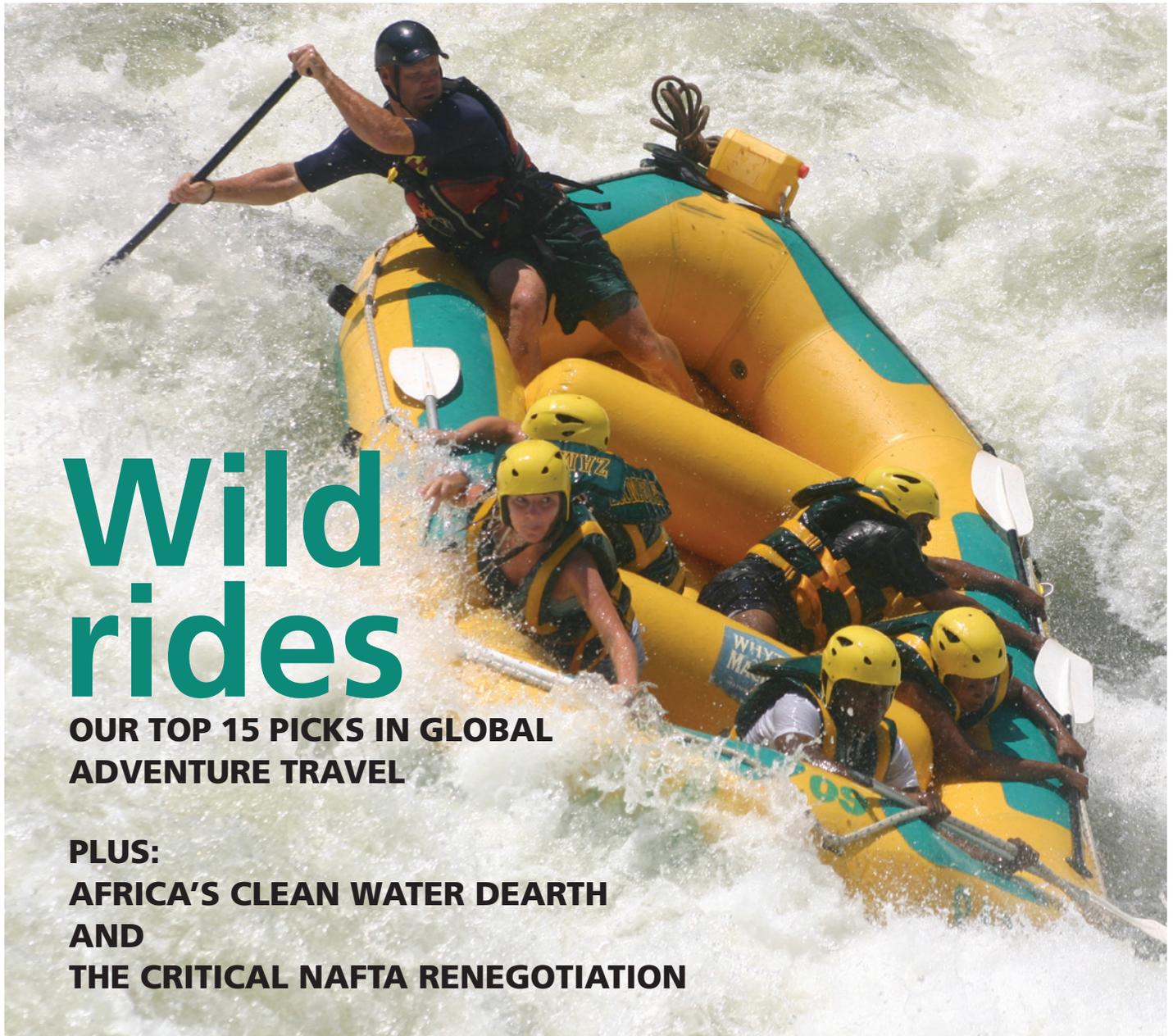


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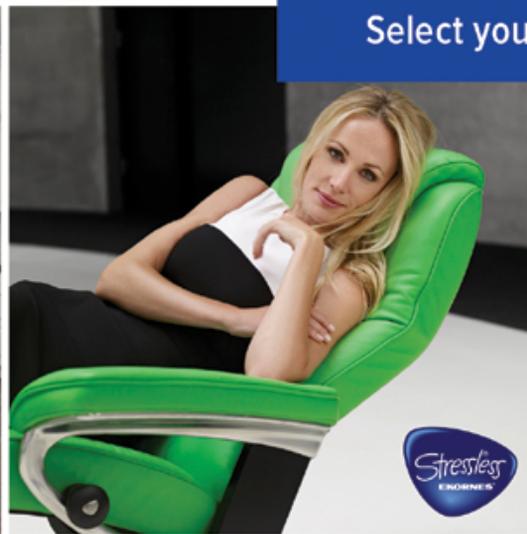
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Jennifer
Campbell

Summer is a time to unwind

Summer is finally here. Feel like doing something wild? Our annual travel edition toasts summer with the Top 15 best adventure tourism opportunities in the world. Writer Wolfgang Depner explored the possibilities with the heart of a dare-devil and came up with everything from paragliding in the French Haute Alpes and hot-air ballooning in Albuquerque to skydiving over Dubai and whitewater rafting down the Zambezi River in Congo. The opportunities are endless, but we give you our subjective list of 15 good ones.

That said, Ottawa is ground zero for Canada's 150th birthday celebrations, so for many a staycation is in order — or a visit if you don't live here. Writer Patrick Langston has produced a 15-item list of unusual places to see and things to do within a small radius of Ottawa, including everything from Shakespeare in Prescott and canal canoeing to high tea at the Château Laurier and roaring waterfalls in Plaisance, Que.

But it can't all be fun with serious issues hitting us on every front around the globe. To that end, we also reproduce the speech that editorial cartoonist Ann Telnaes of *The Washington Post*, gave at a World Press Freedom Day luncheon in Ottawa. Her stories of oppression against cartoonists were so compelling and so important, we asked her if we could share the speech with you.

On the trade front, we include a column by Perrin Beatty, president and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, who has agreed to be a regular contributor to the magazine at a time when global trade is under siege in many parts of the

world, most significantly in the U.S.

Again on the serious side, columnist Robert Rotberg, who writes regularly on the subject of Africa, tells us about the chronic water shortages across the continent. It is a dire story and it's only bound to get worse, he says.

We also report on the Fund for Peace's annual *Fragile States Index*, which is a useful resource in determining the relative viability of a country and where the potential dangers lie.

Up front, Fen Hampson takes a fresh look at Europe and where it stands after the encouraging election of pro-trade candidate Emmanuel Macron as France's president. As Hampson puts it, the election of Macron "somewhat eased fears that Europe is about to lurch to the far right and tear itself apart."

In our Diplomatica section, we also have my interview with Chief of Protocol Roy Norton, who spent much of his diplomatic career in the U.S. and offers an insider's look at what's happening there now.

In addition, we have trade articles by the ambassador of Ukraine and the ambassador of Indonesia, both of whom are keen to expand trade ties with Canada.

Meanwhile, in our Delights section, books columnist George Fetherling brings us a book title about the American war in Laos which, he says, continues to "fascinate and horrify." He also reviews Ece Temelkuran's latest book, *The Insane and the Melancholy*, which he says reads as though it was cobbled together, at least in the English translation, but he doesn't deny the importance of its message.

Our food columnist, Margaret Dickenson, takes us to one of the trendiest food destinations in the world: Peru. And culture editor Margo Roston and photographer Ashley Fraser visited the art-filled residence of Czech Ambassador Pavel Hrnčíř and his wife, Veronika Holcova, who is a well-known artist.

Finally, we end where we began: with tourism — this time a tour of Austria, guided by Ambassador Stefan Pehringer.

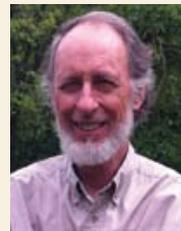
Jennifer Campbell is editor of *Diplomat*.

Perrin Beatty



Perrin Beatty is the president and chief executive officer of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Canada's largest and most representative national business association. Beatty grew up in Fergus, Ont. In 1972, he was elected to the House of Commons and, in 1979, he was appointed to the first of seven ministerial portfolios. He went on to become president and CEO of the CBC and later, president and CEO of Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters. He joined the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in 2007. He will write regular columns about trade for *Diplomat*.

Patrick Langston



A native Montrealer who survived the psychedelic 1960s, Patrick Langston has been an enthusiastic contributor to *Diplomat & International Canada* since 2015. He also wrote for the *Ottawa Citizen* for almost two decades, covering arts, homes, travel, lifestyles and numerous other areas. Langston now covers theatre for the online Ottawa arts website *Artsfile*, and his byline frequently appears in *Ottawa Magazine*, *Ottawa Citizen Style*, *Luxe Ottawa* and the Edmonton-based music magazine *Penguin Eggs*. He is co-owner of the new homes and gardens website *All Things Home*. A devotee of rural life, he lives in the Navan area.

UP FRONT

Travel is a pursuit many of our readers take up year-round, but surely summer is the season to embrace it fully. To that end, we present our annual travel edition, this time with a total of 15 great opportunities for adventure travel. We also offer 15 off-the-beaten-path suggestions for an Ottawa-based staycation. The package begins on page 36.





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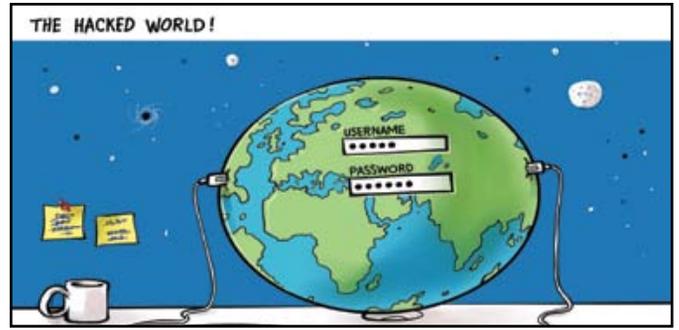
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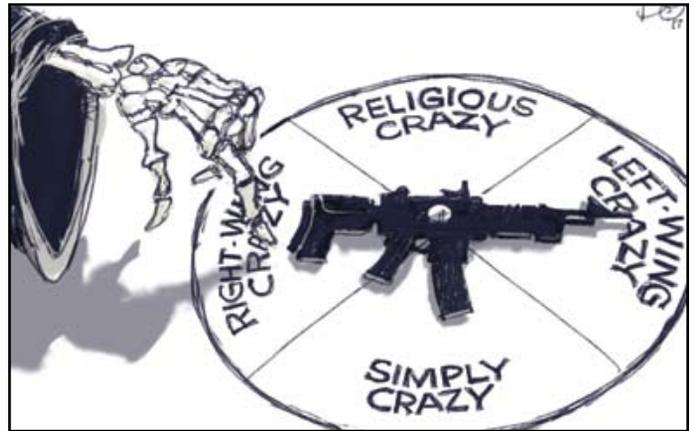
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Is there hope for Europe?



The election of Emmanuel Macron as France's new president has somewhat eased fears that Europe is about to lurch to the far right and tear itself apart, writes Fen Hampson.



Fen
Hampson

In the run-up to the French election following Britain's decision to leave the European Union, there were dire predictions about Europe's future. France's mainstream parties struggled to find their footing and Marine Le Pen, the right-wing, anti-Europe, anti-immigration candidate, gained traction with French voters who had grown increasingly disgusted with the status quo and yearned for a future that would take the Fifth Republic back to happier days.

Globalization and Europe's institutions were under attack by the new forces of populism. Even Canada was not immune to the anti-Europe, anti-free trade tide. The ratification of the Canada-European Union (EU) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement was temporarily held hostage by the Belgian regional parliament in Wallonia, which refused to give its consent to the deal unless certain demands were met. (Eventually, it did consent, after a compromise was struck.)

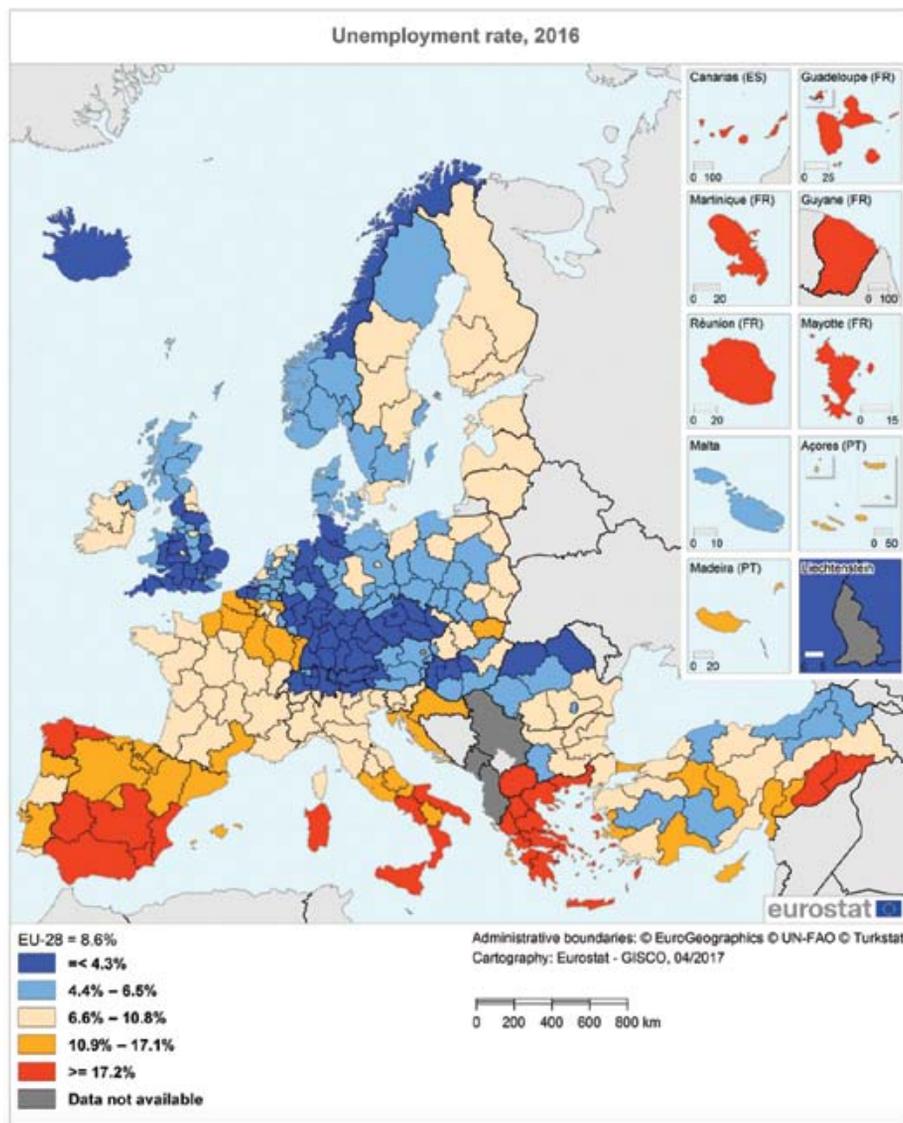
Europe's struggling economy and ballooning public deficits added to the strong sense of gloom. Russian leader Vladimir Putin's own highly sophisticated propaganda war in the run-up to the French election, which was being launched over Russia Television (RT), social media and through various surreptitious cyberattacks against well-known politicians, reinforced the sense that Europe was a mess and ripe for Putin's manipulations. So, too, did Donald Trump's initial pre-U.S. election message that the NATO Alliance was obsolete and Europe should look after its own defence instead of bilking the American taxpayer.

The influx of refugees into Europe from the Middle East and North Africa beginning in 2011 also whipped up the anti-immigration, anti-globalization populist frenzy, putting mainstream politicians on the defensive. Even German Chancellor Angela Merkel was left temporarily speechless by a young Palestinian girl who burst into tears after the chancellor announced that Germany "just can't manage" to take every refugee — this after Germany had opened its doors to more than a million.

Many pundits feared that Europe's new populist wave would scuttle the vision of Europe's founders, Robert Schuman, Jean Monnet and Konrad Adenauer, of a united, free, prosperous Europe without borders.

The election of centrist candidate Emmanuel Macron as France's new president, which followed the re-election earlier this year of Mark Rutte's centre-right People's Party for Freedom and Democracy in the Netherlands, has somewhat eased fears that Europe is about to lurch to the far right and tear itself apart as ultra-nationalists grab the reins of power (notwithstanding Britain's impending departure from the European Union on terms that have yet to be negotiated). So too has the British election, which has crippled Prime Minister Theresa May governing Conservative party, reducing the likelihood that Britain will negotiate a "hard" exit from the European Union.

Macron, who is often compared to Napoleon Bonaparte and former U.S. president John F. Kennedy, is the youngest democratically elected leader to win the French presidency. He did not carry the political baggage of the other candidates on the right or the left as a relative newbie to the French political scene. And he is now seen as the new keeper of the flame for globalization, free markets, and European solidarity.



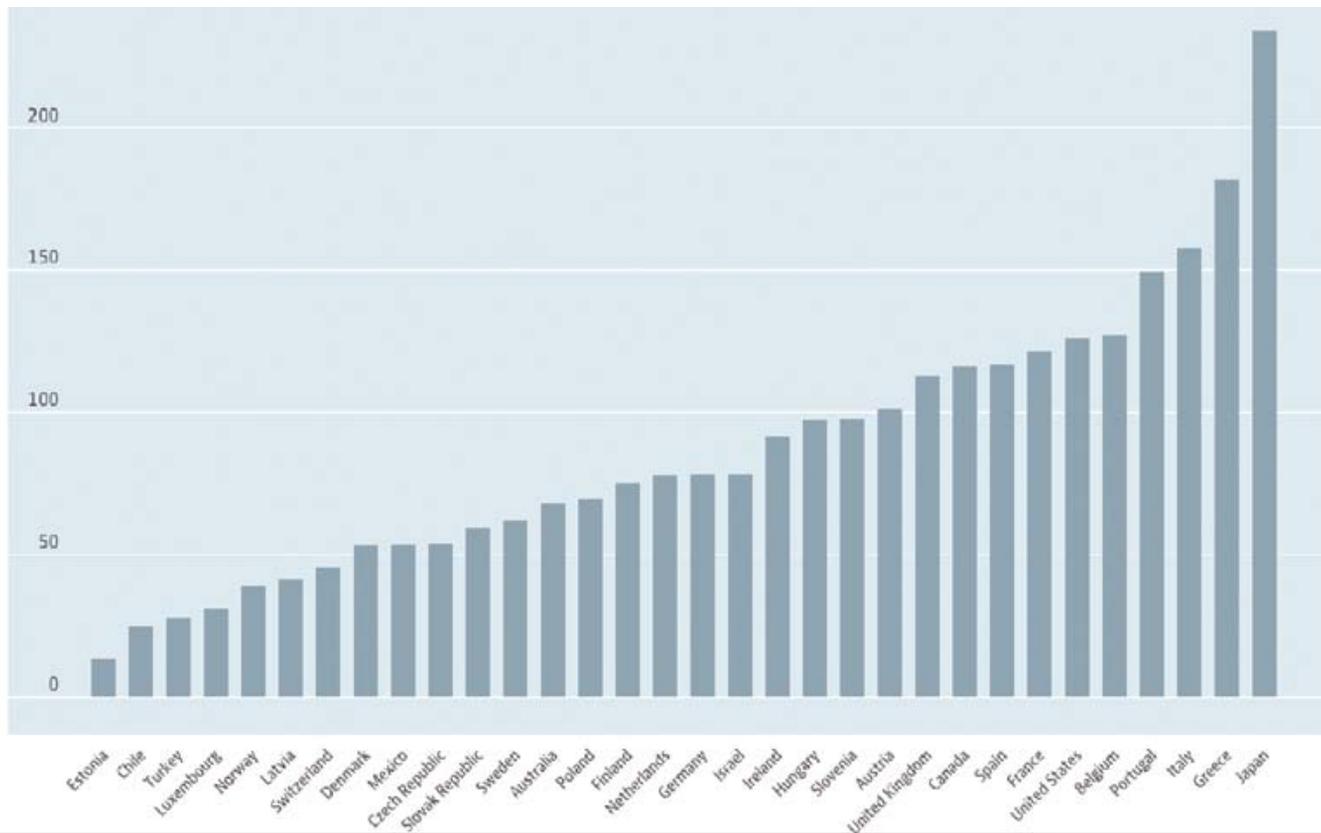
Unemployment rates are highest in countries with troubled economies, including Greece, Spain and Italy, while countries such as Germany and Norway boast low unemployment rates.

The distinguished French political scientist and public commentator Dominique Moisi of the Institut Montaigne in Paris writes: "Macron's wife jokes that he takes himself for Joan of Arc, the French peasant who saved the country from the British in the Middle Ages. Physically, Macron evokes more the young general, Napoleon Bonaparte, during his first campaign in Italy. Some see in Macron a romantic figure straight out of a Stendhal novel, a modern Fabrice del Dongo, who decides not to be a mere spectator of the world, but to act on it. He advances his mission through a combination of youthful energy, self-confidence, political cunning, technocratic competence and a sense of moderation. Macron embodies a sea change in French electoral politics: the erosion of the traditional cleavage between right and left."

A self-described centrist after he left the Socialist Party, Macron founded his own political party, En Marche! He had previously held the post of economic minister in François Hollande's socialist-led government. Macron and Hollande parted ways after Macron decided that Hollande would not administer the kind of tough fiscal medicine that he (Macron) had recommended to revive the French economy.

Macron is resolutely pro-European and is proposing, in his words, "to restore the credibility of France in the eyes of Germany, [and] to convince Berlin in the next six months to adopt an active investment policy and move towards greater solidarity in Europe." As a former businessman, he also wants to make France more competitive. He has promised to lower corporate taxes from the current rate of

General government debt



This chart shows general government debt as a per cent of GDP with Estonia on the low end and Japan leading the pack in debt.

33 per cent to 25 per cent. He also wants to keep France’s generous 35-hour work week rules in place, but leave negotiations to companies about actual work hours of employees. Welfare benefits for low-wage earners will also be cut. Additionally, Macron has promised to cut the public-sector payroll by 100,000 employees, which will almost certainly put him on a collision course with France’s powerful public sector unions. At the same time, he wants to spend \$66 billion in public investments over the next five years to rebuild France’s infrastructure.

Macron will certainly have his work cut out for him though he is off to good a start by securing a majority for his own party in the French legislature. He now has the political heft to push through his controversial economic and labour reforms package. Only time will tell though if France’s powerful public sector unions who are deeply attached to the French welfare state will push back.

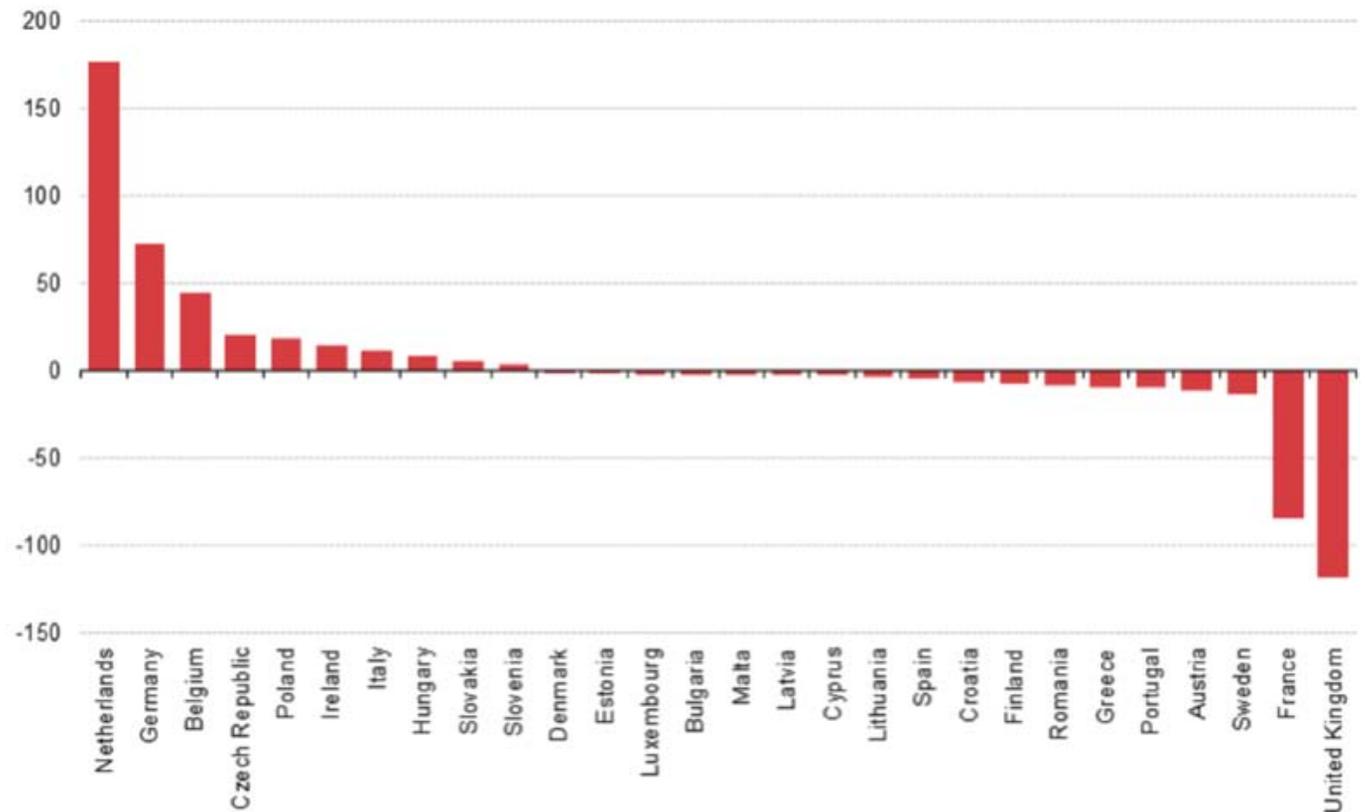
The bigger question is whether Macron’s election in continental Europe’s second-biggest economy signal that the populist anti-globalization tide is over as voters take a cold, hard look at their pocketbooks? Like the tide, it is going out, at

DOES [FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL] MACRON’S ELECTION IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE’S SECOND-BIGGEST ECONOMY SIGNAL THAT THE POPULIST ANTI-GLOBALIZATION TIDE IS RECEDING AS VOTERS TAKE A COLD, HARD LOOK AT THEIR POCKETBOOKS? LIKE THE TIDE, IT IS GOING OUT, AT LEAST FOR NOW, BUT LIKE THE TIDE, IT CAN COME ROARING BACK IN IF THERE IS NOT A FUNDAMENTAL RECALIBRATION OF ECONOMIC POLICY NOT JUST IN FRANCE, BUT ALSO OTHER EU COUNTRIES, INCLUDING GERMANY.

least for now, but like the tide, it can come roaring back in if there is not a fundamental recalibration of economic policy not just in France, but also other EU countries, including Germany.

The good news is that the economy of the European Union is slowly crawling out of the doldrums of the past decade as consumer confidence recovers and the extraordinary monetary policies of the European Central Bank, which have involved large-scale quantitative easing and major asset purchases, continue to keep interest rates and inflation low. EU forecasts show that the economies of all member states will continue to grow over the next two years (1.6 per cent in 2017 and 1.8 per cent in 2018). Unemployment rates will also fall, though they remain well above the pre-crisis levels of the previous decade. The black mark on recovery is investment, which, in the polite words of European officials, “remains subdued.” Much of the EU’s growth forecast is predicated on strong economic recovery in the United States (which now seems to be in jeopardy as the presidency of Donald Trump stumbles and confidence in the U.S. economy tumbles) and growth in emerging economies, where a rapidly growing middle

Trade among EU members



The U.K. and France have significant intra-EU trade deficits while countries such as the Netherlands and Germany have trade surpluses.

class will almost surely be the engine of global economic expansion.

Large-scale infrastructure projects, financed under the investment plan for Europe, will also temporarily boost growth and employment after they are approved and implemented. As the European Commission notes, “Overall, investment in the euro area is forecast to grow by 2.9 per cent this year and by 3.4 per cent in 2018 (2.9 per cent and 3.1 per cent in the EU), up 8.2 per cent by now since the start of the recovery in early 2013. However, the share of investment in GDP remains below its value at the turn of the century (20 per cent in 2016 compared to 22 per cent in 2000-2005). This persistent weakness in investment casts doubt over the sustainability of the recovery and of the economy’s potential growth.” And there is the rub: Without substantial levels of sustained investment, there will not be sustained growth.

But Europe’s challenges run much deeper than simply a shortage of investment. There are major structural imbalances at the regional and national levels that continue to hang over Europe’s future like an albatross. The first is Germany’s rigid adherence to a policy of balanced

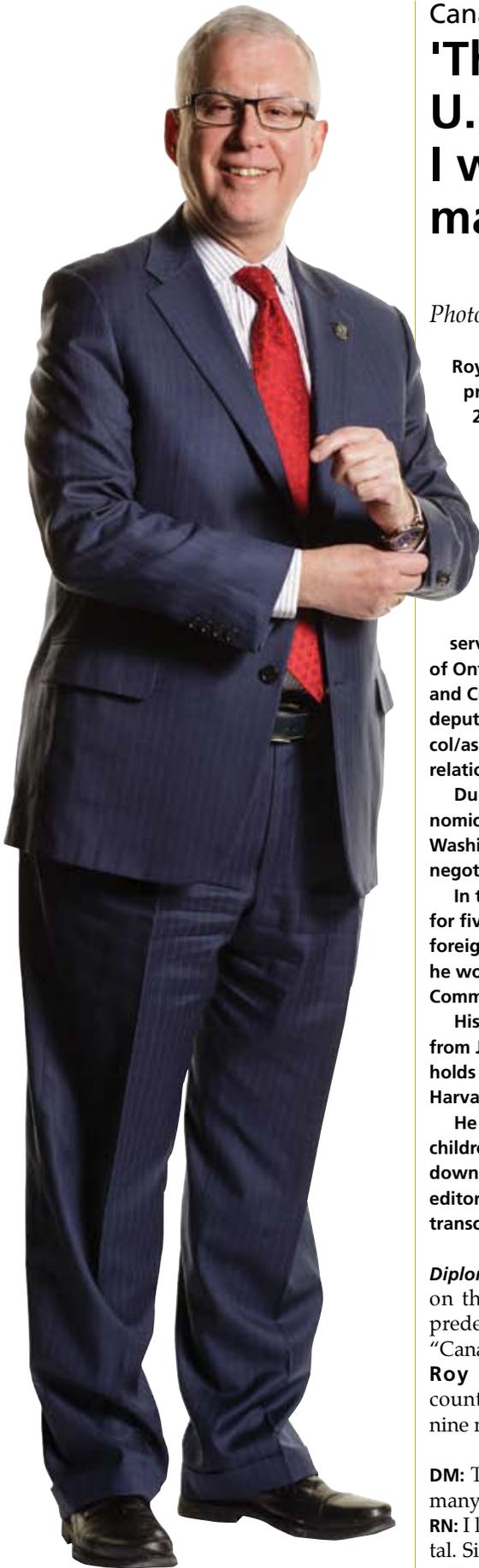
budgets and export-led growth, much of it to the weaker Mediterranean economies of the Eurozone, which have been able to live beyond their means since the adoption of the euro. Until Germans start to spend more, save less and import more in the way of goods and services from their European partners (who need to tighten their belts and get their own fiscal houses in order), the Union will be a marriage between the proverbial Jack Sprat (who could eat no fat — in this case fiscal “fat,” meaning Germany) and his wife (who could eat no lean — France, Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal). Only, in this case, unlike the Mother Goose nursery rhyme, the moral of the story — that it is better to go to bed without supper than to rise in debt — has been lost on the Mediterranean members of the Eurozone.

France itself is a textbook example of the problem. France lags well behind the Eurozone growth rate of 1.6 per cent. Since 2013, the French economy has only grown at an average annual rate of one per cent. Per capita incomes have been stagnant and are now falling, which is one of the reasons for the strong support given to populists such as Marine Le Pen. Worse, the French economy’s ability to withstand

future economic shocks or disruptions will be quite limited because of its anemic state. Worse still, public expenditures account for roughly 60 per cent of France’s overall gross domestic product. The level of public debt rivals the country’s overall GDP at almost 100 per cent. Unemployment is staggeringly high with youth unemployment topping 25 per cent. French productivity, which is surprisingly above U.S. levels and has been so for quite some time, is now falling.

Italy, the continent’s third-biggest economy, faces similar problems and, unlike France, does not enjoy the kind of strong, decisive political leadership that — at least for now — Macron promises to bring to the French people. If Macron fails, Le Pen and the populist, nationalist tide that briefly floated her political fortunes will rise again and Europe’s future will be cast in doubt.

Fen Osler Hampson is director of the World Refugee Council. He is also a distinguished fellow and director of the Global Security & Politics Program at the Centre for International Governance Innovation. He’s also Chancellor’s Professor at Carleton University.



Canada's chief of protocol

'There was never a day in the U.S. where I didn't feel as though I was working on things that mattered'

Photos by Jana Chytilova

Roy Norton became Canada's chief of protocol in July 2016. From 2014 to 2016, he was Canada's consul general in Chicago, and from 2010 to 2014, Canada's consul general in Detroit.

For the four years prior, he served as minister (congressional relations and public affairs) at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Prior to that assignment, he served for six years in the government of Ontario, based in Toronto, as president and CEO of Ontario Exports Inc., assistant deputy minister (trade), and chief of protocol/assistant deputy minister (international relations).

During an earlier assignment in the economic section of the Canadian embassy in Washington, D.C., he was part of Canada's negotiating team for two NAFTA chapters.

In the 1980s, in Ottawa, he served for five years as senior policy adviser to foreign minister Joe Clark, prior to which he worked for eight years in the House of Commons and Senate.

His PhD in international relations, is from Johns Hopkins University. He also holds master's degrees from Johns Hopkins, Harvard University and Carleton University.

He was born in Ottawa — "people have children here, too," he said — and sat down for a conversation with *Diplomat's* editor, Jennifer Campbell. This is an edited transcript.

***Diplomat* magazine:** When did you take on this job, one to which one of your predecessors, Larry Lederman, refers as "Canada's head waiter"?

Roy Norton: July 2016. Not that I'm counting the days, but it's been almost nine months.

DM: To take this job, you came back after many years abroad?

RN: I lived in the United States for 16 in total. Six [at one time] and then 10, with six in Toronto and five in Ottawa before that.

DM: And did you leave your most recent post — Chicago — for this job?

RN: Yes. I was supposed to be in Chicago until this summer and maybe longer, so I left early to come back for this job. And when I read that there was no snow in Chicago in January or February, I said to myself, 'I came back early for this?' I'm happy to have come back for the job, but the winter I found a little bit brutal and then yesterday [May 9]... snow!"

DM: What is a typical day like in this job?

RN: It begins every day with the operations committee, which is the assistant deputy ministers, the deputy ministers and a few hangers on like me, getting together for a meeting at 9 a.m. There might be a breakfast meeting or a function before that meeting, but generally, I arrive at 8:40 a.m. I go to the meeting for 15 minutes and then my day starts. At least those are on the days I'm here. A third of the time I'm abroad. I don't do ministerial travel — just the prime minister and the governor general. It's not that I'm above ministerial travel, it's just that there's only so much I can do. There's enough travel associated with the governor general and prime minister that staff accompany ministers.

[If I'm in Ottawa], we can create a construct of a day because there isn't really a typical day. There will be some management, some meetings with directors or individual staff members, discussion with human resources about upcoming staffing. There usually will be something to do with financial management. There is almost always something to do with the diplomatic corps. [It might be] one or several heads of mission who come and call on me to do one thing or another, or there's attendance at a national day event, more often a late-afternoon reception-type thing, sometimes a dinner or a dinner after a national day event. There are several of these things a week, for example.

If we have an incoming visit at that

instant or one that's anticipated, we'll be planning for that. We might have a meeting with the ambassador of that country, or the RCMP or Health Canada or others who might be involved in that visit. If we're planning an outgoing visit, by the governor general or the prime minister, a lot of planning goes into these, too. There's a fair bit of email traffic, like hundreds per day that require being dealt with. I'm something of a Twitter addict, so I try to scroll through the feed. It's a tool I use to highlight national day and other events involving foreign official visitors. There are lots of attachments and articles I'm interested in. I read them on the screen or print them and take them home and read until I fall asleep. I haven't tended to come [to the office] much on the weekends. Technology makes it possible to work from home so BlackBerry and my computer link me to our system here and make it possible to do work from home on the weekends, although I live only a short walk — 10 minutes — away from here in New Edinburgh if I do need to come in.

DM: What was the best part of the visit by Nobel-Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai?

RN: She's inspirational. I don't encounter many 19-year-olds who have the poise and the confidence and yet the humility at the same time. There's nothing aggressive or smart-alecky about her. She's a nice person, a caring person, an interested person. She's interested in talk-



Roy Norton met the Pope when the Trudeau visited in late May.

DM: You mean her parents?

RN: Her parents, for sure, but she also has three or four staff; the president and the communications director of the Malala Fund, some of whom came beforehand and advanced the visit.

[After she arrived], we went to Ridgemont High School first thing in the morning. The students were enraptured by her. Then we came to Parliament for some formalities and then the presentation of honorary citizenship in the library, which was just a beautiful ceremony. Then [there

conversation. Then she was hosted at lunch by [several ministers] and a few parliamentarians. Then, she was presented with an honorary doctorate from the University of Ottawa. She did some media interviews, then a Facebook thing with the prime minister. She then met Opposition Leader [Rona] Ambrose for 40 minutes; then she came back to the hotel for a few minutes and then attended a reception hosted by the Pakistani High Commissioner, [Tariq Azim Khan.] It was a very intense day, but she is 19 and probably has a fair bit of stamina. Or at least more excuse for stamina than I have. Then her flight was at 10:40 p.m. to London. She was flying all night. They all fly economy.

I was with her from arrival to departure. It's one of the treats of this job. You do get to spend time with people that most of us have some familiarity with, but don't necessarily get to know. I felt quite chuffed about the whole experience.

DM: Are there other dignitaries you've met that would rate as highly as she does?

RN: Oh, they all rate highly, of course. People are polite and solicitous and kind and nobody has been boorish or rude, which is maybe a little bit of a revelation. People are inherently good or they're on their best behaviour when they're in Canada.

DM: Would you name some others?



On Malala: "She's a nice person; she's a caring person; she's an interested person."

ing to people about their experience and their thoughts. She's clearly very articulate. Her people who accompany her are equally nice.



On the job: "There isn't really a typical day."

was] her tremendous speech in Parliament. She was hosted for a meeting with the prime minister, which lasted longer than anticipated. He quite enjoyed the



On Joe Biden: "He's a gregarious fellow."

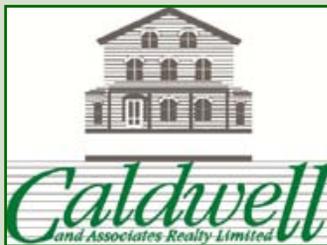
RN: I could name them all — or none. My first major visit was Chinese Premier Li [Keqiang]. I went to the plane to greet him and we had a few moments and then



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Malala Yousafzai was in Ottawa in April to receive honorary citizenship from the government of Canada. She also spoke in parliament and had a private meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

spent three days together.

Then there was Prime Minister [Manuel] Valls of France — he had a very good visit. Then there was the Crown Prince and Princess of Norway, very lovely people who were in Canada for three days, in Ottawa, Toronto and St. John's, Nfld.

We had Joe Biden. The snow was coming sideways on the 8th of December when I greeted him at the airport, but he lingered at the bottom of the steps and talked to everybody. We went to the Sir John A. Building on Sparks, O'Connor and Wellington. It's a peculiar way of accessing it, but you enter on Wellington. You go down a set of stairs and wend your way essentially through the basement the length of the block, from Wellington to Sparks and then you go into what was the Bank of Montreal vault, where the prime minister greeted him. So I'm with Biden and he drapes his arm around my shoulder. For the length of that block, he kept his arm over my shoulder, telling me how he and his wife had just been in Banff and how much they loved it, about how he spent time with his children in Canada and how much he wants to come back. He's a very gregarious fellow. I had met him in Washington when he was a senator, but he wouldn't know me from Adam. So that was cool. That's the most intimate I've gotten with any of our visitors. We repeated this [trajectory] with Italian Prime Minister [Pablo] Gentiloni and we chatted the length of the way again.

We do all official events invitations — the paperwork — for the prime minister.

DM: Any others of special note? Have you met Bono?

RN: I met Bono at the Global Fund Replenishment [meetings] in the middle of September. That was funny because the prime minister was in a room and I would greet people and then take them in to introduce them to the prime minister. So, I would say, [for example] 'Prime Minister, this is Sheik Hasina, the prime minister of Bangladesh' and so on. And then I had to say 'Prime Minister, this is Bono.' Because what else do you say? 'Mr. Bono?' It all seemed a bit surreal. But he was gregarious and he's certainly committed a lot of his time promoting global development. He was happy to give his name to this because we got pledges of \$13 billion at that conference for the next tranche of global funds.

DM: You have experience in the U.S. and I understand you were uncharacteristically vocal when you were consul-general to Detroit. What can you tell me about that posting?

RN: It was fun; validating and gratifying. It was intense. Canada had been trying, ever since 9/11, to get concurrence on the part of Michigan on building this bridge and, largely because of the efforts of the monopolist owners of the Ambassador Bridge, we struck out repeatedly. Very conveniently, just before I got there, [Canada's] then-government said 'we will pay Michigan's share.' What a difference that makes. Whereas my predecessors had to sell Michigan on coming up with

one billion to two billion bucks, my task was to persuade Michigan to accept our money. That wasn't as easy as you might have thought because it didn't change the fact that the monopolist owners of the Ambassador Bridge didn't want a competing — as they saw it — bridge to be built. They deployed their resources generously to dissuade influencers. We were essentially running a campaign to convince [Michiganders]. It became a real campaign when the Morouns — the owners of the bridge — got onto the ballot in 2012 a proposition that sought public approval to amend Michigan's constitution to prohibit the building of any new bridges between Michigan and Canada.

Starting out, the polls indicated that it was about 60 [per cent] to 40 [per cent] in favour of not building the bridge. We had to persuade Michigan voters that they should vote no [to the constitutional change]. In the end, we won 60 [per cent] to 40 [per cent]. They spent more than \$40 million; we spent about \$1 million, principally from the auto industry. So it was the force of opinion [that won the day]. I found myself accompanying the governor to a lot of events and he would call on me to speak. These were rallies almost — there were many hundreds of people and

lots of media. Canadian diplomats don't get involved in domestic politics, [but in this case] how do you avoid it? The government, to its credit, gave me scope and freedom to get out there and talk to the media, including during our election campaign, when we usually pretty much go dark and silent. That was May 2011, and it was a pretty critical time.

At these speaking opportunities, I took to putting up my right hand and swearing on behalf of the government and the people of Canada that this bridge will cost the American people nothing. The Morouns were saying it would still cost the Americans \$1 billion to \$2 billion. Michiganders didn't believe their own governor, they didn't believe the presidents of the auto companies and they didn't believe a lot of legislators, but such is the Canadian brand in Michigan that they believed Canada. The pledge seemed to have an impact and that told me that our country is well regarded.

DM: After that, you moved along to Chicago, where you were posted for nearly three years. How was that?

RN: The states [for which I was responsible] were Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri. I travelled extensively in the three

states and would also meet members of Congress in Washington as well as in their districts, and then state legislators, [members of the] media, unions, universities, all the people who are potential allies or those we should be cultivating to ensure they're aware of our interests and how our interests intersect [with theirs].

DM: And what are your thoughts on the Canada-U.S. relationship now?

RN: NAFTA wasn't under any threat per se when I was in the U.S., but pollsters certainly told me it wasn't popular in the U.S. I saw a poll just today that shows that NAFTA is overwhelmingly popular in Canada, next most popular in Mexico, then less popular in the U.S. We don't believe Americans fully comprehend the extent of the benefits that their country has derived from NAFTA, how integrated their economy has become with Canada's and with the Mexican economy. And lately no one, other than the [U.S.] Chamber of Commerce and some academics and a few politicians, has been bothering to sell Americans on the benefits. Leadership has been reluctant to do so.

We will continue to try to sell the benefits and to work with allies whose industries have become integrated with our

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U.S. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau met at the White House in February. NAFTA renegotiations are scheduled to begin in August.

own; who depend on the supply chain relationships, consumers who benefit from lower-priced, better-quality goods and those who think Canadian energy is better than energy from the Middle East. There are lots of interests in the U.S. that should align with our own. But the government believes that NAFTA could be improved and has signalled it's willing to sit down with the Americans and Mexicans to achieve improvements. The Canadian government will have an agenda of objectives. If there's a will to achieve improvement, that will be done. There's a lot of rhetoric, but we don't know what the negotiating strategies of the Americans will be. We hope there will be goodwill and a disposition to recognize the benefits and to try to achieve a stronger NAFTA that makes the continent still more competitive globally.

DM: It feels a little more comfortable now that [U.S. President Donald] Trump has said he's willing to negotiate rather than

scrap it.

RN: Yeah, but nobody should take any comfort in day-by-day developments. There's a fair bit of volatility and it's a dynamic issue. But the trend line is improving a little. There may be more disposition towards achieving a constructive outcome than a desire simply to annul it. If that change has roots, it'll be partly as a result of the government of Canada's efforts to build support among allies and [Americans] who think like we do.

DM: Are you concerned about the state of the relationship?

RN: I chose to serve in places I can drive to, which is unusual as a diplomat — and that's because of how critically important I feel the relationship is. There was never a day in the U.S. where I didn't feel that I was working on things that mattered, that people at home cared about. Maybe it was a compelling urge [on my part] to be relevant.

I saw ups and downs, for sure. But generally, on both sides of the border, it's recognized as essential. That's the strongest card in many respects that we will play. Just last week the newly confirmed secretary of agriculture, Sonny Perdue, or at least I think it was [he], showed the president a map with the 10 states that would suffer the most if trade flows were to diminish. There were six on the northern border and four on the southern border and the six on the northern border, with the exception of New York, were all states that voted for Trump. So hopefully awareness is being instilled and support is being built and if there's a negotiation at all, it will be productive and constructive.

DM: As chief of protocol, you're really the ultimate diplomat's diplomat. When you're dealing with heads of state and ambassadors and high commissioners from countries with which we have differences of opinion, do you have frank conversations?

RN: It depends on what the issue is. The geographic bureaus deal with missions on issues of substance. I sometimes jokingly call myself a travel agent and event planner and sometimes add 'I don't do substance.' Which doesn't mean we never have substantive discussions. Newly arrived heads of mission come to see me first — usually it's a half-hour conversation. Then I'll be there at the credentials ceremony and we speak again. We get together thereafter with some frequency. Maybe because I'm the first person they meet, I'm considered an *interlocuteur valable*. I'm always conscious of what our posture is and I'm not going to declare war or give a country a free pass if we don't like their behaviour. I will reinforce the Canadian messaging, but I'm not the principal source of that messaging. If by contrast, the issue of visas of children of diplomats, for example, comes up, or if



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it's got to do with other privileges and immunities, then I am indeed the person that delivers at the end of the day.

DM: You were a senior policy adviser to foreign minister Joe Clark. That would have been interesting. He was well-liked as what was then called the secretary of state for external affairs.

RN: It was a fascinating time because my files included the campaign to liberate South African blacks from Apartheid. We travelled three times to South Africa. We had meetings around the world [on that], met with interest groups, worked with other like-minded governments and tried to encourage them to do the same. It was an intense time. We were involved at the time in the Central American peace process. El Salvador in particular was at war with itself. The Reagan administration wasn't very happy with us. We shared our views, but didn't share information with them. But we weren't, then or now, dictated to by Americans about [what] Canadian foreign policy priorities were.

[During that time], we also did a full-scale parliamentary review of foreign policy; we did one of aid policy as well. And, we established the International Centre for

Human Rights and Democratic Development, the first president of which was Ed Broadbent. That was the last bill to pass in Parliament before dissolution for the 1988 election — the one on free trade.

DM: Later, you were on the negotiating team for NAFTA. How was that?

RN: From the vantage point of our embassy in Washington, I was on the team for two chapters — the investment chapter and the intellectual property chapter, both of which were path-breaking. These were things the Americans wanted. They likely had some concerns about securing their investments in Mexico. They were probably less concerned about Canada. They did want protections for patents for drugs and copyright in cultural areas, but their principal objective was that the Uruguay round was about to get under way in 1994 and they wanted those chapters in the multilateral trade environment. So they were test-running them in some respects, saying, 'Let's negotiate; hone and refine them and prove to the world that an OECD country like Canada and a less developed country like Mexico can agree to them.' I participated in this in Washington and cultivated the communities that were interested in those issues. Then,

I would share that intelligence with our team — it was a heady time as well. I was in the economic section of the embassy.

DM: Do you have a family you've been taking to all these postings?

RN: I do not, which means I work a lot, which is probably why I don't have family. I have a dear friend with whom I will retire eventually. She often tells me to stop working, but she did tell me to take this job, so I blame her constantly. She's in Toronto, but we commute. It's a lot better than commuting to Japan and Vietnam, when she was ambassador. She was a diplomat; now she's retired.

DM: You must have national day invitations most days of the week. How many do you go to?

RN: I go to every one I can, without regard to the size of the country. I do sigh when I get an invitation for a Sunday afternoon, but I just accepted one, or a Friday night. I think you show respect by showing up. At every one of these, however, someone will approach me about something, such as an official visit, and ask to get that going and what they can do to make that happen. There's business being done at every one of these. ▣

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Look Who's Watching

Surveillance, Treachery and Trust Online

Fen Osler Hampson and Eric Jardine

Edward Snowden's revelations that the US National Security Agency and other government agencies are spying on Internet users and on other governments confirmed that the Internet is increasingly being used to gather intelligence and personal information. The proliferation of cybercrime, the sale of users' data without their knowledge and the surveillance of citizens through connected devices are all rapidly eroding the confidence users have in the Internet.

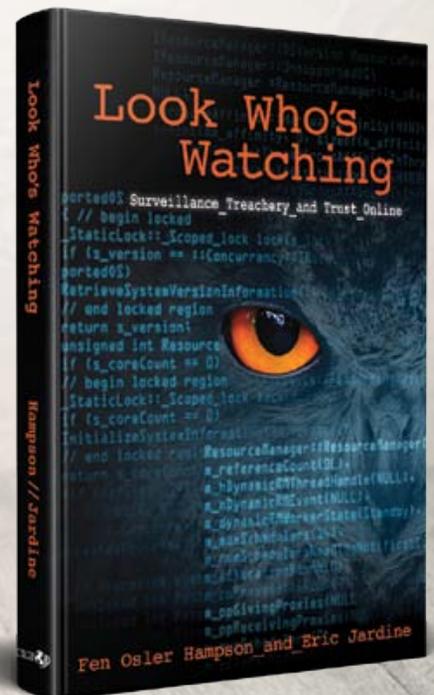
To meet the Internet's full potential, its users need to trust that the Internet works reliably while also being secure, private and safe. When trust in the Internet wanes, users begin to alter their online behaviour. A combination of illustrative anecdotal evidence and analysis of new survey data, *Look Who's Watching* clearly demonstrates why trust matters, how it is being eroded and how, with care and deliberate policy action, the essential glue of the Internet — trust — can be restored.

October 2016
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“The authors have produced a clear, timely and essential book about the importance of trust as an engine for the Internet. We must foster that trust if the global Internet is to continue to flourish.”
— Michael Chertoff, Executive Chairman and Co-Founder, Chertoff Group, and former secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security

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Food and festivities for Children’s Wish Foundation

It was an event that had several winners, but the biggest one was the Children’s Wish Foundation.

All Ottawans were invited to the event, held at the Horticultural Building at Lansdowne Park, a venue donated for the evening to the diplomatic community by Mayor Jim Watson and Ottawa 2017.

“The Ottawa Diplomatic Association decided to organize this event,” said Honduran Ambassador Sofia Cerrato, vice-president of the Ottawa Diplomatic Association. “We invited all the diplomatic missions accredited to Ottawa to participate [by providing food from their countries]. The ODA is looking after the expenses and we’re asking people who attend to donate to the Children’s Wish Foundation.”

The ODA advertised through Ottawa 2017’s Ottawa Welcomes the World initiative and through the City of Ottawa. Cerrato was pleased with the turnout.

“We’re always trying to help the Children’s Wish Foundation,” the ambassador said. “It’s one of our favourite charities.”

Ian Smith, who sits on the national board of the Children’s Wish Foundation, said it was a wonderful opportunity for the charitable organization to talk about its mandate.

“Our partnership with the ODA has been great,” Smith said. “At the ODA’s annual ball, we’ve twice been their [charitable] recipient. The ambassador of Honduras is a huge champion of ours.”

Smith said the Lansdowne event, which raised \$1,795, was more about awareness.



Event goes from left, Daniel Fonseca Cerrato, son of Honduran Ambassador Sofia Cerrato, Ambassador Cerrato, Mayor Jim Watson, Saudi Ambassador Naif Bandir A. Al Sudairy and town crier Daniel Richer.

“Tonight is not about the dollars,” he said. “It’s about the connections we’re trying to make in the community. When you do events like this, the embassies often invite their communities so they can learn more about what we do.”

Several embassies and high commissions participated in the event, including the United Arab Emirates, which provided its world-class dates; Thailand, which offered its crowd-pleasing pad Thai; China, which was dishing out kung pow

chicken and dumplings; Indonesia, which provided visitors with exotic sweets; and Honduras, which offered tuna ceviche. Other participants included Afghanistan, Kosovo, Albania, Macedonia, Pakistan and Armenia, just to name a few. Kosovar Ambassador Lulzim Hiseni, and his wife, Fiona, did all the cooking for their booth.

Watson, who spoke at the event, thanked the diplomats and also the people of Ottawa who came out to support the Children’s Wish Foundation. ▣

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Rewriting the story of global literacy

By Scott Walter

When he visited Monrovia, Liberia, in November 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau left a Grade 5 class with this thought: “Everyone has their tools — a painter has brushes; a cook has pots. Students have their tools, too. They need pens, books, notes and one more thing they need to help them learn... fun.”

CODE, (formerly the Canadian Organization for Development through Education) has been getting children the tools to get ahead for more than 55 years. *The Rice Bird* book, a colourful tale from CODE’s Reading Liberia series, is one such tool made even more relevant when brought to life by an enthusiastic and skilled teacher — someone such as Trudeau.

The shelves in the Grade 5 classroom in which Trudeau guest-taught were lined with Reading Liberia books produced by CODE and its local NGO partner, WE-CARE. The books are special because they were all written and illustrated by budding and now-celebrated local authors and illustrators such as Watchen Babalola and Chase Walker who, a few years earlier, had taken part in CODE’s writing and illustration workshops taught by a group of international expert volunteers.

This new wave of writers and artists, deeply affected by years of civil war are, through their books, giving a new generation of girls and boys stories of their own; stories that inspire and motivate them to continue learning.

In 2014, young Liberians faced another interruption in their education when President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf ordered the closing of all schools to limit the spread of the Ebola virus. Schools would not reopen for seven months. During this time, WE-CARE distributed Kits of Hope filled with pencils, paper and Reading Liberia books to thousands of isolated and traumatized children forced into quarantine.

“I grew up in Liberia while my country was at war,” recalls Chase Walker, a Reading Liberia illustrator. “Sitting under a tree, I would draw stories in the dirt. This was my way of bringing my ideas to life and expressing myself. I would draw to escape my reality, much like reading a book, but there were no books around.”

Expert writing and illustration workshops are just one part of CODE’s com-



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau chose to visit Slip Way Municipal School in Monrovia, where CODE delivers programming with its partner, the WE-CARE Foundation. CODE was one of two NGOs whose work he witnessed on his first trip to Africa last November.

prehensive readership initiative known as Reading CODE. It is designed to instil in children a love of reading so they can grow into independent learners and problem-solving adults who can navigate the world around them.

The learning journey begins with equipping children with books written in their own language, set in their contexts and starring protagonists with whom they relate; not extraordinary heroes, but regular, identifiable characters who take chances, work hard, stand up for what they believe in and overcome obstacles.

Accompanying children along the way are teachers and librarians with the skills to bring these books to life. These are teachers who invite young readers to unpack the hows, whys and what-ifs of these books, laying the groundwork for them to think critically, problem-solve and open doors for themselves.

The Reading CODE initiative last year resulted in the creation and distribution of more than 300,000 children’s books in 17 languages to libraries and schools in six African countries. Volunteer experts also trained 613 teachers across Ghana, Mali and Ethiopia in child-centred teaching methodologies, tablet training use and

community librarian management.

CODE started out as a used book donation program in a Toronto church basement and has evolved into an Ottawa-based, UNESCO award-winning, literacy-focused development organization working in six African countries. It also offers “Burt Awards” in young adult literature programming in Africa, the Caribbean and among Canada’s First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and was recently selected by Sierra Leone’s education ministry to lead the training of more than 4,400 primary school teachers.

Over the years, the places in which CODE works have changed. Governments have transitioned, wars have broken out and natural catastrophes have dismantled infrastructure. Along the way, CODE has done its best to be there, adapting its programs and rising to the occasion, always firm in its belief that education offers the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

Perhaps Ban Ki-moon said it best: “Education is a fundamental right and the basis for progress in every country.”

Scott Walter is executive director of CODE (www.code.ngo). Email Swalter@code.ngo to reach him.

UAE is strongly supporting Syrians



FIRST NAME:
Mohammed Saif Helal

LAST NAME: Al Shehhi

CITIZENSHIP: Emirati

**PRESENTED CREDENTIALS AS
AMBASSADOR:** Sept. 13, 2012

PREVIOUS POSTINGS: Paris, Geneva
and Rome

Since the Syrian crisis began in 2011, the United Arab Emirates has expressed its compassion and unwavering support for the people of Syria. The Syrian people are connected in our hearts as our brothers and sisters in our region and our government remains fully committed to continuing its strong support to alleviate their suffering, help them find a haven and help guarantee their basic right to lead dignified and meaningful lives.

Since this devastating crisis began, the UAE has provided more than 120,000 residency permits to Syrian nationals, bringing the total number of Syrian residents in the UAE close to 250,000, with more than 30,000 Syrian students being admitted to public and private schools, colleges and universities in the UAE.

At the United Nations Leaders' Summit on Refugees in September 2016, the UAE government announced a new initiative to accept 15,000 more Syrian refugees over the next five years.

Since the beginning of the conflict, our government has also provided more than \$600 million US in humanitarian and development aid, and pledged an additional \$100 million in January 2015 in support of Syrian refugees, with a significant amount of these funds already being dispersed.

The UAE is committed to turning promises into action. Immediately following the announcement at the UN, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, our foreign affairs and international co-operation minister, visited Ottawa and met with then-immigration minister John McCallum. The two ministers discussed Canada's successful experience resettling refugees, and minister McCallum invited UAE technical officials to visit and learn

from Canada's best practices.

Simultaneously, the UAE quickly formed a high-level technical team, headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, and including representa-

tives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Prevention, the Emirates Red Crescent (the counterpart of the Red Cross) and the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, to seek international best practices in this area and determine how best to implement resettlement policy on the ground.

Following the Canadian government's

invitation, a UAE technical team travelled to Canada in November, as organized by Global Affairs Canada and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), to learn about the successful Canadian experience in accepting and resettling refugees.

While working on long-term solutions, the UAE has also helped finance and support the best-managed refugee camps in the world. The UAE-financed Mrajeeb Al Fhood refugee camp in Jordan, home to more than 4,000 Syrian refugees, has often been covered in the media because it employs some of the world's best chefs, providing gourmet meals throughout the day (inclusive of dietary-requirement meals); access to medical care around the clock in co-ordination with UNICEF; a fully equipped school for children; hot showers, and the highest standards in electricity and street lighting.

The UAE also contributed \$72 million US in 2014-2015 to various refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey.



The UAE has helped finance and support the best-managed refugee camps in the world, including this one, the Zaatari Refugee Camp in Jordan.

Furthermore, it is worth mentioning that the UAE, together with Germany and the United States, has established the Syria Recovery Trust Fund (SRTF) to restore essential services in areas under the control of the Syrian interim government. It is the first fund established to operate inside Syria.

The UAE is also a co-leader of the Friends of Syria Early Economic Recovery Working Group as another step to providing necessary assistance in this regard.

However, the UAE strongly believes that without a sustainable solution to the conflict in Syria, it will be impossible to solve the refugee crisis. The UAE looks forward to working with its international partners and the global community at large to find fundamental solutions.

Trying to tackle one of the root causes of violent extremism in Syria and the region, the UAE has sought viable solutions to counter DAESH [ISIS] through the creation of the Hedayah Centre, an international centre established to counter violent extremism by promoting understanding and sharing best practices. In addition, the United States and UAE jointly launched the Sawab Centre, the first multinational online messaging program in support of the Global Coalition against DAESH.



Reem Al Hashimi, UAE minister of state shown here at the UN, announced to the world body that UAE would accept 15,000 Syrian refugees.

The Sawab Centre uses online engagement to rapidly counter terrorist propaganda, including messages used to recruit foreign fighters and fundraise for illicit activities, and to present moderate and tolerant voices from across the region.

In addition, the Muslim Council of Elders and the Forum for the Promotion of Peace in Muslim Communities were established to promote the true ideals of Islam. These institutions aim to protect young people who have been polarized by extremist, sectarian and terrorist groups, and to counter the false claims of these groups.

The Syrian crisis cannot be resolved through military means, and must incorporate goodwill and political determination to successfully solve this crisis.

The situation is further complicated by Iran's expansionist policies and its interference in the internal affairs of neighbouring countries, which causes a great deal of tension and instability in the region.

Within these circumstances, we look forward to working with our international partners, such as Canada, to see the return of peace and a viable future for the people of Syria once again.

Mohammed Saif Helal Al Shehhi is the ambassador of UAE.



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Canada and Ukraine: The free world's new frontier



By Andriy Shevchenko

Picture it, if you will: A gigantic Ukrainian Antonov aircraft, powered by a Canadian engine and taking cargo across continents. Or how about major Canadian companies outsourcing software production to Ukraine? Or maybe Canadian AAA beef or seafood on grocery shelves in Lviv or Odessa? All of this would have seemed a fantasy just a couple of years ago, but, in fact, it is already a reality of business co-operation between Canada and Ukraine. And it is just a tiny appetizer to the promising dishes that are now in sight, thanks to the recently signed Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA).

Unfortunately, the trade rates between both countries are far below their potential.

According to the State Statistic Service of Ukraine, the total value of exports from Ukraine to Canada in 2016 was only \$38.6 million. It's peanuts when you consider that Canada is a G7 country and Ukraine has a market of 45 million consumers.

The most common Ukrainian exports to Canada are soya beans, parts of rail vehicles, sports equipment, ferrous metals and wood. Ukrainian imports from Canada, according to our figures, grew by five per cent last year and were worth approximately \$290.7 million. Oil (oil distillation products), fish, pharmaceutical products, nuclear reactors and vehicles formed the list of the most popular Canadian exports to Ukraine.

Canada is one of the most under-traded partners for Ukraine. This was one of the reasons behind the launch of negotiations for CUFTA, which was finalized by the Harper government and signed by then-trade minister Chrystia Freeland during Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's visit to Ukraine last year.



Ukraine's An-225 Mriya is the largest airplane in the world.

I accompanied Trudeau on his visit, and can confirm there was great enthusiasm in Ukraine for CUFTA. More than a trade deal, it is a sign of solidarity. Now, as we are completing the ratifying procedures, it is time to explore the new opportunities.

First, CUFTA should boost trade. The agreement eliminates 98 per cent of tariffs on semi-finished goods, footwear, pumping machinery, confectionery goods and IT services.

I would like to encourage Canadian aviation companies to work with Ukraine's Antonov. Our specialists have knowledge about how to build unique planes such as the one already mentioned. An-124, or An-70, can perform a typical transport mission from an unpaved airfield of just 600 to 800 metres in length. Or the An-74, a plane that was designed for support of research, ice floe reconnaissance and transport operations in the Arctic and the Antarctic, as well as for commercial cargo carriage over medium-haul routes in all climatic conditions, can operate in temperatures from -60°C up to 45°C.

Second, CUFTA opens government procurement to companies from both countries. In the case of Ukraine, this opens access for Canadian companies to tenders by state-run enterprises such as airports, railways, mail networks and public transportation systems, to name just a few.

Every day, approximately 4,000 government tenders are announced in Ukraine. Moreover, the procurement budget for the year is about \$15 billion.

Third, CUFTA provides for electronic commerce. Both sides will refrain from using any tariffs on products delivered

in electronic form. This will contribute to the free movement of products delivered through e-commerce (books, show and game tickets, clothing and household goods). Furthermore, we are looking forward to expanding our co-operation in CUFTA, by, for instance, providing access to the services market. I hope that in the near future both countries will add a services chapter to the agreement.

It's also worth mentioning that Canada is finishing the ratification procedures with the EU on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). As Ukraine already enjoys a trade agreement with the EU, it creates even more opportunities.

Just as Canada can help Ukrainian companies access North American and Pacific markets, so, too, can Ukrainian companies help Canadians reach the EU.

Moreover, I hope that CUFTA will help Canadians rediscover Ukraine as a country with the highest literacy rate on the continent and smart, skilled workers who are willing to put in the time to build a modern society on their land.

Yes, the Russian aggression in the east of our country and the economic hardships and challenges that brings require thoughtful management. However, this is also a time of opportunity.

So, CUFTA is not just an agreement. It is a symbol of strong friendship between our countries, between Canada — the symbol of the Free World — and Ukraine — a new frontier of the Free World.

Andriy Shevchenko is Ukraine's ambassador. Reach him by email at emb_ca@mfa.gov.ua or by phone at (613) 230-2961.

Indonesia-Canada: Asia's best-kept secret



By Teuku Faizasyah



Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited this subway project in Jakarta.

For a long time, Indonesia has been Asia's best-kept secret. The success stories of big Asian economies, such as China and India, have overshadowed the narrative of Indonesia's economic progress and all of the potential that this country has to offer.

Increasingly, there is growing awareness, including among Canadians, about Indonesia's potential. Indonesia is a member of the G20 and the 16th largest economy. It has a population of 250 million people and a significant number of them are among a growing middle class. A recent study by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) projected that Indonesia will be the world's fourth-largest economy (PPPs) by 2050.

The backbone of Indonesia's economy is demographics — it has a high percentage of working-aged citizens. Given that, Indonesia offers a huge market potential for trade and investment.

Over the years, the governments of Indonesia and Canada have developed frameworks to stimulate economic relations. In 2016, the bilateral trade volume reached \$3.07 billion. Canada is ranked 19th in Indonesia's list of investors by country, with the total amounting to \$600 million, and Indonesia is the largest market as well as investment destination for Canadian companies in Southeast Asia.

Based on 2016 trade data, the Top 10 exports from Indonesia to Canada include: woven clothing and apparel, electrical equipment, rubber, knitted clothing, footwear, mechanical appliances, cocoa, coffee, tea, spices and paper. Meanwhile, the top 10 products Canada exports to Indonesia include cereals (mainly wheat), wood pulp, mechanical appliances, ores, electrical equipment, scientific and technical in-

struments, aluminum, vegetables, plastic and pharmaceutical products.

As the fourth-largest producer of coffee in the world with more than 814,629 tons of production per year, Indonesia hopes to see more Canadians enjoying our specialty coffee. We hope when they drink Sumatran coffee at Tim Hortons, for example, they will think of Indonesia.

Indonesia also hopes to send more fishery products and furniture to Canada. Indonesia's total fishery product exports saw an 8.4-per-cent jump in 2015 with total exports that year amounting to \$317.98 million, of which Canada imported \$46.02 million, with Canada importing \$58.4 million of that.

We hope economic co-operation between Indonesia and Canada will grow rapidly in the coming years. In particular, Canada's business communities can benefit from the simultaneous efforts by the Indonesian government to ease doing business in Indonesia. In fewer than two years, our government, under President Joko Widodo, has launched 14 economic stimulus packages, which, among others, provide tax holidays and shortened and simplified investment procedures. In 2016, Indonesia's ease-of-doing-business rating by the World Bank leapt to 91st-best of 190 countries from 106th place in 2015. Indonesia's economic outlook was also upgraded to positive from stable by Moody's, Fitch and the Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCRA) in 2017.

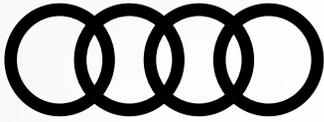
By pursuing prudent economic policies, Indonesia has been able to maintain healthy GDP growth of five per cent.

To further stimulate economic progress, Indonesia has embarked upon massive infrastructure development projects. It is currently building thousands of kilometres of railways and highways as well as airports and seaports across the archipelago. Between 2014 and 2019, Indonesia will need an additional electricity supply of 7,000 megawatts per year. This represents an opportunity for Canadian companies to be Indonesia's partner through investment, in view of Canada's technological advancement and innovation.

In an age when the digital economy is the new frontier, Indonesia enjoys a demographic dividend with its young, digitally savvy workforce. The government works hard to ensure that by 2019, Indonesia will have a reliable internet connection across the archipelago, with a fibre-optic network connecting all districts. As of March 2017, more than 130 million Indonesians are active internet users. Moreover, creativity among our younger generation offers a unique opportunity for entrepreneurs to collaborate in creative digital projects.

This trend opens up another area of potential economic co-operation between Indonesia and Canada. In anticipation of such a promising new era in economic relations, the two governments need to set up a comprehensive economic agreement that also incorporates the digital economy.

Indonesian Ambassador Teuku Faizasyah is also Indonesia's permanent representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Contact him at dubes@indonesia-ottawa.org or by phone at (613) 724-1100.



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A thrill a minute

Summer is a time to let loose. To that end, we offer 15 of the world's top adventures, from the west coast of the United States to the wilds of Africa.

By Wolfgang Depner

Summer is upon us and it is time to choose an adventure. It is this imperative that has guided our decision to compile this list of adventure tourism activities that offer us thrills beyond the ordinary. The Adventure Travel Trade Association defines adventure tourism as a trip that includes at least two of the following: physical activity, natural environment and cultural immersion.

“While the definition of adventure tourism only requires two of these components, trips incorporating all three tend to afford tourists the fullest adventure travel experience,” says the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

With that criteria at the forefront, we've chosen 15 adventure activities, spread across three categories: air, water and land. While this list is admittedly subjective, it considered a number of criteria, including region and accessibility, in drawing inspiration from a wide range of sources and communities, including the extreme tourism community (see the entry on animal-watching in Chernobyl) and hardcore adventurers such as those behind the Grand Inga Project, a hair-raising descent down the Inga Rapids on the Congo River. While such death-defying feats remain beyond the reach of most, they nonetheless draw attention to what is possible. According to the UNWTO, adventure tourism is on the rise as one of the fastest-growing categories of tourism. It is at once more sustainable, resilient and supportive of local economies than mass-packaged tourism. Plus, it promises far more memorable interactions with locals and their environment than sitting around a pool. With this in mind, safe travels. See you out there.

1. Paragliding, Haute Alpes, France

More than 300 days of sunshine, strong thermal winds and spectacular scenery — those are the elements that make the French Haute Alpes perhaps *the* global destination for paragliding. In this aviation sport, wind inflates a canopy that the pilot controls by tugging the cords that tether a harness to the canopy. While harnesses — which resemble high-end lawn chairs — vary in weight, they are much lighter than other types of glider aircrafts launched by foot. This portability means that paragliding pilots can launch themselves and their passengers off any sufficiently steep slope free of obstructions that face the wind. Gravity and wind do the rest.

Skilled paragliding pilots can stay in the air for hours, reaching heights in excess of 5,000 metres, while covering distances of more than 200 kilometres. But if paragliding can happen almost anywhere, why settle for anywhere when you can do it in the Alpine mountains of southeastern France on the borders of Switzerland and Italy? Accessed through Albertville, host city of the 1992 Winter Olympics, the region is home to the Mont Blanc massif, a mountain range that straddles France, Italy and Switzerland and bears the name of the tallest mountain (4,800 metres) in Europe.

Already famous for skiing during winter, the landscape is one of the reasons France boasts more than 25,000 active paragliding pilots. And as climate change slowly, but inexorably, closes down local ski runs, area resorts have sought to diversify their recreational offerings, including paragliding. Accordingly, visitors can choose from a broad range of suppliers that offer lessons, tandem flights or other related services.

To be clear: all air aviation sports can be dangerous if pursued carelessly. “The most important requirement for safe and successful paragliding is a proper attitude and good judgment,” said Kurt Kleiner of the U.S. Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association on its website. Those who follow this advice will be uplifted.

2. Hang-gliding, Fjord Region, Norway

For some, western Norway is a place of unparalleled beauty.

“It is an unusual expanse of landscape, not duplicated anywhere on Earth,” wrote famed *New York Times* columnist R. W. Apple Jr. during a road-trip through the



Why paraglide anywhere else when you can do it here, in France's Haute Alpes?

region in 1980. “[Nowhere] else, in a relatively confined area, is there such a prodigious display of mountains and sea, lakes and waterfalls.”

The region’s fjords — spindly fingers of ocean reaching far inland — are the primary players in what Apple calls a “scenic melodrama.”

Areas of interest include the Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjorden, which UNESCO has placed on its list of World Heritage Sites as archetypical examples of the west Norwegian fjord landscapes that stretch 500 kilometres, from Stavanger in the south to Andalsnes to the northeast. Historically, visitors have absorbed this scenery from land or from the deck of a ship.

These days, more and more are taking to the air, as the region has become a hotspot for hang-gliding. Basically, a pilot controls a triangular wing by shifting weight forward, backward and side to side inside a harness suspended off the wing. The history of hang-gliding reaches back to the Renaissance and emerged as a modern recreation sport in the 1960s. It has since become one of the most popular forms of foot-launched aviation.

Voss, a small community in western Norway, about an hour east of Bergen, Norway’s second-largest city, ranks at or near the very top of the destinations for the global hang-gliding community thanks to the glacier-covered mountains and deep fjords that surround it. Like so many Norwegian communities, Voss can look back on a rich, but often hard-scrabble, history that inspired many waves of migration. Today, Voss advertises itself to adrenaline junkies from around the world through its Ekstremспортveko, a week of extreme sports competitions.

3. Ballooning, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Popular culture does not always paint Albuquerque in the brightest hues.

For the cartoon rabbit Bugs Bunny, New Mexico’s largest city was always the place at which he should have taken a left. Others will forever associate this former Spanish imperial outpost with the criminal ambitions of high-school-teacher-turned-drug-lord Walter White of the TV series *Breaking Bad*. The show has since spawned a prolific, if not prosperous,

tourism industry that allows fans to tour shooting locations.

But if *Breaking Bad* has given Albuquerque's tourism industry an unexpected lift, visitors looking for the real thing should check out the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, when the early fall offers the best climatic combination of warm, sunny days and cool, crisp nights. Albuquerque has hosted the event for almost half a century and last year's edition drew more than 500 hot air balloons and 108 special-shaped balloons to the Land of Enchantment. This year's festival runs from Oct. 7 to 15.

The highlight of the festival is its Mass Ascension, when hundreds of balloons lift off from Albuquerque's Fiesta Park around 7 a.m. Balloons launch in two waves with launch directors — known as zebras because of their black-and-white outfits — serving as traffic cops. A balloon flying the American flag to the strains of the *Star Spangled Banner* leads this procession, which many have called the “world's



Last year's Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta attracted more than 600 balloons. This year's festival runs from Oct. 7-15.

most photographed” event. No wonder — close to a million people attend. If this sounds too bombastic, ballooning is a year-around activity in New Mexico, so visitors can pursue it on their own schedule. It certainly promises to be a soaring

experiencing, as New Mexico offers some of most photogenic scenery anywhere.

Besides balloons and beautiful landscapes, Albuquerque also boasts a wide range of cultural activities and diverse examples of architecture that honour its long history and the many people who have resided along that stretch of the Rio Grande. Whatever you do, don't break bad and don't make a left turn at Albuquerque.

4. Skydiving, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

What Dubai lacks in size, it makes up in ambition.

The biggest city in the United Arab Emirates offers two of the world's largest shopping malls, one with a huge

aquarium, another with an indoor ski slope. It also features artificial islands in the shape of palms that can be seen from space, and Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building at 828 metres. All of these attractions, mind you, exist in the middle of desert, and show off the wealth that Dubai has generated in a relatively short time, first through its currently dwindling oil reserves, then through its strategic decision to become a global tourist destination and traffic hub. According to *The New York Times*, two-thirds of the world's population lives within an eight-hour flight from Dubai, which has the busiest airport, in terms of international travel. It handled 83.6 million travellers in 2016.

The demographics of the seven emir-



Skydive Dubai has two locations: The desert campus dropzone and the Palm dropzone; both in Dubai. Skydiving over these man-made palm-shaped islands is unparalleled.



This glider, on one of Happy World's tours (happyworld.is) is travelling over the lavafields and geothermal areas just outside Reykjavik.

ates that make up the UAE reflect this cosmopolitanism. As of 2013, 9.4 million people from 200 different nationalities called the UAE home. So it would not be a stretch to think of Dubai as a real-life, far glitzier version of Mos Eisley, the desert spaceport in the *Star Wars* universe. Dubai certainly attracts unusual thrill-seekers. Would-be visitors can book a tandem sky dive over the Palm Islands, which were artificially created for tourists, or they can float above the deep red desert surrounding Dubai. Divers jump out of a plane fly-

ing at a height of almost 4,000 metres for a free-fall that lasts about a minute before the instructor pulls the parachute. A five-minute float to the ground follows.

Dubai's accessibility, desert ambiance and architecture make it an appealing destination for adrenaline junkies such as base jumpers Fred Fugen and Vince Reffet, who jumped off Burj Khalifa dressed in bright yellow overalls with red flares attached to their ankles. Pictures of the stunt went around the world and cemented Dubai's image as a global playground.

5. Gliding, Iceland

In Ridley Scott's misunderstood masterpiece, *Prometheus*, an oval-shaped spacecraft hovers over a barren but beautiful landscape that represents Earth before the beginning of life. In the scene, pale muscular aliens wearing robes watch as one of their own dissolves himself into a cascading waterfall, seeding the planet with his DNA.

While the scene, with its pseudo-scientific premise lifted out of the *Chariots of the Gods* appears as pure fiction, the landscape

is quite real, with Iceland playing the part of primordial Earth. The island, halfway between Europe and North America, certainly possesses an out-of-the-ordinary aura that sharpens the senses. Likely no other place on the planet offers more real-life lessons about various geological forces that have shaped our planet. Fire and ice continue to forge Iceland into an amalgam of smoldering volcanoes, swooshing geysers and shimmering glaciers, which would-be visitors can appreciate from several vantage points, including the cockpit of a glider. The glider's appeal lies in what is absent: the potentially deafening and likely distracting roar of an engine.

Motorized forms of aviation are more predictable because they don't rely on natural air currents to maintain lift and propulsion, but they lack the serenity of non-motorized forms such as gliding. A glider flight is also more personal since modern-day gliders can carry no more than two people, pilot included.

To be clear: Would-be visitors to Iceland who want to view it from above might brace themselves for disappointment. By virtue of Iceland's location south of the Arctic and north of the warm Gulf Stream running through the Atlantic, its weather can be variable, if not unpredictable. Alternatively, visitors can descend into a dormant volcano. That said, soaring above the island promises a unique visual experience through space and time, no computer-generated imagery necessary.

6. Whitewater rafting, Zambezi River, Congo

The Washing Machine. Stairway to Heaven. Gnashing Jaws of Death. These are just some of the names of the 25 rapids that line the Zambezi River after it comes down the famed Victoria Falls and cuts through a narrow but long basalt canyon on its way towards the Indian Ocean. These monikers point to the intensity that awaits rafters and make Africa's fourth-largest river, after the Nile, Congo and Niger, perhaps the top destination for whitewater sports enthusiasts.

While all whitewater sports such as rafting and kayaking feature "countless unknown, and even unknowable, hazards" as Roy Hunter writes in the *Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning*, the "fatality risk of whitewater boating is on par with other adventure sports," according to David Fiore, a medical doctor writing in *Wilderness & Environmental Medicine*. That said, caution should be the guiding principle in whitewater sports, starting with the simple act of wearing a



The Washing Machine, Stairway to Heaven and Gnashing Jaws of Death are some of the names of the 25 rapids that line the Zambezi River after it comes down the famed Victoria Falls.

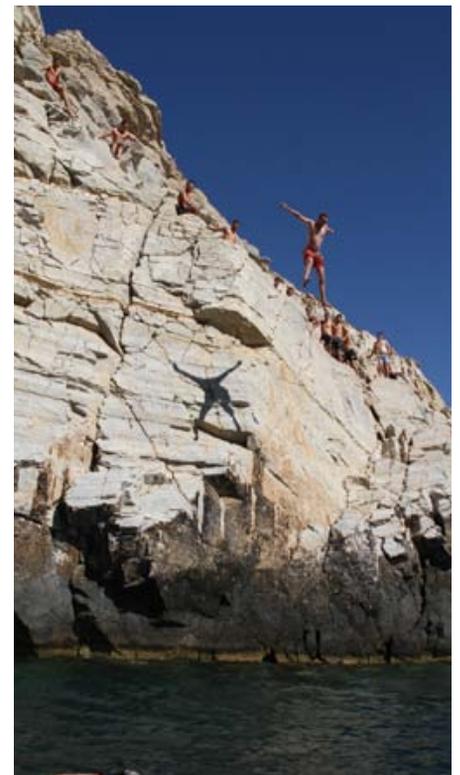
life vest. As the American Whitewater Association notes, "a third of all whitewater accidents could have been prevented if the victim was wearing a life vest; many deaths occur in very easy rapids."

Overall, the International Scale of River Difficulty recognizes six classes of rapids, with the sixth class representing extreme and exploratory rapids that have "almost never been attempted and often exemplify the extremes of difficulty, unpredictability and danger." In light of this description, travellers wishing to experience a level of excitement below this terrifying threshold can choose from a wide range of rivers around the world. However, rafting the Zambezi River promises to be a unique experience. Starting just below Africa's largest waterfall, rafters experience rapids ranging from Class 3 (intermediate) to Class 5 (advanced). Rafters can launch from either Zambia or Zimbabwe and can choose among one or multiple-day trips down the Batoka Gorge. Interested parties should check with local rafting providers prior to arrival as water levels dictate the rafting season, with the river closed some-time between March and May.

7. Cliff diving, Santorini, Greece

Simple in theory, difficult in practice, cliff diving combines kinetic artistry with athleticism against a natural backdrop. However, as Nicholas DeRenzo of *USA To-*

day notes, "cliff diving is a precision sport that requires impeccable timing and an intimate knowledge of the particular cliff on which you are standing." Within seconds, divers must calculate the distance



Cliff diving in Santorini is considered on the safe side, and good for amateurs.

they must propel themselves into the air to miss the rock wall, the angle and speed of the entry into the water, length of the wave swells and water depth during different tides. Cliff diving, in other words, features multiple moving parts and can quickly lead to disaster.

“It’s no cliché: mere seconds could

mean the difference between life and death,” writes DeRenzo. This reality creates two choices: Watch the professionals in famed locations, such as Mexico’s Acapulco or try out some of the more amateur-friendly diving locations such as Kamari Beach on the Greek island of Santorini, the main island of an archipelago in

the southeastern Aegean Sea. The island — like the archipelago itself — is all that remains after Thera — Santorini’s classical name — experienced a massive volcanic eruption halfway through the second millennium BC, an event that historians have linked to the decline of the ancient Minoan civilization. Indirect references to this late



Teahupo'o, Tahiti, is one of the most iconic surfing destinations in the world but it offers waves for amateurs and pros alike.

Bronze-Age catastrophe have appeared in the records of several civilizations and scholars have linked the eruption to the Jewish exodus from Egypt as well as Plato's discussion of Atlantis.

Leaving aside these scholastic controversies, the water in Kamari Beach shimmers a bright blue and is deep enough for amateurs who want to jump off the 10-metre-high cliff overlooking the beach. The island itself attracts a mixture of tourists, some from the jetset crowd, others more rugged. All, no doubt, see the attraction of diving into a place blessed by stunning scenery and shrouded in myth — whether or not they take the literal plunge.

8. Surfing, Tahiti

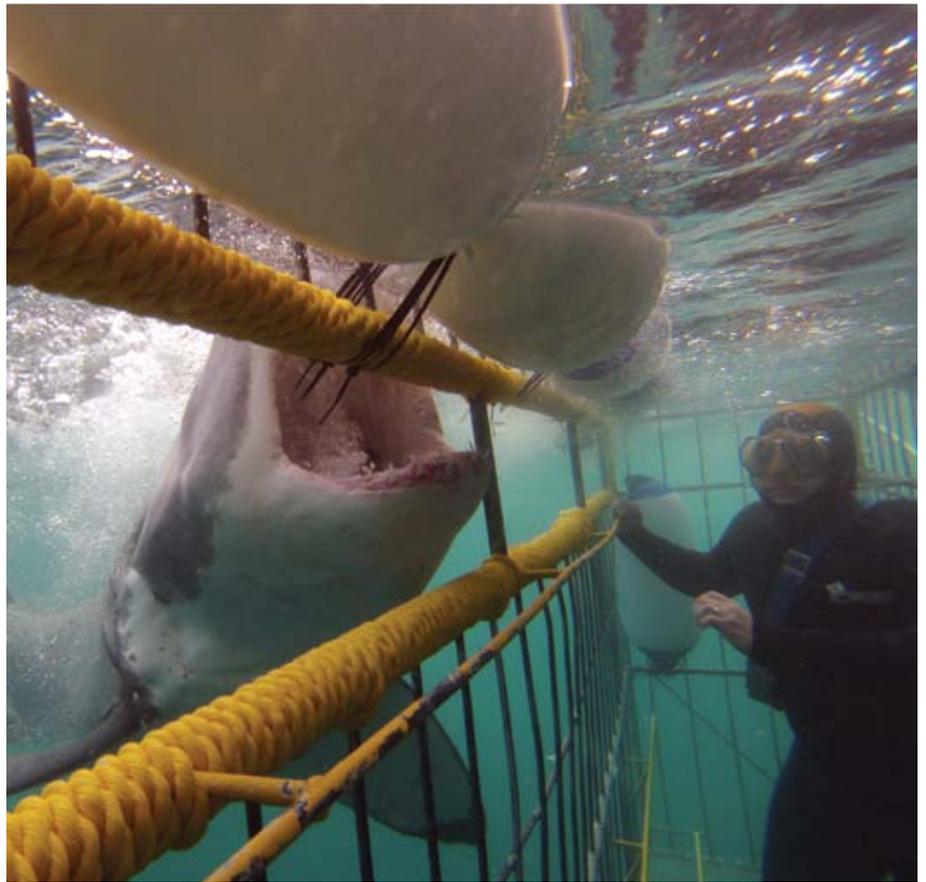
The first European recording of surfing dates back to 1769, courtesy of naturalist Joseph Banks, who accompanied British explorer James Cook to the Pacific island of Tahiti to observe the transit of Venus. Referring to the “high surf” falling upon a shore, he said: “a more dreadful one I have not often seen.” Banks also observed 10 or 12 “Indians” whose “chief amusement was carried on by the stern of an old canoe. With this before them, they swam out as far as the outermost breach, then one or two would get into it and opposing the blunt end to the breaking wave were hurried in with incredible swiftness.” Banks and his fellow Europeans admired this “wonderful scene for full half an hour, in which time no one of the actors attempted to come ashore, but all seemed most highly entertained with their strange diversion.”

Nearly 250 years later, this “strange diversion” has spread beyond the Polynesian Pacific to become one of the most popular forms of water recreation. Yet Banks' account captures the enduring appeal of surfing as a seeming defiance of gravity. It also points to the magnitude of waves that continue to attract the world's most daring surfers to Tahiti, specifically the village of Teahupo'o on the south-western coast of the island. The world's leading surfers, such as Evan Geiselman, say this location offers the best surfing. “It's the most beautiful place I've ever been, with the most beautiful waves — it's heaven, really,” he told the *The New York Times* in 2016. “Teahupo'o is one of the most iconic waves in the world; you can surf these heavy, big barrels.” There's no denying that Teahupo'o, nicknamed Chopes (pronounced Cho-po), is the domain of the world's best surfers. But Tahiti offers waves for everyone, with the prime surfing season running from March through October.

9. Great white whark diving, South Africa:

Steven Spielberg's cinematic adaption of Peter Benchley's novel about a great white shark terrorizing a seaside town appeared in theatres 40 years ago. Yet *Jaws* has remained a cultural touchstone that triggers a visceral reaction, conjuring up ominous horns and hard-charging strings, clashing with each other in a sonic synthesis of fear. As Erik Vance of *National Geographic* writes, “there are more than 500 species of shark, but in popular imagination there's really only one.”

in South Africa, whose waters around Dyer Island near the town of Kleinbaai are among the best spots to view one of the world's most nomadic creatures, according to the *The New York Times*. *The Guardian*, meanwhile, reports that “shark safaris” attract an estimated 100,000 visitors annually. But for all of its popularity, various groups, including divers, surfers and fishermen consider cage-diving problematic because it teaches sharks to associate food with humans, a charge supporters deny by noting fishermen have used chumming without controversy for a long time. As Vance writes, the “great



Cage-diving to view sharks became a commercial endeavour in the early 1990s and is especially popular in South Africa.

It is this reality that likely explains the tourism appeal of great white shark diving off the South African coast. The concept — like its mechanics — is simple. Would-be visitors wearing wetsuits squeeze themselves into cages, which operators then lower into the water. Occupants then get a close-up look at the animals, which are baited with chum or seal decoys.

While marine biologists have used cages for some time, “cage diving” became a commercial endeavour in the early 1990s. Cage diving is especially popular

white shark is the ocean's iconic fish, yet we know little about it, and much of what we think we know simply isn't true.” The number of great white sharks is small — somewhere between 4,000 and 25,000 — no one really knows for sure and attacks on people are “incredibly rare.”

Surfers off the Californian coast, for example, stand a one-in-17-million chance of being attacked. For swimmers, the chance is one in 378 million. In this sense, cage diving for great white sharks may give our fears a face.

10. Zapcatting, St. Andrews, Scotland

Ever thought about skipping across the water like a flat rock at high speeds? Zapcatting might be just the thing for you. Zapcats are small, light, inflatable

engine churns behind them and propels them across the water should have a jolly old time. You can zapcat anywhere, but the sport appears to be popular in the United Kingdom, especially Scotland. And while in Scotland, it is hard to think of a more iconic place than St. Andrews.



Zapcats are small, light, inflatable catamaran hulls propelled by powerful engines. They're particularly popular in Scotland.

catamaran hulls propelled by powerful engines. Zapcats lack seats, harnesses and steering wheels. Typical rides feature two people: a pilot who controls the Zapcat through a tiller system and a passenger who helps control the craft by shifting his or her weight.

Wearing fully enclosed helmets and life vests, both lie flat on the Zapcat as it zips across the water, reaching speeds in excess of 60 kilometres per hour. But that is not the half of it. Zapcats can perform turns of 90, even 180 degrees at these speeds, thereby exposing riders to gravitational forces of 3G — just below a Formula 1 car. The forces of physics can also conspire against riders by sending them and their craft up in the air. A search of YouTube speaks to this point. In short, Zapcatting is no activity for the faint-hearted or the unfit. But those who are willing to jump onto a thin piece of inflatable material while an

engine churns behind them and propels them across the water should have a jolly old time. You can zapcat anywhere, but the sport appears to be popular in the United Kingdom, especially Scotland. And while in Scotland, it is hard to think of a more iconic place than St. Andrews.

11. Pacific Crest Trail, United States

The sports on this list all share the following traits: they can induce a sudden thrill in a relatively short amount of time with relatively little preparation. Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail is the very opposite. It is a gruelling test of endurance that requires much preparation.

The Pacific Crest Trail cuts a 4,200-kilometre swath across the length of the United States from the Mexican to the Canadian border, traversing three states — California, Oregon and Washington — and their diverse ecosystems, ranging from desert to the high alpine and the Pacific rainforest. But if these are the basic facts, they fail to capture the difficulties

that confront hikers. More people have climbed Mount Everest than hiked the entire length of the Pacific Crest Trail. As Nicholas Kristof recently wrote in *The New York Times*, the Pacific Crest Trail is a trail of “extremes” as it “meanders through cactus and redwoods, challenging humans with rivers and snowfields, rattlesnakes and bears.” Travellers may go up to 50 kilometres without access to water. Other times, they may face the prospect of too much water as they bridge raging streams or extensive snowfields. So the trail requires a healthy amount of respect, if not awe, for the obstacles that wait ahead.

Those who do their homework, however, and those who train their body and mind, can expect an experience like no other. As Kristof and many others have said, the trail holds the promise of spiritual healing through a communion with nature that forces us to focus on the essential by eliminating the superfluous. This process of self-discovery is a prominent theme in popular literature about



The Pacific Crest Trail is a 4,200-kilometre hike through California, Oregon and Washington.

hiking the trail, as exemplified in Cheryl Strayed's *Wild*. While Strayed's account has led to a spike in hikers on the trail, the trip remains a formidable challenge whose thrill lies in testing the limits that we and nature impose upon ourselves.



A rare breed of wild horses has found a new home in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone after authorities introduced it there.

12. Animal-watching, Chernobyl, Ukraine

What happens to nature after human hubris? That question has generated a growing interest in one of Europe's largest genuine wild sanctuaries, the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. Its origin lies in the events of April 26, 1986, when Reactor No. 4 of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant exploded. Forty-nine people died from the immediate effects of the explosion, which spread radiation across Europe. The United Nations has also linked 4,000 premature deaths to the disaster, which

forced authorities to evacuate more than 130,000 individuals, many at a moment's notice. Remnants of their former presence remain scattered across the region, in no place more so than Prypjat, a town created to house the power plant workers and their families. Forced to flee their homes, they left behind personal items of every sort, invoking feelings that alternate between the comically surreal and the melancholically touching against the backdrop of an abandoned city, its walls as shattered as the lives that once inhabited them.

The near-absence of humans in the area, however, has allowed animals such as beavers, boar, bison, foxes, lynx and wolves to flourish. A rare breed of wild horses has found a new home in the exclusion zone after authorities introduced it. This proliferation of wildlife has not just inspired biologists interested in the scientific study of this unique ecosystem, but also tourists from around the world.

An official tourist destination since 2011, Chernobyl and its surrounding countryside reportedly drew 10,000 visitors on the occasion of the disaster's 30th



The Arrikruz Cave in the Basque country of Spain is among the world's most spectacular.

anniversary. To be clear, however, travel in and out of the zone is subject to a long list of rules. Travellers cannot consume berries and apples growing in the zone, for example. While far higher than the norm, radiation levels are safe, but hot spots remain. The 5,000-plus workers who service and protect the abandoned plant follow a three-week in, three-week out schedule. Others are more permanent. Approximately 130 elderly people, known as the Samosely, live permanently in the exclusion zone. They are the living ghosts of a different era.

13. Caving, northern Spain

Caves have long fascinated humans. Our Stone Age ancestors used them as utilitarian shelters, artistic canvasses and burial grounds. Ancient myths and modern religions cast them as a stage for their larger messages. The world's most famous allegory in philosophy by the world-famous Plato frames humans as prisoners inside a cave, where their lack of education and enlightenment condemns them to experience reality as a shadow play. Others see caves as living organisms. "They have bloodstreams and respiratory systems, infections and infestations," wrote Burkhard Bilger in *The New Yorker*. "They take

in organic matter and digest it, flushing it slowly through their systems."

Bilger wrote these words in a piece about extreme caving that described, among other elements, an exploration of the Chevé system of caves in Mexico — "a kind of Everest expedition turned upside down." The comparison is appropriate. Extreme caving expeditions can last for days and involve the same techniques, tools and hazards as mountaineering, minus the snow, but including spiders, snakes and bats, not to mention diseases caused by fungi (histoplasmosis) and parasites (leishmaniasis) that leave behind nasty lesions and even lead to death. That said, travellers looking to conquer some of the world's most fascinating crevices do not need to spend months of preparation and huge amounts of money to get a taste of the dark deep. Northern Spain, for example, features a series of fairly accessible caves.

Consider the Arrikruz Cave in the Basque country. For as many as three hours, groups of up to 20 people can explore the cave, itself part of a huge and complex 14-kilometre cavity of underground galleries. The cave features an underground river, enormous stalactites and includes a series of skeletons, com-

plete with a one of a cave-dwelling lion, the only one of its kind, discovered on the Iberian Peninsula.

14. Black-Light Boulder Challenge, St. Gallen Switzerland

It comes as no surprise that Switzerland is the place for mountaineering and other climbing activities, such as bouldering and rock climbing.

As *The World Factbook* of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) dryly notes, its terrain comprises "mostly mountain" as the Alps cover about 65 per cent of Switzerland's territory. Home to perhaps the most iconic mountain, the Matterhorn, Switzerland has produced a list of famous mountaineers, including Erhard Loretan (1959-2011) and Ueli Steck (1976-2017). They — and figures before them — have inspired millions around the world to climb with or without harness.

According to the 2016 *Outdoor Participation Report*, almost four per cent of all Americans pursued some form of climbing. One reason behind this growing interest has been the proliferation of indoor climbing gyms. Once an activity with which outdoor mountaineers kept themselves in shape during the off-season,

indoor climbing has become popular on its own.

The Kletterzentrum in St. Gallen speaks to this point. Self-described as Switzerland's "prettiest" indoor climbing gym, the Kletterzentrum's exterior is a tribute to cubism, its interior an M.C. Escher picture come alive, as climbers crawl up and down multi-coloured walls that seem to fold upon themselves. Overall, the facility offers 2,500 square metres of climbing space to climbers of various skills. Other services complement the facility's central purpose. They include a licensed bistro, seminar rooms and a children's play area. But if this sounds all rather too relaxed, those looking for an extra adrenaline kick can check out the Blacklight Boulder Challenge. It is a climbing competition that sees competitors climb routes of various difficulties by following black lights. After the preliminaries, finalists then have three minutes to complete the final challenge.

15. Sand-dune bashing, Qatar

Not surprisingly, sand-dune bashing is rather popular on the Arabian Peninsula. For young local men in the region, it is one of their major forms of recreation and the combination of youthful risk-taking



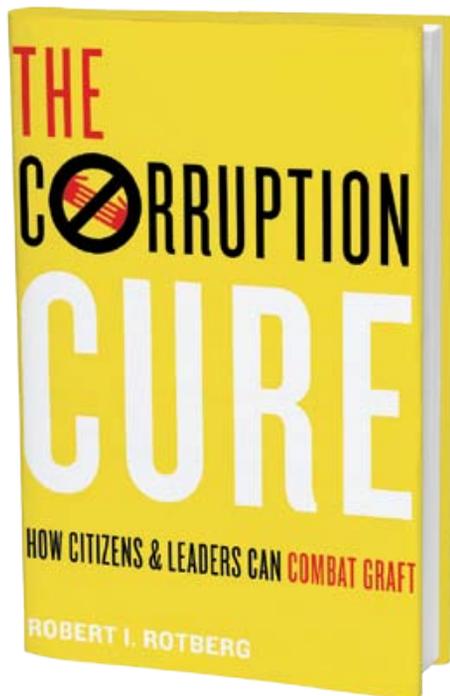
Sand-dune bashing is a popular pastime on the Arabian Peninsula and an adventurous way to see the dunes of its deserts.

amidst tricky terrain produces no small number of dangerous, even deadly, outcomes among less experienced drivers.

Dune-bashing is certainly far more sophisticated than it sounds. As Caitlin

Uttley of howstuffworks.com notes, it combines "driving in mud and driving over hills." Angles and speed are crucial to sand-dune bashing. As drivers approach any dune, they have to have sufficient momentum to carry them up. Those who start too slowly have to back down the dune or make a wide arc to drive back down. At the same time, drivers heading up a dune have to choose an angle that does not see them pile-drive their bumpers into the sand. Similar calculations apply when at the top. "If you don't know your break-over angle, you may become stuck at the top of dune," Uttley notes, or worse. In short, dune-bashing requires considerable skill and familiarity with the terrain, which is likely why most dune-bashing operators in Qatar leave the driving to professionals. Tours generally take place in broad-tired SUVs with four-wheel drive and operators offer tours that combine the experience with other activities, including overnight camping amidst the expansive, seemingly unceasing and ever-shifting dunes.

Wolfgang Depner has taught political theory and international politics at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan campus. He now lives in Victoria.



The Corruption Cure

How Citizens and Leaders Can Combat Graft

Robert I. Rotberg

Corruption corrodes all facets of the world's political and corporate life, yet until now there was no one book that explained how best to battle it. *The Corruption Cure* provides many of the required solutions and ranges widely across continents and diverse cultures—putting some thirty-five countries under an anticorruption microscope—to show exactly how to beat back the forces of sleaze and graft.

"A veritable tour de force, both intellectually and in scope. Rotberg is one of the most knowledgeable researchers in this field, and he also has impressive experience from practical efforts and policies for reducing corruption. I am convinced that *The Corruption Cure* will become a standard reference for a long time."

—Bo Rothstein, author of *The Quality of Government: Corruption, Social Trust, and Inequality in International Perspective*

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No place like home

By Patrick Langston

You could holiday in Spain, rent a cottage in P.E.I., or spend your vacation hauling yourself and the kids around New York City. Or you could savour the neglected delights of Ottawa and surrounding areas — not to mention saving a bundle in the process — with a staycation. Sound tantalizing? Here are some possibilities.

Explore the urban forest

A staycation in Vanier? You bet. Start with a bracing tromp through the four-acre urban forest at Richelieu Park (address: 300, avenue des Pères Blancs.) And yes, that sugar shack produces maple syrup every year. More trees and exercise beckon at adjacent Beechwood Cemetery. A gorgeous spot, it's the final resting place of former prime ministers, veterans and others.

For an exceptional deli-style meal, swing by Bobby's Table, 255 Montreal Rd.

Do all this on a Monday and you can attend the free culture night at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, 299 Montreal Rd. Designed by architect Douglas Cardinal, the magnificent centre serves the First Nations community, but once a week welcomes all for drumming, storytelling and other events. Information: wabano.com

A great escape

Do you have what it takes to save the world? Then Ottawa's Apocalypse 2.0 needs you. It's one of the multiple themes that comprise Escape Manor, where you and others are locked in a room and have to get out. That room could be a Wild West saloon, a pharaoh's tomb or Apocalypse 2.0's doomsday space. With the clock ticking, you use observation and deduction to escape. Or not. The experience is "an emotional roller coaster ... a chance to escape the doldrums of everyday life," says Steve Wilson, co-owner of Ottawa's Escape Manor. Tickets start at \$21. Information: escapemanor.com

Marvellous marble caves

Round up a safety helmet, flashlight and old shoes for your expedition into Gatineau Park's Lusk Cave. Formed 11,000 years ago, the marble cave near Lac Philippe is wet, twisting and totally alluring. An occasional insect or frog ap-



The Central Experimental Farm's heritage greenhouse is home to many exotic tropical plants.

pears, a fish sometimes flickers by in the low stream that continues to erode the interior, and other spelunkers are generally respectful of the cave's quiet dignity. Lusk Cave is on an easy-to-navigate trail about five kilometres from Parent Beach parking lot. Information: ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places-to-visit/gatineau-park/lusk-cave

Some archery games

Archery tag is exactly what it sounds like. You fire foam-tipped arrows at your friends — temporarily your foes — they do the same to you, and everyone gets big, bouncy objects to hide behind. It's all the rage, and Ottawa's on board at Archery Games, 1860 Bank St. Sessions run 75 minutes, including training. Both archery novices and children over 10 are welcome. The \$24 admission includes a protective mask. Let fly, Robin Hood! Information: archerygames.ca

A farm in the city

The Central Experimental Farm is a gem we all know about, but rarely frequent. We should. The farm's Arboretum boasts 1,700 species and varieties of trees and shrubs dotting 26 hectares of rolling land. The ornamental gardens and Fletcher Wildlife Garden are a blaze of colour and texture. And the farm's heritage greenhouse is home to luxuriant tropical plants. The Canada Agriculture and Food Museum is part of the farm, and the lively restaurants and bars of Little Italy are nearby. The farm, at 960 Carling Ave., is free and open daily, dawn to dusk. Information: friendsofthefarm.ca

Get on the beer bus

Big on beer? Then Brew Donkey is for you. It hosts bus tours of breweries that include education on craft beer, samples of brewski (the true raison d'être of these

events), food and more.

In the case of the Sip, Axe and Relax tour, that “more” includes axe-throwing, a trending game that involves, unsurprisingly, an axe and a target. Would-be woodsmen and women get training on throwing correctly. The tours run four to eight hours or more. Tickets start at \$69. Information: brewdonkey.ca

Navigate the canal

Limber up your biceps and go canoeing down the Rideau Canal. All the way down, from Ottawa to Kingston. The occasional yahoo in a power boat aside, it's a relaxing adventure spread over 200 kilometres and six to 10 days. Moving at canoe speed lets you drink in the varied land and waterscapes, the wildlife and the fun of going through the locks that pepper the canal, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Pack a tent for camping on lockstation grounds or find a B&B or inn along the route. Park your boat for a walking tour of delightful towns, such as Merrickville. And bring a fishing rod for Big Rideau Lake. If Ottawa to Kingston sounds onerous, try this helpful guide (www.rideau-info.com/canal/paddling/paddle-rideau.html) for one of its partial routes.

Nature at its best

Lace up your hiking boots. You're going to Shaw Woods Outdoor Education Centre, a sumptuous, 200-acre nature preserve in Eganville about a 75-minute drive west of Ottawa. On display: towering, old-growth maple, beech and hemlock trees; slow-paced Canadian yew that have grown just a couple of feet above the forest floor over the past two centuries; a “boulder garden” of hulking stone left by retreating glaciers millenniums ago; and more. You'll need about five hours to hike the entire trail system (it's easy to moderately difficult) and to enjoy the wildlife, including eagles. Admission is free, although there are donation boxes. Information: shawwoods.ca

A spot o' tea

If contemporary life feels overly coarse, high tea in the Château Laurier's Zoe Lounge offers the salve of refinement. The Great Canadian Afternoon Tea, \$44 per person and available daily, includes a blueberry and buttermilk scone with clotted cream (did you expect anything else?), a selection of dainty sandwiches, and fruit-based desserts. A tea sommelier guides your selection, then prepares your refreshment tableside. There's also a junior menu at \$25. Dress is casual, but you need



Shaw Woods is a 200-acre nature preserve a 75-minute drive west of Ottawa.

to reserve your spot at 613-241-1414. Information: fairmont.com/laurier-ottawa/dining/zoes-lounge/

A good book

Sometimes a staycation need consist of nothing but a book, a waterside park and good company. Black Squirrel Books & Espresso Bar, 1073 Bank St., can provide the first. Nearby tiny, perfect Brown's Inlet Park at Craig Street and Holmwood Avenue offers the second. You can find the third yourself. Simplicity = bliss.

Roaring waterfalls

Like so many other towns, North Nation Mills in Plaisance, Que., vanished long ago. What remains are the waterfalls, plunging 67 metres with a thunderous roar. It's well worth the 50-minute drive from Ottawa along Highway 50 to experience that roar and to sneak down from the walking trail to the base of the falls where you can bask in the sun or watch people fish. The Plaisance Heritage Centre in the nearby village of Plaisance interprets local history. Information: ville.plaisance.qc.ca

A prime minister's project

William Lyon Mackenzie King, Canada's longest-serving prime minister, not only had séances with his dead mother, but also built ruins at his beloved Kingsmere

estate in the Gatineau Hills. Salvaging material from the Canadian Parliament buildings, destroyed by fire in 1916, and elsewhere, King constructed idiosyncratic structures with names like Window on the Forest. The ruins represent King's singularity and his passion for posterity, and you can enjoy them when you visit his estate with its cottage museum, tearoom and gardens. Admission is free; parking is \$11. Information: ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places-to-visit/mackenzie-king-estate

Shakespeare en plein air

Watching a play in a darkened theatre is fine. But sit in an outdoor amphitheatre where you can see boats on the St. Lawrence River and folks strolling along the boardwalk, and the play suddenly connects with real life in a whole new way. At least, that's what happens at the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival in Prescott, south of Ottawa. The festival presents *Antony and Cleopatra* and *The Three Musketeers* from July 8 to Aug. 12. Get to Prescott early and visit the Fort Wellington National Historic Site. For information, see stlawrenceshakespeare.ca

Get out of town

Tourists celebrating Canada's sesquicentennial will make it tough to find a romantic overnight staycation in Ottawa this summer. Consider renting a cosy tent in Gatineau Park (ncc-ccn.gc.ca/places-to-visit/gatineau-park/things-to-do/camping-cabins-gatineau-park-summer) or making the short drive to historic Perth for a hotel or B&B stay, a tour of the town's museums and architecture and a stop at the Stewart Park Music Festival July 14-16.

A 'religious' experience

A holiday abroad can put life at home into perspective. But so can an hour alone in a vast and quiet space like St. Patrick's Basilica at 281 Nepean St. Even if you're not religious, the 19th-Century Gothic Revival landmark with its high ceiling, symmetrical columns and bas-relief Stations of the Cross suggests permanence beneath the exhausting flux of daily life. The church, whose cornerstone was laid by Sir John A. Macdonald, is open every day. basilica.org

Patrick Langston is a long-time fan of staycations. He likes their affordability, but more important, he's found that human nature is as fascinating in his own 'hood as it is in far-flung places. Besides, he doesn't like being separated from his dog.

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New NAFTA must 'do no harm'



There are several areas within NAFTA — to be renegotiated by teams representing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and U.S. President Donald Trump, above, along with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto — that could be reworked to the benefit of all countries involved.



Perrin
Beatty

When the North American Free Trade Agreement was drafted in the early '90s, most Canadian households did not have internet. Consumers drove to their local mall to purchase an item and financial interactions involved a teller, not a machine.

Today Canadians can flip open a tablet and order a pair of shoes from Italy, a frying pan from Japan, or the latest toy from China and it will be delivered to their door, sometimes even by drone.

Clearly, the way we do business has

evolved since the signing of NAFTA in 1994. As companies in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico wait with trepidation for NAFTA renegotiations later this year, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce sees opportunity amid the peril — a chance to modernize elements of this venerable but crucial agreement.

NAFTA's inception more than 20 years ago eliminated most barriers to free trade and investment among the three countries. Businesses have benefited from greater access to materials, technologies and talent.

The result has been better economic growth, impressive job creation, as well as lower prices and a greater selection of consumer goods. Since 1994, Canada's trade with the U.S. has risen by 254 per cent to \$670 billion.

Canadians are not the only ones at risk of losing out on NAFTA's benefits — about 14 million American jobs depend on trade with Mexico and Canada, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Although the advantages of NAFTA as it stands are clear, there are several areas within the agreement that could be reworked for the benefit of all countries involved.

In light of technological advances over the past 23 years, NAFTA lacks any reference to the rapidly growing online marketplace. A new agreement would need to address the new realities of e-commerce, digital trade and its associated services. The same is true of purely electronic services, such as app and website design. The new NAFTA must also allow the Canadian entrepreneur who created an innovative new app to have access to the U.S. and Mexican markets in the same fashion the furniture or hardware manufacturers do.

Of course, addressing the ever-changing realities in digital commerce also involves the inclusion of taxation measures, intellectual property protection and data-transfer rules. Legislators in the U.S. are already raising data rules and cloud



Canada's GDP has been growing steadily since the ratification of the NAFTA in 1994.

computing issues such as privacy. There is an opening for Canada and the U.S. to align on this issue.

The manufacturing of goods has also evolved since NAFTA was signed. With increasingly complex manufactured goods and parts, companies are now working under outdated rules of origin laid out in the initial agreement. This affects how goods are classified, but also how regional content is calculated, influencing everything from purchasing to assembly decisions and overall manufacturing productivity.

Modernizing NAFTA's rules of origin would offer greater certainty to North American manufacturers and exporters. Businesses from all countries would also benefit from revising outdated elements of NAFTA concerning the mobility of workers, specifically recognizing occupational designations that have sprung up in the last two decades.

Canada has long advocated expanding the NAFTA visa-exempt categories for temporary entry. Currently, ambiguous job lists pose challenges for businesses trying to allow entry of professionals whose occupations did not exist at the time that NAFTA was negotiated, like specialized video game designers, professional drone pilots or specific programmers.

We have already seen disagreements arise in sectors ranging from health care to allied professions. There is now the opportunity to develop an effective mechanism that keeps job profiles updated and reflective of the real economy.

Technological advances, rules of origin and worker mobility are just a few areas that the Canadian Chamber of Commerce

suggests the countries include in NAFTA talks. The chamber has laid out an in-depth proposal for a new agreement with recommendations that focus only on trade.

While NAFTA is at its core an economic agreement, it also goes much further than trade measures and tax issues. Modern trade agreements, such as the ones that will be built on the foundation of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union, will extend well into cultural, environmental and social issues. The current situation provides an excellent opportunity to update NAFTA to include provisions similar to CETA.

While it would be wise to avoid issues of security policy, which will make negotiations more complex and difficult, measures introduced as a result of climate policies, for instance, could be included in order to set a baseline for environmental protection.

Nearly every province, territory and state has a different set of environmental rules. California recently tabled legislation that would create a new cap-and-trade system in the state, effective in 2020. The proposal would include a border tax, essentially a carbon tax, on imports. In the NAFTA negotiation, countries might seek exemption from this and similar measures introduced by state or national governments, pursuant to some calculation of the incremental costs represented by specific carbon-reduction policy.

The chamber's vision is of a more inclusive NAFTA, which would take into account the reality of small business and

rural communities. Our goal is an agreement that will help money flow to all Canadian businesses and regions, from the logistics multinational in Toronto to the small machine shop in Moose Jaw.

So the key question is, how do we get to such an agreement?

During a visit this June to Washington, D.C., the Canadian Chamber joined an agreement with the U.S. Chamber and the Mexican business organization, Consejo Coordinador Empresarial (CCE). By signing the North American Economic Agreement, the three organizations pledged to collaborate in ensuring that any changes to NAFTA benefit all three countries and that the negotiations, difficult as they may be, first serve to "do no harm" by protecting the millions of jobs and revenues that NAFTA supports in all three countries. Further, they insisted that it lead to even more growth and competitiveness across the hemisphere.

The Canadian Chamber is also laying out the groundwork for productive discussions with our American partners beyond the Washington bubble. Trade missions designed to raise awareness of the importance of trade with Canada are being planned out, with the stated purpose of meeting governors, senators and congressional representatives in South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee.

Reshaping an agreement this influential to the economic success of our regions cannot be rushed. We know it will take time. Any critical trade negotiation will. The Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement started in 2006 and didn't conclude until 2014. Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations began in 2008 and only finalized in 2016.

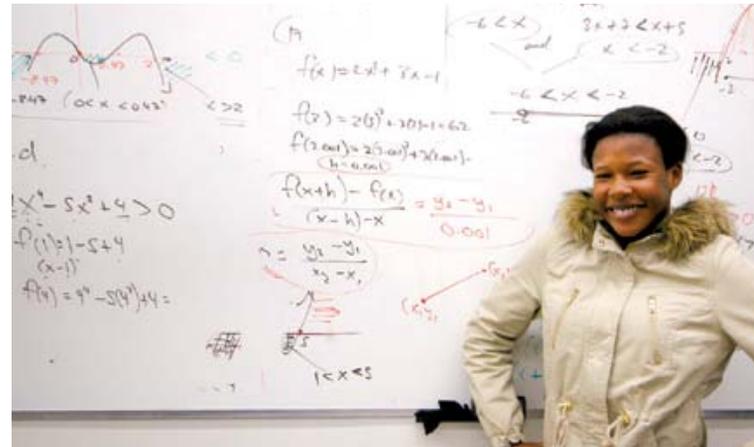
In each business community on every side of the border, there is no question the mood is uneasy. As the voice of Canadian business, the chamber is acutely aware of the dangers inherent in reopening such a vital pact between our trading partners.

But in this new economic and political reality, we cannot ignore the opportunity to modernize elements of the agreement. Canada, the U.S. and Mexico are linked in every conceivable way and their future prosperity will be enhanced if a new NAFTA is crafted to each country's advantage.

Perrin Beatty is president and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Canada's largest and most representative national business association, whose 450-member network represents 200,000 businesses.

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Free speech's living barometer

By Ann Telnaes



Iranian cartoonist Atena Farghadani has been jailed, beaten and interrogated for hours at a time in Iran for a critical cartoon.

A version of this speech was delivered as the keynote address at the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom luncheon in Ottawa on May 2.

It was 1903 and Pennsylvania governor Samuel Pennypacker had had enough. After a year of being depicted as a parrot by the cartoonist Charles Nelan of the *North American*, [a daily newspaper in Philadelphia], the governor wanted the satirical drawings stopped. The reason for Pennypacker's frustration was that the cartoonist was using this visual metaphor to portray him as a mouthpiece for special interests. The governor did not take kindly to that and had an anti-cartoon bill introduced into the state legislature in order to silence his detractor. The bill proposed a ban on "any cartoon or caricature or picture portraying, describing or representing

any person, either by distortion, innuendo or otherwise, in the form or likeness of beast, bird, fish, insect, or other [non-]human animal, thereby tending to expose such a person to public hatred, contempt or ridicule." Pennypacker's attempt to silence his critic backfired, though, when another cartoonist proceeded to draw the governor as a tree, a beer mug and a turnip.

A more contemporary example happened just a few months ago. Newly elected President Donald Trump invited a group of cable news anchors and executives to Trump Tower, ostensibly to open up a dialogue between the administration and the media, whose relationship at this point had become contentious. Instead, it was reported that Trump spent most of the time complaining about how he was being treated in the press and even brought

up how displeased he was with one news organization that kept using a photograph which prominently showed his double chins. My colleague Signe Wilkinson of the *Philadelphia Daily News* wasted no time sketching and tweeting a drawing showing Trump with about 10 chins.

All cartoonists have used mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, inanimate objects, you name it, because visual metaphors are part of our language. It is the editorial cartoonist's job — through satire and ridicule, humour and pointed caricatures — to criticize badly behaving leaders and governments. It is our purpose to hold politicians and powerful institutions accountable to the people they are supposed to serve.

Cartoonists have been targeted throughout history by humourless politicians and heads of state. From Honoré Daumier being imprisoned

for drawing the French king as Gargantua (he also drew him as a pear) to Ali Ferzat's hands being broken over his critical cartoons of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, cartoonists are jailed and physically attacked because, through their satire, they threaten those who are abusing their power. Even in countries with traditions of free expression, as we've experienced in Denmark and France, cartoonists have been threatened and killed by Islamic fundamentalists who decide that violence is a justified response to perceived offences to their religious beliefs.

Why do cartoons cause such a visceral response? Because cartoons are universal, every human being responds to these seemingly simple drawings. They transcend language and class. Everyone, from the highly educated to the illiterate, can relate and see themselves in cartoons. Editorial cartoons can be subtle, cutting and usually humorous, but they also can be visually disturbing, depending on the subject matter. And if an editorial cartoon is good, it has a strong point of view that makes the reader think and challenges preconceived notions.

A recent example of cartoonists being targeted for their work is Atena Farghadani from Iran. She was first arrested in August 2014 for a critical cartoon depicting a group of Iranian lawmakers as various animals. This drawing was her response to an anti-contraception bill in the parliament that would have set Iranian women's reproductive health back decades. During her imprisonment, Farghadani was beaten and interrogated for nine hours at a time and was also forced to undergo a "virginity and pregnancy test" because she had been seen shaking hands with her lawyer. These tests are in reality sexual abuse — and are employed specifically against women to intimidate and silence them, as they were used in Egypt during the Arab Spring. After Farghadani was released, she posted a YouTube video documenting her treatment and was again arrested in January 2015. She was given a prison sentence of 12 years and nine months for insulting the supreme leader, the Iranian president and members of parliament, among other charges. After a worldwide effort by cartooning and human rights organizations, she was finally released in May 2016.

The cartoonist Zunar has been harassed and arrested several times during the last few years for his critical cartoons calling out the corruption of the Malaysian government. His offices have been raided,



Honoré Daumier's cartoon of the French King as Gargantua.

his artwork and books confiscated and his exhibitions attacked by government supporters. Zunar has been banned from travelling outside of Malaysia and is currently fighting numerous sedition charges and facing a possible 43 years in prison.

Five months ago, journalists from the Turkish newspaper *Cumhuriyet*, including its cartoonist, Musa Kart, were detained as part of an overall crackdown on dissent by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Kart



Honoré Daumier was imprisoned for drawing the cartoon pictured above.

has been a vocal critic of government corruption and targeted Erdogan, first as prime minister and then as president, for many years in his cartoons. The Turkish president has a history of not tolerating criticism and ridicule, once arresting a 16-year-old who Erdogan said had insulted him after the boy blogged about government corruption. Another time, Erdogan requested that German Chancellor Angela Merkel prosecute a comedian who ridiculed him in a satirical televised sketch. Kart is still in jail today and charged with "helping an armed terrorist organization." His trial date has been set for July 24.

Another Iranian cartoonist is being held by the Australian government in a refugee detention camp at Manus Island, Papua New Guinea. He goes by the name "Eaten Fish" and has been held for three and a half years, suffering from mental illness and sexual abuse while detained in terrible conditions on the island facility. Even in this horrible situation, the young Iranian cartoonist is creating drawings illustrating the human rights abuses he and his fellow detainees are enduring. Cartoonists from around the world — especially Australian cartoonists — continue drawing cartoons criticizing the actions of their government and supporting Eaten Fish.

I used to tell my colleagues from around the world that American car-

toonists never had to worry about being imprisoned for our cartoons because we have the First Amendment as our protection. But I'm not so sure anymore. We haven't experienced Trump's Republican-controlled Congress introducing any bills that ban caricatures of him as a bird, fish or vegetable, but Trump has more than once complained about the press attacking him and how unfair his coverage has been. Trump is as thin-skinned as Erdogan when it comes to being made fun of, as we've seen in his Twitter feed after *Saturday Night Live*. He has tweeted that the "FAKE NEWS media ... is the enemy of the American people" — and of course his definition of "fake news" means anyone criticizing him or not portraying him in a favourable light. That's a significant choice of words and dangerous to the role of a free press in a democracy. White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus said in a recent interview that libel laws are "something that we've looked at." I find it very unsettling that a president of the United States doesn't seem to understand the First Amendment and thinks the role of a free press is the same as his personal PR firm.

February will be the 30th anniversary

of the Supreme Court of the United States' decision in the *Hustler v. Falwell* case. The case was about a parody advertisement in *Hustler* magazine that targeted Jerry Falwell, a politically active Christian fundamentalist minister during the 1980s and '90s. It was a pivotal case for American editorial cartoonists because it dealt with the First Amendment's speech protection and whether it extends to satire when it includes offensive statements about public figures resulting in, as Falwell's attorney described it, "emotional distress." This case, although not specifically about cartoons, had ramifications for editorial cartoonists since we use satire and caricature in our political commentary. The court ruled unanimously that the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech bars allowing public figures to recover damages against those who comment on their actions. As then-chief justice William H. Rehnquist wrote in the opinion of the court, "Were we to hold otherwise, there can be little doubt that political cartoonists and satirists would be subjected to damages awards without any showing that their work falsely defamed its subject." He went on to write, "Despite their sometimes caustic nature, from the early

cartoon portraying George Washington as an ass down to the present day, graphic depictions and satirical cartoons have played a prominent role in public and political debate."

I've always felt in the United States that an editorial cartoonist is the bastard child of journalism. This is because most editors see us only as comic relief, less than the serious, legitimate opinion writer. In reality, the only difference is that we use images and satire to express a point of view. And specifically because of the visual language we use, cartoonists will always be first in the line of fire when controversial subjects are being debated and free speech is threatened. Editorial cartoonists are a barometer for all of our free-speech rights; a silenced cartoonist is an indicator of an unhealthy environment for freedom of expression in any society. If we want to protect free speech and the free press, we must vigorously protect the editorial cartoonist.

Ann Telnaes in a cartoonist syndicated with Cartoonists and Writers Syndicate/ New York Times Syndicate. She was the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning in 2001.

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Africa's thirst: severe water gaps



Water scarcity is a problem across Africa, including in Sudan, pictured here, and even in relatively prosperous African countries such as South Africa.



Robert I.
Rotberg

Ezirazi wishes she were in school. But, like so many 10-year-old African girls south of the Sahara, she has to trek early every morning and just

before sunset every night to fetch water from a well 10 kilometres away. The drinking and washing needs of her family take priority over schooling. Anyway, she also has to assist her mother with her younger siblings and help tend the pots of *sadza*, also known as *ugali*, a stiff cornmeal porridge, simmering over the open fire. Young Ezirazi has gathered much of the wood for the fire. She also goes into the family fields and scares away the birds or helps her brothers shepherd their tiny flock of goats. (Her father is off in the city trying to earn enough to sustain them all.)

At the heart of this common rural struggle, and even in the overcrowded cities, water is the staff of life. And there is precious little of it that is clean and readily available. In fact, fewer than 60 per cent of all sub-Saharan Africans (urban and rural dwellers alike) today have access to potable water on a daily basis. Only 30 per cent are supplied with sufficient water for sanitary purposes.

Some countries are much more desperate than others. Even a comparatively wealthy country such as Ghana reports that only 15 per cent of its people have

ready access to potable water on a daily basis. Malawi, much poorer than Ghana, says only 20 per cent of its inhabitants can rely on clean water. Burkina Faso, Lesotho and Uganda — all relatively developed countries — indicate that only 25 per cent of their citizens have ready access to the kind of water that those in the developed world take for granted.

Strangely, because it lags behind most of its neighbours in other developmental aspects, Ethiopia does very well in the water sweepstakes, with 60 per cent of its

impact on sub-Saharan Africa's water supplies, and on water for crops. Only two or three per cent of African agriculture is irrigated. And even irrigation schemes may depend ultimately on rainfall. This year, a serious drought, combined with civil war in the Horn of Africa, has resulted in 20 million Africans becoming malnourished and desperate for water. Two years ago, a serious drought affected most of southern Africa. Droughts across the Sahel, the immediate sub-Saharan line of countries, occur every few years.



Children across Africa are forced to carry water on their heads over long distances every day, often at the expense of missing school.

people having reliable water. Madagascar and Niger, two desperately poor countries, and somewhat wealthier Mozambique, do almost as well. South Africa, the sub-continent's most advanced country in so many ways, suffers, as well as most of its neighbours, from serious clean-water shortages that promise in coming years to grow much more dire.

Sub-Saharan Africa has 677 lakes, including three of the largest and deepest freshwater basins in the world — lakes Victoria, Tanzania and Malawi. It also has a number of great continent-crossing rivers — the Blue and White Niles, the Congo, the Zambezi, the Orange and the Niger plus a plethora of shorter ones such as the Kunene, the Rovuma, the Limpopo, the Luangwa, the Kafue, the Volta and many more.

But all of this surface water — and Africa's agricultural prosperity — depends almost entirely on seasonal rainfalls that are less reliable and less fulfilling than they once were. Global warming and climate change more generally are having a major

Rural Africa must depend on arduously drilled or dug wells, hence Ezirazi's long daily slogs. But underground sources of dependable water supplies are hard to find. And even where river or lake water is close at hand, it is more often than not unclean, having been used as a repository for human and animal waste or because of agricultural and industrial runoffs. Crocodiles also patrol the lake and river shores. Further, even where there is relatively clean and secure surface water, most of sub-Saharan Africa is tropical. Evaporation is rapid. Precious water is lost almost along every step of the way from the time it falls from the sky and the time Ezirazi and her sisters try to collect it in their relatively small jerry cans (which nevertheless often hold 18 kilograms of water, to be carried home on the heads of little girls).

Nor is water in the cities easy to find. In some places, there are taps that can be twisted to provide gushing supplies of the precious liquid. But in the heavily populated high-density sections of cities in, say, Nigeria, Kenya or South Africa,

pipled water is rare. Most households rely on communal water points, or on their own wells (even in major cities). In some desperate cities, such as Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, the water mains are so old and rusted that they can no longer supply clean water or sometimes any water at all. Harare also long ago ran out of chlorine or other water-purifying chemicals, so its water is particularly unsafe.

With the populations in most of sub-Saharan nations growing exponentially, these water shortages will only get worse. Already, Johannesburg and its surrounding provinces import water from Orange River upland sources in mountainous Lesotho. Windhoek, the capital of Namibia, a land of vast desert regions, recycles more than 50 per cent of its urban water through processes that include chemical treatment, aeration and filtration through membranes, and has done so successfully for decades. In Africa's biggest cities — Lagos and Kinshasa — most water is purchased from roving tanker trucks or on the street, from entrepreneurs selling ubiquitous jerry cans of water (for substantial sums).

None of these water supplies is going to become more abundant. Already 50 per cent of Africa's disease burden is caused by dirty water. Diarrheal diseases are common; dysentery is a frequent cause of death. Hepatitis is associated with unclean water. Typhoid and cholera epidemics are always poised to occur. Polio outbreaks are still possible in Nigeria. Among children under five years of age, 85 per cent of deaths are due to diseases carried by water. Shockingly, too, 42 per cent of all hospitals and clinics in sub-Saharan Africa have no access to drinkable water and lack sanitation. (And 36 per cent lack hand soap, too.)

Boiling water to make it potable might be an easy solution for such problems if fuel were readily available for fires. Filtering water would help, too, but both filters and wood supplies are expensive and hard to find in the urban areas and costly in terms of time to obtain them in the rural areas. Additionally, and possibly most important of all, one government after another has neglected the water problem for 60 or 70 years since independence.

In South Africa, the African National Congress-led government says that it simply cannot find the cash to invest in upgrading its failing water infrastructure. Its Department of Water and Environmental Affairs is trying to deal with inadequacy of supply by reducing demand for water by 15 per cent a year. But that is illusory

when its population is growing and becoming more demanding. An official of the globe's largest brewer and South Africa's major industrial user of water says the problem is that the government has never priced water properly, or tried to collect revenue for water from consumers.

Most African countries, barring much smaller and better-run Mauritius and Botswana, are even more water-deprived and badly managed than South Africa.

Rwanda has a splendid record in the water and sanitation area, entirely because President Paul Kagame has put political muscle and official money behind improving water sourcing and using that water for sanitary purposes. But, in this area, he is exceptional among African leaders. Fully 55 per cent of Rwanda's 12 million people now can count on easy access to waterborne sewerage.

Hardly any sub-Saharan African nations have solved a water and sanitation crisis that will only become worse as national populations grow and urban populations overrun the already-congested and infrastructure-weak cities of the continent. China is helping to refurbish deficient infrastructures — constructing water plants and water piping systems, sanitary sewers and the rest. Fixing the water problem is not rocket science, but countries must tap donors or taxpayers for money, and that has so far proved difficult. Unlike Kagame, too few leaders have been aware of problems concerning water. In olden times, it simply dropped out of the sky and was collected. But no longer.

Several international charitable organizations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, are active in improving water availability and usage. They seek to provide the leadership and some of the funding that is lacking in Africa. But, unless a great aquifer is located under the Congo or elsewhere in Middle Africa (one was rumoured a few years ago), each cash-strapped African nation must begin to devote more and more resources to this most basic of problems. Otherwise, there will be wars over water, constant shortages and difficulty in sustaining life, much less industry and agriculture.

Robert I. Rotberg is a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center, senior fellow at the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) and founding director of Harvard's Kennedy School program on intrastate development. His newest book, just-released, is *The Corruption Cure: How Citizens and Leaders Can Combat Graft*.



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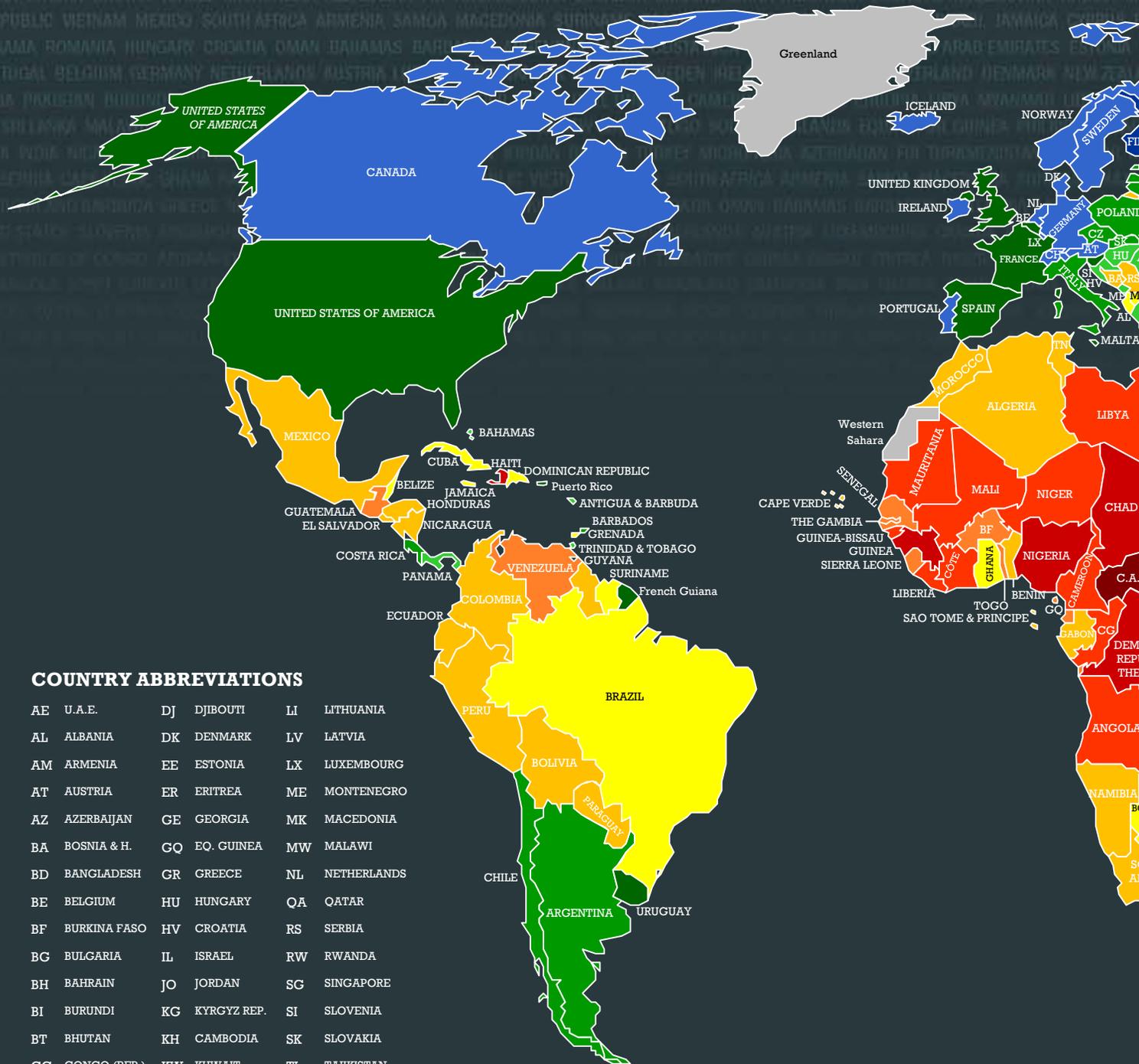
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States on the brink

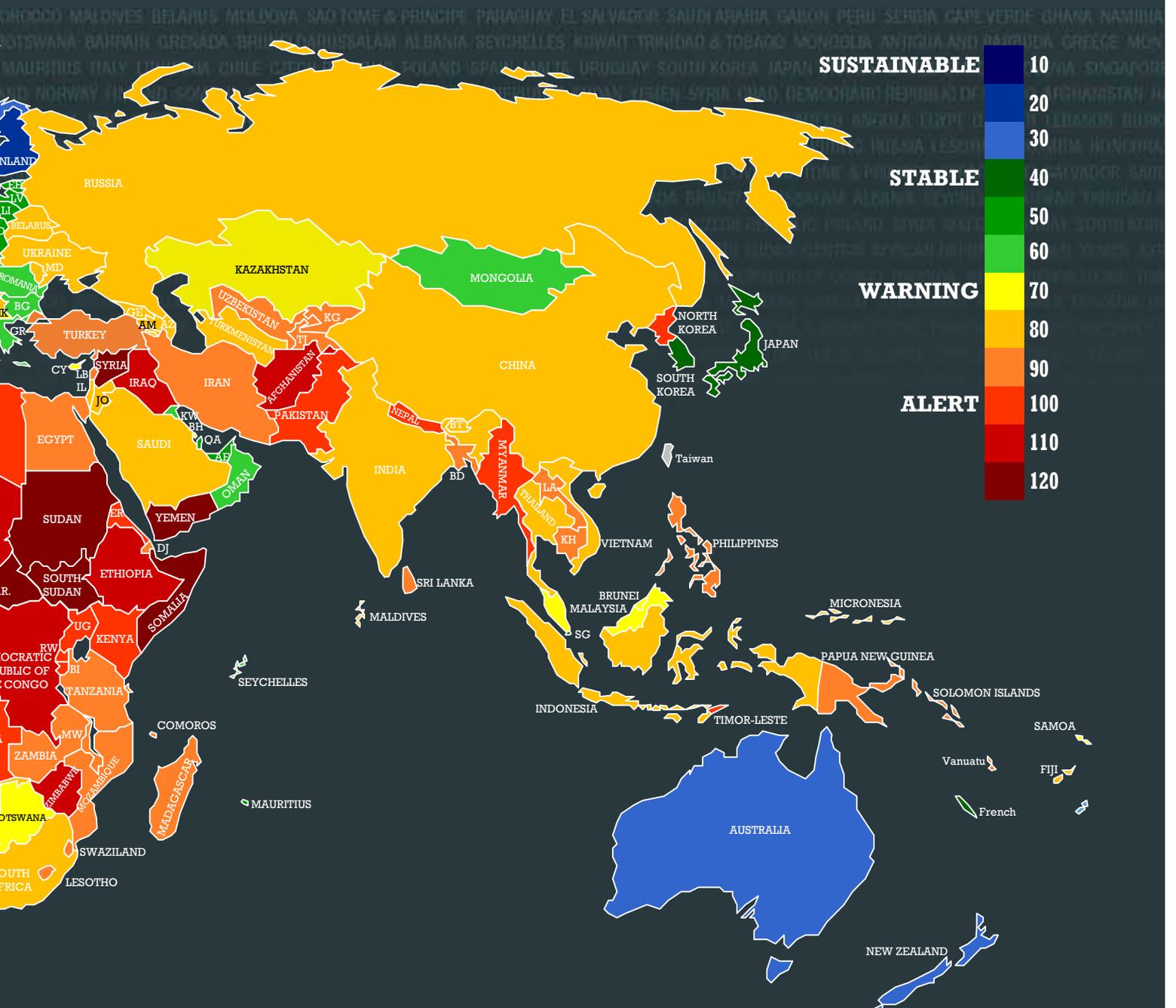


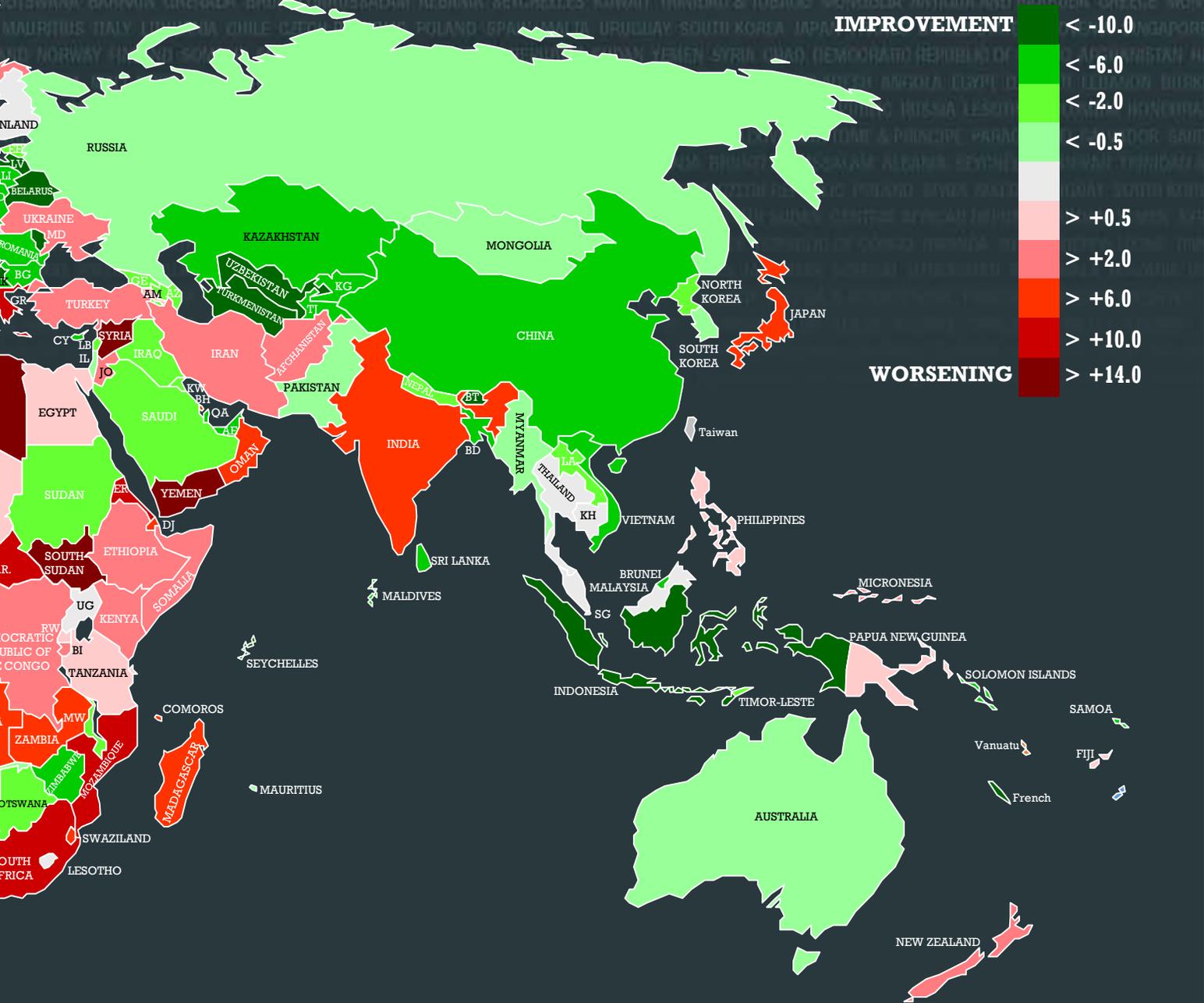
COUNTRY ABBREVIATIONS

AE	U.A.E.	DJ	DJIBOUTI	LI	LITHUANIA
AL	ALBANIA	DK	DENMARK	LV	LATVIA
AM	ARMENIA	EE	ESTONIA	LX	LUXEMBOURG
AT	AUSTRIA	ER	ERITREA	ME	MONTENEGRO
AZ	AZERBAIJAN	GE	GEORGIA	MK	MACEDONIA
BA	BOSNIA & H.	GQ	EQ. GUINEA	MW	MALAWI
BD	BANGLADESH	GR	GREECE	NL	NETHERLANDS
BE	BELGIUM	HU	HUNGARY	QA	QATAR
BF	BURKINA FASO	HV	CROATIA	RS	SERBIA
BG	BULGARIA	IL	ISRAEL	RW	RWANDA
BH	BAHRAIN	JO	JORDAN	SG	SINGAPORE
BI	BURUNDI	KG	KYRGYZ REP.	SI	SLOVENIA
BT	BHUTAN	KH	CAMBODIA	SK	SLOVAKIA
CG	CONGO (REP.)	KW	KUWAIT	TJ	TAJIKISTAN
CY	CYPRUS	LA	LAOS	TN	TUNISIA
CZ	CZECH REP.	LB	LEBANON	UG	UGANDA

The Fragile States Index is based on a conflict-assessment framework known as “CAST” that was developed by FFP nearly a quarter-century ago for assessing how vulnerable states are to collapse. The CAST framework measures this vulnerability in pre-conflict, active conflict and post-conflict situations and continues to be used widely by policy-makers, field practitioners and community networks. The methodology uses qualitative and quantitative indicators, relies on public source data and produces quantifiable results.

Twelve conflict risk indicators measure the condition of a state at any given moment. The indicators provide a snapshot in time that can be measured against other snapshots to determine whether conditions are improving or worsening.





FRAGILE STATES INDEX: DECADE TRENDS, 2007-2017

SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT	STRONG IMPROVEMENT	SOME IMPROVEMENT	MARGINAL IMPROVEMENT*
-14.0 Cuba	-10.0 Albania	-6.0 Iraq	-2.0 Czech Republic
-13.7 Moldova	-10.0 Romania	-5.8 Estonia	-2.0 Guyana
-13.1 Turkmenistan	-9.9 Croatia	-5.8 Georgia	-2.0 Russia
-12.8 Belarus	-9.9 Malta	-5.3 Saudi Arabia	-1.8 El Salvador
-12.0 Uzbekistan	-9.6 Brunei Darussalam	-5.2 Bolivia	-1.7 Burkina Faso
-11.9 Seychelles	-9.6 Qatar	-5.1 Slovenia	-1.7 Mongolia
-11.6 Dominican Republic	-8.7 Panama	-5.0 Slovak Republic	-1.6 South Korea
-11.5 Bosnia & Herzegovina	-8.5 Zimbabwe	-4.9 Azerbaijan	-1.3 Myanmar
-11.5 Indonesia	-8.0 Macedonia	-4.8 Laos	-1.3 Paraguay
-11.1 Serbia	-8.0 Suriname	-4.7 Luxembourg	-1.3 Spain
-11.0 Cape Verde	-7.9 Kyrgyz Republic	-4.4 North Korea	-1.2 Netherlands
-10.9 Antigua & Barbuda	-7.9 U.A.E.	-4.4 Timor-Leste	-1.2 Pakistan
-10.9 Trinidad & Tobago	-7.7 Bahamas	-4.3 Belize	-1.1 Morocco
-10.8 Colombia	-7.6 Vietnam	-4.2 Lebanon	-1.0 Mauritius
-10.8 Cote d'Ivoire	-7.6 Cyprus	-4.2 Malawi	-0.9 Australia
-10.4 Bhutan	-7.3 Lithuania	-4.1 Sierra Leone	-0.9 Namibia
-10.3 Barbados	-7.2 Solomon Islands	-4.1 Uruguay	-0.9 United Kingdom
-10.3 Germany	-6.9 Tajikistan	-3.6 Kuwait	-0.7 Denmark
-10.3 Latvia	-6.8 Bangladesh	-3.4 Portugal	-0.7 Israel & West Bank
-10.1 Grenada	-6.8 Poland	-3.2 Equatorial Guinea	-0.6 France
	-6.7 Maldives	-3.1 Sudan	-0.5 <i>Malaysia</i>
	-6.7 Samoa	-2.7 Togo	-0.5 <i>Singapore</i>
	-6.6 Bulgaria	-2.6 Botswana	-0.4 <i>Uganda</i>
	-6.5 China	-2.6 Ecuador	0.0 <i>Cambodia</i>
	-6.5 Sri Lanka	-2.6 Nepal	
	-6.5 Sao Tome	-2.6 Nicaragua	
	-6.4 Costa Rica	-2.5 Canada	
	-6.4 Kazakhstan		
	-6.1 Peru		

* Also includes countries that recorded insignificant change, denoted by *italics*.

FRAGILE STATES INDEX: STATE FRAGILITY IN 2017

VERY SUSTAINABLE	MORE STABLE	WARNING	ELEVATED WARNING
 18.7 Finland (178) ▲	 40.1 Czech Republic (152) ▲	 60.5 Albania (124) ▲	 70.0 Serbia (107) ▲
SUSTAINABLE	 40.8 Poland (151) ▼	 61.5 Grenada (123) ▲	 70.1 Cape Verde (106) ▲
 20.5 Norway (177) ▲	 41.1 Chile (150) ▲	 61.6 Brunei (122) ▲	 70.2 Vietnam (105) ▲
 21.1 Switzerland (176) ▲	 41.7 Lithuania (=148) ▲	 62.6 Cyprus (121) ▲	 70.3 Peru (104) ▲
 21.5 Denmark (175) =	 41.7 Mauritius (=148) ▲	 63.8 Botswana (120) ▼	 70.4 Namibia (103) ▲
 22.1 Sweden (174) ▲	 43.7 U.A.E. (147) ▲	 64.6 Cuba (119) ▲	 71.0 Armenia (102) ▼
 22.3 Australia (=172) ▲	 44.0 Qatar (146) ▲	 64.9 Bahrain (118) ▼	 71.2 Saudi Arabia (101) ▲
 22.3 Ireland (=172) ▲	 44.1 Costa Rica (145) ▲	 65.2 Jamaica (117) ▼	 71.3 Guyana (100) ▼
 22.5 Iceland (171) ▲	 44.3 Slovak Republic (144) ▲	 65.4 Malaysia (116) ▲	 71.6 Paraguay (99) ▲
 22.6 Canada (=169) ▲	 44.7 Estonia (143) ▼	 65.5 Belize (115) ▲	 72.0 Moldova (98) ▲
 22.6 New Zealand (=169) ▼	 45.2 Italy (142) ▼	 65.9 Suriname (114) ▲	 72.1 Sao Tome & Prin. (97) ▲
 23.4 Luxembourg (168) ▲	 46.4 Latvia (141) ▲	 65.9 Kazakhstan (113) ▲	 72.3 South Africa (96) ▼
 27.4 Netherlands (167) ▲	 48.2 Argentina (140) ▲	 66.1 Macedonia (112) ▲	 72.4 Belarus (95) ▲
 27.7 Austria (166) ▼	 49.6 Barbados (139) ▼	 67.1 Samoa (111) ▲	 72.9 Indonesia (94) ▲
 28.1 Germany (165) ▲	STABLE	 68.2 Brazil (110) ▼	 73.0 Bosnia & Herz. (93) ▲
 29.0 Portugal (164) ▲	 50.6 Croatia (138) ▲	 69.0 Dominican Rep. (109) ▲	 73.1 El Salvador (92) ▼
VERY STABLE	 50.7 Panama (137) ▲	 69.7 Ghana (108) ▲	 73.8 Gabon (91) ▼
 30.8 Belgium (163) ▼	 50.9 Romania (136) ▲		 74.0 Ukraine (90) ▲
 32.4 Slovenia (162) ▲	 52.0 Hungary (135) ▲		 74.2 Tunisia (89) ▲
 32.5 Singapore (161) ▲	 52.4 Bahamas (134) ▼		 74.3 Mexico (88) ▼
 33.2 United Kingdom (160) ▼	 52.5 Oman (133) ▼		
 33.5 France (159) ▲	 53.7 Bulgaria (132) =		
 35.6 United States (158) ▼	 54.8 Antigua & Barb. (131) ▲		
 36.8 Uruguay (157) ▼	 55.7 Montenegro (130) ▼		
 37.4 Japan (156) ▼	 56.7 Mongolia (=128) ▼		
 37.9 Spain (155) ▲	 56.7 Trinidad & Tob (=128) ▲		
 38.1 South Korea (154) ▼	 57.5 Greece (127) ▼		
 38.6 Malta (153) ▲	 58.5 Kuwait (126) =		
	 59.4 Seychelles (125) ▲		

INDICATOR SCORES 2017

													Total		
	C1	C2	C3	E1	E2	E3	P1	P2	P3	S1	S2	X1			
	SA	FE	GG	EC	UD	HF	SL	PS	HR	DP	RD	EX			
9th		Afghanistan	10.0	8.6	8.4	8.3	7.5	8.2	9.1	9.9	8.5	9.3	9.8	9.7	107.3
124th		Albania	4.7	6.2	4.5	5.4	3.6	7.6	5.7	4.0	4.8	3.7	3.6	6.7	60.5
77th		Algeria	7.2	7.1	7.1	6.6	6.6	5.8	6.9	6.0	6.6	5.2	6.8	4.9	76.8
32nd		Angola	6.5	7.2	7.5	6.4	9.9	6.6	8.6	9.1	7.3	9.5	7.1	5.4	91.1
131st		Antigua and Barbuda	5.7	3.7	3.9	4.5	4.5	6.8	5.4	3.8	4.4	4.1	2.7	5.3	54.8
140th		Argentina	4.3	2.8	5.0	4.3	5.4	3.0	4.8	3.8	4.1	3.8	2.3	4.6	48.2
102nd		Armenia	5.5	7.4	6.1	6.3	4.5	6.2	7.6	3.6	7.0	3.1	7.0	6.7	71.0
172nd		Australia	2.1	1.7	3.9	1.7	2.2	1.3	1.0	1.5	2.3	1.3	2.3	1.0	22.3
166th		Austria	1.0	3.2	4.5	2.2	2.9	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.9	5.6	1.2	27.7
81st		Azerbaijan	6.2	7.9	6.5	4.1	5.9	4.3	8.8	5.4	8.5	4.6	7.7	6.4	76.3
134th		Bahamas	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.8	4.5	4.7	3.8	4.6	3.6	6.9	2.6	3.7	52.4
118th		Bahrain	6.9	7.6	8.4	3.8	4.6	3.5	8.2	1.8	8.8	4.1	2.4	4.8	64.9
39th		Bangladesh	7.6	9.3	8.7	5.8	6.7	7.8	7.8	8.1	7.4	7.5	6.6	5.8	89.1
139th		Barbados	4.4	4.2	4.1	5.9	4.6	5.4	2.5	2.7	2.9	4.4	2.5	6.0	49.6
95th		Belarus	6.1	8.3	7.1	6.0	4.7	3.4	8.7	4.2	7.9	5.1	3.6	7.3	72.4
163rd		Belgium	2.4	4.4	4.9	4.2	2.7	1.6	1.4	2.3	1.5	2.0	2.4	1.0	30.8
115th		Belize	6.4	4.3	4.1	6.7	5.4	6.6	5.2	5.9	4.7	5.1	3.6	7.5	65.5
73rd		Benin	6.2	6.7	3.4	6.6	7.6	7.4	5.4	8.7	5.2	8.3	5.5	6.6	77.6
83rd		Bhutan	4.5	7.5	7.9	4.7	6.1	7.2	4.3	6.1	6.6	6.1	7.0	8.0	76.0
77th		Bolivia	6.5	8.0	6.0	5.4	8.6	7.0	6.5	6.8	6.0	6.3	3.9	5.8	76.8
93rd		Bosnia and Herzegovina	5.7	8.7	7.0	5.7	5.1	5.5	6.5	3.6	5.6	3.8	7.6	8.2	73.0
120th		Botswana	4.1	3.3	4.9	5.8	7.8	5.5	3.3	7.3	5.0	8.2	4.5	4.1	63.8
110th		Brazil	6.7	4.9	6.2	4.8	7.8	4.6	6.2	6.4	6.4	8.1	2.8	3.3	68.2
122nd		Brunei	5.1	7.4	5.9	3.5	7.8	4.6	8.3	1.8	7.7	3.7	2.2	3.6	61.6
132nd		Bulgaria	4.3	5.3	5.1	5.7	4.4	4.2	4.5	4.4	3.3	3.7	4.5	4.3	53.7
44th		Burkina Faso	8.4	7.8	4.5	6.3	8.2	7.5	7.1	8.7	6.1	9.3	6.6	7.5	88.0
17th		Burundi	8.8	8.2	7.9	8.0	7.2	6.3	8.8	8.0	8.8	9.3	8.6	9.0	98.9
50th		Cambodia	6.7	8.3	6.9	5.7	6.6	7.6	8.3	7.8	7.7	7.0	5.7	7.4	85.7
26th		Cameroon	7.9	9.1	8.3	6.6	7.6	7.6	8.4	8.7	7.5	8.1	8.0	7.8	95.6
169th		Canada	2.2	2.5	3.4	1.8	2.5	1.7	1.0	1.5	1.3	1.9	1.8	1.0	22.6
106th		Cape Verde	5.4	5.5	4.1	5.2	7.1	8.0	5.3	6.0	4.0	7.2	4.2	8.1	70.1
3rd		Central African Republic	9.0	9.7	9.1	9.1	10.0	7.5	9.7	10.0	9.7	9.0	10.0	9.8	112.6
8th		Chad	9.4	9.8	8.0	8.5	9.1	8.8	9.1	9.7	9.1	10.0	9.6	8.3	109.4
150th		Chile	3.2	2.2	3.6	3.2	5.7	3.8	3.3	4.0	3.0	4.9	2.1	2.1	41.1
85th		China	5.9	7.2	7.9	4.4	7.3	4.9	8.6	5.7	8.5	6.7	4.9	2.7	74.7
69th		Colombia	6.9	7.6	7.3	4.2	7.6	6.2	6.3	5.9	7.0	6.2	7.7	6.0	78.9
52nd		Comoros	6.7	8.0	5.4	8.0	7.5	7.4	7.3	8.2	6.3	7.3	4.7	8.0	84.8
7th		Congo Democratic Republic	9.0	9.8	10.0	8.4	8.4	6.6	9.6	9.5	9.8	9.4	10.0	9.5	110.0
29th		Congo Republic	7.2	6.7	7.2	7.0	8.1	7.4	8.9	9.5	8.5	8.1	7.7	7.1	93.4
145th		Costa Rica	3.6	3.8	4.2	4.0	5.3	4.1	2.4	3.9	1.5	3.3	3.9	4.1	44.1
21st		Cote d'Ivoire	7.7	9.1	8.1	6.6	8.0	7.3	7.9	8.7	7.9	8.2	7.8	9.2	96.5
138th		Croatia	3.5	4.4	5.8	5.3	3.3	4.7	2.9	2.4	3.6	3.1	7.0	4.6	50.6
119th		Cuba	5.2	7.0	4.0	4.0	5.4	5.2	7.6	4.1	7.5	5.5	4.0	5.1	64.6
121st		Cyprus	4.4	7.9	6.3	6.0	5.9	4.0	4.8	2.5	3.0	3.5	5.3	9.0	62.6
152nd		Czech Republic	2.6	5.0	4.8	4.6	2.7	2.8	4.7	2.6	2.4	1.4	3.8	2.7	40.1

SA: SECURITY APPARATUS
 FE: FACTIONALIZED ELITES
 GG: GROUP GRIEVANCE
 EC: ECONOMIC DECLINE
 ED: UNEVEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 HF: HUMAN FLIGHT AND BRAIN DRAIN
 SL: STATE LEGITIMACY
 PS: PUBLIC SERVICES
 HR: HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW
 DP: DEMOGRAPHIC PRESSURES
 RD: REFUGEES AND IDPS
 EX: EXTERNAL INTERVENTION

													
C1	C2	C3	E1	E2	E3	P1	P2	P3	S1	S2	X1		
SA	FE	GG	EC	UD	HF	SL	PS	HR	DP	RD	EX	Total	

175th		Denmark	1.7	1.4	4.4	2.0	1.6	1.9	0.9	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.1	1.0	21.5
41st		Djibouti	6.5	7.3	6.5	7.0	7.9	5.4	8.2	7.9	7.8	8.4	7.3	8.7	88.9
109th		Dominican Republic	5.8	6.2	5.8	5.5	5.8	7.1	5.5	6.3	5.8	6.5	3.3	5.4	69.0
75th		Ecuador	6.8	8.2	7.3	6.0	6.7	5.8	6.5	6.5	5.0	6.5	5.7	6.3	77.3
36th		Egypt	8.1	8.8	8.8	8.2	6.0	4.7	8.2	4.9	9.8	7.1	7.3	7.9	89.8
92nd		El Salvador	7.3	4.3	6.7	5.4	6.4	7.9	4.8	6.4	6.3	6.9	4.8	5.9	73.1
51st		Equatorial Guinea	6.5	8.2	6.3	6.5	8.7	5.5	9.8	7.9	9.2	7.5	3.9	5.0	85.0
19th		Eritrea	7.2	8.1	7.1	8.1	7.8	8.3	9.3	8.4	9.0	8.8	8.3	7.7	98.1
143rd		Estonia	3.3	5.9	7.3	3.5	3.2	4.0	2.7	2.9	1.7	2.8	3.1	4.3	44.7
15th		Ethiopia	8.4	8.7	9.1	7.0	6.5	7.6	8.2	8.8	9.0	9.8	9.3	8.7	101.1
76th		Fiji	7.1	7.9	6.9	6.5	6.3	8.2	6.9	5.0	6.9	4.9	3.1	7.2	76.9
178th		Finland	1.7	1.1	1.8	3.5	1.0	2.3	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	2.3	1.0	18.7
159th		France	3.3	1.9	7.0	4.3	3.2	2.2	1.3	1.1	2.1	2.8	2.5	1.8	33.5
91st		Gabon	5.2	7.4	3.8	5.5	6.5	6.1	8.2	6.7	7.5	6.7	4.5	5.7	73.8
37th		Gambia	6.3	7.8	3.8	8.4	6.9	8.3	8.6	7.8	9.4	8.3	6.8	7.0	89.4
79th		Georgia	6.8	9.1	7.9	5.5	5.5	4.9	8.3	4.3	5.6	3.7	7.5	7.4	76.5
165th		Germany	2.1	2.3	5.0	2.2	2.8	2.1	1.0	1.1	1.1	2.0	5.4	1.0	28.1
108th		Ghana	3.8	5.2	4.4	6.1	6.6	8.2	4.2	7.8	5.1	6.6	5.0	6.7	69.7
127th		Greece	4.5	4.1	5.4	6.5	3.7	3.3	6.7	3.8	3.2	3.7	6.5	6.1	57.5
123rd		Grenada	5.7	5.6	3.8	6.0	4.8	8.4	5.4	3.8	3.2	4.7	3.0	7.1	61.5
57th		Guatemala	7.6	7.1	8.5	5.5	8.1	7.3	6.5	7.5	7.2	7.0	5.6	5.2	83.1
12th		Guinea	8.8	9.6	8.6	9.2	7.7	7.4	9.6	9.5	7.7	8.7	8.2	7.4	102.4
16th		Guinea Bissau	8.9	9.6	5.2	8.3	9.1	8.1	9.2	9.4	7.5	8.6	7.3	8.3	99.5
100th		Guyana	6.4	5.1	6.7	6.0	5.7	9.4	5.4	6.2	3.5	5.8	3.8	7.3	71.3
11th		Haiti	7.7	9.6	6.5	8.7	9.8	8.8	9.7	9.7	7.6	9.5	7.7	10.0	105.3
68th		Honduras	7.3	6.8	5.9	6.4	7.7	6.4	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.3	4.3	7.5	79.1
135th		Hungary	2.7	5.3	4.8	5.4	3.8	3.3	6.1	3.2	5.2	1.8	6.5	3.9	52.0
171st		Iceland	1.0	1.8	1.3	3.3	1.1	2.8	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.6	2.0	4.1	22.5
72nd		India	7.4	7.3	8.3	5.1	7.0	6.1	4.7	7.4	6.0	7.9	5.3	5.4	77.9
94th		Indonesia	6.2	7.0	7.1	4.5	5.8	6.9	5.1	5.9	7.2	6.6	5.4	5.2	72.9
49th		Iran	7.5	9.6	9.3	6.4	5.6	6.5	9.0	4.5	9.5	4.9	6.5	6.5	85.8
10th		Iraq	10.0	9.6	9.6	6.6	7.3	7.7	9.5	8.2	8.7	8.6	9.9	9.7	105.4
172nd		Ireland	2.1	1.5	1.4	3.4	2.2	2.8	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.7	2.0	1.4	22.3
69th		Israel and West Bank	6.9	8.1	10.0	3.8	6.8	3.8	6.4	4.8	7.5	6.0	7.3	7.5	78.9
142nd		Italy	4.5	4.9	4.8	5.4	2.9	2.0	3.7	2.7	2.0	4.3	5.5	2.5	45.2
117th		Jamaica	6.9	3.7	3.4	6.9	5.1	8.4	4.8	6.4	5.5	5.2	3.1	5.8	65.2
156th		Japan	1.6	2.6	3.7	4.1	1.6	3.2	1.2	2.2	3.0	6.0	4.4	3.8	37.4
71st		Jordan	5.7	6.9	8.0	6.4	5.4	4.2	6.3	4.2	7.9	6.5	9.6	7.6	78.7
113th		Kazakhstan	5.2	7.6	7.6	6.4	4.2	3.6	8.3	4.0	7.3	4.5	3.0	4.2	65.9
22nd		Kenya	8.3	8.9	8.9	6.9	7.9	7.6	7.6	8.0	7.0	8.9	8.3	8.1	96.4
126th		Kuwait	4.2	7.8	4.7	3.0	4.2	3.6	7.2	2.6	7.9	5.0	3.5	4.8	58.5
65th		Kyrgyz Republic	6.5	8.0	8.4	7.0	5.9	7.0	7.7	5.1	7.5	5.5	5.3	6.4	80.3
59th		Laos	5.5	8.3	6.6	5.2	6.6	7.7	9.1	7.0	7.9	7.3	5.1	6.1	82.4
141st		Latvia	3.0	4.3	8.0	3.5	4.1	4.8	3.4	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8	3.9	46.4
43rd		Lebanon	8.7	9.3	8.5	6.4	5.6	5.0	7.6	5.7	7.4	5.6	9.3	9.1	88.2

FRAGILE STATES INDEX INDICATOR SCORES 2017

														Total
		SA	FE	GG	EC	UD	HF	SL	PS	HR	DP	RD	EX	
62nd	 Lesotho	6.2	7.3	3.9	8.1	8.1	8.0	5.9	8.1	5.0	8.5	4.8	7.8	81.7
27th	 Liberia	6.4	8.3	5.8	8.1	8.4	7.2	6.8	9.3	6.5	9.0	8.7	9.3	93.8
23rd	 Libya	9.6	9.4	8.1	8.5	5.6	6.3	9.5	7.0	9.1	4.9	8.3	10.0	96.3
148th	 Lithuania	3.1	3.0	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.4	2.7	3.5	2.5	2.8	2.3	4.0	41.7
168th	 Luxembourg	1.7	3.4	3.1	1.2	1.6	2.1	1.0	2.1	1.0	1.6	3.5	1.1	23.4
112th	 Macedonia	5.6	7.3	6.9	5.8	5.2	5.2	5.8	3.9	3.8	3.3	7.3	6.0	66.1
55th	 Madagascar	7.1	7.8	4.1	7.6	9.1	6.7	7.1	9.1	5.6	9.1	3.9	6.8	84.0
44th	 Malawi	4.8	8.1	5.6	8.4	8.3	7.9	6.4	8.6	6.2	9.7	5.8	8.2	88.0
116th	 Malaysia	6.3	6.8	6.5	3.1	5.0	5.0	7.7	4.2	8.0	5.3	3.7	3.8	65.4
86th	 Maldives	6.4	8.0	4.8	5.9	3.6	6.2	8.5	5.6	8.2	6.0	4.7	6.5	74.4
31st	 Mali	9.0	4.9	7.4	7.7	7.4	8.5	6.1	8.8	7.3	8.5	7.9	9.4	92.9
153rd	 Malta	3.6	2.0	3.9	4.0	2.6	3.7	3.6	2.0	3.0	2.5	4.4	3.3	38.6
28th	 Mauritania	6.9	8.8	7.0	7.7	6.8	6.9	8.0	9.0	7.9	8.7	8.0	8.0	93.7
148th	 Mauritius	2.3	3.2	3.6	4.0	3.5	4.4	3.0	3.3	3.4	3.6	2.7	4.7	41.7
88th	 Mexico	8.4	5.4	7.2	4.9	6.1	5.8	6.5	6.8	6.5	6.1	5.1	5.5	74.3
80th	 Micronesia	4.6	5.6	4.0	8.8	8.3	9.8	5.5	6.0	3.3	7.1	3.9	9.5	76.4
98th	 Moldova	6.1	8.3	7.3	6.4	4.8	6.6	6.6	4.9	4.9	4.8	3.9	7.4	72.0
128th	 Mongolia	3.6	5.5	3.8	5.0	6.4	3.3	4.0	5.4	4.5	5.1	3.0	7.1	56.7
130th	 Montenegro	4.0	6.5	7.9	5.2	2.4	4.0	4.6	3.1	4.1	2.8	4.6	6.5	55.7
84th	 Morocco	5.8	6.6	7.7	4.8	6.2	8.2	6.7	5.2	6.8	4.8	6.1	6.0	74.9
40th	 Mozambique	6.7	6.6	5.4	8.0	8.8	8.0	6.5	9.7	5.6	9.9	5.8	8.0	89.0
35th	 Myanmar	8.9	8.3	9.7	5.9	7.7	6.4	8.6	8.5	8.9	6.8	8.7	7.3	95.7
103rd	 Namibia	5.5	3.5	5.8	6.8	8.2	7.1	3.3	7.4	3.8	7.6	5.0	6.4	70.4
33rd	 Nepal	6.5	8.8	9.4	7.5	6.7	6.5	7.4	7.2	7.7	8.6	7.8	6.9	91.0
167th	 Netherlands	1.5	3.1	4.5	2.7	2.2	2.6	1.3	1.0	1.0	2.5	3.8	1.2	27.4
170th	 New Zealand	1.2	1.4	3.6	3.6	2.3	2.1	0.9	1.4	1.0	2.1	1.8	1.2	22.6
74th	 Nicaragua	5.6	7.1	6.5	5.7	8.0	8.1	7.9	6.7	5.2	5.3	4.0	7.3	77.4
20th	 Niger	8.7	8.9	8.0	7.5	8.5	7.5	7.3	9.5	6.5	9.0	7.9	8.1	97.4
13th	 Nigeria	9.2	9.6	9.2	8.0	8.6	7.2	8.6	9.2	8.9	9.1	7.5	6.5	101.6
30th	 North Korea	8.3	8.5	5.8	8.9	7.5	4.4	10.0	8.6	9.4	7.7	4.4	9.8	93.3
177th	 Norway	2.0	1.1	3.6	2.2	1.5	1.6	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.5	2.8	1.3	20.5
133rd	 Oman	4.2	6.6	2.9	4.1	4.6	2.5	6.8	3.5	7.7	4.8	2.5	2.3	52.5
17th	 Pakistan	9.1	8.9	10.0	6.9	6.5	7.2	8.1	7.7	8.0	8.4	8.7	9.4	98.9
137th	 Panama	5.4	2.2	5.6	2.6	7.4	4.6	3.2	4.8	4.3	4.9	3.0	2.7	50.7
48th	 Papua New Guinea	7.2	7.1	6.3	6.1	9.1	7.4	6.8	9.0	7.6	7.8	5.2	6.8	86.4
99th	 Paraguay	6.6	7.8	5.8	5.0	7.9	5.8	7.0	6.2	5.9	5.7	3.1	4.8	71.6
104th	 Peru	7.1	6.9	7.4	3.2	7.4	7.3	7.2	6.7	4.3	5.0	4.3	3.5	70.3
54th	 Philippines	9.7	8.0	7.9	5.5	5.7	6.5	7.0	6.7	6.6	7.5	6.9	6.4	84.4
151st	 Poland	1.8	4.2	5.4	3.6	3.0	4.5	3.3	2.3	3.2	3.0	3.6	2.9	40.8
164th	 Portugal	1.3	2.5	2.5	5.3	2.5	2.2	1.6	2.2	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.8	29.0
146th	 Qatar	2.6	5.0	4.6	2.1	4.7	2.6	6.3	1.3	6.3	3.8	2.0	2.7	44.0
136th	 Romania	3.0	5.4	6.8	4.7	4.2	4.5	5.2	3.8	3.7	3.2	2.8	3.6	50.9
67th	 Russia	8.9	8.1	8.8	5.2	6.2	4.0	8.5	4.2	9.2	4.6	5.8	5.7	79.2
34th	 Rwanda	6.2	8.0	9.4	6.0	8.3	7.4	7.1	7.4	7.2	8.0	8.3	7.5	90.8
111th	 Samoa	4.7	5.1	4.5	6.3	4.9	9.5	5.5	4.9	4.1	5.7	2.7	9.2	67.1

SA: SECURITY APPARATUS
 FE: FACTIONALIZED ELITES
 GG: GROUP GRIEVANCE
 EC: ECONOMIC DECLINE
 ED: UNEVEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 HF: HUMAN FLIGHT AND BRAIN DRAIN
 SL: STATE LEGITIMACY
 PS: PUBLIC SERVICES
 HR: HUMAN RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW
 DP: DEMOGRAPHIC PRESSURES
 RD: REFUGEES AND IDPS
 EX: EXTERNAL INTERVENTION



		C1	C2	C3	E1	E2	E3	P1	P2	P3	S1	S2	X1	Total
		SA	FE	GG	EC	UD	HF	SL	PS	HR	DP	RD	EX	
97th		5.0	6.3	4.5	8.5	6.0	8.5	5.6	5.9	3.3	6.2	4.4	7.9	72.1
101st		6.3	8.2	7.8	4.5	5.0	3.8	8.0	3.8	9.1	5.3	4.7	4.7	71.2
60th		6.2	6.6	6.4	7.4	7.4	8.0	4.7	7.5	6.0	8.1	7.3	6.7	82.3
107th		5.5	8.0	7.3	6.4	4.8	5.3	5.2	4.2	4.4	4.3	8.4	6.2	70.0
125th		6.1	6.0	4.5	4.1	5.5	5.9	5.5	2.7	3.8	5.1	3.2	7.0	59.4
38th		4.3	7.8	6.2	8.6	8.3	8.5	6.9	8.8	5.3	9.0	7.7	7.9	89.3
161st		1.6	4.0	2.6	2.0	3.8	3.3	3.9	1.3	4.6	2.5	1.7	1.2	32.5
144th		1.8	4.7	6.9	4.6	3.5	4.2	4.3	2.4	2.5	2.3	3.8	3.3	44.3
162nd		1.6	1.7	4.5	3.8	3.4	3.1	2.7	1.5	1.5	2.3	4.0	2.3	32.4
52nd		5.9	8.2	6.5	7.1	9.0	6.9	6.8	7.7	5.2	8.5	4.4	8.6	84.8
2nd		9.4	10.0	8.9	8.9	9.3	9.8	9.3	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.0	9.3	113.4
96th		6.1	6.1	6.7	7.1	7.5	5.5	6.5	7.0	4.2	7.2	5.4	3.0	72.3
154th		2.1	4.3	2.9	2.0	3.0	3.9	4.4	1.9	2.9	3.1	2.0	5.6	38.1
1st		10.0	9.7	9.7	10.0	8.9	6.4	10.0	10.0	9.5	9.9	10.0	9.8	113.9
155th		2.8	6.3	5.7	5.2	3.5	1.9	2.8	2.2	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.8	37.9
47th		7.4	8.8	9.0	5.4	7.1	7.7	6.9	5.1	8.3	6.2	8.4	6.3	86.6
5th		9.0	9.7	10.0	8.5	7.4	8.9	9.8	8.9	9.6	9.3	9.8	9.7	110.6
113th		4.9	5.8	5.8	7.1	6.1	6.8	5.0	5.6	4.6	5.3	3.0	5.9	65.9
42nd		6.3	6.8	3.4	9.7	8.2	7.2	8.8	8.1	9.1	9.4	4.7	7.1	88.8
174th		2.1	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.0	1.1	1.1	2.0	5.3	1.1	22.1
176th		1.1	1.0	3.6	2.3	2.2	2.1	1.0	1.0	1.8	1.5	2.5	1.0	21.1
5th		9.8	9.9	9.8	8.1	7.7	8.4	9.9	9.2	9.8	8.2	9.8	10.0	110.6
61st		6.7	8.4	7.4	7.3	4.8	6.2	9.1	5.6	8.2	7.9	4.3	5.9	81.8
65th		5.5	5.7	5.2	6.2	7.1	7.6	5.9	8.6	5.9	8.7	6.7	7.2	80.3
82nd		9.0	9.4	8.5	3.3	5.3	4.7	7.5	4.4	8.0	6.4	5.9	3.8	76.2
35th		7.2	8.3	6.5	7.9	6.8	7.6	6.9	8.5	5.3	9.7	6.3	9.5	90.5
56th		6.5	7.6	4.6	6.4	8.2	7.5	7.8	8.2	6.7	7.8	6.6	6.0	83.9
128th		6.3	5.6	4.2	4.4	4.9	8.1	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.5	2.7	3.1	56.7
89th		8.3	7.8	7.7	6.7	4.9	6.1	6.5	4.4	6.5	4.2	4.7	6.4	74.2
64th		8.3	9.1	10.0	4.6	5.7	3.9	7.6	4.4	7.7	4.9	9.2	5.4	80.8
86th		6.3	7.8	6.6	4.9	6.7	5.1	9.7	5.6	8.7	5.4	3.5	4.1	74.4
24th		7.1	8.6	8.5	5.5	7.4	7.6	8.6	8.3	7.8	9.0	9.3	8.3	96.0
90th		7.6	8.0	6.7	6.8	4.2	5.2	8.2	3.7	6.2	4.2	4.6	8.6	74.0
147th		3.1	3.6	3.4	2.4	3.4	2.5	6.7	2.2	7.8	4.0	2.2	2.4	43.7
160th		2.7	4.5	6.4	3.6	3.6	2.1	1.5	1.6	1.7	2.4	2.1	1.0	33.2
158th		3.2	5.3	6.0	2.4	4.3	1.7	1.9	1.6	3.2	2.8	2.0	1.2	35.6
157th		3.8	2.7	2.5	3.6	4.1	4.4	1.0	2.9	2.8	3.8	2.5	2.7	36.8
63rd		7.1	8.8	7.1	6.3	6.9	6.0	9.5	4.9	9.2	5.6	5.5	4.6	81.5
58th		7.3	8.2	7.2	7.3	6.7	5.5	8.5	7.7	8.9	5.6	4.6	5.4	82.9
105th		4.6	6.9	6.0	5.1	5.0	6.2	8.3	4.7	7.4	6.1	4.7	5.2	70.2
4th		9.8	9.5	9.3	9.3	8.2	7.3	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.3	9.4	10.0	111.1
46th		4.6	6.2	5.9	7.9	9.2	7.9	7.7	7.9	7.4	9.5	6.4	7.2	87.8
13th		8.1	9.8	7.3	8.6	8.5	7.9	9.2	8.9	8.2	9.1	8.5	7.5	101.6

FRAGILE STATES INDEX INDICATOR SCORES 2017

A big secret that everybody knows



George
Fetherling

I have a framed poster on my wall at home that illustrates 14 different types of small explosive devices. The same poster is found in nearly every elementary schoolroom in Laos (and Cambodia, too) where it's intended to teach the little ones to refrain from, for instance, playing with landmines. My copy hangs above the kitchen table to remind me how lucky I am to live in a place where peace is the norm. The poster is also, in its way, a small memento of what started out as Operation Momentum, but became an enormously destructive land and air war that was kept a secret from the people who were paying for it. This event is the subject of *A Great Place to Have a War* (Simon & Schuster Canada, \$37). Its author is Joshua Kurlantzick, whose previous book, about the strange disappearance of the presumed American spy Jim Thompson was reviewed enthusiastically in these pages a while ago.

Operation Momentum and the massive bombings that followed were at once a prelude and a sidebar to the Vietnam War. The original idea was to recruit the Hmong tribespeople of the Laotian highlands to fight the communist Pathet Lao and their allies, the North Vietnamese. Unlike the later American invasion of Cambodia, another sub-war of the larger conflict, it was conducted in the dark so far as the media were concerned and even today, 50 or 60 years later, continues to fascinate and horrify.

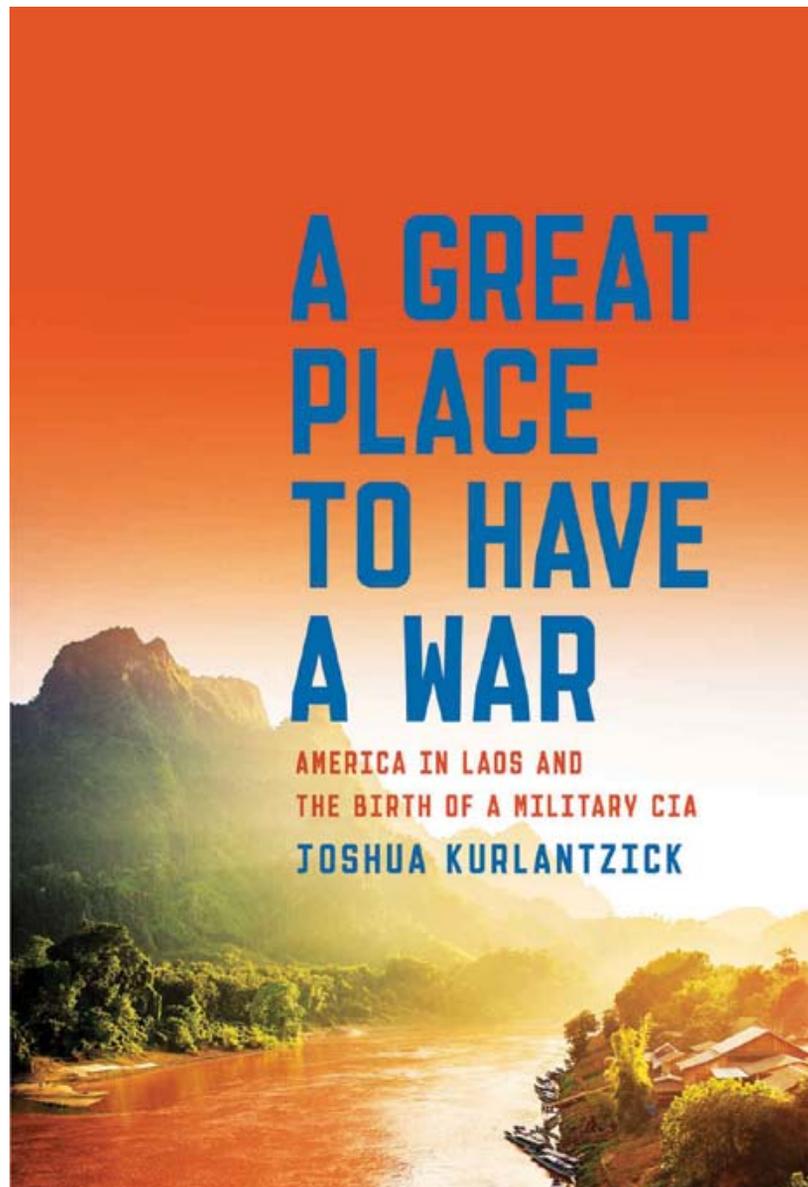
Kurlantzick focuses on four characters. There is William Sullivan, the U.S. ambassador to Laos in the early 1960s, who worked hard to turn a minor war into a major one; William Lair, a lone-wolf anti-bureaucratic field operative who ran the war show on the ground and in the air; and Tony Poe, an alcoholic misfit who by 1965 had had 20 years' experience in fire-fights, "had never held a job that did not involve fighting" and — nice understatement — "found himself ill-suited for civil-

ian life." (Poe collected the severed ears of his enemies as trophies of war — bags full of them.) The fourth figure, Vang Pao, was the charismatic and paranoid military leader of the Hmong who exploited the Americans and was exploited by them in turn as he repeatedly led his bizarre ragtag army into battle.

The story began in the 1950s. President Dwight Eisenhower, though hardly a proponent of European colonialism, supported the French in their losing fight to keep Indochina because he feared the Pathet Lao and other communist groups were angling for control throughout

Southeast Asia, which the Americans saw as a palisade of wobbly dominoes. Such anxiety led him to place enormous emphasis on the strategic importance of the little landlocked monarchy of Laos, one of the world's poorest nations, where the average income was \$75 US a year. Amazingly, the joint chiefs of staff and the Eisenhower cabinet "even discussed launching tactical nuclear weapons if the political situation in Laos continued to deteriorate."

In his last days in office, early in 1961, Eisenhower approved the CIA's plan to arm and train the Hmong in the northern part of the country. His successor, John F.



Kennedy, continued such support for the rest of his short life, but on nothing like a scale later endorsed by Lyndon Johnson and Richard Nixon. In the Eisenhower and Kennedy days, the people who plan wars were fairly certain that one was required in Laos even more than in, say, neighbouring Vietnam. Later, the two conflicts merged.

The h is silent

The Hmong are found throughout South-east Asia as far west as Myanmar. There are three million of them in China and perhaps half a million in Vietnam. They all share a common language, but are separated from one another in other ways, both cultural and political. Many Vietnamese Hmong sided with the communists, in contrast to most of those in Laos, who are subsistence farmers and hill people who prefer elevations above 800 metres and distrust the lowland Laotian majority — and almost everyone else. The CIA started off small, selecting a thousand Hmong men to train and equip with obsolete small arms, paying them through a third party. Vang Pao, who had fought the Japanese and the French, would now become a leading anti-communist proxy of the Americans, battling both the Pathet Lao and the North Vietnamese.

By 1970, Vang's army had grown to 30,000. In the course of the 1960s, the number of military and civilian contractors hired by the CIA (mercenaries, most of them) had increased by 2,000 per cent. Now it is estimated that in the same period, the agency annually spent what today would be \$3.1 billion US on the failed campaign. Kurlantzick calls the effort "a transformational experience [given that until then] the CIA had never mounted a significant paramilitary operation" on such a scale and in such secrecy. "In fact, no spy agency anywhere in the world had [done so]. The Laos war would prove the dividing line for the CIA; afterward, its leadership would see paramilitary operations as an essential part of the agency's mission, and many other U.S. policy-makers would come to accept that the CIA was as much a part of waging war as the traditional branches of the armed forces." For people such as those Kurlantzick profiles at length, the system had the key advantages of tight secrecy, loose oversight and almost unlimited funding.

Vang, who may or may not have been an important figure in the heroin trade as well, had his base at Long Cheng in the north, close to both the eastern and western borders. One might almost say it

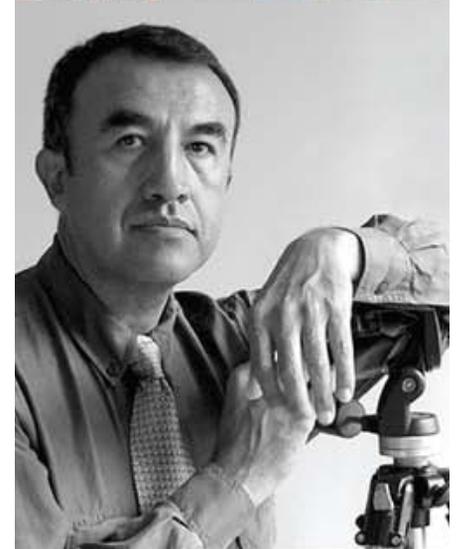
became a kind of boom town. The Americans were constantly urging the Hmong to engage in big battles and act less like guerrillas. Such tactics resulted in massacres of Hmong soldiers and civilians alike. The most hideous battle was in 1968 at a place named Nam Bac. Vang had repeated the mistake that the French forces had made when they were overrun by the Vietnamese communists at Dien Bien Phu in 1954. He fortified a low-lying plain surrounded by mountains, which allowed the enemy to repeatedly destroy the airstrip that was the only means of getting in and out. The defenders exhausted their supplies and were killed or captured.

The most striking feature of the secret war (that is, other than its secrecy) was the American bombing campaign on the portion of Laos through which ran the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the route used by the North Vietnamese to supply their forces fighting in the south.

The trail cut through the Plain of Jars, an area of northern Laos in Xieng Khouang province, dotted with ancient sandstone burial urns dating back as far as 2,500 years: the work of a civilization now lost to us. This famous "mortuary landscape," a world-class archeological site spread across an area of 1,300 square kilometres, was subjected to American carpet bombing: hundreds of sorties daily, day after day, adding up to 580,000 flights over 10 years and the dropping of 1,800 kilograms of ordnance for each man, woman and child. B-52s let loose 113-kilogram and 226-kilogram bombs (the sizes ran up to 1,360 kilograms); one aircraft could drop 907,000 kilograms worth in a night without ever being seen, following up with napalm and chemicals designed to destroy vegetation and put an end to agriculture. Cluster bombs were the ones most feared by the Hmong, who returned to their homelands once the North Vietnamese were gone. These devices were full of "bomblets." One B-52 Stratofortress could saturate 2.6 square kilometres with 7.5 million steel pellets. Some contend that the amount of explosives dropped on this region — based on mere tonnage, rather than results — far surpassed the total dropped on Dresden and other German cities in the Second World War.

The final chapter

I've been to the Plain of Jars. It is a spooky place, a high plateau, somewhat flinty and with the reddish mud that always seems to recur in Vietnam War memoirs. In the distance are sharp-sided mountains all around. One has to hire a local guide and



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very carefully follow in his footsteps — literally, for he knows where the baseball-sized explosives are likely to be found. Hmong hunters sometimes pry open the explosives in search of gunpowder to use for hunting (though a few men still carry crossbows). High up in the hills and certainly in Phonsavan, the only real town nearby, one sees many amputees, young as well as old.

The end of the story is suitably bizarre. The Americans, dutifully, felt an obligation to let many of the Hmong, those who worked for them against the communists, come to the United States after the war. These new immigrants included the wily old warrior Vang Pao. His resettlement was not without incident, for he was arrested for using the U.S. as a place from which to plot a coup against the Pathet Lao (who are still in charge). The majority of the American Hmong congregated in two spots — Fresno, California, and Minneapolis-St Paul, Minnesota. The latter's climate must have taken some getting used to. Vang lived in both places at various times. He died in 2011.

I've been expecting you, Mister Bond

No one would write a book attempting to explain the whole of Canada by focusing

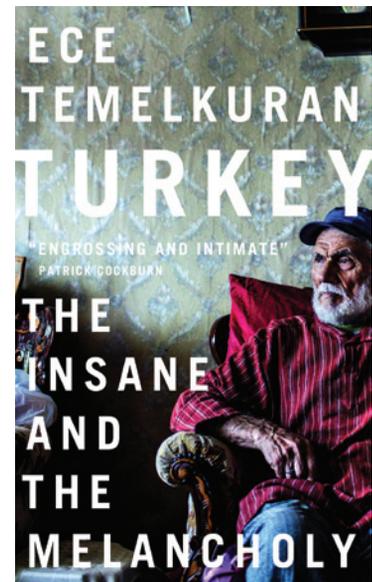


Columnist George Fetherling at Plain of Jars.

solely on the city of Ottawa. Certainly no one would concentrate exclusively on the city of Canberra to define Australia. The same rule applies to Turkey. Ankara is the hub of government, but Istanbul has

always been the centre of politics, religion, culture, trade — and trouble. The Emperor Constantine named it in his own honour in 330 AD, and during its long run as Constantinople, it was invaded every so often by Arabs, Russians, Crusaders and others — in, for example, the years 717, 813, 860, 913, 924, 941, 1203, 1261, 1394, 1402 and 1453. The last of these was the most important, for it made the city the capital of the Ottoman Empire, ruled by an endless succession of despots, sultans, generals and the like.

In the present republican era, which dates back to 1923–24, Turkey has had as many coups and attempted coups as Thailand. The most recent failed takeover, last year, has resulted in fierce retaliation



tion and repression by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his AKP, or Justice and Development Party. Policies in place now mean that “the Kurds could not speak Kurdish, the left could not speak of ideology, women could not fight for their rights, workers could not resist, and much more.” So writes Ece Temelkuran, a prominent Turkish novelist and (until she was recently fired from her newspaper) journalist, in her new book, *Turkey: The Insane and the Melancholy* (Zed Books, \$25 paper).

It's no wonder that many new titles about Turkey are appearing at the moment, given the country's accelerated turn away from the West amid general fears of even worse authoritarianism. Some western writers follow the almost traditional route and use Istanbul to examine the entire state and its culture. Recent examples are *Istanbul: Tales of Three Cities* by Betty Hughes (Hachette Canada, \$24) and

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Istanbul: City of Majesty at the Crossroads by Thomas Madden (PenguinRandom Canada, \$30). Others are understandably more polemical — for example, *Under the Shadow: Rage and Revolution in Modern Turkey* by the novelist Kaya Genç (I.B. Tauris, \$30). But Temelkuran’s work stands alone for being, well, unusual.

She is one of those courageous reporters, exemplified by Mohamed Fahmy from



Author Ece Temelkuran is a courageous reporter and novelist from Turkey.

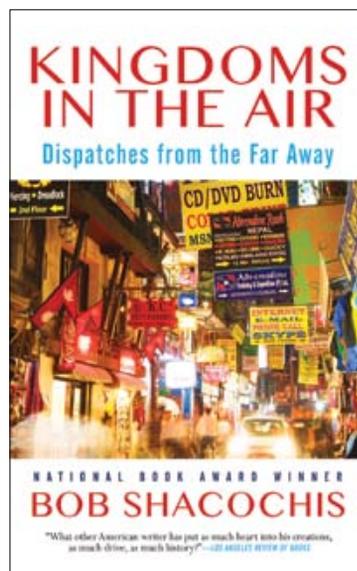
Egypt, who accept great risks in writing about the atrocities they have seen at first hand — have, in fact, lived through. Temelkuran is certainly one of these who rises up to speak freely, but her book, at least in this translation from the Turkish, stands out for being eccentric, angry, gossipy, off-the-cuff, more talkative than expository, and just generally cobbled together, though, of course, this is not to deny the importance of its message.

Another of the new breed of brave and even death-defying journalists is Mikhail Zygar, who was the editor-in-chief of Russia’s only privately owned television network, but who (again, like Temelkuran) was forced out of his position. The reason for his departure was the popularity, not to say the mere existence, of his book, *All the Kremlin’s Men: Inside the Court of Vladimir Putin*, which has now been translated into English (Hachette Canada, \$36.50).

During the Cold War (perhaps we should now call it Cold War One) many American foreign policy soothsayers in government, in think-tanks and in

universities were referred to as Kremlinologists. These days, a far more precise term is cropping up: Putinologists. In the 17th-Century, Louis XIV, the Sun King, famously said, “L’état, c’est moi.” Many western outsiders, as well as dissidents and other disillusioned people inside the country, can imagine Putin making the same statement in Russian. But Zygar goes beyond that image and emerges with a surprising conclusion.

Putin is certainly in the strongman tradition of autocratic governance, but, in Zygar’s analysis, not nearly so powerful as we routinely imagine. Rather, he is a “hurt and introverted outcast” who must keep lining the pockets of a selected few (as well as his own) and could not retain



power without not only the oligarchs he creates, but also the senior bureaucracy all around him and the regional governors. Plucked from relative obscurity by Boris Yeltsin, he actively tolerated the West (but didn’t engage it the way Dmitry Medvedev — his chosen successor, but actually just his political placeholder — did before the two men turned on each other). At the moment, he’s throwing every irritant he has at the West — Edward Snowden, the U.S. hacking allegations, and, of course, his reckless and brutal adventurism in Ukraine, Crimea and Syria. Although such events first raised his standing domestically, they, and other factors, now are having the opposite effect. Many Russians hate the corruption of Putin’s regime, but he responds to their challenges with more arrests and imprisonment.

Yet apparently not enough to silence the ominous grumbling brought on by the U.S.’s economic sanctions and other as-

pects of economic decline leading to what we’re told is a steady current of widespread (and possibly mass) unrest.

Zygar has apparently done what no one else has done. He’s interviewed a hundred of the people closest to Putin.

And finally...

Bob Shacochis is a much-praised American political novelist, known especially for *The Woman Who Lost Her Soul*. But he began his career as the highest kind of literary travel writer — a long-form travel essayist and master of non-fiction prose. He has now collected the cream of his past work in that field as *Kingdoms in the Air: Dispatches from the Far Away* (Publishers Group West, \$38.50). He girdles the globe, as people used to say, and the most ambitious and evocative piece deals with Nepal. Another takes the reader to Mount Ararat in Turkey. It invites a fascinating comparison to a new Canadian book on the same topic: *Full Moon over Noah’s Ark: An Odyssey to Mount Ararat and Beyond* by prominent Vancouver travel author Rick Antonson (Skyhorse \$24.99).

George Fetherling is a novelist and cultural commentator. His novel *The Carpenter from Montreal* will appear this autumn.

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Peru's complex culinary evolution



Margaret Dickenson

Perú, situated on the west coast of South America, sharing borders with Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia and Chile, boasts a rich multicultural cuisine combining the flavours of four continents. Dating back to pre-Inca times, an ever-evolving Peruvian cuisine has shown unique tolerance and assimilation of those cuisines introduced by immigrants from Europe, Africa and Asia. Lacking familiar homeland ingredients, immigrants creatively adapted their traditional cuisines by substituting ingredients available in Peru, resulting in something original, and now, something Peruvian.

Peru's culinary history began 5,000 years ago when Paleo-Indian hunters and gatherers transitioned to organizing agricultural villages and started domesticating and cultivating cereals and fruits, potatoes and corn in the Andes, pumpkins and lima beans on the coast. They also looked to nature as their pantry. It offered a great variety of ingredients, thanks to Peru's three major regions — the coast, mountains and jungle — plus its countless number of ecosystems and microclimates. Among the treasure trove of ingredients were spicy chili peppers, aromatic herbs, extraordinary fruits of the Amazon, fish and seafood and wild animals.

Incan civilization

By the 15th Century, the Incas who had emerged three centuries earlier, had developed an ingenious system of complex terracing and irrigation, allowing for the cultivation of produce on steep Andean slopes and in coastal river valleys. Potatoes, their principal crop, were the key ingredient in soups, stews and *pachamanca*, a type of underground barbecue using a mixture of meats and vegetables enveloped with leaves and cooked in a covered subterranean pit lined with hot porous stones. Leftover potatoes from the *pachamanca* were dried as a preservation



Margaret Dickenson's Quinoa Salad Stack with Shrimp Topping

technique and to reduce their weight for transportation. *Carapulca*, a potato and pork stew slow-cooked with hot chilies and peanuts, owes its unique flavour and consistency to its main ingredient, dehydrated potatoes or *papa seca*. First prepared by the Incas more than 500 years ago, it remains one of the oldest Peruvian dishes that is eaten to this day throughout the country, albeit transformed into a more hearty, spicy and complex version exhibiting a true blend of Incan, European and African flavours. Potatoes, probably the Incas' principal contribution to the world, were indispensable in their diet, with 1,000 varieties domesticated before the arrival of the Spaniards. Peruvian Ambassador Marcela López Bravo emphasizes that more than 4,000 varieties exist today and that genetic modifications are prohibited.

Incan cuisine also included cereals such as quinoa and maize, alpaca meat and that of a native guinea pig called *cuy*, fruits

and an assortment of hot peppers. Quinoa, another food crucial to life and referred to as "the mother grain," was deemed so sacred that at the time of planting, a golden implement was used to ceremoniously break the first furrow. In recent years, recognized as a gluten-free "super grain" exceptionally high in protein and fibre, quinoa has continued to experience a dramatic increase in international awareness and sales. Several kinds of peppers, including medium to hot heat *aji* and the fiery *rocoto* and herbs such as *huacatay*, gave a signature taste and frequently colour to boiled and roasted Incan dishes. These have continued to be a dominant and essential feature of Peruvian cuisine over the centuries.

Spanish conquest

Peru's conquest by Spain in the 16th Century led to the introduction of ovens, new culinary techniques such as pickling

and frying, plus a myriad of new ingredients including staples, among them rice, wheat and domesticated animals as well as olives, grapes and a wide variety of vegetables, fruits and spices. Their rather rapid integration into native cuisine sparked what became known as Creole cuisine. Goats, sheep, cows and chickens offered greater choices of meat beyond local alpacas, llamas and guinea pigs, wild hare and various types of fowl. New Creole cuisine blended milk and cheese into *aji* sauces to create dishes that have remained ubiquitous. *Aji de gallina*, a chili chicken, combines strips of chicken served with a creamy yellow spicy sauce prepared with yellow *aji amarillo* chilies, milk, cheese and bread. *Papa a la huanciana*, a similarly flavoured traditional vegetarian version of boiled potatoes with slightly spicy cheese sauce, is still served in many Peruvian homes and restaurants because it is inexpensive to prepare, yet yields a remarkable complexity of flavours and textures, thus making it popular with chefs and all classes of society. Spanish cuisine, having been strongly influenced by the Moorish domination of southern Spain, brought cumin and coriander, in addition to cinnamon and cloves that went into the famous Creole desserts.

African slaves arrive

The Spanish also brought African slaves to work on ranches, farms and in kitchens. They, too, infused their own touches. Peruvians enjoyed and adopted the seductive rhythms of African music, dance and the aromatic African spices and syrups with which they enhanced the original Incan corn pudding and perfected blancmanges and custards. Sugar cane also proved to be another ambrosial surprise. It added a heavenly taste to desserts and candies and elevated Peru to the largest consumer of sugar in the New World during colonial times. Convents generated a majority of these confections, thus guaranteeing the continuity of both for centuries. Even now, virtually all Peruvian desserts feature Eurocentric and African influences.

The African slaves' skill in creating culinary combinations with ordinary inexpensive ingredients including leftovers, has produced two of the country's finest dishes. *Tacu-tacu* with its many variations, basically features cooked beans and white rice mashed together with additions of onion and spices, then shaped into a thick pancake and fried. It can be a meal in itself or topped with a steak, fried banana, egg, even salad, or served as a side. *Anticuchos*,

skewers of meat marinated in various spices and grilled, originally were made up of beef heart because the Spanish would consume the best cuts of an animal, leaving the organs for their slaves. Today, *anticuchos*, similar to shish kebabs, are served everywhere in Peru from high-end restaurants as appetizers to street-carts where they are slathered with a garlicky sauce. Any meat can be used, but beef heart is best, according to the ambassador.

The 19th Century saw a wave of consecutive revolutions, one inspiring the next. They included American, French and Peruvian. Soon after declaring independence in 1821, the new Peruvian government issued a degree allowing free entry of foreigners. Non-Spanish European immigration turned out to be robust, with influxes from Italy, France, Germany, England, Scotland and Scandinavian countries. The Italians and French, in particular, offered yet another twist to Peruvian cuisine.

Chinese workers

The most dramatic impact actually came later, in 1894, with the first indentured Chinese servants arriving to work on railroads, sugar and cotton plantations and in a flourishing fertilizer industry using bird excretions or guano. Although they mostly worked under harsh conditions, their contracts obliged their employers to provide, as part of their salary, certain foods including one-and-a-half pounds of rice daily as well as specially built living quarters, thus preserving Chinese culinary traditions. They imported seeds for vegetables, from snow peas to ginger, and introduced soy sauce. Once the Chinese were settled, they established small shops and restaurants. Peruvians' initial hesitation about foreigners, who took anything that moved and cooked it, soon vanished when they developed a new appreciation for the tasty and simple dishes prepared in alleys next to central downtown markets. The Chinese techniques of sautéing over a high flame, adding ginger, splashes of soy sauce and *aji* peppers to stir-fries — all made in the same pan — and serving rice with virtually everything, blended with Peruvian dishes to produce a delicious *chifa* or Chinese-Peruvian cuisine. *Lomo saltado*, a hearty stir-fry of beef, tomatoes, onions, peppers, soy sauce and fried potatoes usually served over white rice, remains a classic Peruvian example of Sino-Peruvian fusion.

Japanese immigrants

At the very end of the 19th Century,

Japanese immigrants arrived to work in agriculture and trade, bringing with them the Japanese love of seafood, subtle flavours as well as a care and respect when handling food. Their subtle touches transformed Peru's historical *ceviches*, which are seafood marinated in lemon juice, onion and hot peppers, and *tiraditos*, thinly sliced raw fish dishes similar to *ceviche*, but without onion, into those we know today. Also, Japanese steamed dishes and other recipes gave way to a popular *nikkei* or Peruvian-Japanese cuisine highlighted by fresh seafood in a country where many urban populations had traditionally been uninterested in fish. Within 50 years, that prejudice had faded as Japanese restaurants began serving a wide range of delightful seafood dishes and initiating a love of raw marinated food.

Regional cuisine

As influential as it was, Peruvian cuisine reflects more than the fusion of foreign cuisines. Each region of the country offers its own tastes, with dishes rooted in local tradition and ingredients. Coastal cuisine features fish and seafood as well as dishes made with squash, chilies, duck and goat. Besides the most popular *ceviches* and *tiraditos*, *escabeche* is a mouth-watering fish dish, but can be made with chicken, with additions of onion, hot peppers, prawns, cumin, hard-cooked eggs, olives and a sprinkling of cheese. A tangy seaweed called *yuyo de mar*, adds zip to *parihuela*, a much-loved bouillabaisse. Another well-liked northern coastal dish, *seco de cabrito*, roasted baby goat served with beans and rice, has a lamb adaptation called *seco de cordero*. *Cau-cau*, a tripe stew accompanied by rice, comes in many styles with a Creole and an Italo-Peruvian being most impressive, while whole oven-baked stuffed peppers such as *rocoto relleno*, can range from fiery to just tasty.

The staples of Andean cooking, corn and potatoes, are essential elements in many dishes, among them *carapulca causa*, in which potatoes are mashed with lemon juice, then layered with crabmeat, tuna or sardines, or, at times, with a salad of eggs, peppers, corn, sweet potatoes, cheese and olives. Also important are *tamales*, a type of cornmeal steamed in corn husks or banana leaves, and a potato dish covered in a spicy canned milk and cheese sauce. Indigenous animals such as alpacas and the highland delicacy, *cuy*, have been sources of meat for centuries.

The most typical highland food would be the aforementioned *pachamanca*. Frequently, guinea pigs are cooked in a

pachamanca along with other meats and vegetables. Despite its tedious preparation, this tradition has gained popularity throughout Peru, particularly for celebrations, festivals and backyard gatherings.

Meat dishes feature strongly in Andean cuisine, particularly stews, including many made with alpaca and sheep. The gamut of pork dishes extends from fried pork, a breakfast favourite referred to as *fritos*; *chicharrones*, which are deep-fried pieces of pork ribs, but can also be made with chicken or fish; and *lechón*, which is roasted pig. Nourishing soups also figure prominently, among them one prepared with sheep's head, corn and tripe, another being basically a colourful green potato soup with coriander, parsley, mint, cheese, eggs, onion, garlic and peppers, and a



A traditional pachamanca, or Peruvian underground barbecue.

lightly spiced soup of noodles, beef heart, eggs and vegetables.

Amazonian cuisine incorporates products found in its rainforest, resulting in a true adventure in exotic dishes. Fish ranks as the main ingredient in jungle cuisine, especially the dolphin-sized *paiche*, the largest freshwater fish in the world, often served with yucca, hearts of palm and fried bananas. Locals hunt many species, even those classified as members of the rodent family such as *majas*, the favourite, which can be up to two feet long and weigh four kilograms. and *sajino*, a boar-like creature. Hunting large crocodile, considered a delicacy and dubbed black caiman, and a variety of land and river turtles, which were traditionally part of the jungle diet, is now prohibited by law.

Locals have other favourites, too. *Juanes*

features chicken, turmeric-seasoned rice and other ingredients wrapped in banana leaves; *tocacho con cecina* is a paste of green plantain cooked underground and served with pork and sausage, and *patarashca* is flame-grilled fish.

Desserts

While Peru's cuisine remains renowned for its well-seasoned savoury dishes, Peruvians also love their sweets. Although modified, many sweets have Spanish roots, such as *picarones*, a type of doughnut made with a silky purée of cooked local squash and sweet potatoes added to a mixture of yeast, flour and sugar and served with drizzles of molasses, and *turrónes*, a type of nougat made with fruit syrup and anise. *Alfajores*, the ubiquitous sandwich cookies prevalent in all former Spanish colonies, come in a multitude of variations with an array of tempting fillings. The popularity of *alfajor de trujillo*, renamed the "King Kong" after the release of the movie in the 1930s, probably due to its exaggerated size, has a seductive filling combining pineapple sweets and that well-loved South American caramelized milk cream called *manjar blanco* in Peru. Indeed, that caramelized cream can be credited with infusing a sweet and exquisite flavour found in numerous cakes, cookies, pastries and ice cream. Peruvians also have access to an enviable assortment of fruits from bananas, pineapples, citrus fruits, custard apples and avocados to papayas, mangos, passion fruit and the orange-coloured, nutty-flavoured *lucuma*. Exotic ice cream made with *lucuma* rates as the nation's favourite, followed by vanilla, chocolate and strawberry.

Future of Peruvian cuisine

A new style of cuisine is emerging in Peru, initiated by talented avant-garde professional and amateur chefs who combine modern techniques with local raw ingredients, transforming traditional recipes into impressive new creations. Virtually unknown until recently, Peruvian cuisine is witnessing a remarkable popularity among renowned chefs and discerning palates. Please try my recipe for Quinoa Salad Timbale. Bon Appétit! *Buen Provecho!*

Quinoa Salad Stack (with Shrimp Topping)

Makes 4 servings

Salad

½ cup (125 mL) tri-coloured quinoa
1 cup (250 mL) cold water
1 tsp (5 mL) minced fresh garlic

3 grape tomatoes

½ cup (125 mL) diced* avocado

¼ cup (60 mL) cooked fresh corn kernels

¼ cup (60 mL) diced* fresh mushroom caps

To taste, salt and crushed black pepper

1 tsp (5 mL) soy sauce

Shrimp Topping

⅓ cup (80 mL) diced* cooked shrimp

4 cooked whole large shrimp (peeled with tails attached)

1½ tsp (8 mL) sesame oil, divided

1. To cook quinoa, rinse a couple of times in cold water and drain well; place in a medium-sized saucepan along with cold water, cover tightly and bring to a boil over high heat. Immediately reduce heat to a simmer; allow quinoa to cook until tender (10 to 12 minutes). Avoid overcooking. Remove from heat, pour into a large wire sieve and thoroughly drain off any extra liquid. Quickly transfer cooked quinoa to a large dinner plate and spread into a thin layer. Turn the hot quinoa gently with a fork to stop the cooking process, separate the grains and allow excess moisture to evaporate. Let quinoa cool and rest for at least one hour. Note: The grains of quinoa become larger, drier and firm as they cool and rest. (Makes about 1½ cups or 375 mL.)

2. To make the salad, place only ¾ cup (180 mL) of cooked quinoa in a medium-sized bowl, sprinkle with garlic and toss. Add all remaining salad ingredients and drizzle with soy sauce; toss to combine.

3. To make the shrimp topping, place the diced shrimp and the whole shrimp in 2 separate small bowls, drizzle each with ½ tsp (2.5 mL) of sesame oil, sprinkle with salt to taste and toss.

4. To make each of 4 individual salad stacks, place a cylinder (diameter: 2 ½ inches or 6 cm) in the centre of a dinner plate; add a quarter of the quinoa salad and pack down lightly. Top each salad stack with a quarter of the diced shrimp and crown artistically with a single shrimp.

Note: If desired, build the stack on a thin round of cooked butternut squash, garnish stacks with a sprig of fresh cilantro and drizzle plates with zesty mayonnaise.

*1/4 inch or 0.6 cm cubes

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

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Canada at 150: Wine worth drinking



Pieter
Van den Weghe

A 150th anniversary is a good reason to take pride in Canada's accomplishments and we have much to toast when it comes to our wines.

Compared to some other New World countries, wine had a difficult start in this country. Early attempts by European settlers to cultivate their own vines typically failed due to the pests, blights and climate of their new home. While wine was made from native grape varieties, the results were poor. The Canadian love of spirits, the nation's prohibition (which lasted in Ontario from 1916 to 1927) and the simple lack of the know-how and technical skill necessary to grow grapes in the conditions

found in this country, also made sure there were far more failures than successes.

Canada's modern wine success began in the 1970s. In several locations, mostly concentrated in Ontario's Niagara Peninsula and British Columbia, vineyards were replanted with European varieties and more estate wineries were established. Over time, we started to not only understand which varieties grow and ripen best in our many regions, but which ones can actually express the place and taste of the area from which they come. Today, our growers and winemakers are more experienced, educated and supported than ever before. Our fledgling wine industry has finally blossomed into a world-recognized asset. With less than a fifth of a per cent of the world's overall production in terms of volume, we'll never compete with the giants. France, Italy and Spain need never worry about us cutting into their market share. However, our best can now compete with the world's best. More important, Canadians increasingly understand and appreciate the fantastic wines we

produce. Drinking Canadian wine is no longer dictated by duty and patriotism. We drink it because it's good wine.

As with any celebration, a great place to start is with a bottle of bubbly. And what better way to illustrate the perseverance of Canada's winemakers than to toast the wines of Nova Scotia's Benjamin Bridge?

Founded in 1999 with a purchase of land in the Gaspereau Valley, the winery was born from a challenge. If good wine couldn't be produced within three years, it would shutter. Thankfully, they succeeded and have, with the domestic and international accolades they've received since, changed the perception of Canadian sparkling wine here and abroad. Their 2011 Brut is made entirely of Chardonnay, and sees nearly four years of aging on the lees. This bright, profoundly elegant sparkling wine is available from the SAQ for \$50.

Over in Ontario, in 1984, the Speck family started planting wines in one of Ontario's first estate wineries, Henry of Pelham. They, along with others such as Cave Spring and Château des Charmes, can all claim roles in establishing the modern Niagara wine region. Henry of Pelham has grown to 300 acres of vineyards and forest within the Niagara's Short Hills Bench sub-appellation, southwest of St. Catharines. Their 2014 "Speck Family Reserve" Chardonnay is a beautiful wine. Full of acidity and laden with an almost salty minerality, this is a perfect example of the Chardonnay that can result from a cool year in the region. This excellent bottle is available for \$30 at Vintages.

Since becoming the first fully LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) winery in the world in 2005, Niagara's Stratus has continued its drive to sustainably produce great wine. Winemaker J.-L. Groux's passion for blending grapes to achieve complexity is on display with its 2012 "Red." The blend of mostly Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc and Merlot, with small amounts of Petit Verdot, Malbec and Tannat provides the complexity while the vintage's warmth and dryness gives concentrated and abundant dark fruit flavours with structure. A wine that can lie down for three to five years, it is available for \$45 from Vintages or directly from the winery.

Pieter Van den Weghe is general manager and sommelier at Beckta.

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An artful residence for an artist and an ambassador

Photos by Ashley Fraser



The Rockcliffe residence of Czech Ambassador Pavel Hrnčíř and his wife, Veronika Holcová, is full of her art and also has a few of his children's books.



If you wander into the residence of Czech Ambassador Pavel Hrnčíř in tony Rockcliffe, you might think you are in the wrong place. In an area known

for its baronial manor houses, this house has none of the typical stucco and stone exteriors, no stone columns, no wrought-iron balconies and no circular driveway. Inside you won't find floor-to-ceiling drapes, a marble foyer, brocade chairs or a dining room that seats 24.

No, when you're at home with Hrnčíř and his wife, Veronika Holcová, you are in a simple, wide-open modern space filled with light and surrounded by windows and skylights, bright paintings and books. And these are not just any paintings and books, but modern, abstract, brightly

coloured works of art by Holcová, a well-known professional artist in her own country, and delightful children's books written by her husband, a career diplomat.

If the residents themselves are a conversation piece for their youthful style and verve, so is their house. A modern masterpiece of the 1970s, it was designed by Schoeler & Heaton Architects Inc. and built in 1972 on a large, leafy lot on Minto Place. Paul Schoeler, who died in 2008 at 84, was known as a leader in modernist architecture in Ottawa and credited for a style that embraced clean lines. He de-



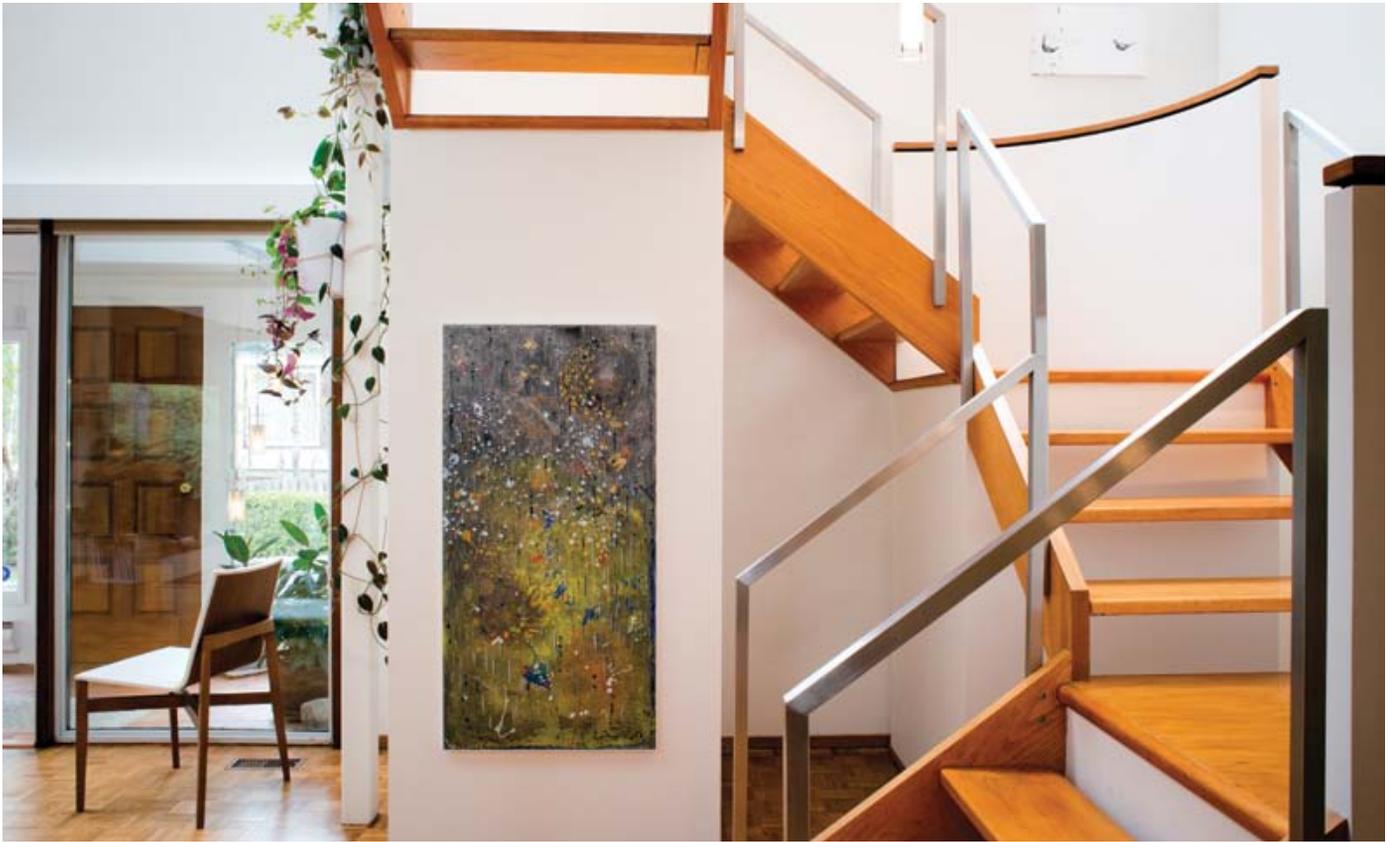
The home is a modern masterpiece, designed by Schoeler & Heaton Architects Inc. and built in 1972 on a leafy Minto Place lot.



Some parts of the home are open two storeys, letting in plenty of light.



The home's dark exterior is unique in its leafy Rockcliffe neighbourhood.



The winding staircase is one of the main floor's more stunning features.



Customers take in a piece of art at Gallery 17/18, which is located at the Czech embassy on Cooper Street.



This breakfast table looks out on the garden and opens to the patio deck.

GALLERY PHOTO BY LOIS SIEGEL



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signed carefully proportioned residences in the Ottawa-Gatineau region.

The house was purchased by the Czech Republic in 1993 and an additional building was added that year by the firm of Murray and Murray, including the staff room over the garage, which is now a studio for Holcova.

The two-storey square wood house faces north with a row of windows above the front door and windows encircling the house on the other three sides. Two large decks face the garden, one on each level. The intricately carved wooden front door is a beautiful work of art. The house is painted a dark brown, although the ambassador admits he would like to have it painted a much darker colour one day.

Through the front door, a foyer opens into a sizable square reception room with parquet floors, an oriental carpet and much open space. What captures the eye is the light, the space and the sense of freedom.

The room, and indeed the main floor, are open to the roof, where a skylight spills in light on a grey day. A railing allows one to look down from the second floor, which consists of four bedrooms and the ambassador's study.

A modern wood dining room table for



A thoroughly modern gun-metal grey kitchen has a large breakfast table and windows looking out on the garden.

eight takes up part of the space. The ambassador admits they bought the table at a sale in the basement of the former Saint Charles Church on Beechwood Avenue. They bought eight new chairs with white covers to go with it. An upright piano and modern fireplace built into a side wall.

Nearby, a coffee table is piled high with art books featuring Holcova and her work. Not to be outdone, Hrnčir's colourful children's books are also nearby. He writes for one hour each morning before leaving for work.

Three steps down is a more formal reception room, again very open and bright



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with windows all around and a larger fireplace and more prominent furniture. "This is really a house for art," says the ambassador, who points out several large, colourful pieces by his wife, and other smaller works by some of their favourite artists. "We sometimes swap and trade with each other," says Holcova.

Another stunning feature of the main floor is the winding staircase near the front door, which combines light wood and silver railings and is highlighted by a long silver light fixture hanging from the ceiling above. A thoroughly modern gun-metal grey kitchen boasts a large breakfast table and windows looking out on the garden and doors to the patio deck.

The embassy employs a Czech chef who makes sure there is a typical national dish included in each meal served when the couple entertains. Sometimes it might be something scrumptious like strudel, they say. But they admit the best parties are always after an opening at their Gallery 17/18. The gallery, located at the embassy on Cooper Street, is an initiative they started when they came to Canada two years ago. The name celebrates Canada's 150th birthday this year and the Czech Republic's 100th in 2018. Each show



When the Czech government bought the house in 1993, it added a room over the garage for staff. It now serves as a studio for Holcova.

pairs up an artist from each country.

Above the garage is Holcova's studio, happily for her a room full of windows. She has already had a successful one-person show in Toronto and has shown her art in Montreal and each year in Ottawa, she holds an open house for neighbours and friends.

To an outsider, the residence, which they share with Holcova's 13-year-old-son, (they both have children from previous marriages) seems like a house they might have built for themselves; a place to work, think, create and have fun.

Margo Roston is *Diplomat's* culture editor.

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The Lieutenant's Pump, technically pronounced 'Leftenant's' Pump, is located in a beautiful old heritage building on Elgin Street, just south of Parliament Hill. The building itself was constructed in 1907 in a farmer's field, which at that time would have been at the outskirts of the city. In its day, it was a premier address for the well-to-do, complete with a restaurant dining room.

Today, the building is still a residential property but in 1984, the conversion of semi-basement apartments into commercial space provided the room for The Lieutenant's Pump to set up shop as an English Pub. The mascot of The Lieutenant's Pump is a British military lieutenant that has been dated to 1861 by military historians. The officers' mess hall theme evokes a sense of tradition and history while the "Pump" refers to the old-fashioned means of pumping beer from kegs with a hand pump. It turns out that the name is a bit of a misnomer. The British officers of the mid-19th century didn't drink beer. They drank wine. It was the common enlisted soldier who drank beer.

No matter. Today, there is lots of both beer and wine consumed at The Lieutenant's Pump and all are welcome regardless of rank. There are 4 principal rooms in The Pump. Each room has its own bar, featuring a selection of 32 draft beers, many of which are from local or regional breweries. The selection changes seasonally to reflect changing tastes. For example, Kronenbourg 1664 Fruits Rouge has just been introduced at The Pump. It is so refreshing. Picture yourself on The Pump's spacious patio on a beautiful sunny summer afternoon sipping this red berry beer. What could be better?

The wine list, while not extensive, includes popular wines at reasonable prices. If you subscribe to the adage “Life is too short to drink cheap wine,” there is a selection of rare wines available from the proprietor’s cellar. Of particular note are wines from Le Domaine Viret which has pioneered a form of organic wine-making called cosmoculture that uses geo-biological principles in cultivating its wines. The resulting wines are extraordinary.

The manager at The Pump discovered this wine in France and described it as so excellent that the restaurant ordered cases of it for their guests. This vintage is not available at the LCBO.

With so many private rooms, The Pump is the perfect place to host a gathering, whether it be for a birthday, reception or business meeting. Anywhere from 40 to 100 people can be accommodated. The pub’s website has pictures of the rooms and you will find a Google video walk-through of the restaurant if you do a search for The Lieutenant’s Pump.

Whether it’s a family dinner, an escape from cooking, a great place to watch sports or a friends’ get-together, the Pump is ideal. Almost all the food is made right on-site. The staff are exceptionally friendly. The music is never too loud for conversation and the pub atmosphere is perfect.

The dinner specials are always incredible and The Pump is famous for its Sunday Night Prime Rib Roast Beef Dinner. The Pump is also well known for its weekend brunches.

When you go and are feeling adventurous, have the Lady Gaga Sandwich. She would approve.

“In wine there is wisdom ...In beer there is freedom ...In water there is bacteria.”

Benjamin Franklin



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New arrivals

Diego Stacey
Ambassador of Ecuador



Stacey's career has spanned 40 years and four continents with postings in Bogota, Cairo, Hamburg, the Vatican, Bonn, Washington, Stockholm and Vienna. His first ambassadorial post was in Sweden.

He has also served in various strategic capacities in Quito, including as under-secretary for bilateral relations, acting minister of foreign affairs and as a representative of Ecuador to international and regional organizations.

Recently, from 2008 to 2013, he was ambassador to Austria and permanent representative to international organizations based in Vienna. He was therefore highly engaged in several UN bodies. As vice-chairman of the committee on peaceful uses of outer space, he helped establish the Ecuadorean Space Commission.

He has a doctorate in law from the Universidad Central del Ecuador and is married to Maria Dolores Chiriboga. They have four children.

Claudio Taffuri
Ambassador of Italy



After completing an economics and commerce degree, Taffuri joined the foreign service in 1992.

Shortly thereafter, he was assigned to the directorate general for emigration and social affairs. Three years later, he was sent, as second secretary, to the embassy in Mozambique. In 1999, he became first secretary in Serbia and returned to headquarters three years later as legation secretary in the co-ordination unit. A year later, he was named to the crisis unit and, in 2004, he became chief of staff to the director general in the Europe division.

In 2007, he was appointed commercial counsellor at the permanent mission for international organizations in Geneva and for 10 months in 2011, he was on special assignment to Herat, Afghanistan. He became head of the crisis unit in 2012 where he remained until this appointment.

Taffuri is married to Maria Enrica Francesca Stajano. They have two children.

Shin Maeng-ho
Ambassador of Korea



Ambassador Shin is a career diplomat with more than 30 years experience.

Since 1985, he has served in several areas, with a particular focus on multilateral and security concerns, including those related to the North Korean nuclear issue. He has also served as director-general for international legal affairs at the foreign ministry.

His career also featured senior roles, including director of the North Korean nuclear affairs division of the office of Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs (2006) and deputy spokesman (2010).

His previous postings have included Belgium (1994), Ethiopia (1996), Austria (2002), Russia (2006) and San Francisco (2008). He also served as ambassador to Bulgaria (2013-2016). Prior to this posting, he was ambassador for international security affairs at the foreign ministry in Seoul.

Shin holds bachelor's and master's degrees in international relations. He is married and has one son and one daughter.

Natalia Quant Rodriguez
Ambassador of Nicaragua



Ambassador Quant Rodriguez completed her studies in Paris and Madrid and has a bachelor of law, a master's of law and a master's of public administration. She also has a diploma in consular protection and human rights from the Universidad Centroamericana UCA in Managua, Nicaragua.

Her career began in 2008 at Nicaragua's ministry of environment and natural resources in the international conventions area. She then became a legal adviser at the National Port Authority of Nicaragua from 2009 to 2011, at which time she became first secretary with consular functions at the embassy of Nicaragua in Spain. She stayed in that job until she was named minister-counsellor, between 2014 and 2016.

Quant Rodriguez speaks French, English and Spanish and is a member of the "Association des Juristes Panthéon-Sorbonne Complutense."

Quant Rodriguez speaks French, English and Spanish and is a member of the "Association des Juristes Panthéon-Sorbonne Complutense."

Enrique Ruiz Molero
Ambassador of Spain



Ambassador Ruiz Molero joined the foreign service in 1979 after completing a bachelor's degree in law and studies at the Spanish Diplomatic School in Madrid.

At the foreign ministry, he has held numerous positions, including deputy-director of multilateral economic and development relations, deputy director of human resources, deputy-director of the Spanish Diplomatic School and director general of the foreign service. At one time, he also had responsibility for bilateral economic relations with European countries and the European free trade areas.

His most recent foreign postings have included ambassador to Mauritania and Mali (2000-2004); consul-general in Perignan, France (2004-2008); and consul-general in Los Angeles (2010-2013.)

The ambassador, who was born in Tetuan, Morocco, is married and has two children.

Sibongiseni Dlamini-Mntambo
High Commissioner for South Africa



Sibongiseni Dlamini-Mntambo joined South Africa's department of international relations and co-operation in 2016.

She started her career as a teacher in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, in 1993, but she left teaching to pursue a career in communications, marketing and advertising. She worked within the heavy mineral industry and was the public affairs and communications adviser for South Africa's Chamber of Mines.

Her government work was with the departments of economic affairs and tourism; minerals and energy; and higher education and training. She also worked on South Africa's 2004 and 2006 elections while with the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa.

The high commissioner has been involved in humanitarian work as a trustee of a non-profit organization, volunteering her time and expertise pro bono. She has given assistance to a school in Johannesburg that caters mainly to children from very poor backgrounds. She is a proud mother of two girls and a boy.

Dionisio Pérez Jácome
Ambassador of Mexico



Prior to this appointment, Ambassador Pérez Jácome was Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OECD in Paris.

He has held various positions within the Mexican government, including secretary of communications and transport, under-secretary of expenditures at the finance and public credit secretariat and chief adviser to the president.

Pérez Jácome served as president of the energy regulatory commission (2000–2005), and as head of investment promotion.

Pérez Jácome began his career in the agriculture secretariat, where he participated in NAFTA negotiations and became Mexico's first agriculture and forestry counsellor to Canada.

He also has considerable professional experience in the private sector.

He holds a master's degree in public policy from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

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Xiaozhong Zhu
First secretary

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1. The Latin American Film Festival opening gala took place at the Ottawa Little Theatre. From left, Panamanian Ambassador Alberto Arosemena and Chilean Ambassador Alejandro Marisio Cugat. (Photo: Sam Garcia) 2. Thai Ambassador Vijavat Isarabhakdi, and his wife, Wannipa, hosted a New Year celebration at City Hall. From left, Indonesian Ambassador Teuku Faizasyah and his wife, Andis. (Photo: Sam Garcia) 3. Argentine Ambassador Marcelo Suárez Salvia spoke at Carleton University's Norman Paterson School of International Affairs' Ambassador Speakers Series. He's with EU Ambassador Marie-Anne Coninx, who thanked him for his talk. (Photo: Ülle Baum) 4. Pakistani High Commissioner Tariq Azim Khan hosted a national day celebration at the Fairmont Château Laurier hotel. (Photo: Ülle Baum) 5. The Chinese embassy hosted a welcoming reception in honour of newly arrived Chinese Ambassador Lu Shaye. From left, the ambassador stands with MP Andrew Leslie, parliamentary secretary to the foreign minister. (Photo: Ülle Baum) 6. The farewell reception for Mexican Ambassador Agustín García-López took place at his residence. Here, the ambassador welcomes Mayor Jim Watson. (Photo: Sam Garcia)



1. The Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers awards were given to four Canadian foreign service officers this spring. From left, recipients Mary Pierre-Wade and David Weiner, former prime minister Joe Clark, and recipients Andie DaPonte and Tara Bickis. (Photo: John Finnigan Lin) 2. Turkish Ambassador Selcuk Unal, right, attended the grand opening of 1451 Wellington in Ottawa. He's shown with Toronto-based developer Sam Mizrahi. (Photo: Ülke Baum) 3. Heritage Minister Mélanie Joly hosted a reception to celebrate Asian Heritage Month at the Sir John A. MacDonald Building. Nurjan Aitmakhanov, first secretary at the embassy of Kazakhstan, left, and Chung-chen Kung, representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Canada, attended. (Photo: Ülke Baum) 4. The Arab ambassadors spouses' annual fundraising event took place at the Egyptian ambassador's residence. From left: Hala Elhousseiny Youssef, wife of the ambassador of Egypt, and Chiraz Saidane Essid, president of the Arab Heads of Mission Spouses' Association and wife of the ambassador of Tunisia. (Photo: Ülke Baum) 5. Hungarian Ambassador Bálint Ódor hosted a recital by internationally acclaimed pianist János Balázs and launched the 2017 edition of his "concerts at the embassy" series. (Photo: Ülke Baum) 6. An ANZAC Day ceremony, hosted by Australian High Commissioner Tony Negus and New Zealand High Commissioner Daniel Mellsop, took place at the War Museum. (Photo: Sam Garcia)

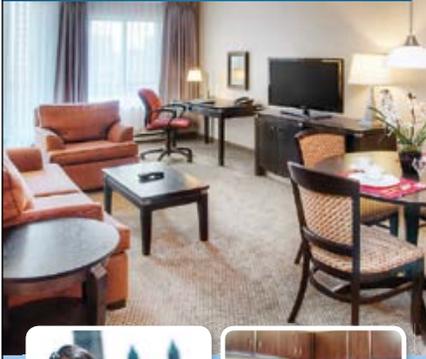


1. German Ambassador Werner Wnendt and his wife, Eleonore, hosted a reception at their home in honor of a performance at the National Arts Centre by Gauthier Dance and Theaterhaus Stuttgart. From left: Eleonore Wnendt, dancer Eric Gauthier and Cathy Levy, NAC Dance program director. (Photo: Ülke Baum) 2. Slovakian Ambassador Andrej Droba, hosted a reception at the embassy for the opening of an exhibition by Slovakian artist Leo Symon, right. It is open until July 6. (Photo: Ülke Baum) 3. Anand Aggarwal and his wife, Saroj, left, attended a fundraising event in support of the Rockcliffe Park Foundation. Ambassadors and high commissioners, including Malaysian High Commissioner Ainahtun Karim, right, hosted dinners for those who bought tickets. (Photo: Lois Siegel) 4. These dancers, wearing traditional Serbian costumes, performed at Ottawa Welcomes the World Serbia Day. Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson and Serbian Ambassador Mihailo Papazoglu attended. (Photo: Ülke Baum) 5. The embassy of Kosovo, with the Canada-Kosovo parliamentary friendship group, organized an event to commemorate the 18th anniversary of Kosovo refugees arriving in Canada. Kosovo Ambassador Lulzim Hiseini, left, and MP Anita Vandenbeld, attended. (Photo: Ülke Baum) 6. Italian Ambassador Claudio Taffuri, left, hosted a national day event, which MP Matt Decourcey attended. (Photo: Ülke Baum)



1. To mark Canada's 150th anniversary, the embassy of Honduras and Terra Art hosted the opening of Aurora, an exhibition of the works of Honduran artist Sergio Martinez at St. Brigid's Centre. From left, Argentine Ambassador Marcelo Suarez Salvia, Honduran Ambassador Sofia Cerrato, and painter Sergio Martinez. (Photo: Lois Siegel) 2. Africa Day, hosted by 30 African diplomatic missions, took place at the Horticultural Building at Lansdowne Park. Here, Zimbabwean High Commissioner Florence Zado Chideya addresses the crowd. (Photo: Ülle Baum) 3. Netherlands Ambassador Henk van der Zwan and Norwegian Ambassador Anne Kari Hansen Ovind greet each other at the Netherlands' King's Day reception. (Photo: Sam Garcia) 4. Father David Clunie, left, presented Irish Ambassador Jim Kelly with a book featuring St. Barthomew's Anglican Church 1867-2017 during Doors Open. The book was a legacy project to celebrate the church's 150th birthday, as well as Canada's. (Photo: Lois Siegel) 5. To mark Canada's 150th, Mongolian Ambassador Radnaabazar Altangerel and his wife, Tsetsegleng Tseveendorj, hosted Mongolian Night at the International Pavilion on Sussex Drive. The event included a performance by Khusugtun, a well known Khöömei throat-singing group, as well as an art exhibit by B. Bayar and T. Nurmaajav. (Photo: Ülle Baum)

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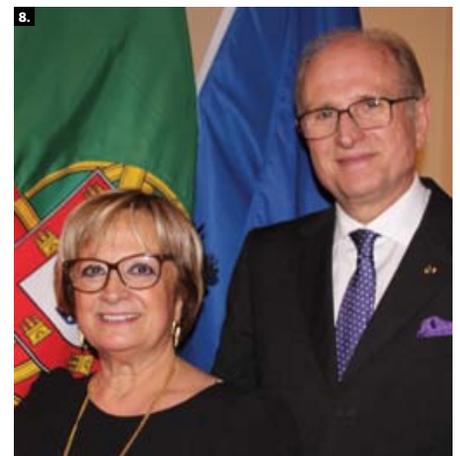
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1. Japanese Ambassador Kenjiro Monji and his wife, Etsuko, hosted the opening of an ikebana exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Nature. With them is Marina Negus. (Photo: Ülke Baum) 2. Kazakh Ambassador Constantin Zhigalov hosted a concert by Kazakh violinist Aiman Mussakhajayeva to mark 25 years of Canada-Kazakhstan relations. He's shown with Pamela Goldsmith-Jones, parliamentary secretary for international trade. (Photo: Ülke Baum) 3. To mark the 25th anniversary of Armenian-Canadian relations, an unveiling of a sculpture of Canadian-Armenian portrait photographer Yousuf Karsh took place at Chateau Laurier. From left, Archbishop Babken Charian, MP Arif Virani, Senate Speaker George J. Furey, Armenian Ambassador Armen Yeghanyan, sculptor Megerditch Tarakdjian, and Yeghanyan's wife, Maria. (Photo: Ülke Baum) 4. This year's Loft Gala, in support of the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation, featured a Lebanese fashion designer. From left, Sami Haddad, Lebanese chargé d'affaires, his wife, Nadia, and event CEO Bruno Racine. (Photo: Ülke Baum)



1. Montreal dancers perform at Polish Day at Lansdowne Park. 2. Tamilya Akhmetzhanova, left, Russian Ambassador Alexander Darchiev and Elizabeth Aubin, right, chargé d'affaires at the U.S. embassy, took part in Victory Day celebrations. 3. Saudi Ambassador Naif Bin Bandir Al Sudairy hosted a dinner at the Museum of History for Abdullah Abdulaziz Al-Rabeeah (pictured), of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief. 4. Canada Post CEO Deepak Chopra and French Ambassador Nicolas Chapuis attended an unveiling of stamps to marking 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. 5. Croatian Ambassador Marica Matkovic and MP Bob Bratina, attended Croatia Day at Lansdowne Park. 6. Estonian Culture Minister Indrek Saar met with MP Peter Van Loan, Conservative heritage critic. 7. Ambassador Per Sjögren and Marsha Smith, president of IKEA Canada, attended a summer buffet to mark Sweden Day. 8. Portuguese Ambassador José Moreira da Cunha, right, and his wife, Maria, hosted national day reception at their residence. (All photos: Ülke Baum)

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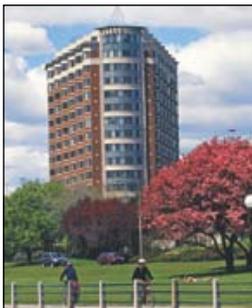
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A breathtaking journey through Austria



The beautiful Mirabell Gardens are worth a visit when in Salzburg, writes Austrian Ambassador Stefan Pehringer.



*By Stefan Pehringer
Ambassador of Austria*

I am often asked by my Canadian friends what one should see in Austria and I usually don't quite know where to start, as there is simply too much on offer. Austria is a country that waltzes effortlessly between its vibrant outdoors and its historic city centres. From fine arts

and music to magnificent palaces and castles, Austria has you covered. However, it's a country that is more than just pomp and palaces; its modern attractions make it a destination of interest for everyone.

I thought about the best introduction I could give a traveller keen to discover the best of Austria during a leisurely seven-day tour. This itinerary showcases some of the most iconic locales, while also allowing enough time to gather a first-hand impression of Austria's diverse lifestyles.

Day 1: Arrival in Vienna

Vienna, voted in 2017 the most livable city in the world for the eighth time, is a natural starting point for your tour. From Toronto, Vienna, the historic focal point

of the country and a former imperial city, is just an eight-and-a-half-hour plane ride away. Visitors to Vienna will find a diverse, innovative and thoroughly modern city. But for most of the past 70 years, the capital was defined by its grand past: the hub of a vast, multinational empire. Understanding that great history is key to discovering its identity today. A tour of the Old Town delivers a wonderful introduction to Vienna. Whether you choose a guided tour or want to explore on your own, I recommend going on foot so you'll have ample time to take in the city's grandiose architecture. From the gothic details of the newly renovated St. Stephen's Cathedral to the Imperial Palace and the intimate little alleys in between, there's much



An overview of Kapitelplatz (Chapter Square) in Salzburg with Hohensalzburg Castle in the distance.

to see and do. Leave room for a Wiener Melange or a typical Viennese lunch at any of the coffeehouses there — Café Griensteidl or the Hawelka, for instance.

I would also suggest a stop at the Imperial Palace, the former seat of the Habsburg Emperors, for a glimpse of the Imperial apartments, and the Sissi Museum for an introduction to the dynasty that ruled Austria for almost 600 years. At the end of the day, why not reward yourself with a delicious dinner at the famed Schwarze Kameel? The restaurant serves excellent traditional dishes in an elegant setting. Be sure to make a reservation in advance; most popular Viennese restaurants require one. For a nightcap, head to the Loos Bar. As the name suggests, its interior was designed by the great modernist architect, Adolf Loos, in the early 1900s and remains a society hotspot to this day.

Day 2: Vienna Immersion

Start by enjoying a leisurely breakfast at one of Vienna's sprawling farmers' markets. Located in the heart of Vienna and surrounded by Art Nouveau buildings designed by Otto Wagner, the Naschmarkt is an unforgettable experience. The surrounding architecture tells the story of the epic struggle that shook the city at the turn of the century, as modern thinkers and artists attempted to shatter cultural norms. At the market itself, you'll find local specialties, plus spices and delicacies from all over the world. There's no shortage of culinary souvenirs here, either. Stop at Gegenbauer's for unique and delicious oil and vinegar varieties, or try Szigeti's for a bottle or two of Sekt, Austria's beloved sparkling wine.



The famous Beethoven Frieze, by Gustav Klimt, is at the Secession building in Vienna.

Next, stop at the Secession building to see the famous Beethoven Frieze, by Gustav Klimt. From there, head to the Museums Quartier for an afternoon of art and architecture. Here, you'll find former imperial stables that now house one of the largest museum complexes in Europe. You could spend days here, exploring the small galleries, exhibition spaces and installations tucked into the baroque buildings — but for a single afternoon, we suggest the modern Leopold Museum, home of the largest collection of paintings by Egon Schiele in the world. Next, head across the street to the Kunsthistorisches Museum and see the vast art collection the Habsburgs amassed over centuries. Again, you could lose yourself here, but if you only have time for one collection, head to the Kunstammer for unique art treasures such as Benvenuto Cellini's precious salt cellar, the Saliera, dating back to the 16th Century. If you are a soccer fanatic like myself, you might also want to experience

an SK Rapid Vienna game. The energetic and vibrant atmosphere in the new Allianz Stadium will give you goosebumps.

For a particularly memorable final evening in Vienna, enjoy a gourmet meal at the elegant Anna Sacher restaurant, followed by a performance at the iconic Vienna State Opera. Hungry after the performance? Walk to the Bitzinger sausage stand behind the opera house for a delicious Käsekrainer, a grilled sausage filled with small bits of cheese and served with semmel rolls (Kaiser rolls) and ketchup and/or mustard. It's the Viennese thing to do after any late-night cultural adventure.

Day 3: Vienna and Salzburg

Spend the morning at Schönbrunn Palace, the summer residence of the Habsburgs. Just a 20-minute subway ride from the city centre, it boasts a popular carriage museum (purchase tickets in advance to avoid lines); a vast park that's home to the beautiful Palmenhaus, one of the earliest greenhouses for tropical plants; the world's oldest zoo; and the hilltop Gloriette, which affords lovely views over the palace and the city in the background. That afternoon, take a three-hour train ride to Salzburg. Taking the train from city to city is the most efficient way to travel and it affords ample time to enjoy the scenery. As you leave Vienna's relatively flat surroundings, watch as the alpine mountain ranges lining Salzburg's historic cityscape begin to appear. After checking into your hotel, you'll have time for an evening stroll through the compact Old Town before you head to St. Peter Stiftskeller for dinner. The oldest restaurant in the world has been serving food for the better part of a millennium and the traditional local fare such as Tafelspitz (broth-boiled beef served with apple and horseradish), Wiener Schnitzel (a thin breaded and fried veal cutlet) and Salzburger Nockerl (a dessert soufflé) hits the spot. In the mood for a little music? Make reservations in advance for the Mozart Dinner Concerts, which highlight the most beloved arias and duets from the composer's operas.

Day 4: Salzburg

At first glance, Salzburg city may seem all about Mozart and *The Sound of Music*. But you'll soon find there is much more to it than that — from the magnificent Baroque architecture of the Old Town to a wealth of local traditions, outstanding modern art galleries and international performing art festivals of the highest calibre.

With that in mind, start your tour at



The Old Town in Innsbruck is full of worthwhile museums, all within five minutes of each other.



The modern Leopold Museum in Vienna is home to the largest collection of paintings by Egon Schiele in the world.

Mozart's birthplace, with its charming museum. It gives an overview of his life and relationship with the city.

Next, head to the Domquartier, where a tour of the prince archbishops' seat of power illustrates the enormous worldly and spiritual influence Salzburg's former rulers once wielded. Spend the afternoon touring the Hohensalzburg Fortress. Even if you don't have time for the excellent exhibits there, the panoramic views over the surrounding countryside are magnificent in their own right. In the early evening, take a leisurely stroll to the beautiful Mirabell Gardens across the river before heading to Fideler Affe for a traditional dinner and samples of Salzburg's much-loved local beer. Enjoy a nightcap on the terrace of the Sacher Bar by the Salzach River, with views over the Old Town and the fortress.

Day 5: Evening departure to Innsbruck

Use the remaining half-day in Salzburg to go a bit further afield. For a bit of exercise, join Fräulein Maria's Bicycle Tour for a *Sound of Music*-themed tour of the city and its outskirts. Alternately, head to Hellbrunn Castle, where a mischievous former archbishop created a water park filled with hidden trick fountains to surprise his guests. Parks of this kind used to be quite popular in their day; today Hellbrunn is the last one in existence.

In the afternoon, take a train to Innsbruck. The scenic two-hour journey delivers you to the heart of the Alps, where the culture, mythology and local economy revolve largely around the majestic mountains. The capital of Tirol, Innsbruck is a sizable city that's managed to retain its medieval charm throughout the centuries. The former imperial city is a cultural centre and winter sports destination. So far, it has hosted three Olympic Games.

Celebrate your first evening in Innsbruck with a traditional Tyrolean dinner in the Old Town. At the Hotel Goldener Adler, for example, you can experience a Tyroler Gröstl — a fry-up of bacon, onion and potatoes served with a fried egg on top — and Tyroler Kalbsleberscheiben, which is roasted veal liver slices served with buttered rice, grilled tomatoes and some delicious Tyrolean bacon.

Day 6: Innsbruck

Innsbruck's past — as a trade hub, mining town and seat of an imperial court — long attracted scholars and artists such as Albrecht Dürer. Spend the morning exploring the Old Town and its cultural offerings. The Imperial Palace, the Folk Art Museum and Imperial Church are located at the

heart of Innsbruck and are all within five minutes of each other. Together, these museums provide a thorough overview of the local history and a memorable look at how people made a living in this rough, mountainous environment.

In the afternoon, visit the Panorama Museum with its 360-degree panoramic painting depicting one of the most momentous events in the city's history. On this soil, known as "The Bergisel," four battles were fought under the command of freedom fighter Andreas Hofer against Bavarian and Napoleon-led troops.

After this, head to the iconic Bergisel Ski Jump, designed by architect Zaha Hadid. Here, you'll see the daring heights from which ski jumpers hurtle themselves down the ramp. Or you can explore the mountains by taking the Hungerburgbahn, a 1.8-metre funicular railway — another Zaha Hadid creation — from the city centre to the top of Nordkette Mountain. Enjoy the views over Innsbruck from a mountaintop restaurant, or take the panoramic tram ride from Innsbruck to one of its holiday villages, Igls, for a stroll.

For a different take on local fare, enjoy dinner at the Wilderin, a new restaurant that sources its ingredients exclusively from the region. Toast your last evening in Austria from the rooftop of the Adlers Hotel, where you'll enjoy views over the city and the Alps in the background.

Day 7: Departure

From Innsbruck, return to Canada with a connecting flight through Vienna or another European hub. Departing Innsbruck's international airport, you'll find the views are truly spectacular and well worth the early departure time.

Your adventure starts here

I invite you to explore, discover and live through an unforgettable experience you won't find anywhere else in the world. At the end of the day, Austria is so much more than just palaces, schnitzel and classical music. In Austria, the journey really is the destination. Besides Vienna, Salzburg and Innsbruck, there are many more fascinating landscapes and cities to visit between Lake Neusiedl and Lake Constance. Whether you are drawn to dramatic scenery, exceptional cuisine or historic architecture, visit Austria and see for yourself. Please see www.austria.info for more information about Austria as your next travel destination.

Stefan Pehringer is the ambassador of Austria.



The iconic Bergisel Ski Jump, designed by architect Zaha Hadid, is located in Innsbruck.



Innsbruck's Golden Roof is adorned with 2,657 fire-gilded copper tiles.



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Rwanda  July 7 juillet	Taipei/Taipei  July 9 juillet	Tanzania/Tanzanie  July 14 juillet	Egypt/Égypte  July 15-19 juillet	Uruguay  July 23 juillet
Thailand/Thaïlande  July 28 juillet	Lithuania/Lithuanie  July 29 juillet	Macedonia/Macédoine  August 6 août	Jamaica/Jamaïque  August 7 août	Pakistan  August 16-17 août
Colombia/Colombie  August 18 août	Trinidad and Tobago/ Trinité-et-Tobago  August 20 août	Ukraine  August 24 août	Indonesia/Indonésie  August 25-27 août	Bulgaria/Bulgarie  September 10 septembre
Barbados/Barbade  September 24 septembre	Saudi Arabia/ Arabie Saoudite  September 26-27 septembre	India/Inde  September 29 septembre	Slovakia/Slovaquie  October 1 Octobre	Aga Khan Development Network/ Réseau de développement Aga Khan October 2 octobre
China/Chine  October 4-8 octobre	United Arab Emirates/ Émirats arabes unis  October 10-11 octobre	Japan/Japon  October 15 octobre	Lebanon/Liban  November 20 novembre	Romania/Roumanie  December 1 décembre

See full event details/Obtenez tous les détails

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**Subject to change / Sous réserve de modifications*

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
19	St. Kitts & Nevis	Independence Day
21	Armenia	Independence Day
22	Mali	Proclamation of the Republic
23	Saudi Arabia	National Day



Lois Siegel

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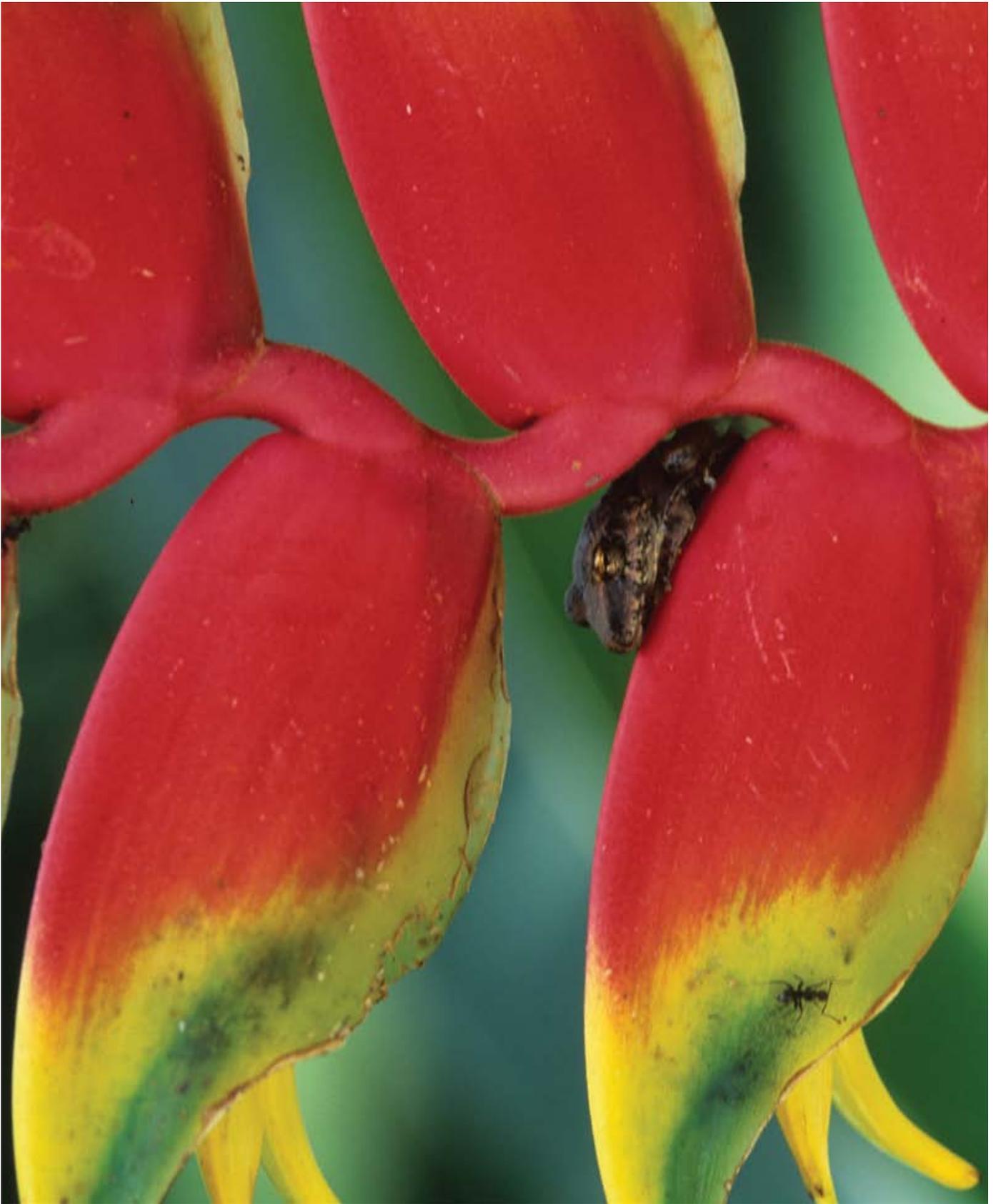
Lois has worked as a photographer for the *Ottawa Citizen* (Around Town and Diplomatica), *Ottawa Business Journal*, the *Glebe Report*, *Centretown Buzz* and *Cinema Canada*.

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Photo by Bill Blackstone



MIKE BEEDELL WWW.MIKEBEEDELLPHOTO.CA

Mike Beedell on the Bolivian toad frog: "I met what I believe to be a Bolivian toad frog near the Cornell Ornithology Research Station in the Peruvian Amazon Basin. This sticky-tongued fellow was hanging out near my cabin on a beautiful Heliconia plant. This member of the *Leptodactylus* family was waiting patiently for insects to come within reach of his telescopic tongue. There are more than 1,000 frog species living in the Amazon Basin. The brilliant red Heliconia is related to the banana and ginger family and its common name is the lobster claw plant."



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A woman with long brown hair, smiling, stands in front of a brick wall and a large wooden door. She is wearing a long white coat over a dark blue top and a floral skirt. She is also wearing black high-heeled shoes and a pearl necklace.

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