

Бухоро давлат университети
Ўқув-методик кенгаш 10-сонли
йиғилишининг баённомасидан
К ў ч и р м а

29.05.2021

Бухоро шаҳри

К У Н Т А Р Т И Б И:

1. Турли масалалар.

Инглиз тилшунослиги кафедраси ўқитувчиси М.М. Рахматованинг 5120112-Филология ва тилларни ўқитиш: инглиз тили таълим йўналиши учун “Read and Discuss Newspaper Articles” деб номланган ўқув методик қўлланмани тавсия этиш.

Э Ш И Т И Л Д И:

М.Ю. Фарманова (кенгаш котибаси) - Инглиз тилшунослиги кафедраси ўқитувчиси М.М. Рахматованинг 5120112-Филология ва тилларни ўқитиш: инглиз тили таълим йўналиши учун “Read and Discuss Newspaper Articles” деб номланган ўқув методик қўлланмага нашрга тавсия этишни маълум қилди. Ушбу ўқув методик қўлланмага: Инглиз адабиётшунослиги кафедраси мудир (PhD) О.М. Файзуллаев ва Инглиз тилшунослиги кафедраси доценти, ф.ф.н. М.И. Гадоевалар томонидан ижобий тақриз берилгани таъкидланди. Ўқув методик қўлланма муҳокамаси ҳақидаги Хорижий тиллар факультети (2021 йил 27 май) ва Инглиз тилшунослиги кафедраси (2021 йил 14 апрель) йиғилиш қарори билан таништирди.

Юқоридагиларни инобатга олиб ўқув-методик кенгаш

Қ А Р О Р Қ И Л А Д И:

1. Инглиз тилшунослиги кафедраси ўқитувчиси М.М. Рахматованинг 5120112-Филология ва тилларни ўқитиш: инглиз тили таълим йўналиши учун “Read and Discuss Newspaper Articles” деб номланган ўқув методик қўлланмани нашрга тавсия этилсин.
2. Ушбу қарорни тасдиқлаш университет Кенгашидан сўралсин.

Ўқув-методик кенгаш раиси

Ўқув-методик кенгаш котиби



М.И. Даминов

М.Ю. Фарманова

Rakhmatova Mehriniso Musinovna

Read and Discuss

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES



O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI OLIY VA O'RTA MAXSUS
TA'LIM VAZIRLIGI
BUXORO DAVLAT UNIVERSITETI
XORIJIY TILLAR FAKULTETI

Rakhmatova Mehriniso Musinovna

Read and
Discuss
NEWSPAPER
ARTICLES

“Durdona” nashriyoti
Buxoro – 2021

O`quv-metodik qo`llanma 5120100-Filologiya va tillarni o`qitish (roman-german filologiyasi) ta'lim yo'nalishi talabalari uchun Og'zaki nutq amaliyoti fani Matbuot tili modulini o`qitish uchun mo`ljallangan

Taqrizchilar:

M.I. Gadoyeva, f.f.n. BuxDU ingliz tilshunosligi kafedrasida dotsenti

O.M. Fayzullayev, f.f.f.d, Ingliz adabiyoti kafedrasida mudiri

**O`quv-uslubiy qo`llanma BuxDU o`quv-metodik kengashining
2021-yil 29-maydagi 10-sonli yig'ilishi qarori bilan nashrga
tavsiya etilgan.**

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1

EDUCATION

1. Look at headlines (a,b,c,d) to predict and interpret each news report.

Uzbekistan

a



The order of professional training of students in grades 9-11 of the school to be introduced

A Presidential Resolution "On measures to further improve the training system for blue-collar occupations" was adopted.

b



Uzbekistan receives 1 million doses of ZF-UZ-VAC2001 vaccine

10/06/2021 [Read more >](#)

c



President of Uzbekistan arrives in Dushanbe

10/06/2021 [Read more >](#)

d



Consolidation of the Central Asian states is a steady trend

09/06/2021 [Read more >](#)

2. Read the following passage and summarize to discuss.



Glossary

Presidential resolution

Vocational training

Employment

Industrial training

Blue-collar occupations

The order of professional training of students in grades 9-11 of the school to be introduced

THE ORDER OF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OF STUDENTS
IN GRADES 9-11 OF THE SCHOOL
TO BE INTRODUCED

10/06/2021 12:28

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- A Presidential Resolution "On measures to further improve the training system for blue-collar occupations" was adopted.

According to the resolution, an additional 28 vocational training centers will start operating in the system of the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations.

In 864 citizens' gatherings, vocational training for residents of the makhalla will be organized in sewing, culinary and confectionery, men's and women's hairdressing, computer literacy, the basics of accounting and entrepreneurship.

The Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations will organize short-term courses in vocational training, foreign languages and entrepreneurial skills in 18 vocational educational institutions under the jurisdiction of ministries and departments.

According to the resolution, teachers and masters of industrial training of "Ishga Markhamat" monocenters, vocational training centers and institutions will be equated in status with teachers and masters of industrial training of vocational educational institutions.

A procedure for vocational training of students in grades 9-11 of general education institutions in their free time from the main educational process is introduced. In accordance with the regulation the position of Deputy Minister of

Employment and Labor Relations for vocational training and development of vocational qualifications is introduced.

A department for organizing vocational training and developing professional competence has been created. Also, a branch of the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies has been established in Tashkent.

Until 1 March 2022, the branch will organize training for youth in the following areas: web development, graphic design, 3D modeling, digital programming, robotics, digital media, and video game creation. In addition, cooperatives will be created in fish farming, rabbit farming, poultry farming, beekeeping, horticulture, viticulture, sewing, handicrafts.

Until 1 January 2022, at least one cooperative will be created in each district (city) sector. For every unemployed citizen who is a member of cooperatives, a subsidy is provided up to 15 times the amount of basic estimated value.

1. Look through headlines and interpret each news report.

World U.S. Politics N.Y. Business Opinion Tech Science Health Sports Arts Books Style Food Travel Magazine T Magazine Real Estate Video

Listen to 'The Modern Love Podcast'
Could my horoscope be true? Yes, according to this story.


Join 'The Daily' in a Live Follow-Up to 'Odessa'
Michael Barbaro hosts an event on the documentary "Odessa" on June 10. Subscribers can RSVP now.

Opinion: Listen to 'The Ezra Klein Show'
Jamila Michener discusses employer panic, America's poverty addiction and the messy politics of work.

Biden to Send 500 Million Doses of Pfizer Vaccine to 100 Countries

- The U.S. will pay for the doses at a "not-for-profit" price and distribute them over the next year, according to people familiar with the plan.
- The move from the White House is part of a nascent campaign to inoculate the world, and came as President Biden faced intense pressure to do more.

Arriving in Europe, Biden Vows to Build Alliances and Democracy
President Biden told U.S. troops in Britain that the future of the world depends on restoring alliances with European countries. Catch up on his trip so far.



Russia designated Aleksei Navalny's political group as extremist, sending a clear message to President Biden.

A watchdog said the police had already planned to clear Lafayette Square before former President Trump's photo op last year.

President Joe Biden speaking at RAF Mildenhall, Eng. (AP) / The New York Times

U.S. Weighs Possibility of Airstrikes if Afghan Forces Face Crisis
The Pentagon is considering whether to intervene with warplanes or drones in the event that Kabul is in danger of falling to the Taliban.

An Exposé Has Congress Rethinking How to Tax the Superrich
A report showing that the richest Americans, including Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, pay almost no taxes has refocused attention on the tax code.

CNN secretly fought an attempt by the Justice Department to seize a reporter's email logs, the network disclosed.

Opinion
We Ran the Treasury Department. This Is How to Fix Tax Evasion.
A guest essay by five former U.S. Treasury secretaries: America loses hundreds of billions of dollars to tax dodgers every year. Give the I.R.S. the tools to combat it.

2. What can be inferred from the article headline?

Biden to Send 500 Million Doses of Pfizer Vaccine to 100 Countries Over a Year

The White House's move is part of a nascent campaign to inoculate the world, and came as President Biden faced intense pressure to do more.



President Biden at Joint Base Andrews, Md., on Wednesday. For Mr. Biden, the agreement shows that his administration is willing to dip more deeply into the nation’s treasury to help out poorer countries. Credit...Doug Mills/The New York Times

By Sharon LaFraniere, Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Noah Weiland

June 9, 2021

3. [Read the article and summarize main points](#)

WASHINGTON — President Biden, under pressure to aggressively address the global coronavirus vaccine shortage, will announce as early as Thursday that his administration will buy 500 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and donate them among about 100 countries over the next year, according to people familiar with the plan.

The White House reached the deal just in time for Mr. Biden's eight-day European trip, which is his first opportunity to reassert the United States as a world leader and restore relations that were badly frayed by President Donald J. Trump.

"We have to end Covid-19, not just at home, which we're doing, but everywhere," Mr. Biden told American troops after landing at R.A.F. Mildenhall in Suffolk, England. "There's no wall high enough to keep us safe from this pandemic or the next biological threat we face, and there will be others. It requires coordinated multilateral action."

People familiar with the Pfizer deal said the United States would pay for the doses at a "not for profit" price. The first 200 million doses will be distributed by the end of this year, followed by 300 million by next June, they said. The doses will be distributed through Covax, the international vaccine-sharing initiative.

Mr. Biden is in Europe for a week to attend the NATO and Group of 7 summits and to meet with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia in Geneva. He is likely to use the trip to call on other nations to step up vaccine distribution.

In a statement on Wednesday, Jeffrey D. Zients, the White House official in charge of devising a global vaccination strategy, said Mr. Biden would "rally the world's democracies around solving this crisis globally, with America leading the way to create the arsenal of vaccines that will be critical in our global fight against Covid-19."

The White House is trying to spotlight its success in fighting the pandemic — particularly its vaccination campaign — and use that success as a diplomatic tool, especially as China and Russia seek to do the same. Mr. Biden has been insistent that, unlike China and Russia, which have been sharing their vaccines with dozens

of countries, the United States will not seek to extract promises from countries receiving American-made vaccines.

The 500 million doses still fall far short of the 11 billion the World Health Organization estimates are needed to vaccinate the world, but significantly exceed what the United States has committed to share so far. Other nations have been pleading with the United States to give up some of its abundant vaccine supplies. Less than 1 percent of people are fully vaccinated in a number of African countries, compared with 42 percent in the United States and the United Kingdom. Advocates for global health welcomed the news, but reiterated their stance that it is not enough for the United States to simply give vaccine away. They say the Biden administration must create the conditions for other countries to manufacture vaccines on their own, including transferring technology to make the doses.

“The world needs urgent new manufacturing to produce billions more doses within a year, not just commitments to buy the planned inadequate supply,” Peter Maybarduk, the director of Public Citizen’s Access to Medicines program, said in a statement. He added, “We have yet to see a plan from the U.S. government or the G7 of the needed ambition or urgency to make billions more doses and end the pandemic.”

The deal with Pfizer has the potential to open the door to similar agreements with other vaccine manufacturers, including Moderna, whose vaccine was developed with American tax dollars — unlike Pfizer’s. In addition, the Biden administration has brokered a deal in which Merck will help produce Johnson & Johnson’s vaccine, and those doses might be available for overseas use.

The United States has already contracted to buy 300 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which requires two shots, for distribution in the United States;

the 500 million doses are in addition to that, according to people familiar with the deal.

Neither Pfizer nor administration officials would say what the company is charging the government for the doses. Pfizer is also offering the Biden administration an option to buy another 200 million doses at cost to be donated overseas.

For Pfizer, the decision to sell the Biden administration so much supply without making a profit is a significant step. Its vaccine accounted for \$3.5 billion in revenue in the first three months of this year, nearly a quarter of Pfizer's total revenue. By some estimates, the firm earned roughly \$900 million in pretax profits from the vaccine during the first quarter.

But the company also faced criticism that it was disproportionately aiding wealthy nations, even though Pfizer's chief executive, Albert Bourla, had promised in January to help ensure that "developing countries have the same access as the rest of the world."

The 200 million Pfizer doses that the Biden administration plans to donate this year amount to about 7 percent of the three billion doses that the company is expected to produce. Pfizer expects to provide another 800 million doses to lower- or lower-middle-income countries through other agreements with individual countries or Covax, a spokeswoman said. For Mr. Biden, the agreement shows that his administration is willing to dip more deeply into the nation's treasury to help out poorer countries. Last week, Mr. Biden said the United States would distribute 25 million doses this month to countries in the Caribbean and Latin America; South and Southeast Asia; Africa; and the Palestinian territories, Gaza and the West Bank.

Those doses are the first of 80 million that Mr. Biden pledged to send abroad by the end of June; three-quarters of them will be distributed by Covax. The rest will go toward addressing pressing and urgent crises in places like India and the West Bank and Gaza, administration officials have said. Many of the 80 million doses were made by AstraZeneca and are still tied up in a complex review by the Food and Drug Administration.

Mr. Biden has also committed to supporting a waiver of an international intellectual property agreement, which would make it harder for companies to refuse to share their technology. But European leaders are blocking the proposed waiver, and pharmaceutical companies are strongly opposed to it. The World Trade Organization's Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights is meeting this week to consider the waiver. The president's promise of vaccines for the global market comes as he prepares to meet on Thursday with Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain, who has called on leaders to commit to vaccinating everyone in the world by the end of 2022. Mr. Biden's announcement is likely to be welcome news for Mr. Johnson, whose critics have questioned where the money will come from to meet his pledge. "The truth is that world leaders have been kicking the can down the road for months — to the point where they have run out of road," Edwin Ikhouria, the executive director for Africa at the ONE Campaign, a nonprofit aimed at eradicating global poverty, said in a statement on Wednesday.

About 64 percent of adults in the United States are at least partly vaccinated, and the president has set a goal of bringing that number up to 70 percent by July 4. The pace of vaccination has dropped sharply since mid-April, leading the Biden administration to pursue a strategy of greater accessibility and incentives to reach Americans who have not yet gotten shots. In spite of those efforts, there are unused vaccine doses that could go to waste. Once thawed, doses have a limited shelf life and millions could begin expiring within two weeks, according

to federal officials. Providing equitable access to vaccines has become one of the most intractable challenges to reining in the pandemic. Wealthier nations and private entities have pledged tens of millions of doses and billions of dollars to shore up global supplies, but the disparity in vaccine allocations so far has been stark.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director general of the World Health Organization, warned this week that the world was facing a “two-track pandemic,” in which countries where vaccines are scarce will struggle with virus cases even as better-supplied nations return to normal.

Those lower-income countries will be largely dependent on wealthier ones until vaccines can be distributed and produced on a more equitable basis, he said.

1. What can be inferred from the article headline?

UZ DAILY Uzbekistan Economy Finance Technology

Finance

 <p>Central Bank: The basic rate is kept at the level of 14.0% per annum The Board of the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan decided to keep the basic rate unchanged at 14.0% per annum.</p> <p>10/06/2021 Read more ></p>	 <p>ADB to allocate US\$100 million for the development of STEM...</p> <p>10/06/2021 Read more ></p>
	 <p>Mandate letter with the European Bank for Reconstruction and...</p> <p>09/06/2021 Read more ></p>
	 <p>EBRD provides US\$ 45 million to major lender in Uzbekistan</p> <p>09/06/2021 Read more ></p>
	 <p>Outlooks On Three Uzbekistan-Based Financial Institutions...</p> <p>08/06/2021 Read more ></p>

2. Read the article and summarize main points.



Outlooks On Three Uzbekistan-Based Financial Institutions Revised To Stable

Outlooks On Three Uzbekistan-Based Financial Institutions Revised To Stable

08/06/2021 19:57

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- S&P Global Ratings had revised its outlooks on National Bank For Foreign Economic Activity Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan (NBU), Ipoteka Bank JSCM, and KDB Bank Uzbekistan JSC (KDB Uzbekistan) to stable from negative.

The outlooks on Uzpromstroybank and Joint-stock Commercial Khalq Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Khalq Bank) remain negative. At the same time, the 'BB-/B' ratings on all five banks were affirmed.

The outlook revisions to stable mirror the similar rating action on.

At the same time, for Uzpromstroybank and Khalq Bank S&P Global Ratings sees continued risks related to pressure on their capitalization levels and potentially higher credit losses, which is why the agency kept outlooks negative. In contrast to most emerging markets that saw economic contractions, Uzbekistan's economy expanded 1.6% in 2020 and we forecast growth will accelerate to just below 5% this year.

“Continued growth of Uzbekistan's economy in 2020 was supported by significant government stimulus measures to counteract the effects of the pandemic. We also note that large economic segments remained operational, despite COVID-19 restrictions, including the agricultural sector and the important industrial sector (food processing, manufacturing, oil refining, and metals and mining), which occupy a very large portion of the banks' corporate lending books,” S&P Global Ratings said.

The agency expects GDP growth will rebound in 2021 to 4.8%, led by a recovery in the services sector and economic recoveries in key trading partner countries. S&P Global Ratings expects real GDP growth to average about 5% annually over our 2021-2024 forecast period, supported by growth in the services, manufacturing, and natural resources sectors--and consequently of the banking sector.

S&P Global Ratings considers that the overall effect of the COVID-19 pandemic remains manageable for the Uzbek banking system. We expect that nominal lending growth in the system will remain high and accelerate in 2021-2022, to 30% from 27% in 2020, reflecting improvements in economic prospects overall. We believe that credit costs will remain elevated at around 2%, an improvement from 2.6% for 2020, but still higher than the average for 2016-2019 (1.6%). We expect nonperforming loans to gradually increase closer to 3.0%-4.5% in 2021 and stay at this level in 2022-2023.

NBU

Outlook

The stable outlook on NBU reflects our view that adequate capital buffers and strong links with the government will help the bank preserve its creditworthiness and overcome post-pandemic risks.

Downside scenario

We could lower the rating on NBU in the next 12 months if we were to lower our sovereign credit ratings on Uzbekistan.

Upside Scenario

A positive rating action over the next 12 months would hinge on a similar rating action on the sovereign.

Ipoteka Bank

In addition to affirming our 'BB-/B' ratings on Ipoteka Bank, we also revised our view on the likelihood of government support to the bank to moderate from moderately high. This is neutral for the rating; however, this revision reflects the expectation of the upcoming privatization already in 2021-2022. At the same time, we believe that government support remains in place if necessary to ensure a smooth privatization process and will be discontinued only once the bank is fully private.

Outlook

The stable outlook on Ipoteka Bank reflects our view that the bank will maintain adequate capital and keep ties with the government over the transition period before privatization is finalized in the next 12-24 months.

Downside scenario

We could take a negative rating action on Ipoteka Bank if we took a similar action on Uzbekistan. If we see a significantly riskier profile of the bank post privatization that is not offset by new owner support, we could downgrade the bank.

Upside scenario

A positive rating action on Ipoteka Bank is unlikely in the next 12 months. It would hinge on a combination of a positive rating action on the sovereign and simultaneous improvement in the bank's own credit quality.

KDB Uzbekistan

Outlook

The stable outlook on KDB Uzbekistan reflects that on the sovereign and includes our view that, in the next 12-18 months, the bank will adhere to its current business model and maintain a low risk profile, while it continues displaying solid profitability and strong capitalization.

Downside scenario

We could take a negative rating action on KDB Uzbekistan if we took a similar action on Uzbekistan.

Upside scenario

A positive rating action on KDB Uzbekistan would hinge on a positive rating action on the sovereign, assuming that there is no change in parent Korea Development Bank's commitment to provide extraordinary support to its Uzbek subsidiary if needed.

1. What is your attitude towards spiders?
2. Scan the passage and underline opinion adjectives and verbs.

The Spider in My Life

The world is on fire, but the tiny creature in my family room is a balm against the human chaos outside.

By Margaret Renkl

Contributing Opinion Writer

NASHVILLE — A small gray spider has pitched an elaborate camp at my work space in the family room. She is not an orb-weaver like E.B. White’s famous Charlotte. This spider’s web is a multilayered hammock-like construction strung between the leaves of the orchid I got for Mother’s Day and anchored by silken strands to the window frame in back and to an African violet and a desk lamp on either side. I don’t like to disturb my new deskmate, so I don’t water the plants. The orchid, a pink-and-purple confection with wide, glossy-green leaves, needs hardly any water. It is perfectly suited for this task. The African violet has seen better days.

The spider’s web is decorated with insect carcasses — three houseflies, countless fruit flies and one desiccated former spider. The dead spider appears to belong to the same species as the living spider, an act of cannibalism that makes a special kind of sense during a week when the president of the United States has performed an act of treason on the world stage.

A better housekeeper might be distressed about sharing space with a spider, but I love her. The world is on fire. Our government is owned by the gun lobby and the obscenely wealthy. “Breaking news” is a term that has no meaning anymore — it’s all as broken as broken ever gets — but the tiny spider in my family room goes about her bloody business in the perfect order of things, unaware of the chaos unfolding beyond that window. An insect blunders into her web, and she eats it. Then she repairs the web, just as spiders always do, and waits.

In disheartening times, in times of fear and grief, it is tempting to assign human meaning to natural systems. How many people have told me that a loved one has returned to reassure them in the form of a mockingbird singing at midnight outside a silent house or a swallowtail butterfly lighting on a freshly carved tombstone? When the world has lost its still center, we grasp for any reminder that it is nevertheless spinning exactly as it must.

But my spider — for of course she is my spider now; one of those anchor lines has attached itself to my heart — is more than a symbol of the enduring natural order. She is more, even, than merely herself, performing the same motions her kind have performed for eons. She is also the linchpin of a flourishing miniature ecosystem.

A few feet from the spider’s orchid bower, at the end of my work table, sits a worm composter. It is populated by several thousand red wigglers who eat up our garbage. Every few days, I open the top and dump in a bunch of coffee grounds, banana peels, and vegetable parings, plus some shredded newspapers and junk mail, and the worms go to work making compost. A few weeks later, I take the compost outside and spread it in the garden I planted for pollinators.

In winter, the worm composter is a simple contraption populated almost exclusively by earthworms, but in the summer other creatures find their way into

it through open windows and doors. Whenever I lift the top of the worm composter in summertime, a small cloud of fruit flies rises into the air.

I know where they come from. Beyond the window where the spider has set up shop, there are two hummingbird feeders: one is the usual kind filled with sugar water; the other is a newfangled kind filled with rotting fruit. Fruit flies lay their eggs on the fruit; as the newly emerged flies exit through the slits in the feeder, the ruby-throated hummingbirds in my yard catch them and feed them to their babies. In autumn, those baby birds will fly across the Gulf of Mexico.

The process works fine with ordinary overripe bananas, but it works faster with pre-primed fruit from the worm composter. Thus will many of the fruit flies that begin their life in my family room make it to Central America transformed into a young hummingbird's feathers and bones. Any fruit flies that escape in the transfer from worm composter to hummingbird feeder are dispatched before they reach my kitchen by the spider on my work table. This kind of circular structure is what I love best about nature, even in its most violent reality. (Outdoors, my spider's web might have been destroyed by hummingbirds, who build their nests partly of spider silk, and the spider herself might have been fed to the baby hummingbirds.) Everything goes to some crucial use; nothing goes to waste. It makes sense. And things that make sense are particularly reassuring when the human world has turned itself upside down.

I remember a time when Republicans wanted to be the party of fiscal responsibility and personal integrity, the party of patriotism and old-fashioned accountability, but those Republicans are gone. The zombie Republicans who have taken their place are racking up a monstrous national debt while simultaneously propping up an incompetent president who lies to his own people, who insults our allies and disparages our institutions, and who has broken — personally or by proxy, through policy — all but one of the Ten Commandments.

(Honestly, though, what do we even know about whether he honored his parents?) And those are just the *conservative* values that Republican leaders have abandoned.

There is only so much information a person can take in during an emergency. There is only so much active resistance a person can engage in without succumbing to despair. Sometimes a body needs to rest. In the face of a country gone mad, we cling to any recompense we can find. I have friends who pray more now, friends who drink more now, friends who read more fiction and watch more television, friends who have taken up yoga and needlework and gardening. I have friends who wanted to adopt a kitten and then found that so many people had the same idea they had to get on a waiting list. A waiting list for rescue kittens!

I have tried some of these distractions myself, but I am taking my greatest comfort in a plastic bin full of earthworms turning garbage into food for flowers, in one small spider crouching among a hundred silken strands that gleam like silver in the sunlight, in a cloud of fruit flies on their way to becoming a baby hummingbird's wings.



The Creek Fire, in the Sierra National Forest in California, has burned hundreds of thousands of acres. Its spread was fueled by the presence of many dead, super dry trees; climate change contributed to both their death and their dryness.

PHOTOGRAPH BY STUART PALLEY, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

The science connecting wildfires to climate change

A heating-up planet has driven huge increases in wildfire area burned over the past few decades.

BY ALEJANDRA BORUNDA PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Climate change has inexorably stacked the deck in favor of bigger and more intense fires across the American West over the past few decades, science has

incontrovertibly shown. Increasing heat, changing rain and snow patterns, shifts in plant communities, and other climate-related changes have vastly increased the likelihood that fires will start more often and burn more intensely and widely than they have in the past.

The scale and intensity of the wildfires burning across the western U.S. right now is “staggering,” says Philip Higuera, a wildfire scientist and paleoecologist at the University of Montana. More than five million acres have already burned this year—and much more may be yet to come.

Higher temperatures and drought increase the potential for wildfire.

Climate change exacerbates the factors that create perfect fire conditions. Lower precipitation and warmer air temperatures dry the forests and other vegetation.

Add

strong winds and decades of fire suppression into the mix and you have a dangerous

recipe for wildfire.

Noah Diffenbaugh, a climate scientist at Stanford University, makes a baseball analogy to describe increase in risk. “If there’s a three-run home run in baseball, it’s the home run that definitely caused the runners to round the bases and score. The home run is the proximal cause of the event. But people being on base matters,” he says, and global warming is putting people on base.

Other factors also hike fire risk, like forest management decisions that have allowed for the buildup of vast amounts of vegetation that can quickly turn into fuel, as well as more problematic issues like the slow creep of houses and other infrastructure into risky areas. But for fires near that so-called wildland-urban interface, as well as more remote, forest-centered burns, climate change has significantly heightened the baseline risks.

Heat like a thirsty sponge

In some ways, fire is simple. It takes three components: the right weather and climate conditions, plenty of burnable fuel, and a spark.

“People are changing all three of those,” says Jennifer Balch, a fire ecologist at the University of Colorado, Boulder. “Climate change is not the only thing going on, but it is a big and important part of the story.” (Human-caused ignitions are clearly a major part of the risk: A study published in September, on which Balch was a co-author, found that humans were responsible for 97 percent of the ignitions that caused fires that then threatened homes in the wildland-urban interface, between 1992 and 2015).

Climate change has affected the first two components (and in some cases, the third) in clear, measurable ways that have become increasingly obvious over the past few decades.

The clearest connection is with warming air temperatures. The planet has heated up nearly continuously since the start of the Industrial Revolution in the late 1800s, when humans started burning massive quantities of fossil fuels, releasing carbon dioxide that traps excess heat in the atmosphere. Since then, global average temperatures have ticked up roughly 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1 degree Celsius); California’s change is closer to 3 degrees Fahrenheit. Warming has accelerated since the 1980s to just under 0.2 degrees Celsius (0.3 degrees F) per decade, and it's likely to accelerate further in the future.

That might not seem like very much warming, but just a little can go a long way. Hot air, if it’s not at 100 percent humidity, is like a thirsty sponge: It soaks up water from whatever it touches—plants (living or dead) and soil, lakes and rivers. The hotter and drier the air, the more it sucks up, and the amount of water it can hold increases exponentially as the temperature rises; small increases in the air's heat can mean big increases in the intensity with which it pulls out water. Scientists can measure this "vapor pressure deficit"—the difference between how much water the air holds and how much it *could* hold. If that deficit is cranked up for a long time, soils and vegetation will parch.

A brief heat spell will dry out the smallish stuff or the already dead stuff—and maybe even some of the bigger tinder. Intense, record-breaking heat waves like the ones that encompassed the West during August and early September likely caused major crisping of burnable material, as the regional vapor pressure deficit and associated drought climbed to record levels.

“In a lot of places, you have a lot of ‘flashy’ fuel on the ground,” says Balch. “This stuff that’s as thin as paper—(like) grasses. Short-term drought events or heat waves are really impactful for drying those out.” That small stuff ignites so easily that it can often help speed along a fire’s spread.

When excess heat stays in place for months or longer, the wildfire risk rises even further.

An early, warm spring can jump-start a summer drought by extending the season of heat and growth, increasing the amount of water vapor that is shed by plant leaves or that evaporates directly from soil. Lower soil moisture, in turn, can feed back into the local warming cycle and intensify it, since evaporating moisture usually takes up a lot of the energy the sun beams down. When there’s no moisture left to evaporate, the soil or vegetation, dead and alive, absorbs that heat instead—feeding back into the drying-out process that increases fire risk.

Climate change intensifies wildfires in the West.

Fire radiative power (FRP) is the rate of radiant heat emitted by a fire. California and Oregon’s

SOURCE: NOAA/NESDIS FIRE MAPPING SYSTEM

This year, the snow melted early; across the West, snow cover in February and March was well below its long-term average.

Then, the heat kicked in and stayed. Many western states had their hottest summers on record; the average temperature across the U.S. was 2.6 degrees Fahrenheit above the 20th-century average.

But even before that, a longer, deeper aridity had California and much of the West in its grips from 2011 until a brief period of reprieve last year. Not coincidentally, five of the state's hottest years on record occurred in the past decade.

A particularly severe phase of that persistent drought, fueled by climate change and of an intensity not seen for the preceding 1,200 years, set in between 2012 to 2016. It stressed out the region's trees more and more as the water deficit dragged on. In the grand conifer forests of the Sierra Nevada, as in many other forests across the state, the damage accumulated.

By 2014, millions of trees had died, pushed beyond repair by the record-breaking temperatures and dryness, which reached so far into the soil that even the deep-rooted trees could find no moisture. By 2015, mass die-off was obviously underway; by 2016, the mortality count soared to about 100 million. At high elevations, nearly 80 percent of the trees died. And across the state, some 150 million trees have died since the drought's onset. Many of those trees are still there, drying out, a major fuel source ready to burn hot and bright when a fire arrives.

Since the 1970s, a recent study found, human-caused climate change caused more than half of the drying-out of burnable materials and consequent fire risk.

“These most recent heat waves are coming on top of an already hotter period, and it's all coming together and sucking moisture out of dead and live fuels, into the atmosphere,” says Matthew Hurteau, a climate scientist at the University of New Mexico.

Changing rains, changing snows

Climate change is messing with the seasonal rain and snow patterns across the Western U.S., too—one of the other factors that controls fire risk.

Springtime is often coming earlier. Snowpack, which usually provides about 30 percent of the state's summer water needs, is melting earlier in year, giving the plants and soils longer to dry out. A 2016 study found that over 70 percent of the

area burned in forest fires between 1970 and 2012 occurred in years where the winter snows disappeared early.

The hot drying-out season is stretching on the tail end, too, according to research published in August. Higher autumn temperatures and less precipitation—in particular, a growing delay in the onset of winter rains, which usually puts an end to the fire season in California—have led to a 20 percent increase in the number of autumn days ripe for burning.

In all, the western fire season has extended by at least 84 days since the 1970s. Cal Fire, California’s fire protection service, has said publicly that it no longer considers there to be a wildfire “season,” because the season is now the entire year.

The very character of the fires has also changed, growing larger and more intense, and that in turn can accelerate future fire risk. Even plants that need fire to propagate, like many high-elevation conifers, are now often finding themselves in fires more intense and powerful than they’re adapted for, says Scott Stephens, a forest ecologist and fire expert at the University of California, Berkeley.

6

SCIENCE



NASA Just Visited the Solar System's Biggest Moon

The Juno spacecraft completed a close flyby of Ganymede, Jupiter's biggest moon, as it transitions into a new phase of its mission.

An image of Jupiter's moon Ganymede obtained by the Juno spacecraft during its flyby of the icy moon on Monday. Credit...NASA/JPL-Caltech/SwRI/MSSS

2. Read the article and summarize main points

By Kenneth Chang

- June 8, 2021

Time for your close-up, Ganymede.

On Monday, the NASA spacecraft Juno passed within 645 miles of Ganymede, the largest of Jupiter's 79 known moons and indeed the largest moon in the entire solar system. It was the first up-close examination of Ganymede since an earlier NASA probe, Galileo, passed by in December 2000.

NASA released on Tuesday two images from the flyby, revealing in remarkable detail craters, possible tectonic faults and distinct bright and dark terrains.

One image, by the main camera, JunoCam, captured most of the day side of Ganymede. For now, the image is in black and white. But when additional versions of the same view, taken through red and blue filters, are sent back from the spacecraft, the images can be combined into a color portrait.

The second image was captured by a navigation camera called the Stellar Reference Unit that can operate in low light and was able to get a clear view of the night side of Ganymede as Juno flew by.

"It will be fun to see what the two teams can piece together" with the forthcoming images, said Heidi Becker, the Juno mission's radiation monitoring lead.

The spacecraft will continue to send back its observations over the coming days.

Juno, which arrived at Jupiter on July 4, 2016, is just now finishing its primary mission to probe the deep interior of the largest planet that orbits the sun. It has discovered that storms like the Great Red Spot penetrate deep down into the giant planet's gassy atmosphere and that the core of Jupiter is bigger and more diffuse than had been expected.

But instead of ending the mission by sending Juno on a death dive into Jupiter, NASA has extended the mission through 2025. Juno will now make 42 additional orbits of Jupiter and some of those orbits will include close flybys of Ganymede and two of Jupiter's other large moons, Io and Europa.

Image

The night side of Ganymede captured by one of the cameras on board Juno. The spacecraft flew closer to Jupiter's largest moon than any other in more than two decades. Credit...NASA/JPL-Caltech/SwRI/MSSS

"We're very fortunate that the spacecraft is healthy," said Scott Bolton, the principal investigator of the mission, "and able to produce such great science and all the results and incredible imagery all these years."

Ganymede, at more than 3,200 miles wide, is bigger than the planet Mercury and is the only moon large enough to generate its own magnetosphere — a bubble of magnetic fields that trap and deflect charged particles from the sun.

"We're well equipped, probably better equipped to measure the magnetosphere of Ganymede and its interaction with Jupiter's magnetosphere than any spacecraft has ever been," Dr. Bolton said.

The data that Juno gathers will help a couple of future missions. Next year, the European Space Agency is to launch JUICE — the Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer — which will make multiple flybys of three large moons — Ganymede, Europa and Callisto — before entering orbit around Ganymede in 2032.

Jupiter and Its Moons

Spinnable maps of Jupiter and the Galilean moons. Another NASA mission, Europa Clipper, is to launch later this decade and will focus on Europa, one of the most intriguing worlds for planetary scientists searching for life elsewhere in the solar system. Europa possesses a deep ocean under its ice-encrusted surface, with heat from the moon's core possibly providing enough energy for organisms to live in the waters.

“We’ll sort of fill in the blank a little bit,” Dr. Bolton said.

The immense pull of Jupiter’s gravity is steadily tilting Juno’s orbit so that it now makes its closest approaches of Jupiter in the northern hemisphere. That was not ideal for some of the observations during the primary mission, but now it will allow planetary scientists to get a better look at Jupiter’s north pole and the region’s enigmatic storms.

1. Discuss. What do you know about Afghanistan and the war in the country?

C.I.A. Scrambles for New Approach in Afghanistan

The rapid withdrawal of U.S. troops has left the agency seeking ways to maintain its intelligence-gathering, war-fighting and counterterrorism operations in the country.

By **Mark Mazzetti** and **Julian E. Barnes**

Published June 6, 2021 Updated June 9, 2021

WASHINGTON — The rapid U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan is creating intense pressure on the C.I.A. to find new ways to gather intelligence and carry out counterterrorism strikes in the country, but the agency has few good options.

The C.I.A., which has been at the heart of the 20-year American presence in Afghanistan, will soon lose bases in the country from where it has run combat missions and drone strikes while closely monitoring the Taliban and other groups such as Al Qaeda and the Islamic State. The agency's analysts are warning of the ever-growing risks of a Taliban takeover.

United States officials are in last-minute efforts to secure bases close to Afghanistan for future operations. But the complexity of the continuing conflict has led to thorny diplomatic negotiations as the military pushes to have all forces

out by early to mid-July, well before President Biden's deadline of Sept. 11, according to American officials and regional experts.

One focus has been Pakistan. The C.I.A. used a base there for years to launch drone strikes against militants in the country's western mountains, but was kicked out of the facility in 2011, when U.S. relations with Pakistan unraveled.

Any deal now would have to work around the uncomfortable reality that Pakistan's government has long supported the Taliban. In discussions between American and Pakistani officials, the Pakistanis have demanded a variety of restrictions in exchange for the use of a base in the country, and they have effectively required that they sign off on any targets that either the C.I.A. or the military would want to hit inside Afghanistan, according to three Americans familiar with the discussions.

Diplomats are also exploring the option of regaining access to bases in former Soviet republics that were used for the Afghanistan war, although they expect that President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia would fiercely oppose this.

Recent C.I.A. and military intelligence reports on Afghanistan have been increasingly pessimistic. They have highlighted gains by the Taliban and other militant groups in the south and east, and warned that Kabul could fall to the Taliban within years and return to becoming a safe haven for militants bent on striking the West, according to several people familiar with the assessments.

As a result, U.S. officials see the need for a long-term intelligence-gathering presence — in addition to military and C.I.A. counterterrorism operations — in Afghanistan long after the deadline that Mr. Biden has set for troops to leave the country. But the scramble for bases illustrates how U.S. officials still lack a long-term plan to address security in a country where they have spent trillions of dollars and lost more than 2,400 troops over nearly two decades.

William J. Burns, the C.I.A. director, has acknowledged the challenge the agency faces. “When the time comes for the U.S. military to withdraw, the U.S. government’s ability to collect and act on threats will diminish,” he told senators in April. “That is simply a fact.”

Mr. Burns made an unannounced visit in recent weeks to Islamabad, Pakistan, to meet with the chief of the Pakistani military and the head of the directorate of Inter-Services Intelligence, the country’s military intelligence agency. Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin III has had frequent calls with the Pakistani military chief about getting the country’s help for future U.S. operations in Afghanistan, according to American officials familiar with the conversations.

Mr. Burns did not bring up the base issue during his trip to Pakistan, according to people briefed on the meeting; the visit focused on broader counterterrorism cooperation between the two countries. At least some of Mr. Austin’s discussions have been more direct, according to people briefed on them.

A C.I.A. spokeswoman declined to comment when asked about Mr. Burns’s travel to Pakistan.

Two decades of war in Afghanistan have helped transform the spy agency into a paramilitary organization: It carries out hundreds of drone strikes in Afghanistan and Pakistan, trains Afghan commando units and maintains a large presence of C.I.A. officers in a string of bases along the border with Pakistan. At one point during President Barack Obama’s first term, the agency had several hundred officers in Afghanistan, its largest surge of personnel to a country since the Vietnam War.

These operations have come at a cost. Night raids by C.I.A.-trained Afghan units left a trail of abuse that increased support for the Taliban in parts of the country. Occasional errant drone strikes in Pakistan killed civilians and increased pressure

on the government in Islamabad to dial back its quiet support for C.I.A. operations.



Douglas London, a former head of C.I.A. counterterrorism operations for Afghanistan and Pakistan, said that the agency was likely to rely on a “stay behind” network of informants in Afghanistan who would collect intelligence on the Taliban, Al Qaeda, the stability of the central government and other topics. But without a large C.I.A. presence in the country, he said, vetting the intelligence would be a challenge.

“When you’re dealing offshore, you’re dealing with middlemen,” said Mr. London, who will soon publish a book, “The Recruiter,” about his C.I.A. experience. “It’s kind of like playing telephone.”

In the short term, the Pentagon is using an aircraft carrier to launch fighter planes in Afghanistan to support the troop withdrawal. But the carrier presence

is unlikely to be a long-term solution, and military officials said it would probably redeploy not long after the last U.S. forces leave.

The United States is stationing MQ-9 Reaper drones in the Persian Gulf region, aircraft that can be used by both the Pentagon and the C.I.A. for intelligence collection and strikes.

But some officials are wary of these so-called over the horizon options that would require plane and drones to fly as many as nine hours each way for a mission in Afghanistan, which would make the operations more expensive because they require more drones and fuel, and also riskier because reinforcements needed for commando raids could not arrive swiftly during a crisis.

Pakistan is a longtime patron of the Taliban; it sees the group as a critical proxy force in Afghanistan against other groups that have ties to India. Pakistan's spy agency provided weapons and training for Taliban fighters for years, as well as protection for the group's leaders. The government in Islamabad is unlikely to sign off on any U.S. strikes against the Taliban that are launched from a base in Pakistan.

Although some American officials believe Pakistan wants to allow U.S. access to a base as long as it can control how it is used, public opinion in the country has been strongly against any renewed presence by the United States.

Pakistan's foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, told lawmakers last month that the government would not allow the U.S. military to return to the country's air bases. "Forget the past, but I want to tell the Pakistanis that no U.S. base will be allowed by Prime Minister Imran Khan so long he is in power," Mr. Qureshi said.

1. Discuss. How technology might change work space?

STARTING AN OFFICE OVER THE WEB



Biotech is booming right now, and many companies are looking to expand into new locations and markets. Certainly, this was the case for Sandvik medical wire business. The high-tech business segment, which develops precision wires and wire-based components for various fields of medical technology, was looking to expand in the US before the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

Rewriting the rulebook

“Normally, we would be jet-setting around the country, our itineraries packed from dawn to dusk with hard-hat tours and working lunches,” says Gary Davies, head of the medical wire business within Sandvik.

“Beyond the standard meetings with local officials, we’d want to get a true feel for each city on the list of contenders, take the temperature of things on the ground, and ask ourselves if we could see this being the next outpost.” However, in this instance one of the key steps in the selection process – physically visiting a location – was made impossible by COVID-19 and its associated restrictions. “So, we realized that if we wanted to proceed with our plans for growth, we’d have to rewrite the rulebook: We took the whole process online,” adds Davies.

Virtual tours

After countless hours of virtual tours and negotiations in digital meeting rooms, Sandvik was able to announce the opening of a new location in Tucson, Arizona, in September 2020, with plans to be fully operational by early 2021. But what was most unusual about this was the fact that neither Gary Davies nor the vast majority of the Sweden-based executive team, had ever set foot in Tucson.

Nevertheless, Davies and his colleagues still found reasons to be excited about operating there. They knew that the city is emerging as a thriving biotech hub, with a world-class technical workforce coming out of the University of Arizona, Pima Community College, and Arizona State University. They were also impressed to learn about Southern Arizona’s record of economic growth and stability, a key factor in any major corporate decision in these uncertain times. And although it involved a bit more screen time than they

were used to, they are no less confident in their decision to open a plant in Tucson.

5 tips when starting a digital office

1 - Choose your team strategically

Handpick each member based on their background, experience, and knowledge of the project needs, and only enlist the help of other company departments (legal, risk management, etc.) as needed in order to keep everything streamlined.

2 - Narrow your options upfront

Start the site selection process with the most basic parameters that any company should consider—for instance, proximity to customer base, available labor pool, and a business-friendly economic environment.

3 - Use digital platforms

As an alternative to visiting locations in person, as you typically would during a site selection process, use a web-based tool to accomplish this process virtually. You can also use online video platforms to work with local commercial real estate agents to help find sites that fit your size and configuration requirements.

4 - Lean on local partners

After identifying sites that met your needs, start probing the local economic development groups in each of the target areas to gain a better understanding of how the region would match up with your criteria: location, logistics, talent pool, cost of doing business. Finding partners that can connect with you virtually

while advocating for you physically is invaluable in the new operating environment for growing businesses.

5 - Virtual or bust

Ultimately, the time and money invested in the virtual process was considerably less than if it had been approached in the conventional manner. This will be the de facto way of making expansion decisions moving forward

Additional regular flights to be launched between Tashkent and Moscow



BAKU, Azerbaijan, June 10

Trend: Two additional regular flights on the Tashkent-Moscow route will be launched from June 10 along with regular flights on Sundays and Saturdays, respectively, Trend reports referring to the Russian Embassy in Tashkent.

According to the embassy, the Russian airline will operate flights on Thursdays, and the Uzbek airline - on Tuesdays.

Uzbekistan Airways clarified that the second regular flight from Tashkent to Moscow and back will be introduced from June 15.

The cost of air tickets on the Tashkent - Moscow route for economy class is fixed and amounts to over 4.2 million soum (\$405).

The capitals of Uzbekistan and Russia are connected with two flights a week: one from the Russian Aeroflot on Sundays, and the other from Uzbekistan Airways.

2. *Transport chaos*

In post-Brexit UK, quiet ports hide mounting transport chaos

Truckers say they are struggling to adjust to new paperwork following the UK's departure from the European Union.



Goods traffic at the port of Dover near the UK's southern crossing to France is down sharply from year-ago levels, but many trucks are stuck at factories and depots as they try to resolve bureaucratic issues due to Brexit [File: Chris Ratcliffe/Bloomberg]

By Joe MayesBloomberg

8 Jan 2021

A week on from Brexit, the main road to Dover has been so quiet that officials were able to close half of it Thursday for a litter-picking operation without causing delays for drivers.

But behind such placid scenes, many truckers are still warning of chaos as they struggle to adjust to the new paperwork required by Britain's departure from the European Union. Drivers are being held up for hours because they lack the right documents, they say.

New year, new era as UK begins post-Brexit future
‘Worst situation you can ever be in’: What Gen Z thinks of Brexit
Brexit, immigration, travel: What you should know, in 500 words
Turkey, UK safeguard \$25bn worth of trade in post-Brexit deal

With traffic well below its usual levels, the pain has so far manifested itself out of sight at factory gates and truckers’ depots. It’s likely to spread to the ports as activity rebounds in coming days, according to seven firms interviewed by Bloomberg.

“It’s an absolute mess,” said David Zaccheo, operations manager at Alcaline U.K. Ltd., whose fleet of 145 vehicles shuttles goods between Britain and the EU. “What’s going to happen next week? We’re not even that busy at the moment.”

Zaccheo said his firm has had vehicles stuck in Italy since Monday because of a lack of correct transit documents. In another case, a trailer destined for Milan had to wait for two days in the U.K. before it could move because it didn’t have the right paperwork, he said.

Faced with the threat of chaos at the border in the weeks after Brexit, many firms decided to stockpile goods or delay deliveries, leaving Dover eerily quiet. Traffic through the port is down 85% from its 2019 average. With the industry expecting activity to pick up in coming days, Britain faces the first major test of its Brexit readiness.

Customer Documents

The Cabinet Office, the government department responsible for Brexit preparations, didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment.

While the U.K. may have struck a trade deal with the EU avoiding tariffs and quotas, companies are facing new frictions affecting cross-border trade. Firms now have to fill in forms such as customs declarations and export health certificates that weren’t required when Britain was a member of the bloc. The problem, some logistics firms say, is many customers don’t understand what documents are required.

Ellis Blackham, an account manager at JJX Logistics, a Kingswinford, England-based firm that moves goods from the U.K. to the EU, said it took six hours — at least three times longer than usual — to load one of its trucks up with pharmaceutical products bound for Germany because the customer didn’t have the correct paperwork.

“It’s a nightmare,” Blackham said. “It starts right from the top and goes all the way down, the level of confusion.”

He said another company had sent them a pallet of manufactured goods to be shipped to France, but they had provided no accompanying documents. They were surprised when they were told it wouldn’t be possible to send it, Blackham said.

‘Massively Confused’

“The customers are massively confused about what’s needed,” he said. “I don’t expect it to be until March at least before people familiarize themselves.”

Bowker Group, a Preston, England-based company that moves freight into the EU, said it had a trailer of chemicals stuck on a quay in Belgium for more than two days this week because of confusion over who was responsible for obtaining the customs clearance.

“It’s fire-fighting all the time at the moment,” said Jason Tiffen, international operations manager at Bowker. “Customs clearance agents are overstretched and under-resourced.”

The industry has long been warning of a shortage of trained staff to fill out the extra 400 million customs declarations that will be required each year for goods moving between Britain and the EU at a cost of about 13 billion pounds (\$18 billion).

The Customs Clearance Consortium, which is helping to run a U.K.-government-backed program to assist traders with the forms, told customers this week there is still a “huge shortage” of agents.

“The first few days of the new rules have been very tough,” according to the note by Robert Hardy, the consortium’s co-founder. “There are so many new processes and a massively steep learning curve.”

SOURCE: [BLOOMBERG](#)

RELATED



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EU ambassadors, meanwhile, gave their unanimous approval to the Brexit trade deal.

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Just hours before the UK was to complete its break from the 27-nation bloc, Madrid and London clinched an agreement.

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Wednesday, 16th June 2021 | 12:48:02 AM

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International investors to build meat processing complex in East Kazakhstan



NUR-SULTAN (TCA) — In the East Kazakhstan region, with the support of Kazakh Invest national investment promotion company, it is planned to build a meat processing complex. The initiator of the project is the company Eco Meat Vostok Ltd with the support of the investment fund FinSight Ventures and the English company Brown & Co, Kazakh Invest said.

The construction of the complex will include a feed mill with a capacity of 184 thousand tons per year, a breeding and genetic farm with a capacity of 20 thousand heads per year, a slaughter facility with a capacity of 39 thousand tons of meat per year, 3 commercial farms with a capacity of 400 thousand heads per year. The total cost of the project with phased financing until 2024 will be 117 billion tenge.

“The complex will work according to the most modern technologies, which provide for robotic production. All breeding stock will be imported from

Denmark. The cultivation will be carried out in a completely closed complex, which absolutely eliminates the contact of livestock with domestic and wild animals,” said Nartay Beisekov, Regional Director of Kazakh Invest for the East Kazakhstan region.

According to investors, it is planned that this production will be completely waste-free. It is planned to build a workshop for further processing of waste into organic fertilizers, which will be provided to local agricultural producers free of charge.

It is also planned to create about 2,000 new jobs at the enterprise.

The project is aimed at supplying products to China and the countries of Southeast Asia. The project’s location in the East Kazakhstan region will significantly reduce logistics costs for the delivery of products to end consumers in China.

FinSight Ventures is a venture fund founded in 2012 by two partners — Alexey Garyunov and Viktor Remshei. It specializes in international investments in technology companies in the financial sector.

Brown & Co is a leading provider of agricultural consulting services.

Kazakhstan, Investments, Agriculture, Cattle breeding,

FRANCO-UZBEK CULTURAL RELATIONS

Today the Art and Culture Development Foundation and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic signed the declaration on cooperation on Franco-Uzbek Cultural Centre.



The signatories propose joint activities for the development of the Franco-Uzbek Cultural Center, which will become a multidisciplinary facility for the implementation of creative activities, the popularization and dissemination of French culture. The center will offer access to platforms, resources and trainings developed by the French Institute. It will also promote an innovative approach in the field of culture in Uzbekistan, as well as French, European and Uzbek artistic and intellectual creativity remain the priority tasks in the work of the parties.

U.S. Embassy Publishes American Fables and Fairytales for the First Time in Uzbek



The U.S. Embassy Tashkent worked with local Uzbek partners to produce a book of American fables and fairytales in the Uzbek language, “Amerika ertak va afsonalari.” The colorfully illustrated book, which includes over 60 short stories about animals, birds, ghosts and other interesting characters, taken from www.americanfolklore.net, was published by the Baktria Press in Tashkent. Uzbekistan has made big efforts to popularize reading culture, especially among its youth. While many people know and have read American classics by authors such as Ernest Hemingway, Theodore Dreiser, and Mark Twain, young readers are less familiar with American literature. With this new book, the Embassy is pleased to make a contribution to the development of book publishing for young readers, through translation from original English.

“Amerika ertak va afsonalari” will be distributed to public libraries and schools throughout Uzbekistan. They will be also available at American Center Tashkent and American Window at the National Library. Ambassador Rosenblum and English Language Fellows will conduct reading sessions with students to talk about the importance of books, literature and reading.

The new book will join previously Embassy-sponsored publications in Uzbek: *American Short Stories*, *Two Legends of Uzbekistan*, and *Dancing Bear*.

American Bluegrass Coming to Uzbekistan



U.S. Embassy Tashkent is pleased to announce the visit of the Henhouse Prowlers bluegrass band, who will represent the United States this year at the Sharq Taronalari International Music Festival in Samarkand.

In addition to performing at the Sharq Taronalari festival, the Henhouse Prowlers will lead a jam session with local folk musicians and students at the Tamara Khanum Museum in Tashkent on August 23 at 1:30 p.m. On August 31, they will perform at the Anhor Lokomotiv Amusement Park in at 8:00 p.m. The concert will be free and open to the public.

The Henhouse Prowlers are American musicians who have played under the auspices of the United States Department of State in more than 25 countries around the world with over 175 shows a year. The quartet, which includes professional musicians from Chicago – Christopher Dollar, Jonathan Goldfine, Kyle O’Brien, and Benjamin Wright – uses traditional American bluegrass music as an educational foundation to connect with other cultures through folk music. The band has released two albums, “Live from Kyrgyzstan,” (recorded in Bishkek) and the brand new studio album, “Separation Man.”

Source: [U.S. Mission Uzbekistan](#) | Friday, 23 August, 2019 | Topics: [Art & Culture](#), [Culture](#), [Press Releases](#), [U.S. & Uzbekistan](#)

EN



Prospects of cooperation with Honeywell UOP were considered

PROSPECTS OF COOPERATION WITH HONEYWELL UOP WERE CONSIDERED

15/06/2021 20:45

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- Uzbekneftegaz is working together with companies with world experience. Including cooperation with the American company Honeywell UOP. The technologies developed by the company are used at the enterprises of the oil and gas industry, subordinated to Uzbekneftegaz.

The visit of Honeywell UOP specialists was dedicated to the company's new technological solutions for the implementation of advanced technologies in gas cleaning systems in the Shurtan oil and gas production department and the Shurtan gas chemical complex.

Environmental requirements and improvement of the quality of processed gas raw materials at the Shurtan gas chemical complex contribute to the improvement of existing technologies. This issue is relevant not only from an environmental point of view, but also from the point of view of establishing technologically safe production.

Honeywell UOP specialists familiarized themselves with Separex™ licensed technology for gas cleaning at production sites and in management.

This technology consists of a membrane system that allows for deep purification of acid gases from natural gas. It was noted that Separex™ technology has been used commercially for over 30 years and membrane systems can be formed and individually adapted depending on the composition of the natural gas and operating conditions.

With the use of Separex membranes, it is possible to send an additional volume of natural gas feedstock to the purification of a gas treatment plant with amines with a decrease in the concentration of significantly acidic gases by capturing gases such as SO₂, H₂S from the composition of natural gas and to obtain the possibility of ethane gas for the polymerization process. As a result, it will be possible to produce additional polyethylene granules and sell products to meet the needs of the domestic and foreign markets.

During the meeting, an exchange of views took place on the current state of technological installations, as well as on positions that can be included in the reconstruction and modernization. An agreement was reached to study the technical condition of the plant's facilities and consider preliminary project concepts based on the composition of natural gas.

This will allow in the future to introduce modern highly efficient technologies for natural gas purification and ensure uninterrupted operation of the installations.



SQB Securities launches a new mechanism for attracting foreign direct investment

SQB SECURITIES LAUNCHES A NEW MECHANISM FOR ATTRACTING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

16/04/2021 20:49

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- Today, on 16 April, in order to present the practical results of the work carried out by SQB Securities under Uzpromstroybank to support business entities, as well as informing the public about the company's activities, a press tour was organized to the production facilities of the city of Tashkent.

In his Address to the Oliy Majlis on 29 December 2020, the President of Uzbekistan, stressing that economic growth will be achieved primarily through the creation of competitive production chains and increased investment in such

projects, noted that when implementing investment policy, it is necessary to reduce the participation of the state and increase the share private and direct investment.

Today the investment company "SQB Securities", introducing various innovative solutions, products and services in the capital market, helps large industrial enterprises, small businesses and private entrepreneurship to enter the international financial markets.

The company, as an investment intermediary, consultant, as well as a reliable investment asset manager, strengthens partnerships in the investment and banking sector with both local and international financial institutions.

This, in turn, serves to ensure strategic interaction for domestic manufacturing enterprises on a global cooperation platform in the implementation of credit lines, consultations, asset management, investment agreements and other operations.

One of the largest manufacturers of pharmaceutical products in the country, Nika Pharm LLC, with the support of SQB Securities, is currently one of the companies with such opportunities.

Through the efforts of the investment company, the company attracted a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the amount of US\$3 million.

These funds financed a project of the enterprise to expand the production of about 20 types of drugs used in the treatment of Covid19.

In addition, the company successfully passed ADB verification and became its client, which not only allowed it to use the available credit line, but also attracted the attention of other reputable international financial institutions, paving the way for further direct investments in global capital markets.

It should be noted that the investment company "SQB Securities", also attracting funds from international financial institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and funds in the form of loans, credits or shares, provides comprehensive assistance to increase financial potential of enterprises.

In particular, in 2020, the company, together with the EBRD, provided consulting services for small and medium-sized businesses in Khorezm region and the Republic of Karakalpakstan based on special programs for the correct and effective use of financial instruments.

This year, a Memorandum of Cooperation on the introduction and development of Islamic finance in Uzbekistan was signed with the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector, which is part of the IDB group, and negotiations are being held with private sector enterprises.

The investment company "SQB Securities", created under the JSCB "Uzpromstroybank", has a license from the Agency for the Development of the Capital Market of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the promotion and sale of shares and bonds sold on the Tashkent Stock Exchange.

The company, which began operations in March 2020, also provides services such as investment banking, organization of syndicated lending for investment projects, implementation, modernization and support of corporate governance, trust management of investment assets, project financing and organization of joint financing.

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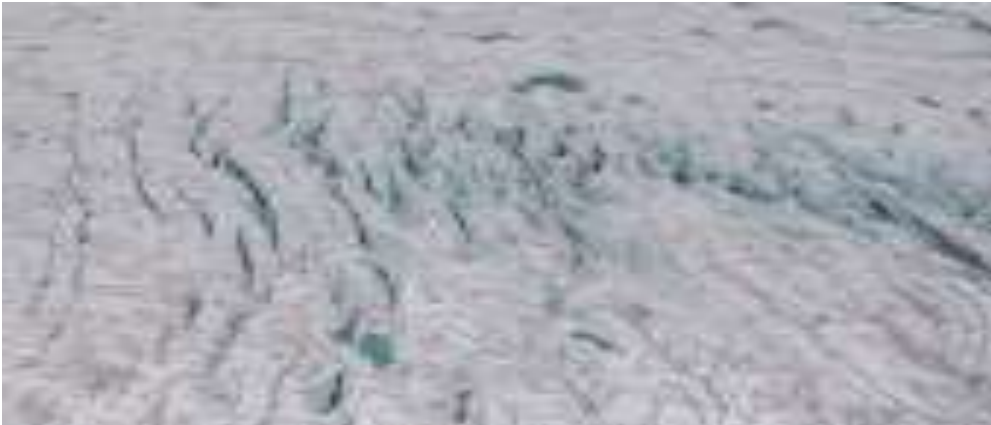
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14

RACE

George Floyd's America

Born with two strikes

How systematic racism shaped Floyd's life and hobbled his ambition

By
Toluse Olorunnipa and
Griff Witte

Updated Oct. 8 at 7:47 a.m.



His life began as the last embers of the civil rights movement were flickering out. Its horrific, videotaped end ignited the largest anti-racism movement since, with demonstrators the world over marching for racial justice in his name.

During the 46 years in between, George Perry Floyd came of age as the strictures of Jim Crow discrimination in America gave way to an insidious form of systemic racism, one that continually undercut his ambitions.

Early in life, he wanted to be a Supreme Court justice. Then, a pro athlete. At the end, he just longed for a little stability, training to be a commercial truck driver.

All were bigger dreams than he was able to achieve in his version of America. While his death was the catalyst for global protests against racial inequality, the nearly eight minutes Floyd spent suffocating under the knee of a White police officer were hardly the first time he faced oppression.

Throughout his lifetime, Floyd's identity as a Black man exposed him to a gantlet of injustices that derailed, diminished and ultimately destroyed him, according to an extensive review of his life based on hundreds of documents and interviews with more than 150 people, including his siblings, extended family members, friends, colleagues, public officials and scholars.

The picture that emerges is one that underscores how systemic racism has calcified within many of America's institutions, creating sharply disparate outcomes in housing, education, the economy, law enforcement and health care.

While Floyd's life span coincided with many advancements for Black Americans — some of them dramatic — his personal path highlights just how much those hard-fought gains remain out of reach for millions like him.

“My mom, she used to always tell us that growing up in America, you already have two strikes,” as a Black man, Floyd's younger brother Philonise said in an interview. “And you're going to have to work three times as hard as everybody else, if you want to make it in this world.”

Like many Black Americans, Floyd was behind long before he was born.

A descendant of enslaved people and sharecroppers, he was raised by a single mother in a predominantly Black Houston neighborhood where White flight, underinvestment and mass incarceration fostered a crucible of inequality.



George Floyd as a toddler, in the arms of his mother, Larcenia Floyd. (Photo by Angela Harrelson)

In the crumbling Houston public housing complex where Floyd grew up — known as “The Bricks” — kids were accustomed to police jumping from cars to harass and detain them. His underfunded and underperforming public high school in the city’s historically Black Third Ward left him unprepared for college.

When Floyd was a young man, minor offenses on his record yielded significant jail time and, once released, kept him from finding work. One conviction — a \$10 drug deal that earned him 10 months behind bars — is now under review because

the arresting officer is suspected of fabricating evidence in dozens of low-level drug cases.

Floyd spent a quarter of his adult life incarcerated, cycling through a criminal justice system that studies show unjustly targets Blacks. His longest stint was at a private prison in a predominantly White town where the jail housing mostly minority inmates generated a third of the town's budget.

[We want to hear your reactions and biggest takeaways from this series.]

A survivor of covid-19, he struggled with several ailments that disproportionately cut short Black lives.

Floyd made many mistakes of his own doing. His choices landed him in jail on drug and robbery charges, while also leaving him without a college degree and with limited career prospects. He acknowledged many of his poor decisions and tried to warn others against making them, too. But for him, each misstep further narrowed his opportunities.

“I got my shortcomings and my flaws,” he said in a video he posted on social media aimed at convincing young people in his neighborhood to put away their guns. “I ain't better than nobody else.”

But he also didn't get the benefits that others might have.



(Lynn Gallien) Floyd and his girlfriend, Courtney Ross, in Minneapolis near the end of his life.

Israel launches air raids on Gaza, first since truce with Hamas

Israeli air strikes are the first on Gaza since a shaky ceasefire with Hamas ended 11-days of fighting last month.

Israel launched air raids on the Gaza Strip after Palestinian groups in the besieged enclave sent incendiary balloons into southern Israel.

The overnight air strikes gave way to calm by morning, and there were no reports of casualties on either side.

Gaza: Protests against Israeli far-right march through Jerusalem
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The raids early on Wednesday come less than a month after Israel's 11-day bombardment of Gaza in May and followed a march in occupied East Jerusalem by Jewish nationalists that drew Palestinian condemnation and anger.

The Israeli military said its aircraft attacked Hamas compounds in Gaza City and the southern town of Khan Younis and said it was "ready for all scenarios, including renewed fighting in the face of continued terrorist acts emanating from Gaza".

The raids, the military said, came in response to the launching of the balloons, which caused 20 blazes in open fields in communities near Gaza.

A Hamas spokesman, confirming the Israeli attacks, told Reuters news agency that Palestinians would continue to pursue their “brave resistance and defend their rights and sacred sites” in Jerusalem.

It was not immediately clear if there were casualties in Gaza as a result of the bombings.

Israel’s Army Radio reported that Israel informed Egyptian mediators that direct Hamas involvement in the fire balloon launch would imperil long-term truce talks.

Al Jazeera’s Safwat al-Kahlout, reporting from Gaza, said Palestinian fighters said they had no orders from their commanders to respond to the latest raids.

He also noted Hamas did not mention retaliation or a response in their statement confirming the Israeli bombardment.

The Israeli raids come two days after a new coalition government, headed by right-wing nationalist Naftali Bennett, took power on Sunday, ending Benjamin Netanyahu’s 12-year run as prime minister.

The new government on Monday approved a “provocative” march by Israeli far-right nationalists and pro-settler groups through occupied East Jerusalem. Thousands of people, waving flags and some chanting “Death to Arabs” paraded in East Jerusalem on Tuesday, drawing anger and condemnation from Palestinians.

In another anti-Palestinian chant, Israeli demonstrators shouted: “May your village burn.”

In a scathing condemnation on Twitter, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said those shouting racist slogans were “a disgrace to the Israeli people”, adding: “The fact

that there are radicals for whom the Israeli flag represents hatred and racism is abominable and unforgivable.”



A Palestinian protester throws a burning projectile during a demonstration east of Gaza City near Israel on Tuesday as Israeli ultranationalists marched in Jerusalem’s Old City [Mahmud Hams/AFP]The “March of the Flags” marks the anniversary of Israel’s 1967 occupation of the city’s eastern part, and came as tensions remain high over Israel’s planned forced displacement of Palestinian families from the neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah.

In advance of the march, Israeli police forcibly removed dozens of Palestinians from outside the Old City’s Damascus Gate.

At least 17 Palestinians were arrested and 33 others wounded as Israeli police fired stun grenades in the surrounding areas of Damascus Gate.

In May, Israeli air raids in Gaza killed at least 256 Palestinians, including 66 children, while rockets launched by Palestinian groups killed at least 12 people, including two children. The escalation ended after 11 days with an internationally brokered ceasefire.

‘Maximum restraint’

Mansour Abbas, whose United Arab List (Ra’am) party is the first Arab faction to join an Israeli coalition, said Tuesday’s march was “an attempt to set the region on fire for political aims,” with the intention of undermining the new government.

Abbas said the police and public security minister should have canceled the event. “I call on all sides not to be dragged into an escalation and maintain maximum restraint,” he said.

In past years, the march passed through Damascus Gate and into the heart of the Muslim Quarter, a crowded Palestinian neighbourhood with narrow streets and alleys. But police changed the route on Tuesday to avoid the Muslim Quarter.

Instead, the route went around the ancient walls of the Old City and through Jaffa Gate, a main thoroughfare for tourists, and towards the Jewish Quarter and Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray.

Damascus Gate is a focal point of Palestinian life in occupied East Jerusalem. Palestinian protesters repeatedly clashed with Israeli police over restrictions on public gatherings during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in April and May.

Those clashes spread to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a flashpoint site sacred to Jews and Muslims. Tensions at the time were further fueled by protests over the threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinian families by Jewish settlers, also in Jerusalem.

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA AND NEWS AGENCIES

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Hundreds in the besieged enclave rally against so-called ‘March of the Flags’ taking place in occupied East Jerusalem.

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Israeli far-right groups march through occupied East Jerusalem

Seventeen Palestinians arrested as far-right Israeli settler groups marched through occupied East Jerusalem's Old City.

UNPACK THE PAST[Features](#) | [Politics](#)**Why is populism so unpopular in Japan?**

Have the populist movements that have swept other countries quietly passed by the East Asian nation?

Japan's Former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone [File: Owen Franken/Corbis via Getty Images]

By Michael Penn

On April 1, 1987, then-Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone delivered the death blow to the nation's radical labour union movement.

He broke the Japanese National Railways up into seven privatised railway firms – in the process, gutting the formidable National Railway Workers' Union and eliminating the country's leading platform for bottom-up politics.

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Nakasone's breakup of the public railway operator was the coup de grâce for independent union power in the East Asian nation – achieving much the same as President Ronald Reagan's firing of the members of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization had in the United States in 1981 or Prime Minister

Margaret Thatcher's defeat of the National Union of Mineworkers had in the United Kingdom in 1985 (it was no coincidence that Nakasone was a personal friend and political ally of those leaders).



Then US President Ronald Reagan speaks during a briefing in the White House Rose Garden in Washington in 1981. The president gave striking air traffic controllers 48 hours to return to work or be fired [File: Jeff Taylor/AP Photo]

By the end of the 1980s, most of Japan's labour unions had reorganised themselves under the umbrella of the cautious and conservative Japanese Trade Union Confederation. A docile labour organisation that has not supported any large-scale strikes in its more than 30 years of existence, it has contented itself with a small seat at the establishment table, arguing for job security for regular workers, small annual wage increases, and measures to enhance workplace safety.

The taming of the labour unions led to the collapse of the opposition-leading Japan Socialist Party (JSP) less than a decade later, as Nakasone had hoped. Until then, the JSP had been the nation's second-largest political party, but without its backbone of union members who could be mobilised to support them in election

campaigns, it was unable to compete against the governing party's support from business and professional organisations.

This put an end to the era in which anti-system political movements – those which promoted grassroots or anti-establishment views – had sufficient space to grow and develop within the Japanese political world.

In other words, it was one of the factors that explains why populist movements sweeping other advanced, democratic nations in the early 2020s seem to be quietly passing by a contented or complacent Japan.

'Someone like Trump would never stand a chance'

The first thing to be said about “populism” is that there is no universally accepted definition of what the term actually means. Commonly it involves political leaders who cast themselves as representatives of “the people” struggling against a corrupt elite who are said to be blocking necessary progress.

Beyond that, it is difficult to be too specific about what populism entails.

Whatever it is, there is a relative consensus that Japan has a lot less of it at this historical moment than can be found in North America or Europe, the other G7 nations with which Japanese political leaders prefer to be grouped.

In their attempt to explain this relative weakness of populist politics in Japan, some scholars suggest that there are structural impediments in the national political system.

Chris Winkler, associate professor of Seinan Gakuin University in western Japan, is among those who believe that the country's political system creates “a very high hurdle for any party, but especially for populist parties”.

With the exception of the long-dominant governing party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), politicians at the national level are typically forced to compromise with those of different views, and even to work together with other smaller political parties in order to have the prospect of winning at the polls.

Much the same process of compromise is required by the politicians within the governing party, which is divided between seven significant factions, limiting their ability to simply go their own way. Indeed, the LDP was created in 1955 through the merger of two rival conservative political parties.



Could somebody like Donald Trump ever find electoral success in Japan? [File: Octavio Jones/Reuters]

“Somebody like Trump would never stand a chance in Japan,” Winkler asserts, “because the LDP would never put up with somebody like that.” He adds, “As a complete outsider, you don’t win.”

Michael Cucek, assistant professor of Temple University Japan, agrees that we should not expect to see any genuinely Trump-like figure rising to national leadership in Japan. No billionaire could follow that path to power in Japan, because, in this country, “you can’t buy your way into the political world”.

No ‘mansions on a hill’

However, not everyone agrees that it is the electoral system where we should really be looking to explain the current weakness of populism in Japan.

Tobias Harris, senior fellow for Asia at the Center for American Progress, contends that “electoral rules are just rules, and if the people want something, the party system will change to accommodate it”. He believes there are other explanations for why Japanese populism is at a low ebb.

In his view, Japanese populism has been constrained by the fact that the nation’s social safety net – like its national pension programme, unemployment benefits, and national health insurance programme – has been well maintained, meaning that there is not much dire poverty in Japan, or at least not many visible manifestations of such poverty.



Has Japan’s well-maintained social safety net stopped populism from emerging? [File: Carl Court/Getty Images]

Winkler notes that “inequality in Japan has been on the rise” over the past 20 years, but it remains “nowhere near American levels”. According to the latest Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) data, Japan’s

poverty rate stands at 15.7 percent compared with 17.8 percent in the US. Most Japanese still regard themselves as members of the middle class, even if they are struggling economically more than they were before.

Also, unlike North America or Europe, there is little in the way of a billionaire class living ostentatiously wealthy lifestyles. There are, of course, rich people in Japan, but they tend to live in the same communities as everyone else, not in mansions on a hill or in remote gated districts. Flaunting wealth is simply not socially acceptable in this country which takes egalitarianism and mutual cooperation seriously.

There is thus no mainstream debate in Japan about “the 1%” who control the country – although in recent years a related term, “higher level citizens” (jokyu kokumin), has gained currency on social media, loosely denoting people who are in some way given preferential treatment by the political or judicial establishment.

No rural-urban divide

Whatever tensions do exist, Japanese society remains comparatively cohesive and united, as can be seen in any natural or man-made disaster when violence or looting is practically unheard of in recent decades.

Axel Klein, professor of the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany, notes in relation to populist politics, “What is missing in Japan is that there are not really people who refer to the Japanese population as ‘the two peoples’.”

While economies in North America and Europe have seen wide economic and cultural gaps open up between urban and rural populations, that has not been the case in Japan. The main political power base of the ruling LDP is in the rural communities, largely a legacy of successful land reforms after 1945 and a generally more conservative cultural milieu.

“The LDP does a lot to keep rural regions alive,” Klein observes, “and the LDP channels a lot of money into these dying little cities and villages.” As a result, rural Japanese “can hardly refer to themselves as ‘forgotten people’.”



There is little urban-rural divide in Japan as residents of towns and cities often visit the countryside during holidays [File: Christopher Jue/Getty Images for Tokyu Land Corporation]

Harris goes so far as to speak of an “inverted populism” in the country. “If there’s an urban-rural divide, it’s not the pure people of rural Japan being directed against urban elites; it’s the beleaguered people of urban Japan rising up against rural-based elites.”

He agrees that rural areas are not “forgotten in the cultural life of the people”.

Indeed, regional foods and customs are routinely discussed and cherished. Urban residents eagerly await the holidays to travel out to the countryside and to visit their relatives or to experience another dimension of Japan.

This relatively unified national culture serves to reduce resentments and prevent an angry, rural form of populism from gaining traction.

‘Ignored’ immigrants

Finally – and closely related to the previous factor – is that foreign and immigrant communities in Japan make up only about 2.3 percent of the total population. They are largely ignored by all sides within the Japanese political debate.

Tina Burrett, associate professor of Sophia University in Tokyo, observes: “If we look at Europe and the United States, anti-immigration sentiments have been one of the key determinants of voters’ support for populist candidates.”

In contrast to those nations, Burrett notes, “Immigrants are not necessarily seen in Japan as taking away jobs from hard-working native workers, because there isn’t an unemployment crisis, and there’s a demographic issue in Japan, which means that there are a lot of industries that actually lack labour.”

This situation means that the nativist forms of populism that have flourished, for example, in many European countries, have little salience within the Japanese context.

Japan’s neoliberal populism

And yet, while most observers agree that populism is a weaker factor in Japanese national politics than it is in other G7 nations, there are some politicians in the country who are routinely identified as representing some form of populism.

Harris contends, in fact, that there was a “populist moment” in Japanese politics in the 1990s and 2000s that was effectively terminated with the rise to power of Shinzo Abe at the end of 2012.



Then Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (centre) is routinely described as ‘populist’ [File: Kazuhiro Nogi/Pool MC/Reuters]

One Japanese politician who is routinely described as a “populist” by analysts and the media is Junichiro Koizumi, the prime minister who served from 2001 to 2006.

Koizumi’s brand of populism was definitely of a softer, toned-down variety, and attributable mainly to his personal style of communication that was addressed directly to the Japanese people, rather than aimed mainly at his colleagues in the governing party.

He also cast himself as the people’s champion struggling against a sclerotic bureaucracy and its political allies, who were said to be blocking the path towards national progress through their protection of vested interests and obstruction of needed economic reforms.



Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike [Koji Sasahara/AP Photo]

The high point for Koizumi populism came in 2005 when he called a snap election to force through his cherished plans to reform the national postal service. Koizumi then expelled his leading opponents from the governing party and targeted their independent re-election efforts with his own group of “assassin” candidates (including Yuriko Koike, who is today the governor of Tokyo). The voters responded positively, and Koizumi won a dramatic landslide victory.

However, Koizumi stepped down as Japan’s leader the following year, and no one among the governing party elites, who routinely lacked his personal charisma, really wanted to carry on the populist legacy. To the extent that Koizumi did have a successor, it was probably Ichiro Ozawa, the then-leader of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ).



Lower house lawmaker Ichiro Ozawa speaks during a press conference in Tokyo in 2012. He had been indicted on campaign finance charges, linked to a 2004 land deal, but was acquitted [File: Shizuo Kambayashi/AP Photo]

Ozawa possesses nothing of Koizumi's attractive and effective public persona (and this is probably why Ozawa is less frequently cited as being a "populist"), but, as Harris notes, "Koizumi and Ozawa in some ways were united by a common goal – they saw the old LDP as standing in the way of realising the true destiny of Japan", referring to the much hoped for economic revitalisation.

Ozawa's own shining moment came in August 2009 when his efforts led to an unprecedented DPJ landslide in general elections. However, he never had an opportunity to enjoy this victory since prosecutors indicted him on campaign finance charges (which seem to have been fabricated by the prosecutors for the purpose of keeping him out of the office of prime minister).

In Harris's reading, national-level Japanese "populism" died soon thereafter, with the DPJ's three years of policy failures on US military base realignment, managing the Fukushima crisis, and much more, leading to the return of Shinzo

Abe and a general public that had become both fatigued and dispirited about the prospects for positive political changes that could make Japan more independent and socially vibrant.

Local populism

Nevertheless, there is one part of the Japanese government where some politicians are frequently described as being populists – and that is at the level of governors and the mayors of big cities.

Burrett even goes so far as to suggest that at the local level, “populism is much more apparent in Japan than it is possibly at the local levels in some other G7 countries”.

Most frequently cited is Toru Hashimoto, who led Osaka as governor and then mayor from 2008 to 2015.

In 2012, the brash, young Hashimoto captured the public imagination and polled as the most popular politician in the nation.

Unlike the usual, gentler kind of Japanese politician, the far-right Hashimoto came from the poorer classes and he did not refrain from hitting out at his perceived enemies. Among those who received his lashings were the national government, the bureaucracy, the labour unions, and the Japanese Communist Party.

Still, according to Charles Weathers, professor of Osaka City University, “Compared to what you are seeing in some Western countries – people like Trump – really threatening or violating democratic norms, he didn’t go nearly that far, because Japan has simply not been that polarised.”



Japan Restoration Party deputy leader Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto in Osaka, Japan [File: Buddhika Weerasinghe/Getty Images]

In the end, Hashimoto and his regional political party did not achieve many of their key objectives, the most cherished of which was their plan to centralise the prefectural and city administrations. As Weathers puts it, “He knew how to say provocative things and stay in the news every day, but what he really accomplished was passing a bunch of ordinances which did things like infringe on the rights of civil servants by limiting their political activities.”

The beginning of the end for Hashimoto was the election of Shinzo Abe as prime minister at the end of 2012. There was enough similarity in their right-wing political outlook that Abe may have stolen much of Hashimoto’s thunder, and made it more difficult for him to challenge the central government.

There are other local politicians who have been cited as being Japanese populists, including Nagoya Mayor Takashi Kawamura, Nagano Governor Yasuo Tanaka, and Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike, mainly because they made charismatic appeals to the general public to gain an advantage over established political parties and other vested interests.



Yasuo Tanaka, former governor of Nagano prefecture (state), is sometimes described as a populist [File: Tsugufumi Matsumoto/AP Photo]

Burrett observes that these Japanese-style local populists are quite a separate breed from their cousins elsewhere in that “they tend to be quite neoliberal ... they are pro-reform, they are pro-business – they’re quite different in terms of their policy profiles from the populists that we see in other G7 countries”.

She attributes this characteristic to the fact that “Japan hasn’t had such a neoliberal revolution”. The curious outcome is that, in terms of their economic policy orientation, “populists in Japan would be the establishment figures who the populists are fighting against in other G7 countries”.

Co-opting the populist infrastructure

Japan’s relatively tame species of neoliberal populism is certainly related to the crushing of radical labour union power in the 1970s and 80s. The unions, for a few decades following the Pacific War (1937-45), were able to serve as an institutional incubator for world views that could exist outside of the Japanese

mainstream, including the promotion of socialism, anti-imperialism, and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Nothing replaced the radical labour unions after they were co-opted in the 1980s.

As Harris explains, “The populism we have seen has been within the system. There’s not really an organisational centre for anti-system politics.”

Japan has permitted no political space for independent groups to place demands or to stimulate significant institutional changes. The governing party made a concerted effort in the post-war years to tame all sources of social conflict, and they have largely succeeded.

This is true of the Japanese news media as well. This critical sphere has been kept under tight control by the regime, with neither the left nor the right able to depart too dramatically from the government line.

The informational chasm that exists, for example, in the US between those who watch CNN and MSNBC, on the one hand, and Fox News and OANN, on the other, simply does not exist in anything like the same way in Japan. The establishment centre dominates, with the media only cautiously and occasionally drifting into mildly controversial political matters.

Indeed, the LDP has run Japan as something close to a one-party state since 1955, with its time in power interrupted only infrequently. Even in 2021, its clientelist style of politics is still going strong.

This kind of structural dominance, Klein notes, has had a cumulative effect that has “killed the fighting spirit of many who would otherwise probably be active on the left”. Instead, many people seem to have turned off on politics in order to settle into the quiet and reasonably comfortable lives that have been offered to them.

The Japanese education system also deepens these trends, teaching the young to prioritise cooperation, compromise, and dependence upon others.

Klein observes that “people in Japan are just not brought up in a way to express their opinion and to argue for it”.

The relative weakness of populist politics in contemporary Japan, then, may be attributable not only to the institutional barriers and the lack of platforms for anti-system politics, but also built right into the way that the government is educating its citizens to think about themselves.

Klein concludes, “If you are not convinced that your opinion is right and you want to put it out there – and don’t want others to follow and to agree with you – then there is no fuel on which populism can run.”

SOURCE: AL JAZEERA

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A third win on the trot

Head coach Vadim Abramov praised his opponents' quality after Uzbekistan earned a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Yemen in Group D of the Asian Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 on Friday.

A third win on the trot and as many clean sheets since the resumption of the Qualifiers meant Uzbekistan go into their final match against Saudi Arabia with the top spot still up for grabs as the Uzbeks sit second, just two points adrift of the group hosts.

“It was a very difficult game, but we expected it. I knew that Yemen are a team that know how to play,” said Abramov.

“We have to adapt to the opponent; each team moves as much as the opponent can and we need to draw lessons from this match. Saudi Arabia also suffered today; they failed to score until the 85th minute of the match against Singapore.”



“Today we could not show our real game. We should not be playing like this, but unfortunately, we had to adapt to the Yemeni game. We lost a lot of the ball. Nevertheless, we had the opportunity to break the deadlock early, then we spent the last minutes of the match more calmly. Their goalkeeper did well throughout.

“We wanted to go into the game against Saudi Arabia without losses after the restart, and we achieved this goal.”

Jaloliddin Masharipov was lively throughout, creating chances aplenty and it was his goal from the spot that settled the tie in the 19th minute after Ibrohimkhalil Yuldoshev was tripped inside the box, and Abramov had special praise for his number 10 who walked a tightrope from start to finish knowing a booking would see him suspended for the group decider against Saudi Arabia in four days' time.

“Masharipov was playing below his full potential today. The caution associated with the yellow card has had its effect on him. I had to keep him on the pitch until the end of the match as things were close, but I knew he was a smart guy and wouldn't get a yellow card.”

The group concludes on Tuesday with Uzbekistan playing Saudi Arabia at King Saud University Stadium, while Palestine face Yemen in a simultaneous kick-off at King Fahd International Stadium.



AKHODIR JALOLOV TAKES PART IN THE AIBA ELITE WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS AFTER THE TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES

BOXING

Photos from Ergashev vs Jengo card



FOOTBALL

Uzbekistan past Yemen to claim a 1-0 win



FOOTBALL

Uzbekistan to face Yemen ahead of Saudi Arabia clash



LAST NEWS



15 JUN 16:30 o

Bakhodir Jalolov takes part in the AIBA Elite World Boxing Championships after the Tokyo Olympic Games

Uzbekistan earned six male gold medals at the ASBC Asian Men's & Women's Elite Boxing Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and topped the team rankings.



13 JUN 18:45 [o](#)

Melikuziev is finalizing the training process before his fight against Gabriel Rosado

Melikuziev faces the toughest opponent so far.



12 JUN 17:55 [o](#)

Uzbekistan national futsal team to face Venezuela in Tashkent

Two friendly matches against Latin American side



12 JUN 12:15

Uzbekistan's Abramov praises Yemen's quality after narrow Asian Qualifiers victory

A third win on the trot



ART WEEK 'STYLE.UZ' STARTS IN UZBEKISTAN

09/10/2010 17:26

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (UzDaily.com) -- The Art Week 'Style.Uz' – a far-reaching culture, art and fashion project – started in Tashkent on 9 October 2010.

This annual major event has drawn increasing international attention to Central Asia and is seen as a crossroads of arts, tradition and modernity. Now in its fifth year, the project promises amazingly diverse events and is attended by international celebrities.

This year the Art Week will present exhibitions of young famous artists; défilé by Uzbek and foreign fashion designers; a Festival of National Dress; a theatre festival, cultural conferences, contests for budding designers; sporting dance competitions; master classes by art and fashion professionals; charitable events and performances by international pop stars. The Art Week kicked off with an International Photo Biennale.

International guests expected to attend the fifth Art Week include: prominent artists The Art Week ‘Style.Uz’ is organised by the Fund Forum, a public foundation dedicated to developing international cultural exchange, supporting talented youth and children, crafts dynasties and art professionals through grants, scholarships, contests, festivals, exhibitions and other events in Uzbekistan and abroad. “Style.Uz”, which aims to help develop international cooperation in arts and to support arts professionals, is held with support from major local and international organizations such as the British Council, Victor Hugo French Cultural Centre and the Japan Foundation.

The Art Week is a unique opportunity for young talents with limited financial resources to demonstrate their skills by presenting their collections on the same platform with internationally known brands and getting an opportunity for further professional growth. The Week also includes master classes and makes available grants for the talented youth and textile and weaving masters working to revive ancient fabric-making techniques, etc.

Previous ‘Style.Uz’ Weeks have been attended by world-famous top fashion designers, jewellery and fashion brand owners, influential people in fashion, arts

and culture, editors of international glossy magazines, international media representatives, and showbiz stars from Austria, UK, France, Italy, Spain, India, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, China, USA, Russia and other countries.

More specifically, the front-row celebrities have included the likes of Julio Iglesias, Sting, Montserrat Caballe, Rod Stewart, David and Katie Guetta, Chopard co-president Caroline Gruosi-Scheufele, de Grisogono founder and president Fawaz Gruosi (Switzerland), fashion legend Takada Kenzo, designers Pascal Morabito (France), Vyacheslav Zaitsev, Valentin Yudashkin, Masha Tsigal, Alena Akhmadullina, Yulia Dalakyan, Denis Simachev, Helen Yarmak and Vardui Nazaryan (Russia), as well as representatives of foremost fashion houses such as Oscar de la Renta (USA), Valentino (Italy), Sonia Rykiel, Smalto, Féraud, Inès de la Fressange, Revillon, Guy Laroche (France), Wolford (Austria), Sisi Wasabi (Germany) and DSQUARED2 (Italy).

Related News

Ten top fashion designers of Dom Stilya (House of Style) showcased their fascinating collections at the General Défilé in what was the culmination of the Art Week “Style.Uz 2010”.

15/10/2010



More than 500 young dancers from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and India performed in the gala concert of the Contemporary Choreography and Sporting Dance International Contest, which was held at UzExpoCentre on the final day of the Art Week.

15/10/2010



On 14 October 2010, in the framework of the Art Week Style.Uz, a concert of the Spanish tenor Jose Carreras, one of the world stars of opera, was held at Uzbekistan Palace of International Forums.

15/10/2010



The final day of the Art Week started with a master class by a famous Russian painter Alexander Ishenko for art specialists, young artists and art students. Ishenko did a video presentation of his paintings and judged works by young Uzbek artists.

15/10/2010



The Festival of National Dress became culmination of the fifth day of Art Week Style.Uz. The festival was held at the Center of National Art on 13 October.

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1. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/>
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