



IS THE US-CHINA RELATIONSHIP IN DANGER?

Over the past 40 years, China and the USA have been considered by other countries as one of the most powerful in the world. We can dedicate this consideration or status to their highly-developed economies, trade, high GDP, developed market and manufacture. Not only are these two countries powerful on their own, but their economical partnership is considered as the alpha-omega of economy. They have been partners one and off for almost 2,5 centuries and have always been heavily dependent on the president. As it is already known, this year's candidates for the 2020 presidential elections represent two parties - the former vice president Biden for the Democrats, and the current 45th president Donald Trump for the Republicans. Naturally, the upcoming 2020 presidential elections became very prominent to China, because their collaboration with the USA could shift with a possible new leader. So what can the election outcome of each candidate possibly mean for China and the relation between them and the USA?

With the US president Trump's past actions, many have speculated what the possible course and intentions could bring if he won a second term. Trump has been very vocal with his intentions to change the approach towards China even in a speech during his first presidential

campaign in 2016 : "....We lose almost 500 billion dollars a year with China...They take our money (Chinese government and people), they take our jobs and we owe them 1.6 trillion dollars....How does this happen?" Since then Trump's administration and the approach to China has been viewed as tougher and rather negative. This approach can be seen in the National Security Strategy, trade or even human rights that the US has put out. This resulted in China's deep stress and discomfort towards the US as shown in NPR's Rob Schmitz reports from Shanghai : "China is not taking the news well, calling the Trump administration's national security report "self-serving."". Some have even named Trump's administration as 'America first attitude without a strategy' (Brookings; Assessing U.S.- China relations 2 years into the Trump presidency. 2019) that led into the US-China trade war. The US revisited these worries once Donald Trump started blaming China for the ongoing Covid-19 Virus by calling it the 'Chinese Virus'. As mentioned, the atmosphere that has been created by both sides during Trump's time in the office could possibly escalate into a serious potentially armed conflict between both economical empires.

Joseph Biden's point of view seems to be similar to Trump's to an extent. He

expressed his probable frustration even throughout his role as the Vice President for Barack Obama. Now the possible next president mentioned a new strategy of confronting China and the approach that they chose towards the US. He mentioned the strategy of 'coordinating with allies' as mentioned in Axios news 2020 . Despite the history of Biden's opposition towards China, he believes in maintaining a good relationship with the country due to the importance of partnership in the economy in the upcoming decades. On the other hand, he has not been very certain with his intentions towards the deals Donald Trump has made with China. The only reported news or Biden's intentions were that he would try to maintain the relationship by using other methods, without elaborating or explaining in extensive detail.

In conclusion, the relation between the US and China can be looked at as very uncertain and unclear. Both Trump and Biden have shared some visions and intentions with the approach towards China and seem to seek change. Will the already distressed situation between these two countries escalate in the already discussed war? Or will the two powerful economical empires settle for peace and maintain their business partnership?

ALŽBĚTA ŠMIDBERSKÁ

EDITORS' NOTE

Dear readers,
This year has been a challenge for us all. The newspapers have been focusing solely on one topic - the Coronavirus pandemic, and nothing could beat it in viewership. However, last month, the US presidential elections became the most discussed topic everywhere, and that is exactly the reason why we chose the topic of ELECTIONS across the world for this year's first edition of the World News section.

Sofi and Betty covered the US presidential elections, and today their articles serve as an interesting flashback to the time before the election results. Šárka and Magda focused on different aspects and consequences of elections in Belarus and the Czech Republic. Lastly, you may notice that our last article is not about elections, but the Beirut explosion. It is an exception because the article was too fact-based and objective for its section, but it is indeed an article worth reading, so we decided to include it in our section instead!

We hope that during these long winter nights (and days) at home, you'll enjoy reading our articles as much as we enjoyed writing them.

ADÉLA ARCHALOUSOVÁ
& JULIE SEDLÁKOVÁ

WHO'S TO BLAME FOR THE BEIRUT EXPLOSION?

On August 4th, 2020, there was an explosion in the Port of Beirut, the capital and the largest city of Lebanon, accounting for a third of its population. There have been over 200 deaths, 6000 injuries, and 300,000 displaced, and the cause? Negligence. A mind-blowing amount of it. Six years and six months before the explosion, a Russian ship carrying over two and a half thousand tons of ammonium nitrate to Mozambique was confiscated due to unpaid docking bills. The cargo was unloaded to a warehouse, where it had lain still for six years, until it caught fire and led to the destruction we know.



Source: https://www.economist.com/img/b/1280/720/90/sites/default/files/20200808_MAP502.jpg

Lebanon is a Mediterranean nation located in Western Asia. It is situated

around Mount Lebanon, where around 500 CE St. Maron established a Christian ascetic tradition. Two centuries later Arabs conquered Lebanon, and Islam, mostly Shia, was enforced. Four centuries after that, the crusaders took control of the Levant and strongly enforced Catholicism. Later, the area got reclaimed by Sunni Muslims, under whose varying degrees of control it remained until World War I. Upon the dissolution of the Ottoman empire, Lebanon was mandated to the French, which was the first time in Lebanese history, when it was a secular state. It remained a secular state, even after it gained independence from the French, during World War II. Afterwards, as an independent nation, it has experienced an era of prosperity enjoying tourism and a flourishing banking sector. Its position, in that regard, was comparable to that of current Kuwait. During this golden age, many Arabic, namely Palestinian, refugees fled to Lebanon. The response of the Christian majority and the Christian government made the Arabs question the supposed secular nature of the establishment. This eventually led to the apex of the underlying reli-

gious tension of the secular period: the Lebanese civil war.

After a 15 year-long, extraordinarily complicated conflict left hundreds of thousands dead, and a fifth of the entire nation displaced, an agreement was reached. The Taif agreement instead of attempting to create a secular system, created a balanced sectarian system, saying that each of the three main religious groups will hold a rough third of power in state, and that nothing happens without the consensus of the three groups. This was done to appease all parties concerned and get them to lay down their weapons. The system was meant to be provisional. However, 30 years after the conflict, the system of government has not changed at all. This system puts the government in permanent gridlock. The establishment in Lebanon is futile. It has time and time again failed to reach consensus on key issues and strategies. The public servants serve only to dismiss the proposals of others for the dismissal's sake, while their economy collapses, their people revolt, their cities explode, and their democracy dies.

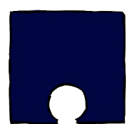
MATĚJ MAREK

A SECOND TRUMP TERM?

After almost four years of one of the most globally controversial and contentious leaders the United States has ever had, election time has come. The candidates for the 2020 elections are current republican president Trump, and former vice president democrat Biden. The date of the election is set for November the 3rd, and voter turnout is expected to surpass the 2016 elections by a large margin, and could even set record-breaking numbers.

However, this year's elections are different from any other for a profusion of reasons. The first one is unambiguously the Coronavirus. The way Trump has managed the pandemic has been the subject of much public controversy and debate, with 220 thousand dead in the United States so far. He has refused to administer a national mask mandate and has repeatedly underestimated the severity of the disease. He has also spread misinformation about the cure, stating that disinfectant or UV light might be effective in

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eliminating the virus. In contrast, Biden has criticized this approach, and his campaign promises include statements such as: "listen to science" and "ensure public



Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/08/19/republicans-mail-in-voting-trump-398774>

health decisions are informed by public health professionals". These points are what is most often criticized about the President's approach, and what Biden guarantees to change.

The other unique subject of contention regarding the election is postal voting. Absentee ballots have been a legitimate way of casting votes since the Civil War in the election between Lincoln and McClellan, due to soldiers being away and not able to cast their votes at home. Later, in 1978, California granted the right to vote by mail without providing a reason, and many more states followed suit. This year the main reason for voting by mail is the virus because people are cautious to cast their vote in a public setting, and would rather do so out of the comfort of their own homes. Trump's campaign has been vocal about this sys-

tem of voting being rather problematic, as there is a supposed potential for fraud and that voters will somehow take advantage. However, postal voting has historically increased voter turnout and there are almost no instances of fraud that take

place through this means of voting. This method of voting is also more favored by democrats, and some think that that is why Trump wants to cast doubt on its legitimacy.

When looking at the polls, the average puts Biden in a 10.6 point lead, which is by a much larger margin than Clinton had on election day in 2016. Nonetheless, polls don't mean anything when people don't go and actually vote. There is also some speculation about the 2016 polls not being accurate enough, due to not including enough demographics. Moreover, there is also the matter of the electoral college, the system of voting in America, which assigns different states different amounts of votes according to their population. So even though Clinton had won the popular vote in the last election, the electoral majority was awarded to Trump. This is also why mail-in voting is crucial now more than ever, as a larger voter turnout can help Biden score more points in some of the swing states, and ultimately make a second Trump term virtually impossible. Nonetheless, anything can still happen from now and until every vote is counted, and only time will tell.

SOFIA JELIČIČ

BELARUS: ELECTION PROTESTS FOR NEW FAIR ELECTIONS CONTINUE

The 2020 Belarusian presidential election, just like every Belarusian election since 1994, didn't meet international standards of transparency and fairness. The alleged winner of the election is Alexander Lukashenko who was supposedly reelected to a sixth term in office with over 80% of the vote. However, the election results are believed to be incredibly fraudulent. Lukashenko's main opposite candidate, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskayat, entered the race in place of her husband who was jailed prior to the election. She claims to have won the election with at least 60% of the vote. This is supported by many poll workers who testified to have witnessed the fraud. Opposition candidates have all filed appeals calling for the invalidation of the results. Many countries refused to recognise the alleged results as well.

This led to immediate widespread peaceful protests in Belarus. Tens of thousands of people came to the streets to protest, and thousands of people, including factory workers, police officers, and TV presenters, have gone on strike to call for Europe's longest serving leader to step down. And these protests aren't stopping. Today, the 25th October, marks the 11th consecutive Sunday of protests in the country. Over 100,000 people marched in Minsk and threatened Lukashenko with so-called "people's ultimatum":

step down or face nationwide strikes that will paralyse Belarus.

So far over 13,000 people have been arrested, 103 injured and 50 have gone missing during the protests. That is despite the fact that the police claims to have only used non-lethal riot control equipment such as water cannon, rubber bullets and stun grenades. However, the police threatens to use firearms and claims that the demonstrations are becoming more radicalised. Last week, the interior ministry wrote on the Telegram messenger service, "Law enforcement officers and internal troops will not leave the streets and will use riot control equipment and lethal weapons if need be." The opposition is not afraid. As one of the protesters said, "There's no way back for us. If they start shooting, then there would be even more people in the streets."

Despite the fact that the election took place more than 2 months ago, this issue is far from over. Neither side seems to be ready to give up just yet, so it will be interesting to see how the events unfold.

ŠÁRKA NEUMANNOVÁ

DRIVE-IN VOTING: SALVATION FOR THIS YEAR'S CZECH DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

In the second wave of Coronavirus, the Czech Republic was hit hard and the numbers of infected continued to rise for two months since the end of the summer holidays. At this time the elections were coming up and so the government needed to find a way for people to vote and stay safe and at the same time, they needed to enable infected citizens to vote. This year's Czech regional and senate election took place in all regions and districts across the whole of the Czech Republic and was carried out on Friday the 2nd till Saturday the 3rd in October

however, that only applied for Czech citizens who were not in quarantine or who tested positive for COVID-19 and it took place in libraries, school classrooms with social-distancing measures in referred districts. People tested positive for COVID-19 or those in quarantine could vote from Wednesday 30th of September through a new innovative voting method called: Drive-in. This type of voting was available from 7 am to 15 pm.

Drive-In is a procedure that enables people ill from COVID-19 or those in quarantine to vote and not endanger fellow

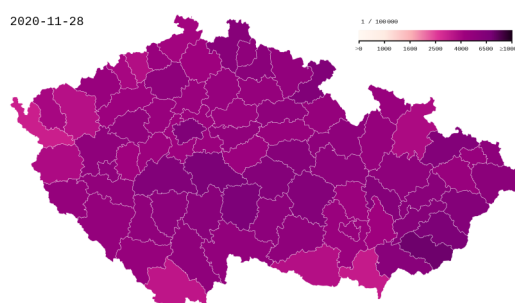
citizens. It was managed by police officers at given districts of regions. Police officers supervised the compliance with measures given by the Ministry of Healthcare to battle Coronavirus. As well as supervising traffic and the correctness of citizen's documents in order to vote. These documents were supposed to be put into a plastic bag in order to minimize the risks of spreading the virus and police regularly had gone through a process of disinfection, that can also be described as a "shower of disinfection" while being in their protective suit in order to prevent further spread of the disease. Then the documents were returned after being verified then the voters could put an envelope with voting paper or ballot which was sent to them into their house. This envelope is then put into the ballot box, through their car window. Voters couldn't open the car. If the police's human resources were low the Czech army came to help.

In particular Jihomoravský Kraj Drive-In took place in 7 districts however there were more districts that were supposed to vote in the regional election. Many people took the opportunity and voted, unfortunately only a low number of voters in quarantine drove in to support their party. The same goes for Ústecký Kraj which also received a low number of votes, however, it was lower than in Jihomoravský Kraj where about 400 people voted. In Czech regional election an

average of 250 voted for a region.

Drive-In voting was used to secure that every infected Czech citizen or unable to vote in this year's regional and senate election from 30th October to 3rd October by applying the Drive-in voting and sending voting papers by mail to all voters. This voting took place in all regions of the Czech Republic but only a few places enabled the Drive-in voting. Particularly Jihomoravský Kraj had only 7 stations in different districts and about 400 people voted which was not many in comparison to the number of people who tested positive for Coronavirus. However, voter fraud has become implausible and improbable thanks to Drive-in voting.

MAGDALENA FABIČOVICOVÁ



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/COVID-19_pandemic_in_the_Czech_Republic#/media/File:COVID-19_Czech_Republic_-_Cases_per_capita.svg



Source: <https://pardubicky.denik.cz/galerie/drive-in-volby-v-pardubicich.html?photo=4&back=334789190-2019-45>

RECAPITULATION OF CRAIG'S BOND ERA

James Bond, the legendary spy, whose talent for briskly solving problems, passion for women and a great appetite for alcohol, made him one of the most famous agents in the world. It is now 58 years since the first movie, Dr.No, which introduced Sean Connery (may he rest in peace) in the major role. Since then, many more movies about Bond were produced, and six more actors in the role of Agent 007 were cast. When the last of the Bonds, Pierce Brosnan, ended his James Bond series, it was obvious that these movies about spies with the latest technological systems are no longer as popular as they used to be. The last movies simply did not have the spark and authenticity of the previous ones. So the producer's only hope was one last actor, who would bring the series towards its old glory or end the complex spy world full of beautiful ladies, silent pistols, vodka martini drinks and shiny top speed cars.

istically, with all the pros and cons of the personality of the man with a license to kill. He has shown the audience the evolution of a secret spy who is able to endure harrowing difficulties with thrilling action scenes and highly interesting dialogues. All his movies (Casino Royale, Quantum of Solace, Skyfall, and Spectre) were positively received all around the world and truly resurrected Fleming's legacy.



Image source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/scottmendelson/2020/06/14/james-bond-new-release-for-daniel-craig-date-costs-no-time-to-die-box-office-record/>

When the directors announced that the new Bond would be Daniel Craig, many fans of the previous movies complained that he is not the type of tall, black-haired, secret agent that Ian Fleming (the author of 007) had portrayed in his books. Only 5.8 feet (1.7m) tall and blonde-haired, Craig was not even sure himself, whether he was the right one to portray the main character of this famous franchise. Yet he tried and succeeded. He managed to play the bold Agent 007 real-

Despite the fact that Daniel Craig said that Spectre would be the last film where he will play James Bond, newer news proved that Craig will perform as Bond once again, in the 25th Bond movie called No Time to Die. The premiere of this movie was firstly scheduled in spring 2020, however, was postponed several times due to corona spread. The main issue with cinema blockbusters in 2020 is, that the producers cannot get enough

money from their films because the number of people visiting cinemas rapidly decreased as people fear for their health. So the real premiere of the last Bond filmed should take place on the 2nd of April 2021 to avoid money loss.

Lastly, the most important question is, who will continue as the next James Bond. Firstly, there was a great disarray, when there came information that new Bond should be a black woman, Lashana Lynch. However, later news approved that most

likely new 007 agent will be chosen from men actors, such as Tom Hardy, Michael B Jordan, Sam Heughan, Richard Madden, Tom Hiddleston, Idris Elba or others. It is only a matter of months to say, who is going to be the next man in a suit drinking shaken martini.

NATAN KRATOCHVÍLA

Name: _____

MUST HAVES IN A QUARANTINE

Complete the crossword puzzle below

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

- 4. Working out
- 5. People who are the closest to you
- 6. Tool to protect your face
- 7. Optimistic thinking
- 8. Capacity to tolerate, without being annoyed
- 9. Consideration for other people's feelings

Down

- 1. How you care for your body
- 2. Pay attention to others
- 3. Ability to control and motivate yourself
- 6. 'Keep following your dreams'

mask, family, hygiene, self discipline, motivation, patience, exercise, respect, positivity

KATEŘINA VAŇKOVÁ



FANTASTIC FOOD RECIPES

HOMEMADE ECO-FRIENDLY BIO PUMPKIN SOUP

- 1) Buy pumpkin seeds or take them out of a pumpkin you bought/planted.
- 2) Put them in a cup with loam in half of April.
- 3) After three weeks, replant them into a larger flowerpot.
- 4) In half of May, replant them to flower beds with spacing 2 and 1 meters. (Adding compost or manure recommended.)
- 5) Weed them out regularly, and in case of big drought water them.
- 6) Harvest them in the beginning or in half of autumn.
- 7a) Peel and chop the pumpkin.
- 8a) Put your pumpkin into a pot and add onion, garlic, water and broth
- 9a) Boil it for approximately 15 minutes.
- 10a) Liquidize it with a blender
- 11a) Add salt and pepper.
- 12a) Add milk or cream if you want thicker soup.
- 7b) Do aesthetic photos of your pumpkin.
- 8b) Purchase pumpkin soup from your favourite restaurant via DámeJídlo.

DANIEL STRNAD

BOREDOM'S SICKNESS

Tick-tock.
Four o'clock.
What a shock.
Time's locked,
The Door's blocked,
And slumber leaves you shell-shocked

So just drown
in your home-made ghost town.
Break down,
quarantine is now a common noun,
and balcony is the only way out.

Escape these thoughts
before they tie firm knots.
And no more liquid shots!
Do not succumb
to the point of being numb.
This is a test,
so try your best,
unless you are dead like the rest.
Keep your head in one spot.
Besides, that's the only thing you've got.

SERGEJ ŽUKOV

Walk around the edge of the infinite,
all your problems are now intimate.
They say boredom is definitive,
and that death is imminent.



Image source: <https://www.eetasia.com/blog-life-after-quarantine/>

THE DUTY TO OUR PLANET

Covid is on the rampage all around the world and it has been for some time. Disinfecting our hands is now nearly an instinct and face masks have become a standard article of clothing just like a t-shirt, for example. Yet the previous sentence is not precise. 'An article of clothing' implies something made of cloth, and especially the one-use hospital masks that many of us have resorted to are not made of it. That is what makes them one-use, after all. Just throw it away when you are done, no washing, reusing or anything of the sort. Ecology? In the middle of a global pandemic? Have you gone mad?



Source: <https://images.theconversation.com/files/348520/original/file-20200721-133010-7wbvs0.jpg?ixlib=rb-1.1.0&rect=6%2C0%2C4170%2C2348&q=45&auto=format&w=496&fit=clip>

Face masks are not the only thing that is thrown away in large quantities because of sanitary precautions. Think about

the rubber gloves some people wear, the increased use of plastic bags because carrying groceries unprotected is considered risky, or the increased amount of hospital tools that are thrown away after use because they have been contaminated. A global pandemic is definitely not very eco-friendly. But can we even do anything about it? We can and we cannot. There is the three-step route

to living a more eco-friendly life, known as the three Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle. The 'we cannot' relates to the first two steps: reduce and reuse. Some disposable protective gear simply cannot be reduced or reused, such as hospital tools or personal-use respirators. Reducing the amount of or reusing these would lead to a heightened risk of infection, and therefore that would not be a very good piece of advice.

However, we still can do something about the reuse and recycle steps. There is one very obvious thing to reuse, face masks. Not the disposable ones, of course, but the cloth ones, that are made to be used over and over. Or plastic bags, if we disinfect them properly.



Source: <https://www.rd.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/GettyImages-1215891843.jpg>

If you still have to throw something away, please for the love of whatever deity you believe in, dispose of it properly! This is the recycle step, and it is indeed very important. There are used face masks and disposable gloves littering the streets, and almost certainly no one is going to pick them up for fear of infection. In the Covid pandemic, ecology is usually not the first thing on our mind, but even the smallest actions help and you cannot possibly come up with an excuse for that.

JOSEFÍNA DUŠKOVÁ

WHY CARE ABOUT BELARUS?

I saw a mother beat her crying child and I walked past. I should have stopped it. But would I change anything? What gives me the right to insert myself in other people's problems? Also, why help this child and not focus on more serious problems? And would I be fighting injustice or my conscience? In short, doubts overwhelmed me.

Later, when democracy in Belarus was still a political issue, Czechs protested, social media filled with red and white flags and I walked past. It seemed pretentious to act as a fighter for justice when I knew how chivalrously I had fled from the child in distress. The available avenues of aid appeared to be aimed at pleasing the Czech protestors, not helping

those in Belarus. In the end, I resolved not to politically engage until I knew I would be ready to help the next crying child - starting with myself first.

It is logical, right? The government should be taking charge, facilitating help and negotiating complicated international treaties. I am nineteen, why should anybody care about my take on Lukashenko? It is my job to sit, learn and keep my mouth shut. At the same time, this age confers me with the right to vote. Am I the government?

You can grasp my confusion. Good cases can be argued for both action and inaction. Responsible young citizens with historically unprecedented access to information about global issues ought to politically participate, yet there will always be an element of insincerity. It is easier than ever to satisfy one's longing for justice in gestures of solidarity while failing the test of immediate confrontation with evil. Here is my solution.

My assumption is that expecting a young student to fully comprehend concepts like justice, altruism or human rights is laughable. However, this does not absolve us from genuine attempts at soci-

etal betterment. Individual education seems to be the way out. Why care about Belarus? To learn. Thinking back to that crying boy, my dissatisfaction is not with my actions, but their motivation. I walked past because I was unprepared to act, paralyzed by doubts and internal conflict.



Source: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/flag-of-Belarus>

Yet the memory nurtures a more complex worldview and self-perception. Next time I get wrapped up in a similar situation, my actions will be a bit more resolute and a bit more honest. Moreover, we who had such extraordinarily peaceful lives can train our reflexes for when we accept true historical responsibility, perhaps liberating the next Belarus.

This points to a deeper problem. Social media has allowed citizens to act quickly, but does not provide guidance to make this participation effective and its results long-lasting. I confess to my confusion and take responsibility to self-educate, but shouldn't there be role models, ideals of good behaviour, which I could strive to emulate? England has the archetypal gentleman, France the passionate revolution-



Source: <https://www.euronews.com/2020/08/26/telegram-changes-emoji-of-belarus-flag-in-solidarity-with-protesters-thecube>

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear readers, Even though the weather outside is grim and the marvelous Maldives would be preferred by many over the chilly Czech Republic, the writers of the social commentary section nevertheless took their time and produced a number of excellent articles. As we start to grow up, life inevitably begins demanding more and more independence and attentiveness from us. Responsibility is therefore key and permeates everyday life, which is why it is the theme of the social commentary section in this edition.

All our writers tackled the theme creatively and certainly did not restrict themselves to the most common thoughts one tends to have when hearing the word responsibility. Victor explores how the youth can learn responsibility based on the events in Belarus. Whilst Jasmina shares her views on environmental responsibility, Josefina asks whether this issue is still relevant during the Covid-19 pandemic. Calista explains how societal expectations are damaging to students, and finally Nick questions whether we are responsible for helping those closest to us.

In closing, each writer has a unique approach to the theme, and everyone created truly stunning articles, especially given our current hardships during the lockdown. I welcome you to stay and have a great time with our section. Hopefully, these articles will brighten your day, just as they did mine!

NICOLAS WICHERT

onary, America the patriot. What do we have? In this moral mess of motivations, engaged citizens should also focus on crafting modes of behaviour that transcend the particular situations at hand. Let's take crises like Belarus as an opportunity to learn. We can gain as individuals, but also as a society at large.

VIKTOR ŘÍHA



Source: <https://storage.googleapis.com/afs-prod/media/f60c4946fa2e485d88e58a61c31b255d/800.jpeg>

EARTH = OUR RESPONSIBILITY

I have always been concerned about environmental issues and discussed these with my friends to try to make them more aware of the impact of our daily actions. Yet I have realized it is not in my power to convince everyone. When the movie "A Life On Our Planet" by David Attenborough was released in March, people suddenly started texting me. "Wow, what a movie! I can't believe what you were saying was actually true." The visual evidence collected by an expert had a far greater effect than anything people have seen or heard previously, as one friend confessed. But why should we care about our environment? David Attenborough sums it perfectly in just a single sentence which I strongly agree with – "It's surely our responsibility to do everything within our power to create a planet that provides home not just for us, but for all life on earth." I believe that by following the next few tips, we can make a minor but significant contribution to support the statement.

Regarding food choices, it is extremely eco-friendly to shop locally. Not only do you support local businesses but you also limit the impact of huge agribusinesses that release enormous amounts of CO2 into the atmosphere by processing meat; they keep animals in inhuman conditions or in extremely small spaces, degrade the soil by over-harvesting and using pesticides or fertilizers. Moreover, by investing into products that travel a minimal

distance to reach the supermarket, you are making a contribution to limiting the negative impact of commercial import which causes air and water pollution. However, it is important to remember that buying locally does not negate all the aforementioned, thus try to verify the source of the product as well.



Source: <https://www.customearthpromos.com/eco-blog/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/eco-friendly-choices-jpg>

A CLEAN IMAGE

In this world, we are expected to be perfect, especially students. They should be responsible, reliable and independent. They are judged their whole life, so maintaining a specific look or portfolio is very necessary.

At a young age, dealing with that can become overwhelming. You are held accountable for not handing in homework on time, failing a test or acting up. Once a student makes a mistake, breaks the trust of a teacher or doesn't fulfil the expectations, he or she or they are judged instantly. After that, it can be hard to build back your reputation and the trust of your teachers. You are expected to help those who are weaker, learn about different cultures or languages or times as well as what is happening around the world and other problems our generation will have to fix. Overall, the goal is to create a perfect student who will succeed later in life and will do something big, which leads to students having to decide about their future, family etc. A lot of people feel pressure to achieve this 'ideology.' To succeed, you can't have the slightest flaw.



Source: https://sk.pinterest.com/pin/398990848207057806/?autologin=true&nic_v2=1a4W1Xnfo

JASMÍNA ŠVARCOVÁ

SHOULD WE HELP THOSE CLOSEST TO US?

While one ponders weak and weary, hoping for that gentle rapping at their chamber door that will not come, only accompanied by curious volumes of forgotten lore, one might be tempted to say: "nevermore". Yet even the great Edgar Allan Poe could not have foretold the darkness that seeks to settle in our hearts during these trying times. Being cloistered at home like some sort of a high-tech monk has certainly proven to be deadly to the psyches of many of us, with dark thoughts feeding upon our sorrows and reveling in our suffering. True, this might not be an apt description of most of us, yet all but a few of us will have seen it, not uncommonly in our very families. Still, is it *our* responsibility to lift the veil of shadow around them? Without a doubt, I am certain that all of us should look out for others in our family, and here is why.

Morality is a fickle mistress. Yes, often-times she serves us as we would like and strengthens our arguments, whether they be advancing the cause of world peace or convincing your friend that lending you his pencil for the sixth time this week is just and noble. However, once others start to disagree with your moral compass, things can go south faster than the speed of sound. Nevertheless, I think that from a moral standpoint, each of us has an obligation to help our spouses, children and parents if they are facing mental issues. We all owe them more than we could ever repay, so is it not our duty to



Source: <https://www.brainpickings.org/2015/08/05/gustav-dore-poe-the-raven/>

try and repay them when they need us most?

But what if you are selfish? Morality impresses you about as much as a poorly cooked lamb stew in downtown Dublin, and you have as much respect for your family as Disney has for Star Wars. Well even then, you should unquestionably try to help others in your family overcome problems related to their mental health. Close relatives have this quaint knack of looking out for one another. So, if you at one point feel down (and you

will), it is certain that they will be more than willing to do anything to help you. However, if you scoffed at them when they were in need, they will hardly be so forthcoming. Unfortunately, bad emotions spread like wildfire. Once someone in your family starts going through hard times, the rest of you will inevitably become affected by this, and not in a good way.

Ultimately, how we react to such situations reveals much about ourselves. Whether out of a sense of duty, selfishness or desperation, helping those closest to us reveals our most hidden weaknesses and is an undeniable test of character. If we are able to overcome such situations together, we and all those around us will be stronger for it.

NICOLAS WICHERT



Source: <https://www.brainpickings.org/2015/08/05/gustav-dore-poe-the-raven/>

From the way, you look to the way you act, and if there is something slightly wrong with you, you fail. While a lot of students deal with this problem, many others have to deal with other issues than that. It does not necessarily help much when many people online seem to achieve this 'ideology' even though nobody can. Knowing that we start to doubt our achievements and we create an unhealthy habit of comparing ourselves to other people. Many people online seem to achieve this 'ideology' even though nobody can. Knowing that we start to doubt our achievements and we create an unhealthy habit of comparing ourselves to other people.

From my point of view, this 'ideology' can become overwhelming. As I am a student myself, it can become very pressuring to maintain a specific portfolio. Every student learns differently, and the 'ideology' doesn't fit everyone. Even though we see people who achieve the 'ideology' every day, it does not make you any less important. Instead of focusing on the imperfections, we should start paying attention to a person's strong side. Instead of setting high and unachievable standards, we should focus on the flaws in the system and how to make it work for everyone.

CALISTA MAŘÍKOVÁ

CZECH POETRY OF THE 20TH CENTURY

I am proud to be Czech! One of the many reasons is our vibrant history, even more so our literary history. Today, I would like to guide you through our poetry placed into historical context in the first half of the 20th century. Well, not precisely the whole half. The years 1900-1918 are usually omitted from 20th-century literature. This is because the Czechs were still under the influence of Austria-Hungary and the Great War changed so much about people's perception of the world. Other than that, I will attempt to address the vast majority. Let us begin!

We start things off after the war in the early 1920s. At that time, the most popular movement by far was proletarian literature. You can understand proletarian literature as texts concerning and supporting the working class (proletariat) and being generally leftist oriented. Socialism was on the rise at that time, and it was supported by many world as well as international and domestic authors. A few of these authors joined together and created a group called Devětsil, a collection of the most influential authors in the 20s and 30s. A prominent representative of proletarian poetry within Devětsil was indisputably Jiří Wolker. Although his works were very left-wing oriented, he is regarded as one of the best Czech poets.

In approximately 1923, the core of Devětsil (mainly Seifert, Nezval, and Teige) realised that they did not want to write

proletarian poetry anymore because it was not so important to them. Therefore, they created a brand new original movement, unique to the Czech Republic, called Poeticism. Poeticism focused mainly on having fun and being happy. Its goal was to take people's minds off of politics (poeticism was strictly apolitical) and everyday life. Poeticism took inspiration from things like the circus or exotic lands. The main actors in the field of Poeticism were its creators (Seifert, Nezval, Teige, Vančura) and the writers of Osvozené Divadlo (Werich, Voskovec, Ježek). Famous Poeticist works include *Návláchní TSF* by Seifert or the famous *Rozmarné léto* by Vančura.

With the rise of war tensions and the changing climate in society, some poets needed to express their distaste for war and its foolishness. The international movement called surrealism was thus created in the 30s. It placed great emphasis on illogicality, the absence of a sane mind, madness, dreams, and sexual fantasies. Although the official creation of surrealism is dated somewhere in the 1920s-30s, we could say that the one and only genius of poetry Guillaume Apollinaire had already presented surrealist ideas during his life. Apollinaire also heavily influenced many Czech authors, namely Nezval or Biedl, for example. These two were the leading figures in Czech poetic surrealism. Both of them were also a part of Devětsil, which

once again testifies to its importance and influence.

A prevalent force in the field of poetry, which became even more prominent in the heavy pre-war atmosphere, was the Spiritualist movement. We generally differentiate between the Catholic and non-Catholic parts. Both of these parts focused on society and values, but each from a different perspective. While the non-Catholics were mostly optimistic, nationalistic and democratic, the Catholics were more condemning and skeptical, judging society and its values. Although the Catholics may not seem like the heroes of our story, they were crucial in the time preceding the war and during the occupation itself. As this may suggest, the Spiritualist movement lasted with significant influence throughout most of the 30s and 40s. A critical figure, not only in the field of Spiritualism but Czech literary art altogether, is Jan Zahradníček, famous for his Catholic work, scepticism, and anticommunist ideology. His distaste for the communist regime, unfortunately, led to his imprisonment and death. An influential non-Catholic representative is František Halas, best known for his poem *Praze*.

The last movement I would like to talk about today is the New Generation. This is a collective term for poets who reached adulthood shortly before the German occupation of Czech Republic. Their works are thus heavily influenced by the

atmosphere of the occupation, as well as the values of a "naked" person, one stripped of all societal and ideological influence. Poets at that time often wrote about trying to be free and people's attempts to grasp life, bringing a new and young wind onto the field of poetry. They even created their own club called Skupina 42, although it was not strictly literary (it included painters, illustrators, and other artists) and quite loose in terms of organization. Important figures of the New Generation were Kamil Bednář, whose work changed over time but stayed true to his views, and Jiří Orten, a very talented young poet, who was ostracized and killed due to his Jewish descent. Thus was the nature of the time, reflected in poetry. And that brings us to the end of the first half of the 20th century. I hope you enjoyed this quick overview of different movements throughout Czech poetic history and that you were enlightened and maybe inspired by our vibrant poetic background. The best thing to do to follow up on this article is to go and grab a book or two from each time period so you get a feel for the poetry at that time. Poetry is dead, long live poetry!

MIKULÁŠ ŠKORPIL

ONLINE FRESHMAN

Covid-19 influenced the whole world around us. Stopped us from spending time with our friends and the ones we care about, doing our hobbies, and visiting the places we love. Speaking of places we love, the schools everywhere are undergoing online education and video lessons. But imagine being in a different school, a different country, and far away from your family during the lockdown. Must be hard. So I reached out to one of those who currently experience all this: my sister.

Firstly, thank you for giving me your time and talking about studying at a university during the Covid-19 crisis. Could you briefly introduce yourself, of course not to me, but all the readers, please? Where do you study?

I'm Tereza Chárová and I study International Business and Administration at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam in the Netherlands.

How does the Netherlands fight against coronavirus?

The government here is very liberal. So, until recently all the measures that other countries put as mandatory, were only

"strongly advised" here. Now, however, cases are rising faster and therefore, at the moment you cannot be with more than 4 people inside and outside, you have to keep 1.5-meter distance and restaurants and cafes are closed. New measures should be announced in approximately a week. (Partially because some students just don't respect the rules and in a chase for a "dream university life" they keep on organizing parties with 20+ people.)

What does your school schedule look like? How many lectures do you have per week?

I have 3 lectures per week, one live call, and two pre-recorded lessons. Mostly, all the learning you do is by yourself.

What do you feel are the advantages of online education?

The best thing for me personally is managing my own time. You can wake up whenever you want, do whatever you want, but that is mainly studying, of course. It is liberating, not to wake up at 6 am to go to school.

Is there anything that you dislike about learning online?

Definitely the lack of social interaction, I meet with my friends only in spare time. My room is my classroom now and that is something difficult to get used to.

How do you perceive the shift from high school to university? Do you miss something from high school?

University offers more freedom due to the lower number of lessons. On the other hand, there is a lot of homework to do in the meantime. There is more self-study and it is my responsibility to decide what to do and when to do it. That involves a lot of reading every day, but that could be specific for my university program.

Speaking of workload, do you think that the fact that you did IB gives you an advantage over people who did not?

IB made me used to a high workload for sure, and I can definitely see the difference between myself and my time management and other people who did not go through IB. The shift is much harder for them academically speaking. Now that

I look back at IB, I realise it was not that much about the final result but rather about preparing yourself for a ton of work in the future.

Do you think you learn more online than you would if the lessons were in person?

Since I can watch all the lectures whenever I want, I can designate a specific time when I'm in the mood for a specific subject. That means I pay more attention to the lectures than I would if they were offline. Although online lessons cannot replace human contact, I feel that I learn more by myself.

Thank you for your time and let's hope things get easier. See you at Christmas!

Thank you, I hope the interview was interesting!

We do not know how long this difficult period will last but let us believe that it will not take long. I hope this article inspires you to go forward and endure this nightmare. Maybe if something changes, there will be a part 2 :-).

ADAM CHÁRA



A LUNACY OR A CRISIS?

Covid. Corona. Sars-CoV 2. COVID-19. Coronavirus... the disease that has been limiting our lives for the past year holds many titles worldwide. Simultaneously, as many names as you may call the usual Corona, we can see so many points of view of this disease among different populations. The common ones compromise it being a terrifying crisis with a great danger for the whole of mankind or on the contrary, a melodramatic lunacy blown out of proportion. Nevertheless, people are creative in their abstract opinions, therefore, there are many more refreshing and often thought-provoking outlooks on this uniting situation.

As all these points of view come from people surrounding me, my family, and close friends, I decided to go through them based on generations they belong to. First, I believe that few of the elders, my grandma being one of them, deserve the title of my corona heroes. Not only have she and our other neighbors engaged in helping us in quarantine and brought us groceries to our remote village during the first wave, they also volunteered at our district's office to collect money for other seniors and buy them fresh fruits and vegetables. These three pensioners have driven around the district for two days handing out food packages and homemade masks. Therefore, as you may suppose these few ironically stood on the side of those believing Co-

vid is lunacy comparable to catching a cold, yet felt sorry for those frightened by the craziness.

Now looking into the generation of my parents, desperation is an attitude they mainly express, sometimes uplifted by the Corona jokes going viral. It is quite interesting yet understandable how their perception of the crisis has shifted. In spring, the uncertainty of the severity of the disease united people as everyone sought and gave understanding to others in their doubts and fears. We all tried to be as caring and considerate as possible, but as the crisis unfolded, so did its aftermath and outcome. The results included troubles for all entrepreneurs and industries, and consequently, for the whole country's economics. People tested positively with severe development of the disease died with Covid rather than due to Covid and many of the restrictions limited one's original freedom which outweighed the benefits provided. Now what the working part of society sees as one of the most peculiar, if expected side effects, is the division of society onto the two poles I have stated in the introduction. More than one friendly relationship has been broken as humans take their beliefs to extremes and awaken hatred and discrimination to those who do not share their opinion. Despite all these negative disagreements, there is a side of creativity from one of the sides that displays the absurdity of the restrictions

through provocative humor. An example could be the joke called the government's plan for the upcoming months; "Oct-Nov: Home office, Dec-Jan: Home Credit, Mar-Apr: Homeless." From my point of view, one of the positive aspects of the pandemic is the sudden boom in people's creativity, helping to uplift the mixture of emotions we have throughout the day, still subtly bringing attention to the struggles we face.



<https://www.nationalchurchresidences.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/GettyImages-1213437805-web-1.jpg>

"My mom always told me I would not accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now ma! I am saving the world!" I promise now this was the last lame Corona joke I insert into this article. However, it nicely links to the fact that my generation, young adults and teenagers see the most positive aspect is the fact that they have "vacation" mea-

ning that they do not have to physically attend school every day, wake up annoyingly early each morning, and can lay in their pajamas all day long. The more warmhearted ones appreciate the fact that they have more time to spend with their families, whom they slightly overlooked in their previous routine, and thereupon, realize that they are quite nice people with many shared characteristics. Overall, I naively believe that all my peers conclude that we were gifted to live in the circumstances we had. We should realize how many "normal" things we took for granted. I must say that the year 2020 was not at all a crisis. It posed an opportunity to stop and have a thought about what I am grateful for and what person I wanted to be one day based on what we have experienced. In many areas, this year has brought hope in the fact that mankind is not at all that bad and can unite in times of need.

After the weeks of quarantine, I came to finally appreciate everyone's value. I realized that it is a gift to live in a society where we get the space to learn from each other, as we all are unique in our opinions and I came to understand the importance of having your loved ones around you. So last, my reply to this situation is: "Thank you Corona. Thank you for opening our eyes."

MICHAELA RENDLOVÁ

THE FAMILIAR, SHROUDED IN JAZZ: A REVIEW OF SUNGAZER

If you are anything like me, you will find yourself suddenly interested in something only because of one YouTube video. Maybe it was in your recommended videos, maybe it was a suggestion below a video. Whatever it is, you find the topic somewhat intriguing, you watch the video, and suddenly for the next few weeks or even months, you are hooked on that topic. For the past couple of months, Jazz has been that thing for me.

One thing leads to another, and I found a channel by the name of Adam Neely, who is a jazz musician and bass player who explores interesting topics about not only jazz but music in general. Some of his biggest hits include 'What is the slowest music humanly possible?', 'The 7 Levels of Jazz Harmony' and 'Whiplash (as reviewed by a jazz musician)'. So eventually I found out that Adam has his own band with drummer Shawn Crowder. Obviously, he has a band, right? He is a musician! So, I listened, and now their two projects, Sungazer, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 are some of my top played albums.

So, what makes them so special? Well, they are not really jazz, at least by the standard definition. They are more considered electro-jazz and EDM. Basically, they take a lot more inspiration from electronic music, using synthesizers, 808 drums, and so on. What this synthesis creates is a band, where in which the general sound is at least somewhat familiar, but looking inside, the music is a lot more complicated. This was kind of proven on

their debut EP, Sungazer, Vol. 1. It barely clocks in at 10 minutes and feels a lot more like a proof of concept than a focused project. Not to say it is bad, but a lot of the songs do not feel like they fit together into one single cohesive EP. For example, Sequence Start is an extremely energetic song which features a choir, and Ether is a very calm and relaxing guitar-heavy song. It is not the most consistent experience, and in the end, it is less than the sum of its parts, but those parts are still pretty good. As mentioned already, Sequence Start is a very energetic opener that gets you super pumped up. Dream of Mahjong is the song that Adam uses the most in his videos, and for good reason. It is a powerhouse of jazz and electronic elements. Ether, while a tonal whiplash, is a very nice song, if a little forgettable. Level One is the song where the band most embraces the video game aesthetic that their cover art invokes, but it is also a bit forgettable. I Walk Alone is the closer and the closest thing the band's ever been to making a pure EDM song, with the vocals and drop. Justina Soto's vocals are great, and the song carries a lot of energy. So, the first EP isn't bad, but there was a lot to improve, and after five years they finally released Sungazer, Vol. 2.

While the first EP was just an idea, this feels much more like a fully-fledged and finished project. Clocking in at 17 minutes, it's still a somewhat short experience, but all the songs feel complete and they have a much more satisfying arc

than on their debut. There are two weak spots, those being Ostinato and Why We Fight, but they aren't really bad, nor are they forgettable, they're just not as good as the rest of the project. Speaking of the rest of the songs, man are they great. If there are any songs from this band I would recommend, it would be these. Drunk is a bit weird as the opener, but it has a great atmosphere, it's almost a bit haunting. Shawn's drumming is at a high here, he manages to convincingly 'play drunk' while improvising some great grooves. The way the song goes from one section to the next is also great, it keeps you interested while the song experiments further. Bird on the Wing is probably the band's most conventional song, as it has the most normal arc of any song with a verse, chorus, bridge, and climax. But my God is it catchy! The guitar here is great, and the synths, while not the focus, do add some great details. While the second verse and chorus basically repeat, the climax of this song is amazing. It is loud, and for lack of a better term, epic. If there is any song that people will enjoy from this band, it's this one. And finally, we have Electro, the last song on the ep, and easily my favorite song of theirs. Why? Well, it's just an insanely catchy EDM song. It takes quite a bit of inspiration from Dubstep for its drop, and Crowder's drumming sells it. However, the thing that really made me love this song is the second half. It turns into a double solo of guitar and drums, and as it goes

on it gets more and more intense until... saxophone! Yes, the wonderful saxophonist Jared Yee comes on this track and demolishes any expectations you had for an outro. It's so intense, and it was a total accident. It was originally supposed to be the first half and a solo from Crowder, but he went on for a bit longer than expected, so Adam had the wonderful idea of bringing on Jared, and from that, they created not only an incredible outro for this song, but for this project too. It's because of the intensity of this outro and the entire EP playing out like it does that I consider this to be a much more cohesive project. Sure, not all the songs are similar, but it is much less jarring here.

Overall, Sungazer, Vol. 2 is an incredibly solid collection of electronic inspired jazz songs that will in places blow your mind and might even introduce you to really complicated concepts within the realm of music. Do check out Adam Neely's channel if you're interested in music whatsoever, you won't regret it. And do listen to these projects! It's always good to broaden your musical taste, even if you don't fully enjoy it.

Sungazer, Vol. 1: 7/10

Sungazer, Vol. 2: 8.5/10

IVAN PAVLOVEC



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