

# POLITICIA



*Landslide! Winner by smiles*

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# Editorial

*Complaining is finding faults. Wisdom is finding a solution.*

As I embark on writing my second editorial, aware that the first one was considered somewhat complex, I remain committed to maintaining the high intellectual standards of this magazine. I hope our esteemed readers find it engaging on this pleasant (or possibly rainy) day

This year, the burden of political articles and international relations has fallen on my already weary shoulders. However, I am determined to fulfill my roles as Secretary General of WELMUN 24 and Editor-in-Chief of Politicia 2024 with excellence. On this August day, I foresee half the delegates feeling anxious, the other half delighted to reunite with old friends, and all of Welham Boys' School enjoying a break from classes. This is the magic of WELMUN, where the atmosphere transforms into what some fondly call the happiest days of the year

Moving on to my duties as editor-in-chief, I present to you a magazine that remains well-informed and engaging, providing a comprehensive political digest. With diverse ideologies, heated debates, and clearly defined sections, it offers quick insights into global turmoil, especially focusing on India's journey toward better days. For the intellectuals and kind readers who have taken the time to read my second editorial, I promise an entertaining journey, as if on a rollercoaster ride through the mind of a sugar high adolescent teenager.

The UN is an institution I am well-researched in, if not intimately acquainted with. As a 17-year-old, my knowledge pales in comparison of well-read delegates of WELMUN'24, whose intellect is beyond challenge.

In a MUN, we witness students from varied backgrounds transform, becoming as impassioned and articulate as the Prime Minister of India or the delegate of the USA. Their performances are so convincing that they expect the same respect as their real-life counterparts. This is the magic of MUNs—turning global peacekeeping efforts into a dramatic performance, all in the pursuit of solutions.

Within this theatrical environment, a new intellectual perspective emerges. A manipulative arc shapes a once joyful young participant into someone seemingly pretentious, yet in their eyes, this act is their reality. These serious munnners take on the world's responsibilities launching metaphorical nuclear strikes with genuine conviction. In this virtual world, everyone is a potential foe, willing to ally with even the devil to secure the best delegate award.

Such is the scenario and chaos of a MUN that even the gloomiest of August days transform into a plot worthy of the best play in a decade. The rants, silent threats, coarse screams, and sly grumbles are the sights I've observed from afar this WELMUN. Amidst all this entertainment, I urge you to read this humble magazine and choose politics. Once you grasp the humour I intended in this magazine, your perspective on WELMUN will shift from seeing it as a mere debate to finding amusement in every stutter and a serious note passed around. And do collect and give roses with the coupons the Secretary-General has developed quite a fondness for them in this tumultuous month.

**Editor-In-Cheif**  
**Jaap Sardana**

# Landslide: Winner by smiles

'50 Shades of beige' or captain white bread, and if he were a vegetable he would be a potato. Those are just some kind words conferred towards the new Prime minister of the mighty United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, i.e. Keir Starmer.

Starmer is renowned for his professionalism, meticulous approach, and thorough understanding of policy details. He is also easily mocked. The British media often describe him as having a nasal, flat voice and being somewhat dull and colourless. He frequently refers to "five-point plans" in public speeches, speaking as if he were reviewing a PowerPoint presentation.

His political rivals ridicule him as a dumb "lefty London lawyer"

Keir Starmer Sir Keir Starmer has had a roller coaster of professional life, to say the least, with originally being a human rights lawyer, and that too is a quite good one. With landmark case wins against McDonald, defending prisoners against the death row penalty, including that of a Black teenager who was murdered in a racially motivated attack in 1993 while waiting for a bus. Moreover, he was also appointed the director of public prosecutions where he oversaw the conviction of terrorists and reformed the way rape victims are treated. And well, these commendable achievements, led this talented lawyer to a knighthood in 2014. Which then in 2015 swiftly prompted Starmer to join politics, and as his family was a through and through labour party supporter, the party to join couldn't be any clearer.

Starmer got instant success, becoming an MP in 2015 that too on the same day as Rishi Sunak. While initially till 2019 he was the right-hand man of the then-party leader, Jeremy Corbyn. Also being appointed as the shadow secretary of Brexit by his mentor. With all this help by the then party leader, you would feel that Starmer, himself would believe in most, if not all ideals of his mentor. But

that was not the case, as soon as Corbyn was ousted in 2019 and Starmer got elected as the party leader, he abandoned all the ideals of his former mentor. As Hamlet rightly said, these actions 'puzzles the will', with what Starmer stands for, and does he even have his ideals. But as the saying goes 'merit is always recognized' I also ought to do the same thing.



In the Labour Party's existence of 125 years, there have been only 6 prime ministers from the party. And when Starmer took the mantle of the leader of the Labour Party. His only work hailed by the British media would be losing, but as we are witness to the elections. Starmer did the unthinkable and ended the Tory's rule of 14 years. But honestly, if you would just look at the no. of PMs that Britain has been witness to in those 14 years, it was a complete and utter failure, with no PM not completing a full term. And a lot of Tory's leaders, have turned into memes i.e. Boris John being scrutinized for his haywire hair, the famous campaign of who would last longer lettuce or Liz Truss.

And believe it or not, lettuce won that race, May fought for Brexit which she did not believe in, David Cameron poorly handled the economic recession and last but certainly not the least our dear own beloved Rishi Sunak who to be fair had commandeered a sinking ship, although not helping his

party's cause at all as he couldn't fix the healthcare crisis, his migration policy failed, moreover he failed to address economic woes, and if all this was not enough there was a lot of chaos and infighting which Sunak miserably failed to address. With all this overwhelming evidence one thing can be said that these elections are not a labour win but rather a Tories defeat.

The fact of the matter is at this point the British people are desperately looking for their knight in shining armour, to the point where a man with a trash can for a head, a prankster YouTuber, an AI,

Monster Raving Loony Party, Count Binface. These are the candidates who have given their names in the ring for the elections. This may feel amusing, which to be fair it is. But behind all of this façade, deep down there is a very imperative message being delivered, there is a sense of distance between politics and the general public.

The same country whose once motto was that the sun never sets on the British empire, the same nation who plundered and stole about \$45 trillion from India, the same nation which has stolen innumerable monetary funds and priceless pieces of history from their former colonies, the same nation that said India must be grateful that the queen visited the Jallianwala Bagh on the 50th independence anniversary, the same nation which holds the veto power and is a permanent member in the Security Council, the same nation which a dream destination for travellers all around, the same nation which with head held high left the European Union. Is now struggling to make its end meets, with a rescission looming over their heads, healthcare in tatters, a living crisis, with a growing sentiment of secessionist movements in Northern Ireland & Scotland, with a big energy shock. And to some extent, they may be able to blame unforeseen external circumstances, but after a point, the puck has to stop somewhere, and well all these glaring problems are their wrongdoings.

Although it may seem Keir Starmer with such a landslide win and such confidence is the ray of hope

and the breath of fresh air that Britain needed. But with all the evidence and past actions, Starmer would be no better. His motto for these elections may have read Change begins now, but personally, this man himself believes the key to getting Britain up and running again lies in moderate reform, political stability, and competent government. Captain White Bread throughout this campaign made sure that the whole of the UK knew that his father was a toolmaker and his mother was an NHS nurse (because nowadays having parents with a normal job is such a downgrade). The person who is an empty suit, who has ditched every political principle he's ever held. Where voters were forced to vote for him because of the dearth of viable good options, as voters themselves remain unsure of what he stands for.

If the theme tune of Tony Blair's 1997 landslide was, things can only get better, then Starmer's is more, things can stop getting worse.

*May God save the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....*





# Reinforcing Democracy: India's Journey of Pluralism and Unity



The discussion on whether India is transitioning from democracy to majoritarianism is important and intricate. India, being the largest democracy in the world, boasts a diverse history with pluralism and democratic principles. The forefront has been reached by the 2024 Lok Sabha election results and recent political developments. To delve into this matter, we need to examine India's basis for democracy, prevalence of majoritarianism, and present political environment, backed by evidence and instances. In India, democracy is founded on the values of diversity, participation, and decentralization. The Indian Constitution ensures that all citizens have fundamental rights, including protection of minority rights, freedom of speech, and equal opportunities. Free and fair elections, a strong judicial system, and a free media are key elements of Indian democracy.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) received a substantial mandate, indicating widespread public approval of its policies and leaders. The result of this elec-

tion highlights how active Indian citizens are in participating in the democratic process and voting. The BJP's emphasis on development and governance is a key factor in its electoral achievements. Programs like PMJDY and PMAY have greatly helped millions of Indians from different backgrounds by promoting financial inclusion and providing affordable housing options.

Despite majoritarianism claims, the BJP government has put into effect multiple welfare programs aimed at marginalized communities and minorities. For example, the Nai Manzil initiative offers education and enhances skills for young people from minority communities. In the same way, the Maulana Azad Sehat Scheme provides healthcare services to minority groups. The main goal of the One District One Product (ODOP) program is to promote products unique to each region, supporting local economies and preserving cultural diversity. These initiatives showcase the government's dedication to promoting development that includes everyone.

India's democratic systems remain strong in providing checks and balances. The independence of the judiciary is maintained, demonstrated by numerous important rulings that support constitutional principles. Despite challenges, the media remains vital in ensuring government accountability. The diversity of public sentiment in India continues to mirror the country's pluralistic values.

Despite the presence of social polarization, the Indian population still appreciates democratic principles and pluralism. Citizens' ac-

tive involvement in democratic processes, such as state and local elections, demonstrates their dedication to democracy. India's variety in culture and language continues to be a powerful asset. The government's dedication to preserving and celebrating India's diversity is evident in initiatives like the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat program, which focuses on promoting regional languages and cultures. The idea that India is moving away from democracy towards majoritarianism is not backed up by the overall outlook of recent political changes and policy actions.

The results of the Lok Sabha election in 2024, the implementation of welfare programs for marginalized groups, and the ongoing operation of democratic institutions all demonstrate India's dedication to its democratic principles. India's democracy continues to stand strong due to its well-established values of diversity and acceptance. Despite facing challenges, the country's democratic structure and citizens' active involvement guarantee its ability to progress while embracing unity amidst diversity. India is not moving away from democracy but instead strengthening its democratic values, aiming for inclusive progress and social unity.

-Atharva Agrawal

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# Socrates

## The Athenian Gadfly

Known for his abrasive speech (c. The period from 470 BCE to 399 BCE). Socrates, who was born in Athens, Greece around 470 BCE, led a unique life that distinguished him from regular Athenians. Contrary to most of his peers, Socrates did not possess wealth and did not have much fascination for luxury. He favored a modest way of living, frequently walking around Athens without shoes, participating in philosophical conversations with anyone willing to engage. Plato's dialogues suggest that Xanthippe, his wife, and their three sons—Lamprocles, Sophroniscus, and Menexenus—had less documentation, with Xanthippe portrayed as a nagging partner causing domestic tensions.

Socrates was renowned for his persistent questioning rather than for delivering grand speeches or proclaiming complex theories. His approach, which is now called the Socratic Method, included posing a sequence of probing questions that frequently caused discomfort for individuals. This method was comparable to having a “sandpaper tongue”—it might cause irritation, but in the end it removed incorrect beliefs and uncovered deeper truths. Socrates thought that questioning was crucial for intellectual and moral development, urging people to analyze their beliefs and assumptions critically.

Nevertheless, Socrates' continuous interrogation and criticism of Athenian society didn't resonate positively with all individuals, particularly those in positions of authority. He faced charges of corrupting the youth and showing disrespect towards the gods, resulting in his trial and eventual death in 399 BCE by hemlock poison. Even though he met a sorrowful fate, Socrates had a deep impact on Western philoso-

phy. Frequently celebrated as the founder of Western philosophy, his focus on logic, introspection, and analytical thought remains influential. Socrates' lasting impact demonstrates the ongoing importance of questioning and the tireless search for truth

-Atharva Agarwal

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# Eurosceptic Echoes - Eastern Europe's Impact

The rise of Euroscepticism in Eastern Europe is more than a regional tremor; it is a seismic change whose impact is felt far beyond the borders of the European Union. Imagine a continent where historical traditions of autonomy collide with modern pressures for unity, where national pride rises against a background of economic interdependence. This wave of skepticism is not only rewriting the political playbook in Hungary, Poland, and elsewhere; it has redrawn the contours of international relations, affecting countries as far away as India, and is shaking the foundations of global diplomatic and economic strategies. As the European dream faces unprecedented scrutiny, the world is watching closely and preparing for the impact of a divided Europe on a globally interconnected arena. This article examines the forces behind the rise of Euroscepticism, its impact on the EU, and the far-reaching implications for countries such as India and other global actors.

Many factors contribute to the rise of Euroscepticism in Eastern Europe. Economic disparities between Western and Eastern European countries have fueled resentment as many Eastern Europeans feel marginalized and underrepresented in the EU. Furthermore, cultural and historical differences exacerbate these feelings, with Eastern European countries often prioritizing national sovereignty and traditional values over EU directives perceived as liberal and intrusive. Populist and nationalist parties have capitalized on these sentiments and gained significant political momentum by promising to defend national interests against what they see as Brussels' overreach. In countries like Hungary and Poland, leaders like Viktor Orbán and the Law and Justice party have emerged to openly challenge EU immigration policies, legal reforms, and media freedom. The growth of Euroscepticism threatens the political stability and economic

coherence of the EU. Eastern European countries, once enthusiastic about joining the EU for economic development and political stability, are now expressing their disappointment. This frustration translates into opposition to EU policies, which lead to conflicts over issues such as the independence of the judiciary, media freedom, and immigration policy.

As Hungary and Poland persist in their defiance against EU standards, the cracks in European unity widen, echoing far beyond the continent's borders. This showdown isn't merely a clash of regulations; it's a clash of values, testing the very fabric of the European Union's cohesion.

The repercussions ripple across the globe, reaching the shores of nations like India. In this intricate dance of power dynamics, understanding and adapting to these shifts become paramount.

As the global community watches the political theater unfold in Eastern Europe, the stakes for stable and productive international relations have never been higher. It's not merely about observing—it's about actively engaging and shaping a world where interconnectedness demands astute diplomacy and nimble adaptation.

-Divyam Duggal

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## FROM STABLE TO WOBBLY: AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

Australia is known for its stable political outlook. However, in recent years the government has shifted towards a shaky government. The incident has caught the attention of both the domestic and international communities, questioning the government's existence and political future. This complex crisis stitched challenges, and policy disputes making it a tough period for Australia.

This crisis centers around the ruling party, the Liberal Party of Australia, and its coalition party, the National Party. Prime Minister Anthony Wilson has been at the forefront of the crisis, facing tremendous pressure and political issues on his part and from the opposition. The main opposition party, the Australian Labor Party capitalized on the tension, calling for a change in the ruling party. The roots of this web of tension were a series of controversial decisions regarding things like climate change and immigration.

Despite worsening natural disasters like bushfires and floods, the inaction on climate policy has led to public outrage within the party. The tourists have questioned the strict immigration policies and the opposition party launched debates on the responsibilities of a host.

Internal strife in the ruling party has been a significant part of the whole circumstance. Prominent figures of the country like the Treasurer and the Home Minister have openly and brutally criticized the Prime Minister's leadership, leading to a widespread heated argument and a loss of confidence in the leadership. Large-scale protests have erupted in major cities, with citizens demanding changed actions on climate change and stricter immigration policies. Social media has even heated these sentiments, with hashtags like

#AusPolCrisis and #ClimateActionNow trending often. The media has played a crucial role in shaping the narrative of this whole scenario. Major news outlets have often highlighted the government's failures and the opposition's positive stance. This scrutiny has added pressure on the ruling party.

This is the whole scenario. Maybe a new leader from the the Liberal Party, the Ruling party might steer the government in a new direction. Early elections could lead to a shift in power if the op-

positions succeeds in its dirty plans. The policies which have erupted and sparked debates, a significant policy shift addressing climate change and immigration might stabilize the government.

Australia's political system is in a phase of total mess and of transition. The recent political crisis in Australia highlights the challenges of contemporary government

in all the string of complex issues. As the situation develops, the commitment of the Australian government will be tested. The outcome of the crisis will not only shape the immediate political lookout but also set the foundation for how the future political landscape will be navigated in Australia. How the government faces these challenges will determine Australia's course of action in the coming years.

**-Vedansh Munjal  
XII**



## The Battle of Titans: United States vs China (Where is Russia?)

After a long year of disappointment to Mr. Vladimir Putin, a long decade of distress to the Russian Federation, and a long century of depression for the Soviet Union, their attempt to take (back) the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic has been highly unsuccessful. What once used to be the "Red Terror" for many, has been replaced by a government which was known only for censorship. China, has proved to be the underdog in such a scenario, which currently is the sole superpower to stand in the way of the World Dominating West, and their so-called leader, The United States of America

The West's advantages are undeniable. Its established network of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and allies across the European Union, technological and infrastructural prowess, and a (somewhat tattered) image as a champion of democracy remain powerful tools. However, internal divisions, economic anxieties, and the specter of past "interventionist" policies of the West have eroded trust and weakened its global standing.

China, on the other hand, brings a different set of strengths to the table. Its booming economy (which seems to have failed against the markets of India), vast population, and centralized control allow for rapid decision-making and resource allocation. However, its authoritarian tendencies, human rights record, and territorial disputes with its neighbors create significant challenges. The outcome of this titanic struggle remains uncertain. Will the ailing West manage to maintain its global influence, or will China reshape the world order in its image? However, it is very easy to miss out the Wildcard

of the East. The narrative's pointed omission of Russia underscores its dramatic fall from the times of Joseph Stalin and Mikhail Gorbachev. A nation that once commanded fear is now a wounded giant, unable to tackle its conflict with its neighbors or assert dominance in world order. Over the years, it has become a passive observer in the coming struggle, or can it find a way to claw its way back onto the world stage?

Three possibilities emerge. Russia could descend into further instability, fracturing along internal political and economic lines. This is a very probable track, due to the already prevalent famines and



inflation present in Russia, due to economic sanctions and trade blockades since the Russo-Ukrainian Conflict. Alternatively, it might forge a strategic alliance with China, becoming a junior partner in a bid to regain lost influence, or perhaps fail dominating the east. Perhaps the most intriguing possibility is a resurgence of a nationalistic

Russia, seeking to reassert itself through military power or cyber aggression or make use of the "N" (Nuclear) word.

The battle of the titans is not simply a contest between China and the US (or Russia and NATO for that matter). The outcome will determine the shape of the 21st century, impacting everything from global trade and security to human rights and technological advancement. As the dust settles, one thing is certain: the world order we once knew is gone. At every passing moment, a World War III is possible, and the country to succeed will be the one with the most resources, and not the one dominating world order.

**-Divij Gupta  
XI-SCI**



# A United Front: ASEAN

ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, formed on August 8, 1967, by Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Singapore. The main goal of this association is to encourage economic growth, peace, and security in Southeast Asia. Over time, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia also joined, making ASEAN a 10-member organization with a population of over 600 million people.

ASEAN is also a crucial political player in Southeast Asia. Its main goal is to peacefully and diplomatically resolve major disputes and disagreements between countries. Initiatives like the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the East Asia Summit (EAS) show this commitment by offering a platform for political and security discussions. These events include participation from outside partners like the US, China, Russia, and the EU, highlighting ASEAN's key role in regional security. One of its major efforts is addressing the disputes in the South China Sea.

ASEAN has facilitated negotiations and is working on establishing a Code of Conduct (COC) in the region, demonstrating its growing influence and involvement.

ASEAN is also a major player among the trading associations across the world whose total trade was valued approximately 110 billion dollars in 2020. One of ASEAN's most significant achievements is the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015, which aims to create a single market and production base for enhancing the free flow of goods, services and investments. This integration improves regional economic development and attracts foreign direct investment (FDI) by providing a more efficient and unified market. Another major of the association ASEAN FDI investments saw a money inflow amounting to \$224 billion, making it one of the most preferred regions for investors. One of the most notable of the achievements of ASEAN is the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which came into effect in 2022, including ASEAN and its six major



trading partners- China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and India. It rose as one of the world's major trade agreements, covering about 28 percent of the global economy. These are a testimony of the economic affluence of the organization across the globe.

ASEAN also have many fruitful impacts on India. Being a crucial country in the Indian ocean our trade with ASEAN has grown substantially, the two sides establishing the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area (AIFTA) in 2010 which has reduced tariffs on a wide range of goods, increasing trade volumes. Engaging with ASEAN also helps India diversify its export markets and reducing its dependence on countries like the US, Europe and China. It is also strategically important to balance China's growing influence in Asia as well as in the nation itself by increasing the Indian occupancy in various regions.

In conclusion, ASEAN has become a political and economic body that has made a major contribution in regional stability, economic growth, and global trade integration. Its diplomatic efforts and economic strategies, including the ASEAN Economic Community and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, proves its influence. For India, ASEAN provides important trade opportunities and strategic partnerships, helping diversify markets and counterbalance China's influence, making it crucial subject in both political and economic spheres.

-Vinayak Raj  
X



## The UN: Identity Crisis

The United Nations is an organization formed to attain the lofty goal of converting this world into a utopia. Many argue that this organization has been fairly successful in its task of maintaining world peace. However, others think along a different wavelength and say that the UN has failed. The latter belief is becoming ever more prominent with the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas as well as the widely covered Russo-Ukraine war that has been going on for a few years at this point. Some have even gone as far as

to state that the UN is no more than a forum for representatives of various nations to discuss global issues but take no action on them, and pass resolutions but never enforce them. But that is not all that has been running on the minds

of individuals around the globe. In recent years, another perspective has presented itself, one that shines a light on how the UN is a puppeteer making its marionettes dance with the tug of a string. The goal of this piece is simple: explore both the dynamics that the United Nations has been accused of, one of a silent debater, and another of a master puppeteer, and show you how both sides are more related to each other than one might assume at first glance, all thanks to five nations.

Firstly, let us look into the UN's approach towards global conflicts, or in simpler terms, how the UN is no less than a toothless tiger. This 'reputable' and 'famed' organization is unable to even implement the most basic of its resolutions or resolve a single conflict. As genocides continue, millions perish, and the flames of chaos and destruction run amok in society, the only thing the UN does is discuss and deliberate for months. They come up with a comprehensive resolution, one that will

solve all the problems the world faces, yet ends up getting vetoed by one of the P5 nations. Back to square one, the process repeats, and the cycle continues. The inherent flaw within the UN is the existence of the P5, five nations with the power to single-handedly overrule 188.

It is due to the P5 that the UN faces both the criticisms of being a silent debater and a puppeteer. Even though the P5 are only part of the Security Council, they are the committee responsible for ensuring global security and passing resolutions to prevent global conflicts.



The silent debater side of the UN is something that is plagued by fancy global conferences and discussions that go on for months at a time. The show that the organization puts on is fascinating, watching

global leaders get on their private jets to go to another nation to discuss pressing issues such as global warming. Despite the irony of the entire situation, the discussions and resolutions are impactful, yet the physical action to bring about change, does not exist.

That is not all though. The P5 nations abuse the power that has been given to them to prevent the hammer from falling on them or their allies, and what can this almighty international organization that spans several nations and has existed for several decades do? Nothing. It just sits there in the corner hoping that things don't turn south. It bets on the future of the world because it cannot control the five nations.

The last point of importance when talking about this tiger that seems to have lost all its powerful features to an eagle and four other predators is simply how inefficient it is, even more than the steam engine. The UN is good at one thing, which is guzzling down resources with the help of its bloated budget.

Think about the cost of setting up the conferences and the meetings that occur, and yet the war in Ukraine continues. Why? Because Russia vetoes whatever isn't in its favour and the US does the same. The 'united' part of the UN has vanished into thin air like the steam produced by a steam engine.

The silent observer facet of the UN has been explored to a large extent. Let us now enter the circus and look at the puppeteer. The term puppeteer doesn't strictly refer to the UN itself but rather a group of nations who would go to any extent to further their agendas and grow in power. You might guess who these shadowy masters of manipulation are, the P5 nations. It seems that all the problems that prevent the UN from ever achieving its original goal stem from just one group. So let us see how the core values of the UN are slowly being stripped from it.

The UN is flooded with cases of hypocrisy. If the United States were to do something that violated regulations, the odds are the UN wouldn't do anything to hold it accountable, simply because it can't. The same is true for the other P5 nations. However, if a third-world country were to do the same thing, the UN would intervene without a moment's hesitation and give threats of military intervention, especially so if the nation wasn't on good terms with any of the P5 nations. In this way, the P5 have effectively manipulated the strings to ensure that only nations who don't support them face consequences for not following internationally binding rules and regulations.

But that isn't all. The UN, rather than being a stage for discussion and deliberation, has now started to become a tool for neocolonialism for the P5 along with other wealthy nations. The developed, well-established nations are now able to establish their dominance over underdeveloped nations, which have access to plenty of valuable resources but no way to extract or utilize them. The plans to help developing nations focus more on the interests of donor nations rather than the needs of the recipient nations impossible.

To conclude, the goal of the UN is a noble one; there is no denying that. However, the way the organization has been structured is so flawed that achieving the goals isn't just extremely hard but nigh-on impossible. To conclude, the goal of the UN is a noble one; there is no denying that. However, the way the organization has been structured is so flawed that achieving the goals isn't just extremely hard but nigh-on impossible. The only way to ensure that we as a civilization are united, move towards world peace, and can hope to live in a utopia one day, is to give the tiger its teeth back. The only way the tiger can be restored to its original form is by cutting the strings that have been held by the puppeteers for too long.

-Ashaaz Ansari  
XII





## The Dragon Takes Flight: China's Rise in a Pre-Crowded Sky



Imagine a game of chess. For centuries, the board has been dominated by a handful of powerful players – the US, Europe, and the USSR (now Russia). Each meticulously planned their moves, fighting for influence and control. Then, with a quiet thud, a new piece enters the game: the Chinese dragon.

The emergence of China as a global power isn't a novel occurrence. But unlike the swift, decisive moves of a knight or the calculated advance of a rook, China's ascent has been more like the lumbering, strategic march of a pawn. For much of the 20th century, China focused on internal development, licking its wounds from past turmoil of poverty and warfare. However, this late entry doesn't mean China isn't a contender. The dragon's economic fire has breathed life into its industrial prowess. Its "Belt and Road Initiative" has put forth infrastructure projects that have woven China's influence deeper into Eurasia. Militarily, China flexes its muscles in the South China Sea, giving rise to a conflict with Malaysia, Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries that has remained a longstanding international dispute.

This sudden shift in the global power dynamic is like a new expansion pack added to the chess game. The established players are wary. The US, the reigning champion, worries about its economic dominance being challenged. Europe, with its colonial past, grapples with navigating a powerful China. The question on everyone's mind: is China a friend or foe on the world stage? The answer of course, depends from nation to nation.

China's supporters paint a picture of a peaceful giant, lifting developing nations through trade and investment. They point to China's role in international organisations like the UN

and its growing soft power – the allure of its culture and technological advancements, earning it the epithet "the world's factory". On the other hand however, countries like the USA have not been shying away from expressing their concerns about China's human rights record and its increasingly assertive foreign policy. They worry about a world order dictated by a single power, not the collaborative approach that has guided the post-war era. The reason for this is China's fixed exchange rate that has taken production on the world stage away from the west and is the main factor behind its economic success, and now leading to its increasing influence.

So, where do we go from here? The answer, like most things in international politics, is complicated. The initial step is to comprehend why China rose. Is it simply economic ambition, or is there a deeper desire to reshape the world order? With the latter being prevalent in today's context, it majorly shapes how other nations tackle China's influence. More importantly however, can the established players in the west find common ground with this new power, or are we destined for a clash of titans?

Well, China's late entry might just rewrite the rules altogether. With the western cartel trying its best to inhibit China's efforts to claim power on multiple fronts, the dragon's success will depend on the support it gets from partners like Russia. But remember, chess isn't just about competition. It's about strategy, foresight, and the ability to adapt. Perhaps, with careful manoeuvring, the most adaptable nation will come out on top, depending on what scenarios emerge in the future.

-Shreyash Shah  
XI

## Leadership Crisis: UK Prime Ministers Struggle to Complete Their Terms

In recent years, the United Kingdom has witnessed a troubling trend: the inability of its Prime Ministers to complete their full term in office. This puts a question mark on the stability of British politics and what it portends for the future governance of the country. The paper intends to delve into the reasons behind such phenomenon and the consequences at the domestic and international levels.

Traditionally, the service of prime ministers in the UK has been for a full five-year parliamentary term, with many extending their leadership across multiple terms. A case in point includes Margaret Thatcher, who served for over a decade, and Tony Blair, who served for three consecutive terms. This trend has, however, changed in the last decade. No UK Prime Minister since 2010 has been able to serve out the full five-year term, which speaks to the increasing volatility in British politics. One of the main issues driving this destabilization in UK politics is, obviously, Brexit.

This issue polarized the country and blew open deep fractures within political parties—most significantly, the Conservatives—in the 2016 referendum. Most of these early exits for recent prime ministers can be attributed to internal party warfare. More specifically, the Conservative Party has been wracked by acute factionalism, with MPs holding very divergent views on

There has to be more unity among political parties, which should channel effective dialogue and understanding among members. Clear party policies, with leadership candidates who can subscribe to such principles, will help minimize the potential for rumpuses that usually erupt within. Faith in political leadership can only find effective restoration through the commitment of ethical governance.

Leaders shall have to commit themselves to these ideals of integrity and accountability, setting high standards for themselves and administrations. In fact, more stringent codes of conduct and transparency would reduce the risk of scandals.

Greater involvement on the part of the public is achieved only by rebuilding trust in the political system. Politicians need to solicit with the people about their concerns and openly explain the difficulties and the decisions, and at the same time, governance would become participatory and inclusive.

The recent trend for UK prime ministers to fall at the post demonstrates that there is something fundamentally wrong in the political landscape. Though problems are challenging, their resolution is called for if governance in the UK is to be both stable and effective. Only through reform, unity, and new commitment to ethical leadership will the UK strive towards a more stable political future that has the strength and integrity to effectively meet citizens' needs and aspirations.

-Tanveer Singh Sains  
XII

# Bangladesh Unrest: Sheikh Hasina's Quota Controversy Sparks Student Revolt

Months after Sheikh Hasina re-elected as prime minister of Bangladesh for the fifth term, she is facing a tough situation because of the quota system reintroduced in Bangladesh. This introduction of quota systems led to anti-government protest by the students belonging to public and private Universities. This quota was first introduced in 1972, It gives 30% reservation for recruitment of government job to the descendants of freedom fighters who participated in 1971 liberation war. The quota was introduced in 1972 which was later called off by the government in 2018.

The protest was first started by university of Dhaka, Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology, University of Chittagong, Jahangirnagar University, which was later joined by the Private universities like North South university, South east University, Varendra University and many more, which was followed by public demonstration under the name of Anti-discrimination Students' Movement. The movement got intensified after Sheikh Hasina's statement "If the grandchildren of freedom fighters don't get quota benefits, will those then go to the grandchildren of the RAZAKARS? That's my question, the country-men's question".

The government of Bangladesh is blaming the opposition for the protest. The protest has turned so violent that the Government has to shut down schools, Universities, and even turn down the internet. As of 26th July 2024 there have been officially around 210 deaths, more than 2500 have been arrested and around 1000 are injured by the police. Seeing the circumstances the government has imposed curfew to calm down the

situation. This curfew has affected those who are dependent on daily incomes. Prices of the necessary items are not under control. Watching the conditions and demands of the students the Supreme court has ordered 93% of the government job to be allocated on a merit basis and the rest 7% on the quota system.

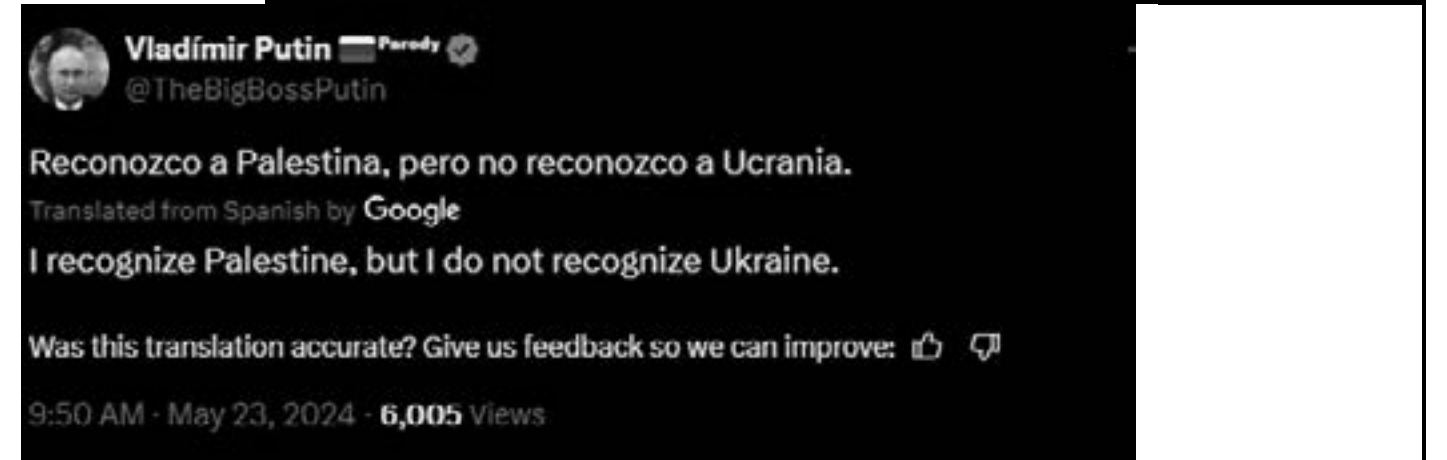
This protest is considered as one of the toughest test for the PM Sheikh Hasina. The protest not only affected citizens of Bangladesh, it also affected the foreign students studying there, 336 Indian students returned to India via land border crossing, in addition 200 students returned through Dhaka and Chittagong airports. India's high commission is still in touch with more than 4000 students remaining in country.

In summary students are fighting against the government for their own future opportunities. However this protest depicts the lack of democracy of Bangladesh and failure of PM Sheikh Hasina's governance. But there is still hope as the protest has started calming down which helps the government for the relaxation of 7 hours from the curfew.

-Nishant Jaiswal  
XII



X





# Attempted Assassination or Political Stunt?



Dates have different meanings for different people, for us Indians, it might have been a day of scrolling through Instagram and finding more Ambani wedding memes. For Donald Trump Jr, it was just another pep rally; one that wouldn't turn out so great for him.

Some people might believe it to be an assassination attempt but I personally believe it to be political propaganda, one that would hand over the presidential campaign to Trump and give him a victory by the sympathy he receives. The day started off normally for the former president who was in another one of his campaign rallies at Butler, Pennsylvania and it was turning out great for him, until it didn't. After conducting several successful rallies, he believed it to be his season, sadly the season had something else for him in store; a 20 year old named Thomas Matthew Crooks with an AR-15 rifle.

Thomas stationed himself not even 200m away from the presidential candidate on top of a building, and had avoided the eyes of the Secret Service snipers stationed on top of two buildings just behind Trump whose one job was to keep their eyes open and protect the candidate. They were so well trained and good at their job that Mr. Former President only lost an ear and just about one guy was shot (a low point in their daily stats).

Crooks was shot and killed the second right after he took the shot. In total Thomas shot eight rounds, from which one killed a member of the audience sitting right behind Trump and another injured a fellow audience member. The rest missed Trump but one could've taken his life if he hadn't

moved his head. Instead, it grazed his ear, making the 45th American President grateful for his life.

The "attempted" assassination unfolded with Crooks going to a shooting range where he was a regular member 48 hours before the incident occurred. His stop the next morning was a Home Depot store where he purchased a 5 foot ladder. Then he got into his Hyundai Sonata and headed to the rally and joined the hundreds and thousands of rally-goers. He had an improvised explosive device hidden in the trunk, whose transmitter he was carrying with himself. Then he used the ladder to scale a building and proceeded to open fire on the election candidate. He was then shot to death on the spot by the Secret Service Counter Sniper team stationed on the buildings right behind Mr. Trump.

While authorities searched through his apartment as well as his digital footprints, they were never able to find any evidence which could have been his motive. On the other hand, they found evidence showing increased online activities including computer coding as well as gaming, which have raised more questions.

While this can be seen as an "attempt" to end the candidate's life, the details of it make it seem like something else entirely. The sniper was supposedly aiming on the side of Trump's head, which was easily avoidable and secondly, if he were to be shot, why not aim at the centre of his head? Another thing which makes it even weirder is that the Secret Service actually failed at spotting him, which should have been easy given their training.

While whatever may have been the case, this incident has surely helped Trump in the presidential race. However, since Biden's withdrawal, the opposition has gotten a stronger face in Kamala Harris and only time can tell what will happen now.

- Arnav Aaditya  
XI HUM

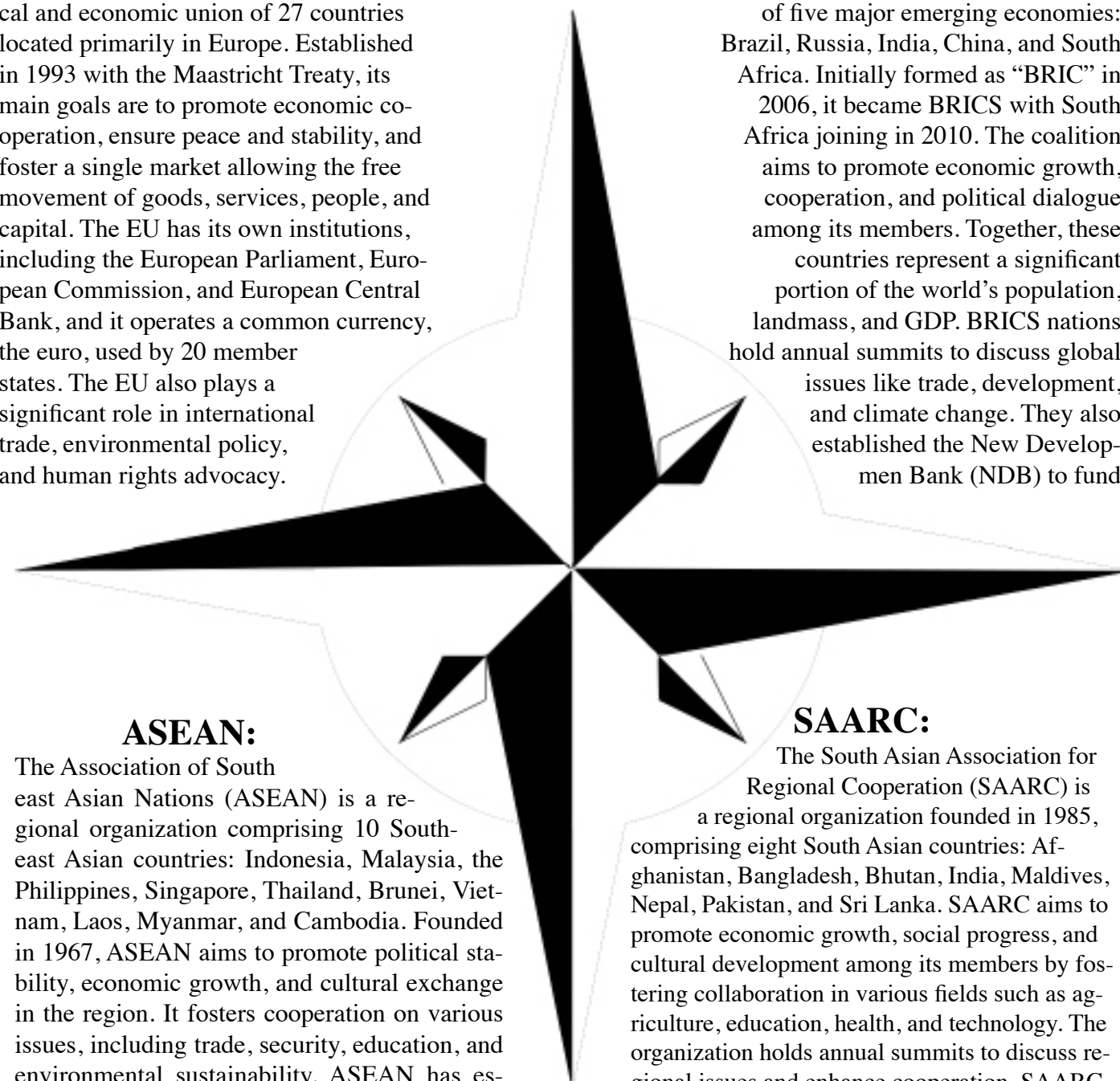
# COMPASS

## EU:

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 countries located primarily in Europe. Established in 1993 with the Maastricht Treaty, its main goals are to promote economic cooperation, ensure peace and stability, and foster a single market allowing the free movement of goods, services, people, and capital. The EU has its own institutions, including the European Parliament, European Commission, and European Central Bank, and it operates a common currency, the euro, used by 20 member states. The EU also plays a significant role in international trade, environmental policy, and human rights advocacy.

## BRICS:

BRICS is an acronym for a group of five major emerging economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Initially formed as "BRIC" in 2006, it became BRICS with South Africa joining in 2010. The coalition aims to promote economic growth, cooperation, and political dialogue among its members. Together, these countries represent a significant portion of the world's population, landmass, and GDP. BRICS nations hold annual summits to discuss global issues like trade, development, and climate change. They also established the New Development Bank (NDB) to fund



## ASEAN:

The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional organization comprising 10 Southeast Asian countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia. Founded in 1967, ASEAN aims to promote political stability, economic growth, and cultural exchange in the region. It fosters cooperation on various issues, including trade, security, education, and environmental sustainability. ASEAN has established the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) to enhance regional economic integration. It also engages in dialogue partnerships with major global powers. The organization plays a crucial role in maintaining peace and fostering economic development in Southeast Asia.

## SAARC:

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is a regional organization founded in 1985, comprising eight South Asian countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. SAARC aims to promote economic growth, social progress, and cultural development among its members by fostering collaboration in various fields such as agriculture, education, health, and technology. The organization holds annual summits to discuss regional issues and enhance cooperation. SAARC also works to improve the quality of life in South Asia through initiatives in poverty alleviation, trade enhancement, and disaster management. Despite challenges, it remains a vital platform for regional dialogue and development significant role in international trade, environmental policy, and human rights advocacy.

# THIS DAY THAT YEAR

## 8th AUGUST

**1503:** King James IV of Scotland married Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII of England. This marriage paved the way for the Unions of the Crowns.

**1648:** The battle of Margaret shaped the political landscape of Europe, contributing to the peace of Westphalia, which at that time defined many national boundaries.

**1815:** Napoleon Bonaparte after his defeat in the Battle of Waterloo, went on his last journey to exile to the island of Saint Helena, marking the end of the Napoleonic wars.

**1918:** An Allied victory during World War I, The Battle of Amiens, marked the beginning of the Hundred Days Offensive which eventually led to the end of the war.

**1940:** The Luftwaffe launched an attack on Britain, which intensified the battle of Britain during World War II. This battle is vital in preventing the German invasion of the UK.

**1967:** The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is established by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. This organization promotes political and economic cooperation in the regions.

**2008:** Conflicts erupted between Russia and Georgia (Russia-Georgia War). This war showcased the geopolitical tensions in the Caucasus.

## 9TH AUGUST

**1534:** The forces of Denmark initiated the siege against the Catholic forces of Copenhagen during a civil war that led to the Protestantism in Denmark.

**1815:** The Treaty of Paris is signed, formally ending the Napoleonic wars. This treaty reaffirms the territorial adjustments and the Bourbon monarchy in France.

**1842:** The United States and the United Kingdom sign the Webster-Ashburton Treaty, resolving border disputes between the US and the British North American colonies.

**1942:** Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi launches the Quit India Movement during World War II, demanding an end to British rule in India. This is a significant step towards Indian independence.

**1945:** The United States dropped an Atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, leading to Japan's eventual surrender and the end of World War II. This event has a profound impact on international relations.

**1999:** A series of bombings in Russia starts, attributed to Chechen separatists. These attacks lead to increased military action in Chechnya and plays a vital role in Vladimir Putin's rise to power.

**2014:** The fatal shooting of Michael Brown by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, sparks widespread protest and a national debate on race, policing in US.

## 10TH AUGUST

**1792:** During the French revolution, revolutionaries storm the Tuileries Palace in Paris, effectively overthrowing the monarchy and leading to the imprisonment of King Louis XVI and his family.

**1821:** Missouri is admitted as the 24th state of the United States under the Missouri Compromise, which attempts to balance the slavery system.

**1913:** The treaty of Bucharest is signed, ending the second Balkan war. This treaty redraws the borders in the Balkan region, creating significant shifts in territorial control.

**1945:** After the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the soviet declaration of war, Japan announces its willingness to surrender to the allies.

**1961:** The United States begins Operation Ranch Hand during the Vietnam War, using herbicides like Agent Orange, depriving guerrillas of cover and food.

**2003:** Yuri Inanov, deputy head of Russian military intelligence, is found dead in Syria. His assassination is a significant event in the ongoing conflict and power struggles within the region.







# 2022 Winter Games...



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