

JAPAN ELECTS SHIGERU ISHIBA AS NEW PRIME MINISTER

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After a recent Japanese election, former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba is slated to become the new Japanese Prime Minister, reports NBC News. A member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Ishiba was elected after several corruption scandals shook the public's faith in the former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's leadership. Shigeru Ishiba has a history of being a moderate figure in the LDP who is both a realist and idealist as to what Japan needs. Ishiba is seen as a stable choice in a time of political turmoil for Japan, says The BBC. He is a long-time member of the LDP, running for the leadership position of his party a total of five times. While some of his ideas may be seen as more radical

than the ideas of his party members, he is far from the scandals that have been present in the party, such as the influence of the controversial Unification Church and potential underreporting of party funds. Ishiba also has a long history of promoting bills that many of his party's other lawmakers deem controversial. The Guardian states that he was one of the few lawmakers who pushed for a shift away from nuclear energy after the Fukushima disaster, allowing for a ruling empress, and having separate surnames for married couples. While this has made him unpopular with his fellow lawmakers, it has bolstered his image among the Japanese people. As Prime Minister, he will be faced with the massive issues facing Japan. He has promised to

tackle the continual deflation and falling birth rate, reports the Associated Press. He also seeks to



Shigeru Ishiba at his inauguration into the Prime Minister's Office.
Courtesy of Cabinet Public Relations Office, Cabinet Secretariat (Wikimedia Commons)
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bolster the Japanese Defense Force to better address the growing fear of Chinese aggression in the region, according to NBC News. Ishiba has also been a proponent of an Asian version of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, in order to help

secure the region from Japanese rivals such as China and North Korea. NBC News reports that many world leaders have already commented on Ishiba's election. President Lai Ching-Te of Taiwan states that he looks forward to deepening ties with the LDP under Ishiba's leadership. Spokesperson Lin Jian of the Chinese Communist Party states that his country wishes to create a healthy relationship between the two countries. Ishiba has not visited the Yasukuni Shrine, which is a symbol of Japanese wartime aggression, which many believe will help strengthen relations with China, as that shrine is seen as a monument to Japanese imperialism in China during the 19th century. Ishiba's ascension to the leadership of his party could signal a change in relationship between

America and Japan, reports Politico. The previous Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida, had a long history as part of the traditional elite of Japan's political system. He was a traditional leader on the world stage and worked closely with America and their allies. Ishiba is an unknown on how he will interact with America. Ishiba in his private life is a quiet man, says Politico. He enjoys creating model aircraft and ships during his free time. He is a self-admitted history nerd who enjoys reading as well, according to The Guardian. He has a YouTube channel with over 16,000 subscribers, where he talks about various topics. Reuters reports that Ishiba has already called a general election for parliament, which will determine which party controls the lower house. The LDP

has controlled it since the end of World War Two, but the recent scandals have jeopardized its control, reports the BBC. Experts believe that the recent change in LDP leadership is an attempt to sway the public back to the party and regain public trust.

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MEXICO'S SENATE APPROVES CONTROVERSIAL JUDICIAL REFORM

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On September 11, Mexico passed a highly controversial judicial reform that would restructure its entire judicial system from the ground up. This historic shift in government structure would radically change several aspects of the Mexican judicial system; the most important of these being that instead of the usual procedure of being appointed as highlighted in the Mexican constitution, judges will now have to be elected by the people. Reuters reports that the reform also has a number of other changes, such as reducing the number of Supreme Court justices from 11 to 9, justices, shortening the term length to 12 years, abolishing the minimum age requirement of 35, and

reducing the necessary experience needed for the position to just 5 years. The reform was proposed by the former Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador as his final act before his term ended on October 1. That summer, former President Obrador's party, Morena, won a landslide victory, securing another party member, Claudia Sheinbaum, the presidency and gaining a majority of seats in the legislature. With this level of political power in the Morena party, Obrador has sought to leave his mark on the nation with the sweeping reform. Although the changes swept through the lower chamber, where Morena holds the majority of seats, the biggest hurdle was getting the legislature approved by the Senate. Even with all their allies in favor,

they were still missing one vote. Luckily for Obrador and his allies, Senator Miguel Ángel Yunes of the opposition National Action Party (PAN), voted in favor of the reform, prompting mass cheers of those in favor and loud boos from his own party. Senator Yunes was kicked from the party the following day. Both former President Obrador and current President Claudia Sheinbaum have argued that this reform will fight the widespread corruption in Mexico's legal system, with both politicians accusing the courts and several judges of corruption, according to NPR. However, critics of the reform say that these changes could cause even more widespread corruption. According to Al Jazeera, the large number of judiciary positions that

the Mexican people will need to vote for will make it difficult for them to truly stay informed. Positions as high as the Supreme Court and the individual trial courts all need judges to be voted in. Supreme Court Chief Justice Norma Piña tells the BBC that the reform would "generate tension between judges' duty to be independent and impartial and their need to make rulings which are popular in order to attract votes". Chief Justice Piña is not the only member of the judiciary to speak out against the new reform. Law students and the judiciary have gone on a general strike nationwide in opposition to the change in the judicial system. Alongside those who practice the law, thousands of Mexican citizens have come out in protest, seeing the reform to

be a stepping stone for ex-president Obrador to get even with the judicial system for hindering many of the projects he tried to implement during his time as president. With current President Sheinbaum indicating that she would continue Obrador's policies, the people's worries only grow. The protests escalated to the point where, on the night of the vote, protesters forced their way into the Senate, where debates were being held. Although no one was hurt, one individual fainted. The Senators took a brief recess to allow tensions to cool before continuing the vote, which ultimately passed the reform in the Senate. The reform has not only caused tension domestically within the Morena party but also has drawn international criticism. The Mexican

peso has lost more than 15 percent of its value since the June election, reports The Washington Post, with particular backlash from Mexico's North American trading partners, Canada and the United States. U.S. Ambassador Ken Salazar describes that the reform is a "risk" to Mexican democracy, warning that it could undermine economic stability, as many foreign investors may lose trust in a nation's judicial system under such reforms. According to the Associated Press, ex-president Obrador responded to the ambassador's comments by stating that relations with the U.S. embassy are "on pause". With domestic and international relations growing tense, Mexico's future seems unassertive.

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IRAN LAUNCHES HUNDREDS OF MISSILES AT ISRAEL IN LARGEST DIRECT ATTACK TO DATE

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On Tuesday, October 1, Iran launched around 200 missiles at Israel, the most recent escalation in the Middle Eastern conflict, according to initial reports by the Jerusalem Post. Israel's defense system was largely successful in alleviating most of the attacks, yet some missiles snuck by hitting schools, homes, electrical infrastructure, malls, restaurants, and more.

The attack comes after Israel eliminated Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of the terrorist group Hezbollah, in a tactical air strike on Saturday, September 28. According to the BBC, Nasrallah had incredibly close ties to Iran, due to them funding Hezbollah in Lebanon and developing them as a group to gain influence in the region. Today, Hezbollah's military wing is stronger than Lebanon's army and con-

trols much of the nation's politics. The group was founded in 1985, calling for the destruction of the state of Israel with harsh antisemitic sentiments.

The Telegraph reports that there has only been one death so far. Sameh Asli, 37 years old, was killed by a fallen piece of shrapnel from the rockets. While there was only one death thanks to Israel's highly advanced missile defense system, there were also several injuries in Tel Aviv, according to the New York

Times. This attack is not the first of its kind, with Iran launching hundreds of missiles back on April 13 of this year. April's assault, though, was not as overwhelming as the most recent missile barrage.

The United States' involvement in the region has been incredibly controversial, with many believing they should stay entirely out of it. Regardless, the Pentagon's press secretary revealed in a press briefing by the Department of Defense that the two American Navy

destroyers, the USS Bulkley and the USS Cole, aided Israel in shooting down the Iranian missiles. Press Secretary Major General Pat Ryder also states that during a phone call between U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant, Secretary Austin, "reaffirmed the United States' ironclad commitment to the defense of Israel."

The attack by Iran also reaffirms its deep relationship with Hezbollah, as well as other terrorist groups in the region such as the Palestinian group Hamas and the Yemeni group the Houthis. These three groups, along with Iran, share a similar goal: to eradicate the state of Israel and kill Jews and Israelis worldwide, reports the Anti-Defamation League. Much of this hatred stems from their belief that Israel has encroached on 'their' land in the Middle East, despite Israelis and Jews having

lived in the Levant region for thousands of years.

Israel has experienced an unprecedented amount of attacks in a short time frame of around a year, from its southern border with Gaza, the northern border with Lebanon, air strikes from Iran, and even terrorists in the West Bank. Due to this, many Israelis have been displaced and forced to flee their homes due to fighting. According to the New York Post, over 60,000 Israelis in the North near Lebanon have had to flee their homes, as well as countless Israelis in the South near Gaza.

Many displaced people are currently in temporary housing or have evacuated from their country entirely, to places such as New York City. Karin Katanov, a refugee from a Kibbutz near Gaza, told the New York Post in an interview that she feels guilty

for not being able to serve in the Israeli Defense Forces, as most Israelis over 18 are required to enlist. She reflects on her upbringing and how the IDF have protected her, as her village has been under rocket fire from Hamas since 2005. Her story is incredibly similar to many others, with many Israelis also wanting to return home. Unfortunately, much of Israel remains unsafe at the moment, including main cities such as Tel Aviv and Haifa receiving air sirens from both attacks from Hezbollah and the recent missiles from Iran.

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Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah speaks in meeting with Iranian representatives in 2019.
Courtesy of Unknown Author(Wikimedia Commons)
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HEZBOLLAH LEADER HASSAN NASRALLAH KILLED IN ISRAELI AIRSTRIKE

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Hezbollah leader, Hassan Nasrallah, a powerful and long-standing figure in Middle Eastern militancy, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on September 27, marking a significant escalation in the conflict between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah. According to CBS News, Israel confirmed that its airstrike hit Nasrallah's underground headquarters in Beirut's southern suburbs, an area long known as a stronghold for the group. Hezbollah also confirmed Nasrallah's death, stating that he "has joined his fellow martyrs," marking the end of his 30-year reign as Hezbollah's chief.

Nasrallah's death leaves a significant leadership vacuum in Hezbollah, which for decades has served as Iran's most potent proxy in the region, fueling tensions and militancy across Lebanon and Syria. Nasrallah, known for his fiery rhetoric and for orchestrating numerous attacks on Israel and

U.S. interests, had evaded assassination attempts for years by operating from secret locations, often appearing only via video messages to avoid becoming a target.

The strike that killed Nasrallah came amid an ongoing campaign of Israeli airstrikes aimed at degrading Hezbollah's military capabilities. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu justified the strike by stating that Nasrallah's assassination was "an essential condition to achieving the goals we set," according to CBS News. Netanyahu further emphasized that Nasrallah was "not just a terrorist, he was the terrorist," underscoring the long-standing threat Hezbollah posed to Israel.

The airstrike that targeted Hezbollah's central command, which was embedded beneath a residential building, also claimed the lives of several other high-ranking officials, including Ali Karaki, the Commander of Hezbollah's Southern Front, NPR reports. These targeted strikes, which Israel-

li military officials said were based on real-time intelligence, were part of Israel's broader effort to degrade Hezbollah's command structure and military capabilities.

CNN reports that the recent airstrikes, described as some of the most intense since the 2006 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, have killed more than 1,400 people in Lebanon and displaced over a million.

The killing of Nasrallah drew immediate reactions from international leaders, with U.S. President Joe Biden calling his death "a measure of justice for his many victims, including thousands of Americans, Israelis, and Lebanese civilians." Biden, as quoted by CBS, reiterated the U.S. stance on supporting Israel's right to self-defense against Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis, and other Iranian-backed militant groups. However, when pressed on the potential for an Israeli ground invasion into Lebanon, Biden urged caution, stating, "It's time for a cease-fire,"

according to Reuters.

Iran, Hezbollah's primary sponsor, responded to Nasrallah's death with vows of vengeance. Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called on Muslims to stand by Hezbollah, labeling Israel an "occupier, evil, and suppressor" regime. Khamenei's remarks, reported by The New York Times, were a direct challenge to Israel's ongoing military actions, as he promised that Nasrallah's death "would be avenged."

Iran's U.N. Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani further warned that Iran would "exercise its inherent rights under international law to take every measure in defense of its vital national and security interests," the Associated Press reports. The death of Nasrallah was viewed by Tehran as a significant blow to its regional strategy, with Hezbollah playing a crucial role in Iran's influence across the Middle East.

The assassination of Nasrallah comes as Israel faces continued rocket attacks from Hezbollah and

its allies in response to its military actions in Gaza and Lebanon. According to The New York Times, Hezbollah has launched rockets into northern Israel in solidarity with Hamas, prompting intensified Israeli airstrikes on Hezbollah-controlled areas in Lebanon.

In the wake of Nasrallah's death, there is uncertainty about Hezbollah's future leadership. Senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine is widely regarded as Nasrallah's likely successor, though the group has not made an official announcement. Safieddine, a cousin of Nasrallah, has been deeply involved in Hezbollah's operations and is considered a staunch ally of Iran. However, the loss of Nasrallah raises questions about Hezbollah's ability to maintain the same level of influence and operational capacity without its long-time leader at the helm.

One Hezbollah supporter, Zahraa, expressed her grief over Nasrallah's death, telling the Associated Press, "Nasrallah was everything to us. We

were under his wings."

As the conflict continues, the risk of broader regional escalation looms. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant emphasizes that Israel's war is not with the Lebanese people but with Hezbollah's leadership, whom he called "murderers of thousands of Israelis and foreign citizens," according to Reuters. Despite calls from international actors, including Russia, for an end to hostilities, Netanyahu has vowed to continue the campaign against Hezbollah.

For now, the killing of Nasrallah has altered the dynamics of the conflict, with both sides showing little sign of backing down. What remains uncertain is whether Nasrallah's death will trigger a broader confrontation involving Iran or whether it will pave the way for a more restrained but still volatile conflict between Israel and Hezbollah.

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UNITED KINGDOM BECOMES THE FIRST MAJOR ECONOMY TO END COAL POWER

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On Monday, Sept. 30, 2024, Reuters reports that the United Kingdom (UK) will close its last surviving coal power plant, Ratcliffe-on-Solar, located in England's midlands. This closure is not only a monumental step for the historically coal-dependent UK, but it also sets the precedent for other G7 economically dominant countries to invest more serious efforts into turning away from coal power and towards renewable energy such as wind, solar, and water power.

In 1882, the UK opened its first coal power plant and since then, the country has burned through over 4.6bn tons of coal and, in the process, emitted nearly 10.4bn tons of carbon dioxide, according to The Guardian. For nearly 142 years, and especially in the 20th century, the UK symbolized the

birthplace of industrial revolution through their production of steel and iron. Now in the modern day, the UK has shifted away from its past and towards the future.

Coal releases extensive amounts of Co2 when burned and because of this, it is considered one of the "dirtiest" fossil fuels. When coal is formed, it is often within swamps which places the organic matter under intense pressure and heat. Other fossil fuels, like natural gas and oil, are made of the same organic material; however, they form in the ocean, where they are not subject to nearly as much pressure and heat according to Climate Portal. For this reason, coal releases more trapped carbon than any other fossil fuel, contributing to the greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere. Acting like a blanket, these gases trap heat gradually warming the planet and causing extreme weather,



Solar panels stand in the UK town of Hampshire.
Courtesy of David Blaikie (flickr)
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melting ice caps, extinction, and other damage known as climate change.

Carbon Brief reports that Belgium, Sweden, Portugal, and Austria have also completely phased out coal power production, making the UK the fifth European country to join the ranks of a coal-free country. What makes the UK so important is that they were the first major G7 economy to phase out coal completely. G7 is an unofficial grouping of economical-

ly dominant countries in the world. These countries consist of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. With the UK being the first major economy to phase out coal, it sets the precedent that other economic powers can and should do the same.

The UK has worked hard to reach this step in the process of going green. According to BBC News, the UK was one of the first G7 coun-

tries that started leaning away from coal in the 1990s. When 2008 rolled around, the UK passed the Climate Change Act, which included a legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 percent below levels from the 1990s. In 2012, coal still generated nearly 39 percent of the UK's power, and in 2015, the UK announced that it would completely end the use of coal power within the next decade.

Currently, G7 countries, including the UK, have the goal of phasing out existing unabated coal power by 2030 and reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 according to IISD.

Many have pointed to the fact that job loss in the coal industry may come out of these closures, however, according to The New York Times, the nearly 154 workers at Ratcliffe welcomed the closure and found jobs elsewhere and in

other projects. The company that ran the plant, Uniper, even offered job training and severance packages, proving that jobs can be transferred rather than lost.

The world of power is changing rapidly, and with new science, renewable resources, and technology, countries can invest time, effort, and money into saving the planet. The UK has taken the first step towards going green, and now the world must wait to see which country will come next.

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THE UNITED NATIONS PACT OF THE FUTURE PROMISES CHANGE

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At the Summit of the Future on September 22, the United Nations (UN) adopted a pact that aims to save global cooperation, promote multilateralism, and fix global issues with a call to action for the nations to uphold their promises.

According to Reuters, the Pact for the Future includes an annex working toward a responsible and sustainable digital future, which was adopted without a vote. The agreement came after nine months of negotiations and pledged a new beginning in multilateralism. The Pact aims to ensure that the UN and other multilateral institutions can deliver a better future, dearly needed in the context of the ongoing wars in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan, along with lagging climate change mitigation, widespread national debt, and concerns over technology advancement without governance.

The Pact for the Future is a 42-page agreement that the UN Chief challenged leaders of the 193 UN member nations to turn into real action. The Pact was called by UN Secretary-General António Guterres and contains 56 actions on issues including eradicating poverty, mitigating climate change, achieving gender equality, promoting peace, protecting civilians, and reinvigorating the multilateral system, reports The Associated Press.

In the area of peace and security, the Pact is the most progressive and concrete commitment regarding Security Council reforms since the 1960s, the United Nations reports. It includes plans to improve the effectiveness of the Security Council and highlights addressing the under-representation of Africa as a priority. It is also the first multilateral recommitment to nuclear disarmament in over a decade with a clear commitment to eliminating nuclear weapons. In addition,

the Pact has an agreement to strengthen international frameworks that govern outer space to prevent an outer space arms race and ensure all countries benefit from the safe and sustainable exploration of outer space. Even more, there are steps to avoid the weaponization and misuse of new technologies, especially in light of new advancements in artificial intelligence, and an affirmation that the laws of war should apply to new technologies.

Regarding sustainable development, the Pact is the UN's most detailed agreement ever on the need to reform international financial architecture to better represent and serve developing countries. The Pact details the steps of this process by giving developing countries a greater say in the decisions of international financial institutions, mobilizing more financing to help developing countries meet their needs, reviewing the sovereign debt to ensure

developing countries can borrow sustainably, and strengthening the global financial safety net through the International Monetary Fund and member states to protect all countries in the event of extreme financial and economic shocks.

The Pact promises to accelerate measures to address climate change through more finance to help countries adapt and invest in renewable energy, improving the measurement of human progress by going beyond GDP to capturing human and planetary well-being and sustainability, consider ways to introduce a global minimum level of taxation on high-net-worth individuals, and confirmation of the need to keep global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and transition away from fossil fuels to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

The Pact has provisions to strengthen work on human rights, gender equality, and the empow-

erment of women. There is a clear call on the need to protect human rights defenders and strong signals on the importance of other stakeholders in global governance, including local and regional governments, civil society, the private sector, and more. Throughout the Pact there are provisions and annexes for follow-up action to ensure commitments are implemented.

It also has the first-ever Declaration on Future Generations, which contains concrete steps to take account of future generations in decision-making, including a possible envoy for future generations and a commitment to more meaningful opportunities for youth to participate in decisions that shape their lives, especially at the global level. It underlines the importance of protecting the environment, promoting equality, and ensuring long-term consequences are considered, reports United Nations News. According to the As-

sociated Press, the Pact commits world leaders to reform the 15-member security council to make it more reflective of today's world by giving Africa, the Asia-Pacific region, and Latin America more representation on the council. The document also commits governments to removing legal, social, and economic barriers facing women and girls.

The Guardian reports that Russia, with the backing of Belarus, Nicaragua, Syria, North Korea, and Iran, attempted to defer on the grounds that the Pact represented Western interests. The Russian delegate said it would assert an amendment stating that the key issues addressed in the Pact are the subject of domestic jurisdiction in which the UN should not intervene. An overwhelming vote threw out Russia's call for deferment and its amendment.

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THE NOVEMBER 5 ELECTION HAS THE POWER TO RESHAPE PUERTO RICO

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On Puerto Rico’s upcoming November 5 election has the potential to reshape the island’s political future. Whether this will be a moment of change or simply another missed opportunity hinges on one key factor: voter turnout. The request to extend the voter registration deadline and the emergence of a vote-stealing scandal have already raised concerns about the integrity of the election process. With so much on the line, including economic stability and political accountability, this election could define a new chapter in Puerto Rico’s history.

For decades, Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, has had a unique status when it comes to elections. While its residents are U.S. citizens and can participate in federal primaries, they do not have the right to vote

in the U.S. presidential election. This means that Puerto Ricans living on the island cannot vote for the President of the United States, which has left many feeling disconnected with the broader political system, according to The Politics Watcher. Instead, Puerto Ricans elect their own governor, legislature, and local officials and vote on referendums. Local elections, like the one in November, carry immense weight, shaping everything from economic policy to the island’s ongoing debate between statehood and independence. Along with the debate came partisan divide, as the Partido Popular Democrático (PPD) rallied behind maintaining commonwealth status, while the Partido Nuevo Progresista (PNP) pushed for Puerto Rico to become a state.

According to Associated Press, the Election’s Commission’s recent re-

jection of a request to extend the voter registration deadline has raised significant concerns. Many advocacy groups, community leaders, and some politicians had called for an extension, arguing that the original deadline was too restrictive, due to the confusion surrounding the registration process. With just weeks until the election, this decision could disenfranchise many potential voters, particularly the younger generation and those from marginalized communities who faced difficulties in registering on time. Critics argue that this move feeds the island’s history of voter apathy and could discourage already disillusioned citizens from participating in the election.

The rejection of the voter registration extension is just one of the several issues that have raised doubts about the

integrity of this election. A local investigative journalism organization called Centro de Periodismo Investigativo (CPI) uncovered systemic fraud in elections, with evidence of vote tampering, detailing that “900,000 deceased people... appeared to have voted in 2020 and 2016 elections,” raising alarms of the legitimacy of the vote. In addition, discrepancies involving Dominion Voting Systems during the recent primaries have raised concerns, with hundreds of errors reported due to software issues that led to incorrect vote tallies and machines reversing certain results or reporting zero votes for candidates, reports Yahoo. This kind of revelation has only deepened the public’s distrust, leaving many wondering whether the results of the election can truly reflect the will of the people. With such serious

allegations, it raises questions about whether past elections were conducted fairly, or if the outcome stands for the choices made by the electorate.

Puerto Rico is still recovering from Hurricane Maria, which devastated the island in 2017, and its recovery has been further complicated by the largest power company debt reported by NBC. At the same time, it is seeing an unprecedented push to get people to the polls, led by high-profile figures like Bad Bunny, the globally renowned Puerto Rican artist. Known for his outspoken activism on social issues, Bad Bunny has encouraged locals to break from traditional bipartisanship between the PNP and PPD parties. According to Yahoo, with messages like “Quien vota PNP no ama a Puerto Rico,” Bad Bunny, along with other artists like Residente

and Rauw Alejandro, has shown support to the new alliance between the Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño (PIP) and Movimiento Victoria Ciudadana (MVC), calling for a change in the island’s political direction. Their influence is felt by the younger generation, who are seeking to shift away from corruption and towards a better future for the island. The outcome of Puerto Rico’s upcoming election hinges largely on whether these new voters will turn out and participate in the upcoming election.

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NEWJEANS SPARKS QUESTIONS ABOUT LABOR STANDARDS IN K-POP

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A young and popular K-pop group called NewJeans has been the center of controversy and attention after their public complaints about the workplace environment created by their parent company, Hybe. According to BBC News, in a now-deleted YouTube video uploaded by the five members of the group, the young entertainers expressed their dissatisfaction with Hybe and called for the reinstatement of their former CEO, Min Hee-jin. In an industry where singers, called idols, are micromanaged and carefully monitored to maintain a specific public persona, NewJeans’ unusual move in a widely publicized occupation thrusts the group’s future and the K-pop industry into unprecedented territory.

Coming onto the K-pop scene in 2022, the group and its five members – Danielle, Haerin, Hanni, Hyein, and Minji – gained

immediate popularity with their distinct aesthetic and catchy music, reminiscent of 90s club sounds. Since their debut, NewJeans, with members 16 to 20 years old, has accumulated countless accolades as a young group, and their fame has spread globally.

On September 11, 2024, the same day NewJeans was nominated for two MTV awards, the group posted “What NewJeans Wanted To Say”, a 27-minute-long video posted to a YouTube channel created by the five members. Dressed in somber colors in stark contrast to their usual bright aesthetic, the idols read a pre-prepared statement accusing Hybe of fostering a toxic work environment and demanding Min’s reinstatement.

The situation dates back to April 2024 when Hybe launched an audit of Min and Ador, the independent sub label formed in 2021 that manages NewJeans. BBC News reports that Hybe accused Min of corporate espionage, alleging that Min was planning a

takeover of Ador by leaking confidential information to attract investors and manage NewJeans and Ador independently. Hybe further claims that Min’s actions were retaliation after Hybe’s recent debut of girl group Illit, whose concept Min claims was stolen from NewJeans. In August, she rejected a Hybe offer to continue working as NewJeans’ producer. The NewJeans members had expressed their frustration and disappointment over the situation but continued their promotional activities.

In their YouTube video, the members discussed issues of leaked private medical information and videos going unresolved by Hybe and other idols at Hybe being told by their managers to ignore NewJeans members in the halls. At the end of the video, NewJeans set a deadline of September 25 for Min’s reinstatement; however, the group did not address any specific

actions if this ultimatum was not met by Hybe.

According to The Korea Times, NewJeans’ two-week deadline has suggested that the group was preparing for potential legal action. Termination of the group’s seven-year-contract would cost the members about 300 billion South Korean won, or about \$225.8 million. While the timeframe allows the group to search legal grounds for contract violations to take action, paying the hefty penalty may be the easiest solution if the group wants to work with Min independently, as their adherence to their former CEO implies.

On the day of the deadline, according to The Korea Herald, Hybe confirmed that the company would not honor NewJeans’ request to reinstate Min. The company, however, allowed Min to continue to work as an internal director and NewJeans’ producer. While NewJeans has not commented on Hy-

be’s compromise, Min issued a press release, re-requesting her reinstatement as CEO.

The Korea Herald reports that the Korean National Assembly’s Environment and Labor Committee requested 19-year-old Hanni’s presence to answer questions about alleged workplace harassment at an upcoming inspection on October 25. . Additionally, the committee passed a motion requesting current Ador CEO Kim Yu-joung’s appearance to address the company’s inadequate response.

Nevertheless, NewJeans’ bold actions distinguish between risk-taking at the expense of a negative public image and companies’ careful micromanagement of groups to maintain a certain image. The K-pop industry’s typical top-down control tactic is one long abandoned by American pop labels for over ten years during the heyday of boy bands and Britney Spears, according

to The New York Times.

In an industry where idols’ personas are purposefully presented to the public, it is rare to see entertainers express their concerns. With a group as young as NewJeans breaking the status quo of the K-pop industry, the members are sure to continue making a global impact, both on the stage and within the industry.

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CAMBODIA EXITS LONG-TERM REGIONAL PACT AS POLITICAL CORRUPTION RUNS RAMPANT

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Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet submitting to political pressure has created uncertainty regarding his government's commitment to regional cooperation, as Cambodia withdraws from a twenty-year-old pact with Laos and Vietnam. This threatens to isolate the country as geopolitical tensions within the region continue to rise.

Manet's move followed protests that erupted throughout the country, arguing the pact benefited foreign interests. In August, 66 protestors, including several children, who criticized the Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Development Triangle Area (CLV-DTA) were arrested on accusations of attempting to topple the government. Barron's confirms that nine of those arrested face pros-

ecution, while the others have been released. Cambodians across the globe, including in South Korea, Japan, and the United States have been protesting the pact before Manet's decision as well.

The CLV-DTA was formalized with the intention of facilitating trade and migration cooperation in four northeastern provinces of Cambodia and border areas in Laos and Vietnam. Those against the pact criticize it for prioritizing foreign interests over Cambodia's own domestic interests, claiming it cedes those provinces to Laos and Vietnam. In particular, fear of Vietnamese encroachment has long been a political firecracker in Cambodia, fueled by anti-Vietnamese sentiment.

Manet has been called out for the hypocrisy of his decision, as he labeled groups that opposed the agreement extremists that utilized slander to at-

tack the government and confuse the public. "For instance, allegations that the government ceded the territory of the four northeastern provinces to foreign countries, etc.," he posted, according to The Associated Press. However, The Associated Press furthers that after pulling out from the agreement, Manet said his government is "taking into account people's concern on territory and the need to withdraw weapons out of the hands of extremists to prevent them from using CLV-DTA to further cheat people." Despite the allegations, the deal's primary goal was to boost economic productivity for the nations and regional development for the states involved.

Cambodians have long criticized their government, specifically on silencing critics and political opponents. Hun Manet succeeded his father Hun

Sen last year, who ruled the state for four decades. Despite leaving CLV-DTA, there are few signs of political liberalization. Human Rights Watch reports that despite Cambodia's self-characterization as a democratic state, it is effectively a single-party state with fixed and controlled elections, a lack of independent media, ruling party interference and control of all state institutions, political control of the judiciary, and systematic harassment and targeting of critics in the political opposition and civil society. Sen maintained power last May because of the National Election Committee barring his main opposition, the Candlelight Party (CLP) on several fronts, including the rejecting the CLP's application documents on biased, politically motivated grounds; emphasizing the lack of integrity in Cambodian elections.

Throughout his career, Sen used violent rhetoric, surveillance, intimidation, judicial harassment, and violent attacks to maintain his power. Throughout 2023, CLP members who opposed him were assaulted in Phnom Penh in broad daylight or convicted or arrested for politically motivated crimes, Human Rights Watch reports. Last July, the government fined and banned 18 opposition party members from holding elected office for ten to twenty years after being convicted in absentia for inciting voters to spoil their national election ballots. Further, the government controls all Khmer-language national TV, radio stations, and newspapers, severely censoring the Cambodian government's corruption. The few independent news outlets face constant harassment, intimidation, and threats of shutdowns.

Last July, the government issued an order to internet service providers to block access to online websites and social media accounts of three major independent media outlets: The Cambodia Daily, Radio Free Asia, and Kamnotra. The Department of Information and Audiovisual was authorized to do this to block sites that "disseminate misleading news affecting the honor and reputation of the Royal Government."

As protests continue, Manet stands in the turmoil his corrupt predecessor and party created as the political landscape he entered into as the new Prime Minister. The way he got into office, as well as the actions of his administration so far, continues to increase domestic and regional tensions.

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ROOKIES IN A NEW PLAYING FIELD: HOW GEN-Z IS REDEFINING THE WORKPLACE

Jamie Jules
Staff Writer

The entry of a young generation into the workforce is not a new phenomenon. However, Generation Z, which comprises Americans born between 1997 and 2012, presents unique challenges within a dynamic labor market. These challenges highlight a need for vital experience among junior candidates and a disconnect between today's employers and employees, which Forbes, The Guardian, and the Wall Street Journal attribute largely to the pandemic.

The World Economic Forum projects that Gen-Z will make up 27 percent of the workforce by 2025 in countries such as the United States, though Forbes reports that managers and business leaders are not eager to work with this group. In fact, 74 percent of the respondents expressed difficulty working with Gen-Z compared to other generations, according to a ResumeBuilder.

com survey. The respondents listed a few factors that they believe contribute to Gen-Z's problem: entitlement and a lack of professional skills. These factors may lead to Gen-Z losing their jobs or employers preferring to hire older candidates.

Complications extend beyond the workplace and into the hiring process. The Guardian writes that human resource workers sense "frostiness" throughout their interactions with young applicants, as they wish to avoid small talk. Interviewees cannot necessarily prepare for it, which does not help that an overwhelming number of applicants consider the job search "one of life's most stressful experiences," The Guardian further discloses. The source reached out to young workers to share their thoughts on the matter and found parallels: Gen-Z exhibit frustration with what they deem the trivial, stressful components of interviews—small talk, proper attire, and eye

contact. However, The Guardian does note that researchers find that small talk could foster personal connections, which is essential to office politics. To address this issue, the Wall Street Journal explains how college professors educate their students on the "basics" of professionalism, such as conversing and writing cover letters.

These findings raise questions about whether younger individuals truly lack the work ethic, or if the current system is not suited for their unprecedented circumstances: the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Forbes reveals how hybrid and remote work environments have stunted professional growth, hindering opportunities for Gen-Z to gain real-world experience. Undergraduates now encounter new obstacles, as the pandemic slimmed their chances of landing jobs and internships that would build up the impressive, distinguished resumes that attract employers in a competitive labor market.

Not only did the pandemic cost Gen-Z years of experience, but it also took a toll on their mental health. Forbes writes that interpersonal skills could suffer because of isolation, which became a reality for countless individuals during quarantine. It suggests that Gen-Z's underperformance in the workplace isn't entirely their fault but an outcome of an unfortunate situation. The source also addresses Gen-Z's high media consumption and its negative effects on mental health. As they compared themselves to others online, Gen-Z continuously worried about their current job situation, paying off college debt, and inability to afford a car, apartment, or home. While these are legitimate concerns, such comparisons can damage their self-perception, which in turn influences their social interactions. The transition of online to in-person spaces may have been abrupt for this group, leaving them to grapple with navigating social situations confidently.

Yet the integration of technology in the workplace prompted significant changes in the professional environment.

BBC News describes Gen-Z's technological upbringing and remote work and its impact on how Gen-Z behaves in professional settings. Social media calls for an informal, expressive tone that the generation has grown accustomed to but clashes with the workplace's professional language. However, BBC News reports that company leaders and their junior employees are working to navigate that balance in communication. Personal expression could serve the workplace best to some extent, like during team meetings, but formality should not be entirely disregarded.

While employers may consider Gen-Z difficult, Forbes states that they are merely different. It will take time for the labor market to adjust to this new cohort, as it has always done so for previous generations. Gen-Z

has brought forth changes in how companies operate, as young workers place high value on mental wellness, job flexibility, financial security, and transparency, reports the Wall Street Journal. Companies are tasked with learning to understand these young workers. They offer mentoring for employees transitioning from a strictly remote to in-person working arrangements and additional accommodations. When Gen-Z employees request free therapy or express concern over their pay, for example, every other employee benefits once companies act on these demands, the Wall Street Journal explains.

With guidance, Gen-Z can hone skills, such as communication, while companies draw value from young employees' perspectives. Together, the changes they implement have a lasting impact on the modern workplace.

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THE WORLD BANK’S ROCKY REPUTATION: IMPACT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Christian Almestica
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Since its inception in 1944, the World Bank has played a vital role in universally supporting and developing financial initiatives to decrease poverty while simultaneously stimulating economic growth in various nations with limited resources. These World Bank projects, often budgeted in the billions of dollars, seek to aid in infrastructure, health, education, and gender equality says the World Bank. However, as of recently, its reputation has come into question by supporters and detractors alike. By reviewing one of its most recent projects, a \$1.57 billion loan to Nigeria, it may lead to a greater understanding of the role of the World Bank plays as a global institution. The loan, granted to the Nigerian government on September 26, highlights some of the core tenets of the World Bank, eliminating poverty and fostering sustainability reports Reuters. The loan is divided into three parts, \$500 million to address



A Nigerian woman walks through a market.
Courtesy of World Bank Photo Collection (flickr)
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the governance and infrastructure issues that currently limit the delivery of education and health, \$570 million towards health-care through the Primary Healthcare Provision Strengthening Program, and \$500 million for the Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria Project reports the World Bank. Nigeria is home to the largest population of people on the African continent as well as the second largest economy, second only to South Africa, according to The World Factbook. Nevertheless, the country relies heavily on foreign invest-

ment to assist in addressing developmental issues where institutions are limited. This notion is supported by its \$1.2 billion outstanding purchases and loans the International Monetary Fund reports and the \$15 billion worth of loans from the World Bank as Reuters reports. Furthermore, the supporters of the World Bank would empathize with these large-scale initiatives and financial development projects as justification for its existence but also its irreplaceability. Without this institution, the distance between low- and middle-income countries

would only expand, as their race to catch up with the high-income countries would become impossible. The Council on Foreign Relations argues that part of the utility of the World Bank is its ability to mobilize previously unorganized financial resources in a structured manner which allows for these large-scale initiatives. Without international assistance, such endeavors are impossible and would only increase the global wealth disparity. Yet, despite these beneficial contributions, the World Bank’s reputation has received a series of criticisms throughout its 80-year history. Particularly, its scrutiny has come from the organization’s accountability mechanisms and transparency to the public. For example, as Rights in Development highlights, although the World Bank intends on alleviating poverty, the opposite is often true. Projects have resulted in mass displacement and local environment damage in rural areas. A Nachtigal hydroelectric World Bank project in Cameroon in 2022, for example, cre-

ated mass deforestation and human displacement. Moreover, a wider grievance arises centered around how the World Bank is governed internally. As Brookings mentions, the World Bank and similar financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund, operate outside the bounds of democracy, where the executive power of decision-making is dominated by a small minority of economically wealthy countries. Regardless of the fact, many of the projects and initiatives impact the lives of those outside of the high-income countries. This disconnection has led to more efforts to establish a larger participatory decision-making process with complete public access to monitor the project implementation. Nevertheless, large-scale reform at the World Bank is a daunting endeavor. Efforts are being made to promote the issues of accountability and transparency, especially in the fields of social participation and environmental sustainability, reports the

World Bank. These efforts are often met with the slowness that is typical of large bureaucratic institutions, like the World Bank. Ultimately, however, the institution provides significant funding to countries across the globe, and without it, these national governments are unable to initiate these projects on their own, reports Brookings. Recent loans, such as the one in Nigeria, are examples of their ability to satisfy the large financial demands that otherwise would be impossible. The World Bank, as indispensable as it has become, must continue to stimulate economic growth and social well-being while mitigating the adverse effects of the projects it finances, a delicate balance, where its success will only be seen in the years to come. The Associated Press says.

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THE POWERS OF THE ICC IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL CONFLICT

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The International Criminal Court (ICC) was established by the United Nations on July 17, 1998, with the passage of the Rome Statute. It came as a response to horrific crimes committed during conflicts throughout the twentieth century – namely the World Wars, the Cold War, and the conflicts in Yugoslavia and Rwanda. According to the ICC, its purpose is to “investigate, prosecute and try individuals accused of committing the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, namely the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.” The Rome Statute is ratified by 124 countries across all regions of the world; however, this does not include the United States, Russia, or China. The ICC has the power to prosecute individuals in the absence of national action, as opposed to the International Court

of Justice, which settles disputes between governments, reports BBC. The court only has jurisdiction over crimes committed in the territory of or by a citizen of a state which has ratified the treaty, or when a case is referred by the United Nations Security Council. Its first verdict occurred in March of 2012 against Thomas Lubanga, who was the leader of a militia in the Democratic Republic of Congo and was convicted of war crimes relating to the use of child soldiers. The most recent actions by the ICC come in the form of applications for arrest warrants for top Israeli and Hamas officials. Chief prosecutor of the ICC, Karim Khan, stated that there was reasonable ground to believe that Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and defense minister Yoav Gallant, and Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif and Ismail Haniyeh bore responsibility for war crimes



There is reasonable ground that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas leaders bear responsibility for war crimes.
Courtesy of Chatham House (Wikimedia Commons)
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committed on and after October 7, BBC says in another article. The accusations against Israel’s ministers include suspected crimes of “starvation of civilians as a method of warfare, murder, intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population, and extermination.” Hamas leaders have been accused of committing crimes including: “extermination, murder, hostage taking, rape and sexual violence, and torture.” The application is still confidential at this time. Netanyahu

stated that the ICC’s accusations were an “outrageous assault” on Israel’s right to self-defense, with the U.S. government calling for the court to back down reports Foreign Policy. Despite Israel not being party to the treaty, the ICC can prosecute Israeli officials for crimes committed by IDF soldiers on Palestinian territory because Palestine is party to the treaty. These applications come over a year after the ICC issued arrest warrants for Russian President Vladimir Putin and Putin’s Commissioner for

Children’s Rights, Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova. The ICC stated that, “there are reasonable grounds to believe that each suspect bears responsibility for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population and that of unlawful transfer of population from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation, in prejudice of Ukrainian children,” reports Time. Many believe that it is unlikely that Putin will be arrested while he is still in power, because the ICC does not have its own police force and must rely on countries to enforce warrants. The charges mainly act as a way to weaken the global standing of Putin and his allies. Even if Putin were to lose power in Russia, he is still unlikely to be tried because the Russian constitution prohibits the extradition of citizens. This was reinforced on September 3, when Putin made his first visit to an ICC member state, Mongolia, since the warrant

was issued reports Politico. Mongolia is supposed to act upon the warrant under international law, however Russian officials stated they had “no worries” about the visit. Mongolia will likely face prosecution by the ICC over its inaction, which could condemn the violation under a non-compliance procedure. However, there is unlikely to be any serious consequences for Mongolia.

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ADDING AFRICAN NATIONS AS PERMANENT SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sophie Ulm
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Africa has long called for more representation in global governance, and recent calls for more representation at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) have been gaining attention. According to the United Nations, Africa represents over 1 billion people and makes up 28 percent of UN membership, but only has three non-permanent seats on the UNSC. Africa’s call for more representation at the UNSC addresses three key concerns: repairing historical injustices, recognizing Africa’s contributions to the modern world and adding legitimacy to the UN, reports *The Conversation*. Africa has long expressed a desire to be fully and equally represented at all levels, and addressing these issues is key to ensuring that representation is possible. The UNSC is currently made up of five permanent members and ten rotating seats. The five permanent members are

China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The remaining ten seats are divided with three seats going to Africa, two for Asia-Pacific, two for Latin America, two for Western Europe and other states, and one for Eastern Europe, according to Al Jazeera, and many view this dynamic as a result of the post-World War II power structure, a structure created at a time when many African nations were still under colonial rule. In late September, a number of African leaders addressed the UN General Assembly calling for two new permanent seats. Kenya’s president, William Ruto, stated that “The Council is dysfunctional, undemocratic, non-inclusive, unaccountable, autocratic, and opaque,” reports the UN, emphasizing the unfairness of a body in which Africa is excluded while other nations have the right to veto the decisions of the other 193 UN member states. These calls for change have been echoed by

leaders like UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis. They emphasized that Africa is over-represented in a number of the challenges that the UNSC has fought to address, and that almost half of all UN peacekeeping operations were in Africa and that roughly 40 percent of all peacekeepers were



The United Nations Security Council meets at UN headquarters in New York, New York. Courtesy of United Nations Photo(flickr) CreativeCommons 2.0

African, reports the BBC. The U.S. was the first permanent UNSC member to voice support for Africa to gain permanent

seats, but with caveats. The U.S. has announced that they recognize the injustice of the system and will support Africa’s bid for two permanent members, but without the veto power, reports *The Associated Press*. U.S. ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said that this opposition was due to the fact that the veto makes the work of the UNSC “dysfunc-

Some nations, such as the Republic of Korea, have expressed that they support greater African representation on the UNSC, but that the focus should be on expanding non-permanent seats as changing the permanent seats might cement current power dynamics, reports the UN. Many African countries have pushed back on this viewpoint, mainly in view of the veto power that the current permanent members have. African leaders emphasize that, while they support the abolition of the veto power, so long as certain countries maintain their veto power, as long as other nations have it, it should be expanded to new permanent members as well. The African Union has proposed that, if Africa were to receive the two new permanent seats, it would vote on which two African nations would receive them, according to the UN. While there is still uncertainty about which countries would be selected, five nations have been highlighted recent-

ly that would make sense either economically, monetarily, or socially. Those nations are South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, reports *The Atlantic*. Africa already has a great deal of influence in the UNSC, particularly as Russia and the U.S. attempt to gain and maintain influence in the region, reports CNN. The Atlantic reports that China is also a major presence in Africa, having built nearly one-third of Africa’s infrastructure projects, though these projects have resulted in a great amount of debt owed to China by African nations. But this influence rests mostly in soft power, and does not mean that there is equal power between the African states and members of the permanent five.

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G20 SUMMIT ONE YEAR ON, COUNTRIES FACE A NEW OPPORTUNITY WITH NOVEMBER SUMMIT IN BRAZIL

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International preparations for the G20 2024 summit in Brazil are underway, as the summit is set to expand for the first time since its foundation in 1999. The African Union (AU) will join this year and represent 55 African countries at the summit after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced their inclusion at last year’s G20 summit in India, according to BBC. The G20 countries are preparing to meet in different cities across Brazil in November to discuss the most pressing economic, political, and environmental issues in the world today. The 2023 summit was a success for India. As the host, it was able to solidify itself on the world stage, according to *Daiji World*. However, lasting commitment to G20 resolutions has been hard to come by. BBC reported that China’s Xi Jinping and Russia’s Vladimir Putin declined to attend in 2023, instead sending

diplomats in their place. Since 1999, the G20 has been a group of the world’s economic powerhouses. The “twenty” comprise 85 percent of the world’s GDP and 75 percent of the world’s trade. Alongside the European Union (EU), the other 19 countries include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, and the U.S. Although the group was founded in 1999, the first official summit wasn’t held until after the financial crisis of 2008 in an attempt to promote international cooperation. Since 2008, the summit has been hosted in a different country each year, with the host country acting as the summit president and guiding the agenda. India took charge this past summit, according to the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), setting an aggressive agenda to address a plethora of

issues while also making it the most inclusive in G20 history. With the engagement of over 67 million people across the summit, officials, grassroots community leaders, corporate entities, educators, women, and youth came together across more than 100 events for the summit last year. The commitments to reform and new action were vast. The summit committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by funding high-level principles to accelerate progress. According to the ORF, the countries committed to securing \$1.2 trillion for SDG funding by 2030 and pledged \$500 billion annually to stimulate SDG progress. The summit’s Green Development Pact called for significant increases in climate financing for the Global South. The Pact set a target to mobilize \$5.9 trillion for clean energy technologies and climate adaptation efforts before 2030. At the summit, the G20 nations also

committed to bridging the global digital divide by developing and sharing public digital infrastructure, with a framework established for global digital infrastructure sharing. The G20 also endorsed a call for reforming multilateral financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to enhance representation and input from developing countries. They called for increasing concessional lending for developing nations and boosting capital at institutions like the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), a smaller institution focusing on developing countries. The G20 summit also proved to be a place for economic diplomacy between the member states. According to Reuters, the U.S., India, Saudi Arabia, and the EU reached a trade agreement at the summit to counter China’s trade influence globally through its Belt and Road Initiative. The deal laid the groundwork for increased

trade and infrastructure between the countries and increased trade flow from Asia and Europe through the Middle East. These commitments, including reforms like opening the summit to the AU, promise a better and more sustainable global economic order. However, the G20 has also faced challenges on more pressing political matters, as well as countries not committing to pledges they signed on to at the summit. According to *The Guardian*, countries are not sticking to the pledges to transition away from fossil fuels. Countries like Saudi Arabia have attempted to reinterpret the phrasing of the agreements and avoid using terminology like “fossil fuels.” The leaders of the G20 also walked away from the summit without a consensus on the war in Ukraine, according to BBC. Without Ukraine being a party to the summit and Russia having a solid presence at the G20, the G20 did not directly criticize Russia in their joint declaration on

the situation in Ukraine. As the world looks toward the new G20 summit in Brazil, countries will have to grapple with emerging problems and issues that have remained unanswered since the last summit. With new conflicts emerging and expanding in the Middle East and the war in Ukraine showing no signs of slowing down, the summit will allow consensus and diplomacy to take center stage. The opportunity for change will be ripe, but it is up to the G20 summit countries to commit to following through on the pledges they make at a summit like the G20 in Brazil.

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TIP TOEING A FINE LINE: WILL THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE ITSELF A REGIONAL WAR?

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On September 8, October 7 marks one year since the war between Israel and Hamas began. Reflecting on this year of conflict and looking at where the war stands now reveals that not much progress has truly been made in stopping this war. Recent events of Israel's bombings in Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, and Gaza along with Iran's retaliatory missile launches at Israel have worried many that this will become a full-blown Middle Eastern regional war. Some even argue that the conflict has already reached that threshold. An exact definition of a regional war in the Middle East is difficult to qualify as proxies and non-state groups complicate the landscape. However, what is known is that there is active conflict in Gaza and now Lebanon with the ground invasion that began October 1, explained by the BBC. For the sake of argument, say that a regional war would qualify when more actors become involved in spreading the conflict to more coun-



A Palestinian man collects mattresses from his destroyed home in Gaza.
Courtesy of United Nations Photo (flickr)
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tries. Right now, this would be a localized war involving three neighboring territories. The other aspects of this conflict resemble "hostilities" more than war due to missiles being exchanged between Israel and other actors. The issue now is that the Middle East faces an expansion of this war hinging on the escalatory hostilities between Israel and Iran. Israel has promised retaliation for the 180 missiles Iran fired at it on Tuesday, Octo-

ber 1, which will be a key moment in this war. This is not the first time Israel has been confronted with a decision on how to respond to an Iranian attack. Previously in April, the United States was able to convince the Israeli government to refrain from an escalatory response and keep the conflict contained. However, this time the US understands the urge to retaliate and is taking a different approach by reaffirming its full support of Israel

and its right to retaliate as stated by Al-Jazeera. Without the U.S. working to deter Israel, it will react to Iran accordingly. The question now remains: will this be the tipping point for full-blown regional war or will the U.S. step in to deter Iran from challenging Israel again? The Associated Press reports that the U.S. is sending more troops into the region after these events, following the trending fear and concern from analysts and leaders alike that this war will become a greater regional conflict. The concern stems from the understanding that if Iran goes to war with Israel, the US will also be drawn in. If this happens, Iraqi groups have threatened U.S. bases as laid out by Arab Weekly. All parties involved are feeling the intensity level rising; however, I see this expansion to full-blown regional war only if Israel escalates enough with Iran. If tensions continue as they are and Iran is deterred following Israel's retaliation, the conflict will not spread to a greater regional war. As Foreign Affairs wrote, the attacks have been enough

to make a statement in solidarity with Palestine but not escalate to war, specifically referring to Hezbollah. This was written before Israel's ground incursion began into Hezbollah territory this week, but the same analysis also applies to the Houthis in Yemen and armed groups in Syria who have been exchanging missiles with Israel now. If Israel can build deterrence against Iran, the conflict will not spread but will be sustained. The fighting and bombing have gone on for a year and no solutions are close to being reached pointing to the fact that the actors involved are in it for the long haul. These actors have too much pride, emotional stake, and hurt involved in this conflict to simply accept an end without victory or defeat. The parties involved are not getting stronger but weakening. Hamas has been greatly weakened as Greg Myre points out in an NPR interview, and Foreign Affairs outlines how Israel is facing challenges in sustaining their effort as well, especially with the war in Lebanon now. The fighting with Hezbollah will eventually

draw to a conclusion rather than escalate given Hezbollah's recent deterioration at the hands of the IDF. This does not lend well to an expanded war effort and all sides should see that one is inherently against either of their interests. This war has brought much death, animosity, and chaos to the Levant which was already experiencing all these things. What happens between Israel and Iran next holds the power to determine the trajectory for the end of this war. If Israel can successfully deter Iran, it bodes well to deter the rest of Iran's proxies and allies. However, if escalation intensifies, the world must prepare for war in the Middle East.

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HOW THE 2024 ELECTION COULD SHAPE THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

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For years China's economy has been a hot topic. Economists and policymakers have long debated whether China's rapidly growing economy can surpass the United States. As we look towards the 2024 U.S. presidential election, the two economic strategies of the candidates could have profound effects on the U.S.-China economic rivalry. Donald Trump and Kamala Harris offer distinct approaches to the economy that could shape how the U.S. will compete in the global economy. Because of this, one question remains: Can China's economy truly outgrow the U.S., and what will occur if it does? Since their economic reforms of the 20th century, China's GDP growth has outpaced the U.S. According to Global Times, China's actual GDP growth in 2023 outpaced the U.S. by 2.7 percent and 1.1 percent higher

in 2022. Because of this, even though the United States' GDP is higher than China's, the gap in economic size is narrowing. Many argue that China has already surpassed the United States. According to the Center for Economic and Policy Research, by measuring purchasing power parity, China's economy surpassed the U.S. in 2014 and is around 25 percent larger. According to the International Monetary Fund project by 2028, China's economy will be nearly 40 percent larger. Comparing nominal GDP, the U.S. remains ahead. For GDP growth, China's investment in technology, manufacturing, and infrastructure development has been key for its economic growth. China's political strategy contrasts the U.S. political system. With elections occurring every two years, and most Congressional positions being under 6 years, there is a need to form short-term solutions because our politi-

cians are more worried about getting reelected than providing long-term solutions. China does not have this problem as they have one-party system and hold elections every five years, meaning they are able to come up with long-term economic solutions, focusing on the next 20 years rather than the next two. An example of this is the Made in China 2025 initiative. Institute of Security and Development Policy writes that it aims to transform China from a previously dependent, low-cost, manufacturing-based economy into a global leader in high-tech industries by 2025. This plan focuses on 10 sectors including robotics, aerospace, clean energy vehicles, and biomedicine. The goal is to reduce dependency on foreign technologies and enhance China's ability to produce these goods domestically. The 2024 election could serve as a critical point in the direction of the U.S. approach to Chi-

na's economic rise. Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris offer two fundamentally different approaches to counter China, each carrying significant implications for the global economy. During his presidency, Trump took a hard stance against China. Trump's return to office would likely focus on tariffs and the reduction of American reliance on Chinese goods. In his first term, he imposed tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars in Chinese imports to reduce the trade deficit, bringing manufacturing back to the U.S., and counter what he viewed as unfair trade practices. This aggressive approach hurt American businesses who were reliant on Chinese goods, leading to higher costs for American consumers. A second Trump administration would likely lead to a double down on this strategy, potentially destabilizing the technology industry. Relying less on

China, although hurting us in the short run, will create a more self-reliant U.S. economy. Time will tell if these policies slow down China's economic growth or force them to accelerate their policies and initiatives to push towards technological and economic self-sufficiency. On the other hand, Harris is likely to take a more measured approach. While she would continue to hold China responsible on issues like trade imbalances and intellectual property theft, her focus would involve strengthening alliances with other nations rather than isolationist policies like Trump. Rather than unilateral tariffs and trade wars, Harris' administration would most likely work through institutions like the World Trade Organization and build coalitions with the EU and Pacific allies. Harris would also invest heavily in U.S. industries that are critical to competing with China, like technology, infrastructure, and

clean energy. This strategy could avoid immediate economic fallout of a trade war, while setting the U.S. up for long-term economic resilience. Ultimately, whether China's economy can outgrow the U.S. is not just a matter of comparing GDP numbers; it is a question of the effectiveness of political systems, global alliances, and long-term strategies. While China's leaders plan decades into the future, the U.S. remains dynamic and innovation-driven, focusing on short-term problems which inadvertently brings uncertainty to the long-term economy. It is not just about who wins in the next U.S. election, but which party continues to hold the White House and push their agenda.

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ISRAEL'S PAGER ATTACK: A JUSTIFIED EXAMPLE OF MASTERFUL SUBTERFUGE

Liam Knotek
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On September 17, sophisticated attacks targeting the terrorist organization Hezbollah utilizing exploding pagers occurred, followed by a similar attack with walkie-talkies on the 18. Although Israel has not claimed responsibility for these attacks, a U.S. official who was not authorized to speak publicly says Israel notified Washington that they carried out the attacks, reports NPR. The explosions mostly occurred within Lebanon, aimed to cause physical and psychological damage.

According to Amnesty International, as of September 20, the attacks have injured more than 2,931 people and killed at least 37, including 4 civilians. Many question whether these attacks violated international law, but Israel's attack was a completely justified operation that is part of the ongoing conflict between Israel and those

bent on its destruction.

Many support the act of subterfuge supposedly carried out by Israel. John Spencer, chair of Urban Warfare Studies at the Modern War Institute at West Point told Newsweek that "The operation passes all fundamental laws of war." In addition, Eugene Kontorovich, an international law expert, stated, "Those protesting the attack on Hezbollah cell phones would have been crying over bombs placed on Nazi Germany's train tracks," per The Daily Wire.

Others disagree. The main qualms that critics have with the pager attack relate to Article 7 of the Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. On the surface, this provision prohibits the use of deceptive traps that are in the form of objects likely to be used by citizens. Some argue these attacks were indiscriminate, as there was no way of knowing where these bombs would detonate or

who they would be distributed to. Critics point to cases of bombs going off in homes, cars, grocery stores, and cafes reports the Associated Press.

The critics do not paint the whole picture. Paragraph 2 of Article 7 prohibits the use of objects specifically designed and constructed as traps that appear normal and harmless. These pagers were not constructed, but modified for this purpose, then bought by terrorists, to be used by terrorists, states The Daily Wire. Paragraph 3 goes on to say that the object must be in close vicinity of a military target. Considering pagers are meant to be kept on your person, I would say the attack fulfills this condition.

The next issue is whether the attack fulfills the principles of necessity, distinction, and proportionality. Necessity permits actions necessary to fulfill military purposes. Hezbollah, recognized as a terrorist organization by several countries includ-

ing the U.S., are deeply anti-Israel and called for the Israeli state's destruction in their 1985 manifesto, states the Council on Foreign Relations. They have also supported Hamas' war with Israel since its beginning, claiming to be in direct contact with Hamas leadership on October 7, 2023, and barraging Israel with rockets ever since then, reports Reuters. It is safe to say that Hezbollah represents a clear and present danger to Israel, worthy of military action.

Distinction requires parties to distinguish between military and civilian objectives. According to Article 52 of the Additional Protocols to Geneva Convention I, military targets are "limited to those objects which by their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military advantage." Under

this article, there should be no disagreement that pagers issued by a terrorist organization to terrorists for the purpose of communication between terrorists constitutes a definite military target.

Proportionality requires the loss of civilian life to be acceptable in relation to the military goals achieved. Not only did the pager attacks take around 1,500 Hezbollah fighters out of action as reported by The Times of Israel, but it also had major effects on their communications capabilities. In February, Secretary General of Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, ordered all supporters to get rid of their phones, fearing Israel would use them for tracking and targeted assassinations, reports Reuters. The reason Hezbollah switched to pagers is because they thought the low-tech devices would prevent Israel from tracking communications. Not only did the attacks take out Hezbollah's last form of communication, but

the psychological effect cannot be underestimated. The fact that Israel still managed an attack of this level utilizing the very devices Hezbollah thought would help keep them safer is certain to damage morale. Considering most casualties were people associated with Hezbollah, and the military advantages achieved with this operation, this attack meets the standard of proportionality.

Although many criticize the attack carried out on Hezbollah, likely by Israel, it fulfills the principles of the Law of War, and contrary to the opinions of many, does not violate Article 7 of the Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The attacks were a masterful example of subterfuge and completely justified.

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THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE VOTERS WERE NOT EXPECTING

Andrea Gonzalez
Sports, Business, & Culture Editor

On October 1, Governor Tim Walz of Minnesota and Senator JD Vance of Ohio faced each other during the Vice-Presidential Debate, which brought a rare moment of depth to current political discourse. The candidates did not trade insults and deliberately engaged in policy-centered arguments, highlighting each ticket's utterly opposite vision for the country, reports BBC.

The path has not been easy, as recent months have reshaped the election cycle, with President Biden dropping out and Donald Trump facing two assassination attempts.

Vance became known for lashing out against women who do not have children after a 2021 Fox interview with Tucker Carlson resurfaced. According to NPR, his confrontational style echoes former President Trump's claims against 'traditional sources of knowledge,' which left many expect-

ing a heated performance. Despite exposing his rough edges, Governor Tim Walz showed a steady hand aimed at undecided voters and those who share his background from rural America.

It began with a discussion of regional conflict in the Middle East, where the Israeli military continues to unleash war in Lebanon and Gaza. According to CBS News, Walz's response addressed the need to end the humanitarian crisis and return the hostages while alluding to Kamala Harris' "steady leadership" while a chaotic "Donald Trump talk[s] about crowd sizes." Vance responded with a stunning introduction of his background. He ensured that Trump delivered stability through "effective deterrence," emphasizing that peace would come through strength and that if enemies "got out of line," the United States would bring back stability.

Walz accused the Republican ticket of dehumanizing immigrant communities in Spring-

field, Ohio. Then things got tricky for Vance, as he protested when moderators clarified that the Haitian community in Springfield has legal status, and that Temporary Protected Status is a lawful path to immigration.

When asked about abortion, Walz embraced the stories of women facing the consequences of abortion bans in states across the country post-Roe v. Wade. The New York Times reports that Walz shared the story of Amanda Zurawski, who experienced complications during the eighteenth week of her pregnancy, nearly dying after she was sent home by doctors in Texas. Senator Vance recognized the failures of the Republican party on reproductive rights and expressed that "we've [The Republican Party] got to do a better job of winning back people's trust" and then shared concepts of a plan to make the country more supportive of women starting families.

Senator Vance honed his skepticism and questioned

experts from the economy to healthcare. Meanwhile, Governor Walz maintained his commitment to unity across the country and the need for leaders who rely on fact-based governance. One showed judgment against established systems versus an optimistic, pragmatic vision, unveiling a central theme of the election, a deep ideological divide among Americans.

Vance's dismissal of the idea that economists and experts should be trusted was a moment that defined the conversation. Instead, voters should favor the conventional wisdom solutions that will not solve America's problems. Walz argues that "if you're going to be president, you don't have all the answers," reports Real Clear Politics. Subject-matter experts and leaders in their fields are not infallible. Their assessments of the economy, social issues, and healthcare are not the end-all. Still, the exchange highlights the counter-elite argument that helped raise Senator Vance through the conservative rank and

would strengthen a second Trump administration.

For some viewers, the statement unearthed an opportunity for Walz to attack Vance on the legitimacy of the 2020 election and expose his inconsistencies on the issue. Governor Walz asked the Senator directly if Donald Trump had lost the 2020 election- a defining question of Republican loyalty in the last three years. However, Vance's attempt to dodge the question only highlighted the thin path he walks under Trump's Republican Party. Walz had a few shaky moments, but calling Vance's response a "damning nonanswer" was not one of them, says The New York Times.

The Associated Press reports that Vance demonstrated an outright unwillingness to confront Donald Trump's actions to have the election overturned and false claims of election fraud. At that moment, Governor Walz addressed the more profound question of fact-based governance versus Senator Vance's hesitancy to distance himself

from election denialism.

Although there was no clear winner or loser, the candidates fulfilled their goal of supporting their running mate and providing an introduction of their persona and purpose. Vance, a polished debater, appealed to those tired of listening to experts, insisting that Donald Trump is the candidate with "common sense" solutions. He appeared agreeable and respectful of Walz's ideas. Still, Vance sparked concerns over his willingness to camouflage his beliefs to maintain Trump's favor. Walz reminded women that the Democratic ticket would respect their choices while expanding Medicare, tax credits, and programs to support families, but at times misspoke and appeared anxious.

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INSPIRATION TO IMPACT CONFERENCE 2024

Keira Bala
Staff Writer

On Friday, September 29, the Inspiration to IMPACT Conference took place at Seton Hall University's University Center to provide a professional development opportunity for student leaders. Hosted by the Office of Student Engagement, these sessions were a place to hear from Seton Hall staff and fellow peers to help all in the audience grow in skills and competencies. IMPACT is a unique conference where students participate in a day-long conference experience that showcases several diverse speakers that share their stories on leadership to inspire attendees to act. The session topics ranged from Diversity, Equity & Inclusion to Public Speaking. Students were divided into fifty-minute Education Sessions to engage into curated Ted-Talk style conversations with community leaders. This year's conference was meant to inspire action among students and encourage them to think

critically about how they will seek to be servant leaders and global citizens. I had the privilege of speaking with Katherine Fainer, the Director of Undergraduate Admissions for Seton Hall University, about public speaking exercises for individuals to utilize academically and professionally. She explained that connecting with one's audience is crucial to ensuring that people are listening and attentive, and Fainer had all my attention as I was the only attendee in her session. She also emphasized that if there is a microphone available to speak into, always use it to avoid yelling at your audience. Lastly, she highlighted that when answering questions, we should not use a qualifying statement such as, "That's a great question," as to not discourage other participants from asking their question if they feel it is not as important. Instead, we should use, "Thank you for your question," hopefully en-

couraging all questions. The keynote speaker, Jamie Pukl-Werbel presented an entertaining and informative speech about utilizing one's undergraduate years. Pukl-Werbel received her juris doctorate from Seton Hall University's School of Law and is now the Assistant Provost for Faculty Affairs and Assistant Dean of Experiential Education at Seton Hall University's Newark campus. Her presence was powerful and grabbed the room's attention almost immediately. Pukl-Werbel asked the room what we knew about college and how we can make the most of our four undergraduate years. To add to our knowledge, she shared that she had asked her closest colleagues and friends both from school and her professional life what their top eight takeaways from undergrad were. Here are my top three: students should treat college like a job, one that requires 100 percent of students' focus. This piece of advice inspired me, because after under-

graduate is finished, students face either the real world or graduate school, but there will never be another moment of opportunity like the ones students have during undergraduate studies. Pukl-Werbel's second point that stood out to me was that students should develop a growth mindset. She asked the room to answer the question, "When do you feel more successful, when you execute something flawlessly over time or when you start a new skill?" I answered that I feel most successful when I try something new, and I work at that thing until I am flawless at it. She pointed out to the crowd that those who chose the same as me have a growth mindset and that we are open to working on something until it is perfectly executed. Lastly, she reminded students that professional reputations start now. It is crucial that student leaders know that what they do now can affect their futures as professionals, whether in a positive or a negative light.

Professional engagements give students the experience and knowledge to take with them when applying for internships or even post-graduate jobs. Being self-aware of students' presence on campus as leaders is a step in a positive direction for the attendees, Pukl-Werbel shared. It is a unique opportunity for students to attend the IMPACT conference that our faculty and fellow student leaders host, as it was an impactful and informative conference for all students to participate in.

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Being self-aware of students' presence on campus as leaders is a step in a positive direction for the attendees, Pukl-Werbel shared. Courtesy of Joe829er(Wikimedia Commons) CreativeCommons 4.0

SETON HALL DIPLOMACY STUDENTS ATTEND THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

Rachel Beck
Staff Writer

On September 20 and 21, Seton Hall University was represented at the United Nations Summit of the Future Action Days (UNSFAD), through their status on the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The UNSFAD, which brought together representatives from civil society, the private sector, academia, and Member States, brought forth opportunities for the engagement and inclusion of young people. The different conversations were aimed to make youth engagement and youth voices stronger in the international community. Seton Hall's representation consisted of two seniors, one junior, three sophomores, and one freshman, in the School of Diplomacy and International Relations, who were extremely grateful for their experience over the two-day period. Both Action Days

began with an opening ceremony, where various speakers stressed the importance of youth leadership and engagement that needs to be seen in the future with the hope of making sure that no one is left behind in the ever-changing world. Emphasis was also placed on promoting peace and security, working with emerging technologies to understand our digital future, and enhancing youth recruitment for international opportunities. The Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Antonio Guterres, addressed those at the opening ceremony and spoke on the importance of generational responsibility when it comes to the ever-changing international environment. His Excellency highlighted the need for intergenerational collaboration to become the standard, so that the current generations and future generations have a better, and hopefully more peaceful, future.

One of the special sessions during Friday's Action Day was on the Governance for Human Rights, Peace and Security, and Political Processes, which was composed of several panel discussions. This session highlighted the idea that young people are the center of sustainable change and need to act. However, there was also an underlining recommendation that state governments, the UN, and other international organizations should meet youth where they stand now. Additionally, it highlighted larger institutions that must encourage and allow for young leaders to rise and be recognized for their ideas and movements. It is a grassroots theory of encouraging the youth in every layer of influence and stage of change. On Saturday, a session on "A Peaceful Future for All" was attended by the Seton Hall students. A key element of the session was learning how to listen while leading. This is fur-

thered by the idea that if society wants peace, they must be open to listening to various voices spanning across race, gender, and age. During panel on gender equality, Khalida Popal, an Afghan football player, highlighted the importance of women empowerment, especially in international spaces. She pushed for a change in the narrative and to stop filtering the voices of women. Popal showed her attempts at inclusion through driving young girls to get involved in sports like football. By bringing inclusivity to other aspects of life, Popal stressed, we can push back against gender persecution and inequality. At the same session, a discussion on the protection of civilians was an emotionally tender moment, as Giles Duley, a photographer and founder of The Legacy of War Foundation, showed the audience various images from war-torn cities around the world. His work doesn't surround the

tarnish and destruction of cities or buildings, but the pain and loss that real families face because of war. Duley pressed the audience to understand the true impact of war, not on an international level, but a personal one-at a level of vulnerability. Duley concluded his speech asking for more to be done to help families in crisis and those who don't have any other way out. In addition to the two sessions previously mentioned, there were numerous other sessions and side events offered at the UNSFAD. Those sessions focused on different sides to international affairs, including sustainability, global governance, gender equality, and digital influence. Joseph Brennan, a junior at Seton Hall's School of Diplomacy and International Relations, claimed his favorite part of the summit was a side event on artificial intelligence (AI) and international governance. He explained, "it

gave me a lens into the minds of international policymakers and how the constant development of AI makes it extremely difficult to create up-to-date and accurate regulations and standards." The UNSFAD focused on the partnership and action of various stakeholders in the international community, hoping to prepare the youth to take action in the next chapter to promote intergenerational inclusivity and understanding. The summit that focused on technological development, international peace and security, and global governance, was a highly anticipated event by both Seton Hall students, and others in attendance. The students would like to thank Seton Hall's School of Diplomacy and International Relations for the opportunity to attend the summit.

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THE TRUMP TARIFF PLAN'S FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS CANNOT BE IGNORED

Cameron Bird
Staff Writer

Former President Donald Trump is a huge advocate of tariffs. He has been quoted as calling them, "... the greatest thing ever invented" according to PBS News. Whether the policy issue be domestic, foreign, social, political, or economic, Trump tends to introduce tariffs as a mechanism for positive change. Domestically this has not been received very well, as Trump's opponents argue it will raise prices on the average American, and risk straining relations between the United States and key trading partners. There is significant merit to this argument, given Trump's trade war with China during his first presidency, due to increasing tariffs, and economists project middle-class Americans may see their budgets increase at least \$1700 annually, and even up to \$2500, according to Forbes. While these domestic economic concerns are assuredly worth noting and remain significant in the context of the U.S. November presidential elections, more dis-

cussion is required as to the foreign policy implications of Trump's tariff policy, and his pattern of decision-making related to tariffs. The former president views foreign policy, and foreign relations, as a transactional exchange, wherein the U.S. must be benefitting explicitly, or otherwise disengage from the relations altogether. This is expressed in his views regarding NATO, South Korea, trade with China, and the war in Ukraine. However, this zero-sum foreign policy strategy is inherently ineffective, problematic and dangerous. Trump, with his lack of foreign policy expertise, maintains a worldview that is skeptical and fixated on zero-sum solutions and therefore is poised to destabilize the U.S. role as a power player and problem solver on the world stage.

In the context of the U.S. foreign policy as a power broker, Donald Trump would enter the White House in January of 2025 in an incredibly unique situation. The United States, given its

conduct in the Middle East and failure to broker peace, is losing credibility on the world stage, according to the Washington Post. The values of liberal democracy, self-determination, and civil liberties appear to be less and less aligned with U.S. policy as the situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate, with countless civilians dying and Palestinian statehood further from realization than ever. As a result, the U.S. vision of a liberal democratic world order maintains less potency ideologically to those watching the conflict in Gaza. Further-



Former President Trump meets with Former Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni in 2017.
Courtesy of Trump White House Archived(flickr)
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more, the U.S. finds itself at a crossroads politically, over whether or not to sustain Ukraine's efforts in its defense against Russian aggression as the war drags into a fourth year. Perhaps most significantly, the U.S. must balance against China, whose military power, technological advances, and economic potential make it the rising revisionist power on the world stage, with a broad appeal to the Global South as the forefront partner regarding development and security. From an even larger perspective, Donald Trump would find himself the leader of the most powerful democracy in the

world, as authoritarianism continues to gain traction within the political spheres of the world traditionally associated with democracy, as outlined in reports by the Global State of Democracy Initiative. Given these set of circumstances, not only is Trump's foreign policy critically important in guiding the U.S. through these challenges, but will also likely be the framework for the next era of global politics. Trump's focus on transactional foreign policy, through the use of tariffs and military exchanges, places immense significance upon his choices as President. If Trump is to engage in retaliatory trade tactics, as he did with China, it exposes the U.S. to an expanding trade deficit, just as it did in his first term, according to the Associated Press. Furthermore, the trade war in Trump's first presidency failed to protect the economic sectors that Trump had hoped to reconsolidate, as he lost a net value of more than 180,000 manufacturing jobs by the end of his presidency,

according to FactCheck. The U.S. runs the risk of continuing that trend and gambling away the current window of economic advantage it has over China. The use of tariffs could thoroughly impact the network of alliances, and meaningful diplomatic relationships the U.S. has around the world. If Trump does in fact institute a tariff across the board of 20%, that carries significant economic and political damage. There is harm in Trump's messaging, as well as the tangible financial harm from import taxes. The U.S. would have to explain to important diplomatic partners, such as its European partners, ASEAN, and Japan, why it was instituting tariffs on goods coming from those countries. If the former president does indeed follow through on these policies, there could be irreparable damage to critically important diplomatic relationships, in 2025 and beyond.

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The Diplomatic Envoy

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SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND
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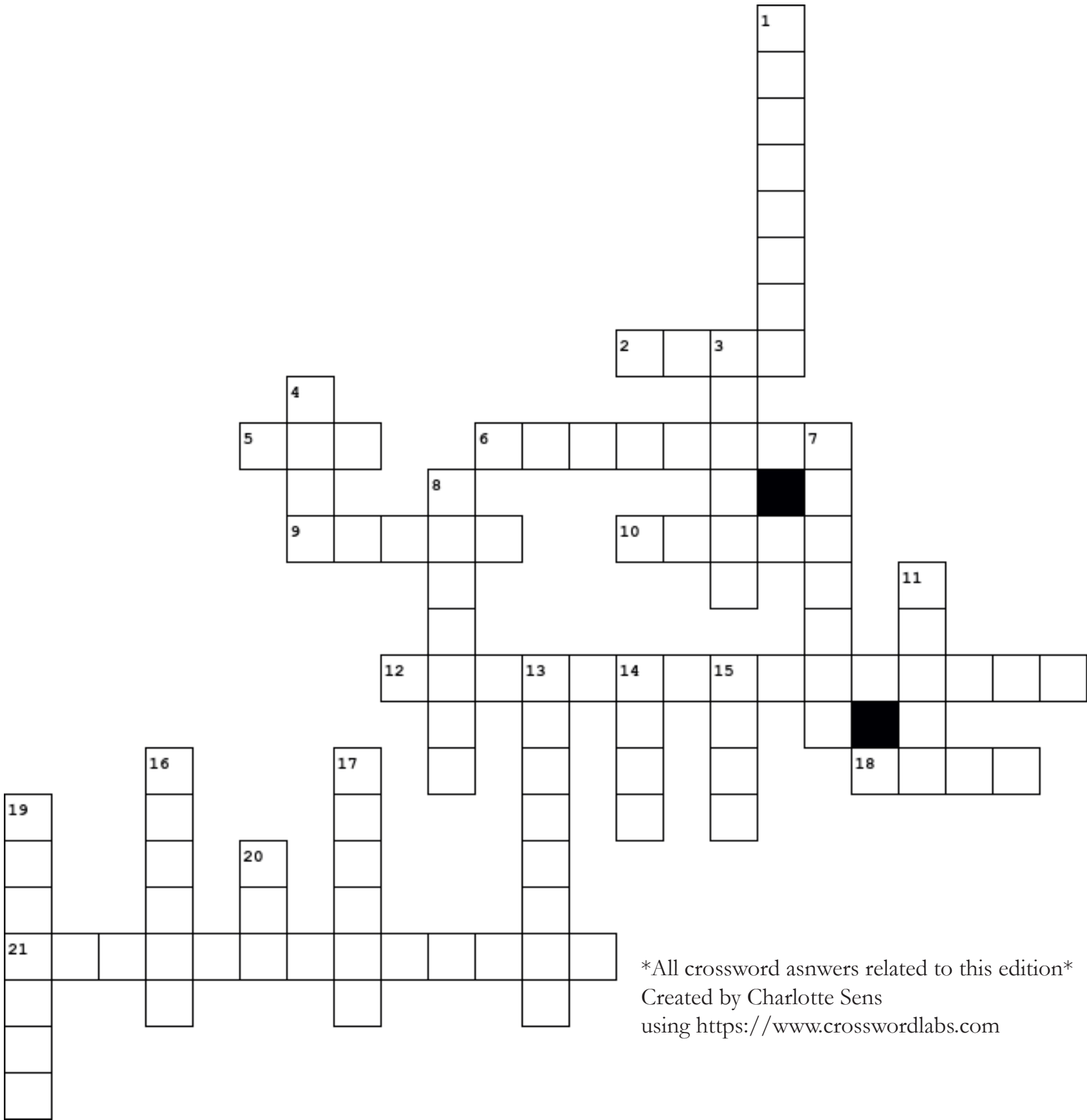
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October Edition Crossword



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

Across

- 2. Chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court
- 5. Political party of Mexican Senator Miguel Ángel Yunes
- 6. Texas woman who nearly died from complication associated with pregnancy, at the forefront of vice presidential debate
- 9. Armed groups in this nation have been exchanging missiles with Israel amidst regional tensions
- 10. The U.S. must balance against this power to maintain its pre-eminence on the world stage.
- 12. This principle of international law requires loss of civilian life to be acceptable in relation to military goals achieved
- 18. Parent company of K-pop group NewJeans
- 21. Gen-Z often suffers from a lack of these skills, a possible outcome of the Covid-19 pandemic

Down

- 1. This company was used to manage voting systems in Puerto Rico's election
- 3. U.S. Secretary of Defense
- 4. One of three nations which make up the CLV-DTA
- 7. Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations
- 8. Nation with the second largest economy in Africa
- 11. Founder of The Legacy of War Foundation
- 13. One of 5 European countries to phase out coal power production
- 14. President of Kenya
- 15. This small institution is a focus of the G20 to achieve greater lending for developing nations
- 16. Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Seton Hall University
- 17. Declaration on ____ Generations created at the Summit of the Future
- 19. Trump administration would focus on this tactic to combat Chinese economic growth
- 20. Political party of Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba