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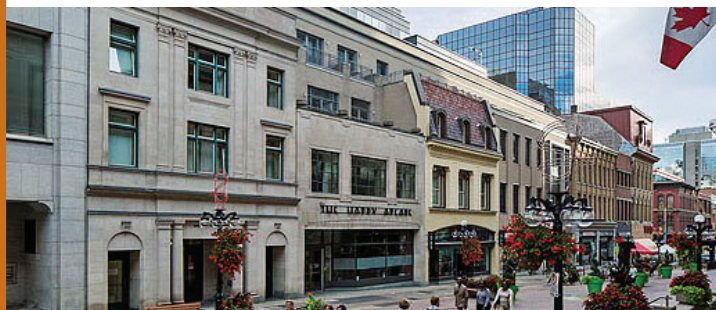
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The wonders of travel

“There are no foreign lands. It is the traveller only who is foreign,” Robert Louis Stevenson once said. Mark Twain had a broader focus: “Travel,” he said, “is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness.” And Jack Kerouac, ever capacious, said “The road is life.”

Regardless of the reason to pack suitcases, endure transit by car, train or airplane and sleep in a strange bed for days on end, no curious person would question the wisdom of any of those statements. Travel invigorates us; it exposes us to the good and the bad in the world; it opens our minds. And as believers in all of the above, we at *Diplomat* bring you our annual travel issue, in which we list 100 — yes, 100! — of the world’s best destinations. Writer Laura Bonikowsky breaks it down into 10 different categories, so if you’re a beach lover, you have a customized list. Ditto for many others, including hikers, history buffs, ecotourists, shutter bugs — you get the idea.

With all the glamour and excitement of international travel — and the domestic variety, for that matter — comes some responsibility as well, of course. To that end, Jessie Reynolds O’Neil, who has worked in security for one of the world’s biggest mining companies, brings us a helpful guide to getting there and back in one piece.

And, for your more local travelling pleasure, Patrick Langston tracked down a complete list of lesser-known festivals in and around Ottawa.

But it’s not all about leisure in this issue. In our Dispatches section, *Diplomat* publisher Donna Jacobs interviewed U.S. Ambassador Bruce Heyman in advance

of his country’s annual Independence Day celebrations and also at an important time in the crucial Canada-U.S. relationship. They discussed pipelines, trade, foreign policy and his new, considerably more public life.

Further in Dispatches, we have a feature on fixing corruption in Africa, written by columnist Robert Rotberg, and an analysis of tribalism and its consequences by Joe Landry. Up front, Fen Hampson teams up with Derek Burney to write a column on disturbing global realignments.

We also have my interview with Chinese Ambassador Luo Zhaohui, who spoke about his country’s military, economic and political ambitions and its treatment of Taiwan, Tibet and Hong Kong.

In our Delights section, books columnist George Fetherling looks at a series of titles, including one that examines a tome by author Sir Christopher Frayling on the work of Sax Rohmer. Rohmer brought the world the long-lived Chinaphobic stereotype, Fu Manchu, whom Frayling describes as “by far the dominant and best-remembered fictional personification of the merciless, inscrutable, vengeful and cunning Chinese.” Fetherling also sifts through the plethora of ISIS-related titles to suggest the ones worth reading.

Food columnist Margaret Dickenson takes us on a culinary tour of Japan, whose traditional cuisine was recognized on UNESCO’s “intangible cultural heritage” list in 2013. She has developed a recipe for tuna sashimi salad, inspired by Japan’s edible treasures.

Margo Roston, meanwhile, joined photographer Dyanne Wilson to tour the Rockcliffe home of Tunisian Ambassador Riadh Essid and his wife, Chiraz Saidane.

Even though this is the travel issue, we still brought you our traditional Destinations piece at the back of the magazine, this one written by Kenyan High Commissioner John Lepi Lanyasunya. It’s full of the magic that awaits you in Kenya.

Happy Canada Day and have a great summer.

Jennifer Campbell is *Diplomat*’s editor.

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Dyanne Wilson is an Ottawa-based contemporary photographer specializing in fine art interiors, portraiture and landscapes. She is especially drawn to scenes where nature, the built environment and humanity interact. A lover of all things cultural and a natural storyteller, her goal is to create authentic images that celebrate beauty and harmony. For the past eight years, her work has been featured in magazines such as *Diplomat*, *Ottawa Citizen Style* and *Hello Canada*. In 2014, her work was featured in the online magazine, *Top Photography Films*, and she was invited by Fuji to be an official Fuji X-Photographer.

Jessie Reynolds O’Neil



Jessie Reynolds O’Neil is a security analysis and investigations professional, and has worked in this field since graduation from University of Toronto’s criminology program. She has held positions with the Privy Council Office, Maher Arar Commission of Inquiry, KPMG’s Corporate Intelligence group, Barrick Gold Corporation’s security department, and — currently — provides consulting services to Barrick and other clients relating to security, legal issues, investigations, data analytics, and regulator-driven ethics and compliance programs. She specializes in intelligence-gathering, industry software programs and project management. Jessie is also an avid global traveller.

UP FRONT

Our annual travel edition this year features a total of 10 fascinating lists of 10 places to consider. Yes, that’s a total of 100 destinations! The lists are broken down by type of traveller and there’s something for everyone, from beach lovers to shutter bugs. Our cover image shows the countryside in San Quirico d’Orcia, Tuscany, Italy, a haven for photographers. The package begins on page 32.



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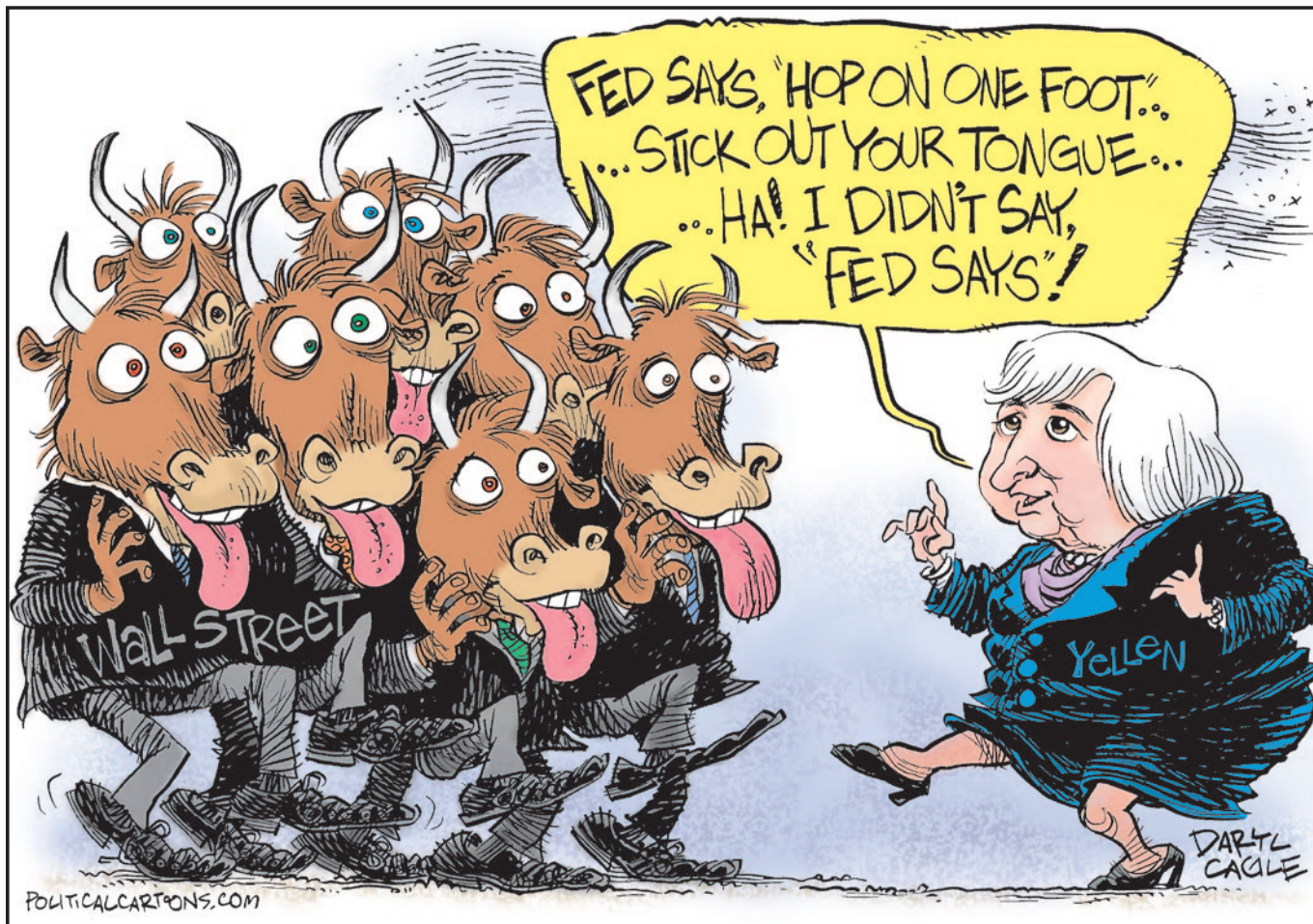
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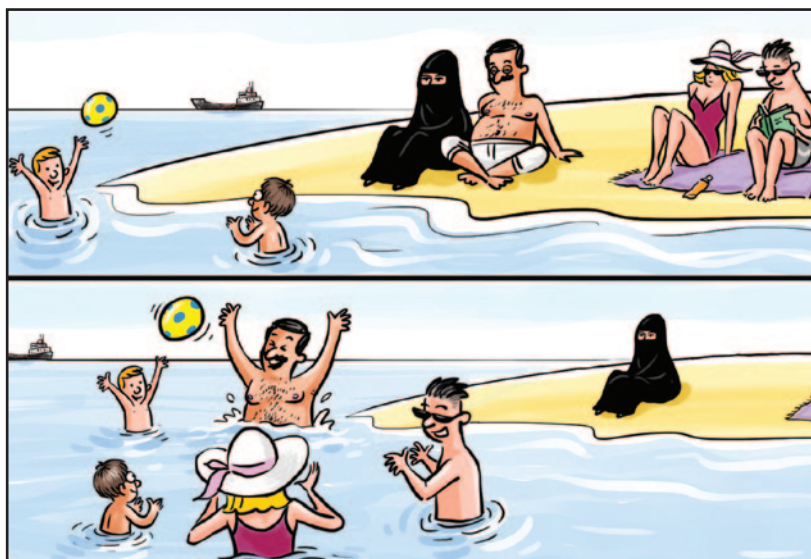
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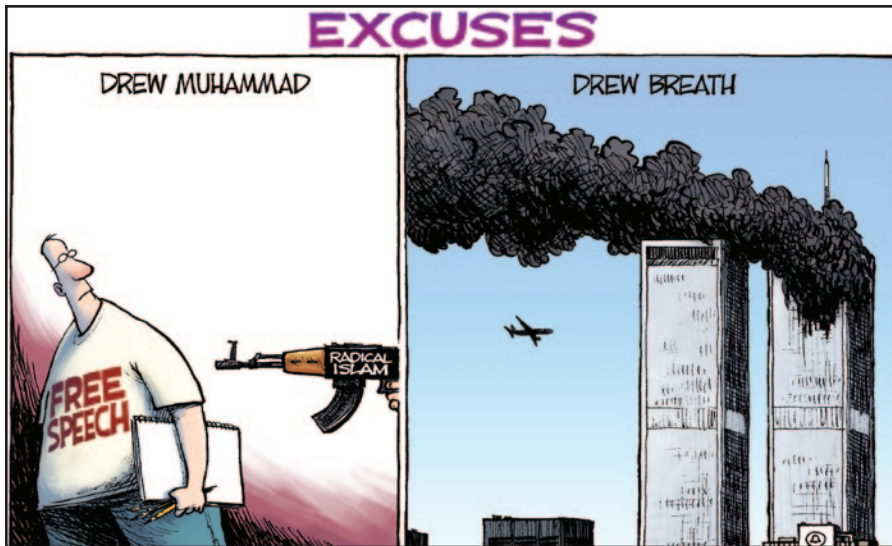
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"Women's Freedoms" by Osama Hajjaj, Jordan



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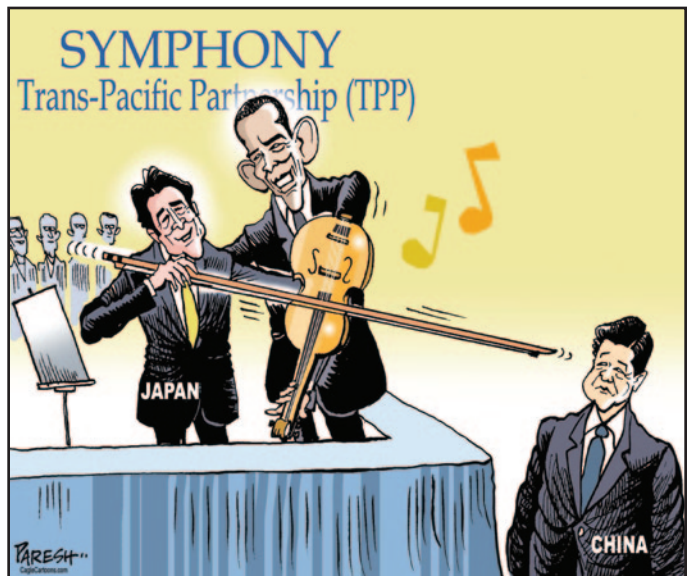
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A troubling global realignment



Fen Osler Hampson and
By Derek Burney

By every metric of soft power and hard power, the United States should be standing taller on the world stage. But the inconvenient truth is that it is not. Its ability to keep its friends and influence others is on the wane. A global realignment is happening before our very eyes. Traditional alliances are weakening or shifting. U.S. power and credibility in many different parts of the world are fading with deleterious consequences for global security and stability.

After the disastrous hit the U.S. took in the 2008-09 financial crisis and subsequent recession, its economy has rebounded. Job numbers are at an all-time low, suggesting that the U.S. economy is clocking close to what economists call “full employment.” U.S. growth is now three percent of GDP, a far cry from growth rates of earlier times, but still better than other G7 countries and the European Union, which is locked in a recessionary spiral. Income inequality is a serious problem in the U.S., as is its aging infrastructure (roads, airports and energy grids). Social entitlement programs, such as Social Security, Medicare and Obamacare will also cost the federal treasury heavily in the years to come.

Where the U.S. leads

However, the U.S. remains the world’s leader when it comes to technological innovation and the production of high value, capital-intensive goods. Its elite universities are still the best in the world, even though its public school system is in a shambles. Although military spending has been cut, the U.S. defence budget — roughly four percent of GDP — dwarfs those of its strategic rivals, such as China and fellow NATO members. More important, for the first time since the beginning of this century, U.S. armed forces are not involved in fighting a major war overseas. The mission in Afghanistan is winding down. American troops are providing

training assistance to Iraqi government forces and U.S. airpower is being used against ISIS, but there is little prospect of a major land campaign in Iraq or anywhere else any time soon.

In some respects, things should be looking up. But they are not. The U.S.’s strategic rivals seem to be getting the better of it when it comes to gaining footholds in some of the world’s most troubled neighbourhoods. There is also a growing global perception of a United States in decline.

Take Russia, for example. The Russian economy took a major hit after the drop in oil prices at the beginning of this year — Russia is a major energy producer and highly dependent on oil revenues. Although the Russian economy, along with the ruble, are now slowly recovering, the country’s long-term picture is not rosy. Its population is aging and will shrink faster than many G7 or G20 countries that are also growing old. Major capital outflows in the face of continuing instability, the dominance of Russia’s oligarchs in the economy, endemic corruption and crime and the absence of an effective rule of law are also damaging future growth.

By any objective indicator, Russia should not be a competitor to the U.S. and the West, but you would never know it by President Vladimir Putin’s swagger and “in-your-face” behaviour.

Putin’s big britches

Putin is clearly thriving on the domestic support his takeover of Crimea and Russian separatist efforts in Eastern Ukraine have generated. Perversely, his actions flouting basic international norms have also inspired popular support for him in Europe, where he is well-liked by the left and extreme right in a region where “strong” leaders are in short supply.

The NATO Alliance is fumbling badly in its efforts to deal with the complexities of the evolving situation on Europe’s eastern flank and the cracks in the alliance over how to deal with Russia point to a further erosion of U.S. influence and leadership. Whereas the Baltic States and Britain generally favour a tough line on Putin and a ratcheting up of economic sanctions in the face of flagrant violations of the Minsk accords, Germany and France don’t want to rock the boat until the current package of sanctions expires in July. Ger-

many’s Angela Merkel, for example, has signalled that the sanctions should stay in place until Russia abides by its Minsk commitment to lay down arms.

The leaders of the Baltic States worry openly that they will be next on Putin’s dinner list. And they are right to be worried. In the current climate, no one seriously believes that U.S. President Barack Obama or Europe’s leaders will risk war with Russia over Estonia and Putin knows that, too. The U.S. penchant to “lead from behind” has not inspired, nor has Obama’s refrain about not “doing stupid stuff.” As Columbia University scholar and defence expert Richard Betts pointed out some years ago in an article in the *National Interest*, since the end of the Cold War, NATO has faced an identity crisis of its own. It has been unable to decide whether it wants to play “the enforcer and the pacifier of conflicts beyond the region’s borders;” “the gentleman’s club for liberal and liberalizing countries of the West;” or “the residual function of an anti-Russia alliance.” That identity crisis has now hit a critical stage as the Russian bear puts its paws on NATO’s doorstep.

The ink was barely dry on the much-ballyhooed nuclear deal with Iran before Russia announced it would be lifting sanctions and removing legal restrictions on the sale of S-300 mobile surface-to-air missiles. Russia is also supplying grain and construction equipment to Iran in exchange for crude.

Russia, Iran and the Middle East

Russia is also doing everything it can to project its influence in the Middle East by giving generous dollops of economic and military assistance to Syria’s embattled leader, Bashar al-Assad, and even reaching out to Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood before it was toppled from its perch. Its biggest friend in the region is Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has rolled out the red carpet for Putin and perhaps even sees him as something of a role model when it comes to the heavy-handed exercise of power and treatment of political dissidents and journalists. Notwithstanding the fact that Turkey is a NATO member and protested Russia’s invasion of Crimea, Russia and Turkey have signed a protocol on a gas deal that would see Rus-



As Russian President Vladimir Putin expands Russia's influence in the Middle East, U.S. President Barack Obama's relations with his allies and friends in the region have fractured.

sia ship gas through Turkey and would represent a major boost in bilateral trade.

As Russia's influence expands in the Middle East, U.S. relations with its allies and friends in the region have frayed and fractured. Relations with Israel, which rarely saw much common ground when it came to the broader politics of the region — Israeli-Palestinian relations perhaps being the exception — are now so deeply polarized over Obama's nuclear deal with Iran that any vestiges of a "special relationship" have all but evaporated in the ensuing acrimony. The Iran deal is already showing it is potentially destabilizing for the region, for nuclear proliferation and for American credibility.

It is also making for strange bedfellows. The deal has brought Israel closer to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States, which share similar existential fears about Iran's nuclear intentions and aspirations for greater regional influence — if not domination — through its support for the Shiite-led government in Iran, its backing of Syria's Assad and the mischief Iran continues to play on the borders of Israel and Saudi Arabia respectively through its support for Hezbollah, Hamas and Yemen's Houthis-led insurgency. Israel and much of the Sunni Arab world see the agreement with Iran as a bad deal that will do little to curb Iran's nuclear appetites, especially when sanctions are lifted and the Iranian economy rebounds. In fact, there is greater likelihood now, even if a final nuclear agreement with Iran is concluded, that Saudi Arabia will look to Pakistan, a close ally, to help it develop its nuclear capabilities to counterbalance Iran.

Clumsy attempts in Iran

No matter how noble Obama's intentions to untie the Gordian knot in U.S.-Iranian

relations and put Iran's nuclear genie back in the bottle, his handling of negotiations with U.S. allies in the region has been clumsy and done little to dispel mounting concerns that the U.S. is weak, desperate for a deal — any deal — and is in retreat.

Perceptions of American weakness have also emboldened North Korea's erratic and unpredictable regime, which has quietly been building up its nuclear arsenal and long-range missile capabilities, to the alarm of China and South Korea. The countries of Southeast Asia are also concerned about Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea and the flexing of its military muscles.

The American "pivot" towards the Asia-Pacific rings increasingly hollow in a region where key American allies, such as South Korea and Japan, still feel their security interests are being ignored by Washington. Although negotiations for a Trans-Pacific economic partnership (TPP) are moving forward with the support of a Republican-dominated Congress, the TPP's "China containment" message sends mixed signals because Chinese cooperation is needed to deal with North Korea's mounting challenge to regional, if not global, stability. When it comes to the Korean peninsula, the pivot needed is one involving the U.S. and China.

Even Bretton Woods institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, World Trade Organization and Inter-American Development Bank, which have been the cornerstones of the post-war liberal international economic order, are crumbling and dysfunctional. Washington bears much of the blame.

Look no further than Britain's just-announced decision to join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which is a Chinese-led initiative born out

of Beijing's frustration at not getting its fair share of voting rights in the World Bank. Repeated attempts to reform the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, by giving emerging market economies such as China a bigger voice have floundered on the rocks of an intransigent U.S. Congress.

Australia considers China's program

Even Australia is now making a bid to join the AIIB and is not overly worried about courting Washington's wrath. That is not surprising, given that China is its No. 1 trading partner. Australia has always struck a delicate balance between its strong security ties with the United States and its need to do business with Asia. Nevertheless, the balance now seems to be tilting towards China even under Tony Abbott, Australia's hawkish conservative prime minister.

Already, some of Asia's best-known public intellectuals, such as Singapore's Kishore Mahbubani, are heralding the defection of U.S. allies to the AIIB as "the end of the American century and the arrival of the Asian century."

Many believe that the Obama administration is now moving into what can euphemistically be described as "legacy" mode as the electoral campaign for a new president moves into high gear. But an unseemly rush to conclude new peace treaties or trade agreements without thinking through the consequences will prove damaging to American and Western interests in the long run.

Former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger has reportedly said that the world is in more turmoil today than at any time since the Second World War. Perhaps, but there is certainly no one of stature in the West, notably in Washington, to inspire confidence, let alone stability. Perceptions of weakness in one region are infectious. A *New York Times* editorial in April of this year cautioned "concern is growing in many quarters that the U.S. is retreating from global leadership just when it is needed most."

Derek H. Burney is senior strategic adviser to Norton Rose Fulbright and was Canadian ambassador to the United States from 1989 to 1993. Fen Osler Hampson is a distinguished fellow and director of Global Security at the Centre for International Governance Innovation and Chancellor's Professor at Carleton University. They are the authors of *Brave New Canada: Meeting the Challenge of a Changing World*.

China's man in Canada

'We never say China's human rights situation is perfect'

Photos by Dyanne Wilson

Luo Zhaohui began his mission as ambassador to Canada in May 2014. The ambassador, who has a master's degree in history, joined the foreign service in 1985 and has had postings in India and Washington, and served as ambassador to Pakistan before coming to Canada. He sat down with *Diplomat's* editor, Jennifer Campbell, to discuss everything from China's ambitions and aspirations to the building in which the embassy is housed. This marked the first time a Chinese ambassador has agreed to an interview with *Diplomat* in 11 years.

DM: How would you characterize China's relationship with Canada since your arrival? It's been a little bit rocky in recent years.

LZ: I think I am quite lucky. I have been here a little more than one year and bilateral relations are on a good momentum. For me, I'm here just to try to do more to enhance them. I arrived last May and after that, my counterparts worked to prepare your prime minister's trip to China in November. That trip reached a lot of consensus with China's leader. The two sides issued a joint list of 20 agreements. No. 1, both sides agreed to establish a mechanism for annual ministers' dialogues and also for an annual economic and financial strategic dialogue. No. 2, both sides agreed to establish some direct air links from Calgary to Beijing and Montreal to Beijing. No. 3, both sides agreed to establish mechanisms for the further study of a free-trade agreement between our two sides and also the first study of China-Canada maritime energy corridors. No. 4, China agreed to open market access to the Canadian side regarding agri-food and seafood materials, including beef, strawberries, etc. Both sides also agreed this would be a year of people-to-people interactions. We reached a lot of consensus and made a lot of promises. It gave us [at the embassy] a tough job.

I have four priorities: I have to implement the joint list of outcomes, one by

one. Otherwise, it's only on paper. We should also try our best to enhance concrete co-operation on big projects. With LNG, you have a lot of natural resources and the Asia-Pacific market is a huge market and we should promote LNG. Also, high-speed railways. We're talking about that. China has advanced technology in this area. We wish to co-operate with a company, for example, Bombardier. No. 3, the highest priority, is to expand two-way trade. So far, China is the second-largest trading partner to Canada. The first is the United States. Trade with the U.S. is more than \$700 billion. In China, we're No. 2, but last year, it was only \$55 billion. I'm quite optimistic. This big difference means big opportunities and we should narrow the gap.

We want to import more from Canada, but the problem is that we don't have a free-trade agreement, so materials from your side are relatively higher priced, compared to Australia, for example.

[On a future free-trade agreement], we did discuss establishing a mechanism for further study, but there's no agreement to start immediately. It's baby steps. It's too slow. It just gave permission to an academic institution for further study. Every country is talking about free-trade agreements — even your country is talking about TPP, and you just completed an agreement with South Korea. China, as No. 2, we really wish to start as soon as possible.

DM: From your point of view, what are the obstacles to a free-trade agreement?

LZ: From your side, you think that a trade deficit is a problem, but in my opinion, it's a statistical issue. From my side, we are almost balanced. You say it's \$3 billion, but my side says it's \$2 billion. It's a different way of counting. I proposed to your government that we establish a joint working group to see where the problem is. There's no response yet from your side. I think this is an excuse from your side. You have your own strategy for FTAs. We understand that, but we always say 'it takes two to tango.' This is our priority and our direction and your side has different priorities.



DM: How do human rights play into negotiations that are largely economic?

LZ: We never say that China's human rights situation is perfect. The right to life and right to development is the highest priority for us. According to the World Bank and UN standards, we have 200 million people living below the poverty line. They live on less than US \$1.25 per day. So we have a tough task to achieve full economic development and to make



On Taiwan: "This is quite a sensitive issue for us."

people's [lives] even better. For human rights issues, we know this is an issue and we will use consultation and communication to resolve these differences.

DM: Is China publicly cracking down on corruption, for which it is roundly criticized?

LZ: In the past few years, this has really become a serious problem. Two years ago, when the new administration took office, we launched a campaign for anti-corruption. Everyone supports that. This also includes a request for co-operation from the international community.

DM: What is included in the campaign? What sorts of measures are they taking?

LZ: We have taken concrete measures. We've taken action to mobilize the people and we've sent a lot of teams from the central government to investigate cases. If you don't abide by the rules and do something corrupt, you will get punished. Zhou Yongkang was charged. [In April 2015, Zhou was charged with bribery, abuse of power and the intentional disclosure of state secrets. He was the first Politburo standing committee member and the most senior official to be investigated for corruption since the founding of the People's Republic of China.]

The situation in China, you know, we have good momentum. With anti-corruption and economic reform, ordinary people are so happy and optimistic for the future. Everyone has the Chinese dream to make more money and a better life. China's per-capita GDP is only around US \$7,000. Canada's is more than \$50,000, so it's much higher than ours. Even with our per-capita, there's a big gap between the Western and Eastern provinces. We have a long way go to. We have a population of 1.3 billion.



On corruption: "If you don't abide by the rules and do something corrupt, you will be punished."

Also, Canada only has one land neighbour. You're so lucky. In China, we have 14 countries with land borders and eight maritime. On sea, we have two countries with which we have border issues that aren't resolved.

So things are quite different with your country. You are so lucky and enjoy a life that is quite comfortable.

DM: What is China's current thinking on Tibet, Hong Kong and Macao?

LZ: This is quite a sensitive issue for us. Compared to all the other major power countries, China is the only country that is not unified because Taiwan is still separate. Unification of China is our task, our job. It's not ambition, it's a policy. The problem right now is what way we can use [to achieve that.] Economic integration is so close and we're happy to see that and maybe we wait for the future. With Taiwan, it's an issue of sovereignty.

Hong Kong is different. It was a colonial area of the U.K. In 1997, it returned back to Mainland. The Hong Kong special administrative region was established. Recently, Hong Kong political reform has become a hot issue. We think political reform must be in line with basic law, and universal suffrage is also our target.

Yesterday [at time of interview, in late April], I went to your foreign ministry and

your parliament regarding these issues. I said we should respect the law, and the basic law is constitutional for Hong Kong.

Your country recognizes dual citizenship. In China, we don't recognize dual citizenship. You told us you have about a half million Canadian people living in Hong Kong, some of whom have dual citizenship. We understand the situation there, but [we need to look at] how to maintain the peace and prosperity.

Tibet is also different. The Dalai Lama is a religious leader, but at the same time,



"Tibet is a part of China and any action to separate Tibet from China is not acceptable."

he's also a political monk and he established a state inside of the union. In 1959, he did some bad things and [chose to exile himself] to India and now, he uses every occasion to try to establish a Tibetan state.

The people of Tibet enjoy their life and their religious freedom and it's not any problem for them, but for religious reasons, they have a lot of contact with the Dalai Lama. Tibet is a part of China and any action to separate Tibet from China is not acceptable. If he gives up his desire to separate, there's no problem for him to come back. But this guy — the Dalai Lama — sometimes uses beautiful language to cheat the international community. This is quite sensitive for us and we have a consistent policy and China's sovereignty is very important for us.

DM: When will the people of Hong Kong be able to select their own candidates for the chief executive — originally scheduled for 2017, and possibly elect the legislative council, rather than have China select them?

LZ: On 1 July 1997, the Chinese government resumed the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong. Hong Kong has since been a Special Administrative Region of China. As stipulated in the basic law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), the aim is to elect the

chief executive by universal suffrage, in light of the actual situation of Hong Kong and in accordance with the principle of gradual and orderly progress. In this connection, the standing committee of the National People's Congress of China has adopted a number of decisions, making it clear that the selection of chief executive of the HKSAR may be implemented by universal suffrage by 2017.

On April 22, 2015, the HKSAR government presented to the HKSAR legislative council the proposals for selection of the chief executive. It is proposed that starting in 2017, the chief executive shall be selected upon nomination by a broadly representative nominating committee in accordance with democratic procedures and appointed by the central people's government.

The central government of China supports the proposals. The [proposed] nomination system is, in fact, a practice in many countries and regions in the world.

If, and when, the universal suffrage proposals are adopted, the five million eligible voters in Hong Kong would be able to elect their chief executive through a "one person, one vote" election for the first time in history.

The motion also proposes that any

person who meets the requirements of the basic law, i.e., a Chinese citizen of not less than 40 years of age who is a permanent resident of the region with no right of abode in any foreign country and has ordinarily resided in Hong Kong for a continuous period of not less than 20 years, and meets the relevant statutory requirements, could seek nomination by the nominating committee.

DM: And just following up on your comments about the Dalai Lama, can you specify what "bad things" he did?

LZ: Tibet has been a part of China since ancient times. Tibet has never been an independent country or state.

The Dalai Lama is not a religious figure in an ordinary sense. He is a political exile who has long been engaged, under the disguise of religion, in activities to split China and undermine China's ethnic unity and solidarity.

The Dalai Lama never recognizes that Tibet has historically been part of China, alleging that Tibet is "a country occupied by China." He seeks to establish what he calls a "Greater Tibet," covering an area of nearly one quarter of Chinese territory, something that has never been in existence in history in the first place. He claims that

all non-Tibetans should be removed from the "Greater Tibet" and Tibet should be an independent state.

The Dalai Lama deserted and fled China following his boycott of the reform to abolish the serfdom system in Tibet. He established a "government in exile," which is an illegal political organization for splitting China. No country in the world recognizes his "government in exile."

What the Dalai Lama has said and done in the past decades proves that he has never given up his separatist position and attempts.

DM: How does China defend its practices of internet spying and hacking?

LZ: Mid-last year, your government criticized the Chinese government for spying and an internet attack. That's not true, and on that occasion, I made a statement. China is also a victim of cyber attacks and we think international co-operation for anti-cyber attacks is very important. We proposed a lot of policy resolutions at the UN and urged international co-operation. It's a transnational issue and needs transnational co-operation. With [revelations from Edward] Snowden last year, no country blamed itself or another country, they were always criticizing China. We think that's unfair.

DM: You're saying that China doesn't engage in internet spying and hacking and that it's unfairly accused?

LZ: Yes, of course — 100 percent sure.

DM: Does the government feel any responsibility to crack down on manufacturers producing knock-offs with trademarked names?

LZ: This is an economic issue and we recognize that we have some kind of issues. It's not the government's policy and Chinese authorities always take a lot of measures to [battle] that phenomenon. Every year, we have a campaign and there are a lot of activities related to fraud and fakes.

Every country has this problem. We're working on it. We signed some agreements with your government on intellectual property protection.

DM: China is a rising economic power. What kind of political responsibility does that status bring with it?

LZ: We are No. 2 in the world already in terms of GDP, but, as we said, the per-capita GDP is still quite low. China doesn't have a history of invading neigh-



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bouring countries. That's different from Western countries' history. We are an agricultural society and people want stability.

In China right now, we want to help neighbouring countries. We propose to have a Silk Road Economic Belt on land, with neighbouring countries, and also to send [goods] to east Asia, to European countries, with south Asia and southeast Asia. And we'd also have a Maritime Silk Road. This is a reviving of the old Silk Roads from 2,000 years ago. Many neighbouring countries don't have budgets for infrastructure and high-speed road construction, so we'll establish a bank to help them. It's a common development.

Also, China's military budget is quite low. It accounts for 1.4 percent of total GDP. Usually, military spending accounts for three percent of GDP. We never have any ambitions to acquire, conquer or invade neighbouring countries. Economically, we think it's a win-win situation. If you help other countries, other countries will also help you. Ten years before China's two-way trade with ASEAN countries, trade was less than US \$100 billion, but now it's almost \$300 billion.

DM: When you leave as ambassador,

will Canada and China have a free-trade agreement?

LZ: An ambassador's term is three or four years, no more. So how to use that limited time? I always tell my colleagues, anything that benefits both sides, we should try our best. Anything that benefits one side, but doesn't hurt the other side, we should try our best.

DM: Can you talk about state-controlled media in China?

LZ: That's no problem. We have an official government website and we have our own at foreign affairs. Any messages or news on websites is open. Censorship in China — the daily newspapers do have some regulations — but websites in recent years, even some that carry pornography, are popular. In China, some foreign websites have regulations. They are not open in China.

DM: Are there people in China who aspire to have a free and open press?

LZ: No. We don't have private newspapers. They belong to the state, to government. They have their own regulations and policies, which is quite natural. But even that, it's quite open and constructive. I think there's no problem for free-

dom of newspapers, but comparing them to websites, websites are more open.

DM: Does not having a free press limit society in any way?

LZ: No. I don't see any limitations. We have some natural policies. [His aide interjects and says Canada also has regulations, prescribed by the CRTC; *Diplomat* notes that the CRTC doesn't limit content.]

LZ: You should visit China. In China, you won't have any problem with websites and WiFi. We have free WiFi in the hotels, even in Tibet. Last year, I was in a small region of Tibet and I thought there was no WiFi, but when I checked in, the WiFi was so good. [The ambassador changes the subject by turning to the embassy building, where the interview took place.]

LZ: I'm a student of history and I'm really proud of this building. Before I came here, many friends said the embassy was a monastery. I really wanted to know the history. It was built in 1866; we purchased it in 1972. In 1938, there was a big fire and after that, they changed a lot, but the structure, the architecture is still quite similar. It belonged to the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. ▣



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Agents of change in global conservation

By *Ariadne Angulo*

Paainted in black and red, donning their best plumed headgear and armed with bows, arrows and the staunchest determination, they were dressed in full war attire and blocking the entrance to the Palacio do Planalto (the seat of the Brazilian government) in Brasília in early February. “They” were a group of about 50 Kayapó men from an indigenous group in the southeastern Amazon who are among the world’s most effective and fierce protectors of their land and its “natural capital.” The Kayapó are the reason a vast tract of forest — 11 million hectares, the size of Ireland — continues to exist amid an agricultural frontier of increasing road access, rapid deforestation, illegal gold mining and little law enforcement.

While dressed for war, their intention was to peacefully talk to politicians about the renewal of a compensation package associated with the paving of the BR-163 highway that has greatly increased the pressures on their lands. Government authorities had dragged their feet, putting in doubt this vital funding. Fortunately, the 1,831-kilometre (1,137-mile) trip enabled the Kayapó to sit down with politicians and resolve the problem.

This story illustrates why the Kayapó are considered ideal conservation partners by the international conservation organizations who work with them, of which ours — International Conservation Fund of Canada (ICFC) — is key. ICFC is also the only Canadian charity focused solely on global conservation.

In spite of being relatively new (founded in 2007) and small (fewer than a dozen staff members), ICFC has a wide and impactful reach, from large-scale conservation to strategic land acquisition and programs to protect threatened species. ICFC partners with experienced in-country conservation organizations in Latin America, Africa and Indonesia to ensure that resources go straight into effective action on the ground.

In Africa, a joint project of ICFC and U.S.-based WILD Foundation is securing the future for Mali’s population of “desert elephants” and, remarkably, has greatly reduced harm from the recent Islamic insurgency within the Gourma region. The project brings together communities led by elders and clan leaders



A group of Kayapó men — from the same indigenous group in the southeastern Amazon as these two — blocked the entrance to the Palacio do Planalto (the seat of the Brazilian government) in Brasília this winter to show their desire to protect their land and its “natural capital.”

to enact rules for management of natural resources, which include protection of elephant habitat, curtailing deforestation and charging fees to nomadic herders of “prestige” cattle herds (owned by rich city dwellers as a status symbol.) Patrols of young men (Brigades de Surveillance) create firebreaks (465 kilometres in 2014), guard habitat from illegal activities and counter poaching.

None of the 600 or so young men working with our project (they receive a modest allowance) joined the jihadists.

By contrast, men in surrounding areas who did join the jihadists now find themselves social outcasts and are resorting to crime and elephant poaching. Now all the local youth want to be involved in the project because they have seen what happened to those who joined the armed groups, and they see the status that being a brigade member brings. Project leader Susan Canney reports that our efforts are “bringing more security for everyone” and have played a valuable role in post-conflict reconciliation.

ICFC also does ground-breaking work in Peru. In 2012, we established a trust fund to endow permanent protection of Peru’s first conservation concession, established by agreement between Peru and the Amazon Conservation Association in 2001. The Los Amigos Conservation Concession protects 146,000 hectares of highly

biodiverse old growth Amazonian forest, and it indirectly protects another million hectares that are home to indigenous people in voluntary isolation. At a signing ceremony in Lima, attended by a “who’s who of Peruvian conservation,” Peru’s environment minister, Manuel Pulgar-Vidal Otaróla, warmly embraced the trust fund as an affirmation of the policy model of engaging with non-governmental organizations to permanently conserve tropical forests.

Some might ask why Canadians should care about conserving nature and wildlife in foreign lands. We offer three answers. First, Canada has many migratory species — birds, sea turtles, whales, bats — that spend much of their lives outside of Canada, including in South and Central America. Second, preventing tropical deforestation is one of the most cost-effective ways of combating climate change. Third, the world’s irreplaceable natural heritage belongs to all of us.

If any of this resonates with you, please spread the word about ICFC (ICFCanada.org) and know that your support will allow us to do more.

Ariadne Angulo is director of conservation at ICFC and co-chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Species Survival Commission’s Amphibian Specialist Group.

Saving the beleaguered wild Atlantic salmon

Without the generosity of two ambassadors, the annual Fall Run dinner for the Atlantic Salmon Federation would have raised 15 percent less for its cause — the conservation of the Atlantic Ocean's beleaguered wild salmon.

The ambassadors of Portugal and Iceland donated dinners in their residences on which dinner-goers could bid. Both raised a considerable sum.

"Those who were fortunate enough to dine at the ambassadors' residences spoke very highly of the warmth of the hospitality they received," said ASF dinner chairman Dawson Hovey.

For the diplomats, it's a chance to share their culinary culture and assist in a good cause.

"We do have North Atlantic wild salmon in our rivers and we do have many anglers, including foreigners, who come to Iceland to fish," said Icelandic Ambassador Sturla Sigurjónsson. "We have been trying to support conservation and sustainability, minimizing or eliminating catch in the sea for commercial purposes, and also seeing that the rivers continue to thrive."

Sigurjónsson and his wife, Elín Jónsdóttir, served 10 guests birch syrup cocktails, followed by langoustine, then lamb and finally, a dessert of Icelandic yogurt served with blueberries and vanilla.

On the Portuguese side, dinner was also a success.



Portuguese Ambassador Jose Fernando Moreira da Cunha hosted a dinner for the highest bidders at the Atlantic Salmon Federation's Fall Run dinner. Clockwise from lower left: Marcus Tratch, Audrey Sullivan, the ambassador, Terri, Louis and Ruth Tratch, Becky McGavin, Joe Tratch, Maria da Cunha, Don Moore, Celeste Tratch and Michael Siddons.

"The people who bought our dinner were beautiful people, very relaxed," said Portuguese Ambassador Jose Fernando Moreira da Cunha.

He noted that it's become tradition for diplomats to donate dinners for auction and he was happy to take a turn. It was a good chance for him and his wife, Maria, to share the Portuguese culture with some who might not know much about it.

He gave his guests an option of what they'd like to eat and they chose fish,

which pleased him, as Portugal is a country by the sea, and because of the cause in question. He also served white wine from Alentejo, red from Douro and, of course, Portugal's revered after-dinner export, Porto.

Hovey said the diplomats who attend the ASF "always bring an informed perspective to the conversation, including the importance of sustainable oceans generally and Atlantic salmon conservation in particular." ■



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Bangladesh: world's No. 2 garment exporter



By Kamrul Ahsan
High Commissioner for Bangladesh

Trade holds the key to development and growth. Moreover, globalization has created significant opportunities for developing countries, while enabling them to increase their earnings through the export of goods and services. Bangladesh is, therefore, one of the countries that has benefited from the comparative advantages of skilled labour and highly competitive entrepreneurship in the textile and garment sector. It is now the second-largest export country in the ready-made garment sector. It holds almost a five-percent share of the current global market.

In the 1980s, a group of young entrepreneurs embarked on manufacturing ready-made garments (RMG) as a profitable product to export, mainly because of the generalized system of preferences (GSP). Under GSP, the facility can export duty-free to the European Union. As a result, Bangladesh has been able to substantially increase its exports.

This sector of the garment industry began to flourish in the 1990s, and has been earning three-quarters of the country's total export income since the late '90s, with more than 15 percent growth per year.

The Bangladeshi government has taken many steps to support the private sector in setting up export-oriented industries that facilitated the rise of the labour-intensive RMG sector. The garment industry in Bangladesh consists of approximately 4,000 factories, \$19 billion in exports and four million direct employees, mostly women.

Although Bangladesh depends on imported raw materials such as cotton, the production of accessories, such as buttons, zippers, packaging materials and labels has also substantially increased.



A typical garment factory in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has excelled in manufacturing a wide range of products for global markets. These include, among other things, jute goods, leather products, footwear, ceramics, light engineering products, pharmaceuticals, paper products, electronics, toiletries, furniture, handicrafts, rubber, plastic products, agro-based food products, petroleum by-products, ocean-going ships and vessels. Bangladesh has been exporting its state-of-the-art pharmaceuticals to the European Union, and has recently made inroads in North America.

Speaking of ships, shipbuilding is now a thriving sector in Bangladesh. The world's traditional shipbuilders are no longer interested in building small ships, mainly due to high labour costs and low profit margins. This situation has created opportunities for Bangladesh, which has skilled and trained labourers in abundance to build small ocean-going vessels, feeder-vessels (smaller ships that collect and feed containers to larger vessels), coastal passenger ships and ferries. This emerging sector of Bangladesh's economy has already built ships for a few Western European countries, New Zealand and some African countries. In April 2015, the leading shipbuilder of Bangladesh, Western Marine Shipyard (WMS) signed a contract with Indian business conglomerate Jindal Group to build 10 cargo ships worth US \$61.25 million.

Trade relations between Bangladesh and Canada are promising and solid. Canada has accorded duty-free and quota-free access to some Bangladeshi products, including RMG, since 2003, which resulted in a boost of exports from Bangladesh to Canada. Two-way trade amounts to \$2 billion yearly. In South Asia, Bangladesh

is the second-largest importer of Canadian food grains and other agricultural products, as well as potash. Canada imports ready-made garments, frozen fish, handicrafts, headwear, footwear, furniture and ceramic products from Bangladesh.

Exports from Bangladesh to Canada have grown steadily throughout 2014, and were estimated at \$1.27 billion, and imports from Canada were \$698 million. Bangladesh is now a country of immense potential for investment as it is offering various competitive incentives (a low-cost workforce, energy, land, a 10-year tax holiday, special economic zones and legal protection for investors.) The country is also encouraging public-private partnerships in infrastructure projects such as highway construction, multi-purpose bridges, power stations, airports and seaports. In these sectors, Canadian companies can take advantage through their engagement as well as investments.

Since the first day of my assignment in Ottawa, trade and investment have been my primary focus, and for this, I have received enormous co-operation from all the relevant quarters. The Canadian government has extended the GPT (general preferential tariff) facility for the apparel sector for the next 10 years, and Canada's monetary support for the victims of the tragedies in the garment sector has been praiseworthy. In 2013, I witnessed our two countries signing an air services agreement, a positive development for the healthy growth of trade and people-to-people contacts.

While having an agreement on avoidance of double taxation, we await the conclusion of the foreign investment promotion and protection agreement (FIPA) in the near future. Bangladesh also signed a memorandum of understanding with the government of Saskatchewan in 2011 with a view to strengthening co-operation in the fields of trade and commerce, food security, agricultural research, education, bio and clean technologies, human resource development and employment. Finally, more than 100,000 Canadians are of Bangladeshi origin; they are promoting trade and commerce every day.

Kamrul Ahsan is high commissioner for Bangladesh. Reach him at (613) 236-0188.

Georgia-Canada: an emerging partnership



By Alexander Latsabidze
Ambassador of Georgia

Georgia, with its strategic location between Europe and Asia in the Caucasus region, is now, more than ever, attracting the attention of large and small businesses. Formerly occupied by the Soviet Union, Georgia was unable to flourish economically until its recent emergence as a modern, free state. Now, the situation has dramatically changed. Corporate executives the world over are taking note that Georgia offers a stable, democratic and pro-business environment.

Through free-trade agreements with Turkey and countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States, along with the recent signing of a “deep and comprehensive free-trade agreement” with the EU, Georgia now accesses almost one billion consumers. Georgia has one of the most liberal trade policies in the world, and offers international investors stable, secure, transparent and corruption-free economic conditions that allow business to thrive. In addition, according to the latest Tax Misery and Reform Index, released by *Forbes Business & Financial News*, Georgia is the world’s fourth least tax-burdened country. For these reasons, it is increasingly chosen as a regional headquarters for companies doing business in the Caucasus, Central Asia or Eastern Europe.

Economic data from leading financial institutions have recognized Georgia’s conservative economic stewardship and business-friendly environment. The Georgian government has implemented broad and comprehensive reforms aimed at ensuring that the country’s public sector and institutions operate openly and free of corruption, eliminating obstacles to trade



Wine is Georgia’s most famous agricultural product; it enjoys an 8,000-year-old tradition.

and establishing competitive corporate tax rates. The reforms have been very successful in attracting foreign trade and investment. A number of international indices illustrate Georgia’s impressive progress. For example, Georgia ranks:

- 15th of 189 countries in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Index (2015)
- 22nd of 178 countries in the Heritage Foundation and *Wall Street Journal*’s 2015 Index of Economic Freedom
- 47th of 146 countries in *Forbes* magazine’s Best Countries for Businesses (2013)
- 69th of 144 countries in the World Economic Forum’s Global Competitiveness Report (2014-2015)

With protectionist hindrances removed, goods and services now flow through Georgia faster than at any point in recent history.

Georgia has a mixed economy with strong agricultural roots. Thanks to its 21 microclimates, agriculture accounts for nine percent of GDP. Georgian farmers produce a wide range of grains, vegetables, fruits, meat and dairy. Wine, the country’s most famous agricultural

product, enjoys an 8,000-year-old tradition, which is mentioned in the ancient literary works of Homer and Apollonius of Rhodes. Along with the profound expertise of its winemakers, Georgia’s ability to produce more than 500 indigenous types of grapes also contributes to the growing demand for its national beverage.

Wine export volumes in 2014 peaked at 59 million bottles, an increase of 13 million bottles from 2013. One of Georgia’s goals is to introduce the fine quality and unique taste of its wines to Canadians. Exports to the Canadian market are increasing steadily: In 2014, Georgia exported 106,800 bottles to Canada, 1,004 bottles more than the previous year.

Georgia has a lot to offer Canadian investors. Likely because of its relatively recent emergence as an independent country, Canadian investors have yet to tap the abundant potential Georgia offers. Profitable investment opportunities exist not only in its farms and vineyards, but also in its fast-growing hydroelectric, mining, manufacturing and tourism sectors. In 2013, two-way trade between Georgia and Canada was close to \$120 million. Exports from Georgia to Canada amounted to \$90 million. Imports from Canada to Georgia were \$28.5 million. Major products exported from Georgia to Canada include gold, ferro-alloys, fresh and dried nuts, wines, natural and mineral waters. In turn, Canada’s major exports to Georgia are pork, fish, motor vehicles, butter, oils and meats.

One of the main goals of my embassy is to intensify trade and economic relations with Canada by showing Canadian companies the investment possibilities in Georgia. Since 1997, Georgia has enjoyed the benefits of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) with Canada, which lowers tariffs on 34,000 goods exported from Georgia to Canada. We expect that this will generate significant opportunities for the business communities in both countries. At the same time, we look forward to concluding and signing The Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (FIPA) and starting negotiations on a free-trade agreement.

Alexander Latsabidze is ambassador of Georgia. Reach him at (613) 421-0460.

Serbia: A new investment frontier



By Mihailo Papazoglu
Ambassador of Serbia

Last September, then-foreign minister John Baird's four-day visit to Serbia was a great opportunity for constructive talks with Serbian leaders. Representatives of the two countries signed a foreign investment protection agreement, the only one Canada signed with a European country in 2014. It's a strong political message for investors and a sign of the commitment to operating in a secure business environment on the part of the two governments.

In 2013, a similar message of friendship between top officials was confirmed by the visit of Senate Speaker Noël Kinsella to Serbia and the establishment of a Canada-Serbia Parliamentary Friendship Group.

In 2012, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic signed a bilateral strategic economic co-operation agreement with Canadian Commercial Corporation, which gave \$1 billion toward strengthening bilateral economic relations.

Here's a hint for potential investors: If your company is in hydro, Serbia is your place. But it's not only about hydro. Opportunities also exist in mining and prospecting, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and motor vehicle parts manufacturing.

For sectors of Canadian excellence, Serbians will logically choose Canadian-based companies. Well known for their business integrity, Canadians are praised in Serbia as reliable economic partners and stakeholders.

In almost 60 Canadian companies and enterprises already present in Serbia and gathered around the newly established Belgrade-based Canada-Serbia Economic Council, there is a figurative bouquet of success stories. From heavyweights and



Belgrade, seen above, is home to the Canada-Serbia Economic Council. Canadians have already invested \$1 billion in Serbia, a sum that will be matched by another \$1 billion set through the bilateral Strategic Economic Cooperation Agreement.

well-known names (SNC Lavalin has a copper smelter site revitalization project worth \$250 million), to privatizations by Molson-Coors (of Apatin Brewery, Serbia's largest) and Valeant (a Serbian-based pharmaceuticals production site), to Magna's greenfield investment (as a part supplier for Ford, Renault and Smart), the investment landscape is busy.

In the mining sector, 80 percent of all prospecting licences (gold, copper, lead, lithium) issued on an annual basis in Serbia go to Canadian companies. In agriculture, the opportunities presented in organic food production (Serbia is responsible for 30 percent of the world's raspberry production), as well as livestock (the biggest pig farm in Serbia has North America's Duroc livestock), are highly profitable.

So what is the next big thing? The information technology sector? Telecommunications? Or Bombardier's interest for growing Air Serbia's fleet? Etihad Airways of Abu Dhabi is in the process of seeking more than two weekly direct flights from Belgrade to Toronto. That would be a game-changer, boosting the open-door investment policy promoted by the Serbian government.

We've also seen success in tourism: Belgrade is a popular destination: the Danube River is great for sightseeing, the EXIT musical festival in Novi Sad draws many, as does the Brass festival in Guča. It's no

surprise, then, that *Lonely Planet* sets Serbia within the world's Top-10 best-value destinations for 2015.

We are also proud of our successes in exporting cars to Canada. Long-time partners FIAT and Zastava car factories are producing a 500L model, that, under a FIAT-Chrysler deal, became "domestic" both in Serbia and Canada (and Italy, of course). That gave a real boost to a trade exchange that was, however, modest at \$111 million. Clearly, there's more opportunity waiting to be seized.

Altogether, in the last decade, more than \$1 billion worth of Canadian investment and capital has been put to work in Serbia. Everybody knows that after the first billion, things will get easier.

Not to make rating agencies feel forgotten, here are some statistics about Serbia. In Ernst and Young's European Attractiveness Survey 2014, Serbia was one of Europe's favourite investment locations in Central and Eastern Europe. In 2013, new jobs increased by 18 percent, the fifth-largest growth in Europe, while 63 new investment projects made Serbia the second-most-attractive location in Central and Eastern Europe, after Poland. Serbia — it's the next big thing.

See you there.

Mihailo Papazoglu is the ambassador of Serbia. Reach him at (613) 233-6280 or diplomats@serbianembassy.ca.



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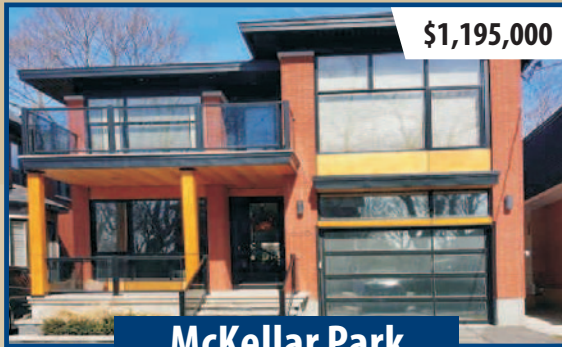
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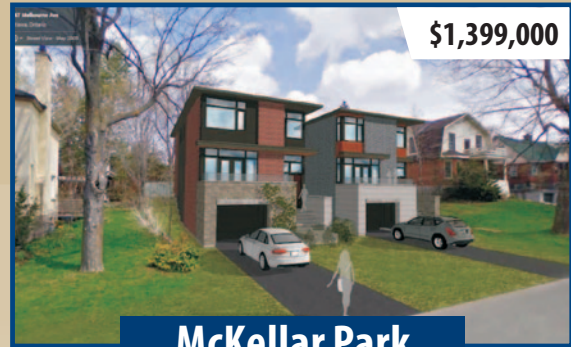
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\$1,195,000

McKellar Park

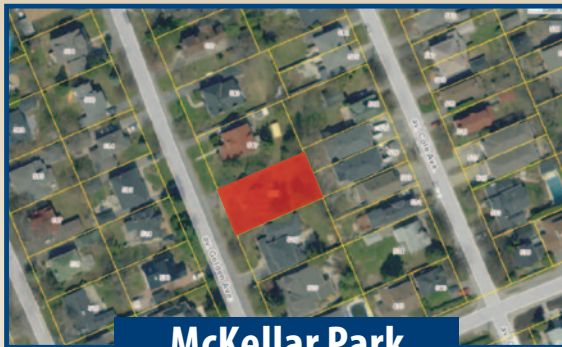
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\$1,399,000

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McKellar Park

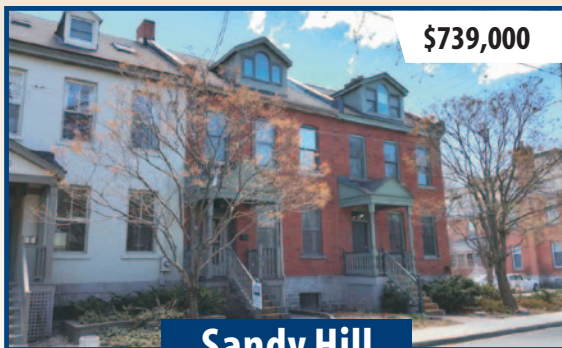
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Cuba updates its economic model



FIRST NAME: Julio

LAST NAME: Garmendia Peña

CITIZENSHIP: Cuban

**PRESENTED CREDENTIALS AS
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Soviet Union, Ukraine

The blockade by the United States on Cuba has negatively affected progress in my country. Although some do not want to admit it, the blockade has limited access to financing, technology, systems, infrastructure, software and applications. This was acknowledged by U.S. President Barack Obama's announcement of investments in the telecommunications sector. That announcement alone illustrated the fact that internet access has been limited by the high cost of technology and the U.S.'s policy.

Nevertheless, improvements have been made in recent years in the quality of and access to ICT and technological infrastructure and training. There has been increased investment in telecommunications infrastructure projects and fibre optic and cellphone networks since 2009.

There are now 154 public Internet rooms on the island and there are plans to commercialize wideband access. Internet surfing and all of its services cost 4.50 Cuban pesos (\$4.88 Cdn) an hour, which is still expensive for the average Cuban citizen. However, in late December, Cuban telecommunications company ETECSA announced the expansion of internet access in 2015 at those internet rooms, and it is setting up WiFi services.

The Cuban government has stated several times that widespread access to information technology by Cuban society is a priority and has expressed its willingness to work to make this resource available, accessible and affordable for everyone. To that end, the government recently announced its intention to provide the largest possible number of teachers with access to the Internet. A total of 26,650 teachers will be able to access the web

from their schools by May 2016, to support their research and academic work. All high schools and polytechnic institutes in Cuba will be connected to the Internet in the coming year. By 2017, the Cuban

Ministry of Education expects to have all middle schools, daycare centres and special education centres connected, in a process set to conclude with elementary schools in 2018. The ministry also plans to distribute tablets to students, since, at present, the student/computer ratio is about 30:1. The Cuban university education system will benefit as well in the near future from a substantial improvement in infrastructure needed for its computerization and connectivity.

Cuba is also opening up its markets. As part of that process, which began in April 2011, Cuba has expanded the ability of Cubans to become self-employed, as initially approved in the 1990s when we opened the market to foreign investment. By December 2014, more than 477,000 Cubans identified themselves as self-employed. Changes have also allowed the sale of real estate and vehicles between individuals, the creation of non-agricultural co-operatives, the possibility for farmers to sell their products directly to hotels, the use of otherwise idle lands for farming, the adoption of a new foreign investment law, with the development of a portfolio of business opportunities, including 246 projects worth \$8.7 billion. All of this was complemented by the launch of the Special Development Zone of Mariel, which offers more favourable conditions for foreign investors. These measures are helping to stimulate the economy.

The thawing of relations between Cuba and the United States has allowed us to advance communication between the two,



U.S. President Barack Obama convenes a National Security Council meeting on Cuba in the Situation Room of the White House.

through an agreement between ETECSA and the American company IDT Domestic Telecom. This is a first step that, presumably, will be the prelude to new agreements in this strategic sector. Apple and Netflix already have released the sale of their services to the island and we expect similar companies will follow suit.

The economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba for more than 50 years has been the main obstacle to the development of our country. Despite this policy's negative impact on the economy and quality of life of our population, Cuba has reached high levels of development that place it among the top countries in the region in terms of infant mortality and life expectancy at birth. We are also taking important steps in meeting our UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Such results are a reflection of social policy in the last 50 years, which has kept the concept of equitable and sustainable human development at the centre of its national development strategy.

Given this, the restoration of relations with the United States will undoubtedly offer business opportunities with major U.S. companies. Moreover, economic ties with the U.S. will be a challenge of sig-

nificant importance in a number of areas that are important to my country's development strategy. Those include telecommunications, biotechnology and tourism, among others.

The restoration of relations will undoubtedly also benefit Cubans who have relatives living in the United States. Among the first measures announced by Obama was authorization to raise the limit on remittances to Cuba from \$2,000 per year per person to \$8,000. He also eased travel restrictions and granted permission for charter flights to Cuba.

Although these measures directly benefit Cuban families on both sides, the Cuban government considers them insufficient and limited as Cuba aspires to maintain a normal relationship with the U.S. in the area of migration. The United States maintains the Cuban Adjustment Act and the policy of "dry feet, wet feet" (Cubans picked up at sea are sent back to Cuba, while those who reach U.S. soil are permitted to stay.) These are the main stimuli for illegal emigration from Cuba to the U.S. and irregular entries to that country. This is a policy and a law conferred only on Cuban citizens and is, therefore, the fundamental element that continues to encourage these illegal departures.

Regarding tourism, of 12 categories of travellers currently authorized to enter Cuba from the U.S., academic and business visits are expected to increase significantly. Some experts estimate that this would mean an increase of 50,000 visitors per year, a number that, according to those sources, would inject between US \$50 million and \$100 million to the country's economy.

Sales of tobacco, rum, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, telecommunications and agricultural products are estimated to grow, especially when the United States removes the remaining restrictions on trade with Cuba. However, our country has opted to diversify its commercial and financial relations and maintain relations with our traditional partners. Those include Venezuela, China, Canada, Spain and Brazil.

Finally, the restoration of relations, announced in December 2014, has received the almost-unanimous support of the Cuban people and the rest of the world. This support was recently ratified by all governments at the Summit of the Americas, held in Panama in April 2015. It also came from the European Union and from the heads of state or governments of many other countries. ■



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Where it began... Two thousand years ago, the Romans, having developed paved roads and the idea of the holiday, were the earliest leisure travellers. Emperor Augustus had suppressed piracy in the Mediterranean region, making it possible to travel in relative safety. Roman emperors, scholars and the wealthy visited historic sites such as the Parthenon and the ruins of Troy, stood where Plato stood, took a Nile River cruise and visited spas. Modern travellers are not very different in what they seek from travel — exposure to other cultures, adventures in far-off lands, the unfamiliar and the exotic.

Before there was the gap year or backpacking across Europe, there was the European Grand Tour, intended to expand an aristocrat's classical education; it gave rise to a hospitality sector. The Industrial Revolution created more leisure time and greater middle-class wealth, facilitating the tourism industry. Technological changes to transportation got goods to market more efficiently; steamships and trains made travel easier. The luxurious and mysterious Orient Express made its inaugural journey in 1883 from Paris to Constantinople (Istanbul). Thomas Cook, spotting his niche, began chartering trains and hotels for tour groups in 1841.

International travel remained the domain of the well-off until the Second World War, when the development of the jet engine set the stage for air travel, initiating the modern travel industry. During the post-war recovery period, particularly in North America, greater disposable income and leisure time stimulated foreign travel. Specialist tour operators began aggregating transport, accommodation and related services and selling them for a single price. The democratization of travel brought foreign holidays to a new group of consumers.

Growth in the travel industry gives modern travellers myriad ways to satisfy their wanderlust. According to the UN World Tourism Organization, international tourist arrivals reached 1.1 billion in 2014 — 51 million more than in 2013.

Compiled here are 10 Top-10 lists for different types of travellers, based on travel statistics and reviews from a range of sources. The places are listed in no particular order.

Get outta town:

By Laura Neilson Bonikowsky



The Winter Palace in St. Petersburg, Russia, is among the attractions on our "history buffs" list.

A traveller's Top 10



Get outta town | Top 10 destinations Traditional Travellers



Valley of the Ten Peaks and Moraine Lake, Banff National Park, Canada.

Traditional travellers like tourist attractions relatively close to home, places that will ensure they have a fun vacation. When you go to these destinations, many (often most) of the people you see are fellow tourists.

Las Vegas Strip, Las Vegas. With more than 40 million visitors annually, the Strip is a favourite for a quick break. Among the excesses on display — the famous Bellagio fountains, shows, museums, galleries, exhibits and the newest attraction, the High Roller, the world's tallest observation Ferris wheel. Don't forget the casinos!

Niagara Falls, Ontario and New York. Three massive waterfalls make up Niagara Falls, straddling the Canada-U.S.

border. The iconic and historic Horseshoe Falls are on the Canadian side, in Niagara. About 168,000 cubic metres (six million cubic feet) of water per minute rush over the 55-metre (180-foot) vertical drop on its way to Lake Ontario. Sail on the *Maid of the Mist* to get up close and personal. Get campy in the Canadian city of Niagara Falls, where wax museums abound.

Grand Central Terminal, New York City. The exterior of Grand Central Terminal features the world's largest example of Tiffany glass on the clock facing 42nd Street. Inside, 2,500 stars adorn the ceiling in an astronomical mural of the Mediterranean winter sky. "Secret" platform No. 61 has a concealed entrance and an elevator going to the Waldorf-Astoria hotel.

Balboa Park, San Diego. The 1,200 acres of Balboa Park feature 19 gardens, 15 museums, nine performing arts groups, hiking and cycling trails, a miniature railroad, golf course, tennis courts, gymnasium, samba school, carousel and the world-famous San Diego Zoo.

Navy Pier, Chicago. One of the Windy City's premier historic landmarks, the 3,300-foot-long (1,010-metre-long) Navy Pier was designed for shipping and recreation and has become a significant entertainment and exposition facility. Enjoy restaurants, shops, the Ferris wheel, live theatre and attractions on the shore of Lake Michigan. The *USS Chicago* is docked at the end of the pier, a reminder of military history.

Canada's Wonderland, Vaughan, Ont. Self-proclaimed as Canada's premier amusement park, Wonderland has more than 200 attractions, 69 rides, North America's largest variety of roller coasters and a monstrous water park. In 2015, the park will host the Chinese Acrobats, Ultimate Thrills Circus and the West Coast Lumberjack Show.

Banff National Park, Alberta. Hike the mountains, valleys, forests and alpine

meadows in Banff National Park, Canada's first national park, covering the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Visit the hot springs, the discovery of which led to this park's establishment, stroll downtown Banff, camp or enjoy posh hotels.

Bourbon Street, New Orleans. It's a party every night at the restaurants, shops and bars in this historic 13-block section of the French Quarter from Canal Street to Esplanade Avenue. Not into partying? The area



There's a party every night on Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

is imbued with 18th-Century history and folklore, including Jean Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, a front for smuggling operations that is said to be haunted.

Playland, Vancouver. Canada's oldest amusement park is located in Hastings Park



Disneyland in Anaheim, California, celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2015.

and operates from April through September. It has been part of the Pacific National Exhibition since 1910. Playland features a wooden roller coaster, midway games, attractions such as an arcade, haunted mansion and pirate adventure, and of course, classic amusement park food.

Disneyland, Anaheim, California. In fact, any place Disney, but 2015 is a special year for the theme park that started it all. This year is its 60th anniversary and there will be celebrations and new spectacles along with the usual attractions, such as Sleeping Beauty's Castle. Happy anniversary, Mickey!



Chicago's Navy Pier is one of the Windy City's premier historic landmarks.



Get outta town | Top 10 destinations Ecotourists

While there is no official definition of ecotourism or sustainable travel, and no certifying body, ecotourism can be described as responsible travel to natural places for pleasure in a way that is socially conscious and does not damage the environment. *Travel + Leisure* magazine says ecotourism and cultural tourism are the fastest-growing segments of the global travel industry.

Caiman Ecological Refuge, Miranda, Mato Grosso State, Brazil. In the world's largest wetlands, the Caiman Ecological Refuge — 132,000 acres (534 square kilometres) of forest, fields and waterways — turned from a working cattle station to a protector of the Pantanal region by running a nature conservation program and catering to ecotourists with four ecolodges. Travellers can canoe, ride horses with Brazilian cowboys, known as *Pantaneiros*, and take nature walks.

Gladden Spit and Silk Cayes Marine Reserve, Placencia, Belize. The reserve, 36 kilometres (22 miles) off Placencia, is protected by the Southern Environmental Association, an NGO dedicated to environmental stewardship. Gladden is one of the few places on Earth where humans can predictably swim with whale sharks, which arrive during full moons March to June, drawn by the mass spawning of coral polyps.

Bako National Park, Kuching, Island of Borneo, Malaysia. Although it occupies only one percent of the world's land, Borneo is home to six percent of global diversity, according to the World Wildlife Fund. The island's rainforest is threatened by oil palm plantations. Bako National Park contains almost every type of vegetation in Borneo and is probably the best place to see wildlife.

Tatshenshini-Alsek Park, British Columbia. The Tatshenshini-Alsek river system forms the basis of the eponymous park in northwestern B.C. When the mining industry planned a huge open-pit copper mine in the watershed, rafters campaigned to protect it and the Canadian



Thailand's Phang Nga province is a tourist gem in which volunteer opportunities for such projects as sea turtle research and mangrove planting are possible.

government rescinded the permit. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Tatshenshini-Alsek Park's 958,000 hectares (9,580 square kilometres) provide travellers the opportunity to raft, hike and see wildlife and unusual flora.

Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) Conservancies, Northern Kenya. In the shadow of Mount Kenya, overgrazed and drought-ravaged land barely supported its population. Community reserves have restored the land and seven NRT conservancies support sustainable tourism. Lodges offer top-notch accommodations, food and opportunities to trek, track wildlife and learn bush lore. Places to stay include Saruni Lodge, Il'Ngwesi Ecolodge, Kitich Camp and Tassia Lodge.

Makalali Game Reserve, South Africa. The Siyafunda Bush experience in the Makalali puts visitors in an eco-friendly tent camp in the wilderness of the reserve to learn bush survival, navigation and biodiversity conservation surrounded by big game — elephants, rhinos, buffalo, lions, leopards. Volunteers can help with invasive plant clearing, road maintenance and habitat rehabilitation.

Samoa, South Pacific. Maintaining the island's beautiful coastline, coral reefs, marine wildlife and the rainforest-covered volcanic slopes is important to Samoans. The island's inhabitants take a leadership role in adopting standards based on the

Global Sustainable Tourism Council's Destination criteria and setting the standard for other island nations. Enjoy fishing, surfing, diving, snorkelling, museums and cultural exhibits.

Phang Nga Province, Thailand. The Thailand Coast Marine Expedition, offered by the Global Vision International Program, gives visitors volunteer opportunities that include sea-turtle research, beach cleaning, mangrove planting or teaching English to children. Volunteers are also encouraged to see the sights, such as the Khao Sok National Park.

Kihavah Island, Maldives. In 1998, El Nino's unusually high temperatures killed about 90 percent of the Maldives' coral reefs. Restoration is an ongoing project, applying coral gardening and reef adoption. In Kihavah, a luxury vacation combines coral adoption by allowing visitors to sponsor a frame where coral will be transplanted by a marine biologist.

Conservation Ecology Centre, Victoria, Australia. The five-room Great Ocean Ecolodge, operated by the Conservation Ecology Centre, runs entirely on solar power. The centre borders Great Otway National Park, which protects eucalyptus forests, waterfalls and windswept heathlands. Guests can help care for injured and orphaned wildlife or take the 102-kilometre (64-mile) Great Ocean Walk, with supplies provided daily by the lodge.



Get outta town | Top 10 destinations Photographers

Those who like to view their holiday destinations through a camera lens seek beauty and breathtaking visual experiences. Landscapes, architecture, people, cultural displays — all are fodder for the photographer who seeks to capture the world in an image.

Kauai, Hawaii. The “garden isle” lives up to its name, with lush rainforest, jagged green mountains, tremendous waterfalls and the National Tropical Botanical Garden. The island has appeared in several movies, including the *Jurassic Park* series, *King Kong* and *Mighty Joe Young*, the sites of which can be toured. Waimea Canyon is the ultimate in prehistoric landscapes; Kalalau Lookout provides the most stunning views.

Belize. This small country to the east of Guatemala gives visitors plenty of opportunities to explore the perfect blue waters of the Caribbean and white sand beaches. Coral reefs, marine life, Mayan ruins — the opportunities for dramatic photos are everywhere. Explore Glover’s Atoll, Half Moon Caye, Belize City and Mayan ruins at Xunantunich, Altun Ha, Caracol and many other sites.

Venice, Italy. The best thing to do in this unique and beautiful city is wander aimlessly. Your meandering will reveal charming squares and streets undiscovered by those checking off sites on a top-10 list. Then visit St. Mark’s Basilica, St. Mark’s Square, ride the Grand Canal on a vaporetto (water-bus), see the Doge’s Palace, wander Burano Island and top it off with a ride in a gondola.

Haida Gwaii, British Columbia. Formerly the Queen Charlotte Islands, Haida Gwaii presents a rugged landscape, rich with old-growth rainforest, as a beautiful backdrop to humpback whales breaching off the coast, soaring bald eagles, bears and other species. The Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve safeguards important cultural sites of the Haida people, including the S’Gang Gwaay totem poles, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Finish your sight-seeing day in Venice with a gondola ride on the Grand Canal.

Liechtenstein. The miniature monarchy in central Europe stretches in pastoral splendour from the Rhine to the Alps between the Swiss canton of St. Gallen and the Austrian province of Vorarlberg. Rugged mountains, green valleys, a picturesque castle and modern and ancient architecture lie in close proximity, seemingly awaiting the click of a camera shutter.

Mount Haleakala, Maui, Hawaii. Haleakala means “house of the sun” in Hawaiian, and certainly sunrise and sunset viewed from the peak are awe-inspiring. At the top of this great dormant volcano, 3,055 metres (10,023 feet) above sea level, you can hike above the clouds and into the crater, or ride on horseback across its surreal deserts.

Tuscany, Italy. Viewing scenic Tuscany (Toscana) is like viewing a Renaissance painting come to life. Rolling hills dressed in Chianti vineyards and olive groves, ancient buildings and towns rich in history beckon, if you can stop gazing long enough to raise your camera.

Fiordland National Park, South Island, New Zealand. If you saw the *Lord of the Ring* trilogy, you’ve seen the impressive landscapes of New Zealand’s largest national park. They range from snow-capped mountains to vast marshes. South Island is less inhabited than the country’s other island, providing more astoundingly beautiful open areas.

Plain of Temples, Bagan, Myanmar. The kings of ancient Bagan built more than 4,400 Buddhist temples in 230 years. Pagodas range one after the other, large and small, across the delta plain. Half of the red brick structures remain today, with hidden frescoes and ornate architecture to delight and amaze.

Athabasca Sand Dunes Provincial Wilderness Park, Saskatchewan. This may seem a surprising choice. The shifting dunes are virtually unknown, a surprising secret in northwestern Saskatchewan, stretching 100 kilometres (62 miles) along Lake Athabasca. Among the most northern dune fields in the world, they are home to nine types of plants that exist nowhere else. Access is by floatplane only.



Get outta town | Top 10 destinations History buffs



No list of historic sites is complete without Athens and its incredible Acropolis, pictured here.

History buffs look for destinations that tell the stories of the human experience and reveal the bonds we share among our diverse cultures. They prefer historic sites, monuments, landmarks, architectural marvels, heritage festivals and, of course, museums.

Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses, Lintong, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, China. The terracotta army is the most significant archeological excavation of the last century. The soldiers in battle dress guard the tomb of Qin Shi Huang, first emperor of China, who ascended the throne at age 13. Archeologists have confirmed that the artifacts were associated with the Qin Dynasty (211-206 BC). The site was discovered by farmers digging a well in 1974.

Paris, France. You would be forgiven if

the City of Lights makes you think it has existed untouched for millennia. The iconic Tour Eiffel, Montmartre, Montparnasse, Musée du Louvre, Sacré Coeur, Notre Dame — they all connect visitors and Parisiens to the small medieval town of the past. Walking tours are the best way to explore.

Washington, D.C. The American capital is the site of much U.S. history and home to many of its artifacts and memorials. Check out the Smithsonian, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Vietnam Women's Memorial, The Mall and Capitol Hill, and, of course, the White House.

Sensoji Temple, Asakusa, Tokyo, Japan. The oldest temple in Tokyo was dedicated in 628 BC to the Kannon Bodhisattva, the

most compassionate Buddha. The site has a five-level pagoda and several halls, each with its own story. At night, dramatic lighting reveals intricate details. The practice for centuries, stalls along the temple's Nakamise Street sell food and goods to pilgrims.

London, England. Where to start in this city, whose history is so involved in Canada's? An important city in the Roman Empire, it became an important city in the modern world. Among its significant historic sites are Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, London Bridge, the Tower of London, the Churchill War Rooms, the British Museum and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

Córdoba, Argentina. This intriguing city was named the Cultural Capital of the Americas in 2006. It is an exciting blend of



The Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses features the last century's most significant archeological excavation.

new and old, exemplified by its modern architecture and 17th-Century Jesuit ruins. It comprises a mix of Roman, Arabic and Spanish history — after a fascinating walking tour, relax at one of the city's Arabian baths.

Mumbai, India. Formerly Bombay, Mumbai is famous for chaotic streets, bazaars, bargains and Bollywood. Must-see sites include the Gandhi Museum, Juhu Beach, the cave temples of Elephanta Island and



Sensoji-ji Temple is the oldest temple in Tokyo, dating back to 628 BC.

the Gateway of India monument, built during the British Raj. Cruise along Marine Drive as the sun sets on the Arabian Sea.

Athens, Greece. No list of historic sites would be complete without Athens. Its best-known historic sites, including the Acropolis, Parthenon, Theatre of Dionysus

and Temple of Hephaestus, are monuments to the seat of civilization. Although it is a paradise for history lovers, history isn't all Athens has to offer — it is a contemporary city with modern amenities and plenty of nightlife.

St. Petersburg, Russia. The most northern city in the world is also known as the Venice of the North, a reference to its many rivers and canals. Museums and famous buildings abound in St. Petersburg, formerly Leningrad, reflecting the city's extraordinary history. The famous Winter

Palace is one of many palaces and there are numerous monuments and religious sites.

Old Quebec, Quebec City, Canada. Old Quebec is a significant locale for the country's early history, the only fortified city north of Mexico and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was once a crucial fur-trading post and the heart of New France. To visit Old Quebec is to visit Europe, with its narrow cobblestone streets, charming historic buildings and the Citadel and its fortifications.



A view of the Champs de Mars, taken from the Tour Eiffel in Paris, France.



Get outta town | Top 10 destinations Gourmands

It's not that they wonder where their next meal will come from, though that's part of it; food lovers look for culinary adventure. They seek destinations that offer the exotic, the spicy, the rich and flavourful, where they can do more than just grab a bite to eat.

San Francisco, California. Superb examples of cuisine from around the world are available in this coastal gem. Fresh seafood on Fisherman's Wharf, dim sum in Chinatown, fresh fruit in Oakland, vegan delights in the Mission District, Italian food in the financial district and food trucks in Berkeley — it will sustain the busy traveller as it delights the palate.

Montreal, Quebec. Home of the smoked meat sandwich à la Schwartz's Hebrew Deli, the oldest in Canada, in business for more than 80 years on Saint-Laurent Boulevard. The world-famous sandwich is a Montreal classic, but it is not the only Montreal destination for food-lovers. Excellent restaurants abound in Old Montreal and central neighbourhoods.

Barcelona, Spain. Experience the social gathering that is *de tapeo* and enjoy real tapas, which are not merely snacks, but often tiny culinary works of art that vary by region. Tapas were originally served as a cover over a jug to prevent flies from getting into the wine. Today, they are light appetizers that accompany beer or wine.

Tokyo, Japan. *The place for sushi.* Tokyo is not only the world's sushi taste-maker, but the determiner of the cost of sushi worldwide. Visit a sushi temple, watch a demonstration of sushi preparation or visit a market with a local expert. Tokyo's best-known market is the Tsukiji Fish Market.

Saigon, Vietnam. Try pho and bánh mì — this is not your typical soup and sandwich lunch. Many consider bánh mì one of the best examples of fusion food — meat, vegetables, pickles, seasoning and garnish in a crusty nine-inch baguette. It's Vietnam and France in partnership. Pair it with a bowl of pho — a flavourful Asian broth



Tokyo, Japan, is the place for sushi.

with noodles, meat, chopped green onions and herbs — for a satisfying meal.

Chiang Mai, Thailand. The city's signature dish is *khao soi*, spicy coconut curry soup with two types of noodles, one crunchy and one soft, often served with a slice of lime, roasted chili paste and pickled cabbage. Immerse yourself in Thai cuisine by taking cooking classes at one of the many well-regarded Thai cooking schools. Lessons are typically four to six hours long.



You haven't visited Paris until you've bought one of France's 500 cheese varieties and a baguette for a picnic.

Paris, France. If you can tear yourself away from the French pastries, macarons and fine chocolate, be sure to visit authen-

tic affineurs to sample the many wonderful cheeses, paired with the perfect wines, of course. Attend a cheese and wine workshop to explore the creation of French cheeses — there are 500 varieties.

Belgium. Many foodies consider Belgian cuisine to be the best in Europe; certainly it serves up a quadruple threat — waffles, beer, chocolate and frites — but Belgian specialties range further than that, including the fish and mussels of the North Sea coast, pheasant, rabbit and venison of the Ardennes, and beef and lamb in the Flemish polders. Wash it down with one — or more — of Belgium's 400 types of beer.

Cacao Trail, Ecuador. Set out from Coca to trace the history of this region, where roughly 63 percent of the world's fine aroma cacao is produced. "Fine" or "flavour" cocoa beans produce the highest quality gourmet chocolate, but account for only 5 percent of the world's cocoa production. Cocoa production in Ecuador goes back 5,200 years.

Bolaven Plateau, Laos. What better way to top off a delicious meal — or a foodie tour — than with a fragrant cup of coffee? The fertile Bolaven Plateau, which spreads across several southern provinces, is famous for its cool climate and high-grade coffee plantations. The plateau can be explored on a day trip from Pakse.



Get outta town | Top 10 destinations Urbanites

Those who prefer urban to natural destinations generally seek city attractions such as concerts, museums, shopping, festivals, events, concerts and nightlife. They may also appreciate architecture and human-made landmarks.

New York City, N.Y. What other city offers such spectacle? Times Square, also known as New York's neon heart, draws 50 million tourists a year for Broadway shows, art galleries, museums, theatre — and don't forget shopping. The square offers easy access to public transportation, including the city's famous subway and yellow taxis. Central Park covers 850 acres (3.4 square kilometres) of Manhattan, an oasis for visitors and locals.

Kyoto, Japan. Kyoto is at once old and new, vibrant and serene, traditional and modern. It is a city of quiet temples and gardens and bustling markets and nightlife. Visit the Golden Pavilion, one



The Saiho-ji kokedera pond in Kyoto offers a contrast to the city's bustling markets.

of Japan's best-known sights, the Gion entertainment and geisha district, experience the past at Takayama's folk village or explore Kanazawa Castle.

Charleston, South Carolina. History lives in the genteel environs of Charleston, where visitors can stand on the site of the

first shot fired in the Civil War, tour an antebellum mansion or board a Second World War aircraft carrier. Fish off the pier, walk the beach, enjoy high-end restaurants, dockside oyster roasts, outdoor cafés and the best grits you'll ever have, according to the locals.

Barcelona, Spain. Barcelona combines culinary adventure with an exciting nightlife, culture and tradition, architecture, sun-drenched Mediterranean beaches and all things Picasso. La Rambla, a famous street for tourists, provides an intriguing taste of cultural centres, theatre and architecture. Architect Antoni Gaudí's La Sagrada Família is a must-see — the cathedral has been under construction for more than 100 years.

Florence, Italy. This small riverside city's beauty is rich and opulent. Narrow streets beguile and Renaissance architecture leaves one breathless. Intriguing shops yield their treasures, designer and otherwise, while art lives everywhere. Bars and eateries abound and year-round festivals serve up happy portions of tradition and culture.

Istanbul, Turkey. Istanbul's Grand Bazaar is the most visited attraction in the world, with more than 91 million visitors annually. It offers bargains galore for those who come to haggle and browse. Search for ceramics, intricate carpets, copperware, gold Byzantine-style jewelry, clothing and more. When it's time for a break, pause for a cup of strong Turkish coffee or a kebab.

Mexico City, Mexico. This World Heritage City offers so much culture. The Zócalo, officially the Plaza de la Constitución was once the centre of Aztec society and remains a hub of activity. Stroll through Chapultepec Park, visit ruins, museums and galleries, take in a plethora of events — cultural and otherwise — and indulge your palate with traditional foods.

New Orleans, Louisiana. There is something for everyone in this vibrant city. From amusement parks to zoos and everything in between, New Orleans has it.



What other city offers as much spectacle as New York City? And Manhattan's Times Square is its epicentre.

The city is most famous for its jazz and nightlife. Jazz clubs, music venues, bars and clubs will keep you partying all night. The city is also a gastronomic delight, particularly for Cajun and Creole cuisine.

Bangkok, Thailand. This modern city, where East greets West, exhibits plenty of tradition. Temples, palaces, a world-famous floating market, luxury hotels and lively Chinatown await travellers who want a taste of the exotic. The Grand Palace and Wat Phra Kaew are among Thailand's most important sacred sites. Khao San Road in the old city is the place to go for nightlife.

Vancouver, B.C. Tucked into B.C.'s most southwestern corner, Vancouver offers outdoor adventure and all the vitality of a thriving city. Enjoy Stanley Park, the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, Granville Island shopping and attractions, nightlife and casinos, concerts and theatre. Vancouver is the self-proclaimed culinary capital of Canada with a plethora of dining options and international cuisine.



Get outta town | Top 10 destinations Nature Lovers



Parque Nacional Torres del Paine in Patagonia, Chile, is considered by many to be Chile's most spectacular national park.

These travellers are like ecotourists in that they want to minimize their impact on the environment, but their primary travel goal is to enjoy nature. Their travel destinations include national parks and preserves, World Heritage Sites and places with good camping.

Jasper National Park, Alberta. The largest national park in the Canadian Rockies covers 10,878 square kilometres (4,200 square miles), with nearly 1,000 kilometres (621 miles) of hiking trails, thousands of campsites, rivers and lakes, glaciers, alpine meadows and the world's second-largest dark sky preserve. The park is home to an abundance of wildlife.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina and Tennessee. The United States' most-visited park gets its name

from the haze that settles in the vales. The Appalachian Trail bisects the 5.2 square kilometres (520,000 hectares) of Tennessee and North Carolina forest and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The park offers 1,280 kilometres (800 miles) of trails, plus camping, waterfalls, horseback riding and stunning vistas.

Yosemite National Park, California. This World Heritage Site was one of the first parks in the National Park Service. Mountain peaks dominate and are filled with giant sequoias, pine forests, crystalline lakes, waterfalls and abundant wildflowers. Hike, camp, or take a car ride through its breathtaking scenery.

Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, Japan. Southwest of Tokyo, Japan's most popular national park lies in the shadow of the

dormant volcano Mount Fuji, which is more than 3,660 metres (12,000 feet) high. See Lake Ashi, visit the ruins and shrines of old Japan and the geysers of Atami Hot-springs, enjoy the onsen baths, where hot volcanic water rises from underground.

Guilin and Lijiang River National Park, China. This park in southeastern China is renowned for its limestone region, which features caves, sinkholes and subterranean streams, limestone cones, cylinders and hills. The best way to view its breathtaking scenery is to take a boat trip along the Lijiang River, from Guilin to Yangshuo. Popular activities include cruises, hiking, hill climbing and photography.

Parque Nacional Torres del Paine, Patagonia, Chile. Considered by many to be South America's most spectacular national

park, Torres del Paine offers expansive views of glaciers, forests, lakes and look-outs. Hiking and trekking are among the favourite activities here. Some say the view of the immense glaciers of the Southern Patagonia Ice Field is unequalled!

Lake District National Park, England. Walk, cycle and drive through a region whose plunging valleys, granite boulders and 16 picturesque lakes inspired artists and writers such as J.M.W. Turner, William Wordsworth and Beatrix Potter. It is the birthplace of British mountaineering and

a delight for water sports enthusiasts, who can row, sail, windsurf, kayak and fish.

Serengeti National Park, Tanzania. The Serengeti National Park, prominent among African national parks and a World Heritage Site, is known for its annual wildebeest migrations, the single largest animal migration on Earth. It is a park for viewing — buffalo, elephants, giraffes, impalas, zebras, Grant's gazelles, lions, leopards and some of the most beautiful sunsets in the world.



Darwin's Slipper is a perennial found in Torres del Paine, Chile.

Tofino, B.C. The west coast of Vancouver Island is rugged and undeveloped, the perfect place to watch wildlife. Black bears feed along the coastline at low tide and whales can be seen year round. If you prefer more active pursuits, try surfing, sailing or hiking.



A grey-crowned crane in Serengeti National Park, Tanzania.

Magdalen Islands, Quebec. The Magdalen Islands present a heritage experience like no other, rich with the music of Les Îles, artisans, performing arts and theatre, festivals and cultural events. After busy days of sea kayaking, snorkelling, sailing, horseback riding or sightseeing, enjoy the region's exquisite cuisine and locally crafted liquors.



Yosemite National Park in California is known for its waterfalls.



Get outta town | Top 10 destinations Adventurers

Adventure travellers aren't just those who look for the excitement of risking life and limb through daring activities that would scare the beebeers out of the rest of us. They also look for destinations that focus on physical activity and new experiences, rather than relaxation.

Zavkhan Province, Mongolia. Take a 21-day journey by horseback, camel and on foot through the steppes, mountains and desert of a remote region of Mongolia. Start the journey with a three-day drive from Ulaanbaatar on the notorious roads of Mongolia to begin your adventure across Zavkhan, where you will immerse yourself in the nomadic culture of the region.

Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Alabama. Scuba-certified adventurers will love this. Southern Alabama has more than 17,000 artificial reefs, including the *Lulu*, the first whole-ship artificial reef created in the state for recreational diving. The former freighter sits upright at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico, and is now home to scallops, sea urchin, snapper, grouper and abundant other fish.

Khutzymateen Provincial Park, Skeena-Queen Charlotte, British Columbia. Don't forget your binoculars and camera when you visit Canada's only grizzly bear sanctuary. It is rugged and way off the beaten track, accessible by small boat or plane and only when guided by a permitted outfitter. The sanctuary protects an estimated 50 grizzlies. Camp at your own risk.

Rio Futaleufu, Chile. Raft on the Futaleufu River as it flows westward to Chile past snow-capped volcanoes, through rich rainforest and pristine wilderness to race into deep canyons on its way to the coast. The white water is without equal in the world; rapids range from Class 2 to Class 4/5.

Hacienda Zuleta, Imbabura, Ecuador. High-altitude Andean horseback riding at this working ranch and ecolodge will put you on trails 2,740 to 3,350 metres (9,000



Adventurers can swim with the sharks at Isla Guadalupe, Mexico.

to 11,000 feet) above sea level, through forests, indigenous villages and pre-Inca sites. The ranch's distinctive Zuleteño horses will take good care of you — they are acclimated to the altitude and skilfully traverse the challenging terrain.

Kilimanjaro National Park, Tanzania. Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest peak (5,900 metres / 19,340 feet) and one of the largest volcanoes in the world. Girdled by mountain forest, it looms over

the expansive savannah surrounding it. To prepare to reach the "roof of Africa," guides, who are compulsory, recommend following a fitness program of progressive weight resistance and hiking. Lots of hiking.

Antarctica. This is not your average cruise. Combine a cruise to the bottom of the Earth with ice climbing and scuba diving. Expedition-style ships with ice-strengthened hulls provide comfortable, safe travel



Combine a cruise to Antarctica with ice climbing and scuba diving. Expedition-style ships let you see the bottom of the Earth while minimizing the impact on the environment.



You can do high-altitude horseback riding at a working ranch called Hacienda Zuleta in Imbabura, Ecuador.

and accommodations while giving you a front-row seat to viewing the breathtaking beauty of Antarctica with minimal impact on the environment. Qualified expedition leaders and experienced naturalists are your guides.

Mount Thor, Auyuittuq National Park, Baffin Island, Nunavut. Not the highest, but the steepest mountain of all, Thor is made of solid granite and has a vertical drop of 1,250 metres (4,100 feet,) with an average angle of 105 degrees. The landscape is almost entirely rock and ice.

Though remote, it is popular with avid mountain climbers. Auyuittuq is pronounced ow-you-we-took.

Isla Guadalupe, Mexico. Double-dog dare you to swim with white sharks! This area is the world's top white-shark cage-diving destination. Shark conservation diving is a way to study the fascinating species. From the safety (yes, we said safety) of a shark cage, divers get up close and per-



Canada's only grizzly bear sanctuary is located in British Columbia's Kluane National Park.



You can fly a T-33 that looks like this one from the U.S. Air Force, in Waterloo, Ont.

sonal with the big fish, some of whom have been tagged, including Shredder (4.5 metres / 15 feet) and Bruce (4.9 metres / 16 feet).

An airfield near you. If you think you have the right stuff, you can be a fighter pilot for a day. This is not a simulation, but an actual (accompanied) flying experience, with ground school and a flight in a fighter aircraft such as the T-33 (Waterloo, Ont.), MiG-29 (Nizhny Novgorod, Russia), and L-39 (Tampa, Florida; Los Angeles, California; Eifel, Germany; Prague, Czech Republic).



Get outta town | Top 10 destinations Hikers and Trekkers

These folks are in it for the long walk. Hikers and trekkers like to experience culture and landscapes by becoming part of them.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco. Get in touch with nature and 200 years of history in this expansive recreation area outside San Francisco. It includes the Presidio, an 18th-Century military post. Beaches, cliffs, hills, forts and giant redwoods are found within the recreation area, which comprises 19 eco-systems and is home to more than 1,200 plant and animal species.

Nahanni National Park Reserve, Northwest Territories. Spectacular hiking is accessible by boat from the river through the South Nahanni region to places with colourful names such as Hole-in-the-Wall Lake and Sunblood Mountain. There are no established trails in the park, but popular routes have become well-defined.

Zermatt Mountains, Switzerland. There are several routes (total 400 kilometres/248 miles) to take through the Zermatt Mountains, but the 5-Seenweg (Five Lakes Walk) is in a class of its own. It presents delightful views of the lakes, two of which reflect the Matterhorn, and plenty of variety along the way. Its difficulty rating is medium.

Monte Cervino, Valais, Italy and Switzerland. Better known as the Matterhorn, its Swiss name. Each face offers multiple routes on four main ridges. The northeast Hörnligrat Ridge is the easiest way to the summit. The southwest Italian Ridge has fixed ropes to assist trekkers. The northwest Zmuttgrat is the longest, but often in poor condition because of its northern exposure. Furggengrat, the southeast ridge, is extremely difficult and rarely taken.

John Muir Way, Scotland. Opened in 2014, it's a 215-kilometre (133-mile) path across Scotland, from Dunbar on the east coast (Muir's birthplace) and west past North Berwick Law, a volcanic remnant jutting out of the earth, and Loch Lomond,



Empty beaches, sand dunes and maybe whales and dolphins are all on view in Bay of Fires, Australia.

the largest freshwater lake (by surface area) in Britain. The Highland views of moors, hills and lowering skies reveal the Scotland one sees in movies.

Rhine River, Germany. Take a walking holiday along the Rhine River, exploring the Rheinstieg, a marked trail on the eastern bank of the river. See castles on the clifftops and within forests, charming villages, medieval towns as well as



The Zermatt Mountains in Switzerland offer excellent climbing opportunities.

vineyards and splendid river views. The legendary Loreley Rock will be on your route.

Alentejo, Portugal. This wild coast hiking area in southwestern Portugal offers terrific scenery, a view of storks' nests on the cliffs and an opportunity to be part of

authentic rural life. Rota Vicentina, one of Europe's newest hiking paths, covers 214 kilometres (133 miles) of Alentejo, from rugged coastline to countryside.

Bay of Fires, Australia. Traverse the remote and dramatic Tasmanian landscape through a series of short walks along the edge of Mount William National Park on Tasmania's east coast. You'll explore empty beaches, coves, sand dunes and perhaps see whales spouting and dolphins playing offshore. In the nearby woodlands, you'll be greeted by the region's endemic black cockatoo.

Kamchatka Volcanoes, Russia. Take two weeks to explore the wilderness of the Kamchatka Peninsula, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Warm up with a 12-hour hike into the crater of the Mutnovsky active volcano through a crack in the volcano's edge. Those who've seen it describe the view as "alarming and fantastic." Hike the craters of the Gorely volcano, Plosky Tolbachik volcano and the site of the Tolbachik eruption.

Macchu Picchu, Sacred Valley, Cusco Region, Peru. While there is a train to take visitors to the most-visited site in Peru, those who are fit, adventurous and enjoy stunning views can take a multi-day trip on foot along a trail to the plateau. The 15th-Century "Lost City of the Incas" is renowned for its dry-stone walls made without mortar.



Get outta town | Top 10 destinations

Beach lovers



Gold Coast is a modern city edged by magnificent beaches and great surfing.

Beach lovers may be said to have a case of Tahiti Syndrome. Their idea of a perfect vacation involves sand, sun, surf, sea creatures and often palm trees.

The Seychelles Islands, Indian Ocean. Each beach you visit is more beautiful than the last, from Anse à la Mouche on the southwestern coast of Mahé to Petit Anse on La Digue and Grand Anse on Praslin. Be sure to check out your destination before you go — some beaches are for swimming and diving, some only for sunbathing and picnicking.

The Hamptons, Long Island, New York State. How to choose from among the beaches of the Hamptons? Depends on what you expect. Family activity? Check out Indian Wells or Mecox. Crave quiet time? Go to Wainscott. Think you're young and hip? Opt for Flying Point or Gibson. Just looking for a generally beachy beach? Main Beach is for you.

Prince Edward Island. Canada's smallest province has miles of lovely and distinctive beaches. For singing sand (really),



The Hamptons offer family activities, quiet time and young and hip destinations as well.

go to Basin Head. Clam diggers will love Pinette or Tea Hill. Seven provincial parks offer camping and beaches and if you like company on the sand, go to Prince Edward Island National Park, where Cavendish and Brackley beaches are popular.

Phi Phi Islands, Thailand. A 90-minute ferry ride from the island of Phuket gets you to the Phi Phi Islands, which feature limestone cliffs surrounding secluded beaches and brilliant turquoise water. Ko Phi Phi Don is the largest island, much of which is a protected marine reserve. Swim, dive, snorkel or relax on the sand.

Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. Surf's up! Gold Coast is a modern city edged by superb beaches. The area has some of Australia's best surfing along its 70 kilometres (43 miles) of beaches; its consistent waves play host to many international surfing competitions. Whether you're a rookie mounting your first board or a professional surfer, you'll catch your wave here.



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Phi Phi Islands, Thailand, feature limestone cliffs surrounding secluded beaches and brilliant turquoise water.

Maldives. With 1,102 islands making up the Maldives and forming 26 atolls, finding the beach of your dreams might be a matter of too much choice. Relax under the palms at a four-star beach resort, dive with the tropical fish, surf, play water-sports — it's all waiting for you on these magnificent beaches straddling the equator southwest of Sri Lanka.



Maldives offers excellent snorkelling and scuba diving.

St. Barts, Caribbean Sea. Although the island is only 13 kilometres (eight miles) long, St. Bart's stands out among the many Caribbean islands. It offers tranquil white beaches, lovely hotels and villas, excellent French restaurants and abundant

activity. Its 20 beaches and many small coves for swimmers and sunbathers is a beach lover's haven.

Langkawi, Malaysia. "Langkawai" means "the land of one's wishes." If one wishes uncrowded sand beaches, clear waters and captivating scenery, Langkawi is the place to visit. Langkawi is an archipelago of 104 islands on the Andaman Seas. It has a history as a reputed pirate refuge and rich cultural legends. It is also a shopping haven. Win-win!

Kauna'oa Beach, Hawaii. The half-kilometre-long beach on the west side of the Big Island of Hawaii is typically Hawaiian. Crescent-shaped, with white sand, palm trees and calm, clear water partially protected by a natural reef, it is perfect for swimming, sunbathing, snorkelling or riding boogie boards. Enjoy the beach with a view of the Mauna Kea volcano.

Bora Bora, Tahiti. Aah, Tahiti! The French Polynesian islands in the South Pacific are magical. They exert a calming influence found nowhere else, urging one to relax and appreciate their verdant nature. Bora Bora, the Romantic Island, is only 29 kilometres (18 miles) long, with an exquisite lagoon. It is the beach lover's paradise, with isolated white sand beaches, turquoise waters and gently swaying palms.

Laura Neilson Bonikowsky is an Alberta writer and traditional tourist/nature lover/history buff/photographer/beach lover.

Little summer fests that can

By Patrick Langston

No question about it: Bluesfest, Chamberfest, CityFolk (the new name for the Ottawa Folk Festival) are big and fun. Myriad performers, multiple stages, throngs of joyful fans — it's summer in the city to the max.

But more modest festivals, whether spotlighting music, puppets or something else entirely, also abound and offer a different experience.

"It's the intimacy, the closeness you don't feel at larger festivals," that draws folks to smaller events, says John McKenty of Perth's long-running Stewart Park music festival. There's that, plus the chance to chat with the artists and maybe visit places, whether in Ottawa or in the Valley, that you might not otherwise see.

Here's a sampling of other festivals:



The Kingdom of Osgoode Medieval Festival features a medieval market and actual jousting.

Kingdom of Osgoode Medieval Festival, Osgoode, July 11-12, 5673 Main St.
No really, it's true: There's a festival that includes jousting (The Knights of Valour on horseback), dancing (definitely not twerking), a murder mystery (Brother Cantfail is the sleuth), and a medieval market (includes chainmail jewelry). Tickets: starting at \$6. 613-443-9090.
www.osgoodemedievalfestival.com

**Stewart Park Festival
Perth, July 17-19**
Dave Gunning, Catherine MacLellan (her

latest album, *The Raven's Sun*, is receiving accolades) and the Boxcar Boys join a host of other musicians for this fest on the banks of the Tay River. There are three stages this year, one of them licensed. Tickets: daytime, by donation; \$10-\$20 for evening shows at indoor venues.

www.stewartparkfestival.com

**Kemptville Live Musical Festival
Kemptville, July 24-26**

It's just debuting, but this upstart festival of country, rock, roots and blues on the grounds of Kemptville College hasn't stinted on talent. Tom Cochrane, Murray McLauchlan, Lynn Miles and Monkey Junk — all Juno winners — number among the performers. Kemptville food tip: sausage rolls at Grahame's Bakery and butter tarts at The Crusty Baker. Tickets: from \$20.
www.kemptvillelivemusicfestival.com

**Bytown Days
Rideau Canal Locks by the Bytown Museum, July 30-Aug. 3**

The newly expanded festival (from one day to four) celebrates the building of the canal and Bytown with everything from heritage food and music to guided tours. This year, look for increased attention to Francophone and aboriginal communities. Includes free admission to that little gem, the Bytown Museum. Tickets: some free, some ticketed events. 1-844-256-2466.
www.bytowndays.ca

**Canalfest
Merrickville, Aug. 1-3, Blockhouse Park**
A celebration of the marvelous Rideau Canal system, this shindig at Blockhouse Park features live music (Celtic, jazz and rock), clowns, crafts and Voyageur canoe rides to the Rideau Bird Sanctuary. The Blockhouse Museum is an unassuming delight. Tickets: free (donation at museum).
www.merrickvillecanalfest.ca

Puppets Up! International Puppet Festival, Almonte, Aug. 7-9
Always sizable in personality, puppets commandeer Almonte for this colourful festival. Parades, a workshop and 12 puppet shows make the festival a family affair. Look for sock puppets, marionettes and some bigger guys. Day passes: from \$10.
<http://puppetsup.ca>

Calabogie Blues & Ribfest

Calabogie Peaks Resort, Aug. 14-16
Ribs and the blues: a union made in heaven. Heck, you can even camp at the resort. This year's lineup includes easy-going Keb' Mo', electric blues vocalist Shemekia Copeland, and Toronto's Juno-toting blues-roots boys, Fathead. Tickets: from \$21.25. 1-800-669-4861.
www.calabogieblues.com



Lumière Festival combines lantern light, live entertainment and a family atmosphere.

**Lumière Festival
Ottawa, Aug. 15**

Lantern light, live entertainment and a family atmosphere transform New Edinburgh Park into a late-summer spectacle each year. Attend a pre-festival lantern-making workshop and then bring your creation to the festival, where the lantern theme this year is super-heroes. Tickets: free (donation to performers). 613-745-2742.
www.lumiereottawa.com

**House of Paint
Ottawa, Sept. 10-14**

Journey under the Bronson Overpass (AKA the Dunbar Bridge) near Carleton University to join the 12th annual incarnation of this hip-hop festival toasting urban arts and culture. Look for graffiti artists, DJs and MCs, break dancing, a barbecue, a kids' corner and workshops. Tickets: Saturday, free; charge possible for some other events.
www.houseofpaint.ca

Travel security: playing it safe

By Jessie Reynolds O'Neil



When travelling internationally, be sure to check to see if you require a visa. Even if you don't plan on leaving the airport, a visa can be required for your layover.

The thrill of travel far outweighs the risks for most common destinations — given their huge influx of tourists each year. Forget the lure of the safe backyard barbecue and Sunday drives. For the restless, the curious and for the adventurous, there is no substitute for seeing and doing afar and coming home with a broader mind and irreplaceable memories.

Often, basic alertness to your surroundings is a fine protection against crime. Many holidays abroad carry the possibil-

ity of low-level offences, such as petty theft or minor assault; however, some locations have more dangerous situations, which can change drastically and suddenly, depending on the country's social and political climate.

The Government of Canada's regularly updated travel advisory page offers a country-by-country search or map view of threat ratings. As of the date of publication, 10 countries are red-flagged as "avoid all travel" (travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories). In addition, approximately

100 require high degrees of caution. Of these, several are popular tourist destinations at which people by the millions still manage to have wonderful, safe holidays: Mexico, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Dominican Republic, Thailand and Peru.

Beyond obvious safeguards:

- Ensure your purse or wallet is secure and positioned to avoid pickpocketing;
- Put a small amount of cash or change in your pocket to avoid cracking open your wallet for small purchases;

- Don't wear/bring expensive-looking jewelry or purses;
- Depending on the culture, don't look directly into strangers' eyes;
- Use a heavy-duty luggage lock to protect against theft (more as a deterrent than actual prevention method.) The alternative is having your suitcase wrapped in cellophane at the airport;
- Be aware of your surroundings when using an automated banking machine. Try to avoid using machines that are directly on a street, especially in the evening.

At all three stages of travel — prior to departure, while travelling, and upon return — simple precautions take little effort and offer a high return on that minor investment.

Before you go

Plan with one eye to the news: Familiarize yourself with recent and upcoming events and political or social changes at your destination. Monitor online media for updated information. For example, this summer, visitors to the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games will descend on Toronto. This en masse arrival will create crowds, transportation delays and city-wide disruptions. This, in turn, can affect rates of related crimes, such as pickpocketing, assault and unruly gatherings. While these games are highly publicized in Canada and the Americas, overseas tourists may arrive here to a big surprise.

In less stable countries and economies, federal elections may trigger violence or riots. Also, national holidays may impact provision of reliable transportation, health care and other critical services for travellers.

Immunizations and medicine

Once the destination and timing are set, research your destination with respect to medical immunization and travel requirements. Certain yellow fever-prone areas, including South America and sub-Saharan Africa, require travellers to carry their yellow immunization card with them. Frequently, malaria-prevention medicine is also recommended for the same areas.

Photocopy your medical prescriptions and pack medications together in clearly labelled bottles. Travelling with Ziploc bags full of unlabelled and mixed medication, so tempting when packing in a rush, can result in confiscation, uncomfortable questioning in windowless rooms, or imprisonment. In Malaysia and Singapore, airports are full of signs providing explicit warnings relating to illicit drugs (or drugs

suspected of being illicit). And as countries such as these practise capital punishment, come prepared with small amounts of clearly labelled and document-supported medication.

Documentation and emergency contents

In addition to obtaining required visas, taking digital photos of all trip documentation — such as itineraries and booking confirmations — ensure that someone is aware of your travel plans. In truly unstable or dangerous environments, arrange phone check-ins with this person at the same time each day. This guarantees

[dex_en.htm](#)), as do other countries and associations. An often-overlooked element is the layover destination. In terms of practicality, confirm if a visa is needed for your layover. Even if you don't plan on leaving the airport, in many cases, a transit visa is required.

Some airlines also make unannounced stops in higher-risk areas, either to board additional passengers or to refuel. A friend was recently on an Ethiopian Airlines flight from Toronto to Harare, which was billed as having only one layover, but it stopped in Addis Ababa and then made a second landing in Rome without that



Diplomat Robert Fowler was kidnapped in Niger and held captive for more than four months.

that — in the event of a debilitating health or security problem — tracking, recovery or investigation can start within 24 hours of the incident. It also helps embassy or police staff establish a timeline.

Research your airline

When booking airline travel, especially to an African or Asian destination, confirm that the airline is not on any banned lists. The European Commission tracks this information ([information being pre-announced. Once boarded, travellers have no power to refuse to go to this destination, regardless of its safety or security situation.](http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/safety/air-ban/in-</p>
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While travelling

Are we there yet? The highest vulnerability point of a trip comes when you're in transit. Airports, offices, hotels, tourist destinations, shopping areas and national parks all offer some form of security. It may be police, private security companies or the informal security offered by a

crowd — after all, there is safety in numbers. When travelling between two points, people have a handful of options: public transportation, taxi, walking, a driver (usually for business travel), or unlicensed cab. Locals generally know the safest way to travel and many will provide this advice freely.

The onus still rests on the traveller to inquire about the best option; often front desk staff at reputable hotels will offer guidance. But as we're in the middle of the Airbnb revolution (Airbnb is a global,

to the stickers adorning these vehicles (the Transformers toy and movie franchise seems to be the most popular at the moment) than to the lines painted on the road or the requirement to look forward while driving. Therefore, public transportation is effectively not an option.

Inconveniently, most South African taxi companies are also seen as unsafe — but more for personal security reasons than safety. That leaves you with a self-drive option or using a designated driver or chauffeur company. Narrowing your

rier, lack of a GPS and map, it took more than an hour of white-knuckle driving and asking for directions before I was able to return home without coming up against the protest.

Kidnapping: statistics and avoidance

Kidnapping is another risk encountered almost exclusively while in transit, and is categorized as a higher-impact, lower-likelihood security threat. Often financially motivated, it can also be ideological (in the case of the latter, outcomes are not as optimistic). Financial kidnappers may telephone their demand for payment in exchange for the victim's safe return, or they may ask the victim to withdraw money from an automatic banking machine, usually at the daily withdrawal limit.

Kidnapping may be a crime of convenience (intercepting a person as they leave a bank) or a highly planned act. Adjusting your daily routine and route, even if by 10 minutes, is a useful foil.

Statistics on kidnapping rates by country are available online, including on the Australian government's Smart Traveller website (www.smarttraveller.gov.au).

Handling hotel risks

Temporary lodging, often hotels, has its own set of risks. Unlike kidnapping, hotels are classed as being higher-likelihood and lower-impact for risks usually involving theft, armed robbery, breaking and entering or assault. Several simple precautions at the time of booking or check-in will reduce those risks. First, avoid the ground floor of a hotel as it's more likely that non-hotel guests will have access to this area. Second, travel with a small rubber doorstep. As many hotel employees have universal room keys (which can also be taken from them and used by non-employees to gain access), a chain lock and doorstep can provide additional safety measures that are controlled solely from the inside of the room.

Last comes the endless debate over the room safe: to use it or not to use it? I use it, despite the fact that some can be picked up and carried out of the room or opened with a master key or simple tools. Many hotels have an insurance policy that covers contents of a safe, but not items stealthily stashed around the room. Also, hotels don't have many quality hiding spots. Put valuable items in the safe and take a photo documenting what's there before you lock it. The real question becomes: what is safer — the hotel room or carrying valuable items (jewelry, passport)



Certain places in South Africa, such as this one on the N4 near Witbank, feature signs warning of vehicle hijackings.

independent person-to-person lodging rental company), accommodations are no longer always in recognized international hotels. But don't let that stop you from walking into the local Hilton or Shangri-La lobby to ask for their advice on safe transit methods. Alternatively, ask your Airbnb host.

In South Africa, for example, public transportation is operated by mini buses or extended cab vans that are hailed by showing a number of fingers, each one indicating a different destination. These vans, packed with passengers, are driven incredibly recklessly and are involved in numerous accidents and countless near-misses. More attention seems to be paid

options even further, self-driving in South Africa is also not recommended for people who are unaware of the dangerous parts of the country's roadway system. Certain intersections are plastered with signs warning against vehicle hijackings, where thieves use spark plugs to shatter windows as you slow for a required stop or yield sign.

Driving in Chile offered a fast lesson in knowing the political situation on the street — literally. Unaware of the massive student protests going on, I was caught up in a large and uncontrolled crowd at dusk. Trying to evade the throng, I took several unfamiliar turns and ended up in a dark industrial area. With a slight language bar-

with you for the day?

Another simple precaution: Limit the number of people coming in and out of your room, especially in hotels that do not inspire a sense of confidence. For example, room-cleaning service is not truly needed daily and can be limited to every few days. This has the added benefit of being the environmentally friendly option. Hang the Do-Not-Disturb sign outside your room. You can also request cleaning at a specific time when you're still in the room.

When travelling, I am perpetually amazed by the careless way people treat their private information. Never is this more obvious than during check-in at a hotel. The complete strangers waiting in line behind you could be a captive audience to your conversation with the check-in clerk. Would you announce your home address to these people? If not, perhaps ask the clerk to simply hand you the hotel room card and envelope with the room number written on it instead of loudly and clearly enunciating this information. I'm most keenly aware of this when travelling alone.

Female travellers

Feminist or not, the discussion of women travelling alone is an important one and touches on a basic dissimilarity between men and women: the perceived difference in strength and defensive abilities between the genders. Maybe you took martial arts, are a professional boxer and carry mace or brass knuckles. (Note: Avoid carrying any weapon that could feasibly be taken from you and subsequently used against you by an assailant.) However, even a woman with solid self-defence skills is perceived as being more defenceless than a man, and therefore is more likely to be targeted. Also, worldwide cultural views of women differ. In Canada, we can expect to be seen as equals in (almost) all



Take photos of the valuable items you put in the hotel safe before you lock it.

aspects of our lives, but this is not the case globally. Many countries have fewer laws and cultural prohibitions against assaulting women, either verbally, physically or sexually.

While in university, I visited London, England, with several girlfriends as part of a multi-stop European tour. After dinner one evening, while walking along a busy street, we were told by several men that a better route to our destination was on a side street. Thinking it was as populated, well-lit and busy as the road we were on, we took the advice. After a few minutes, we noticed that the people who had given us the advice had split into two groups, one walking in front of us and one walking behind. Bending to tie my shoe and see how the latter group responded, I noticed that they hung back rather than pass us. We stopped walking and, silently signalling one another with raised eye-

brows and eye movements, we ducked into the nearest restaurant and phoned a taxi.

Intuition plays a large role in staying safe, as do simple tests of your environment. If someone seems to be following you, take a few unusual turns to test that theory. Placid acceptance of a situation that "feels wrong," based on the desire not to behave in an unusual manner or draw attention to oneself can be dangerous.

Police perils

Approaching local police in London would also have been a good alternative, as London has a similar public security structure to Canada's and police there have a good reputation. However, in higher-risk countries, police can pose as much of a threat as the criminals. Where the rule of law is lax, police may use their position of power to detain vulnerable

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people, extort bribes or assault individuals with impunity. In these situations, it becomes a case-by-case judgment call: If an alternative exists that provides a reasonable expectation of safety, it may be better to avoid involving the police, and instead rely on informal protections — crowds, busy tourist attractions, or large, busy hotels and restaurants.

Several years ago, while driving south from San Diego towards Rosarito in Mexico's Baja California Peninsula on a family vacation, we crossed the border into Mexico. Unlike the incredibly busy and strict border crossing that heads into the U.S., the Mexican border control was, at the time, non-existent, except for a welcome sign. We sailed through, past a sign advising drivers about car insurance.

Very soon, we were pulled over by a police officer who asked us to produce rental car insurance papers for Mexico. We didn't know rental car agreements in the U.S. did not include insurance across the border. A well-established performance ensued: This officer proceeded to "call his superior officer." A fellow officer arrived moments later on a motorcycle. Listening gravely to the first officer's report, he assured us that he didn't want to confiscate the car and hold us overnight in a Tijuana

prison. The only way to avoid this was to pay a fine on the spot. The police officer stuck his head right inside the driver's window, reached in, and took all of our cash.

He then guaranteed our immunity from further pursuit by the law by making a note in the system that we were not to be stopped again. Not reassured by this, we said we were returning immediately to the U.S. and meekly requested a \$20 bill back in order to pay for water and gas before getting in the two-hour lineup to return to the U.S. We ended our short-lived Mexican holiday with a police motorcycle escort, complete with flashing lights, to the U.S. border.

After the trip

If you don't feel well upon your return, take action. For example, after visiting a tropical location, especially where there is malaria or yellow-fever, if you have flu symptoms or other malaise, such as digestive problems, act on them. Malaria test kits (for home use) are sold in many destinations and are a useful thing to have at home upon return. Symptoms can be delayed. If your doctor isn't taking your recent travel into account and is dismissing the illness as minor, you can insist on

additional tests or consult a travel medicine specialist.

Check bank statements regularly for several months after your trip to ensure that you were not defrauded while traveling and that no unusual charges have appeared on your account. Banks will often flag international expenses and call you to confirm that you are travelling. You can avoid unlawful post-vacation charges by advising your bank and credit card provider of your travel return date.

International travel, especially to unusual destinations, is one of life's great joys. Some degree of culture shock often produces the most memorable trips. Calculate risk in these journeys, and then travel wholeheartedly. Just prepare for the destination you're visiting, and go there with eyes wide open.

Jessie Reynolds O'Neil lives in Toronto, and worked for four years as the senior security analyst for Barrick Gold Corp. She trained employees on security for international travel, and currently provides contract services relating to security, investigations, international industry software systems, data analytics and legal ethics and compliance programs. She travels whenever she can.

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The trouble with tribalism

By Joe Landry



NATO soldiers speak to tribal elders in Afghanistan.

For as long as humans have existed, there have been tribes. Indeed, it is our ability to co-operate as members of discrete groups that has allowed for the resounding success of the species as a whole. Yet, in the modern, interconnected and globalized world, tribalism — which, at its base level, represents a separation of “us” versus “them” — has the ability to bind us closer together and drive us further apart, depending on how the phenomenon manifests itself.

The rise of the internet has, for example, allowed individuals from every corner of the globe to connect over shared interests, yet the expansion of Western culture has also resulted in a backlash in some traditional communities that feel their way of life and cultural values are being threatened. This paradox exemplifies the trouble with tribalism — it acts as a positive way in which humans build empathy with others and a flashpoint for conflicts new and old.

Determining what exactly constitutes a tribe is a difficult proposition. In the past, tribes were based on kinship and family traditions. Currently, ethnic groups and religious identities can be considered the strongest forms of tribalism. They are the ones that drive cohesion and conflict.

It is critical to recognize that there are no set rules on what exactly makes a society “tribal,” given the great diversity within and between tribes, yet they have common characteristics. Tribes are necessary to secure resources, such as access to land for farming or grazing activities. Competition over resources leads communities to work together, creating mutually beneficial arrangements and loyalty to one another. But tribes are complex social systems and they don’t remain static for long; allegiances can change quickly with shocks from within the community or those imposed from outside. At the same time, politics, religion, family life and community engagement are all closely

intertwined. Reputation is extremely important, as is the concept of honour.

Tribalism alive and well

To be sure, in fragile and failed states, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (to name but a few prominent examples), tribalism in the more traditional sense is alive and well. This occurs when there is no central authority and the state lacks the capability and the will to enforce the rule of law within its borders, so individuals take charge of their own security by turning to those closest to them. Tribes are the only de facto social organizations in these societies and hence are very attractive to individuals.

Moreover, one of the biggest concerns stemming from the entrenchment of tribalism in the Middle East is the fact that members of Islamist extremist groups usually come from societies with strong tribal traditions. Recruitment of young

men with little to no future prospects, who have also been raised in tribal societies, has proven to be easy. Many Taliban recruits in Pakistan, for example, are Afghan refugees with little education and no employment opportunities. Often they have been cut off from their tribe by forced displacement or various other reasons; joining an extremist group then represents a new start.

One prominent example of how tribalism can lead to international conflict and insecurity is currently playing out in Yemen. The Houthis tribe developed in the early 1990s as a small religious movement preaching peace in the north of the country. Over time, it has grown into a full-fledged insurgency, recently taking over the capital city, Sanaa, in the south and forcing the government from power. The movement capitalized on widespread discontent due to rising fuel prices and unemployment.

The stunning rise to power of this small, but organized tribal movement has in turn led to a proxy war between Shia and Sunni countries in the region — namely Iran, which supports the Houthis, and Saudi Arabia, which supports the ousted government. Saudi Arabia has been conducting airstrikes and providing funding to forces loyal to the Yemeni government. There is currently a call for a ceasefire and power-sharing talks, however the conflict shows little sign of abating any time soon. Now a massive humanitarian catastrophe has been created, illustrating how tribalism can have severe and far-reaching consequences.

Tribalism as political system

On the other hand, tribalism can also lead to co-operation, even when there has been conflict in the past. Generally speaking, there are three main ways that this can occur. In the first, tribal elites and politicians develop patronage networks. In these cases, common in sub-Saharan Africa, politicians typically originate from one of the main regional tribes. These leaders then build connections with other tribal leaders across the country, promising to provide access to key resources in exchange for political support. Leaders in countries such as Kenya, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire have successfully managed to build stable regimes through such arrangements. They form the main economic and social mechanisms in many African countries, because the formal institutions are too weak to perform the same functions as would be expected in the industrialized world.

The second way in which tribalism can

be harnessed is if there is unity against an outside enemy, often out of necessity. Such events have unfolded in Afghanistan multiple times over recent decades. Tribes in Afghanistan have overcome their ancient rivalries to fight against an external threat, whether it be the British, the Soviets, or, more recently, the American-led coalition forces. Having a foreign threat allows leaders of tribes to look past their previous conflicts and fight “for the greater good.”

This pattern is interesting because Afghanistan does not operate as a state in the traditional sense. Huge swaths of territory are left uncontrolled by any government forces. Cultural experts embedded with U.S. troops famously showed maps of the country to tribal leaders, with the leaders



An Arbore women from Ethiopia.

having no idea what the map was supposed to represent. To them, their tribal lands are all that matters and hastily drawn up borders have little to no bearing on their day-to-day life or personal identities.

The third way in which traditionally tribal societies can be wooed into working together is by emphasizing their commonalities in a positive way. Tanzania is one of the best examples of such co-operation. With the same population as Canada (35 million), residing in an area slightly smaller than the province of Ontario, Tanzania boasts staggering diversity. There are more than 125 ethno-linguistic groups throughout the country, yet con-

licts between these groups are incredibly rare, and overall, they live in harmony. In addition, large populations of Christians and Muslims live side by side without problems. On the whole, people tend to identify as “Tanzanian” first and as part of their tribe second.

This shift was achieved after independence because the country’s first president, Julius Nyerere, emphasized and promoted use of the national language of Swahili and created a strong national identity based on the ideas of unity and freedom. Hence, while individuals still rely on their tribal linkages for their day-to-day life and politics, it is not seen as a flashpoint for conflict. Rather, they identify neighbours of different tribes as fellow countrymen. Overall, this has led to Tanzania representing an ideal state in sub-Saharan Africa when it comes to ethnic peace and societal cohesion. While the country has a long way to go in terms of economic development, many lessons can be learned from this unique form of co-operation.

A fine balance

Tribalism is alive and well even in today’s modern world. As societies continue to globalize and become more interconnected, balancing tribal instincts will become more difficult. The Aga Khan may have put this best: “[T]he great problem of humankind in a global age will be to balance and reconcile the two impulses of which I have spoken: the quest for distinctive identity and the search for global coherence ... I believe that the co-existence of these two surging impulses ... will be a central challenge for educational leaders in the years ahead.” This quote illustrates the fact that humans will have to find a way to identify with the groups closest to us while still building empathy for others who do not fit into those groups.

By improving our understanding of the mechanisms underlying the tribalistic impulse, we can better harness these drives for positive development. Simultaneously, it is vital to understand how tribalism operates to prevent its negative aspects, such as terrorism and civil conflict, from erupting and creating chaos.

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With U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden looking on, Ambassador Heyman delivers remarks at his swearing-in ceremony.

Emphasizing the positive

One year into his mission, U.S. Ambassador Bruce Heyman admits he's an optimist to a fault, but that's always stood him in good stead in the past. He hopes it will in Canada as well.

By Donna Jacobs

His first year as U.S. ambassador has just passed. How has former investment banker and Goldman Sachs executive Bruce Heyman adapted to highly public life in his new job? "I guess you just do," he says. "It's the Bruce Heyman world of Darwinian thought: It's not the smartest that survive. It's not strongest that survive. It's those who are most adaptable to change. I feel that I'm not the strongest or the smartest. But I'm pretty adaptable to change and that's served me well over time."

Heyman agreed to an interview in the ambassadorial residence's informal living room, with its black leather sofas and chairs, fireplace and bookshelves filled with photos and mementos. Presiding over the room with a wall to itself hangs a giant picture of President Barack Obama. Heyman ranged from smooth sailing (seven U.S. cabinet secretaries, seven governors and 11 trade delegations have come to Canada — and counting) to rough patches, to his favourite dessert.

Ambassador Heyman likes to walk around Ottawa. His RCMP security detail also gets a workout while the ambassador gets to unwind and think. Taking a break to walk is the exception to his work-driven, meeting-heavy and travel-intensive life.

Or, as he puts it: "I have a limited

amount of time as an ambassador. I try to take advantage of every minute of every day and every opportunity I possibly can take — make every minute count."

With a background in finance, Heyman is unusual, in that politically appointed ambassadors rarely arrive with previous work experience in Canada. He spent eight years as regional manager for Goldman Sachs' Midwest private wealth management business. His territory covered 11 states, from Montana through Ohio, and from Alberta through Toronto. He retired last year from the Chicago office as partner after 34 years, in order to become ambassador.

A snow-shovelling, lawn-mowing entrepreneur from ages 11 to 17, he moved right into his sales career, honing his skills at Ohio department and surplus stores. In Nashville, Tenn., he made submarine sandwiches, did more retail work and earned a BA at Vanderbilt University. The following year (1980), he graduated with an MBA and started work at Goldman Sachs in New York City.

He was born in Elmira, N.Y., just three hours away from Niagara University, where he delivered a keynote speech in May to the graduating class. He also received an honorary doctorate in humane letters. "This doctorate has made my mother back in Arizona very proud."

It also "fulfilled a secret lifelong dream of mine," he joked. He was finally a doctor. He actually enrolled at Vanderbilt to

become a medical doctor. Despite "endless hours of studying and altogether too little sleep — I opened my grade report, and to my dismay and shame, I had received a D in chemistry." He changed his major to business. "Be open to change," he told the students in his acceptance address. "Embrace it."

These days, he's embraced the biggest sales job in the world — increasing trade between Canada and the U.S. It's No. 1 on his list of four ambassadorial priorities. The other three are energy and environment, which are significantly linked, cultural diplomacy and global affairs — "almost in that order."

He is definitely a numbers guy. "We have the largest trading relationship in the world between two countries — and ever — in the history of the world. We had last year \$759 billion worth of trade. That's \$2 billion a day. That's \$1.4 million a minute. That's \$23,000 a second. So every second we're here, every second, that's \$23,000, \$23,000, \$23,000."

More numbers: Add to the trade figure an investment total of \$650 billion. "So I think of the U.S.-Canada relationship as a \$1.4-trillion relationship. When I mention this number to other ambassadors, they literally stop me and say 'I'm sorry — could you repeat that please?'"

In between marking off numbers on his fingers, he reaches down to the floor to sip a hot drink he set there — always green tea. Decaffeinated? He laughs. "This tea



"I try to take advantage of every minute of every day."



"[The U.S. and Canada] have the largest trading relationship in the world."



"The U.S.-Canada relationship is a \$1.4-trillion relationship."

(he lifts his large takeout cup, containing a long-soaking teabag) is pretty caffeinated."

Green tea also played a starring role he was in charge of recruiting hundreds of sales staff for Goldman Sachs. For many aspiring job-seekers, it was a make-or-break topic. "Sell me on a different beverage," he'd ask his applicants.

As a manager then, and manager of the embassy and its seven consulates now, he still believes in "overcommunication — communicate, communicate, communicate," he told *The Chicago Tribune* in 2009. He credits this approach for allowing him and his team to weather the 2001 dotcom crisis and the 2009 stock market crash. "The stock market bottomed out on March 9, 2009. I happen to know that very well, because it was my birthday."

[As background to the market crash in which Goldman Sachs itself struggled: In 2011, a U.S. Senate panel issued a report after two years' investigation of the stock market crash. The report described Goldman Sachs as a "case study" of the recklessness and greed on Wall Street that set off the 2008/2009 financial crisis. It singled out Goldman and Deutsche Bank as examples of Wall Street companies that sold their clients, as safe investments, securities backed by subprime mortgages — even as the two companies sold those same securities short and reaped enormous profits.]

He laughs easily — especially at himself, clearly enjoys conversation and gets trade technicalities across with down-home examples. The real story, though, always comes down to this: Enormous potential for trade, more trade, more trade.

In what, specifically? Everything on both sides of the border, he says. Whatever consumers want. Probably disruptive technology — that is, game-changing innovations — will give the biggest boost on both sides of the border, he predicts.

He adds that trade between the two countries is "just about balanced." U.S. goods and services exported to Canada in 2014 totalled \$376 billion US and Canadian exports to the U.S. totalled US \$383 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis.

"So how do you increase that when you're already talking here about the largest trading relationship in the world?" he asks. "By breaking down impediments to trade. I just sat down and went through these numbers and said: 'Well it is large, but the U.S. has about a \$17-trillion economy and so the opportunity to continue to grow is still fairly significant to Canada.'"

The strategy rests on two pillars that President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Stephen Harper established in 2011 to boost trade. The first is the Regulatory Cooperation Council.

"To avoid people's eyes glazing over at this point," he laughs, he calls on soup

Border-barrier fixes

The two countries have moved onto regulations for railcars. In December 2014, Heyman attended meetings with Transport Minister Lisa Raitt, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx and Gary Doer, Canada's ambassador to the U.S.



The Beyond the Border Action Plan aims to cut border-crossing times as a way to boost commercial and non-commercial (tourists, visitors and shoppers) trade.

cans, children's car seats and lipstick to show the problem of trading items made under different regulations. With soup cans, it's the size, labelling and packing differences. With children's car seats, it's safety regulations, even though people on both sides of the border obviously want their children to be safe. And with lipstick, it is the SPF content.

Work is underway to iron out regulatory differences for a vast number of products and services. The "extraordinary," but under-credited, success regulators look to as an example is the auto industry's efforts to meet higher-mileage standards. It is easier to regulate new products, he concedes, while the longer-term project is to create regulatory standards in both countries for existing products.

They discussed their similar priorities: safety of railcars, transporting hazardous materials and, especially after Lac Mégantic, derailments. "The U.S. is experiencing derailments as well, so we were able to come together and set a standard." (Sadly, a week after this interview, a Philadelphia derailment in May injured 200 and killed eight travellers.)

The second pillar is the Beyond the Border Action Plan to cut border-crossing times as a way to boost commercial and non-commercial (tourists, visitors and shoppers) trade. Pre-clearing cargo vehicles well before they reach the border has been tested at two sites: the Peace Bridge crossing between Fort Erie, Ont., and Buffalo, N.Y., and the Blaine, Wash./Surrey, B.C., Pacific Crossing. A review of the

results is now under way and may lead to an expansion to other border crossings.

The U.S. Border Protection Agency, according to a U.S. government website, is looking at regulatory changes requiring “filing of an eManifest in advance of all truck arrivals, instituting automated pay as you go or payment of user fees in

“As I travelled around the country, Canadians, when asked ‘What is the No. 1 thing you think about with Canada and the U.S.,’ say ‘the border.’”

With close to 80 percent of Canadians living within 150 kilometres of the border, he says, “the border experience is important, really important. In many ways, the

U.S.-Canada trade in his home state of Illinois reaches nearly \$59 billion — “greater than Canada’s trade with Germany, Japan and South Korea combined.”

British Columbia’s total value in goods exported to the U.S. is greater than the province’s next five largest export markets together.

Canada exports more goods to Michigan than to the European Union.

“A lot of governors were new — just recently elected. I don’t know if they fully appreciated the Canada-U.S. relationship to their state.” The dual-purpose letters invited them to Canada and laid out statistics on trade between their state and Canada.

“In 2014, alone, we had 11 trade missions. We’re in touch with about a dozen more states this year, some of which will send governors directly, and the rest will send state trade missions.” The governor of Kentucky [Steve Beshear] visited in May, with two or three other governors’ visits expected to be announced this summer.

“In two thirds of the states, their No. 1 trading relationship is with Canada. I didn’t know, I honestly didn’t know. Some governors really know this well, but my guess is that there were some number of governors who read the letter and paused and said, ‘We have an opportunity here.’”

On a parallel course, he’s phoned and met with many provincial premiers from Canada and offers U.S. government services in facilitating trade missions to the U.S. And then there’s Select USA, a program run by the Commerce Department through which, he says, “we invite businesses from a foreign country and help them understand how to do business in the U.S. In March, I brought a delegation of more than 80 individuals, more than 60 separate entities, from Canada to Washington to the Select USA Conference.”

Invitees ranged from pension funds considering investments in infrastructure, and corporations wanting to expand their U.S. customer base, to very small businesses. Besides “great lofty and wonderful speeches” by Obama, Commerce Secretary Foxx and Secretary of State John Kerry, among others, there were break-out sessions to meet with representatives of prospective state and city partners. The result, he says, was more than 500 individual meetings, networking and educational sessions.

“I think life is filled with learnings,” he says. “I came from the financial side and from a background where we set specific goals and tried to drive outcomes to



Vicki Heyman has embraced the culture side of her husband’s portfolio. She spearheads the Ottawa portion of the Art in Embassies program that exhibits work from U.S. artists and encourages dialogue about the issues the works raise.

advance, and updating the technology connectivity at the Peace Bridge.”

Already well under way, of course, is pre-clearing people via the NEXUS Trusted Traveller Program, available to citizens and permanent residents of Canada and the U.S. As of December 2014, a total of 1.1 million people — Canadians and Americans — had become NEXUS card-holders, an increase of 80 percent since 2011.

Showing a NEXUS card can greatly speed security and customs clearance at borders, airports and marine ports of entry. Eight airports in Canada, including Ottawa’s, have pre-clearance, Heyman notes, “so you can enter the U.S. right here in Ottawa.” The U.S. may increase the number of Canadian airports offering pre-clearance.

relationship is judged by these individual interactions that people have, and they think about it. So if they have a bad experience at the border, that bleeds through to a bad experience with the U.S.”

Both countries deal with the same problems, he says: customs at the border, wait times or the need to move freely “while taking into consideration security issues we both face.”

With 77 percent of Canadian exports — all exports — going to the United States, “we value that relationship,” he says. “It is incredibly important to us, but we also recognize how important it is to Canada.”

To highlight the huge trade tie, he wrote a piece in February in *The Globe and Mail* that included facts from customized outreach letters he wrote to all 50 govern-

achieve those goals. We had strategy and tactics. The strategy [here] is to increase trade and enhance the relationship. I've just listed a number of tactics and I'm holding people accountable to having outcomes in each of these areas. When I was working with Select USA, every single week I asked: 'What companies have we signed up? How many have we signed up? Who are they? Where are they coming from? What business are we doing with them? Now, I have weekly meetings to talk about governor outreach. What are we doing? Whom are we contacting? What do the trade missions look like? What cities are they going to? Who are we setting these meetings up with?'

"This is very different from what's typically been driven on the government side. So I think that's the benefit of having a political appointee with business experience who can come in and take those individual experiences and help enhance trade, for example."

Energy and environment in sync

He labels his second priority "energy and environment." On the subject of heavy crude from the Alberta oilsands and the limbo status of the Keystone XL pipeline,

he did not discuss the touchy trade side issue in favour of talking about the Obama administration's environmental goals.

"I think one of the things I wanted to make really clear when we first arrived, one of the most important words was 'and.' I think a lot of people were using the word 'or.' And they think of the word 'or' when they think of energy OR the environment. Or they think economy OR the environment. 'I believe we can have an enhanced quality environment with energy, but climate change is real. I believe it's real and as a result of that, I believe, and the president believes, and the secretary of state believes, that energy policy is the best way to deal with climate change.'"

The U.S. is the largest purchaser of energy, such as oil and natural gas, from Canada in nearly all categories. In 1980, less than 4 percent of imported oil was Canadian, he says, or 200,000 barrels a day. Today, the U.S. buys more than three million barrels a day from Canada — more than 40 percent of its imported oil.

"We're your No. 1 customer. And we buy more oil from Canada than the next five countries added together. But we're also buying your hydro, which is supply-

ing electricity into New England and New York City. We're buying a large portion of renewable energy — solar, wind. We're also buying hydro that's going into Minnesota from Manitoba.

"It's a very strong energy relationship," he adds, "but we need to make sure we also take into account the environment."

Obama has made reducing greenhouse gas emissions a priority, with much of the focus in the U.S. on coal-fired electric plants, he says. While the U.S. is moving more towards alternative energy, it's also a matter of the quantity of energy the country uses. He points to the improved mileage standards on vehicles, a policy that Canada and the U.S. developed jointly. "I feel it is not being talked about enough."

"Improving home insulation, improving mileage standards on cars, airplanes and other transportation modes, reducing pollutants — this is the balance. And the president has a very specific 26-28 percent reduction [in greenhouse gases] below the 2005 level by 2025." Canada announced its targets in mid-May as a 30-percent drop below 2005 levels by 2030.

And, in advance of the December INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) conference in Paris, the

Q&A with the U.S. ambassador

Heyman on Heyman

When do you get up in the morning? (Laughs) You are assuming I'm sleeping. I tend to get up between 6 and 6:30.

First thing I do: I have an app on my phone that plays hourly news and quickly scans the news services of the world. I listen to NPR, BBC, CBC, ABC, CBS and The Wall Street Journal, almost all in a row. And it literally rolls through those.

Shower, then I go into my office and I have breakfast and review the morning news.

What's for breakfast at the residence? I usually have a grilled piece of salmon, some arugula and green tea.

How do you handle your time? I have a limited amount of time as ambassador. I try to take advantage of every minute of every day and every opportunity I possibly can take. Given the time I start working and the time I'm done, it works out to be 13-to-16-hour days, almost every day.

Do you take a break? I don't take many breaks.

Do you eat lunch? If I'm not meeting with someone from government or industry, I've specifically told my staff I do not do lunch alone and to select somebody from the embassy that I don't know. I'm taking them to lunch in the Market. My treat. I just get to know them.

In a restaurant, what do you usually eat? Mostly grilled fish.

I go for sushi or grilled chicken and salads.

Your favourite dessert? Cheese of all kinds [no crackers].

Your time management tips? The best ones for me are delegation and that I like my briefing [papers] to be incredibly short. When I first arrived, people were delivering me very thick briefings books, which I returned and told them, "If the president [of the U.S.] can get briefings in one or two pages, you can surely take this down to a couple of pages."

When I read these briefings, I have questions that pop up all the way through, and then I have to send it back, and then they have to come back. So what I prefer is that somebody schedule an appointment and sit down, whether it's a meeting, a speech or a presentation, or whatever. Let's have a dialogue. I have an insatiable amount of questions that come up, and I like to just keep asking and having responses. And if they don't have the responses, they can go off and come back.

Tips on achieving goals? To achieve a goal, you have to set a goal. And some people actually just go to work and go through the process every day without any defined goals. And so they never get to achieve the goals. So, literally, you have to sit down and set goals for people within your office, the embassy, the consulates. You know we have seven consulates across the country, with which I also work directly and travel to each. We try to set goals for them — outreach goals, communication goals, communication back to the State Department, and that way we can measure [results].

Some people feel boxed in by [formalized] goals rather than an amorphous approach to management. We talk about goals.



Iran's supreme leader, Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei

U.S. is meeting with other countries about hitting their targets "so we have an incredibly successful time in Paris where we all, in the global community, come together.



U.S. President Barack Obama

The Heymans and Obama

Heyman's wife, Vicki, has undertaken with gusto her husband's third main focus: culture. She is actively involved in

the half-century-old Art in Embassies program that exhibits work from U.S. artists in embassy residences and offices around the world. Their residence is a mix of art gallery and a cosy, if very large, home.

She is well known in Chicago for her extensive philanthropic work for hospitals and schools, especially using art to help the disadvantaged young people of Chicago's high-crime south side. The couple's cross-country travels included a visit to Edmonton where, after meeting artists who run iHuman Youth Society, Vicki was able to put the director in touch with a similar program in Chicago. The NGO works with 500 troubled young people across a wide demographic that includes aboriginals, to foster hope and self-confidence and leadership skills.

The now-ambassadorial pair became key supporters and fundraisers for Obama after they attended a small dinner party in 2006 where they spoke with then-state senator Obama. Heyman says they were so moved by Obama's vision for the country that they drove home in silence and then decided to become politically active on his behalf. Until then, he says, their focus was apolitical — mostly with community, work and friends and fam-

I mean, [with some indignation] I'm not a dictator — I sit down and have conversations with people. Different people have different work styles. I want them to all have success in their job and their career, and I want them to be happy. So let's find the work style that works best for the people who are there.

Do you exercise [in addition to walking]? Not enough. (pats belly, smiles.) There's an exercise area here with an elliptical, which I go on when I'm not out walking as much, when the weather is inclement, which (laughs) never happens here.

Are you an extrovert? Some people would say that.

Adjectives to describe yourself. I am optimistic. In fact, maybe to a fault. I see the good in most things and I think there are [many] pathways to success. And that unbridled optimism has served me well.

Caring is really a part of who I am. I care about the people in my family. I care about the people I work with. I care about the U.S.-Canada relationship — and I care about it at the core. You see, I came to this position with no back goal. Some people take various positions because they think it's a stepping stone to something else. I came here for only one reason. And that one reason was to enhance the U.S.-Canada relationship, and to improve it in any way I can — in every way I can. And that's what I'm doing and trying every day. And never [get] discouraged.

Do you have thick or thin skin, given some of the media commentary? Having the term bundler applied to you as a political fundraiser. Being cheerful and optimistic when you've been described as 'frozen out' of high-level government

contact with little explanation [from your side]. How do you deal with this? I know who I am. I am confident in myself and that [those] people don't know me. They don't know who I am or what I am. They come from a perspective and that's the beauty, though, of also appreciating a free press and your ability to say what you want.

That is also a price that one has to assume goes with [public life]. And I don't know anybody who's taken a public role [who is not by times perceived as] contrary to who they really are.

What are your hobbies? They include hiking, downhill skiing, volunteer work and philanthropic board activity. When I just want to relax, I do so by sitting beside a warm, glowing fire, listening to music and/or reading when possible.

Pet peeves? My pet peeves are really when a job is not done well. We all have different responsibilities in different ways and so, gosh, if someone is going to take on something, I think, 'You should own it and do it in the very best way you can.' And if somebody raises their hand and takes on something and doesn't [do it], it's incredibly frustrating and disappointing to me. I understand that some people take things on that they never really intend to do well. If you ask me, that's a bit of a frustrating thing.

At the end of the day, what's for dinner? Whatever they make here is fine with me!

U.S. ambassadors all say the food is fabulous here. It is so fabulous that I'm really frustrated that my clothes are getting too small here. I don't know what's happening (laughs). It's the laundry shrinking them. It's the laundry!

ily. They have three grown children and two grandchildren. Vicki, who has an MBA and a background in finance, joined Obama's finance committee for his 2008 and 2012 campaigns and the couple raised large sums for his election.

'Irritants highlighted in the press'

On his final goal, global issues, "the U.S. couldn't be more aligned with any other country in the world than we are with Canada. We're aligned on NATO, we're working together in NAFTA, we're working together and aligned on our beliefs on Russia and Ukraine. We're aligned on dealing with ISIS. We've worked together on tackling Ebola. We have interoperability in terms of protecting North America through NORAD. And we couldn't have a better partner. We could *not* have a better partner in the world than we have with Canada.

"If you think about similar values and cultures, we think about things similarly — not identically, but similarly — around the world. When people make such a big deal about the differences we have, the reality is we have so much in common."

Heyman says successful trade is a clear demonstration of the effectiveness of the relationship, and it dwarfs the irritants on which the press reports.

"So I will continue to focus on recognizing that there are some challenges that we need to work on, but we're having those discussions. I think the press tends to focus more on those than the opportunities and I think it sells newspapers."

The ambassador says he's "not unhappy" with the relationship. "Just for context purposes, we've had eight cabinet-level visitors from the U.S. since last July. I would venture to say for as long as people can remember, that's the largest number of cabinet level visitors who have come to Canada and we've had meetings at all levels of the Canadian government.

"So we're working on the important things that are facing our two countries and I think people shouldn't be concerned that we're not getting things done, because we are, as evidenced by the agreements we just talked about getting done.

"We're working on all these global issues," he says. "They just don't happen without conversations, so we're having pretty substantive conversations."

Irritant: Keystone XL pipeline

In his first major speech, delivered in June 2014 in Ottawa, Heyman stressed the many positives in the U.S.-Canada relationship. He did not mention Keystone XL

— a topic for which people were listening. In the post-speech question session, Frank McKenna, former New Brunswick premier and one-time ambassador to Washington, asked directly about Keystone and the U.S. refusal to fund a customs plaza at the new Detroit bridge. Heyman's response included: "I'm sorry you're all

One, that the greenhouse gases produced in oilsands extraction are hurting the environment, and two, that the benefit just goes to Canada.

On the latter, *The Washington Post*, a generally liberal newspaper, gave Obama three Pinocchios for his statement: "Un-derstand what this project is: It is providing the ability



The Keystone XL Pipeline is a proposed 1,897-kilometre (1,179-mile) crude oil pipeline that begins in Hardisty, Alta., and travels south through to Steele City, Neb.

bummed out here," which was taken as being dismissive of these long-running irritants to Canada.

He says that he is sometimes "optimistic to a fault," and concentrates on the positives in the U.S.-Canada relationship.

Obama vetoed legislation in February that would have compelled pipeline approval. (Executive Branch decisions regarding approval are needed for cross-border projects.) He has made it clear the veto is based on two concerns:

of Canada to pump their oil, send it through our land, down to the Gulf, where it will be sold everywhere else. It doesn't have an impact on U.S. gas prices."

According to one expert quoted in the *Post* piece, "Valero, the largest U.S. oil refining company, would be one of the biggest customers of oil from the Keystone XL pipeline, buying about 150,000 barrels

a day." Valero's spokesman noted that currently, the vast majority of the company's products stay in the U.S. for domestic consumption.

In another newspaper article, a Montana farmer who owns land where Keystone XL's onramp would take in up to 100,000 barrels a day of American crude, says it would come from Montana and North Dakota — not only Canada.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama will make his ruling based on whether Keystone XL is "in the interests of the United States" following the still-ongoing State Department review. He said: "It certainly is possible that the president will" approve it.

Both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved Keystone XL, but in the face of Obama's February veto, despite a coalition of Republicans and Democrats, they couldn't muster the votes to override it. They were four votes short in the Senate and 18 short in the House of the two thirds majority needed to nullify a presidential veto.

One delay ended when the governor of Nebraska, awaiting an environmental assessment review, joined 10 governors in approving the Canadian pipeline. Another ended when the State Department's own supplemental environmental impact statement, released 18 months ago, was positive about Keystone.

Then-natural resources minister Joe Oliver commented: "This is the fifth federal study on the environmental impact" that has said the pipeline "would not adversely affect the environment." He noted the report's conclusion that not building the pipeline would release between 20 and 42 percent more greenhouse gases, considering the energy needed to move the oil by rail, truck or barge.

Heyman responds: "There are a lot of perspectives and no less than 1.5 million comments from the public. I think it's a transparent and rigorous [process] and the comments you've raised are among many taken into consideration in evaluating this. This process is at the State Department and it is at a point now where I anticipate that they'll make a decision. What date? I'm not sure. I'll refer back to the comments and language the president and his press secretary have used and I'll go with that.

"We have no established timeline," he says, "and we hope it will be in a reasonable period of time."

With the U.S. elections next year, many people fear the Obama administration will delay a decision until a new president is

elected in November 2016. If a Democrat takes the White House and Republican seats don't increase in the House and Senate, the veto might stand. If a Republican wins in a still-Republican-dominated House and Senate, Keystone XL likely will be built.

Irritant: the beef with labelling beef

COOL, the U.S. country-of-origin labelling law, requires many Canadian agricultural products to be separated from U.S. products and labelled as Canadian. The Canadian livestock industry says this costs it at least an extra \$1 billion a year.

Canada has appealed to the World Trade Organization which has, in the past, found in Canada's favour. Its wording was unequivocal: COOL requirements were inconsistent with the "obligation to accord imported products treatment no less favourable than that accorded to domestic products." Other products caught in the COOL labelling law requirement: pork, lamb, chicken, goat meat, wild and farm-raised fish and shellfish, perishable agricultural commodities, peanuts and pecans.

The U.S. lost its final appeal in a May 18 ruling by the FTA in favour of Canadian and Mexican protests, setting the stage for the U.S. to either repeal its law — it has signalled it will — or face a retaliatory continental trade war that goes well beyond just agricultural products in order to offset the damages incurred by COOL.

Canada and the U.S. both belong to the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), where the U.S. is the major player. The U.S. could retaliate by insisting that Canada abandon protection of its dairy and poultry industries or be excluded from the reduced-tariff trade talks aimed at a multilateral free-trade agreement.

At stake: a TPP market of 792 million people and a combined GDP of \$28.1 trillion (close to 40 percent of the world economy).

Irritant: anti-nuclear agreement with Iran

The U.S. and Canada diverge on their relationship with Israel and its prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. Harper and Netanyahu are close. Obama and Netanyahu are not.

Canada officially looks at the negotiations with much less trust than the Obama administration. Foreign Minister Rob Nicholson warned that, even with the agreement, Iran may still be able to obtain a nuclear weapon and set off a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

"Iran's track record is not one that



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encourages trust," he said, when he announced that Canada will give \$3 million for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to oversee implementation of the nuclear deal. Nicholson said the government appreciates "the efforts of the P5+1 (United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, China + Germany) in these discussions. At the same time, we will continue to judge Iran by its actions and not its words."

Canada's mistrust is largely based on Iran's long track record of refusing free spot checks by the IAEA, especially of military installations. Most recent of these is Fordow, hidden under a mountain near Qom, an underground uranium-enrichment facility Iran concealed from the IAEA until Western intelligence sources revealed its existence in 2009.

Obama sought to use executive powers to finalize the agreement without approval of Congress and thus, the American people. He defended his action in order to avoid Congressional clause-by-clause evaluation that could derail the agreement itself. In May, the Senate voted 98-1 and the House voted 400-25 in favour of having the right to see, amend and approve or disapprove the framework agreement. Obama, in turn, warns he reserves the right to veto the agreement if he objects to Congressional amendments to it.

WSJ (*Wall Street Journal*) *World* in April noted: "The Obama administration estimates Iran has between \$100 billion and \$140 billion of its oil revenue frozen in offshore accounts as a result of sanctions. U.S. officials said they expect Tehran to gain access to these funds in phases as part of a final deal. Iran could receive somewhere between \$30 billion and \$50

billion upon signing the agreement, said congressional officials briefed by the administration."

Critics are calling it a "signing bonus" that would allow Iran to continue to fund terrorist groups around the world while further destabilizing the Middle East.

Netanyahu says the agreement poses an existential threat to Israel's survival and can trigger nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. In mid-May, he renewed his plea before the June 30 target deadline to reach a deal: "It's still not too late to retract the plan that gives Iran an agreement which will pave it a road to a nuclear weapon." He also angered Obama by announcing he knew the details of the secret framework agreement. And Netanyahu flouted protocol by speaking, at the invitation of Republican House Speaker John Boehner, against the agreement directly to Congress in March without first notifying Obama.

Heyman: "I don't think this will affect the Canada-U.S. relationship. I believe we have to find paths to reducing the risks of nuclear war and nuclear weapons and wherever we can have effective outcomes in getting to that point, I think that's better for the world."

He noted that they have a framework to an agreement, not an agreement per se — yet. "We'll see how it goes between now and when an agreement is potentially reached, but I am constructively optimistic we can get to a point where we can reduce the threat of nuclear weapons in the world. And I think wherever we have that opportunity, we need to do that."

"But make no mistake about it, Israel is very important to the U.S. and it's a country that we have a strong alliance with and

I don't think that will ever be in question, ever."

Heyman, understandably and strongly, rejects the theory that Obama is pushing for a nuclear agreement with Iran, even a weak agreement, to earn the Nobel Peace Prize that Norway bizarrely bestowed upon him in 2009. To Obama's displeasure, the Norwegians had nominated him for the Peace Prize just weeks after he took office in January 2009. And they proceeded to award the prize to him that October — less than a year into his presidency.

Rather than retroactively seeking to deserve the award, Heyman says, Obama's motivations are "deep-seated, part of his character. I think he's trying to create a world where there are multilateral approaches to peace. He's trying to find as many paths to creating a better world environmentally, economically, politically, militarily — with good outcomes for the U.S. and he's trying to do that the very best way he can. His views and my views are very much aligned and that's why I became so passionate about his goals," he says, "which include better outcomes for the U.S. economically."

Iraq

Obama's early-announced troop pullout from Iraq is sometimes cited as setting the stage for the chaos that has ensued in Iraq and Syria. Unable to successfully complete the renegotiation that president George W. Bush planned in order to keep U.S. troops there after 2011, the U.S. forces left. The civil war raging there has now brought a coalition of Western countries, including Canada, and Middle Eastern countries, back into the conflict. (A week after this interview, despite coalition airstrikes, ISIS

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forces overran Iraq's key city of Ramadi. Iraq is heavily backed by Iran now, as it was during former prime minister Nouri al-Maliki's final years in power before his August 2014 resignation.)

an entirely different set of circumstances we're under now," he says, "while we're in the region and we're tackling ISIL. I don't think that was the specific issue at the time."

and Uzbekistan.

While, by law, Canadian customs can detain imported and exported pirated and counterfeit goods at the border, detaining goods doesn't apply to those heading to the U.S. Using diplomatic-speak for frustration, the U.S. Embassy website notes: "The United States is disappointed that the new law does not apply to pirated and counterfeit goods" under control of Canadian Customs in their facilities.

The website also highlights "serious concerns" on pharmaceuticals. It seeks the right to appeal Canada's regulatory approval decisions regarding pharmaceuticals and it objects to Canada's invalidation of several "valuable patents" held by U.S. companies.

And again, despite diplomatic language, the U.S. seems to be mentioning the TPP as a warning. "The United States closely monitors development on these issues and looks forward to continuing to work with Canada to address these and other Intellectual Property Rights issues, including through the TPP negotiations."

Irritant: Softwood lumber

While the Canadian lumber industry wasn't happy with the last Softwood Lumber Agreement, it was happy to have one. It expires in October.

"The U.S. right now is having conversations with the lumber industry," says Heyman, to develop the U.S. position on Canadian softwood lumber. "We look forward" to talking with Canadian representatives "in a constructive dialogue for a new agreement."

Irritant: The new Windsor-Detroit bridge

And, of course, there is the Canada-heavy



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, with State Department officials and others, sits across from Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and advisers in Lausanne, Switzerland, before resuming negotiations about the future of Iran's nuclear program.

Heyman: "We cannot have troops in a country and engage without the country approving that. I think at that time, al-Maliki specifically in negotiations with the U.S., drove this outcome. I think this was up to Iraq at the time to make these decisions; we are very respectful of the country where we were. You know this is

Irritant: Counterfeit goods

The U.S. embassy's website in Canada notes: "Canada remains on the Watch List in 2014" for not fully implementing its treaty commitments on enforcing Internet and copyright piracy in the digital age. Canada is among 24 watchlisted countries, including Barbados, Belarus, Guatemala



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contribution to the long-delayed new six-lane, \$2.1-billion Gordie Howe International Bridge to be built over the Detroit River by 2020.

Canada, through a public-private partnership, will pay all of the \$4 billion for land acquisition, freeway exchanges and construction of customs plazas. That even includes the \$250-million customs plaza on the U.S. side, which Canada has to build. Canada is to be reimbursed the amount over a period of decades from the money collected in bridge tolls.

Two Obama budgets had not allotted funds for the bridge, even though in April 2013 Obama gave his required approval for the international bridge to be built. Canada decided it had to go it alone.

Every day, an average of 8,000 trucks and 68,000 travellers cross the congested and narrow 83-year-old privately owned Ambassador Bridge, located two miles north of the new bridge's site. The Ambassador's owner, Manuel "Matty" Maroun, is seeking to build a twin span. The bridge carries between 25 and 30 percent of cross-border truck trade between the two countries. In 2011, it generated more than \$120 billion worth of trade, according to Gary Doer, Canada's ambassador in Washington. This is fully one quarter of Canada-U.S. trade in goods, making it the most important bridge crossing in the world, financially, and the busiest border crossing between the two countries. The U.S. government, pending Congressional approval, is expected to pay for staffing and operating costs totalling \$100 million the first year and \$50 million annually thereafter.

The governor of Michigan's pro-bridge website notes: The trade crossing "will cost Michigan taxpayers NOTHING." Canada will provide up to \$550 million to cover costs that would normally be incurred by the State of Michigan for the U.S. portion of the project. "It will have no responsibility for repayment." It will allow the state to use Canada's expenditure



From left, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Murray Howe, Gordie Howe's son, announced in May that the Detroit River International Crossing will be named the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

as "eligible as matching funds for U.S. federal aid that will be used for critical transportation projects across our state." In 2012, Michigan again led all states in "surface trade with Canada totalling \$6.3 billion," with 237,000 jobs in Michigan "directly tied to trade with Canada."

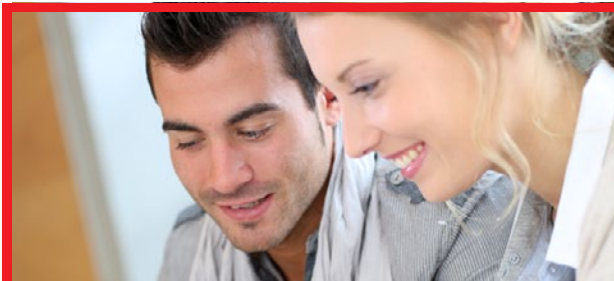
Since 1999, Ambassador Bridge traffic is down about 40 percent from its pre-9/11 levels, and the Detroit Windsor Tunnel is down about 60 percent from its eight million annual trips in 1999. The reasons for the falloff vary — from higher security and more intrusive security checks and the passport requirement to fluctuations in currency. Further autoplant closings or production line shifts away from Ontario — GM, Chrysler, Ford and Honda have closed in Ontario since 2003 — are expected to undercut future truck traffic projections.

The Canadian government estimates the bridge project will create 10,000 to 15,000 construction jobs on both sides of the border.

Heyman's Darwinian doctrine of adaptability resurfaced as he spoke with Niagara University's graduating students: "Every day, the world is changing rapidly — industries develop or they become obsolete, our methods of communication from just five years ago seem archaic, technology is making the inconceivable a tangible reality.

"You are living in a time of upheaval, both incremental and immense," he said, "but also a time of innovation and possibility."

Donna Jacobs is *Diplomat's* publisher.



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Curbing corruption in Africa

By Robert I. Rotberg

Corruption is everywhere — in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and Brazil. It persists in much of the rest of Asia beyond China, and is rampant in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. Of the lowest 50 performers on Transparency International's *Corruption Perceptions Index* (CPI) and the World Bank's *Control of Corruption Indicator* (WBCCI), a full 22 are African countries. The list includes Angola, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, South Sudan, the Sudan and Zimbabwe, among others.

Nearly everyone from Montreal to San Paulo, and on to Kinshasa, Lagos and Johannesburg knows what corruption is, and many, especially in Africa, experience the toils of corruption daily. Police officers take small payments to make automobile infractions and fines go away. Nurses provide treatment in battered hospitals only to those who can pay. Border guards along the Kenya-Somali frontier look the other way, for a consideration, when traders and, indeed, insurgents, want to cross. Passports, driver's licences, birth and death permits and many more of the inevitable necessities of life are obtained relatively quickly if the right palms are crossed. These are among the lubricating forms of corruption, sometimes labelled petty corruption.

But then there is venal corruption — the big ticket items. Chinese President Xi Jinping today is imprisoning many of his rivals for amassing \$6-billion and \$10-billion returns from wholesale kickback and bribe schemes. Entrepreneurs who wanted to acquire land on which to build factories and who wanted, and received, contracts to construct roads, rails and dams were compelled to pay to play. Brazil's massive and still unfolding Petrobras scandal revolves around cash for preferential access to tenders, bids and the right to receive large-scale infrastructure contracts.

In South Africa, President Jacob Zuma and his cronies received cash for favouring the state purchase of frigates and fighter aircraft from France and Sweden. Nigeria is the home of countless nefarious and clever schemes to bilk taxpayers; that



A sign from an anti-corruption campaign in Rwanda, headed by President Paul Kagame.

country is a major producer of petroleum, but must import refined oil products because doing so proved a good way to enrich politically connected middlemen. Army officers also stole equipment and rations, thus crippling their country's efforts against Boko Haram.

It is easy to list outrage after outrage, in Africa as elsewhere. Fortunately, Africa has a few countries like Botswana, Cape Verde, Mauritius and Rwanda where corruption has been checked by leadership action and strong institutions. In 2014, the *Corruption Perceptions Index* ranked Botswana 31st in the world and the best in Africa; Cape Verde, 42nd; Mauritius and Rwanda were tied at 55th. Ghana, in 61st place, is doing better all the time.

From 2004 to 2014, a number of countries, such as Georgia, Macedonia and Dominica, were shown to be the states that had done the most over that decade to reduce corruption in their countries. That is, their scores, according to the *Corruption Perceptions Index* and the World Bank's *Control of Corruption Indicator* improved dramatically. Liberia, Rwanda and Zambia were also on that list of the seven best performers over the 10-year period. How did

they curb corruption so dramatically?

The Rwandan Case

Ten years after the Rwandan genocide, Rwanda was regarded by casual observers as being as corrupt as its neighbours, but its CPI score in 2004 placed it higher than Ghana, Senegal, Macedonia, Montenegro, Zambia, Indonesia, Tanzania, Nigeria, Uganda and Kenya, in that order. In that year in Africa, only Botswana, the Seychelles, Cape Verde, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa had higher scores. Starting from a relatively high base, therefore, according to the CPI, Rwanda gained 10 points by 2014. But the WBCCI ranks Rwanda as the second most-improved country from 2004 to 2013, with an upward change of 33 points, only five points behind Georgia. (The big jump in Rwanda's scores took place between 2005 and 2006, when it gained 26 points.) According to WBCCI, Rwanda improved much more than Liberia (20 points) and Zambia (17 points). No other African country came close, although Niger and Swaziland gained 16 points over the period, Sao Tome and Principe, 14, Lesotho, 13, Gabon and Ethiopia, 12, and Cape Verde, 11.

Whatever the different index methods employed, Rwanda has shown remarkable improvement in governance and in anti-corruption performance since 2004 or so — when President Paul Kagame decided to transform post-genocidal Rwanda into “the Singapore of Africa.” (Kagame only officially became head of state in 2000; he was considered *de facto* leader from 1994, however, when he was vice-president and defence minister.) For the first 10 years of his forceful reign in Rwanda (1994-2004), Kagame focused on consolidating his hold on power, rebuilding the state, winning a major inter-ethnic war against Hutu anti-Rwandan genocidaire forces based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on installing new Congolese governments in Kinshasa.

Once Kagame had accomplished those important missions and had established himself within the African Union and with donors as a person capable of bringing about major governmental changes and producing stability in eastern Africa, he turned his attention to increasing national productivity and prosperity. Just as Lee Kuan Yew transformed Singapore from a ramshackle British-run harbour into one of the great entrepôts and financial centres of the developing world, so Kagame began to envision capital flowing into his isolated, land-locked mini-country with the highest population densities anywhere on the African continent. Given that Rwanda mostly produced little more than coffee, a crop dependent on a fluctuating world market, to create a Singapore-like result, and to attract foreign investors, meant radical shifts in Rwanda’s prevailing political social culture. In 2014, Rwanda’s population was 12 million and its annual per-capita GDP only US \$698.

Kagame, following Lee, became determined in 2004 and 2005 to rid Rwanda of corruption. “Corruption,” he said, “...is clearly, very largely, behind the problems [that] African countries face. It is very bad in African or Third World countries...” Moreover, eliminating corruption is hard because “it has become a way of life in some places.” But Kagame does the hard things. He exhorted his people to reject corrupt practices and report corrupt individuals to the police, who were given expanded powers. He erected big billboards all over Kigali, the capital, warning against corruption: “He Who Practices Corruption Destroys His Country.” He sacked a few cabinet ministers and associates for theft and graft. He also used the imprimatur of his office to enforce existing

legislation against corruption.

New legislation and constitutional changes were put in place to criminalize corrupt acts, outlaw extortion, forbid bribery, both active and passive, and prohibit money laundering. Kagame promulgated a strict code of conduct for his officials and, as in Liberia, made mandatory the annual disclosure by all officials — in this case more than 4,000 individuals — of their assets. Kagame further introduced an office of the auditor general and appointed an ombudsman. That last office was responsible for checking the net worth filings of officials; in so many African and Asian countries (such as Tanzania), those statements would pile up in an obscure office. Not in Rwanda, where the ombudsman carefully examines them for signs of ill-gotten profits and the misuse of public office.

The office of the ombudsman operates

reaucratic establishment. Ghost workers, as many as 6,500 in one sweep, were also removed from the payrolls. Competitive tests were introduced to accentuate the need for competency in the civil service. From 2005, government salaries have been raised regularly.

Like Georgia, Rwanda under Kagame also reduced bureaucratic controls and permits, made striking improvements in the speed by which businesses could be opened, streamlined a broad range of administrative procedures, reduced the regulatory burden, cut red tape and by about 2010, produced one of the better-motivated, better-rewarded and most effective African public services. In the process, naturally, discretion became more limited than before and opportunities for chicanery, bribery and all kinds of graft were reduced.

But these important legal and proce-



Rwanda has shown improvement in anti-corruption performance since President Paul Kagame decided to transform post-genocidal Rwanda into “the Singapore of Africa.”

as if it were an anti-corruption agency, if shorn of prosecutorial powers. A public procurement agency makes sure that tenders and all contract bids are proper, and that no officials are receiving kickbacks. The police were professionalized after 2004. Crime rates fell and, following Singapore again, the police even began nabbing citizens for littering. Rwanda, reported the *Economist*, has become “the cleanest country in Africa.”

Of equal significance, Rwanda downsized its civil service cadre (as in Georgia), dismissing two-thirds of the entire bu-

dural improvements were less salutary in altering the political culture of Rwanda than was the emphasis from 2004 on zero tolerance for infractions. It became obvious to all that Kagame, and therefore the government, were serious about ending corruption. In 2004, all 503 members of the Rwandan judiciary, from top to bottom, were dismissed because of allegations of corruption. The president of a state-owned bank was prosecuted for giving friends unsecured loans. Three years later, 62 police officers were sacked for soliciting bribes. According to the chair of the

Ombudsman's Office, Rwanda became less corrupt as "we...removed corrupt leaders [and] added additional training and supervision." In 2013, Transparency International's *Global Corruption Barometer* reported that only 13 percent of Rwandans polled had paid a bribe within the previous two years (compared to 57 percent in South Africa, 62 percent in Zimbabwe, and 7 percent in Switzerland and the United States.)

Most of all, Kagame exerted political will, made examples of corrupt politicians and began relentlessly to curtail corruption throughout the entire public service. Being "on the take" became dangerous for those both high and low. Positions and privileges could be forfeited, and were. Given the largely authoritarian nature of the Kagame regime, altering the prevailing political culture was comparatively easy, especially over time. Even in a society three times the size of Singapore, determined leadership against corruption could make a difference in comparatively short order.

As in Singapore, Kagame could, and did, explain that all Rwandans would be better off without corrupt behaviour. A poor country, Rwanda would, without corruption, become more hospitable and attractive to foreign investment. There would be no drag on GDP per capita. Better health care, educational opportunities and improved infrastructure would be possible for all Rwandans if corrupt acts did not skew priorities.

Kagame understood that "you can't fight corruption from the bottom. You have to fight it from the top." He therefore even banned his own relatives and relatives of ministers from governmental employment. He showed no favour to long-time associates who appeared to be acting dishonestly and abusing his trust. As in our other cases, but more easily and clearly demonstrated in Rwanda and Singapore, visionary leaders are capable of reducing corrupt practices if they enunciate such a program (always popular with citizens) and carry it out with determination and integrity, sparing no one.

Liberia's transition

In terms of anti-corruption perceptions, from 2004, Liberia had nowhere to go but up. In 2003, at the conclusion of 14 years of brutal civil war, Liberia's main focus, at first under an interim transitional government, was to restore order and try to begin reviving itself economically, politically and morally. For the preceding decade, mayhem, theft and destruction had been

Liberia's lot. Everybody who had a gun, or other ways of extorting revenue, was corrupt. Charles Taylor, who had come to power by force and then by a coerced election, acted autocratically. Integrity was hardly expected; being wildly corrupt and zero-sum was normal and expected. Under dire conditions, survival was the goal of most citizens. Elites close to Taylor and his enforcers grabbed what they could, and shared only with Taylor and "the system."

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, an American-educated former Liberian treasury and

establishing a Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission. She reformed the national public financial management system and promulgated a Public Finance Management Act. She formulated a new, transparent national budget process and agreed to comply with the tough provisions of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and strictures contained in the regulation of diamond mining and transport according to the Kimberley Process, a government- and industry-driven certification program arising out of illicit "conflict diamonds" and applied to dia-



When Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf became president of Liberia, one of her first moves was to sack almost all holdover civil servants at the ministry of finance.

UNDP (United Nations Development Program) official, was elected president of Liberia in 2006. Her inaugural address spelled out a clear commitment to tolerating no corruption under her administration. Among her first acts was the sacking of virtually all holdover civil servants in the ministry of finance; she promised a thorough investigation of allegations of embezzlement and graft within the ministry. Across the entire government, she dismissed 17,000 other holdover civil servants.

Early on, she articulated an anti-corruption strategy. She declared her own assets and required her new appointees and all cabinet ministers to follow suit and publish lists of their financial holdings and assets in the local press. She issued a tough code of conduct for all public servants and strengthened the independence of the General Auditing Commission while

monds traded globally. She bolstered the Public Procurement Commission to make bidding processes transparent and to erect new barriers against kickbacks. She paid Liberia's civil servants, something that had not happened for months or years.

In order to gain credibility and build confidence nationally, she strove to bring electric power back, first to Monrovia, and later to other cities and towns and she turned to external advisers and donors for assistance in building the capacity of the Liberian government to manage assets, scrutinize expenditures, minimize waste and curtail fraud.

Johnson-Sirleaf's first presidency featured an innovative special oversight system that shared authority for financial management among local officials and external advisers. Within each ministry and state-owned enterprise, there were local officials and foreign overseers, both

of whom jointly had to sign expenditure permits and contract approvals. Because that unusual derogation of national sovereignty succeeded in limiting speculation and mismanagement, it was no longer needed in 2010, and the system was dismantled.

When it was in existence, this dual-control system included:

1. Centralizing of revenue collection and expenditure disbursement within the ministry of finance and the Liberian Central Bank. The IMF selected the head of the Central Bank, ensuring transparency and fiscal accountability standards were maintained. The bank was further staffed with outside technocrats recruited by the IMF;
2. Revamping and strengthening all national budgeting and expenditure management practices and making them public;
3. Overhauling and upgrading competitive bidding practices;
4. Charging the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) with preventing corruption in private and official public arenas, and with devising new control mechanisms;
5. Giving outside assistance to the General Auditing Office and the reformed Contracts and Monopolies Commission;
6. Beginning an overall effort to build capacity within the public service for more effective and knowledgeable administration, including an ethics component.

All of these initiatives markedly increased positive perceptions, locally and externally, of Johnson-Sirleaf's gradual victory on behalf of all Liberians against the scourge of corruption. As Liberia slowly became less corrupt, outside investors, including China, began to exploit Liberia's mineral resources, import its timber and help to revive what had been a moribund economy. National revenues increased enormously, from a very low base. National debts were paid or reduced. As prosperity increased, Johnson-Sirleaf's anti-corruption efforts became more widely appreciated.

Donor-funded efforts made a major difference in strengthening Liberia's anti-corruption performance from 2004 to 2014. According to the CPI, Liberia's score grew from a very low eight to a respectable 37, a 29-point improvement. But in 2014, that still left Liberia only 94th (along with Egypt, Gabon, Colombia, Armenia and Panama), behind Benin, Burkina Faso, and Zambia, and ahead of Algeria, China and Mexico. According to the World Bank Control of Corruption measurement scheme, Liberia also started with a score of eight, but grew to 34 in 2012 and then

slipped to 28 in 2013, putting it well behind African performers such as Botswana (a raw score of 80), Cape Verde, 75; Mauritius, 66; Namibia, 65; Lesotho, 64; and Zambia; 44) but ahead of many others and similar in score to a number of the middle-ranking African cases.

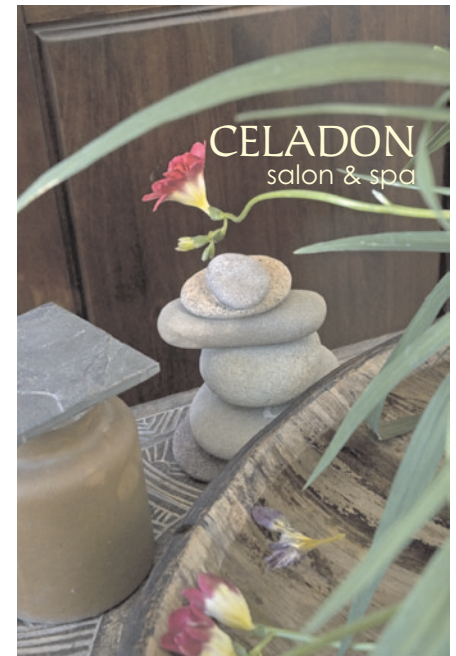
Manifest political will and uncompromising leadership were major factors in "improving" Liberia's anti-corruption performance over the 2004-2014 period. Even though Johnson-Sirleaf's personal integrity has been questioned and issues have arisen over possible nepotism involving her sons, Liberia (pre-Ebola) was perceived as a less-and-less corrupt African country because of strong and committed leadership, an abundance of political will and Johnson-Sirleaf's willingness to ride herd on those in her government who would have preferred to act corruptly. The actions of the Anti-Corruption Commission also helped demonstrably, but it could not have proceeded very far without supportive backing from the top.

Johnson-Sirleaf's presidency, in the aftermath of Ebola, has not produced a perfect Liberia or one without corruption. But absent her determined leadership and the restored pride and sense of renewed political culture she gave post-Taylor Liberia, corruption would have continued more to be the norm, less the exception.

Lessons Learned

The cases of Rwanda and Liberia (and Zambia and others) demonstrate that forceful leadership (as in Singapore and China) is essential if a nation-state in the developing world wants to reduce the deleterious grip of corrupt practices on its prosperity, growth and priorities. More developed countries can count on established institutions to beat back corrupt behaviour whenever and wherever it appears. But in much of the world, where institutions and legal systems are still imperfectly formed, the attitudes and initiatives of leaders are critical. Corruption is a top-down pursuit, so, as these two cases show, energetic action by rulers and ruling classes is capable of bringing about major positive improvements.

Robert I. Rotberg is fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center; senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation; fellow at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; president emeritus of the World Peace Foundation and founding director of Harvard's Kennedy School program on intrastate conflict.



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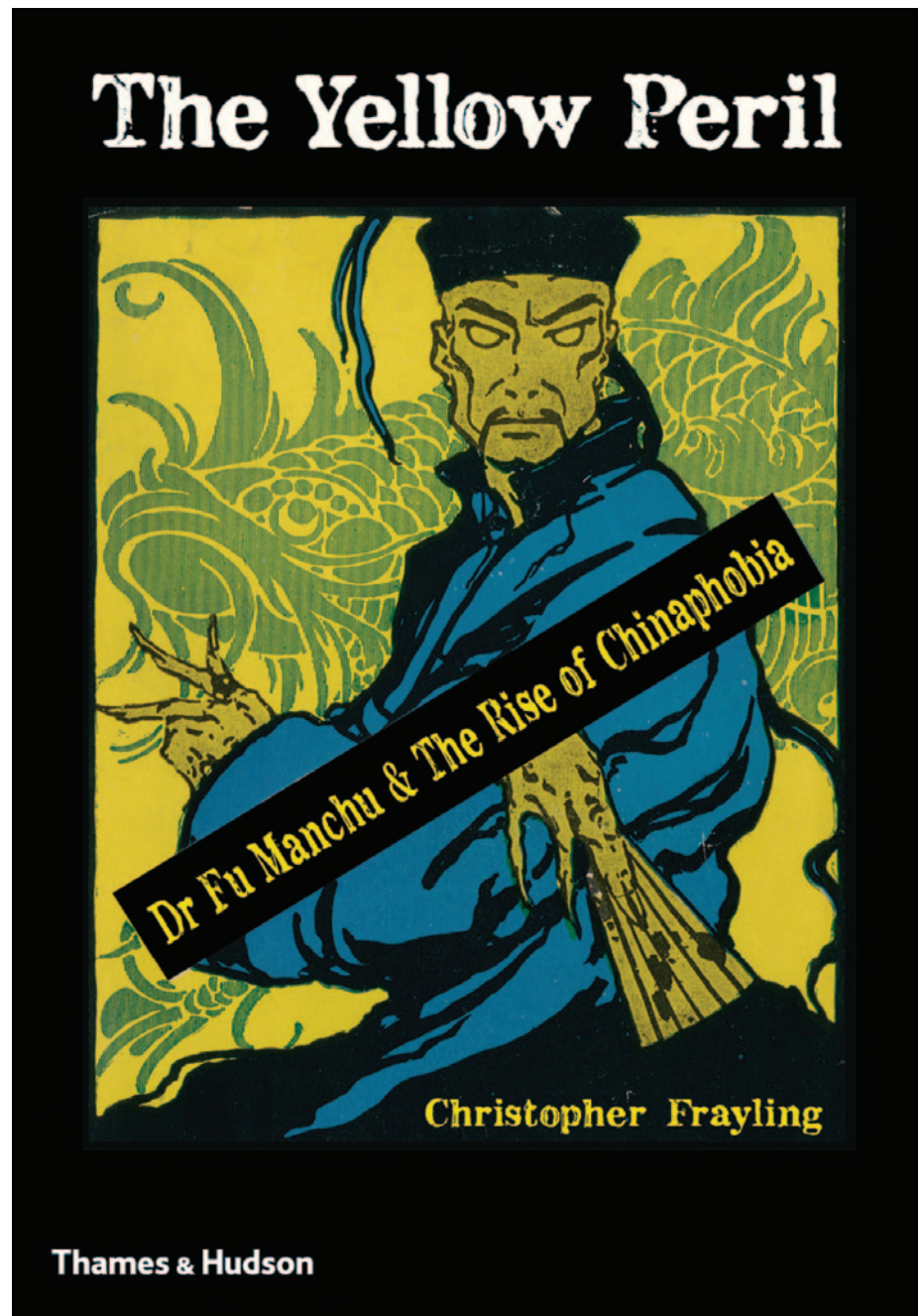


George
Fetherling

Here's a story that's been passed along in my family — which means that it's most likely not true. The story is that my grandfather met Sax Rohmer, probably in San Francisco in 1919. Rohmer (real name: Arthur Henry Ward) was the British author of the Fu Manchu short stories and novels that did so much to spread discrimination against Chinese people in Western countries, including, I'm sad to say, Canada as a whole and British Columbia most of all. Grandfather, who was much interested in what was then called the Orient, is supposed to have said: "Nice chap, Rohmer, but you knew after talking to him for only a moment that he'd never been any closer to China than NW6." Translation: Rohmer was hardly an expert on Limehouse, the old Chinese section of London where much of his fiction took place (its postal code was EC). Rather, he was a lower-middle-class suburbanite probably living in some decidedly non-exotic, all-white enclave such as West Hampstead.

Sir Christopher Frayling, a pop-culture historian and former chairman of the Arts Council of England, digs deeply into the story of Rohmer in *The Yellow Peril: Dr. Fu Manchu & the Rise of Chinaphobia* (Thames & Hudson, \$40). "Yellow Peril" was a term, going back at least as far as the California Gold Rush of 1849, implying that waves of Chinese immigrants would flood and somehow pervert Western society and its values. The notion had been current for at least two generations when Rohmer created the fictional Fu Manchu, the precursor of all those evil geniuses in James Bond novels who are bent on taking over the world.

Fu Manchu was dreamed up in 1912, the same year that China deposed its last emperor in order to become a republic, leading to decades of political and social turmoil — a time when, as Frayling points out, China "was in chaos, divided against itself, victim of successive famines and



Sir Christopher Frayling's book, *Yellow Peril: Dr. Fu Manchu & the Rise of Chinaphobia*, digs deeply into the story of Sax Rohmer.

utterly incapable of being a 'peril' to anyone, even if it had wanted to be..." Now, more than a century later, Fu Manchu remains "by far the dominant and best-remembered fictional personification of the merciless, inscrutable, vengeful and cunning Chinese — of 'Chineseness' — all over the world, thanks to countless books, comics, cartoons, series and feature

films...." The character was most popular in the period between the two world wars, when Rohmer (whose books were banned by the Nazis, who thought his name sounded Jewish) made a fortune, had a country estate and drove a Rolls. But a fondness for roulette and a weak head for business erased his status long before his death (of "the Asian 'flu") in 1959.

Rohmer a racist?

Frayling is careful to pause once or twice in his lengthy attack on Fu Manchu ("the second most famous Chinese person in the world", after Mao Zedong) to speak a little more kindly of Sax Rohmer's intent. In Frayling's words, Fu Manchu was "an



Sax Rohmer

archangel ruined and often likened to Milton's Satan. He always kept his word, to the letter. He bears no personal grudges. He speaks 'the purest English I have ever heard.' He is a nobleman, appalled by the chaos of contemporary China. He wanted China to be *someone* on the world stage again." That seems like backpedalling. One question is whether Rohmer was a racist who reflected the society in which he lived or one who inspired perhaps even worse racist views in others.

Like fictional detective Charlie Chan (whom Frayling, perhaps forgetting about *Number One Son*, calls "asexual"), Fu Manchu was always played on stage and screen by white actors. This has long been a sore point to people of Chinese ancestry, though Frayling tells us that recently a new generation of young ethnic Chinese have revised this image of Chan (perhaps because he was always so much smarter than the white cops). Frayling wonders whether Fu Manchu might one day undergo a similar reassessment. Already there are indications that he has become somewhat camp. But that's irrelevant when one considers how damaging the stereotype was and how long it lingered in certain circles.

Scare tactics

Frayling quotes John Foster Dulles, who was the U.S. secretary of state at the end of the Korean War, giving lip service to the idea that the U.S. had not yet completely

rid itself of "images of yellow hordes sweeping south to turn all of Asia communist." Margaret Thatcher, we're told, required "some persuading" by staff to stop using the word "Chinaman." In the author's view, even the handover of Hong Kong to the People's Republic in 1997 "contained distinct echoes of fears about the Yellow Peril," a statement that some readers may have difficulty swallowing if only because it takes up the book's whole first chapter. But then Frayling is unrelenting — and long-winded and disorganized — in rooting out every instance of anti-Chinese diction he can find. One example is the term "bowling a chinaman," which was coined in 1933 and is more or less the cricket equivalent of throwing a curve in baseball. At some points, Frayling's observations take on the tone of a tirade. For example: "Paperback thrillers about snakehead gangs cast the Chinese gang masters as their sole villains, rather than the supermarkets, which insist on the cheapest possible products of their slave-like labours."

In his introduction, he tells us that he wrote his book with the encouragement of Edward Said (1935–2003), the wildly influential Palestinian/Egyptian scholar and public intellectual whose 1979 work, *Orientalism*, changed the way many in the West think, speak and write about Islam in the Middle East and North Africa. Frayling appears to hope that his own book will have a similar effect on how the West views East Asia. For all his research, however, he is, to be kind, far from being another Said. In the case of this book at least, he is a collector of information rather than a thinker. For a broader understanding of the matter, one might turn to another new title, *Yellow Peril: An Archive of Anti-Asian Fear* edited by John Kuo Wei Tchen and Dylan Yeats (Verso, \$34.95 paper).

And yet Frayling's work is certainly not without a serious purpose. The author asks whether the idea of the Yellow Peril "has survived the rise of China as a global superpower and the opening up of China to foreign tourists? Has Dr. Fu Manchu remained the ultimate personification of exotic villainy, in an age which still likes to give a single face to diffuse terrorist threats? Scare stories about Chinese perfidy continue to fill broadsheet newspapers, financial pages and tabloid headlines alike. Some right-wing politicians, especially in the United States, use the rhetoric of China-bashing to gain populist approval. Strategists talk and write of the 'Coming China Wars' over Taiwan or South Korea or the islands off

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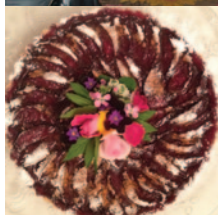
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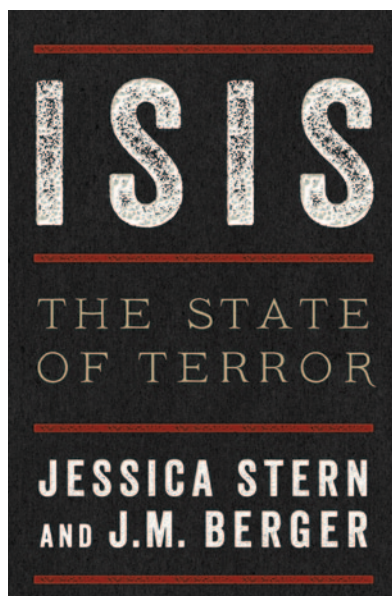
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South Japan or even Africa. There's the cliché that 'China must learn to become a respectable world nation,' like — it is assumed — the other members of the World Trade Organization. Buried just beneath the surface of acceptable discourse lies the deep, long history of the Yellow Peril — like a reflex."

The ISIS crisis

It's difficult to remember now that only a few years ago, the name Isis referred either to the ancient Egyptian goddess (of magical healing and domestic arts) or the song by Bob Dylan. Once the word took on its current meaning, a publishing floodgate opened. Just as happened with the John F. Kennedy assassination or the Great Recession, scores of people who knew a little bit about the topic, or thought they did, or at least held strong opinions about it, sat down at their keyboards and began typing.

As publishing serious writing for serious readers takes a long time, the first wave of ISIS books in the summer of 2014 included some pretty hasty affairs. In July, Charles River Editions, which churns



out anonymous books such as *The Weird Wild West: Tall Tales and Legends about the Frontier*, released *The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria: The History of ISIS/ISIL* in both printed and electronic form. E-books, short ones in particular, are well suited to ranting, as with *ISIS: In Satan Islam Salutes*, a 17-page work by an author whose previous efforts include *Israel: Wipe Them Out; Death: What Happens Next?*; and *Tattoos: Questions & Answers*.

As the months rolled by, the field be-

came quite congested and, in a few cases, open to confusion. For example, two similarly named e-books — *ISIS: The Rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria* by Joy Lincoln and *ISIS: Terrorism and the Rise of ISIS in Iraq and Syria* by C.J. Knight — appeared within 24 hours of each other. Others of this type, some worthwhile and some probably not, have rather provocative titles. For example, among them are *The Rise of ISIS: The West's New Crusade* by Andrew Sharp, *ISIS Taking Over the Middle East: The Rise of Middle Eastern Supremacy* by Joseph Spark, and *The ISIS Solution: How Unconventional Thinking and Special Operations can Eliminate Radical Islam* by Jack Murphy and Brandon Webb.

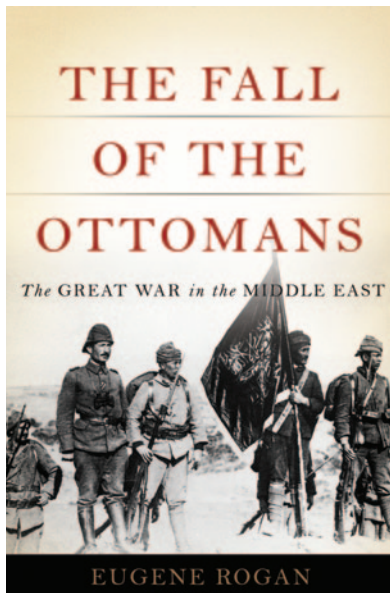
Not surprisingly, several ISIS authors are evangelical Christians. One example is Robert Jeffress, a Baptist pastor in Dallas. He is the author of *Countdown to the Apocalypse: Why ISIS and Ebola are Only the Beginning*, a book that interprets our current situation in terms of Revelations in the Bible. It is part of the big second wave of ISIS writing, and is published by the huge and solidly mainstream Hachette Canada (\$15, paper). As I'm writing this, many others, frequently more serious than their predecessors, are set to appear from publishers associated with conservative and progressive ideologies. Regency, the large and well-established Chicago publisher of right-wing literature, has *Victory Undone: The Defeat of al-Qaeda in Iraq and its Resurrection as ISIS* by Carter Andress and Malcolm McConnell (US\$29.95). For its part, Verso, a press associated with liberal causes, has Patrick Cockburn's *The Rise of Islamic State: ISIS and the New Sunni Revolution* (\$16.95 paper). They use different lenses to look at the same set of foreign policy failures, and this is certainly healthy.

An even healthier sign is this: The longer the ISIS mess goes on, the more it is written about by individuals with impressive credentials in the field — people who haven't picked up their laptops at the first sign of trouble and rushed to draw conclusions. For example, Jessica Stern, a Harvard lecturer, and J.M. Berger, a regular contributor to *Foreign Policy*, have written *ISIS: The State of Terror* (HarperCollins Canada, \$17 paper). Similarly, Michael Weiss and Hassan Hassan, well-known commentators, have collaborated on *ISIS: Inside the Army of Terror* (Simon & Schuster Canada, \$17 paper). Simon & Schuster also publishes *The Rise of ISIS: A Threat We Can't Ignore* by Jay Sekulow, Jordan Sekulow and others (\$15.50 paper). The first-named Sekulow is chief legal counsel

for two law-and-justice NGOs, one in the U.S., the other in Europe, and writes for the *New York Times*. A bit bizarrely perhaps, he's also the leader of a rock band, one that seems to specialize in tunes about the Middle East crisis.

Updates

In the previous issue of *Diplomat*, I wrote about the anguished and never-ending controversy over the genocide inflicted on Armenians by the Turks of the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th Century. In doing so, I made mention of the Armenian plan to exact revenge on some of the Ottoman leaders. This operation, code-named



Nemesis after the ancient Greek goddess of retribution, involved killing a number of the genocide's instigators, who had dispersed to various European cities. Since I wrote about that, two new books on the subject by Armenian-Americans have appeared: *Operation Nemesis: The Assassination Plot that Avenged the Armenian Genocide* by Eric Bogosian (Hachette Canada, \$31) and *Sacred Justice: The Voices and Legacy of the Armenian Operation Nemesis* by Marian Mesrobian MacCurdy (distributed by UBC Press, \$59.95). MacCurdy draws heavily on previously unpublished letters by her grandfather, who was one of the Nemesis leaders.

The subjects of ISIS and the Ottoman Empire can be neatly tied up with twine, as the Turks were regional players on the German side in the Great War. When they lost, much of their territory was divided up between the French and the British, particularly the latter: an indelible insult to Muslims. Such figures as Winston

Churchill, Gertrude Bell and, of course, T.E. Lawrence ("of Arabia") conspired to create the map of Iraq that ISIS is now busily rubbing out. A splendid new book,



Eugene Rogan

The Fall of the Ottomans: The Great War in the Middle East, by Eugene Rogan (Basic Books, \$40), describes how Lawrence became involved.

In 1915, Field Marshall Horatio Kitchener, the British secretary of state for war, "asked British officials in the Cairo Military Intelligence Office to give him their best man ... to raise a popular rebellion [against the Turks] and to bribe the Ottoman commander. With none of the higher officers willing to risk their reputations on such an ill-conceived assignment, the commission fell to a low-ranking intelligence officer, Captain T.E. Lawrence. Lawrence spoke Arabic, had extensive contact with Arab officers of the Ottoman army held in British PoW camps in Egypt ... and the self-confidence to believe he could succeed in such an improbable mission." How did he acquire such self-confidence? Slowly, as it turns out, as explained in careful detail in *The Young T.E. Lawrence* by Anthony Satin (Penguin Canada, \$21).

George Fetherling is a novelist and cultural commentator.



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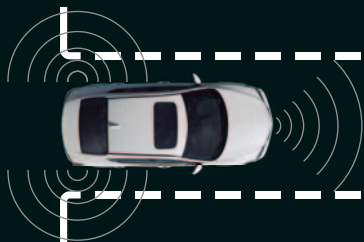
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Aboriginals' fight for the franchise

By Anthony Wilson-Smith

Imagine that your family has lived on the same land for generations. Over time, others arrive, take residence and establish a government whose rules now apply to you. But they do not include you in consultations — in fact, they specifically *exclude* you.

This was the situation facing Aboriginal Peoples in Canada for much of the period following Confederation in 1867. Although many First Nations people had the right to vote, it required renouncing their aboriginal status under a process known as “enfranchisement.” In 1885, under legislation brought forward by prime minister Sir John A. Macdonald, “Status Indians” — as they were known — who met existing requirements were given the right to vote. Yet Macdonald’s intent to extend the vote to all Aboriginal Peoples met with strong opposition. One result was that Aboriginal Peoples in areas involved in a recent Métis-First Nations rebellion were specifically excluded. In any event, that legislation did not last long: in 1898, seven years after Macdonald’s death in office, it was repealed.

Why the reluctance to give Aboriginal Peoples the vote? Outright prejudice coupled with misguided, often paternalistic logic. The language used in the debate over the 1885 legislation was blunt and insulting — First Nations people were described as “low,” “filthy,” “barbarians” and “ignorant.”

Ultimately, it took participation in the First World War to give some Status Indi-



Mary McPherson won first place in the junior art category of the 2015 Aboriginal Arts & Stories contest for Cross Assimilation.

ans the vote, although it took until 1924 to fully enfranchise those veterans. In 1934, the Dominion Franchise Act explicitly disqualified First Nations people living on reserves as well as Inuit from voting, with the exception of war veterans.

In 1950, Inuit were given the right to vote; although many lived so far from voting stations that the change had little practical application. In 1958, prime minister John Diefenbaker, an advocate of Aboriginal Peoples’ right to vote, appointed the first First Nations member of the Senate, James Gladstone, or Akaynamuka. In 1960, Diefenbaker’s government extended the vote unconditionally to Aboriginal Peoples; and eight years later, Len

Marchand of B.C. became the first “Status Indian” elected as an MP. Still, because of bickering over the classification of women based on whether they married a “Status Indian” or “Non-Status” male, it was not until 1985 that the act was amended to remove prolonged elements of discrimination against First Nations women.

Today, while many challenges remain, new occasions exist for Aboriginal Peoples in Canada to reflect on their past, including frustrations and achievements. Historica Canada holds an annual Aboriginal Arts & Stories contest, inviting aboriginal youth to explore the stories of their peoples. Since 2005, more than 2,500 youth have submitted visual art and writing for consideration by our jury of aboriginal artists and writers. Among this year’s winners is Shaelyn Johnston, who placed first in the senior writing category for *Anishinaabemowin*, a story that addresses the issue of language loss and tells of one woman’s vow to pass on the Ojibwe language to her daughter.

Other occasions include the month of June — declared National Aboriginal History Month in 2009 — and June 21 declared National Aboriginal Day in 1996. In recent years, there is progress to celebrate: in the 2011 federal election, a record seven MPs of First Nations, Inuit or Métis origin were elected to the same House of Commons that once spurned their people.

Anthony Wilson-Smith is president of Historica Canada.

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In Japanese cuisine, tradition prevails

Photo by Larry Dickenson



Margaret Dickenson

One of the basic principles of Japanese cooking is to capitalize on the food of the seasons — seafood, vegetables and fruit at the peak of their flavours. Add to this Japan's widely varying climates in each season and you get the famed Japanese cuisine.

The archipelago of Japan extends from the northern cool, temperate climate to the southern subtropical zone. This arc of islands witnesses a turbulent encounter of cold and warm ocean currents off its rather lengthy southern coastline. With these unique characteristics, plus its mountainous terrain, Japan not only has a diversity of climates in different regions, but undoubtedly experiences four distinct seasons (five if the early-summer monsoon season is included), each yielding particular produce.

The mountainous areas are blessed with abundant rainfall and snow melt as well as an elaborate network of subterranean water channels, which sustain paddy fields and other crops. Such an advantage has given rise to an impressive food culture while often still employing old ways of cultivation.

Japan is well known for its rice-centred food culture, which developed after the introduction of "wet rice" cultivation from Asia more than 2,000 years ago. Tetsuya Ito, first secretary of agriculture, forestry and fisheries at the Japanese embassy, pointed out that 80 percent of Japanese farmers today are rice farmers. In reality, Japanese cuisine, also called ryori, was conceived from ichiju issai, eating rice along with a bowl of soup and a side dish. (Ichiju issai was the basis of the Buddhist monks' shojin temple cuisine — described below.)

Although this simple style, embracing Japan's philosophy of frugality, was adapted centuries ago, it has become known as the essence of Japanese cuisine, in which seasonal foods are prepared



Margaret Dickenson's tuna sashimi salad

in a simple manner to preserve natural flavours and avoid waste. Equally important as taste has been the artistry of the arrangement of food on a plate and the attention given to the character, colour and shape of plates and tableware chosen to harmonize with the food and the season. A great deal has been recorded concerning the evolution of Japan's food history and culture. Even though much has changed, the core of its cuisine has remained the same to this day.

Vegetarian diets arrive

One of the more significant changes came in the 8th and 9th Centuries when chopsticks and soy sauce were introduced from China. During Japan's Heian period (784-1184), aristocracy entertained guests with elaborate daikyo ryori feasts. And although Buddhism (which forbade the eating of virtually all flesh of fowl and fauna) arrived in Japan in the 6th Century,

it wasn't until about the 12th Century that the vegetarian style of cooking (shojin ryori or temple cuisine), made popular by Buddhist temple monks, took hold. Their vegetarian ichiju issai diet (one small bowl of rice, soup and one dish, such as steamed vegetables) was frugal, only designed to appease hunger.

In the 15th Century, a more elaborate version of shojin ryori (called honzen ryori) was created in the households of samurai warriors. It was a multi-tray cuisine and included foods such as tofu, fermented soybeans, soy milk and wheat dishes as well as vegetables, but still with the spirit of eating in balance and wasting nothing.

In the 16th Century, inspired by the Buddhist shojin ryori, cha-kaiseki emerged, with a complete meal served prior to the formal tea ceremony. Interestingly, all four of these individual, traditional Japanese cuisines continue in some form today. The

evolution of Japanese cuisine has been a fascinating journey through history.

The arrival of European missionaries in the 16th Century during the Edo era (1603-1867), brought together Portuguese and Spanish techniques of frying game and the Chinese method of cooking vegetables in oil, resulting in the creation of tempura — seafood and a variety of vegetables coated with a light batter before deep-frying — which was initially sold at Tokyo food stalls. Similarly, in the 18th Century, modern-style sushi (vinegar rice combined or topped with items such as raw fish and seafood), was invented in Tokyo and also sold as a snack food. However, between these two international stars of today's Japanese cuisine emerged the technique of noodle-making and the birth of the famous soba noodle, which is made of buckwheat. This despite the fact that soba, with its advantageous characteristics of being able to grow in colder climates and be harvest-ready in two months, had already been cultivated for almost a millennium.

Ito explains: "Because the hull of buckwheat is really hard, we could not make buckwheat flour until stone-milling was introduced from China about 400 years ago. Prior to that, entire grains were consumed like rice dishes." Examples of those include a porridge called soba-gayu and a mixture of buckwheat grains and soybean paste known as soba-miso, which are still popular menu items in Japanese soba restaurants.

Meat-eating becomes popular

Finally, after centuries of isolation, Japan reopened its ports to the West during the Meiji period (1868-1912) and many new cooking and eating customs emerged, the most significant of which was the eating of meat. Since then, the country has developed an amazingly rich and varied food culture that embraces traditional Japanese cuisines, many foreign dishes and hybrid fare. Several dishes developed at this time are now regarded as part of Japanese cuisine: sukiyaki (beef, tofu, vegetables and other ingredients cooked at the table in a sweet broth of sugar, mirin and soy sauce), tonkatsu (deep-fried breaded pork cutlets) and kareraisu (a not-too-spicy Japanese curry rice made with Indian curry powder imported from England, combined with seafood or beef stock and vegetables in a thick sauce and served with pickles).

Although dishes vary according to region, season, taste preferences and cooking styles, all traditional regional cuisines feature ichiju sansai (a meal consisting of rice plus a bowl of soup and a number of

side dishes) and they all share the love of one favourite dish — sashimi (fresh raw seafood, thinly sliced and dipped into a mixture of soy sauce with wasabi and usually served with pickled ginger). Sashimi was originally a simple meal for fishermen at sea, but with the spread of soy sauce, it has evolved into a luxurious dish for the eye and the palate, a dish with international recognition as a classic example of Japanese cuisine. Ito explains: "Until the 1960s, the raw fish used in sashimi had to be marinated in vinegar due to food safety concerns related to the lack of proper refrigeration." Japanese people enjoy sashimi at home and it is featured on menus for festivals and auspicious occasions.

Indeed, certain ingredients and foods are considered indispensable elements of traditional rituals, holidays and special occasions to recognize divine powers. For example, mochi rice cakes made from pounded steamed rice formed into round or square shapes, is served in soup on New Year's Day. To drive away evil spirits, glutinous rice steamed with red beans and toso, a type of medicinally spiked sake, is drunk at New Year's. Syrup-glazed dried anchovies are said to promote a good harvest, while noodles and sweetened black soybeans encourage health and longevity.

Noodles vs. rice

Traditionally, in some regions, noodles



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Sushi has been one of Japan's biggest culinary exports.

have been a staple rather than rice. Unquestionably, though, Japanese rice, the short-grained sticky type, is the main element of this country's cuisine. Japanese tend to be very particular about the region, variety and brand they purchase, with many eagerly waiting the arrival of each year's delivery of new rice. Ito, the son of a rice farmer, explains: "There are more than 800 varieties of Japanese rice, with new strains continuing to be developed." Freshly steamed rice is most flavourful, but Japanese rice is very tasty cold, which is the reason why cold rice balls are a daily addition to countless lunch boxes.

Regarded as the miracle seasoning of Japanese cuisine, soy sauce is another main element, as it enriches the savoury notes, flavour and aroma of sushi, sashimi, grilled fish, stews, vegetables and many more dishes. Another traditional and vital seasoning, which still remains popular, is miso, made by fermenting and aging a combination of soybeans, salt and koji (rice, wheat, and beans.) With its unusual fragrance and flavour, miso is added to pickles, soup, grilled dishes and other preparations.

Japanese chefs simmer kelp, dried bonito (a type of tuna), dried anchovies and dried shiitake mushrooms to concentrate

their umami — a distinct savouriness widely hailed in today's culinary world as the sixth sense after sweet, sour, bitter, spicy and salty — and to produce dashi stock. Dashi, too, ranks as an essential ingredient for soups, noodles, simmered and braised dishes. Finally, unique to Japan is wasabi, which is cultivated in pristine stream beds fed by cold natural springs. As a seasoning with a sharp bite, it accents the delicate flavour of foods such as raw fish and offers greater culinary complexity when served with sushi and sashimi.

Japanese cuisine focuses on several other key ingredients — seafood, saltwater and freshwater fish, beef (including its world-renowned highly marbled Wagyu beef), vegetables including wild plants and sea vegetables as well (e.g., angelica tree buds/sprouts, bracken/fern, bamboo shoots, mushrooms, wakame seaweed and nori, the seaweed used to make sushi.)

Japan's restaurant favourites

When it comes to Japanese restaurants, they tend to specialize in a single type of food: sushi (with a conveyor belt service in front of customers who lift off small plates of their choice and pay according to the number of plates taken), tempura and shabushabu (thinly sliced beef cooked in a broth at the table.) By far, restaurants specializing in ramen and yakiniku (Japanese-style barbecue) are most popular and numerous across Japan. Only family restaurants offer a range of Japanese, Western and foreign foods. Foreign food restaurants are common in larger cities.

Despite the boom in restaurants, take-home food and home delivery in Japanese bento boxes, a meal at home is still the norm. That would generally include white rice, soup, pickles and a number of accompanying dishes. And even though an enormous variety of sweets are made with sticky rice, desserts, other than seasonal fresh fruit or dried fruit, were not traditionally served at the end of the meal. Ito explains: "Sweets were originally served as part of the tea ceremony; however, with Western influence, desserts have become popular."

I invite you to try my unique version of Tuna Sashimi Salad. Bon Appétit! It adakimasu!

Tuna Sashimi Salad

Makes 6 servings or 2 ½ cups (625 mL)

1 cup or 250 mL (7 oz or 200 g) diced sashimi-grade tuna

1 cup or 250 mL (6 oz or 175 g) diced English cucumber, skin on, seeds removed
1 cup or 250 mL (6 oz or 175 g) diced ripe avocado
1 tbsp (15 mL) soy sauce
1 tbsp (15 mL) sesame oil
¾ tsp (4 mL) crushed dried tarragon leaves
¾ tsp (4 mL) ground cumin
2 tbsp (30 mL) chopped green onion
2 tsp (10 mL) toasted white sesame seeds
To taste, salt and crushed black peppercorns

Dressing

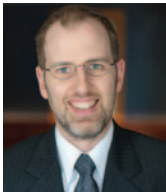
1 tbsp (15 mL) fresh lime juice
1 tbsp (15 mL) sesame oil
¾ tsp (4 mL) prepared wasabi
1 ½ tsp (8 mL) peeled and grated fresh gingerroot
1 tsp (5 mL) soy sauce

1. To make the dressing: In a small bowl, whisk together lime juice, sesame oil, wasabi, ginger and soy sauce; set aside.
2. When dicing tuna, cucumber and avocado into 1/4-inch or 0.6-cm cubes, keep these ingredients separate.
3. Sprinkle tuna with 1 tbsp (15 mL) soy sauce, 1 tbsp (15 mL) sesame oil, tarragon and cumin; toss.
4. Just before serving, place tuna, cucumber and green onion on a large platter or in a large glass baking dish, sprinkle with sesame seeds, salt and crushed black peppercorns, and gently toss together with a fork.
5. Drizzle with dressing and toss lightly. Add avocado and toss.* (Makes 2 ½ cups or 625 mL.)
6. For individual servings, using a cylinder (diameter: 3 inches or 7.5 cm), arrange 1/6 of the salad mixture on each of 6 dinner plates, packing it down lightly with a spoon.
7. If desired, for a final presentation, drizzle plates artistically with sesame oil and basil-infused olive oil. Add a scattering of capers and fresh thyme leaves; crown individual Tuna Sashimi Salads with fried wonton pieces.

*Note: It may be necessary to increase the final dimension of flavours. Therefore, stir together a little more of the dressing ingredients and add to the mixture according to taste. If appropriate, season with more salt and crushed black peppercorns.

Margaret Dickenson is a cookbook author, TV host, menu/recipe developer, protocol, business and etiquette instructor. (www.margaretstable.ca)

You've come a long way, Canada. Cheers!



Pieter
Van den Weghe

Canada has come a long way since the early 1800s when Johann Schiller, a retired German mercenary from the Rhine, settled near Toronto and developed a small winery based on the native varietals he found on his property. He sold the wine he made to his neighbours and came to be what is considered Canada's first commercial winemaker. Over the next two centuries, our grape growers and winemakers have overcome many challenges, the most profound of which could be the significant lack of knowledge and tradition required to successfully grow appropriate grape varietals in our climates. Many tried and most failed, but eventually we started to get something right.

Over the past 25 years, Canadian wines have evolved significantly. While we will never compete with such titans as France, Italy and the U.S. in terms of quantity, the quality of our wines has soared. Gone are the days that ho-hum Canadian wines were consumed solely out of a sense of masochistic patriotic duty. Now, several regions produce excellent wines in a wide variety of styles and prices.

Certainly, few of our wines make a splash outside our borders. When considering Canada, many other countries will sooner think of hockey, maple syrup and long winters than vineyards, grapes and excellent vintages. However, the longer we stay a secret, the more time we'll have to enjoy these wonderful wines.

Even for most Canadians, Nova Scotia does not come quickly to mind as a premium wine-producing area of the country. But Benjamin Bridge's 2009 traditional-method sparkling wine says perhaps it should. This unusual blend of a noble variety grape, Chardonnay, and two hybrid grapes, L'Acadie and Seyval, is very impressive in complexity. The wine is vibrant, with generous notes of citrus and minerals, and, having spent three years resting on its lees, has a rich expression of biscuit and yeast. It is available from Vintages for \$49.95.

For several years, Dan Sullivan and his

Rosehall Run winery have been making delicious wines in Ontario's Prince Edward County. A great example is the 2012 "JCR" Chardonnay. Made with only estate fruit from the oldest vines in the Rosehall Vineyard, this is a profound, rich and elegant white wine with an excellent texture. While fermented and matured for 16 months in French oak, the wood is well integrated and balanced with the aromas and flavours of apple, tropical fruit and mineral. This wine can be purchased from Vintages or from the winery for \$29.95.

For an awesome B.C. wine, the 2012 Pinot Noir from Burrowing Owl is a great find. This is an expressive and weighty example of Pinot from a great vintage in the Okanagan Valley. Hand-sorted fruit was fermented in stainless steel for 21 days and then aged in a mixture of one-third new and two-thirds used French, Russian and Hungarian oak barrels for nine months. The resulting wine starts off with a distinctively intense nose of black cherries, clove and earth. This is followed by a silky and elegant palate rich with flavours of dark berries, spices and herbs. This red wine can

be purchased from Vintages for \$40.95.

To finish things off, a massive, powerful and unique red wine is certainly Cave Spring's 2010 "La Penna." Sourced from Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc vines in the Cave Spring Vineyard on Niagara's Beamsville Bench, the fruit is air-dried in the appassimento method (the same technique traditionally used to produce Amarone in Italy's Veneto region). After being hand-harvested, ripe grapes are placed on racks in a naturally ventilated barn for seven weeks. The resulting dried fruit has concentrated sugars and provides significant power and complexity to the final wine. After fermentation, the wine was aged for 40 months in a mix of used French and new American oak barrels and has complex aromas of black fruit, smoke and herbs. The palate is dry, full-bodied and incredibly rich. The flavours of dark fruit, tobacco and spice are draped over a fine tannic structure. This giant is available directly from the winery for \$39.95.

Peter Van den Weghe is sommelier and general manager of Beckta dining & wine.

A home called Ballybeg

Photos by Dyanne Wilson



Ballybeg is the name of the large stone Rockcliffe home that's been occupied by Tunisian ambassadors since 1970.



Margo
Roston

Ballybeg is the anglicized version of the Irish word for “little town.” The large stone Rockcliffe house

that bears that name may not exactly fit the translation, but it is as much a hub of activity today as it was in the days of admiral Sir Charles Kingsmill, who, during the First World War, commissioned Montreal architect H.C. Stone to design his imposing home on Crescent Road.

The admiral became the first director of the Royal Canadian Navy in 1910 and he and his wife, Constance, were leading figures in Ottawa's social life. Active in many causes, Lady Kingsmill even supported a campaign in favour of birth control. Since

Rockcliffe in those days was really in the country, Lady Kingsmill, like many of her neighbours, kept chickens and a cow at Ballybeg. It wasn't until 1971 that roosters and cattle were barred from village properties.

Marauding livestock is of no concern to Ambassador Riadh Essid and his wife, Chiraz, who lead a busy life representing Tunisia in Canada. Ballybeg has been the residence of Tunisia's ambassadors since 1970 and that is fortunate, says the ambassador, “considering what this house



The main reception room features Tunisian carpets and paintings representing the people of the country.



Ambassador Riadh Essid and his wife, Chiraz, have lived in the residence for two years.



The home features several typical Tunisian treasures, including a set of these tea cups.



Guests to this dining room often want, and always receive, traditional Tunisian couscous.

would cost today.”

Immediately inside a glass entrance-way of the residence, visitors are greeted by a typical Tunisian mosaic, a portrait of Circe during the Punic Wars; three battles, in fact, fought between Carthage and Rome between 264 and 146 BC. The original mosaic can be found in the famous Bardo National Museum in Tunis.

While simply furnished with functional Canadian furniture, the main reception room features magnificent Tunisian carpets and paintings representing the people of the country. A large picture of men racing horses is the featured artwork, but there are many paintings of ordinary people doing ordinary tasks. Women making coffee and homemade couscous are among the scenes representing life in Tunisia.

Off the main reception room is a casually furnished sunroom, added to the house 15 years ago, a lively alternative to the more formal reception room.

“It’s my favourite room in the house,” says the ambassador, “because it is bright and comfortable.”

The sunroom leads out to a sizable veranda where guests can gather for receptions. Set atop a hill, the back garden is

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their braces are off for the Grade 12 grad.”

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The original of this mosaic, a portrait of Circe during the Punic Wars, hangs in the Bardo National Museum in Tunis.

surrounded by trees.

Everywhere there are mementos of home, from replica hookahs to dolls wearing national dress. For *Diplomat's* visit, sweet mint tea sprinkled with pine nuts was served, along with delectable dates and hard-to-resist sweets.

The walls of the sunny dining room are papered in white and gold stripes with gold seat coverings and ornate chandeliers. An imposing fireplace has a predominant spot in the room and a sideboard holds an array of flasks for tea and juice along with teapots, most of them with delicate silver trim. Here guests are always served Tunisian specialties created by a chef from Tunisia.

"Everyone wants couscous when they come here, so we always serve it," says the ambassador. Then there could be favourites including brik, a popular snack involving an egg wrapped in thin pastry and fried. Sometimes the pastry is filled with tuna or vegetables. And then, of course, there is that most addictive of sweets, baklava.

The couple and their two children, who both attend the University of Ottawa, have had several major postings, including South Africa, where the ambassador

mentions he met Nelson Mandela. But after more than two years here, they admit they are very happy in Ottawa, he with his diplomatic duties, she an active member of the International Women's Club.

The three-storey house is comfortable and spacious for a family of four, with five bedrooms on the top floor, three bedrooms and a TV room on the second, and, along with the main reception areas, a sizable panelled study. A large kitchen and pantry with an extra freezer and refrigerator ensure that everyone is well looked after. It is in the kitchen that Chiraz can often be found organizing the couple's social events.

And when guests leave, they often take home beautiful gift boxes with special Tunisian treats, including baklava or olive oil, one of Tunisia's major exports.

And a confession: As I write, I'm nibbling on a most wonderful Tunisian date plucked from a beautiful red and gold gift box on my desk. Yum, and thanks, is all I can say.

Margo Roston is *Diplomat's* culture editor. Article written with information from *Rockcliffe Park, A History of the Village* by Martha Edmond.

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Edgar Gaspar Martins
Ambassador of Angola



Ambassador Gaspar Martins has a degree in international relations from the University of Havana in Cuba.

He began his diplomatic career in 1983 as an attaché and third secretary in the Africa and Middle East section of the foreign ministry. By 1993, he was first secretary at the embassy in Portugal, returning six years later as head of the Africa and America division for bilateral co-operation. In 2001, he was first secretary at the embassy he's now returned to as ambassador.

Between 2006 and 2010, he was head of the Europe division of bilateral co-operation. From 2010 to 2014, he was director of human resources at the foreign ministry.

Gaspar Martins is married and has one adult son. He is fluent in Portuguese and Spanish and functions in English and French as well.

Yvonne V. Walkes
High Commissioner for Barbados



High Commissioner Walkes, an avid trade unionist, began her career in that movement. Most recently, she was senior industrial counsellor with the Barbados Workers' Union. In

this capacity, she set up the first counselling service for workers and their families.

In non-governmental organizations, she has worked on such issues as gender-based violence, human trafficking, teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, child care, equality and others. She was president of the National Organization of Women of Barbados and of the Democratic League of Women.

In politics, she was appointed a senator of Parliament from 1990 to 1994. One of her greatest accomplishments came at independence celebrations in 2010 when she received the Silver Crown of Merit for her groundbreaking work in the trade-union movement, education and women's advocacy.

Walkes has one grown daughter, Keisha.

Pavel Hrnčíř
Ambassador of Czech Republic



After completing studies in philosophy at Charles University in Prague, Ambassador Hrnčíř began his career as deputy director of the Library of the Museum of Czech Literature in Prague. He then became chief publication editor at the Organization for Humanitarian Cooperation in Prague, after which, in 1994, he joined the foreign ministry's department of cultural diplomacy.

By 1998, he was deputy head of the embassy in Paris. He returned to headquarters in the policy department for a year before becoming deputy head of mission in Geneva for four years. In 2010, he became head of delegation to the Council of Europe. Before coming to Canada, he was deputy director of the foreign ministry's policy and planning department.

Hrnčíř speaks English and French and is an author of children's books.

Vishnu Prakash
High Commissioner for India



High Commissioner Prakash joined the foreign service in 1981. After postings in Moscow and New Delhi, he was assigned to handle economic and commercial matters in

New York.

In 1992, he was appointed consul general to Vladivostok during which time direct trade links between India and Russia were established. He was next assigned as political counsellor in Tokyo (1997-2000) and then Islamabad (2001). In 2002, he became economic and commercial minister in Cairo.

In 2006, he was appointed consul general in Shanghai and served there until August 2008, when he was named joint secretary and official spokesman of the foreign ministry in New Delhi.

In 2012, he became ambassador to South Korea. The high commissioner is married to Neelam and they have two adult children.

Kenjiro Monji
Ambassador of Japan



After graduating from the Faculty of Law at Tokyo University, Ambassador Monji joined the foreign ministry in 1975.

The ambassador has served mainly in the areas of treaties, national security and cultural exchange. He has had postings in France, Australia, Belgium, Britain and at the European Union in Brussels.

After holding posts in Tokyo as deputy director-general of the Treaties Bureau and as director-general for international affairs at the defence ministry, he served as ambassador to Iraq (2007), director-general for public diplomacy at the foreign ministry (2008), ambassador to Qatar (2010) and permanent delegate of Japan to UNESCO (2013).

Having been awarded the title of sake samurai by the Japan Sake Brewers Association Junior Council, Monji also promotes Japanese sake overseas.

Daeshik Jo
Ambassador of Korea



Ambassador Jo, whose 30-year diplomatic career has focused on political and multilateral issues, has worked extensively on North Korean nuclear issues as director of interna-

tional co-operation at the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) from 2001 to 2002.

Jo was responsible for establishing public diplomacy as a pillar of Korea's foreign affairs strategy while serving as director-general for public diplomacy (2009-2011).

From 2011 to 2012, he was ambassador to Libya, leading the evacuation of more than 15,000 Koreans and affiliates during the civil war. In 2014, he was again dispatched to Libya as a special envoy to secure the release of an abducted Korean diplomat.

Jo's previous overseas postings have include Canada (1990-1992), Oman (1992-1997), Austria (1997-2001), Singapore (2003-2006) and Sweden (2006-2009).

He is married with two grown sons.

Toni Dimovski
Ambassador of Macedonia



Ambassador Dimovski began his career in 1995 in the private sector and joined the public service in 1998 as a policy adviser in the ministry of economy. He later moved to the

ministry of trade.

In 2001, Dimovski was appointed deputy head of the ministry of finance and four years later, he was in charge of writing the annual budget for Macedonia.

In 2007, he became director of the Agency for Financial Support in Agriculture and Rural Development and his leadership resulted in the expansion of the agency, which now has eight regional offices.

The ambassador studied at Saints Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, where he received a bachelor's degree in economics in 1997. He is married and has two daughters.

Julio Cesar Arriola Ramirez
Ambassador of Paraguay



Ambassador Ramirez has a master's degree from the InterAmerican College of Continental Defence and graduated from the diplomatic and consular academy of Paraguay.

He began his career in 1990 as an officer at the Clorinda consulate in Argentina and spent the next year at the consulate in Formosa. In 1995, he became counsellor at the permanent mission of Paraguay at the OAS, and was later upgraded to minister. In 2001, he became director of international organizations and in 2004, director-general of multilateral policy.

From 2005 to 2009, he was chargé d'affaires in Costa Rica and from 2009 to 2011, he was the representative's alternate at the permanent mission to the UN. In 2012, he became deputy minister of administration and technical affairs.

He is married and has four children.

Ousmane Paye
Ambassador of Senegal



Ambassador Paye has a degree in international relations from l'Institut des Hautes Etudes Internationales in Paris. He began his diplomatic career in 1979, as a technical adviser to the foreign minister. For the following seven years, he was first secretary at the mission in Germany and later, between 1983 and 1986, served as first secretary in Austria.

The ambassador served as a technical adviser on the Francophonie to the Senegalese president from 1987 to 1993. He was minister of youth and sports from 1993 to 1998 and minister-counsellor to the president from 1998 to 2000. He served as a special adviser to the secretary general of the Francophonie from 2002 to 2015 and head of the delegation of the Francophonie to the United Nations.

He speaks French, English and German.

Non-heads of mission

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Gemma Raduan Corrius
Third secretary and chargé d'affaires

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Ladislau Augusto T. Silva
Attaché

Austria
Alexandra Deutsch
Assistant attaché

Benin
Gérard Deffodji S. Agbangla
Attaché
Houèvo Angèle E. Adoukonou
Attaché

China
Liping Zhao
Minister-counsellor

Hungary
Laszlo Sinka
First counsellor

Indonesia
Kartika Candra Negara
Minister-counsellor

Israel
Sergei Kudashev
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Japan
Tsuneasu Taguchi
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Takako Yamada
Second secretary
Eiichi Yokota
First secretary

Kazakhstan
Nurzhhan Aitmakhonov
First secretary

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Mohammad Kayoum Safee
Second secretary
Jaime Fernando Mozambique Chauque
First secretary

New Zealand
Sean William Stewart
Naval attaché

Peru
Eduardo Narcisho Malca Valverde
Assistant military and defence attaché

Poland
Aleksandra Jadwiga Kucy
Counsellor and consul

Russia
Oleg Pozdnyakov
Counsellor
Lilit Ignatyan
Attaché
Maria Kreymer
First secretary

Saudi Arabia
Ibrahim Turki I. Alturki
Attaché

Vietnam
Hung Son Nguyen
Minister-counsellor and deputy head of mission

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1. The embassy of Slovenia hosted a reception at the Ottawa Library titled *EYE.Thought.Hand* by Joze Domjan, one of the leading Slovenian poster designers. From left: Slovenian Ambassador Marjam Cencen, library manager Tony Westenbroek, EU Ambassador Marie Anne Coninx and Turkish Ambassador Selcuk Unal. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 2. UAE Ambassador Mohammed Saif Helal M. al-Shehhi hosted a luncheon to mark the achievements of women in the Arab World. From left: Leila Gouchi, artist and songwriter, and Malika El Kaoukabi, sales representative for Royal Air Maroc, in Moroccan national dress. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 3. Paraguayan Chargé d'Affaires Raul Montiel, pictured here, hosted a classical guitar concert by Berta Rojas at the National Arts Centre 4th Stage. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 4. Finnish Ambassador Charles Murto and Swedish Ambassador Per Ola Sjogren hosted dinners for Dining with the Ambassadors. (Photo: Lois Siegel) 5. On Estonia's 97th Independence Day, Ambassador Gita Kalmet and her embassy partnered with Santé Restaurant to present Tastes of Estonia, an evening of Estonian culture and cuisine with chef Paul Lillakas and pianist Armas Maiste. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 6. Dominican Republic Ambassador Hector Virgilio Alcantara Mejia and his wife, Eunice Brigida Llubes de Alcantara, hosted a national day event at Ottawa City Hall. (Photo: Ulle Baum)



1. Norwegian Ambassador Mona Elizabeth Brother hosted a concert and dinner for Friends of the NAC Orchestra's Music to Dine For event at her residence. From left: Emerald String Quartet musicians Ethan Balakrishnan (viola), Jerry Wang (violin), Alisa Klebanov (violin), Ambassador Brother and Emma Grant-Zypchen (cello). (Photo: Ulle Baum) 2. Portuguese Ambassador José Moreira da Cunha published a novel and took part in its launch at the University of Ottawa. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 3. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a state visit to Ottawa. He's seen here with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. (Photo: Sam Garcia) 4. U.S. Ambassador Bruce Heyman and his wife, Vicki, hosted a reception at their residence to launch an exhibition of contemporary American art presented by Art in Embassies. From left: Lianne Laing, host of CTV Morning Live, and Vicki Heyman. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 5. Armenian Ambassador Armen Yeghanyan and his wife, Maria, hosted a Music to Dine For dinner in support of the Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra. The Neutrino Trio performed. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 6. Israeli Ambassador Rafael Barak voted at his embassy prior to the Israeli election. (Photo: Embassy of Israel)



1. The Ottawa Loft Gala took place at the Hilton Lac-Leamy. From left, Béatrice Dautzenberg, brand director, L'Oréal Professionnel, Bruno Racine, gala organizer, and Honduran Ambassador Sofia Cerrato Rodriguez. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 2. Bruce Linghu, representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, helped paint the eyes of a ram, a symbol in Chinese brush painting, at Taiwan Night. From left, Linghu, National Revenue Minister Kerry-Lynne Findlay; Alice Wong, minister of state for seniors; MP John Weston, chairman of the Canada-Taiwan parliamentary friendship group; John Duncan, minister of state and chief government whip; and artist Chao Hong Tan. (Photo: Sam Garcia) 3. Sharon Johnston was presented the Because Mothers Matter Award at the 15th anniversary celebrations of HIPPY Canada (Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters) at the home of Australian High Commissioner Tony Negus. From left, Australian Deputy High Commissioner Adrian Morrison, Marina Negus, HIPPY chairwoman Maureen Boyd and Sharon Johnston. (Mike Pinder) 4. The embassy of Indonesia will open the doors to its embassy once a month in 2015. This event took place on one such occasion. From left: Fientje M. Suebu, Sylistya Widayanta, David Fairchild, Maria Yulli, Suwartini Wirta and Agoes Soebagio. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 5. The centenary of ANZAC Day took place at the War Museum. From left, Australian Deputy High Commissioner Adrian Morrison, Gov. Gen. David Johnston and New Zealand High Commissioner Simon Tucker. (Photo: Sam Garcia) 6. Cuban Ambassador Julio Garmendia Peña hosted a press launch for the 19th Latin American Film Festival. Shown are Tom McSorley, executive director of the Canadian Film Institute, and Venezuelan Ambassador Wilmer Omar Barrientos Fernandez. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 7. The film festival took place at Carleton University. From left, Bolivian Edgar Torrez and Salvadoran Ambassador Oscar Mauricio Duarte Granados attended the opening reception. (Photo: Sam Garcia)



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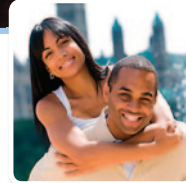
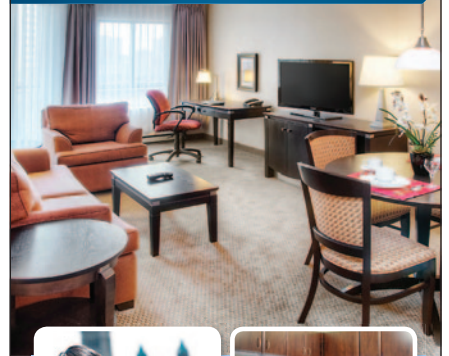
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3.

1. The embassy of China hosted an International Women's Day celebration. The event included cultural performances presented by female diplomats from China, invited musicians, singers and dancers. Jiang Yili, wife of the Chinese ambassador, front, leads a dance performed by the female diplomats of the Chinese embassy. (Photo: Ulle Baum) 2. The International Women Club of Ottawa (IWCO) was invited to the Philippines embassy to learn about Filipino culture and cuisine. From left, Nermine Fouad, Philippines Ambassador Petronila Garcia, IWCO president Helen Souter, Rabeya Elfeitori, wife of ambassador of Libya, and Lia Mazzolin. (Photo: Eric Tamayo) 3. Armenian Ambassador Armen Yeghanyan and his wife, Maria, hosted a fundraising dinner in support of the Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra. Guests, from left, are Florence Saint-Léger Liautaud, mezzo-soprano Arminé Kassabian and Haitian Ambassador Franz Liautaud. (Photo: Lois Siegel)

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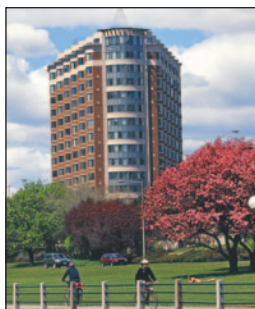
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Celebration time

A listing of the national and independence days marked by countries

| July | | |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Burundi | National Day |
| 1 | Canada | Canada Day |
| 3 | Belarus | Independence Day |
| 4 | Rwanda | Liberation Day |
| 4 | United States | Independence Day |
| 5 | Venezuela | Independence Day |
| 7 | Nepal | Birthday of His Majesty The King |
| 10 | Bahamas | Independence Day |
| 11 | Mongolia | National Day |
| 14 | France | National Day |
| 14 | Iraq | Republic Day |
| 20 | Colombia | National Day |
| 21 | Belgium | Accession of King Leopold I |
| 23 | Egypt | National Day |
| 28 | Peru | Independence Day |
| 30 | Morocco | Ascension of the Throne |
| August | | |
| 1 | Benin | Independence Day |
| 1 | Switzerland | National Day |
| 3 | Niger | Proclamation of Independence |
| 6 | Bolivia | Independence Day |
| 6 | Jamaica | Independence Day |
| 7 | Côte d'Ivoire | Independence Day |
| 8 | Macedonia | Independence Day |
| 10 | Ecuador | Independence Day |
| 11 | Chad | National Day |
| 15 | Congo | National Day |
| 15 | India | Independence Day |
| 17 | Gabon | National Day |
| 17 | Indonesia | Independence Day |
| 19 | Afghanistan | National Day |
| 24 | Ukraine | Independence Day |
| 25 | Uruguay | National Day |
| 31 | Malaysia | National Day |
| 31 | Trinidad and Tobago | National Day |
| September | | |
| 1 | Slovak Republic | Constitution Day |
| 2 | Vietnam | Independence Day |
| 7 | Brazil | Independence Day |
| 15 | Costa Rica | Independence Day |
| 15 | El Salvador | Independence Day |
| 15 | Guatemala | Independence Day |
| 15 | Honduras | National Day |
| 16 | Mexico | National Day |
| 18 | Chile | Independence Day |
| 21 | Armenia | Independence Day |
| 22 | Mali | Proclamation of the Republic |
| 23 | Saudi Arabia | National Day |

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Magical Kenya



Mount Kilimanjaro, as seen from Amboseli National Park.



*By John Lepi Lanyasunya
High Commissioner for Kenya*

Kenya is a land of diversity, offering stark safari plains in the south, snow-capped mountains and breathtaking eastern coastlines whose dark blue waters are home to colourful coral reefs and six national reserves to protect marine life. Majestic hills stretch

towards endlessly sunny skies while valleys, such as the famous Rift Valley, and more than 20 volcanoes, including the well-known Mount Kenya, also reside within its borders.

The country is well located on the equator, on the eastern coast of Africa and it is bordered by the Indian Ocean. Its capital, Nairobi, a major business hub in the region, is the centre for the regional and national headquarters of various international organizations and businesses, including the only UN offices in the developing world.

The economy of Kenya is one of the fastest growing in sub-Saharan Africa. The country has been declared a

middle-income economy and the ninth largest in Africa, according to the latest updates published by the World Bank and UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development).

Tourism is one of Kenya's leading foreign-exchange earners and largest contributor to the GDP after agriculture, which accounts for 29 percent of Kenya's \$135-billion GDP. Tourism follows at 12 percent of GDP.

Attractions abound

As a premier tourist destination, the country is endowed with unique attractions, ranging from ancient cultural monuments, vibrant cities to exotic wildlife, which is



Migrating wildebeests jump into the Mara River in the Masai Mara Reserve. The migration of the wildebeest in August is a major attraction in this part of Kenya.

unrivalled by any other country in terms of number and variety of species. In total, Kenya boasts 80 major animal species with the wildebeest migration in August remaining one of its major attractions. In terms of species, the “big five” — the lion, elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo and leopard — are our biggest draws. Hunters coined the term “big five,” as it comprised a group of the most difficult and dangerous animals to hunt.

Kenya’s magic is embedded everywhere you look. You might see wandering elephants, majestic mountains and secluded waterfalls, all in one area, such as the Masai Mara, a region in the south famous for its safaris.

Guided tours to game reserves and national parks put you within metres of some of the world’s most fascinating animals. Out in the open fields, you’ll see impressive creatures roaming the savannah. The big five can all be spotted on the Masai Mara, where one will also catch the wildebeest migration.

Spend a night at the Samburu Game

Reserve, located in northern Kenya, where Grevy’s zebra and Somali ostrich graze. Discover the flocks of flamingos and herds of rhinos that inhabit Lake Nakuru National Park, northwest of Nairobi. Kenya’s attractions are as diverse as its wildlife. Nearly every adventure sport can

be found in Kenya, from mountain biking and hot-air ballooning to go-karting and whitewater rafting.

Hunting is no longer permitted in national parks or game reserves as several species are now endangered. Endangered animals, such as the black rhino, are slowly making a comeback as a result of effective conservation efforts, including the development of many sanctuaries. The white rhino, meanwhile, can be found throughout Kenya’s national parks and reserves in growing numbers.

Beyond the big five safari animals

While the big five occupy the limelight, a cast of millions of other species is an unforgettable bonus. Other magnificent animals in Kenya include grazers such as gazelle, impala, antelope, dik-dik, zebra, wildebeest, waterbuck and greater kudu. And, one mustn’t forget the world’s tallest creatures, reticulated Rothschild and Masai giraffes, with their characteristic large polygon-shaped spots outlined in beige. Kenya is also home to the third-



The elephant shrew is listed among Kenya’s “little five” animals.



In Kenya's national parks, elephants can be seen everywhere.

largest land animal — the water-loving hippopotamus. In addition, the elusive leopard, other felines including cheetah and smaller serval, civets and caracal inhabit Kenya. Other well-known, yet exotic species include the crocodile, python, mongoose, jackal, hyena and bush baby.

Many olive and yellow baboons and monkeys, including the colobus, vervet and golden, are easily seen and heard. With serious savvy and sharp eyes, the “little five” can also be spotted in Kenya. This group consists of the rhinoceros beetle, leopard tortoise, ant lion, buffalo weaver and elephant shrew. Kenya offers countless ways to indulge in these unparalleled wildlife experiences.

My country's warmth extends beyond its temperatures as its people are well known for welcoming tourists. It's easy to

find locals who are happy to point you in the right direction or take you there themselves. Almost any diet can be accommodated and meals are often accompanied by infectious smiles and a refreshing burst of flavour. Pilau is a rice dish made with a variety of spices, including ginger, garlic, turmeric and cloves. It can be served with sauce or stew and was mainly eaten in the coastal region, but with time it has gained popularity and is eaten on special occasions in all parts of the country. *Nyama choma* — roast beef, goat or chicken — is also commonly eaten all over the country. It can be served with ugali paste, made from corn flour, or it can also be served with bananas, among others.

You can wake up to sunny weather, spend the day alongside magnificent animals and end the day memorably with

dinner under a blanket of African stars.

A range of accommodations

Kenya offers a wide range of accommodations. Whether you're looking for five-star luxury or a pitch-your-tent wilderness experience, the choices are abundant. Those in the hospitality sector work diligently to respect their beautiful surroundings without compromising luxury or comfort. From highrise city-centre hotels in Nairobi to boutique hotels on the coast and in wilderness areas, Kenya provides guests with options tailored to a wide range of interests and budgets. Modern conveniences and acclaimed world-class facilities are found alongside spectacular wildlife experiences. Several noted hotel chains, such as Intercontinental and Fairmont, operate within Kenya and many rank among the

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Lions, one of Africa's "big five" are prevalent in Kenya's game parks.

best in Africa.

Lodges, from rustic to luxurious, offer accommodations in national parks, reserves and wilderness areas. Most lodges serve meals and have resident naturalists and guides.

Close to nature and designed for comfort, walk-in tents — some on raised platforms with private balconies and traditional furniture, including beds, chairs and loveseats — typically share a central dining facility. Some have private bathrooms with showers and toilets. Many of Kenya's parks, reserves and sanctuaries offer tented-camp accommodations.

Campgrounds with basic facilities are available in game reserves and national

parks for those who seek the excitement of camping in the wild. Camping safaris, with vehicles, guides, tents, food and equipment, can be arranged with safari operators.

Along the Indian Ocean shore, beach-lovers will find five-star international resorts as well as more modest accommodations. Beach life can include nightclubs, casinos and fine dining, with all-inclusive arrangements available.

City apartments, beachside homes, historic Swahili mansions and rustic bush cottages are all available for rent. Most come fully equipped, in some cases with a staff and cook, and rentals can be arranged short- or long-term.

A country of unique history

Kenya has a culture born of countless sources and blessed by a long and complex history. From the prehistoric records of early man to the present day, it has been a land of unending change, contrasts and diversity. The early tribal states saw cycles of migration and shifting power, with Kenya serving as a meeting place for peoples from the plain lands of the south, the forests of the west and the deserts of the north.

The sea brought influences from the outside world, and trade in such highly sought spices as cloves, cinnamon, ginger, black pepper and turmeric created the unique coastal culture, where lines between Africa and Arabia blurred. Beginning with the Portuguese in 1498 and for the next 200 years, the open coast brought European influences into this world of change and began a turbulent struggle for control that lingers still.

The first explorers discovered a land of great peril and greater beauty, where they created the most unique colony in the British Empire. This was a meeting place of cultures, where adventurers and soldiers of fortune mingled with a complex ethnic society. The arrival of labourers and merchants from India in the 1880s brought new and pervasive influences. The colonial legacy lives on in the traditions of the great safari and the pursuit of adventure and freedom. Kenya has drawn on all of these influences to develop its own unique culture. This is the nation's greatest strength — the ability to blend the best of many worlds into a strong, singular identity.

Today, Kenya welcomes the world to its shores and continues to evolve into a modern culture that is born of endless variety and yet is purely, proudly Kenyan.

I welcome you all to Kenya. Karibu! (Translation from Swahili: Welcome!)

John Lepi Lanyasunya is high commissioner for Kenya.



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Mike Beedell captured this magnificent moose, munching on moss at Lake Superior. The Canadian Moose inhabits all provinces and territories. Moose are the largest members of the deer family. Males reach up to 1,200 pounds (550 kg) and they drop their massive antlers in the late fall. Their diet includes willow, birch, aspen, pond lilies and other aquatic plants. Female moose with a calf should be given a wide berth. Dogs can often trigger a moose attack because the moose mistakes them for wolves and strikes to protect her calf. Moose typically have single or twin calves, though triplets have been recorded.



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