

SNAPSHOTS OF DISORDER: EL SALVADOR, SAUDI ARABIA & SUDAN

AUGUST 2023 EDITION

# A Hoot About The World

The Legacy of  
Innovation

Improvement or  
Instability?



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# A Hoot About The World

*August 2023 - Volume 3*

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AIP's International Relations Class

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# WRITERS



## ALEXANDRA BRITTON

Alexandra Britton is a beacon of kindness and creativity. As an active member of Eco-AIP and the Vice President of FANLYC, her devotion to serving the many facets of social justice is an integral part of her character. “Allie” has a gift for design, being an integral part of the AIP debate Press Corps. This year she was also selected as a part of the AIP Theatre backstage crew, where her creativity shines once again as the social media manager for the play. Her passion for the digital arts goes beyond the academic scene, as she is known among her friends for doing impressive “edit” videos about diverse topics she enjoys. Allie is looking forward to studying computer science in college and pursuing a career in a major tech company.



## ANA GABRIELA GERBAUD

Ana Gabriela Gerbaud is a born diplomat: a dedicated student of astounding organizational and planning skills, an avid traveler of the world, and a strong speaker. In her latest journey, Ana G went to Berlin to support the Special Olympics, after organizing a school-wide competition to collect the funds for the activity in school. Through this edition of Hoot, she ventured to the region of Saudi Arabia, with an argumentative article on its sports washing—the use of entertainment by the government to distract whole populations from the region’s issues. She is already organizing her next trip to Italy and a cruise in the Baltics, consuming books along with travel tips, guides, and language! However, when not traveling with family or road-tripping to El Valle, Ana G can be found planning her week’s studies and adhering to them: her discipline is incomparable. Once she says she will do something, she will excel in it to perfection.



## ANDREA NARANJO

Andrea Naranjo, a dedicated and exceptional student, constantly contributes to society. She’s the vice president of GirlUp AIP, an NGO that focuses on empowering women, and the marketing head of Obsequio de Vida AIP, an organization that helps people with cognitive heart diseases. Clearly, Andrea is deeply interested in others’ well-being. However, that same interest translates to other areas of her life. Her fascination for outer space has given rise to the desire of working for Nasa in the future. She has invested a lot of her time learning about it, skimming articles upon articles about the latest news. In this Hoot About the World edition, Andrea explores, through her article, “The Nasa Artemis Program: How Exploring the Moon and Beyond Affects Life on Earth,” one of the most recent events regarding Nasa, a program they are launching. She meticulously evaluates the possible outcomes of said program and the repercussions it could have.



## BEATRIZ MIRÓ

Beatriz Miró is a very passionate, determined, and artistic individual whose radiant laughter lights up every room she walks into. Always facing things with a positive mindset, Beatriz strives to create a good impact in the world. Incredibly involved in multiple of the school’s activities, she is a cast member of the school musical with AIPTheater, where she demonstrates her love for the arts through her acting and dancing skills. Additionally, having earned the recognition of “Búho de Oro” in the past few years, Beatriz is known to be an incredibly kind and compassionate student and classmate, who continuously intends to do good and spread positivity around her. In her article, she writes about the rise of sweatshops throughout the Asian region and focuses on the impact they have on the economy and our society. To compliment her detailed analysis, Beatriz refers to the valuable information given by Shannon O’Neil in her book *The Globalization Myth*.



## EUGENIA ALBERT

Eugenia Albert, a hardworking and resourceful student, frequently participates in school and social activities. Through these, she has influenced society. As vice president of Make-A-Wish AIP, she has fulfilled the wishes of children with critical illnesses. Eugenia also writes for the school newspaper, discussing affairs within AIP. Apart from showing her passion for writing through this medium, she’s able to showcase certain aspects of the school that might otherwise be unknown to the public. She clearly enjoys spreading awareness about different topics. So much so, that she has created an Instagram account about her own experience with vitiligo. Through her articles in this edition of Hoot About the World, a book review about *The End of the World is Just the Beginning* by Peter Zeihan, and an explainer article about Sudan’s current conflict, she also strives to spread awareness about other topics, with the end goal of making a difference in the world.



# WRITERS

## ISABEL RIPAMONTI

Isabel Ripamonti is the embodiment of passionate: a passionate listener, debater, and learner of the ever-changing world around her. Current events, changing geopolitics, and society intrigue her, which is why often you will find her in the English Honors, chemistry, or IR classrooms fearlessly expressing her thoughts and listening to others to understand clashing perspectives. Her dedication and passion for expression have allowed her to excel in school and the debate team: publishing a Hacked World Order book review for this year's Hoot, currently holding the position of secretary of the debate team, after being vice president in 2022, and president on 2021, and representing Panama's World Schools' National Team. When she is not submerged in the world's current events, she is making everyone around her laugh with her unmatched jokes and hilarious personality. Such determination, wittiness, and passion will allow Ripamonti to excel in anything she proposes to herself: her proximate endeavor, industrial engineering!



## ISABELLA DUARTE

Isabella Duarte is an exemplary student and a wonderful young woman. From her academic intellect to her extracurricular endeavors, she has managed to be recognized for her hard work in everything she does. Being the president of Obsequio de Vida, an organization that helps children with cognitive heart diseases, and an active and valuable member of the Debate Club, she is always working towards making a positive impact around her. Duarte is a very passionate person, giving her best efforts in everything that she does, from her skills on the basketball court to her powerful commentary in classes such as International Relations and Literature. In addition to being very involved in her activities, Isabella also enjoys writing and learning about current global events. In her article, she provides a glimpse into the ethical implications of technology, giving a meaningful analysis of where we should draw the line when it comes to innovation.



## ISABELLA MARTINEZ-ACHA

Isabella Martínez-Acha, better known as "Bacha," has been an avid reader and writer since an early age, having discovered her passion for reading especially in the Harry Potter saga. Isabella has always been very dedicated to what she loves most, which is dancing and getting good grades. She practices her passionate dancing at Steps Academy and has partaken in several international dance competitions. Being an academically driven young woman, she has been one of the fortunate few that has been able to participate in courses at both Oxford and Harvard which have further immersed her in the world of knowledge and allowed her to keep pursuing her dreams. We cannot wait to see where Isabella will go and what the future holds for her. We know for sure that her eager outlook on life and drive to accomplish anything she puts her mind to, will lead her to accomplish many more great things to come.



## LUCÍA PAULINO

Lucía Paulino is a student that shows dedication, perseverance, and commitment in everything she does. Apart from internationally competing in the Panamanian Gymnastics Team, she demonstrates undeniable intellect and brainpower in her studies. She uses most of her free time to train demanding for gymnastics, but that does not limit her studious accomplishments. Her intellect is not only verified by her impressive academic performance but also by the attitude she carries with her in every single learning environment. Only such an attentive and active listener could achieve such logical and pragmatic thinking in classes, and only such a quick wit could accomplish her utmost perfect writing. All in all, Paulino demonstrates real promise in all her academic efforts, and will always remain eligible as an example of an admirable scholar.



## NICOLÁS VARELA

Nicolás Varela is a politically oriented person, with a strong character that can also show his soft side at times. His level of knowledge on most topics surpasses the average person and his ideas always keep in touch with his morals. This helps him a lot when he is passionately showcasing his skills at international debates. He is the current co-president of AIP's debate team and has been a member of the club since 9th grade. Nicolás is an avid current events enthusiast, passionately following world politics and wishing to improve the many problems within Latin America and his country. A fun fact about Nico is that he is a black belt in Taekwondo, having participated in the sport since he was just 4 years old. Through his collaboration with Ripamonti on the Hacked World Order book review, Nicolás argues about the effects of the current cyber conflict on politics today.



# EDITOR'S LETTER

Eugenia Albert

The past century of human development has been characterized by the prominent rise of technological advancements that have improved the way societies communicate with each other, produce manufactured goods, and even elect their leaders. From the Industrial Revolution to the new electronic era, the emergence of technological progress has shaped the way global economies interact with each other. Now, however, new debates regarding the social and economic implications of these technologies arise what with current developments in industrial automation, the daunting rise of Artificial Intelligence, and increased misinformation leading to polarization.

Such inquiries are analyzed by Isabella Duarte, as she introduces the fundamental moral debate of our time in her article *Innovation Unleashed*: whether countries should put a limit to their technological innovations. Duarte tackles the possible economic and ethical repercussions of rising technological advancements, detailing issues such as unemployment, political and ideological manipulation, adverse health effects, and privacy breaches.

Isabella Martínez-Acha and Alexandra Britton dive into the complex rise of the trillion-dollar company Apple Inc. In their article, *The Trillion Dollar Stagnation*, Acha and Britton discuss the eminent development of Apple through the iPhone, evaluating the company's ability to make such a revolutionary product again. They introduce the Vision Pro, analyzing the possible ethical implications these may have for the way humans perceive the world.

Beatriz Miró, in her article *Made in China: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*, discusses the increase of sweatshops attributed to the economic boom in Asia. Illustrated through her profound analysis of *The Globalization Myth*, Beatriz exemplifies the rise of the Asian manufacturing hub, exploring the ethical question of whether the exploitation of workers is accounted for by the mass production of goods, crucial to the stabilization of the current economic system and its intricate supply chains.

Finally, Andrea Naranjo addresses the effects of technological advancements in a unique realm: the political and economic competition between superpowers for space. In her article, Andrea introduces NASA's new Artemis program, an ambitious agenda that reflects a much deeper desire to dominate space as tensions between China and the United States threaten to rekindle a flame that was once thought to be put out after the Cold War.

The edition contains two book reviews that examine the different aspects of the new technological upsurge: manufacturing through an analysis of *The End of the World is Just the Beginning* and cyberspace through a breakdown of *The Hacked World Order*.

The issue concludes with an overview of the current geopolitical state of several countries. Lucía Paulino studies the possible roots of authoritarianism hidden within instability in El Salvador; Ana Gabriela Gerbaud explores Saudi Arabia's use of sports to improve its international image; and I dissect the causes and repercussions of the violent conflict in Sudan.

The implications of the technological revolution are now widespread, emphasizing the inescapable issues of our time. These captivating articles provide insightful discussions that prompt us to ask the defining questions of our age.



**JUMP  
OVER  
YOUR  
OWN  
LIMITS  
TO MAKE  
NEW  
GOALS**

**Just do it.**





# Innovation Unleashed

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## An Ethical Dilemma

Isabella Duarte

**A**t the renowned chemistry laboratory in the heart of the University of Ingolstadt in Germany, a dangerously curious and scientific individual sought to discover something both astounding and beneficial for humanity, as many others after him would attempt. Through his endless rummaging, he crossed the limits of ethical scientific experimentation and nature, discovering the secret of creating life from dead matter itself. Victor Frankenstein expected to escalate his discovery into a beautiful creature for the human race, attaining global recognition and glory from his scientific innovation while also knowingly crossing the boundaries of nature — the mortal inability to create life. The Creature, instead, became a menace to society, slaughtering people from the desperation of being the only Creature so horrendous and large in a world populated by humans. Centuries after, the same dilemma of scientific innovation and its legacy on the world disturbs cyber policymakers. Mary Shelley, the 1800s-century writer of Frankenstein, thus succeeded in portraying the current arising question of a technologically evolving generation: should there be a limit on technological innovation?

### **“Tech innovation is good.”**

The beginning of technological advancement could be placed anywhere in the history of humankind, whether it be with the creation of the Internet in the 1990s or two million years ago with the creation of stone tools. The beginning of the timeline of technological advancement in the present article will be situated in the First Industrial Revolution, dating to 1760, with the inventions of steam engines, locomotion, and mechanized factory systems—the transition from hand to machine. The Second Industrial Revolution (in 1870) conceived the seed for globalization: revolutionizing inventions in communications and the mass production of products. At this time, assembly lines and telegraph lines were created, both staples of modernity. In the 1960s, the exhilarating era of the digital revolution brought transistors, microchips, computers,



Artwork by: Valeria Lopez



integrated circuits, microprocessors, and digital cellphones. Then in 1983, the necessity to communicate and share information across various computer networks arose; hence the Transfer Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP), the Internet, was born. Now, the fourth industrial revolution is beginning. All systems are evolving. The education system is becoming more digitalized with the increasing use of technology in classrooms. AI essay writing programs such as ChatGPT, AI tutors, and teaching assistants are on the rise. The business world is being transformed with more mechanized systems and a declining necessity for human workers in the mass production of products. The use of social media and information apps to connect with people is increasing as well, with over 4.26 billion users worldwide in 2021 and estimated to reach six billion in 2027. Biotechnology, genetic engineering, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, the Internet, Big Data, and robotics are all expected to advance technologically in the following decades.

It is undeniable that technological innovation has massively increased efficiency and productivity growth across all job industries. In sectors such as marketing, advertising, consulting, and finance, ChatGPT replaces technical writers completing high-quality writing to communicate with stakeholders and clients at a speed only AI has. AI, such as DALL·E 2, creates graphics and art from text prompts, replacing graphic designers and artists that would take more than half the time to complete the same task. Even the loss of jobs today could open opportunities for the creation of new job fields while making expensive and time-consuming processes more efficient. As with previous revolutions, jobs that have been replaced in the past will prompt jobs to be created in new fields. Less than a decade ago, the positions of content managers, data analysts, VR consultants, and user experience managers did not exist, but they have been opened by technological innovation. At the same time, switchboard operators, lift operators, factory workers, human computers, and cashiers have been replaced.

Apps are another factor in the acceleration of economic growth, education, and labor opportunities. TikTok has already created thousands of jobs for people, around thirty-six million worldwide and seven thousand in the United States. It has become a platform for users to establish small businesses, sell products, or profit from dancing, creative videos, or humor catered to its users: Tik tokers earn between \$20 to \$40 per million views, with viral videos earning up to \$200 to \$400 straight to the “creator’s fund .” Reddit questions, Twitter communities, and Snapchat News all make information accessible to younger audiences that do not consume news from traditional tv or radio sources. People are exposed to quantities of accessible information as never before-- advancing peoples’ capacity to make more informed decisions or become influenced to follow a particular ideology, which would be bad...

**“Tech innovation is bad.”**

Such technological advancements carry with them complex ethical and economic implications. Technologies that might have been created for the benefit of humanity might instead harm it. The main concern is that artificial intelligence will surpass humans to the point that it replaces human jobs, leaving thousands unemployed, to benefit the profit of a few corporations. In the manufacturing and business worlds, AI is already replacing humans for machines to complete products more efficiently, and such a number is only expected to exponentiate. Another concern within innovation has emerged: technological addictions. Apps such as TikTok have been proven to decline their users' productivity and attention spans, misinform or 'brainwash' younger audiences with extremist content, and become overall damaging to the human brain by creating dopamine-driven addiction, eating disorders, insomnia, and depression. There is a degree of uncertainty for the future of technological advancement because of its complex and clashing implications—whether it will prove more beneficial or harmful. Cyber policymakers and governors must consider all of tech innovation's economic and ethical implications to formulate a response that incorporates technology without harming humans.

Thirty to fifty percent of jobs in the United States are expected to be replaced by automation. For developing countries that rely on mass production of factories, the replacement is expected to be over sixty percent. This would mean an increase in economic inequality, more money being made but only for the owners of such corporations: an exacerbation of the unequal distribution of income and opportunity within a society clashing with the increasing GDP. While deliberating where to regulate the implementation of machines in the job force, policymakers must consider all ethical and economic factors, intending to benefit from the efficiency of autonomous made processes without altogether rendering humans unemployed.

A debate encompassing the short video entertainment app TikTok has erupted, which serves as a reflection of the questions lawmakers will have to face. The app has been scrutinized for its ethical harms: addiction and concerns over user privacy protections. Specifically, in the United States, concerns over its complicity with China: providing access to user data from its US citizens to the Chinese government. Research shows TikTok has become a “dopamine drug app” for its users, providing constant gratification over algorithmically catered videos and reducing users' attention spans whilst also promoting unproductivity and long hours of entertaining scrolling. Recently the US has been reevaluating whether to limit or ban TikTok as a means of response, while in Delhi and even China, home of the company, a cyber prohibition policy has already been implemented.

Finally, it has been found that technology can influence individuals' ideological, religious, and political beliefs, thus influencing geopolitical decisions. Nay-



ib Buquele and Fabricio Alvarado have been criticized for using “populist manipulation communication” on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram to influence their respective presidential campaigns and assure users’ votes. The method employed in this is not the traditional “hero,” the struggling populist image that “vindicates” individuals of lower income and economic inequality. Rather, their image is blended with religious elements to promote themselves as “saviors” of traditional morale and economic reform. Thus, technological innovation and social media could subconsciously influence individuals to vote and believe in an ideology, whether it be populism, a regression of communism and Che Guevara admiration, or an ultra-conservative, neoliberalist, republican, or democrat political stance. Democracy and geopolitics become entangled in technological innovation’s implications.

### **Regulation or Redirection?**

With the technological innovation of mechanically propelled vehicles on British highways at the beginning of the 1800s, a threatening implication ensued: road transportation harming others or drivers themselves. The UK government responded quickly and extremely with the Red Flag Act. It consisted of extreme regulations such as “requiring self-propelled vehicles to be manned by a crew of at least three and reducing the speed limit of self-propelled vehicles to 4 mph on highways” (Eggers, Turley, Kishnani, 2018). In a ripple effect, the Red Flag Act impeded the development of road transportation in the UK and hindered the overall transport of citizens. Similarly, the infamous prohibition of rising alcohol consumption in the 1920s had a harmful effect-- instead of limiting drunken behaviors to benefit society, it instead caused a rise in organized crime associated with illegal production and alcohol sales, smuggling, and declined alcohol tax revenue. Meanwhile, the issue of drunkenness remained unsolved. Both were extreme responses to the ethical implications of innovation or item consumption in different historical instances.

When considering the implementation of regulations, policymakers and governors must consider all economic and ethical factors involved. This would mean allowing the development of beneficial technologies for individuals who gain profit or entertainment from them while also mitigating the harmful effects such tech might have. In the transportation and alcohol industries, regulations have been developed that comprise this philosophy: limiting and penalizing harmful behaviors, such as driving under the influence and jaywalking, without restricting the development of such industries themselves as in the past. New policies have emerged that encompass this aim in the TikTok debate: by not wholly cutting off thousands of jobs in a TikTok ban, but redirecting society from harmful behaviors: “There could be federal laws requiring more notifications when the app has been used for too long, automatic turn-offs at night...(raising) the age at which social media companies can collect children’s

data without parental consent from 13 to 16,” (Eggers, Turley, Kishnani, 2018).

The world is entering an age in which a regulatory policy framework for technological innovation is necessary. A system of comprehensive regulations that concerns itself with innovation and the human species. One that considers both the valuable utility of emerging technologies and their ethical implications, such as the current increasing economic inequality, loss of jobs, privacy breaches, and adverse health effects on society. The future is obscure, which does not mean technological innovation will be a dooming, uncontrollable Victor Frankenstein Creature; it can also be a passageway for a creative and constantly evolving world that will convoy endless benefits for humanity.

# The Trillion Dollar Stagnation

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Alexandra Britton & Isabella Martinez-Acha

Apple Inc. may go down as the most influential and world-shifting company in history. A company whose first product was built in a man's garage now has over six-hundred production factories and a market cap of two trillion dollars. Apple's electronic products are familiar to most of the world, making it thus a worldwide company. These may include the Macintosh, and its most dominant release, the iPhone. We carry these electronics in our pockets every day without knowing the context and framework behind the release of the iPhone or any other Apple product in particular.

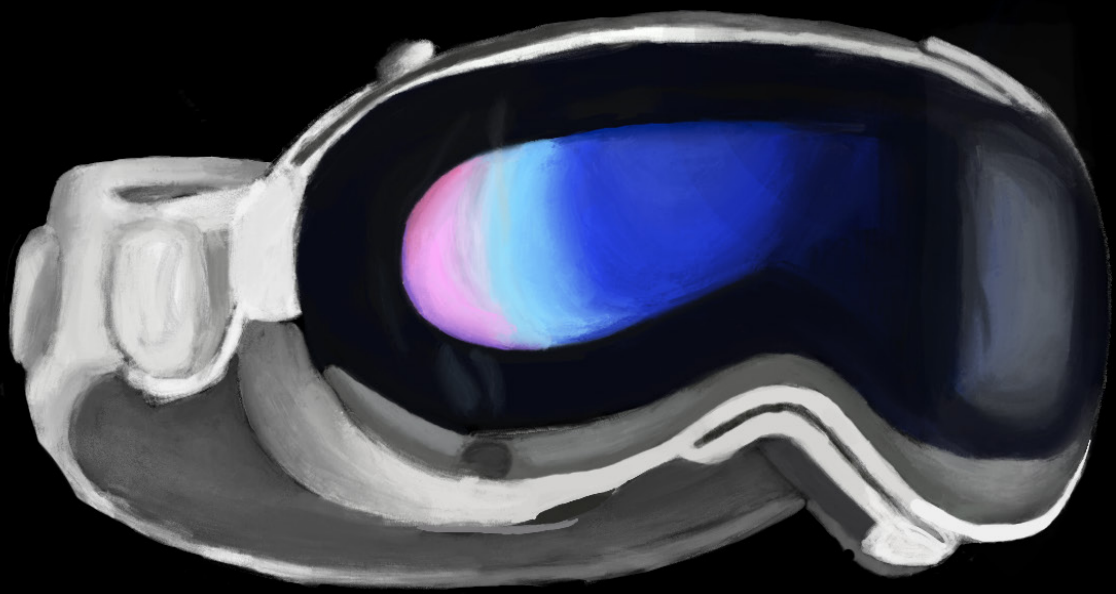
Apple has revolutionized society's communication, work interactions, and entertainment. The iPhone's success, however, occurs once in a blue moon, and its future is even more uncertain. Now that the iPhone has reached its final culmination, will Apple try to revolutionize another segment of our lifestyles?

## **Apple's Background**

Apple Inc. was famously founded by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, with their first product being the Apple I microcomputer. This was the first computer designed for "personal" use and entertainment. Of course, like today's Apple, they upgraded the computer to the Apple II in 1977. This upgrade became a total market hit because of its easy use and aesthetically colored graphics. Sales went from 7.8 million in 1978 to 117 million in 1980. After, Wozniak resigned from Apple in 1993, and John Sculley became president.

Meanwhile, Jobs designed the new Apple Lisa. This model attempted to add a GUI (graphical user interface) to the Apple system; however, it went over-time and over its initial budget, failing. Jobs then tried to move to the Macintosh computer. Initial sales were poor due to its high price, which caused John Sculley, the then CEO, to remove Jobs from all duties on the board of directors.





Artwork by: Valeria Lopez

NeXT Computers. It was during this time that Apple almost went bankrupt. The company had tried experimenting with other electronic products, such as the Newton Tablet, but failed. Then the Macintosh fell behind competitors as it did not support multitasking. Therefore, Apple had no choice but to buy Jobs out. Apple purchased Job's company in 1997. In 1998, the iMac was introduced. This computer offered video editing, CD/DVD mastering software, and a new gumdrop design that was well received. Not much after, Jobs was officially named interim CEO in 2000, and Mac OS X was released, a software that was based on Job's previous company NeXT. The iPod's release followed, making Apple a trendsetter in consumer electronics.

### **The iPhone's Success**

All the success was nothing compared to the future release of the iPhone. In 2007, Apple introduced its most successful product yet: the iPhone. Each year, Apple wowed its audience with technological add-ins and innovative upgrades to the iPhone. With each upgrade, they paved the way for the current smartphone.

This success was due to the marketing strategy Apple implemented along with the iPhone's release. Firstly, they targeted the right demographic. They marketed to young and technology-savvy individuals rather than business-oriented users. They envisioned the iPhone to be used for personal purposes instead of business ones. Due to this focus, they zeroed in on their entertainment applications and services.

Additionally, they prioritized product innovation. They ensured the iPhone would be highly functional, aesthetically pleasing, and capable of creating vast mobile internet use. Hence, they focused on their consumer's wants and needs, nurturing the appeal of buying the iPhone. The iPhone sold over 500,000 units in its first weekend.

The iPhone has become a product for everyday use: people's lifestyles drastically change if they do not own one. We carry these small computers in our pockets every day, consuming entertainment, accessing the internet, and having communication available to us at all times. Applications such as Netflix, Amazon Video, and YouTube offer endless hours of media, causing boredom to be infrequent. Secondly, with just a few clicks one can find any information one might need. All answers lay in the palm of one's hand day and night. Third, we can talk to anyone we need to whenever we want to. We went from having phones connected to the wall and waiting hours to share new experiences to being in touch with each other at all times. Text messaging, FaceTime, social media, and usual calls make one always accessible to everyone else. Information can be spread in the blink of an eye, while previously, communication was exclusively face-to-face.

Due to all the former uses, its demand has not decreased, which shows with the twelve generations released. All of this success made Apple drop the "computer" out of

its name. There was no need for it anymore. Its name evolved from Apple Computer Company to Apple Inc. That is the kind of effect the iPhone caused.

### **Apple's Background**

Since the release of the iPhone, Apple has continued to upgrade and enhance its model. Yet, with the last few generations not much has changed. The upgrades have included a slightly better camera, a shift in sizes, and an improved software speed. These changes have been minimal. Apple has reached the maximum functionality of a smartphone. Little room is left for improvement, which explains the superficiality of the recent upgrades. This points to the question of future devices for Apple. Will the iPhone remain their main product, or will another product revolutionize our way of living once again?

After more than fifteen years after introducing the first iPhone, which revolutionized the whole tech industry, Apple has not introduced something “new” or innovative until now. Apple has introduced, as of 2023, a new device called the Apple Vision Pros. With the press release of the Vision Pros, the company dives itself and introduces society to the groundbreaking world of augmented reality. In contrast with other virtual reality or VR headsets -- which submerge the user entirely into the virtual world -- the 3500-dollar Vision Pros combine the real world with computer-generated media. It makes it possible to interact with applications in one's devices and the physical reality in front of one's eyes simultaneously. The Vision Pros offer outstanding HD quality not found in any other headset: a user interface through voice, gestures, eye tracking, a 3D view of pictures and videos, and so much more. Regardless of all the possibilities and the tremendous potential for the product, technology critics, such as Scott Galloway, became skeptical of its success and worried about the future of our society.

#### **- The Public's Dissatisfaction with the Apple Vision Pro**

Scott Galloway, a marketing professor at NYU and an IT enthusiast, is a known voice for the backlash against the Apple Vision Pro. He recently wrote an article and podcast covering Apple's new Vision Pros, which emphasized his firm belief that the headset will fail, presenting all his reasons throughout the entirety of the article.

Scott starts by picking on the headset concept, arguing, “Headsets are a bad form factor, full stop, and no headset-based product will achieve mass adoption.” He comments how humans were not made to use these types of gadgets and that instead of enhancing our day-to-day functions, the headsets compromise them. The large dimensions and heaviness make them uncomfortable and almost impossible to wear for long periods. If, during the exhibition, testers were only allowed to use them for no more than 30 minutes and they already felt uncomfortable, imagine using them while watching a 2-hour movie, which precisely is what they were marketed for.



Another significant nuisance he mentions is the price. The public is likely unwilling to pay almost double the price of a brand-new MacBook Pro computer for a product that achieves almost the same purpose. Opting for more economical alternatives such as a TV or a projector seems way more accessible to most individuals since these substitutes have a longer lifespan and even accomplish the same task for a larger audience.

Above all, Scott doubts whether society even needs this product. The fact is that although the COVID pandemic is over, a new epidemic of isolation and dependence on technology has risen. Humans are already addicted to their phones and electronic devices, depending on them more than necessary. The argument that technology makes people lazy is valid. Having every answer and everything needed in just a few clicks and seconds is dangerous to the human mind. The Vision Pro will only multiply this effect.

Finally, Scott believes that the Vision Pro's downfall derives from its creation's purpose. It is evident that not even Tim Cook approves of this product. His lack of enthusiasm and passion demonstrates it. Scott asks, "So why did the greatest CEO in history green light the Ishtar of computing products?" The answer is competition. It is no secret that Tim Cook is not Mark Zuckerberg's biggest fan, and as Meta released the Oculus in 2021, he would not let Apple stay behind in the new virtual reality world. Apple does not need the Vision Pro to be as successful as the iPhone; they only need it to be number one in the field of virtual or augmented reality.

### **- The Apple Vision Pro's Unseen Potential**

Contrary to popular belief, as many predict, the Vision Pros will not be a catastrophic failure. It is imperative to remember that this is only the first version of a brand-new product submerging itself into a practically unexplored realm of technology. Scott and other technology critics need to look at the whole picture.

For instance, back when the first iPhone or iPad was released, prices were up the roof. It was a new product, a new concept, and, most importantly, brand-new technology. Just like with the Vision Pros, critics and professionals were not satisfied with them. Comments about the design, the bulkiness, the lack of a camera, and many more components were heavily criticized. Even Steve Ballmer, the former Microsoft CEO, questioned the iPhone's potential: "Five hundred dollars, fully subsidized, with a plan?! That is the most expensive phone in the world! And it doesn't appeal to business customers because it doesn't have a keyboard!" Through the years, all these defects and imperfections were worked on, prices were lowered, and the unexpected marketing strategies paid off. The products became extremely successful, partly because of the very aspects that were criticized at first. The Vision Pro will follow the before-seen Apple product formula and will experience a similar outcome. In addition, it could be argued that the Apple Vision Pro has an advantage over the iPhone in its release. Con-

release. Contrary to the iPhone, the Apple Vision Pro has a total empty market share to fill. There is little competition apart from Meta.

Lastly, the Apple Vision Pro will not be the product to corrupt society. It can become a great tool if utilized appropriately, that is, if it is kept from taking over one's lifestyle. Engineers, architects, manufacturers, and many more professionals will have great use of them to bring amazing projects to life. Structures, plans, drafts, and designs would be seen through lenses, controlled with the simple movement of one's hand. All the work that would be previously done in weeks would be completed in shorter amounts of time. Plus, it would be performed with much less wasted material and a smaller budget. All in all, the Apple Vision Pro is not unlike any other released product. It is a two-edged sword; it fits the possibility of unethical use while also opening a can of amazing possibilities.

Apple Inc. has continued to release new generations of the iPhone and has expanded its products to all kinds of markets. They have expanded into other services like credit cards, Apple News, Apple TV+, and more. However, we have yet to receive a new product as refreshing and efficacious as the iPhone. After Steve Jobs' passing in 2011, iPhone has kept its relevancy mainly due to the new generation of iPhones. One can only keep upgrading a product to a certain extent, however. Apple's newest product, the Apple Vision Pro, has created quite a stir. Despite many tech critics such as Scott Galloway being certain that the Vision Pros will be a colossal flop for the Apple brand, there is hope for the product to evolve. In just a few years, Apple engineers can completely transform the Vision Pros into a much smaller and more comfortable product that the public cannot get their hands off. If used correctly, the Vision Pros will be a tool for innovation and potentially revolutionize society. Still, it would be impossible for this new product to recreate the magical success the iPhone once stimulated. What does Apple have in store for its future? Is it possible to create a product as world-shifting as the iPhone, or was that, as mentioned previously, an event that occurs once in a blue moon? Will the Apple Vision Pro be that product? Either way, the question remains: Will Apple remain known just as the company that once introduced the iPhone, or will it evolve to create something greater to solidify its name as an innovative and revolutionary company?

The Parents' Association of the Academia Interamericana de Panamá presents:



A white, torn-edged sign is taped to a red locker door. The sign features the Disney logo in yellow script at the top. Below it, the words "HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL" are written in large, gold, 3D block letters with small white dots on each letter, resembling marquee lights. At the bottom of the sign, the words "ON STAGE!" are written in red, bold, sans-serif capital letters inside a gold rectangular border with white dots. The sign is secured with pieces of brown tape at the top, bottom, and right edges. The background is a red locker door with a silver handle on the right and a basketball visible through a circular hole at the bottom.



Monday, September 18th - Saturday,  
September 23rd, 2023  
Teatro Pacific  
Tickets on sale soon!





# Made in China

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## The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Beatriz Miró

Sweatshops are defined as factories that violate unskilled laborers' rights with poor working conditions. Yet, they guarantee those same workers' stability with adequate wages and are vital to the world's supply chain. It's no surprise then that they evoke great controversy throughout the world. As *The Globalization Myth* by Shannon O'Neill depicts, in Asia, industrialization and globalization have led these factories into becoming a large part of the world's economic engine, providing the means for this region to grow and prosper.

Asia's economic rise has been attributed to industrialization and the startup of massive factories, which manufacture items for a low cost. But how did this come about? How did they possibly arrive at industrialization? It all began in the 1950s when the United States chose Japan to be its "rear base and supplier" during the Korean War. Factories were built to produce military equipment. Yet, they were later repurposed, switching to the manufacturing of more daily-use items, like sewing machines and radios. Having succeeded within the country and desperate for expansion and economic growth, Japan turned to other countries, which were once its colonies, to produce Japanese goods. The governments of said countries granted tax breaks, cheap land, and subsidies, facilitating the process. Taiwan and South Korea, two former Japanese colonies, increased the number of factories in the region and contributed to its global exports. They made headway in the production of said products, improving their economy. These countries used all they gained to invest in their own innovation. This allowed them to transition from merely producing or assembling Japanese products, into being master manufacturers of their sophisticated technology, as is the case with Taiwan producing semiconductors. China did not follow this path. A new Chinese leader at the time, Deng Xiaoping, created a 5-year plan, consisting of strategies for others to gain access to their assembly lines. This plan accelerated China's growth, making the country quite powerful within



Artwork by: Valeria Lopez

the world's economy, something *The Globalization Myth* portrays when it mentions, "What Asia made, the United States bought." The United States undoubtedly formed a big part of this era, investing in many Asian countries and promoting industrialization within them. Yet, the continent's success had more to do with regionalization than with the United States, as can be seen through China's success, since it relied and still relies heavily on its neighbors, something the book shows when it states, "China's neighbors were its earliest and biggest outside investors." Industrialization and regionalization paved the way for this continent's prosperous future, using factories. Nowadays, however, these factories are acknowledged for what they are: sweatshops.

Some decades ago, people were awakened by the violation of workers' rights in these factories. Through the 1980s and 1990s, many moved to the streets to protest for this cause. Activists brought attention to the anti-sweatshop movement and requested people stop buying from certain brands that attain their production from them. Many have used the term "modern slavery" to describe the way these workers are being treated. Is this *actual modern slavery*? If one sees everything as black and white, sweatshops really must seem like modern slavery, but everything is not as straightforward. This controversial topic has different facets that many don't acknowledge. To understand their working situation, one must consider the workers' economic status and background. Laborers in sweatshops come from impoverished backgrounds and third-world countries. Therefore, their standards are different from those of wealthier citizens, something that is portrayed in *The Globalization Myth* when the author refers to Chinese laborers' desperation for money when she mentions, "hundreds of millions of agile if untrained, fingers willing to work for pennies." These jobs at least provide stability to their income and a better route to what their life can be. Many criticize that sweatshops involve child labor, but if those children, that need to earn money and do not have many alternatives to do so, do not work in these factories, they will be forced to take worse paths, like prostitution. A study shows that girls that work near these industries are 29% less likely to get pregnant during the school year. It is not farfetched to say that some people in these poor countries may benefit from working here. Apart from this, sweatshops contribute significantly to the world's economy. In 2018, China made up around 10% of the world's exports; today, China is the world's top exporter. Clearly, there is some merit to sweatshops.

None of this must take away from the severity of the situation. Many workers do suffer in sweatshops. Some factories allow the setting to be unsafe, invoking awful sexual conduct and forcing laborers to work lengthy shifts. One of the biggest disasters that indicates the horrible environment of these factories is the Rana Plaza disaster in Bangladesh, in which the garment-producing factory collapsed. There were warnings of a possible

possible collapse before the disaster, yet they were dismissed, and the workers were forced to show up at the factory to face their imminent death. More than a thousand people were killed and 2000 injured. Apart from this, sweatshops also pollute the environment with toxic waste and hazardous chemicals. All of these are the reasons why certain companies, like Apple, deny the use of sweatshops in their manufacturing. Nevertheless, as is the case with this world-renowned brand, they might be untruthful. Dejian Zang, a man who worked undercover at Apple's Shanghai factory, testified about the tough conditions in the factory. The managers were verbally abusive, people labored for lengthy hours and received little pay. He also mentioned that there were mechanisms that prevented workers from suicide, like nets on the stairs and bars on the windows, which acutely depicts the laborers' desperation.

The rise of factories shaped the world's current economic system with a stable supply chain. Unfortunately, these factories may treat their workers wrongfully, can be unsafe, and exhibit a lack of human rights; they may also be beneficial for the laborers, guaranteeing them a stable job in countries where there are few, making sweatshops a controversial topic. Are sweatshops as atrocious as they seem? There are two extremes. Yes, there are awful sweatshops that allow the workplace to be unsafe and completely against human rights. Still, there are others that, at least, provide an income to families that are in desperate need of one. It would be modern slavery if the factories didn't pay their workers, but for most, that is not the case. If the jobs provide a steady income and are not forceful to the workers, this term should not be used.



# SPACE: The Final Frontier in Geopolitics?

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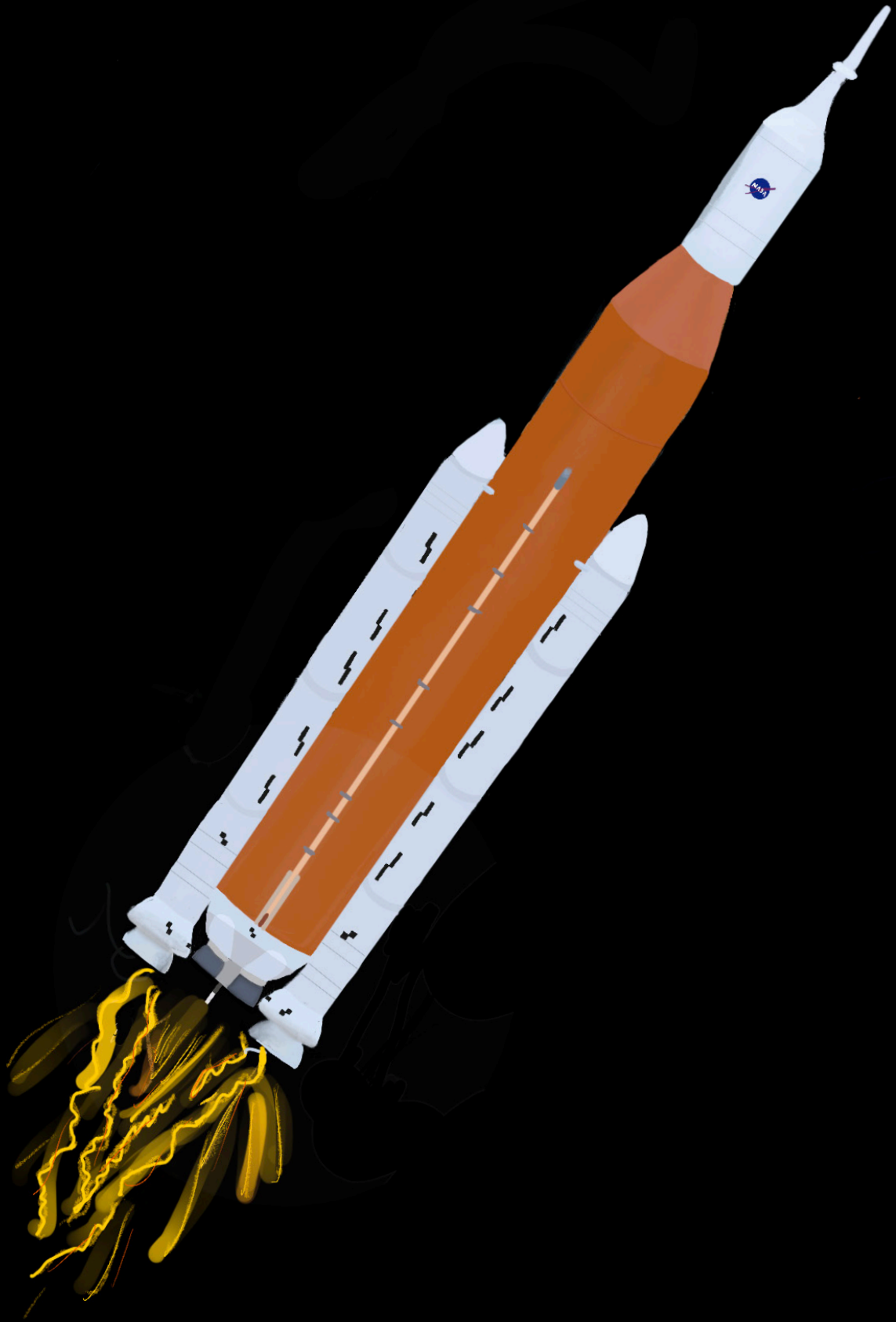
Andrea Naranjo

**O**n July 20th, 1969, what until the date had seemed like simple science fiction transformed into a reality: a man set foot on the moon! It was above anything deemed possible for humanity, and a moment that would mark history forever. But it has been five decades since humans last stepped on the moon, and many wonder when we'll return.

The good news for them is, that day may not be so far away anymore. People have been looking up to the moon again, and with its new Artemis Program, NASA is planning on taking humans back by 2024. Beginning a new age of space exploration, this program will push humanity into new discoveries, advancements, and a lot of learning. It sounds incredible, but many may wonder if those are the only reasons for returning to the moon. **Could this program actually be a reflection of political competition happening on Earth?**

Well, to understand Artemis, you must understand what NASA is all about. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration was founded in 1958 by Dwight D. Eisenhower, amid the Cold War. Its original goals were aeronautical research, satellite development, achieving human spaceflight, and most importantly, defeating the Soviet Union in the space race. Since then, by creating tons of new technologies, methods, and innovations, it has pushed boundaries never before imagined by humans. With its widely known Apollo Missions, NASA sent humans to the moon from 1969 to 1972. At the time, the main purpose of these missions was to get to the moon before the Soviets did. With the Apollo program, they won that race. However, it was stopped after the Apollo 17 mission, due to budget and worry for safety. Since then, no one has gone back. A few believe it is unnecessary to return, thinking there is nothing more to learn from the moon. Others don't even believe the Apollo Missions were real. Nevertheless, interest in the moon has risen again, and NASA is ready to take humans back.

Named after Apollo's twin sister, Artemis, NASA's new program will use new technol-



Artwork by: Valeria Lopez

ogies and resources to get humans to the moon. The program's main goals are to establish a permanent base camp on the Moon, have a long-term human presence there, and set the first steps for exploration to Mars. They seek to really understand how humans will adapt to a different environment, and also conduct valuable research on the Moon to learn more about our own planet and solar system. Along with private and international partners such as SpaceX, the European Space Agency, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, and the Canadian Space Agency, they are working towards achieving these goals by 2024. In addition to its multiple partners, many countries have also signed the Artemis Accords, which set rules for everyone conducting operations on the moon. This was done to make sure everyone follows the rules in the Outer Space Treaty, which is basically like space law, and maintain peaceful exploration of space.

Now, all of this is great, but what is the true meaning of this program? It may be a big question whether the program's goals are the only reason for returning to the Moon, or if there is something more behind it. In the past, outer space and its exploration have been a field for political conflicts and competition. The clearest example of this is the race to space during the Cold War, which caused NASA itself to be created. The original Apollo program was based on competition, so is there a possibility Artemis could be too? Although it seems as if a bigger step towards cooperation is being taken with the creation of the Artemis Accords and the multiple partners collaborating to achieve the program's goals, there is still a big probability competition may arise because of it. Especially with the ongoing rivalry with the US and China, and the possibilities of a new Cold War.

In the last few years, the rivalry between US and China has risen, with competition over being the leading economic power and China's growth threatening the United States' dominance. With the placing of tariffs against each other, accusations of military aggression, claims of intellectual property theft, and more, tensions between both countries are high, causing many people to wonder whether a second Cold War is going to happen. And there is a possibility NASA's new program may become a new field for this ongoing competition.

This, however, isn't an entirely negative aspect of the program. Most innovations, technologies, and discoveries made for the exploration of space, have been a result of competition between countries. The interest the US and USSR had in reaching outer space during the Cold War and doing it better than everyone else, caused them to achieve incredible things beyond imagination. If competition between the US and China was to happen, it would be no different. Space exploration is rooted in competition, driving countries to be the best, and motivating them to create things that may never have seemed possible. And the cool thing is, all of the discoveries, advancements, and progress made along the way, are a benefit for us as well.



Teams at NASA's Buoyancy Lab, learning to live on the moon.

An example of this is all the innovations and advancements made because of the program, which may not only help them improve for future missions but may also innovate our lives back home. For many years, technologies created for space exploration have also had a use in our day to day, even though most people are not aware of it. NASA even has a yearly magazine, *Spinoff*, where they publish all the new technologies that have been inspired or exist because of their own discoveries. Some of them include cameras, cordless tools, food safety, and even temperature-regulating mugs! Many of these incredible inventions have been a result of rivalry between countries, and if the Artemis Program were to ignite competition in outer space, there is no doubt China and the United States will aspire to have the best equipment possible to beat each other. But as these new technologies are created for the missions, many doors open for a lot of incredible advancements that could improve and innovate our daily lives.

Also, since the beginning of space exploration, hundreds of new jobs for engineers, scientists, and people specialized in this area have been created. The Artemis Program will be no different on this matter. To create the machinery and technology required for the missions, these people are needed to make everything possible. This will make a new "lunar economy," which takes into consideration the economic rivalry between China and the United States, which can be an added factor to the ongoing competition. They will most likely do everything possible to gain the utmost power over this new economy.



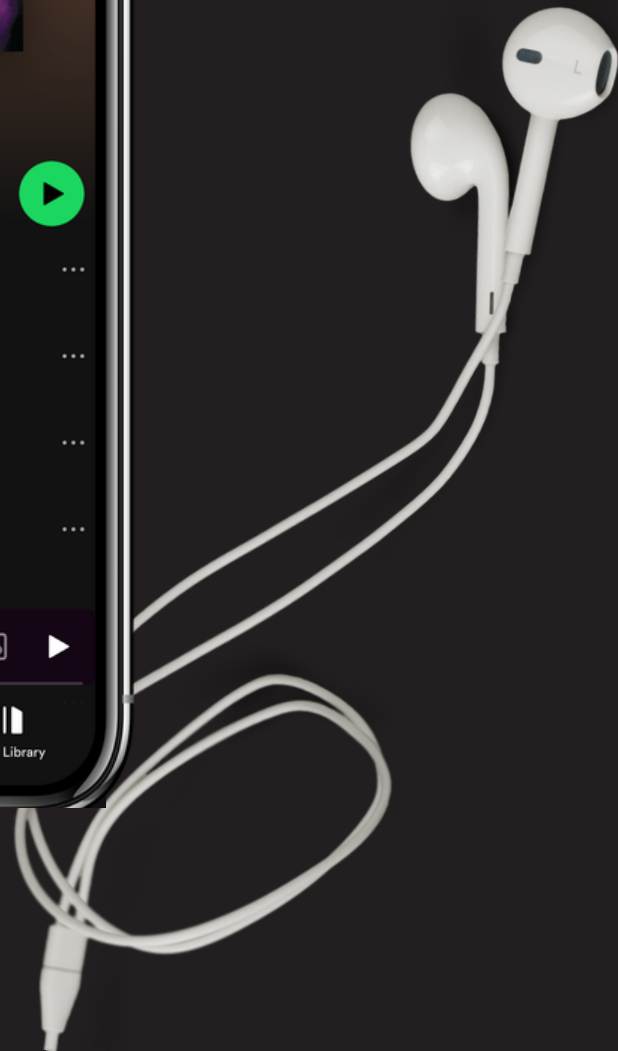
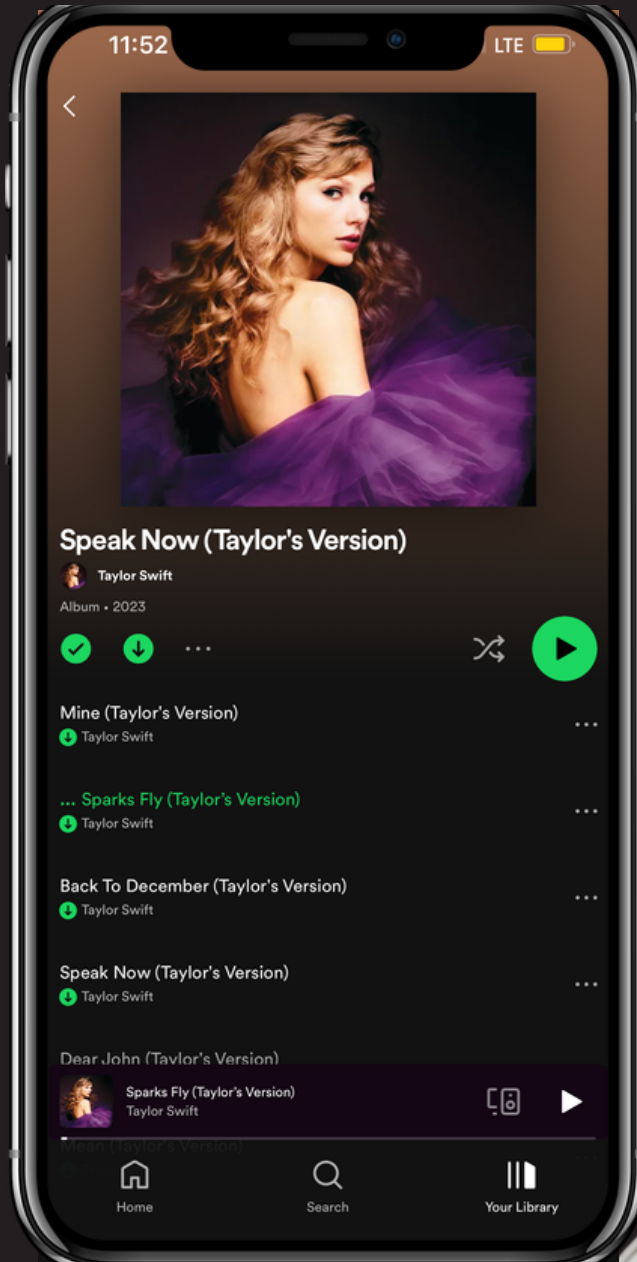
Still, in the process, this can build new industries and job opportunities for thousands of people around the world. Especially since both countries will want to have the best to be the best.

Clearly, the Artemis Program has many aspects within it that could ignite competition, which doesn't necessarily have to be a bad thing. However, while there might be rivalry because of the program, there can also be cooperation. It is a reality that the program can become a field for conflict, but it can also become an example of teamwork. Though it may seem unlikely for the United States and China to work together in the near future, there are still many other countries that are willing to help the program. The Artemis Accords are a prime example of this, promoting transparency, interoperability, assistance, and peace between nations operating on the Moon. Showing that even though space exploration is based mainly on competition, it doesn't mean cooperation isn't possible.

Going to the Moon will most definitely be a difficult task, but people are willing to take the challenge. It is clear that their reasons for doing so may not just be to understand and discover, and that the repercussions their program could have on global politics may seem inevitable. Nevertheless, they have already begun, sending Artemis I (without astronauts) successfully to lunar orbit to test the machines and systems being used. Although this program may be a reflection of political competition between two global superpowers like Apollo once was, Artemis won't only allow nations to challenge and race each other to be the best. It will push humanity into reaching places we have only had the chance to read about in fictional stories, and together do what is only thought of as unthinkable.



Stream "Speak Now (Taylor's Version)" on July 7th



Music for everyone.

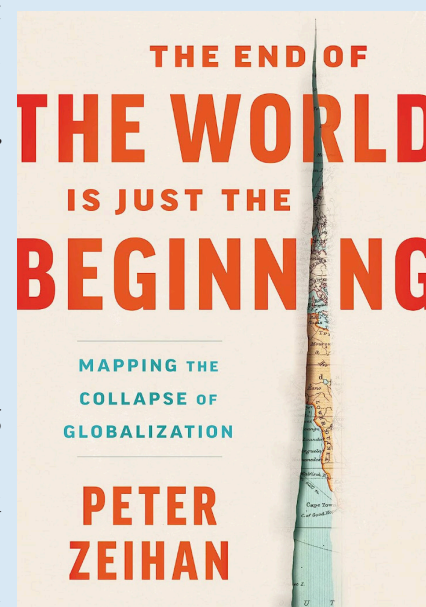
# The End of the World is Just the Beginning

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## Mapping the Collapse of Globalization

Eugenia Albert

The world as we know it is coming to an end... or at least that is what today's geopolitical and economic trends are pointing towards. Throughout the history of humankind, we have striven to improve the way we communicate with one another, transport materials to diverse locations, and manufacture products to distribute worldwide. Everything has gotten cheaper, better, and, most importantly, faster. The right conditions were laid out for humans at the right time, paving the course for an overwhelming amount of economic growth, industrialized progress, and technological advancements in a little over a century. But now, the world we know is coming to an end, a claim that Peter Zeihan, a geopolitical strategist and author, presents through his book *The End of the World is Just the Beginning*. With a degree in political science from Northeast Missouri State University and decades of experience working in geopolitical intelligence and consulting, Zeihan brings readers an array of thought-provoking books on various, often challenging, foreign affairs subjects. In this instance, Zeihan effectively maps the impending collapse of globalization, shifting the image to the future of a deglobalized world. As he introduces multiple weak points in today's global manufacturing, Zeihan delivers an easy-to-understand analysis of a possible geopolitical breakdown of the world's manufacturing systems, providing the reader with an overview of the world we live in and the world we could be heading towards.



In each of the seven sections of the book, Zeihan presents the reader with a detailed

years, aggravating what, in his opinion, is an already failing globalization. From the fields of transportation and finance to those of energy and agriculture, the book introduces a deeply researched and complex issue through easily understood descriptions and readable analyses of all these different sectors that are facing the imminent consequences of the rapidly changing global environment.

When entering a clothing store to get a pair of jeans, many often overlook the multiple people, different raw material suppliers, various factories, and kilometers of transportation that go behind the production of just that one pair of jeans. Such an example is one that Zeihan uses to introduce and later explain the complexities of the intricate manufacturing world. Manufacturing is a section that Zeihan pays particular attention to, as it is a crucial aspect of our world that, up until now, has been able to meet the constant shifts in the global supply chains as well as connect the world in ways we have never seen before. He opens the segment at the beginning of human civilization, where early manufacturing centered around “pottery and copper.” As time went on, humans continued to make slow advancements that were often separated by hundreds of years, with “organizational simplicity” serving as their guiding principle. Soon, however, this took a turn, marking the start of the Industrial Revolution as a change that transformed how the world functioned, giving us specific manufacturing tools and now fossil fuels that made the production of everything much easier. The perfect conditions paved the way to industrialized improvements, giving humanity “our first real glimpse of what we today recognize as manufacturing” and eventually creating the surge of what became our contemporary manufacturing world, capable of merging “the entire planet into a single system.”

As this section of the book continues, Zeihan creates an easy-to-follow analysis that takes the reader through the past, present, and future of the three major manufacturing hubs of our society: East Asia, the European Union, and NAFTA. To do so, Zeihan uses clear descriptions and straightforward graphics, creating a book that could easily be experienced by anyone without the necessity of a degree in foreign affairs.

He begins his outline with East Asia, home to “the most advanced industrial technology in the world.” As global consumption for manufactured goods began to increase, countries and corporations found the need to relocate their factories to other places that would benefit their increased production rates, settling in East Asia. Today, the region has become what Zeihan denotes as a “manufacturing constellation,” in charge of producing almost every manufactured goods exported to the rest of the world, from electronics devices to textiles. The region is composed of countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan, which have continued to specialize and develop new technologies, while others, such as China, just “keep going backward.” While said characteristics have sustained the region so far, it now faces multiple challenges that have made it “the least



sustainable” of the hubs. Zeihan uses a vastly effective style of communicating information to make the reader better comprehend the issue at hand, dividing this complex topic into four angles: demographic, economies of scale, supply chain, and market proximity issues. That way, the reader gets a sense of the competing economies and decades-old rivalries, the fast-aging workforce, highly varied labor forces, and vast market proximity that continue to defy manufacturing systems in the region.

Zeihan then moves on to describe Europe as “a reinterpretation of the East Asian system on a smaller scale and with a bit less diversity.” He breaks down the region’s complex and often overcomplicated circuits into well-structured yet understandable sections, describing how the region has benefited from the economic collaboration of the European Union but failed to develop a manufacturing system that integrates the hub as one. With France “keeping most of their manufacturing separate from the rest of their European partners” and Italy maintaining more local manufacturing as “a point of artistic pride,” Europe has developed a weak and disconnected system that is now on the brink of collapse. Adding to the issues, the region faces multiple challenges that have continued to setback European industries for years. From the already aged population to the necessity to “maintain a high level of exports to maintain its system,” the reader now understands that Europe’s golden manufacturing years are behind them.

Finally, Zeihan introduces the region comprised of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, members of the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA for short. In a much more positive light, he gives the audience the idea that the United States’ geographic variation plus the complementation from its neighbors prove to be an optimistic characteristic in the region’s manufacturing realm. The way Zeihan achieves such a simplistic yet deep analysis of the geographical benefits of the region is through bullet points, giving the readers a visually attractive piece of information that highlights the most prevalent evidence while improving readability overall. When describing each of the United States’ distinct yet characteristic regions, an often challenging and fact-ridden subject, Zeihan uses key points and bold letters to create an easily readable piece that does not seem overwhelming. Hence, the reader develops a clear idea of the different regions and their attributes, recognizing that “the Gulf Coast is Energy Alley” while the Texas Triangle has attracted all types of American manufacturing. The general picture Zeihan paints suggests that the United States holds a geographical advantage, explaining how it plays with Mexico’s labor-cost variation to benefit its domestic production. As Zeihan describes how the collaboration between nations serves “as gateways to the world’s largest industrial and consumer markets,” the reader can further their understanding of the North American Free Trade Agreement and its rising possibilities to survive the deglobalization of the world’s markets and economies.

Through his book *The End of the World is Just the Beginning: Mapping the Collapse of Globalization*, Peter Zeihan can cleverly provide readers with an engaging exploration of today's geopolitical environment, defying conventional wisdom and offering unique perspectives on the direction of global politics. Furthermore, Zeihan details a deeply analytical summary of the future of manufacturing and other world stances in an easily understandable layout that captivates readers. Though most of the content is based on Zeihan's thoroughly researched predictions, the book provides a must-read general view of the global stage today and an insightful look into what it might look like in the future. After all, the end of the world is just the beginning of another.

# The Hacked World Order

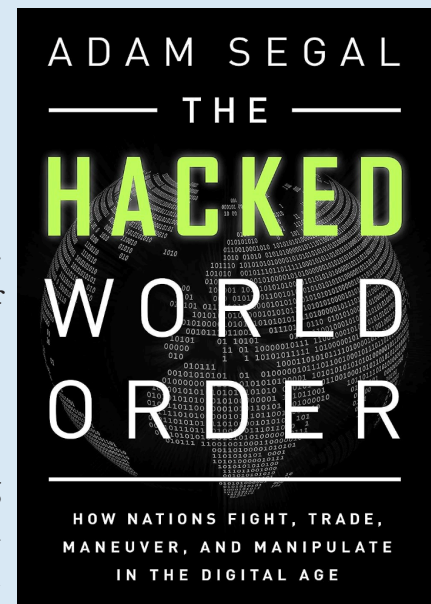
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## How Nations Fight, Trade, Maneuver, and Manipulate in the Digital Age

Isabel Ripamonti & Nicolás Varela

From foreign espionage and election fraud to the rise of Twitter in the political landscape, Adam Segal illustrates many facets and threats of the emerging cyber landscape in his book, *The Hacked World Order: How Nations Fight, Trade, Maneuver, and Manipulate in the Digital Age*. Segal argues how new cyber developments are increasingly used as an element in both diplomacy and warfare. Now considered a theater of war, Segal assures cyber's undeniable importance in the geopolitical landscape – it is a new order to which states and leaders are struggling to navigate and adapt. *Hacked World Order* introduces readers to the complicated arena of cyber while also analyzing the complex way international politics and security standards are changing due to cyber developments around the world.

The book begins by positioning 2012 as “Year Zero”: the first year in which nation-states “visibly reasserted their control over the flow of data and information in search of power, wealth, and influence, finally laying to rest the already battered myth of cyberspace as a digital utopia, free of conventional geopolitics.” The author cites several disruptive and game-changing events that took place during the pivotal and crucial year when cyber-attacks increased in both source and sophistication. First, the US and Israel attacked Iran’s nuclear program with malicious software, also known as malware. Stuxnet, the malware, “surreptitiously slowed down and sped up the motors of Iranian centrifuges” and ultimately set the program back by at least three years. Later in that same year, Saudi Arabia’s state oil company, Aramco, was the subject of a sophisticated attack involving the “destruction of data” that resulted in the



company having to replace 30,000 computers. The importance of this arena was even further demonstrated by the third event: China-based hackers engaged in a “massive cyber theft campaign against technology firms in the United States, Japan, and Europe.” These state-sponsored hackers stole “dozens of weapons programs, including the Patriot missile system, the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, and the US Navy’s new littoral combat ship.” Segal then rehashes the saga of the Edward Snowden leaks, in which the true nature of US surveillance and espionage capabilities was exposed. Segal uses these events as ample proof that this new world order is aggressive, opaque, unstable, and unbelievably important.

The author then dives into a wide range of topics, demonstrating the complexities and dangers of the cyber landscape. Throughout the book, one of the main dangers of cyberspace becomes evident: the lack of attribution. The inability to trace cyber-attacks and the lawless nature of the landscape represents a threat to nations’ sovereignty and security, leading Segal to believe that nations should continue to enjoy and use “an open, global and secure internet” while still preparing for a future in which cyberspace is a complicated arena that is extremely divided among countries. Segal explains how states have weaponized technology to wage war on one another, monitor within their area, and assert power internationally while still being unable to agree on a structure for a “legitimate use of cyberspace.”

While the book enlightens and discusses widely unknown dangers of a cyber landscape, the wide span of topics and the density of the information provided lead the reader astray. When beginning the book, the reader expects his questions about cyberspace to be answered. However, Segal tends to overwhelm the reader and stray away from each topic, tackling a wide range of information in each chapter. By failing to tackle one topic at a time, but instead dealing with all of them in every chapter, Segal makes *Hacked World Order* a heavy read.

Segal’s perspective of cyber as both a weapon and an arena for warfare is evident throughout the book. However, the sense of over-fixation on the downsides of cyber leaves readers with distress that may be unappealing to many. The author fails to illustrate the many benefits and opportunities the new cyber landscape represents. His heavy exposition of the threats of cyber ends up reading as pessimistic. While Segal does a fantastic job in giving well-structured arguments for the threats of cyber, he misses the opportunity to do the same for the many opportunities cyberspace can represent.

*Hacked World Order* provides a thorough analysis of a topic whose importance is being overlooked and disregarded by many. Although the content might have been overwhelming at times, Segal does a great job informing on the developing dangers of cyberspace. He rightfully advises international preparation and thorough analysis of cyberspace and



cyberspace and technology, since “successful policymaking in cyberspace requires an understanding of technology, economics, anthropology, sociology, and international relations.” The wide range of information provided in the book can help deal more effectively with a developing Hacked World Order that shapes the world every day.

# El Salvador's New Strongman

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Lucía Paulino

Suspending constitutional rights, defying the constitution, and jailing 2% of your adult population has proven to be a remarkably popular move. Salvadorian President Nayib Bukele, the “coolest dictator in the world” according to his Twitter profile, represents the latest display of democratic backsliding in Latin America.

During the country's 201st anniversary of independence, Nayib Bukele announced he was running for a second term, despite the constitution prohibiting it. Met with international criticism, the president highlighted El Salvador's sovereignty, criticizing decades of US intervention and its grip on the region. “El Salvador is now making its own decisions. That's been made clear to all.”

Bukele's search for reelection is just one of many steps he has taken towards authoritarianism in a country long gripped by violence, plagued by two main gangs: MS-13 and Barrio 18. In 2015, El Salvador had the world's worst homicide rates, averaging 18 homicides per 100,000 habitants per day. El Salvador was a country gripped by gang violence, illiteracy, and indiscriminate killing. They neared the top of the incarceration list globally, averaging 579 prisoners per 100 000 habitants. Salvadorians were desperate for change; they couldn't even walk the streets safely. Nayib Bukele rose in a time of profound desperation and democratic disenchantment, in a country where murder, crime, and gangs were part of everyday life.

## **The Beginning of the Rise**

Bukele's path toward the presidency began in Nuevo Cuscutlán, a small Salvadorian town just 13 kilometers from the country's capital, San Salvador. Then a member of the leftist party, FMLN, Bukele served as mayor of the town for three years. He transformed Nuevo Cuscutlán, quickly making a name for himself nationally. He promised to stray away from the status quo and end corruption. He forfeited his salary to invest in

a scholarship and education program in the town's center, eventually taking the town from an illiteracy rate of 15% to a literacy rate of 99.17%. When Bukele took office, the town was seeing an average of 12 homicides per 100,000 habitants per year. By the end of his term, the town was at an average of 1 homicide every 3 years. Nuevo Cuscutlán now had a new library, a 24/7 medical clinic, and 24 hours of drinking water, as opposed to the previous 3. With Nuevo Cuscutlán transformed, Bukele now had his eyes set on the country's capital.

Throughout his time as mayor, Bukele built a personal image aided by social media accounts. Craftily edited videos, carefully chosen outfits and a big social media presence allowed him to gain popularity quickly. He portrayed himself as someone unafraid of change had new, bold ideas, and brought hope to the people. He was elected mayor of San Salvador and implemented an approach similar to his time in Nuevo Cuscutlán. As San Salvador progressed and Bukele became more and more popular, the mayor now had his eyes set on the 2019 presidential elections.

Bukele's campaign was built on social media, where constantly argued that the system was the problem. Videos of him looking like a Silicon Valley CEO circulated the country and he became more and more popular. He didn't even show up to the presidential debates, choosing not to interact with any element of the status quo. Ultimately, he won with 53.10% of the vote. On June 1st, 2019, Nayib Bukele was sworn in as the 43rd president of El Salvador.

### **The Cost of Safety**

Bukele lost no time in his quest to transform El Salvador. Just 20 days into his presidency, he announced the *Plan Control Territorial* or Territorial Control Plan. The plan was divided into six phases to be announced as they began.

The first phase was dubbed *Preparation*. Essentially, it was the beginning of the attempt to fracture gang structures. Bukele ordered a surge of police presence into 12 gang-controlled territories. He then declared a state of emergency in all of the country's prisons, cutting prisoners', and thus possible gang members', communication with the outside world.

In the second phase, *Opportunity*, Bukele took a 91-million-dollar loan from The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) to build schools, and parks, and to invest in education.

During the third phase, *Modernization*, the president took an additional 109-million-dollar loan from CABEI to be used exclusively for equipment for the national security forces. However, this loan had to be approved by the legislative assembly, which was controlled by FMLN and Arena. The lawmakers pushed back, asking for more



Nayib Bukele speaking during a military ceremony in 2020.

transparency. Bukele was essentially deadlocked.

Bukele, however, called the country's legislators to an emergency session to approve the loan. He reasoned that the constitution allowed to "Extraordinarily convene the legislative assembly when the interests of the republic demand it." However, only 20 out of 84 lawmakers showed up, which was not enough to pass legislation. Aware of his popularity, the president arrived at the legislative assembly surrounded by military personnel. It was an unprecedented show of military power, clearly sending a message to the country's legislators. Thousands of Salvadorians showed up to the assembly to support the president. The Territorial Control Plan was working, and the country's homicide rates had been steadily decreasing. Bukele's show of force was met with international criticism, and international media dubbed this event as a constitutional crisis.

Eventually, though, the 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic arrived to overshadow the event. Bukele announced a National Containment Center. He announced a vague decree that allowed police to arrest those violating quarantine. Legal issues arose, with people being arrested before the decree was even published.

The Supreme Court struck the decree down. Bukele, however, built a loophole and maintained the decree. The president had set a dangerous precedent: he would ignore whatever the Supreme Court did.



On February 28th, 2021, Bukele's party, *Nuevas Ideas*, swept the legislative election, gaining 56 out of 84 seats. After decades of FMLN and Arena controlling the legislative assembly, Bukele's party now controlled the legislative branch. The president stood at around 90% approval rating, undoubtedly proving his popularity. Bukele now held the majority of the legislative assembly.

The Supreme Court, however, was impeding his ability to pass laws. Since he now controlled the legislative branch, the president quickly filled the bench with new voters who would do as he wished. Now he held the three branches of power: executive, judicial, and legislative.

### **An Infinite State of Emergency**

Bukele's Territorial Control Plan seemed to be working, and homicide and crime rates were going down. The weekend of March 25th, 2022, however, proved a difficult roadblock in Bukele's Territorial Control Plan. A speculated secret truce between the government and the gangs broke down, in which the gangs promised peace in the streets in exchange for special jail treatment. In just one weekend, 87 people were killed. Bukele's progress seemed in danger.

The president, along with the legislative assembly, quickly decreed a 30-day state of exception, in which all constitutional rights were suspended. Mass arbitrary detention and daily roundups began. By the end of the week, more than 6,000 suspected gang members had been imprisoned. Gang tattoos and suspicion of being part of a gang were enough to send thousands to jail. The state of exception has been extended ever since, and thousands of suspected gang members have been imprisoned. Eventually, thousands of these prisoners were transferred to the new *Terrorism Confinement Center*.

Inaugurated in February 2023, the Terrorism Confinement Center is a state-of-the-art mega-prison that currently houses 70 000 inmates. It is the largest prison in the world. Bukele introduced it to the Salvadorian people with a social media campaign of pictures and videos displaying the scale of the security forces and control of the inmates. Thousands of inmates were moved to the mega prison daily. The suspension of constitutional rights allowed for fast and large roundups, quickly filling the country's prisons.

And it worked. In 2015, El Salvador was seeing an average of 18 murders per day, per 100,000 habitants. In March 2022, almost 3 years into Bukele's term, El Salvador was seeing an average of 4.6 homicides per day. By April 2023, the country saw an average of 1.3 homicides per day. And, since May of this year, the country has not seen a month with over 1 homicide. (All numbers per 100,000 habitants)

The truth is palpable. Salvadorians feel safer than ever. It is now safe to walk and do ordinary ordinary tasks, such as walking the streets and going to the supermarket. There

are no more gang-controlled neighborhoods. “Now, you see someone in a motorcycle, and you aren’t scared that they’re going to rob you at gunpoint,” said an Uber Driver, “you can work at peace now.”

Bukele’s *mano dura* has objectively transformed the country into a safe place to live... but at what cost?

### **Risky Trade-Offs**

El Salvador’s path away from democracy, and seemingly into authoritarianism, is just one example of many countries currently on the trend of democratic backsliding. No government style is ever perfect, and as Bukele argues, “Why discard the path if it’s working?”

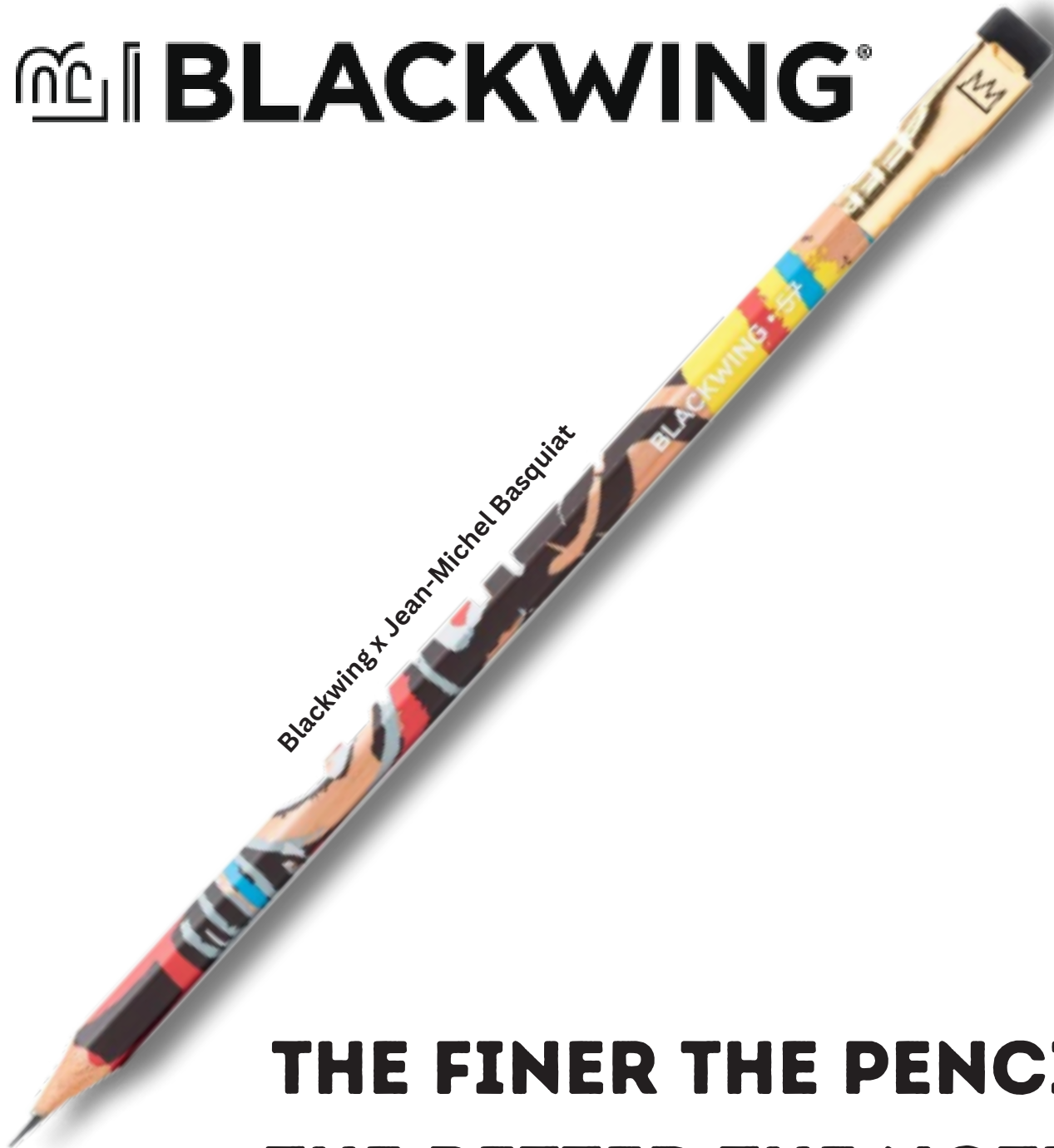
Though transformative, Bukele’s term has been filled with constitutionally dubious and autocratic tendencies. Objectively, though, Bukele would still win the next presidential election. Nayib Bukele is the most popular president in the world. The abolishment of checks and balances has permitted him to employ quick action against Salvadorian gangs, essentially eradicating homicides in his country. His term has been filled with highly popular moves which have made El Salvador a safe country to live in. The question, though, remains: What happens when he does something unpopular?

Nayib Bukele has the three branches of state and the security forces by his side. The president holds total control of the country and the ability to completely repress dissent. El Salvador currently hangs in an intricate balance, and a risky tradeoff, where safety, and perhaps the illusion of it, has been prioritized over democracy and constitutional rights.

It is difficult to evaluate El Salvador’s tradeoff from the outside. Only Salvadorians know what it was like before. These gangs terrorized entire communities, extracted rent from civilians, and made the country incredibly dangerous.

Is Salvadorian’s sacrifice of freedom worth it? Or will El Salvador become yet another failed attempt at Latin American *mano dura*? Only time will tell, but the truth is that Nayib Bukele was able to transform Salvadorians’ lives while becoming the most popular head of state in the world.

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# Saudi Arabia's Sportswashing Scheme

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Ana Gabriela Gerbaud

On a daily basis, the voices of millions of women in Saudi Arabia are silenced. Everything they do is based on decisions made by men, and they have no choice other than following harsh rules imposed on them. As one can assume, this situation has been reproached by many powerful individuals and nations. During the past years, the state officials in Saudi Arabia have grown aware of the detrimental image they were showcasing the rest of the world and have since attempted to shift the attention excessively through sports. Still, there has been little improvement when it comes to women's rights, which is a problem that should not be overlooked. Instead, it should receive the attention it deserves from other countries, to pressure Saudi Arabia to make progress. Rather than hide behind the entertainment industry, this country ought to improve this centuries-old problem.

## **A Harsh Reality for Saudi Women**

To comprehend the entirety of the situation, one must consider the conditions in which women live within the country. Manal al-Sharif, a Saudi activist that was imprisoned for driving, describes in her book, *Daring to Drive: A Saudi Woman's Awakening*, "what it meant to be a Saudi woman. It meant being confronted with every possible kind of obstacle and discrimination. It meant being told that if you want to race with men, you'd have to do it with your hands and legs cut off." She explains how "[she] started to wish [she] had been born somewhere— anywhere—else." Al-Sharif, as all women in her country, suffers the restraints the state imposes on women. They are not allowed outside their home without a male guardian, nor are they allowed to make any decision without the approval of a man. Polygamy is encouraged for men, and women are left to share a husband among themselves. Until recently, they were not allowed to drive or vote, and they had to wear an abaya (a long loose-fitting garment that covered their whole bodies) and a headscarf in the sweltering heat of the Arabian Peninsula. Although nowadays they are allowed to wear loose-fitting clothes that cover most, if not all, of their bodies and the headscarf is optional, their attire still obliges them to immerse themselves within a throng of people, losing individuality. These scenarios display the usual distressing lifestyle of women at the hands of the Saudi society and leadership. Though they have made some progress, like



the transition from the abaya to loose-fitting clothes, which should be acknowledged, it has clearly not been enough.

### **Hiding Behind the Curtain of Sports**

The Saudi rulers have sought to distance the world's attention from this crisis through what is commonly called "sports washing" – the use of sports to improve a country's image. They have steadfastly taken over the sports arena and continue to do so, staking claim of some of the most viewed players, events, and teams worldwide. To name some examples, they have hosted horse racing and weightlifting events, launched Liv Golf (which recently announced its merger with the world-renowned PGA tour), partnered up with Formula 1, purchased the English Premier League team Newcastle United, and attracted internationally recognized athletes, like Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema, with the incentive of large salaries. Since money is not an issue because of Saudi Arabia's tremendous amounts of oil, they can afford to produce the grandest events and buy the best players and teams. Through all these efforts, Saudi Arabia has gained a favorable public perception abroad.

Their huge investment is having a tremendous impact in the sports world. They are rapidly reshaping it for the better, improving salaries and working conditions. One could say there is no fault in their actions as sports have been majorly benefited. However, there are more important aspects to this story than merely money and sports. The Saudi authority's intentions must be considered. Why are they suddenly supporting sports? How come they invest so much in this area? When someone attempts to convey something with so much intensity, it usually means they are trying to hide something else. In this country's case, they are trying to hide their lack of women's rights, a feat they are accomplishing. The fans of said sports must constantly admit that their entertainment is in large part due to this nation and, therefore, condone the lack of women's rights. They choose to disregard the terrible conditions within the country because of the entertainment the state provides. One ought to recognize this mode of entertainment for what it is, a strategy to blind watchers to the horrors taking place in Saudi Arabia. It is a brilliant distraction, but one must not succumb to it. Instead, one should join the fight against the lack of women's rights in Saudi Arabia and pressure the state to change its norms. This is an ongoing problem that should not be neglected, regardless of all the entertainment Saudi Arabia may produce.

### **Putting a Stop to the Saudi Scheme**

Should Saudi officials be investing in sports to change their image? Is it the most advantageous way to spend their time, energy, and money? Or should they be focusing on something else? Saudi Arabia is investing in sports because they want to improve their public image so that other countries are willing to negotiate with them and see them as



Cristiano Ronaldo playing for the Saudi football team: Al Nassr.

and in turn allow them to become more prosperous. However, they should focus on making progress in women's rights. Once that is done, they will not need sports, or any other activity, to improve their image. Then, if they desire to continue with their investment in sports, which would definitely benefit this activity, they would do it without the intention of hiding something, an action that will increase positive publicity. Until they decide to take this path, sports in Saudi Arabia will be tainted by the issue the authorities are attempting to conceal.

Although Saudi officials choosing to grant women more rights would be ideal, the likelihood of it occurring is close to none. Throughout history, Saudi officials have contributed very little to help the situation, as this nation has always exhibited a total disregard for women's rights. Why would they start now? They have no reason to do so if not to improve their image. If their scheme is accepted worldwide, they will continue to use sports as a means for a better image. But if fans give their viewing of sports from Saudi Arabia a slight respite, if humanity wisely rejects their strategy and pressures the Saudi government to change the situation, the country will have no other choice than to promote women's rights.

It is up to the citizens and leaders of all countries to establish some boundaries on what behaviors should and should not be tolerated from other countries. If no steps are taken to pressure Saudi Arabia into improving women's rights within the state, then no prog-

ress will transpire. This is a humanitarian problem that has been going on for too long, and it is about time it ends. The possibility of extinguishing it is within reach. If many commit to supporting the cause, it can be accomplished. It is a matter of boycotting Saudi Arabia's sports broadcasting by changing the channel on the tv when it comes on, voicing one's discontent, or pressuring world leaders to speak up about this issue. The spectacle must not distract from the pressing problem it is trying to overshadow.

# Sudan's Self-Sabotage

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Eugenia Albert

**M**ultiple airstrikes and violent clashes continue to strike the capital city, signaling an aggressive power struggle that persists despite international efforts to halt the fighting. Hundreds of innocent civilians have been killed, thousands more have been injured, and millions have been displaced. The devastation is rocking the country economically and socially as violence continues to multiply each coming week. With most media and news outlets covering what seems to be the conflict next door, the current Russian invasion of Ukraine, most might place such a picture in Kyiv, yet many will fail to recognize how almost four thousand kilometers away lies an unstable state whose current political power struggle might develop into the next major proxy war.

Sudan, the region that is being faced with such rampant violence, is a nation that has yet to know peace in the almost seventy years since its independence. With years of civil wars and bloodshed in its short history, Sudan has been subject to more times of war than peace. Still, the conflict that is plaguing the nation currently has the potential to become something greater. Sudan's geographical position lies near significant choke points in today's world economy, putting it high on the list of geopolitical importance. Therefore, as tensions continue to rise, the conflict threatens to put the entire country at risk of collapse, with daunting yet forthcoming consequences that have already begun to stretch beyond borders.

## **What Makes Sudan an Important Geopolitical Region?**

Sudan's location plays a strategic role on the international stage. Being the third largest country by land area on the African continent, Sudan stands in an economically and politically unstable yet geopolitically crucial region. Sitting astride the Nile River, Sudan shares waters with water-hungry Egypt and noncoastal Ethiopia, making the existence of the nation essential for its neighbors. Not only that, but the country has ports



near some of the most vital routes of the global economy, including the Suez Canal and the Horn of Africa. More than 10% of the world's trade and oil supplies pass through the country, forcing superpowers to keep the volatile region in check.

### **What is the Historical Context Behind the Fighting?**

While Sudan has participated on the international stage as an independent state since 1956, it has been subject to recurring civil wars marked by violence and devastation. The First Sudanese Civil War started a year before the country gained its independence from the British, bringing about the deaths of over half a million people. Soon after, the Second Sudanese Civil War hit the country, creating the stage for more violence and public desperation, and causing the deaths of two million innocent civilians. In between these major conflicts, there have been struggles that have brought even more destruction and hostility to the region. This only escalated the tensions between the civilians and their leaders.

One of these leaders was the Sudanese colonel Omar al-Bashir, who took control of the army during the country's second civil war through a bloodless coup. He proceeded to dissolve the Sudanese parliament and ban other political parties to impose Islamic Law in the country and transforming the state into a military dictatorship. To further consolidate his power in the government and deflect the opposition, al-Bashir created the Janjaweed, a group of militias in the West of the country, as an economic and political marginalization of locals in the Darfur region. Led by the warlord Hemedti, the group soon became associated with multiple atrocities that occurred across the region, including the massacre of millions of non-Arabs attempting to break free from the government's rule.

With the group renamed the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), the militia became more than just a segment of the army, building a lucrative business empire that held control over goldmines, ran smuggling operations, and patrolled borders. Such profitable business made Hemedti increasingly wealthy, as he continuously used his tens of thousands of soldiers to control the gold market and the borders while still protecting his interests. Despite the monopoly created in his country, al-Bashir now commanded two armies, the Sudanese Armed Forces and the new special unit of his loyal fighters, but not for long. As soon as protests began demanding a civilian-led, democratic government in 2019, the two factions of the army joined forces to overthrow al-Bashir, leaving the leader of the Armed Forces in charge. The sudden shift, however, put Hemedti's businesses in danger of collapse, forcing him to act quickly to regain control, raising tensions between both leaders.



South Sudanese who fled Sudan sit outside nutrition clinic.

### **Who are the Two Main Actors Involved?**

The conflict stems from a power struggle between the two main factions of the Sudanese military forces, marking the third civil war in the span of forty years. Both sides seek to seize control of Sudan, as both leaders opt to protect their interests in the region. The Sudanese Armed Forces are led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, the country's de facto ruler, while the paramilitaries of the Rapid Support Forces respond to General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, commonly known as Hemedti.

After overthrowing Omar al-Bashir in 2019, the public was desperate to get a hold of the government. Thus, General al-Burhan agreed to give back control of the state to the civilians under the condition that the RSF would no longer remain an independent group and instead would join the Armed Forces under his control. While the population accepted the deal, Hemedti – whose large sum of wealth came from illegal gold exports and vast livestock holdings – did not support the idea of handing over the millions of dollars he had made through his power. With the legacy of the dysfunctional Sudanese state and the ambition of the military elites, fighting broke out in Sudan on April 15, 2023. Both actors held a large supply of arms, ammunition, and money making them capable of supporting grand levels of organized violence and crimes that would soon ensue.

### **What Role are External Powers Playing?**

Because Sudan has large amounts of oil and gold, the current conflict has attracted multiple powerful countries and outside players looking to support the side that serves their interests the most. The geopolitical dimensions of Sudan have multiple foreign influences fighting for power over the country, a struggle often sponsored by Sudan's corrupt leaders looking for international support. One of these powers, the United Arab Emirates, has taken the conflict at hand as an opportunity to push back against Islamist influence and to further expand its presence in the Middle East and East Africa. The Emirates has also become an important player in the conflict as it buys and refines most of Sudan's gold, which comes illegally through Hemedti. This strengthens its close ties with the RSF. The UAE, however, has also made multiple agreements with the Sudanese Armed Forces regarding access to ports and raw materials, creating a challenging situation when deciding which side of the conflict to support.

Another superpower facing the same situation is Russia, which continues to make deals with both sides of the rising power struggle. Russia has publicly declared its ambitious plans to build a naval base capable of hosting around 300 troops and four warships in Port Sudan, a plan supported by the Sudanese leader as it would put the crucial trade route for Europe's energy in danger. Being in such a strategic position would grant Moscow access to one of the world's busiest and most contested seas, increasing its control over the world's trade and oil supplies, and possibly harming the economy. Russia, however, has also made multiple arrangements with Hemedti through the Wagner Group, a paramilitary organization that has made progress across Africa in recent years. Most of the gold being smuggled illegally through Sudan's borders has been carried by this group, making Russia's decision to take sides almost impossible.

### **What's at Stake and Why does it Matter?**

With the conflict continuing to escalate in the already struggling state of Sudan, the prolonging of the war will only bring about implications that will mark the region negatively and further strengthen the global issues that disturb geopolitical stability. Another humanitarian and developmental crisis is inevitable, and it will continue to overextend international assistance budgets and increase vulnerabilities across the Horn of Africa. Because of Sudan's porous borders, there will be an unavoidable spillover to Sudan's already war-torn neighbors such as Chad, Libya, and the Central African Republic, solidifying a refugee crisis in the region. Since the beginning of the conflict, over 114,000 people have crossed Sudan's borders, with the United Nations expecting to have a ripple effect across the world. As the fighting continues to worsen, the number of refugees will only continue to grow.

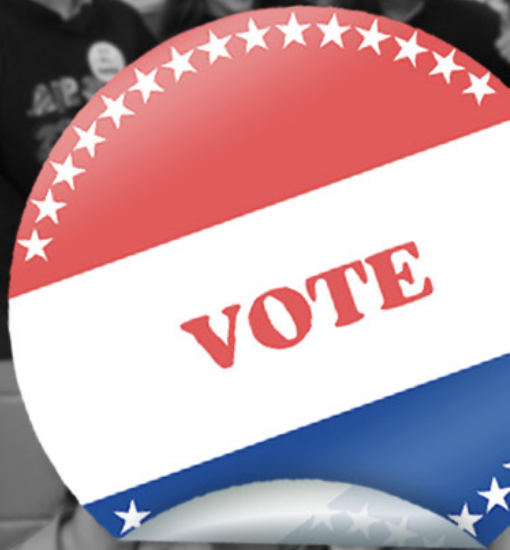
Added to the refugee crisis is a possible setback in global wheat production. After the

Ukraine War began, new efforts to increase Sudan's wheat production arose to help with the rising global prices. With both wars continuing to persist, the already fragile food supply chain is at risk of collapsing, creating a much larger problem for the world in the long run.

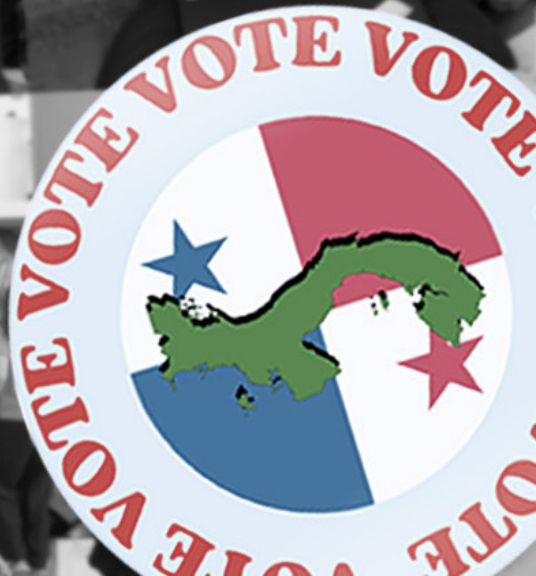
### **How will the Conflict Continue to Play Out?**

With hundreds of innocent civilians dead and tensions between the two sides only continuing to heighten, the future of Sudan is looking at the possibility of a long-running civil war or a partition. If the conflict does not conclude soon, it could derail into what Alex De Waal, a Sudan expert at Tufts University, denotes as a “multi-level game with regional and some international actors pursuing their interests, using money, arms supplies, and possibly their own troops and proxies.” The intensification of the conflict is inevitable, with the persisting violence in the region, which could have a long-lasting impact not only on the Sudanese people but the rest of the world as well.





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