seemingly unparalleled. As the climate crisis worsens to nearly irreversible levels, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is important to note what kind of impact AI can have in this area.

According to CBS News, there is a debate now among policy experts on whether AI can effectively help combat climate change or actively contributes to it. While there have been instances of AI being used to help fight wildfires and identify recyclables, AI also

leaves a significant carbon footprint. CBS finds that the data centers where language models like Chat-GPT are trained can use up to 700,000 liters of freshwater for their cooling systems and emit nearly 626,000 pounds of carbon dioxide. The U.S. Department of Energy says that “data centers are one of the most energy-intensive building types, consuming 10 to 50 times the energy per floor space of a typical commercial office building.”

According to The Atlantic, AI contributes to emissions in three ways: the burning carbon to build computer chips, the energy expended on training models, and electricity usage every time the product is used. The total contribution to global emissions from AI and the internet is relatively low at the moment – roughly 4 percent, according to The Atlantic. However, as AI expands, its potential to significantly increase consumption of fossil fuels is likely. Since 2010, global internet traffic has



A data center uses extraordinary amounts of resources to run. Courtesy of BalticServers.com (Wikimedia Commons) Creative Commons 3.0

increased 25-fold, and experts believe that AI is likely to have a similar effect on increasing internet usage in the coming years.

While the contribution to carbon emissions AI is responsible for is still being studied, it is also clear that AI can help fight climate change, according to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). Due to the staggering amount of data available on climate change, the UNEP has begun to use AI to analyze complex datasets and inform real time analysis to predict carbon concentration in the atmo-

sphere, monitor glaciers, and measure sea level rise. The UNEP also uses AI to monitor methane emissions by connecting data from public databases to policy makers and scientists. UNEP also partnered with a Swiss air quality technology company, IQAir, to develop the largest AI-powered global air quality tracking network in the world.

According to Politico, AI is also making waves in the climate forecasting sector. Politico reports that a Chinese technology company developed an AI weather model that was 10,000 times faster than

conventional models and even more accurate than major European weather forecasting models. The biggest obstacle to AI weather forecasting models, however, is climate change, as AI models rely on historical data to make predictions. As the planet gets warmer every year, there will be less historical data to draw on that will be relevant to the changing climate of today. Nevertheless, Forbes reports that AI climate modeling can be beneficial in predicting the impacts of climate change and refining existing models by processing a significant amount of extra data. A model from the beginning of 2023 even predicted that the planet would cross the critical threshold of warming past 1.5 degrees Celsius sooner than previously estimated, reports CNN.

While these prediction models are grim, many experts believe AI can be used to slow down or reverse these developments. Forbes writes that AI can make energy usage more

efficient and sustainable by utilizing smart-grid systems. These systems would be able to analyze data to predict energy demand and reduce waste by allocating resources more efficiently. Scientists can also use AI to better equip carbon capture technologies and better integrate renewable energy like solar and wind into the power grid by predicting weather patterns. AI does not operate in a vacuum, however, and policymakers will need to incorporate AI into their climate change policies if there is to be significant movement on attaining the goals of the Paris Climate Accords and preventing catastrophic climate emergencies.

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REGULATION

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Whether it is “1984” by George Orwell or a Black Mirror episode on Netflix, predictions of the future of artificial intelligence have been common. But did anyone ever truly anticipate these predictions to be a reality in today’s history? Probably not. The perception of artificial intelligence as either a threat or a source of progress is a topic that has ignited the ongoing debates by politicians, CEOs, and common people, creating significant divisions.

Reactions to AI and its regulations thus far have largely been based on what a state values. As AI will significantly impact digital everyday life, Foreign Affairs depicts how different countries have reacted differently to digital regulation for AI. Since the United States is a market-driven state, it approaches AI legislation exactly in that context. It has been concerned

more with AI’s progress, favoring freedom of speech. However, China has adopted a state-driven approach, which is no surprise given the history of China’s involvement with internet censorship. Alternatively, the European Union is rights-driven, focusing on protecting individuals’ fundamental liberties. These different approaches leave a disagreement among major powerful states regarding regulating AI.

Since the U.S. is more in favor of AI freedom, The Associated Press reports emerging strategies for philanthropy’s impact on AI trajectory are coming to light. Tech industry billionaires are increasingly inclined to back initiatives and organizations that promote the beneficial aspects of AI, whereas foundations lacking substantial wealth tend to prioritize addressing the risk associated with AI. Some are concerned

more with the benefits, some are concerned more with the disadvantages, and others are equally concerned about both.

Even though billionaires in the U.S. are optimistic about the future of AI, many individuals are concerned as to how AI may worsen systematic racism. Histories of past and present systemic racism within U.S. history raises questions about how AI regulation will address concerns of these

tools worsening these issues. As the ACLU states, “There is ample evidence of the discriminatory harm AI tools can cause to already marginalized groups. After all, AI is built by humans and deployed in systems and institutions that have been marked by entrenched discrimination — from the criminal legal system to housing, to the workplace, to our financial systems.” Because of human influence, the ACLU continues that AI software is often biased, in both the situations AI is asked to predict and the data used to train AI tools. These situations often unrepresentative of marginalized groups and discriminatory at worst, and can impact the “design, development, implementation, and use” of AI.

These concerns emerge and intertwine from the questioning of the regulation of AI. Foreign Policy paints a picture that Geoffrey Hinton, the “godfather of AI” talks about: the major root of

these concerns is that no one is quite sure how to control AI, since it generates itself. Technologists and researchers have published an open letter to put a delay in the development of AI. Foreign Policy mentions that Hinton eventually quit working with Google because of the consistent uncertainty surrounding AI’s future.

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Each nation has reacted differently to AI, passing legislation that suits their individual interests. Courtesy of JessicaRodriguezRivas (Wikimedia Commons) Creative Commons 4.0

G20 SUMMIT: THE FORESHADOWING OF A NEW US-INDIA RELATIONSHIP?

Melissa Myrtaj

International News Editor

This year's G20 Summit provides nations the opportunity for partnerships to proliferate. The annual G20 Summit is held under a rotating President, with this year being Narendra Modi, India's Prime Minister. Prime Minister Modi has been proactive in using the feature of bilateral meetings of the summit's agenda, notably with President Biden. They met around three months earlier at the White House, and President Biden arrived a day early in New Delhi to have another bilateral talk, according to NBC News. The two have been "strengthening their partnership due to the rise of climate change and artificial intelligence, alongside an increasingly assertive China," and the two have had "more than a dozen in-person or virtual engagements since 2021" as a result, reported by NBC News. According to PBS, the bilateral meetings offer flexibility to a "sometimes rigid geopolitical order or focus on issues outside the formal agenda." However, these bi-

lateral relationships and agendas can raise tensions with other nation-states with the overall mission of the G20, according to G20, of addressing "trade, sustainable development, health, agriculture, energy, environment, climate change, and anti-corruption."

The bilateral meetings between the U.S. and India over trade can potentially provide nations an alternative to China's nation-spanning infrastructure program, which could increase tensions between nation states. President Biden and Prime Minister Modi are collaborating in the U.S.-based General Electric and India-based Hindustan Aeronautics

to produce jet engines for "Indian aircraft in India and the sale of U.S.-made armed MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones," stated NBC News. Furthermore, on the G20 Summit agenda, they announced a collaborating project with other nations to build a rail and shipping corridor linking India with the Middle East and Europe according to The Associated Press. Modi, speaking through a translator, stated "Enhancing connectivity with all regions has been a key priority for India...We believe that connectivity is a means to not only increase mutual trade between different countries but also increase mutual trust." However, a Chi-

nese think tank rebutted that India is trying "to take advantage of its role" as the host of the summit and harm China's interest. According to Reuters, "Premier Li Qiang represented China in place of President Xi Jinping." China and India have had their tension, and this Summit can be seen as another way to scrutinize Chinese businesses and investments. However, President Biden, talking about President Xi Jinping, stated was "disappointed" but would "get to see him," Reuters stated. As the U.S. and India continue to collaborate at this summit and downplay their relations with the Chinese President, this can misrepresent the "premier forum of international economic cooperation," stated on the summit's website, G20.

Additionally, as President Biden and Prime Minister Modi have been working together on the agenda of the G20, their partnership has sparked concerns from activists and some American lawmakers regarding India's human rights record on Modi's watch, according to The Associated Press.

There is additional "scrutiny as India abstained from voting on UN resolutions condemning Russia and refused to join the global coalition against Russia, as well as increasing its purchases of oil from Russia", commented The Associated Press. According to The Associated Press, "Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was not invited by Modi's government to this year's gathering, though President Biden spoke at the sessions about Russia's war in Ukraine negatively impacting many other nations." Russia's war in Ukraine is an issue that cannot be trivialized to placate the U.S.-India relations and for the sake of trade, especially when the forum's multilateral agenda is the main concern, which puts Russia's war in Ukraine top of the list.

The G20 summit should be viewed with punctiliousness as "critics of Prime Minister Modi believe that he is using the summit to promote his country as a major global power, and himself as an important world leader," said BBC News. U.S. and India's allyship

having a platform for bilateral meetings based on the agenda of the G20 summit creates avenues that could be dead ends if the summit was strictly a multilateral meeting. However, the absence of certain leaders does not omit the tense and rigid environment and even heightens the underlying issues. The G20 offering bilateral and multilateral meetings can be taken advantage of by discussing conflicting viewpoints instead of abstaining from them. Therefore, the new deals and partnerships of trade produced by the G20 can be opportunities to bring world leaders to the forefront of world issues. Prime Minister Modi and President Biden have their differences in how they govern their countries, yet minimizing interactions with powers like China and Russia in the interests of the economy, such as trade deals, could lead to disastrous consequences for the international community.

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Presidents Modi and Biden seen walking together at G20 summit. Courtesy of Amb Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty (Deepstrat) CreativeCommons 1.0

A MAJOR CAUSE OF LIBYA'S TRAGIC FLOOD? WESTERN FAILURE.

Andrea Hebel

Editor-in-Chief

It was 3 a.m. when the first dam broke. Residents of Derna, a coastal city of 120,000 in Libya, had no idea that a "tsunami," as The New York Times reports residents later called the deluge of water racing through the Wadi Derna valley, was headed their way on September 11. Until it was too late.

The water, caused by the massive Storm Daniel in the Mediterranean Sea, stalled for mere minutes before a second dam gave way. The water had no mercy, and the residents had no warning, except for the sounds of the dam cracking. By dawn, as The Washington Post describes, a 23-foot-tall wave engulfed the city, leaving devastation in its wake.

It may be weeks, or months, before the true death toll is learned. It is believed that as much as one-sixth of the city's population was wiped out in minutes. In Derna,

those who have not fled remain to look for survivors, but hope is dimming.

To experts, the collapse of the dam is the unimaginable result of years of warnings, The New York Times says. The dams were built in the 1970s by engineers who did not understand the terrain and rainfall patterns of the region, increasing desertification has made the region more susceptible to flooding in recent years, and corruption and infighting amongst political leaders has led to a failure to maintain the dams in the years since their construction.

As The Associated Press describes, Libya's government has been controlled by two separate factions since 2014, each claiming sovereignty over the other and backed by various international parties and militias. While both sides have pledged to assist in relief efforts, they have no record of cooperation, with the ceasefire in their civil war just brokered in

2020. Both sides have been rife with corruption, leading to significant unrest.

Libya's government has been in flux since its participation in Arab Spring, during which the crackdown on protestors by Libya's 42-year dictator Muammar Gaddafi was so severe the United Nations passed a resolution calling for the international community to protect the Libyan people. NATO declared an intervention, which left Gaddafi dead and nebulous leadership in his wake. Though the removal of Gaddafi was certainly a liberation to the Libyan people, who were relieved from a brutal authoritarian regime, the mission failed to consider the future of Libyan politics and governance. As Fund for Peace explains, the state lacked the institutions necessary to create effective governance and public policy. The state's political system devolved as over 60 independent militias vied for power, each backed by different inter-

national actors. The government declined to such a degree that the state was declared the "most-worsened" country of the 2010s by the Fragile State Index.

This is where Western failure begins. During the 2011 intervention, former U.S. President Barack Obama stated that regime change was not NATO's goal and Gaddafi was not a target. Yet, as Foreign Policy describes, NATO turned a blind eye to western assistance of rebel groups, and even targeted a convoy of loyalists with drone attacks, injuring the dictator, who was eventually captured and murdered by rebels.

But because regime change was not their goal, nation building was not either, as Fund for Peace continues. As such, a fragile post-war Libya received almost no international support from the U.S. or any other post-war allies. It was not until 2014 that the U.S. suggested providing aid to Libya's security situation – long after insti-

tutional capacity and development programs would have held the most weight. By semi-inadvertently collapsing its government and leaving a fledgling nation to rebuild from dust, Western nations failed to see their mission through, and little things like infrastructure fell through the cracks. And now, thousands are dead.

But the failures do not stop there. One also must consider what caused the deadliest "Medicane," a Mediterranean storm with the intensity of a hurricane, ever recorded, by a magnitude of tens of thousands. Nature describes that while it cannot be for certain whether specific events are worsened or explicitly caused by climate change, there is, at this point, a "clear causal link." Adding to this, climate scientist Scott Denning wrote in The Conversation, "Unprecedented heat and downpours and drought and wildfires aren't 'caused by climate change' – they are climate change." It's no secret that West-

ern nations are the biggest contributors to climate change, and while the impacts are felt – see the massive heat waves across Europe and forest fires in Western Canada this summer – it is undoubtedly the poorest and most unstable nations that suffer the most. From breaking down infrastructure, to desertification and drought ruining agricultural harvests, to sea level rise threatening to put coastlines and island nations underwater, climate poverty is real and getting worse. And in some places, it is too late. The West has a responsibility to help Derna pick up the pieces – it is the least they can do after a decade of neglect. People in places like Libya have suffered enough. In tragedy, may Western nations find the will to do the right thing and reverse their wrongs.

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HOW POWER POLITICS HAVE RESET THE TIMETABLE FOR DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

Cameron Bird
Staff Writer

July 2023 marked the end of democratic rule in Niger, located in the Sahel region of Western Africa. A month later, Gabon joined the multitude of African states to experience a coup this decade. Elements of neo-colonialism and failed multilateralism are given the initial blame, however, influential power politics present a distinct reasoning for this pattern. Since the end of the colonial period in Africa, efforts for democratic governance and economic development have been marred by the repetition of a pattern that has unfortunately become all too synonymous with the continent.

African states that are ruptured by ethnic conflict and ideological differences, among many other factors, have continuously proven incapable of developing strengthened and fortified democratic institutions. The New York Times describes how “military takeover in

the West African nation of Niger toppled the final domino in a band across the girth of Africa, from Guinea in the west to Sudan in the east, now controlled by juntas that came to power in a coup— all but one in the past two years.” These events are often perceived as unique to the region; however, it is becoming more apparent that the issues facing these African states are not as unique as has often been perceived and are rather a result of continuous cycles of manipulative and impatient power politics, under the façade of protecting state security.

As a result, the deferral of power has fallen on military institutions and structures, placing the primary roles of power politics in the region in the hands of potentially manipulative generals and military officials. Burkina Faso’s latest coup resulted in the installment of Captain Ibrahim Traore as head of state, replacing the previous junta leader, Lieutenant Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Da-

miba, just nine months after Damiba had launched a coup due to worries over state security, reports the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. The report additionally outlined that “Traoré justified his coup by claiming he would restore security and turn the tide of conflict. Yet, the effects of the coup have reportedly diverted precious resources, attention and personnel from the frontlines of the security and humanitarian crises confronting the country.”

According to Al Jazeera, nearly 44 percent of all successful global coups have occurred in Africa.” Africa’s ‘coup belt’ in the Sahel region in West Africa, has become a hotspot for junta takeover, militant insurgency, and Islamist extremism, only adding to the long persisting problems facing the region, such as high birth rates and slow economic development.

The historically defining impact upon the communities, governments, and institutions of Africa continues to

be colonialism. However, colonialism is often used to denote several general patterns, which are linked to it both directly and indirectly. While BBC News assesses the sources of these coups to be “poor economic development, and continuous poverty,” two symptoms inextricably linked to colonial rule, it is simple to assign these superficial indicators as the product of colonial structure. However, like other factors, they are rooted in sources of conflict not singular to Africa. As Reuters notes, “persistent insecurity and corruption have opened the doors to military leaders.” Not only does this identify the security dilemma as an inherent issue, but it focuses attention on a problem not that is indirectly influenced by, not unique to, colonialism.

Subsequently, when deducing the future of democracy in the region, fixating the blame on echoes of colonialism would not acknowledge the normalcy of Africa’s persistent problem. Africa’s pattern

of coups are a manifestation of grappling with the complications of power politics. With the only strong institution in a state such as Gabon being the military, there is no source of strength with which the democratic ideals of a government can lean upon. Just as in Europe where power imbalance and lack of secure structures are currently leading to conflict between Russia and Ukraine, African states are struggling with rising Juntas. This proves that while Africa faces a problem in terms of maintaining democratic structures, its problems are similarly rooted in concepts of security and legitimacy not unique to the African continent.

In determining the future of democracy in Africa, traditional influences of power, internally and externally, are unlikely to alter the trajectory of events that have become all too common in the region. The Associated Press acknowledges that there is “potential for influence by a regional bloc

such as ECOWAS [the Economic Community of West African States], but there is additional potential for conflict and war between the two power players.” Yet, inherent realism theory would suggest that external influence will prove to be so minimal that at most it will be a mere distraction to new junta leaders.

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HOW DO YOU DEFINE UNITY IN BRAZIL? LULA!

Jade Holmes
Staff Writer

A phrase like “Unity and Reconstruction” could be nothing but a vision of a utopian fantasy to some in Brazil. Yet, in his efforts to strengthen the country, Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva kept his promise to fight corruption and save Brazil from a broken political system. He showed his strive for national strength and reunification of the country during Brazil’s 201st Independence Day Parade.

On September 7, Brazil celebrated its 201st anniversary, where President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva pursued his mission of national unity at Brazil’s Independence Day parade. About 30,000 people attended the parade, watching events such as a military demonstration and other representations of national pride. Brasil de Fato reported that “many took to the



Brazil’s parliament building located in Brasilia. Courtesy of Christoph Diewald Chakravarty (flickr) Creative Commons 2.0

streets to protest against hunger and previous Brazilian President Bolsonaro’s imprisonment”.

Though President Lula da Silva is dealing with political tension due to the previous administration’s lingering military ideologies, Lula da Silva’s vision persists, exclaiming his hopes and dreams for Brazil’s united future. Though some agree with his stance, standing for unity can be an issue for many. Da Silva’s administration still directs the issue at hand as keeping a united front.

According to Reuters, da Silva called for people from all walks of life in

Brazil, from athletes to political leaders, to come together and celebrate the pride of the nation. “This is not a day of hate or fear; it is a day of unity,” Lula stated.

“Democracy, Sovereignty, and Unity” are terms being normalized throughout Brazil as da Silva tries to rebuild faith in the government and the military. This comes directly after dispensing of domestic responsibilities previously imposed on the military in the years of the Bolsonaro government administration.

Jair Bolsonaro’s administration was known for its heavy reliance on

the military. During his term ABC News reports, Bolsonaro quickly appointed members of the military, active and reserved, to different posts in Brazil, effectively giving the military immense power and control over Brazil. According to The Conversation, “the military was appointed strategic government positions such as chief of staff and minister of health under the Bolsonaro administration”. So far, da Silva has distributed some of the previous military roles and appointed them to state officials. The role of the country’s intelligence department was also stripped from the military and appointed to Lula’s administration.

As the country is still recovering from January 8, when supporters of Jair Bolsonaro overran the Supreme Court and Congress in hopes and demands to keep him in power. According to Al Jazeera, “supporters

blocked roads and set vehicles on fire calling military forces to Save Brazil.” Outrage filled the streets, as rioters shouted phrases such as “Armed forces, save Brazil!” and “United, the people will never be defeated!” in defiance of Bolsonaro’s ousting, said PBS.

Carolina Botelho, a political scientist at the University of Sao Paulo’s Advanced Studies Institute spoke to The Associate Press on the matter at hand. “The message is not only to unify but to rescue a state institution for society,” Botelho said. “The previous government tried to appropriate these celebrations, the armed forces, for personal purposes”.

Some natives and political commentators view da Silva’s projection of unity as a challenging mission. Unification will be especially challenging if there is an underlying economic crisis impacting Mercosur, the South

American regional trade bloc. According to BBC News, the Mercosur, or the “Southern Market” has struggled for more than five years. In 2016, Venezuela was accused of mishandling a clash between farmers and law enforcement, and was soon suspended from active membership in Mercosur.

Looking ahead to the future of Brazil, the love that Lula da Silva has for his people at the end of the day should not go unnoticed. He is trying to reinvent the national pride and regain the trust of his people. He has created more hope as he looks to the future of the nation with determination to change the lingering status quo of a broken state, Expressed in his motto “Unity and Reconstruction,” which sent shockwaves through to the people of Brazil.

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CHATHAM HOUSE HOSTS FORUM DISCUSSING MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANK REFORM

Alex Lee
Staff Writer

On September 18, Chatham House hosted Odile Renaud-Basso, President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), to discuss the context behind Multilateral Development Bank reform. Among Renaud-Basso's achievements is her position as Director General of the French Treasury, as well as the Vice President of the European Economic and Financial Committee. Additionally, she served as the Deputy Chair to the G7 and G20 groups and as French Governor of the World Bank.

A Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) is a bank which aims to build market economies through the use of investment. Based in London, the EBRD specifically attempts to promote economic reform in Central and Eastern Europe as the areas transition from command economies to free market economies.

The EBRD includes a total of 71 countries, including Eastern European and Central Asian countries, the United States, India, and the European Union (EU), as well as Russia and Ukraine. As an institution founded in 1992, the bank is advised by the President, a board of directors, and a board of governors. Notably, due to the ideals of the investors, the EBRD will not invest in thermal coal mining or coal fired electrical power plants. The EBRD, as part of the 2015 Paris Climate

Agreements, pledged to dedicate 40 percent of its budget to Green Climate Investment, with Russia donating 60 million euros to the cause.

There has been some controversy concerning the EBRD in terms of investments, as environmental and human rights advocates claim that the EBRD is supplying nations which commit aggressive acts against neighbors' resources, despite the bank's not making any new investments in Russia since 2014. Ukraine remains one of

the largest borrowers from the EBRD, which provided nearly three billion euros in aid for the Ukrainian private sector. However, Acting U.S. Secretary for International Affairs of the U.S. Department of the Treasury Jay Shambaugh has stated that the EBRD has not made enough change to help the Ukrainian economy. When asked about Ukraine, she commented that the EBRD was among the first financial institutions to offer support. Further, during the winter missile attacks, the EBRD was working closely with the Ukrainian power company to supply generators and invest further money to continue the war effort.

Environmentally, the EBRD has continued to invest in hydroelectric dams and coal burning power plants, both of which can be extremely damaging to the environment. Further, the EBRD has invested in the Azerbaijani oil and gas industries, which critics say is in direct support of the oppressive regime that cur-

rently rules Azerbaijan.

Renaud-Basso maintained during the forum that despite the challenges faced by most MDBs, they are vital to the continued economic development of countries, especially during the climate crisis. She believes that banks like the EBRD are vital because they help to ensure nations have the funding necessary to meet their goals. She also stated that systematically, there is a need to reform the banks if they are to continue to help combat pressing threats. She asked for additional funding but stressed that the bank continues to work to find ways to minimize cost of financing.

Renaud-Basso also explained the need to work on keeping nations AAA rated, meaning they adhere to their financial commitments, in order to allow them to continue to borrow at the rates needed for continued development. Amongst the issues she highlighted for reform is that due to the invasion of Ukraine,

more financing is needed to make up for the bank's massive investment there. When asked what makes the EBRD unique, she highlighted the fact that the EBRD sits at a distinctive position as a government funded institution, which allows it to alter political barriers. Additionally, she explains that the EBRD has the rare asset of having "boots on the ground" in almost all of the countries it invests in, allowing for better information and a fuller, clearer picture of the impact of its investments. added.

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Odile Renaud-Basso meets with Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili as President of EBRD.
Courtesy of Giorgi Abdaladze (Wikimedia Commons)
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REGINALD LEWIS SPEAKS TO BUCCINO LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Colin Little
Staff Writer

On September 15, Reginald Lewis from the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership spoke to freshman and sophomore students in Seton Hall University's Buccino Leadership Institute. His talk focused on introducing the Greenleaf Center to the students, as well as to provide information about what servant leadership is and illustrate how humans can incorporate that into everything they do in life.

The Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership is a nonprofit organization with a mission "to advance the awareness, understanding and practice of servant leadership by individuals and organizations," according to the Greenleaf website. Founded by Robert K. Greenleaf, who says that a better society is "one that is more just and more loving, one that provides greater creative opportu-



Reginald Lewis received his master's degree in social service administration from the University of Chicago.
Courtesy of Drsitu (Wikimedia Commons)
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nity for its people," this center strives to influence people to make society better through servant leadership development.

Reginald Lewis is dedicated to being a servant leader, specifically one that Greenleaf envisions will make society better. Before becoming the Center's Executive Director, Lewis was appointed to the United States Commission on Presidential Scholars under President Barack Obama. He then transitioned to become the co-chair of one of five working groups for

the implementation of the New Jersey Higher Education Plan under Governor Phil Murphy in 2019. Reginald Lewis received his undergraduate degree in Urban Studies from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and finished his master's degree in social service administration at the University of Chicago.

According to Lewis, the challenges in today's society stem from lack of leadership. Bad leadership creates bad problems. Lewis explained in his presentation that

these societal problems are what pushes those involved in the Greenleaf Center to be better servant leaders and to create more servant leaders. To help the Buccino students grow as servant leaders, Lewis spoke about the characteristics that help build a good leader. A leader must be a good listener, empathetic, committed to the growth of others, and builders of community, Lewis explains. Listening to others in need and attempting to understand others' emotions are important in the mission of understanding what the person one is helping is going through. One cannot be committed to the growth of others without being empathetic and a good listener; and a community cannot be built without being dedicated to the growth of others, Lewis shares.

So, what specifically is servant leadership? What is it about servant leadership that makes that leader stand out from others?

Lewis explains that simply put, servant leaders put others first. Not only are they good leaders that listen and are empathetic, committed to the growth of others, and builders of community, but they prioritize the well-being of others before themselves. They do not lead for personal gain, but rather for the benefit of others. This is done through moral authority, organization, and a solution seeking mind.

Lewis then spoke about how to properly be a servant leader: by not only completing service actions but living a life that fulfills areas of both service and leadership. Being creative, actively learning, and learning to live with anxiety are key points that Lewis noted that allow one to properly become a servant leader.

Creativity allows one to produce unique solutions to problems which can make a better leader. Active learning creates open-mindedness and allows one to listen to oth-

ers instead of only focusing on one's own self and path is encouraged. Lewis explains that learning to live with anxiety may sound strange but is an important aspect of leadership to foster. Anxiety stems from being uncomfortable with the stress of daily life. However, discomfort stems from leaving one's comfort zone, meaning that one is doing something right in the sense of seeking to make a change or impact. If anxiety comes from the stress of daily life, it is important to take time for oneself, Lewis asserts, but it is just as important to get used to the anxious feelings as to not allow them to keep someone from being a successful leader. By incorporating these lifestyle tips into one's own daily routine, it allows one to naturally be a servant leader instead of working to "become" a servant leader.

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BUCCINO LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE HOSTS SYRIAN CIVIL SOCIETY LEADER RAJAA ALTALLI

Madeline Rowe
Campus News Editor

Rajaa Altalli, a Professor of Practice at Seton Hall University's School of Diplomacy and International Relations, as well as a former Sergio Vieira de Mello Endowed Visiting Chair and a Fellow in the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, spoke to the sophomore class of Seton Hall University's Buccino Leadership Institute on September 18. Altalli focused on sharing her experiences advocating for increased participation of women in governmental affairs in Syria through her co-founding of the Center for Civil Society and Democracy (CCSD). In the time around her Seton Hall visit, Altalli was in New York City for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in which she spoke about challenges and opportunities Syrian women face while working toward sustainable peace in Syria.

Altalli co-founded CCSD an organization working to support women in Syria, in 2011. Altalli explained that in each of the three controlled sections of Syria,

she and the CCSD have held dialogues that allow women to share stories that encourage participation of women in political settings. These forums are separated into sessions dedicated to "open discussions," which allow women to share their unique priorities based on the political and social surroundings of their communities, or sessions that focus on bridging the differences between each woman at the forum, allowing each woman to recognize that "teamwork makes the dream work," as Altalli described.

She went on to explain that it is important that her organization does not approach a community with a CCSD-formed interpretation of that community's needs, whether they are social or political. Instead, the CCSD approaches each community with an open mind, allowing the women of each community the space to voice their own ideas of their communities' needs. The effects of COVID-19 in conjunction with the February 2023

Turkey-Syria earthquake, for example, have led Syrian women to require extensive healthcare and infrastructure resources, which are not developed within Syria to the extent required. Working to hear the needs of the people includes aiming to include women in conversations about communities' needs, Altalli explained.

Altalli shared that although it is easy to focus on the negative attributes of situations the CCSD addresses, the CCSD has vast opportunities to make a positive impact within Syria. She explained that she does not engage "too much in the division" of Syria. Between the years of 2011 and 2014, the CCSD worked in conjunction with UN Women to secure a seat in Syrian governmental negotiations. She also prepared a delegation of Syrian women to speak at the UNGA, who eventually brought forth Security Council Resolution 2254. The resolution, announced in December 2015, included that Syrian women are essential to form-



Rajaa Altalli shared her experiences advocating for Syrian women's participation in government. Courtesy of Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Flickr) CreativeCommons 2.0

ing responses and actions regarding Syrian affairs.

When asked about a timeline for her overarching goals for herself and her organization, she explained that her origins began as a math student in Syria who pursued a Ph.D. in the U.S. in Applied Mathematics. Her father's arrest during her childhood due to his political activism led to her resolution in 2011, while she was living in Turkey, to pursue involvement with the movement of women

pushing for social and political change in Syria. She explained that immediately after moving to Turkey, she placed upon herself a six-month deadline to reach her goals. Now, she celebrates small successes, as success is nonlinear and often slow to arrive.

Altalli finished her presentation explaining that CCSD and Seton Hall University have a long-standing partnership. She has had many interns from the universi-

ty at CCSD. She explains that students can work toward CCSD's cause by learning about and sharing the stories of Syrian women, as well as women from all over the world.

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The Diplomatic Envoy



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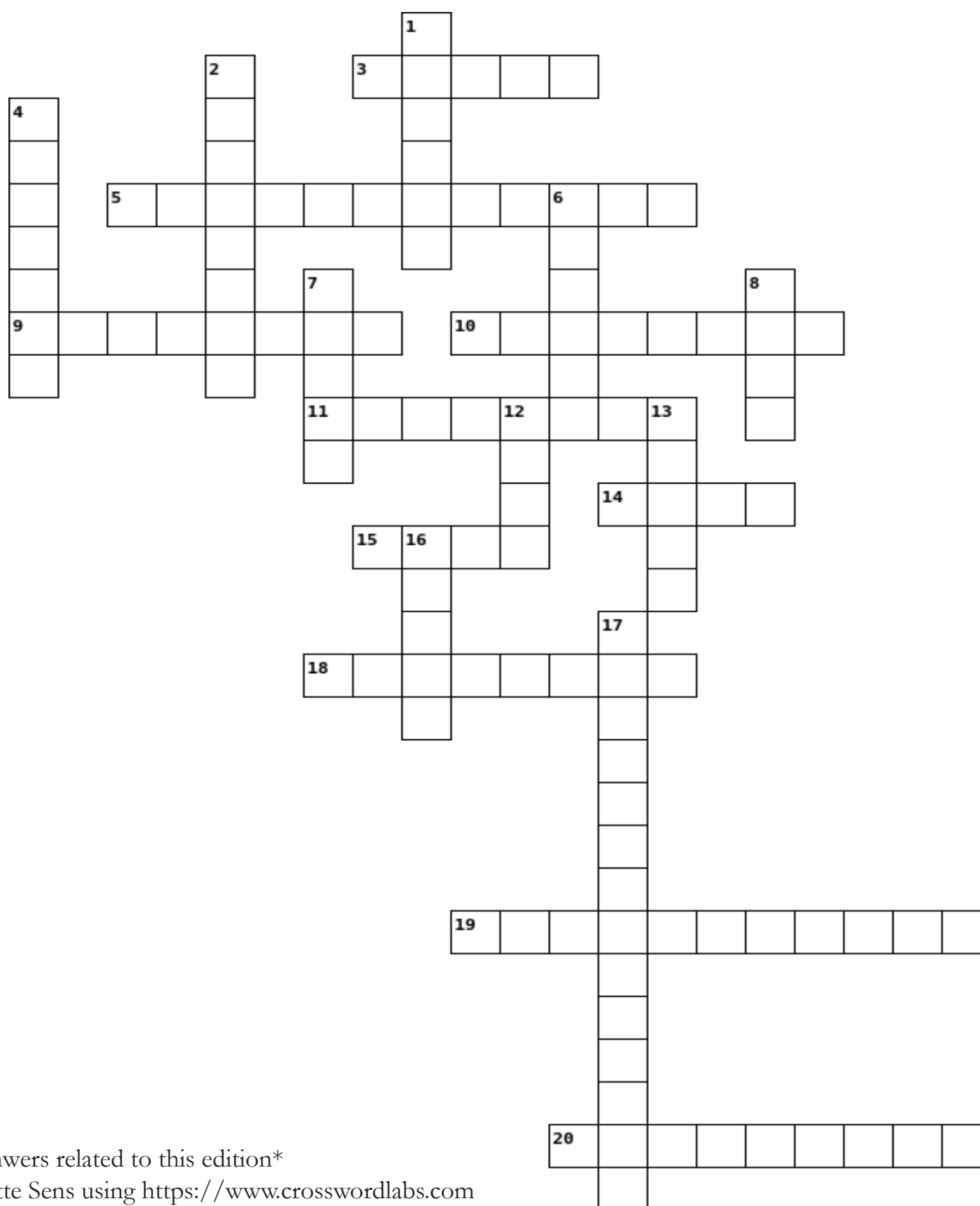
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For more information on sources, go to blogs.shu.edu/thediplomaticenvoy

September Edition Crossword



All crossword answers related to this edition
 Created by Charlotte Sens using <https://www.crosswordlabs.com>

Across

- 3. Region in West Africa that has become a locus of junta coups in the past few years.
- 5. The city set to host next year's G20 Summit.
- 9. Last name of soccer official who has resigned after unwarranted kiss with Spanish player Jenni Hermoso.
- 10. This Sudanese city has become a battleground between military factions following a recent military coup.
- 11. Host city of this year's G20 summit.
- 14. Last name of Afghanistan's Interior Ministry spokesperson.
- 15. Rajaa Altalli is the co-founder of this center with a four letter acronym.
- 18. Former Chilean dictator who had thousands of Chileans imprisoned, tortured, and executed.
- 19. City where Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Putin reached new arms deal
- 20. Reginald Lewis represents this center for servant leadership.

Down

- 1. Capital city of Morocco which recently experienced a damaging earthquake.
- 2. This financial company is in its experimental phase with AI and hopes to weave it into their business practices.
- 4. This country's cave rescue service freed Mark Dickey from where he was trapped in southern Turkey.
- 6. This nation has developed and AI that can calculate munition loads and allow for better target selection for its military.
- 7. Libyan coastal city struck by powerful flooding caused by Storm Daniel.
- 8. Newly elected Brazilian president promising to fight corruption.
- 12. Odile Renaud-Basso is the president of this bank with a four letter acronym.
- 13. Swiss air quality technology company that has partnered with UNEP to develop an AI powered global air quality tracking network.
- 16. This nation has adopted a state-driven approach to AI regulation.
- 17. Vietnam is set to become a part of this product supply chain.