



“The Global Affairs Fellows program seeks to instill in its participants the desire and skills necessary to make the world a more peaceful and just place.”

Inside Global Affairs

January 2018

COVER STORY

IN THIS ISSUE

International News Highlights: Asia

By Daniel Moscoso ('19) and Sean Miller ('20)

Russian Politics: Putin vs. Navalny

Everyone knows Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, but few have heard of opposition leader Alexei Navalny. Navalny, born in '76 near Moscow, is a 41-year-old Russian lawyer who, in 2008, began blogging about corruption in the Russian government and corporations. Navalny has been arrested numerous times, most commonly for unlawful rallies and protests, but also for embezzlement charges, which he denies. He has never before held any position in the Russian government, but he did obtain 27% of the vote for Moscow Mayor in 2013. During that election, he was never shown on any form of Russian media and had



to rely solely on using the internet to spread his campaign. The Russian government has publicly declared that Navalny is ineligible to run for the office of President, but he still plans to run in the March 2018 election. On Twitter, Navalny uses American inspired campaign tactics, referring to the United Russia Party and those in government as “crooks and thieves”. His campaign platform is that of an outsider hoping to enter the Russian government and make sweeping changes. However, he faces opposition from people on all sides: the left sees him as too nationalistic, while the right sees him as too close with America. Despite the opposition, Navalny has gained many supporters.
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Featured Teacher: Dr. Naujoks

Dr. Naujoks, co-director of the Global Affairs Fellows Program and Upper School Political Science teacher, introduces herself and her connection to global affairs.

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Student Opinions

William Smythe expresses his thoughts on the recent wave of protests occurring among NFL football players.

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Want to know more about what is going on in the world? Look for **Summaries of World Events** throughout the newsletter.

Featured Teacher: The Noteworthy Dr. Natasha Naujoks

Written by Brammy Rajakumar ('19)



during the day at various non-profit organizations in New York City. In 2003, I moved south to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where I completed my M.A.

BEING A HISTORIAN HAS TRAINED ME TO UNDERSTAND THAT NOTHING OCCURS IN A VACUUM AND THAT COMPLEX EVENTS HAVE MULTIPLE CAUSES.

~Dr. Naujoks

and Ph.D. in History, with a concentration in Modern France.

Q: *What are some of your hobbies?*

A: I'm pretty boring. When I'm not working, I can usually be found reading. And more often than not, I'm reading a book I've read before. It's like meeting up with an old friend.

Q: *Why do you teach?*

A: I always tell my students that I studied History because I love it, but I teach it for an entirely different reason. It's because the critical thinking and communication skills that

historians use -- analyzing multiple and often conflicting sources of information, constructing sound arguments supported by evidence and logic, understanding changing contexts across time and space -- are the skills that every single one of you will need to succeed in the twenty-first-century world.

Q: *What is your connection to global affairs? How did you become interested in GA? What subtopic of GA specifically interests you?*

A: Growing up with German parents and most of my family overseas, I suppose I was encouraged to view the world with a wide lens from a young age. And being

an historian has trained me to understand that nothing occurs in a vacuum and that complex events have multiple causes. For me, this is what Global Affairs is all about -- understanding how political, economic, social, and cultural factors combine to create conflict but also to create opportunities for a more peaceful and just world.

Q: *Do you have any advice for students?*

A: Take intellectual risks! You'll never really accomplish anything if you don't make yourself vulnerable to the possibility of failure.

Dr. Naujoks, this issue's featured teacher, is the newest addition to the Global Affairs Fellows Program. She is co-director along with Mr. Gibson, a Middle School History teacher. In the Upper School, Dr. Naujoks teaches Political Science for the seniors and has taught Modern European History for sophomores in the past. Though perhaps most well-known for her interest in Napoleon, Dr. Naujoks enlightened me on other facts about her. I emailed her a series of questions over winter break, and she responded via email, telling me about her German background, her reasons for teaching, and her love of history.

Q: *Can you please tell me a little bit about yourself (where did you grow up, go to school, your various titles, a cool story about yourself, etc.)?*

A: I grew up in upstate New York, in the beautiful mid-Hudson Valley. I completed my B.A. in History at Fordham University, going to school at night while working full-time

Asia News *(continued from front page)*

Russian Politics: Putin vs. Navalny (cont.)

However, even in the event of his unlikely victory, the Russian government could very easily deny him the Presidency, or his disappearance might be orchestrated in a similar fashion to other high-profile Russian opposition leaders. Very recently in December of 2017, Russia's Supreme Court upheld a ban against Navalny's running for president in March, expanding on an implicit ban resulting from the fraud conviction. Putin, whose approval ratings exceed 80%, is expected to secure the Presidency for a fourth term.



Uncle Sam Plans for Retirement: The US and China

The United States of America has led the world to increasing global prosperity and peace for over seventy years. After World War II, Europe was in shambles while the U.S. was completing its transition into a global superpower, ushering in a new western order through the establishment of a myriad of international institutions, including the UN and NATO. America provided military protection to western Europe, allowing their economies to flourish. However, the toll was the enormous army necessary for the protection of our allies. In exchange for this sacrifice, the U.S. enjoyed incredible political and economic power, effectively rewriting the rules of the world while also turning a mass profit. Nevertheless, all good things must come to an end, and recent events have led many to predict a slow death to the world order the U.S. of old created. At the center is the newly elected president of the U.S., Donald Trump. Tapping into populist messaging, Trump campaigned on an "America first" platform. The wall he proposed to build highlights his protectionist—a policy in which foreign ties are viewed with suspicion—views. Trump has rejected the TPP, or Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade deal which would have formed an economic bulwark against China, began negotiations on NAFTA, and holds many global intuitions which the U.S. created in suspicion. Though he chants America first, he fails to realize the U.S. has already won. The U.S. is often considered the strongest and richest power on the face of this Earth. The system which accomplished this transformation was one of the U.S.'s own invention. Trump's way of thinking would have the U.S. forfeit the power it has sculpted out of seventy years of leadership to an authoritarian country such as China. Trump blames the economic devastation of the middle-class on foreign deals, but the blame more accurately falls on mismanagement from domestic politics in the U.S. While it is understandable some view the current global order as oppressive to the U.S., citizens must recognize the U.S. is powerful, and, more importantly, believe it. It is always easier to see the negatives in every situation, but citizens must acknowledge the numerous positives of a U.S.-led world. The alternative, which would see China dictating the global order, could lead to many detrimental possibilities, but only assures chaos.



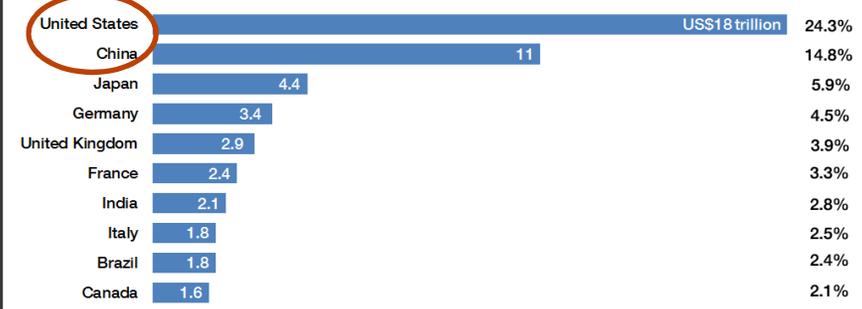
Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China



The world's biggest economies

GDP in current USD and share of global total, latest World Bank data, 2015

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM



Source: World Bank and Visual Capitalist





STUDENT OPINIONS

A New Wave of Protests

By William Smythe ('20)

Last year, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick ignited a chain of protests across the NFL. The former Nevada star, having entered the league in 2011 as a relatively low-profile prospect, tore through the competition in his early years with the 49ers. Then everything changed. As attitudes began to change regarding Kaepernick's skill and consistency, the quarterback turned to a new form of expression on the football field. On August 16, 2016, Kaepernick sat alone, far from his team, while the national anthem played over the loudspeaker. Steve Wyche, an NFL reporter, questioned Kaepernick on his unusual gesture after the game, to

which he vehemently responded, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football, and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder". The controversy erupted in the coming weeks, since many viewed Kaepernick's stance as anti-militaristic gesture and an act fueled by desire for attention. Kaepernick, infuriated by the killing of Philando Castile and the recurring stories of police brutality, eventually turned to taking a knee during the anthem. This issue reached far beyond the athletic field. 49ers players Eric Reid and Eli Harold soon joined Kaepernick

in the process of kneeling. Jeremy Lane of the Seahawks, Philadelphia's Malcolm Jenkins, Seattle's Duane Brown, and Houston's Arian Foster followed suit, to name a few. Such acts cannot go unnoticed. Social reform, as advocated for by these players, requires the courageous actions of these athletes. Our country is still marred by its social inequality. Colin Kaepernick's protests, stemming from the issue of social justice, have swept across the nation as our favorite athletes unite for a common cause. We cannot justifiably condemn the words, actions, and character of Colin Kaepernick due to our preexisting beliefs about the limits of athletes as activists. His protests speak volumes about the power of unity as a vehicle for effective, necessary change.

SUMMARIES OF WORLD EVENTS

By Ainsleigh Montgomery
'20) and Sammi Jacobs
'20)

Myanmar

The ongoing Rohingya Crisis has been devastating. The Rohingya people are a majority Muslim ethnic group who live in Myanmar. They are one of the world's most persecuted minorities and are currently being denied citizenship. The Myanmar military has been reported of killing and attacking Rohingya civilians. The leader of Myanmar is Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace prize winner who has been greatly criticized for the government's actions toward the Rohingya people. Many world leaders have stepped up and expressed concern over Aung San Suu Kyi's leadership, including Pope Francis. On November 27, Pope Francis went on a 6-day trip to Myanmar and Bangladesh to meet with Myanmar leaders regarding the Rohingya Crisis.





Featured Country: San Marino “The World’s Oldest Republic”

Written by Tai Jeffers ('18)

Population: 33,400

Language: Italian

Major Religion: Catholicism

Currency: Euro

Government: Parliamentary System

Geography:

It is completely surrounded by Italy, and its origin stems from the era of city-states.

It is one of the world’s smallest countries, with an area of only 23.6 square miles.

Mount Titano of the Apennine Range makes up most of the country.

Fun Facts:

- There are more than 3 million tourists every year, which has the most significant impact on the country’s economy.
- It has the highest number of automobiles per people in the world at 1,139 cars per 1,000 people.



Person of the Day: Angela Merkel

Written by Brammy Rajakumar ('19)

Who is Angela Merkel?

She has been Chancellor of Germany since 2005 and has been described as the “de facto” leader of the European Union. She was also TIME magazine’s Person of the Year in 2015.

Fun Facts:

- She worked as a bartender at disco parties in college.
- She has a degree in physics and a doctorate in quantum chemistry; she was the only woman working in the theoretical chemistry section at the East German Academy of Sciences.
- She developed a fear of dogs after being bitten by one.

This is a picture of Russian leader Vladimir Putin and Merkel at a meeting, during which Putin used his dog to intimidate Merkel.



Quotes of the Day

Chosen by Tai Jeffers ('18)



"It's time for Canada to acknowledge its history for what it is: flawed, imperfect and unfinished."

~ Justin Trudeau, Canadian Prime Minister

"Drumstick has a very, very bright future ahead of him"

~ President Trump on one of the turkeys he pardoned



"Why would Kim Jong-un insult me by calling me "old," when I would NEVER call him "short and fat?" Oh well, I try so hard to be his friend - and maybe someday that will happen!"

~ President Trump on Twitter

"Malia Obama should be allowed the same privacy as her school aged peers. She is a young adult and private citizen, and should be OFF limits."

~ Ivanka Trump on Twitter

"The system has failed. It's heart breaking to see a young girl sex trafficked then when she has the courage to fight back is jailed for life! We have to do better & do what's right. I've called my attorneys yesterday to see what can be done to fix this. [#FreeCyntoiaBrown](#)"

~ Kim Kardashian West on Twitter

SUMMARIES OF WORLD EVENTS

By Ainsleigh Montgomery ('20) and Sammi Jacobs ('20)



Germany

The most recent federal elections were held in Germany on September 24, 2017 and resulted in the reelection of Prime Minister Angela Merkel. Merkel's open borders policy on immigration is a stark contrast to the isolationist ideals of many current world leaders, including Donald Trump and Theresa May. Whether these discrepancies will lead to future conflict between nations is yet to be determined.



Asia and the US

In November of this year, President Trump embarked on a massive trip to Asia, covering 5 countries in less than two weeks. Trump spent his excursion urging Asian nations to follow his "America First" policy in their own countries, stating, "We want our partners in [Asia] to be strong, independent and prosperous, in control of their own destinies, and satellites to no one." Following his trip, Trump confirmed that he had only one major goal for the upcoming months: to reinstate America's status as a major global power.

Trump with South Korean President Moon Jae-in

From the Editor's Pen

Hello, Middle and Upper Schoolers! Hope that your first semesters have gone well.

We are in the midst of the third year of this newsletter already, and I cannot believe it! This began as a crazy idea one winter break as my Fellows Symposium project and has grown far beyond my initial intentions. Thank you all so much for your support, and I hope that your interest in and comprehension of international affairs have increased through the reading of this newsletter.

We have a new name! Following suit with the International Relations Fellows' name change (now called the Global Affairs Fellows), this newsletter is now called *Inside Global Affairs* to widen the scope of what we cover and encourage interest in a more diverse and inclusive set of topics.

I am trying out a new direction with this issue by incorporating more student opinions along with the general facts in an attempt to get you to think more about your positions on events around the globe. Not only am I encouraging opinions, but I would like you to use evidence and reasoning to support your arguments. Don't just spew powerful opinions without backing them up. Your words are meaningless unless you truly understand them.

I plan to open up the opinion section more to all students for the next issue (which will be coming up in May) so please start thinking about an opinion piece you may like to send in for that issue. Additionally, I would like to emphasize the importance of continuing to be up-to-date on all world news. Don't sporadically check a website to find a lone current event only when assigned. This newsletter provides a good glimpse into world events, but there are only two issues a year and there is only so much we can cover. In between our newsletter issues, try and find good world news sources on a variety of mediums (apps, websites, even newspapers) and check them regularly. Better understanding of the facts can refine or even change your opinions and strengthen your arguments.

Finally, I would like to introduce Ainsleigh Montgomery and Katie Post as my fact-checking editor and publicity coordinator, respectively. These two are new additions to the newsletter staff this year and are diving into their roles with enthusiasm. They, along with Daniel Moscoso and me, make up our team this year in creating the newsletter, and I hope to expand this team further in the next few months.

Thank you, and as always, please feel free to contact me with questions, comments, or concerns!

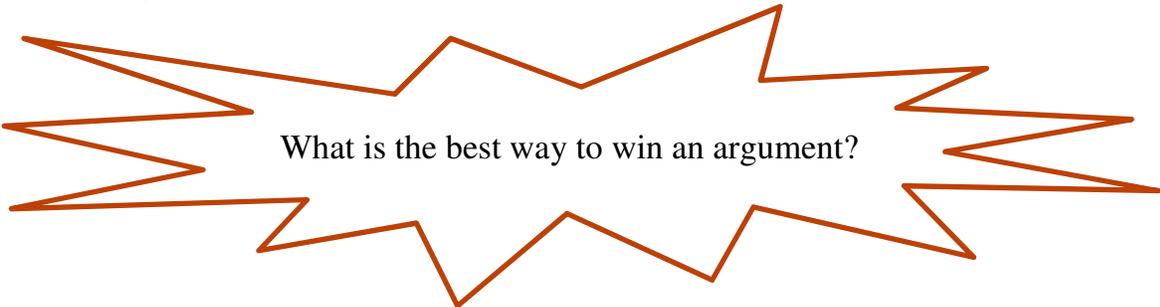
~Brammy Rajakumar

Founder and Editor-in-chief of *Inside Global Affairs*

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Discussion Question of the Day

Provided by Brammy Rajakumar ('19)

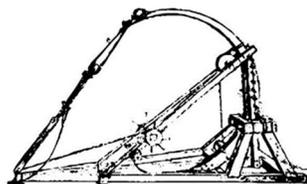


What is the best way to win an argument?

Huge thank you to all our contributors! This would not have been possible without all of your hard work and tireless effort!

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