

THE ORTUS

PEACE AND CONFLICT

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2



SUNCITY SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIA

THE ORTUS



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EDITORIAL TEAM

VEDAANT YADAV
AARNAV DIXIT

Chief Editor and Designer
Assistant Editor

CONTRIBUTORS

NIHARIKA CHAUHAN
ANANYA VIJH
MUKTEE TOLANI
NIHARIKA GULERIA
ARNAV ARORA
HARMAN KHURANA

Writer, Grade 9-IGCSE
Guest Writer, 11-C
Writer, 12-IB
Writer, Grade 9-IGCSE
Writer, IBDP year 1
Writer, IBDP year 1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Teachers

ANANYA NAG, KANIKA CHAWLA, SHILPA B.
SUCHDEV, VIVEK MANDAL

MUKTEE TOLANI
HARMAN KHURANA

Editor Emeritus
Social Media In-Charge

The Ortus newsletter is published by Suncity School International Academia and is a thematic quarterly publication. We publish a variety of original works that range from articles to reviews. The Ortus hopes to help students engage in well thought out dialogue and provoke critical thinking. All works of writing are freely chosen, written and edited by International Academia students. If you wish to submit a piece of work, which you feel fits the ethos of the Ortus, please contact the Ortus Editors.

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the second issue- second volume of the Ortus. We are extremely grateful for the amazing reviews and thoughtful criticism we received from the readers on the first issue. We love hearing from our readers. However, what we enjoy the most, is receiving new submissions for our forthcoming editions of the newsletter and are happy to see how eager our audience is to contribute to it.

Without further ado, the theme for this issue is *'Peace and Conflict'*. Understandably, this is a very serious theme compared to the one we chose last time, something that may not interest some readers. However, Peace and Conflict especially in today's ever-changing world is an extremely important theme that needs to be discussed thoroughly. We have tried our hardest to accomplish this lofty goal.

Many think that relative peace on this planet has already been achieved, especially if compared to the Cold War or World War II, yet that may only be true because of certain situations. I am sure somebody living in Syria or Ukraine would disagree with that statement, which is why the theme consists of these two contrasting aspects of the world- Conflict and Peace. It is binary, a country can either be in conflict or in peace, but never both, which is why it was important to include both parts in our theme.

This edition's featured article aims to look at the factors that determine whether a country is in conflict or in peace. It hopes to provide an insight into the complicated nature of the task as well as a brief introduction to what it means in India.

We sincerely hope you enjoy reading this issue, because we surely have enjoyed putting it together.

— Vedaant Yadav,
Chief Editor

THE BULLETIN

Let it Grow Workshop

Suncity International Academia held two private assemblies in order to showcase their international-mindedness. The first assembly commemorated National Legal Services Day and the second intended to spread awareness about being environmentally conscious.

The first assembly had a very interesting and engaging role play. Students portrayed people living around the world during various periods of time to

show the absurdity of some of the laws that were present in their respective eras. It was presented in a comedic fashion and was well-received by the audience.



The second assembly consisted of a presentation by the *Let It Grow* team to explain various ecological issues and how we can combat them. Students found it extremely informative and helpful.

Both assemblies were conducted and executed by the IA students and received great responses from peers and teachers.



Let it Grow is a collaborative initiative launched by the students of IBDP, as part of the Delhi Chapter of an International non-profit organization by the name *Science and Innovation for tomorrow*, in an attempt to raise awareness about the growing pollution problem in Delhi NCR, and to emphasize the importance of environmental consciousness in a world like this.

As a part of the project, they held a workshop in collaboration with an eminent NGO of the region- Hara Jeevan, at Suncity School. They also had a UN representative, Siya Tayal, present at the event in order to express the importance of change at the individual level.

They unveiled their plans for a volunteering program to execute cleanliness and tree plantation drives at the event. We are glad to announce that overall it was a success, with over 40 students signing up for their volunteering program, pledging to make a change.



DECODING INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

A Brief Explanation of India's Unique Global Situation



VEDAANT YADAV

Decoding India's Foreign Policy

A Brief Explanation of India's Unique Global Situation

Vedaant Yadav

Foreign Policy defines how the world functions. We may not necessarily see it in our day-to-day news cycles or even understand what it really means but it still makes up a majority of the things to be considered whenever a country does literally anything. Regardless of this extreme importance, it is considered boring, so boring in fact that many of you may have already scrolled past this article.

Foreign Policy in simple terms is the method in which a country decides how to interact with other countries. It is extremely different for every country and is determined not only by various internal factors but also a whole bunch of external factors, like the foreign policy of other countries. The sheer complexity of a country's foreign policy is likely why most people don't really care about it, after all, you don't vote for a government based on how many embassies they opened or how they voted in the UN. In this brief article, I hope to go over India's foreign policy, one that is considered the most abstract in this entire world.

Well, it all began in 1947. With Independence, India declared itself a neutral country, one that only cared about imperialism on a global stage and nothing

else. What that meant was that India did not care about the squabbles of the globe, but only about not being colonised again. This continues to influence a majority of Indian foreign policy to this day. This principle was the foundation of something called the Non-Aligned Movement, a name most of you have heard from your 8th grade CBSE History and Civics textbook. The NAM was essentially a group of previously colonised countries, who due to their fear of being colonised once again decided to stay away from both the major world powers at that time- the United States and the USSR. They maintained cordial relations with both nations and often accepted aid money from them, but hoped not to get involved in their fight or become so reliant on one of them that they become essentially a puppet state, something that was basically colonialism.

This was all well and good until the United States ended up being too good of a friend with Pakistan, leading to India becoming a good friend of Russia. This somewhat highlights the stupidity of the situation, the United States wanted to be good friends with a new China, one that was finished with their friendship with Russia. They befriended Pakistan who was friends with China because of their mutual enemy, India. However, because Pakistan was at that time at war with India, they had to materially support Pakistan causing India to be friends with the United States' enemy, Russia. This continued all the way up to the dissolution of the USSR in the early 90s, after which India was once again relatively neutral.

This is when Indian foreign policy gets really

interesting. As you could see above, foreign policy is dependent on how friendly a country is with other countries and how friendly you are with them. Yet somehow, in India, it simply doesn't apply. India is good friends with Russia, the United States of America, Israel, Iran, Palestine and Saudi Arabia at the same time. This may sound fairly unimportant to you, so for context: Russia and the United States may go to war with each other over Ukraine and have sanctioned each other to hell and back, Iran and Palestine don't recognise Israel as a country and Saudi Arabia and Iran are fighting multiple proxy wars in the middle-east. In your friend group, all of your friends are also likely to be friends with each other. At a party, you all have fun together. India's "friend group" would likely start World War III, if they attended a party together. Simply put, these countries can't stand each other, yet somehow are all great friends with India.

Why? Well, it's a combination of factors. With the US, it's because we are the only country in the Indian subcontinent that stands up to China and somewhat believes in their vision and ideology- something they managed to finally figure out after years of being blinded by a pointless cold war and possession of a hole they accidentally dug too deep in Pakistan. The United States finally opened up to India after the deadly 26/11 attacks, where they realized that Pakistani state-sponsored terrorists used American CIA assets to commit an act that led to the death of 175 Indians. India was well within its rights to blast the United States in addition to Pakistan on a global stage, yet it used this to its advantage and convinced the United States

that India, not Pakistan was its partner in the Indian subcontinent- something a country fighting against terrorism understood. Ever since, Indian relations with the United States have been growing closer and closer.

With Russia, it's partially because of our historic ties and the fact that we mean business with them. From guns to fighter jets, to advanced missile defence systems, we buy it all. India buys most of Russia's military hardware and even works with Russia to develop new hardware like the Brahmos. With Saudi Arabia, it's also similar but with India buying oil and a large portion of Saudi Arabia's food coming from India. With Israel and Iran, we can thank Pakistan for our special relationship. Israel and Iran both really hate Pakistan, which translates to a love for India automatically. A classic "enemy of my enemy is my friend" situation. This is only bolstered by India's increasingly close economic ties with the two countries.

India has an increasingly complicated foreign policy. This is partially due to our increasing power on the global stage, both due to India being more globalized economically and countries looking for an alternative to China. Knowing about your country's foreign policy provides you with an insight into many things, like which countries it is easier to travel to as an Indian or which goods will get cheaper or more expensive. Not only that, but it also provides an insight into the rationale of many decisions a government makes.

The Battle of Belonging

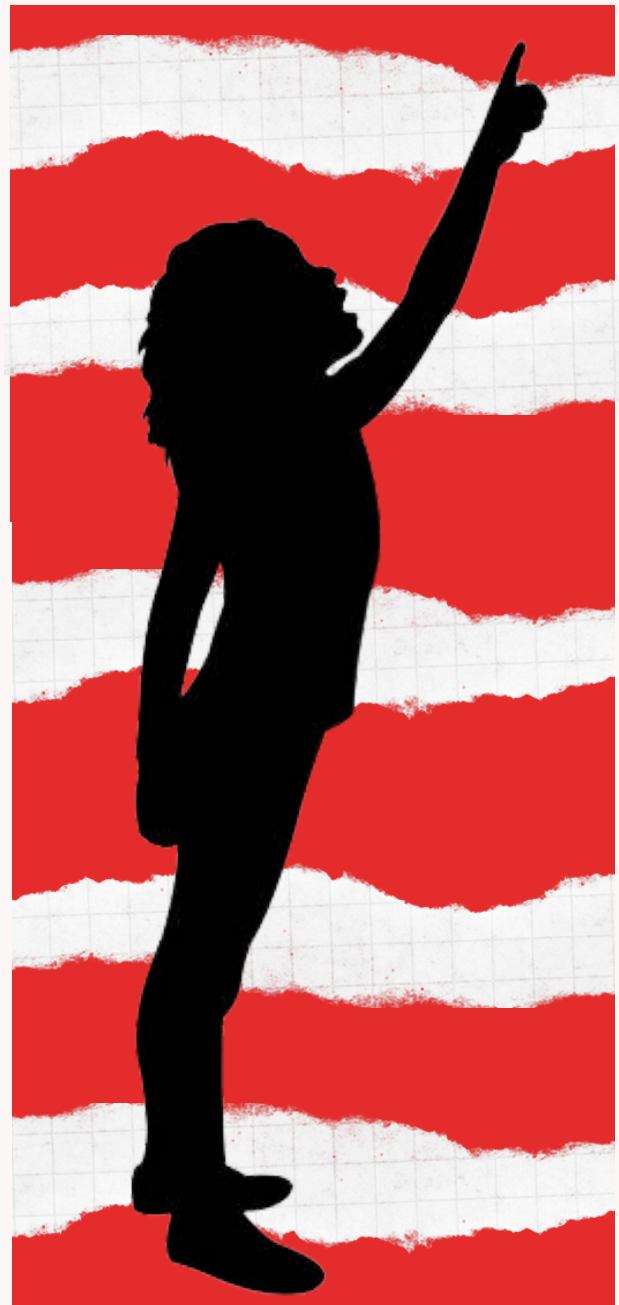
Finding Yourself in the Chaos of Expectations

Ananya Vijn

As a young child, I remember what I thought being a teenager would be like. I was very influenced by movies and pop culture and its shows. I imagined them free, unburdened by responsibility, enjoying the liberties of adulthood without any of the anxiety. Now I realize how wrong I was. It's not the rosy, utopian ideal perpetuated by Noah Centineo (seriously, when do they work on deadlines??). The free lessons and trips to the MI Lab are now replaced by evenings at coaching classes and foraging for internships like a raccoon in a dumpster. And then of course there is the ominous battle of belonging where we both struggle to fit in and try to "just be ourselves"(oh, how I hate that phrase). This phrase is something of a fallacy. The mold into which we ought to fit in has been cast. We are more "ourselves" as young children when social pressure and desirability haven't reared their ugly heads.

Adolescence is that awkward free version of an app you have when you haven't got a paid subscription. You don't quite have all the good stuff till you pay for it. Adolescence is that cumbersome dichotomy where you constantly switch between being too old and too young. Adolescence is a period of immense conflict, confusion, and chaos. It's almost as if a veil has been lifted off of your

reality, and now you see everything differently than the way you did before. This is what causes a lot of confusion and internal conflict. As a child, when you were asked what you wanted to be, you could get away with the most outlandish and dare I say- impractical- answers. However, now you are expected to present concrete and acceptable answers. These answers need to be acceptable to all parties involved- which is apparently everyone from your mom to your third cousin's dog.



The conflict has two faces - what is experienced with others and what we feel within. It is what is faced within that is tempestuous and frustrating. Each step you take has persisting effects on your future. Everything is suddenly high stakes and it is this change that no one prepares you for. We sign up to fates whose realities are unknown to us. Peer pressure and social desirability hold the strings to the way we express ourselves. We end up developing different personalities of ourselves to fit in, none of which truly feel like ourselves. This conflict of identity inhibits us from truly finding ourselves. When one is preoccupied with maintaining multiple facades, it becomes impossible to decipher what truly constitutes the essence of us.

In society, we try to carve a unique place for ourselves. We seek to be more than so-and-so's child and come to be known for ourselves. The moulds that are sometimes forced upon us can be stifling. There's the popular/mean girl stereotype, the introverted social outcast, the bookish nerd, etc. You're expected to bend to rules that you never agreed to, uphold ideas that you never even got the chance to question. If you dare steer from the trodden path, you are labelled a rebel, a misfit, and made a social pariah, never mind your intentions.

The unfortunate part in all this is that though we all experience adolescence, our experiences are extremely subjective. Our personalities, ambitions, and backgrounds play undeniable roles in shaping us as adults.

I fear I paint a grim picture. There are some good bits too. I am no longer the innocent, imperceptive child that should be kept in the dark, I am now the observant almost grown-up who understands. I enjoy substantial freedom to make my own choices. It is just the other side of the coin that rarely catches the light.

I am teetering on the edge of the unknown, but I am not afraid. I am hopeful-hopeful to see what the future holds and to start this new juncture of my life.

That NYC apartment isn't going to manifest itself.



Lost Dove

Inner Peace isn't a Choice but a
Dream

Aarnav Dixit

Insight - "I'm not a poet, I have rarely if ever written a poem that I felt such a deep connection with. I wrote 'Lost Dove' at a very random moment, one where my head was blank. It was one of those critical moments where my thoughts went astray. Those thoughts were being rehearsed in my head, I had to get them out somehow, express myself in a manner where it remained but just as a trace and not a bug in my mind which gave birth to 'Lost Dove'."

The flightful fledgling took away
It's heavy feather flew away
It's worn feet picked away
What? Oh What? Made it go away

No water no food, no shelter even
It's only protection broken cover
No work made it stay
For all it could do was hover
Meters above the pathway
That it could not stray

Ravens flew high, it stood low
For it was as pure as snow
None to taint for it trowed
It's single life slowed
For it's endeavour was a chore

The scene was set
Only black spots traversed over
The foul fowls flew without trouble

No streams it could not cover
Only the white was humble
However, It could only waver

The sky was light, hollow in fact
It's only concern was its final tract
It's journey was not yet over
The last thing before its pack was its pact
and one it didn't bag

Scorching heat would make it truss
It even let out a cuss
For it was all but found
The little dove was lost
It could not find its home ground
No dry land would cover it, no land would
suffice

Naive it was, for the fledgling was nice
It's purity shined but did not triumph
For black is darker, for black is triumphant

The sky was light, hollow in fact
No black spots traversed over
It's only concern was its final tract
It's journey was over

The last thing before its pack was its pact
and one it didn't bag
The last step was stepped,
the dove was betrayed

A big wall it faced
It's eyes turned red, its feathers black
It was no longer humble
It understood its path.
For it was no longer bound
The flightful fowl took away
It's heavy feather flew away
It's worn feet picked away
That made it go away



The Abyss of Thought

The Demons Within Us

Muktee Tolani

Insight - "I wrote this poem at about 3am at night, and it just came to me instinctively. It's about overthinking, and feeling anxious and conflicted, a feeling we all have known. I've been experimenting with my writing, and this is just one of my first poems. I hope you all enjoy and relate to it."

Driven by promise,
separated by fear.

The glooming darkness that surrounds,
your ever-glowing sphere.

It grows and grows,
thought by thought,
word by word.
Did I say this right? I wonder if he
remembers.

Called out a name,
a learning appears.

The abyss of thought,
it upheaves your fears.

Editor's Note - This illustration was generated by an AI when given the search term "Abyss of Thought"



Weird UN Moments

Was it more Chaos than Order?

Arnav Arora

When you imagine a conference at the United Nations, words like “funny” and “weird” definitely do not come to mind. In fact, most have a perception completely the opposite: A conference at the UN has to be extremely serious, right? Surely, with the world’s problems being discussed and solutions being pondered, there would be no room for antics? Well, this may not always be the case. Let’s take a look at some hilarious moments at the United Nations.

One such incident took place in 1960, during the 902nd Plenary Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. The atmosphere of the hall completely changed when Nikita Khrushchev, (despite expectations, Nikita is male) a USSR representative, got so angry at another delegate’s remarks, he began banging his fists on the table. As if this debacle was not enough, he then resorted to removing one of his shoes and loudly banging it on the table, until basically everyone in the hall was staring at him. It was later reported that when he was banging his fists, his watch fell off, and when he bent to retrieve it, a (debatably) better idea struck him, to use his shoe instead of his fists. The chaotic scene finally ended when Frederick Boland, the Assembly President, crimson-faced with frustration, abruptly declared the meeting adjourned and slammed his gavel down so hard that he broke it, sending the head flying. What a sight that must have been.



In a more recent incident, Donald Trump addressed the assembly and claimed that he had already accomplished more than “almost any administration” in US history. The delegates were not impressed, and a few let out some giggles. Those few seconds of silence must’ve felt like hours for Trump. He later retorted by saying, “Wasn’t expecting that reaction, but that’s okay” and continued with his speech.

With all the heated discussions and vastly differing opinions, insulting delegates and adversaries, even at extremely professional gatherings, isn’t all that uncommon. Something that is uncommon is insulting someone you didn’t mean to. In 1972, a rather cringe-worthy performance was given by Ugandan President Idi Amin when he seemed confused about his own intentions. He praised British Prime Minister Edward Heath and then right after, compared him to Adolf Hitler. When a German correspondent — eager to learn more about Amin’s admiration for Hitler — urged him to continue, he quickly retracted his statement by saying, “Not Hitler, I meant Winston Churchill. Heath is like Winston Churchill.” He later remarked he didn’t want a second front line opened against him.

What about India? Turns out India has had a fair share of its interesting United Nations moments as well. A record was set by Defence Minister and Indian Ambassador to the UN, Krishna Menon, when he delivered the longest speech ever in the United Nations Security Council. In 1957, Menon delivered

an unprecedented eight-hour speech defending India’s stand on Kashmir. After around the four-hour mark, it was reported that some delegates started looking at their watches, like disinterested students in class do, when finishing the class is the only thing that matters. These delegates didn’t have to wait for much longer though, but for a completely unexpected reason. After about five hours, Menon, presumably because of standing for too long, collapsed and had to be hospitalised. But, like a true warrior, he soon returned and continued his already rather long speech for another two hours and forty eight minutes, all while his blood pressure was being monitored by a doctor. Menon might’ve been boring but he was, in true respect, a patriot. The Security Council President had said to Menon, “The documents that you wish to have made part of your speech are quite bulky, they amount to almost a book.” Mr Menon was quick to correct the President and say “several.”

The immensely firm and resolute (perceived) nature of UN conferences contrasted with erratic moments like shoe banging and insulting laughter have led to some seriously hilarious moments throughout history. We can only hope instances like these continue to occur though, because everybody needs some humor in their lives, even delegates at the United Nations.

QUIZ!

- 1) Who was 'The father of human rights' in India?
 - a. Mahatma Gandhi
 - b. Justice Prafulla Chandra Natwarlal Bhagwati
 - c. Jawaharlal Nehru
 - d. Monsieur René Cassin
- 2) What is the highest position one can get in the United Nations?
 - a. Deputy Secretary-General
 - b. General Assembly President
 - c. Secretary-General
 - d. Economic and Social Council President
- 3) Who is the head of the United Nations?
 - a. Amina J Mohammed
 - b. António Guterres
 - c. Abdulla Shahid
 - d. Munir Akram
- 4) What year was the U.S. Institute of Peace founded?
 - a. 1987
 - b. 1983
 - c. 1984
 - d. 1992
- 5) Who is the director of the Global Peace Foundation in India?
 - a. Dr. Hyun Jin Moon
 - b. Catherine Lockman
 - c. Dr. Paul Murray
 - d. Dr. Joe Ligma
- 6) How many years has the dictatorship in North Korea been going on?
 - a. 73
 - b. 76
 - c. 32
 - d. 109
- 7) Who was the first dictator in the world?
 - a. Titus Larcus
 - b. Aeschylus
 - c. Oedipus
 - d. Socratis
- 8) When did the worst nuclear disaster occur?
 - a. Chernobyl disaster
 - b. Nagasaki Nuclear bomb
 - c. Fukushima Daiichi power plant accident
 - d. Three Mile Island meltdown
- 9) Which was the first battle fought in India
 - a. First battle of Panipat
 - b. Battle of Karnal
 - c. Battle of Plassey
 - d. Battle of Talikota

9A
8A
7A
6B
5A
4C
3B
2C
1B
Answers

Samurai and Swords

The Curious Case of Miyamoto Musashi's Legendary Life

Aarnav Dixit

Samurai are aristocratic warriors with extreme military skills and a deep sense of conduct. Respected all over Japan, Samurai are famously known for their single sword fighting skills and extravagant armour that looks similar to decoration. But let me tell you that the armour is anything but decoration. This so-called 'decoration' helps in protection against the several hundred thousand elite warriors Samurai have to overcome. Not only do they follow their life by an unwritten code expressing their loyalty and honour referred to as 'Bushidō' which is the Japanese saying for "way of the warrior" but they also devote themselves to their swords. Yes, I literally mean their swords. Samurai are so dedicated, they go their entire life mastering one style of fighting and never even thinking of another style. All legendary warriors in the history of Japan have mastered their swordsmanship, and some mastered it in their own way. One such warrior is Miyamoto Musashi, often regarded as invincible. Musashi was a peerless swordsman whose only equal trait was his strategy, adaptability and randomness in all the battles he has ever been in. One particular battle always stands as testimony to Musashi's character.

His most famous battle in 1662 with Sasaki Kojirō was quite bizarre, it's also a personal favourite of mine.

Here's some background information, Sasaki was a man of great pride and great strength. He was reported to be on equal grounds to Musashi but here's the thing, Sasaki never liked getting insulted, the stain on his pride would infuriate him since he was a man of discipline, quite the opposite of Musashi. He had discipline but only for the sword, to clarify, Musashi did something very disrespectful and showed up four hours late to the battle in a boat with not a single sword in sight. Moreover, history recorded Musashi to be one who rarely bathed, so as you can imagine the stench catching Sasaki's nose would in fact infuriate him.



This bizarre chain of events caused Sasaki to act very impulsively while in battle. Musashi had already fashioned a sword out of an oar for some unknown reason and very swiftly struck Sasaki causing him to lose the battle and due to severe injury, his life. Now here's why I especially like this battle. Post-fight, Musashi attained self-realisation on his sword techniques and renounced fighting lethally. It's a very amazing thing to strike your opponent and defeat them using swords but something completely different killing them with a wooden oar. Other than this extremely popular battle, Musashi has gained several other accomplishments in his life that didn't put him in the best light but certainly emphasised his greatness. While alive, Musashi fought over sixty battles often with underhanded methods and won them, many of which were to the death. His merciless behaviour and cheap tricks started from a very young age. Being the son of a Samurai, Musashi often learned swordplay from his uninvolved father. After his mother passed away and he was accepted into a monastery, one sword student made the mistake of angering the beast because soon after a battle commenced, Musashi at age 13 defeated the student and then beat him to death while he was throwing up copious amounts of blood. It's impressive but rather gruesome for a 13-year-old to defeat a sword student. Musashi was a natural at swordsmanship and was extremely talented, so talented that Musashi created his own way of the sword, praised by many, it is called the 'Niten Ichi Ryu' which roughly translates to 'Sword Saint'. This style included him holding a Katana (Japanese sword) in one hand and a Wakizashi (a smaller Katana) in the other.

His style was quite odd, which included him throwing his Wakizashi towards his opponent and then fighting with just one sword. No Samurai at that time could fathom abandoning their loved sword but Musashi didn't see a problem with it, I don't think anyone else at that time would be either considering that Musashi in several instances was referred to as the 'God of War'.

Honestly speaking, Musashi to some extent was admirable. Yes, he was a dirty player, cold-hearted and didn't care about hygiene but on the other hand, he was a genius strategist. So much so that he wrote a book called "The Book of Five Rings". After its English translation in 1974, many people intensively studied the book to better understand Japanese management techniques and strategies. It gets even better, Musashi was responsible for all the illustrations in the book seeing as he mastered the monochrome painting style. His economical way of brush strokes was particularly remembered. Painter, writer and the swordsman, these three certainly seem against the Samurai's adherence to the sword but Musashi had a different way of thinking. Very often did Musashi encourage others to master different things, to further their skills. For that, I believe Musashi to be a very admirable person and honestly, worthy of his title as a legendary Samurai.

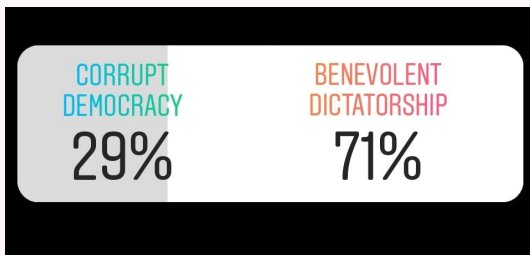
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- <https://www.deviantart.com/phallseanghell/art/Oni-Samurai-737415505>

What do you think?

We asked our readers some interesting questions. Here are the results

Would you rather live in a corrupt democracy or a benevolent dictatorship?



A very interesting and unexpected result to say the least, and that too overwhelmingly.

Does peace bring war or does war bring peace?



Quotes

We looked for some of the best Peace and Conflict quotes, here they are:

“ An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind. ”

~Mahatma Gandhi

“If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner.”

~Nelson Mandela

“Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster. And if you gaze long enough into an abyss, the abyss will gaze back into you.”

~Friedrich Nietzsche

“Do not think of knocking out another person's brains because he differs in opinion from you. It would be as rational to knock yourself on the head because you differ from yourself ten years ago.”

~Horace Mann

“The less you say, the more weight your words will carry.”

~Leigh Bardugo

Artwork

Niharika Guleria

This piece of artwork represents both Peace and Conflict as can be seen with the various symbolism and imagery. The newspaper represents a precursor to either peace or war and represents the intersection between both scenarios. The red and yellow colour background is reminiscent of that of an explosion which can be seen as a part of war or an indication of loss of life. The white doves however represent peace.



RECIPE

FAJITAS

By Niharika Chauhan

Ingredients Needed: Two well-sliced chicken breasts/paneer pieces, One sliced onion, One Red chili (optional), One sliced red pepper, 4 tbsp olive oil, 2 crushed medium garlic cloves, One lime (juiced), 1 tbsp ground coriander, 1 heaped tbsp of smoked paprika, 4-5 drops of tabasco, A pinch of ground cumin, 6 medium tortillas, bag mixed salad, 230g tub of fresh salt (for serving)

Instructions:

1. Wrap 6 medium tortillas in a foil and heat the oven to 200C.
2. Add 1 heaping tablespoon each of paprika, ground cumin, 2 crushed garlic cloves, ground coriander, and the juice of 1 lemon to 4 tablespoons of olive oil lime and 4-5 drops Tabasco together in a bowl with a big pinch each of salt and pepper.
3. The marinade should be stirred with two finely sliced chicken breasts/ paneer pieces, one finely sliced red onion, one sliced red pepper, and one finely sliced red chili if using.
4. Grill the chicken/paneer and marinade in a griddle pan until they are smoking hot.
5. To get a nice charred effect, keep everything moving for about 5 minutes over high heat. Use tongs to keep the mix stirring.
6. If there is any raw flesh in the thickest part of the chicken(paneer), cook it until it is done.
7. Serve the tortillas with the chicken/paneer, one 230g tub of fresh salsa, and a bag of mixed salad after heating them in the oven.

Losing Cultural Identity

No Longer a Minor Problem

Aarnav Dixit

Culture is defined by the societal norms, values, and beliefs a group of people possess.

Cultural identity gives those people who identify with a culture a sense of belonging because of their ethnicity. Now imagine, the very culture you belong to slipping from your grasp as you attribute yourself to another culture, what happens then? I found myself in such a situation, I observed myself slipping out of the culture I belong to and diving into another over a course of two years. Losing my cultural identity isn't solely affecting me, in fact, it has impacted several heterogeneous groups across various cultures.

Losing one's cultural identity is slowly becoming a problem of global significance. An entire generation, rather an entire country can lose what they call their 'cultural identity' simply because rising generations find another culture to be more interesting. It can happen at any scale. I feel this situation myself.

This piece lays the foundation for our next issue with the theme *'Identity'*.

We hope to see many engaging and interesting works based on this vast and supremely important topic. To submit articles for the next issue, please contact the editorial team.

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