

BAISMAG

INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES

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THE RED ISSUE

DEAR COMRADES,

The East is red, the sun is rising and it shines bright on a brand-new issue of BAISMAG.

What do you associate with the colour red? Love? War? Sunsets? Communism? Strawberry fields and cherry trees? We can't know and it's all subjective. But in the following issue we gathered a few examples of what can all be seen in relation to red. From the sweat, blood and tears it took us to make this issue to the red of the Republican Party. From the setting sun over a desert to the crimson, bloody perils of Civil War.

Furthermore we bring you an interesting interview with a renowned Scholar of African Studies here at BAIS, a best-of of the bloodiest movies of all times, a comment on Turkish-Russian relations and much more.

Although it might seem strange for a magazine, published in black and white to make an issue about a single colour, we hope that our articles are colourful enough to paint this magazine with the colours of imagination alone.

In that sense, take a much needed break from all the studying or procrastinating with cat videos on the internet, and hopefully this issue will give you impulse to dream, think and be amused.

Farewell

MATHIS & YONCA

THE POWER OF ASSOCIATION

Association is a very important sense that we tend to underestimate. But the truth is we live by creating associations. We play the game of finding a thing, forgetting the thing and finding it again in another representation by association. And sometimes the association becomes so strong that it acquires more meaning than the initial being we touched upon.

The perk of association is that it requires and uses all other senses we have - so when we smell perfume we would think of somebody, and create an association with the smell. Probably one of the most common associations we make is with colour. Colour defines almost everything; mood, clothes, style, time, political regimes and state of emergency; it can possess completely opposite connotations while also having multiples of similar meanings. White could mean death or new beginning; blue would mean wisdom, depression, or coolness. Defining something by means of colour is a never-ending story.

So what is the point? Is association same as imagination? This way both senses would combine and have the 6th sense settled. But it is not and the rivalry for the first between imagination and association would continue. Imagination does not need the initial being to be present in our heads, imagination (in most sophisticated and smart ways) uses the non-being to create something, while association pre-se cannot be taken from air, it bases itself on the existence of something.

We should not abandon associations as they create many invisible but strong bonds between objects and people. The more associations we create, the more imaginatively healthy we will be. And, yes, try to use it in a smart way, it will help you out. Just boost it.



BY POLINA LIUBOMIROVA

Daydream

by Thomas Gevers

I take a step,
red sand oozes through the gaps between my naked toes.
Gently the ground gives way as my feet are engulfed.
A tingling sensation of burning heat; painful, yet
simultaneously profoundly calming
creeps up from my feet and into my legs
inducing within me a sense of drowsiness.
Taking another step would only disturb this delicate balance and hence;
I decide to linger.
The grains of sand fizz as they are blown by a breeze.
They are flung into space, as they cross a border extending out before me;
the crest of a dune.
To the East lie more dunes, waiting in line before the horizon.
To the West lies the mist of the Atlantic Ocean.
As my feet continue to be submerged in the red warmth and just before I melt
to become one with the scenery of the Namib Desert,
I take a step back, back to the damp and cold reality.
Signed, the Student with cold feet



CHAT AND TEA WITH

Meet Dr. Stefano Bellucci, BAIS's expert on Africa, who grew up in the foothills of the Apennines, his intelligence and passion for Urbino in Italy, where he studied Political Science, his interest in the African continent, so much so that he worked as a consultant for UNESCO, while doing his PhD through three continents, and now we are here at Leiden University, where his lectures never fail to inspire. We chat, to pick his brain about the system of education that he doesn't believe in graduate school.

HOW DO YOU LIKE WORKING AT LEIDEN UNIVERSITY, IN THE NETHERLANDS, COMPARED TO ITALY?

"I like it very much, because the structure allows you to do things you can't in Italy. The system in Italy is much more bureaucratic. Also, in contrast to Italy with its economic problems, which results in cuts to the university budgets, here you have the budget for research, organising internships, and inviting people from abroad. I also like the multicultural environment; one third of my colleagues are foreigners, and the Dutch are extremely open-minded people."

DO YOU BELIEVE IN A SOCIALIST FUTURE IN TODAY'S WORLD OF GLOBALIZED CAPITALISM?

"No, I don't see any of that. Socialism is a thing of the 20th century, not something for today. There will be tensions, there will be a new way of resisting exploitation, but no I don't see that at all, at least in the near future. I try not to think about the future, just to not ruin my day."

IF YOU WERE THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE NETHERLANDS, LOVED SO MUCH THAT YOU WERE UNCONTESTED BY PARTIES OR THE PUBLIC, WHICH CHANGES WOULD YOU IMPLEMENT? WHAT WOULD THE NETHERLANDS LOOK LIKE UNDER YOUR RULE?

"If I were the prime minister of the Netherlands, I would realize that you cannot do anything because you cannot change things in one country nowadays alone. There's nothing a politician can do or a government can do by itself. We live in a globalized world, where every decision you take counts next to zero at national level nowadays. The few people that control the global economy and politics, they can get together, because they speak the same language and have the same instruments of control. The masses, the multitudes, they don't have any instrument of coordination. Even the internet, which we think we own, is a fake instrument, controlled by those in power. So if I was the prime minister of the Netherlands, I can make parks a little bit nicer, plant more flowers, but I wouldn't be able to bring about any real change."

WHAT WOULD YOUR IDEAL WORLD LOOK LIKE?

"My utopic world would of course be a world where every individual is not equal, but can do whatever they want to do and get whatever they need to achieve what they want to do at an individual level. But to do that, you need to get rid of all the structures of exploitation, and that affects the so-called developed world."



DR. BELLUCCI

BY ANNA ADIMA & RUTH-MARIE HENCKES

can history and economics. Nestled among the
was fostered at the ancient University of
Science. An inspiring professor sparked his
that he ended up in Mozambique, working
s PhD on the side. His career has taken him
privileged to have him with us at Leiden Uni-
pire students. Anna and Ruth met him for a
xploitation, the state of the EU, and why he
ing university students.



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE EU IN THIS IDEAL WORLD?

“To me, the way the EU is structured now is a big problem for European society. On the one hand, I personally believe in unity, and I would even favour the United States of Europe. What I do not like is that it’s a real technocratic institution at the moment: you don’t know how decisions are made. You know that the technocrats that make decisions do not respond directly to the people, because they are not elected. But we know that even when ministers get together at EU level, they listen more to the experts inside the building than to the people who elected them.”

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK THE SOLUTION WOULD BE?

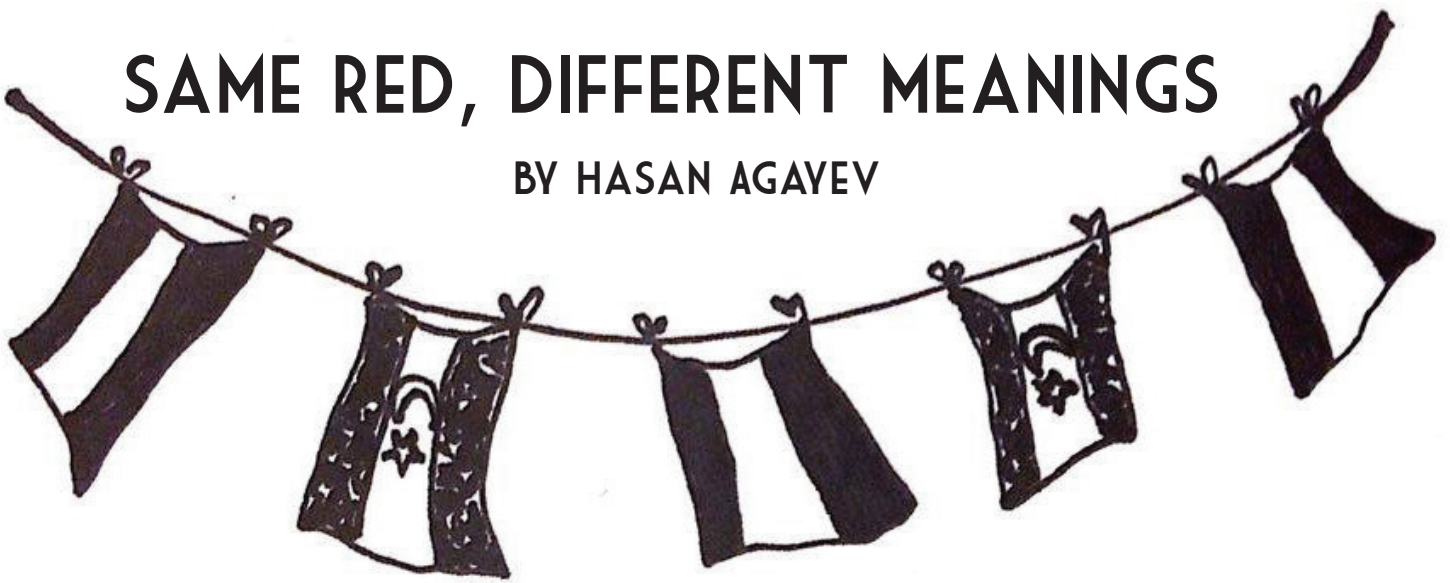
“I have the impression that the EU should be destroyed and rebuilt from below. The way it is structured now is a real burden for society. Most of the policies create inequality and the technocrats there are most certainly not people who studied Marxist economics, not even Keynesians. They are real neoliberals. Within Europe, there are big differences between north and south. The EU doesn’t even seem to take these differences into account. Especially in the South. There are Southern Italian youth who migrate to Northern Europe to find a job, and that might be a good thing, but they are often more vulnerable and exploited through low wages. Politicians who earn a lot do not understand how real people live, and hence why these people vote for extremist xenophobic parties. That’s really problematic. The EU was an interesting project, but it must be destroyed and rebuilt completely.”

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU HAVE FOR BAIS STUDENTS WHO WISH TO SUCCEED IN THIS WORLD, IN WHICHEVER OF THEIR CHOSEN CAREER PATHS, GIVEN THE RATHER BLEAK SITUATION YOU HAVE PAINTED OUT?

I want to be ironic to a certain extent. But I do have advice for you. Try to understand how this capitalist world works. Once you understand that, you can exploit its benefits. You might even choose to work for a bank, doesn’t matter, but have the conscience that what you’re doing is wrong. So when the time will come and you will be asked, “Do you want to change the system or not?”, you will always be prepared to say, “Yes, I want to change it.” At the moment, I am exploiting it too, because alone, I cannot change anything. For instance, I do not like the university grading system, but I have to abide by it. I am one of these post-1968 people who do not believe in grading, because, to me, grading is a standardization of university. It’s a transformation of the university to a factory, and I don’t like that. But I abide to it, knowing that what I’m doing is in the deep of my heart wrong. But alone I cannot change it. So in order to exploit the capitalist system that you’re in, you have to know it very well, because then you will be able to succeed in it. But always be conscious that what you’re doing is wrong. Once you have conscience, you know you are prepared to lose and give up things much more easily.

SAME RED, DIFFERENT MEANINGS

BY HASAN AGAYEV



I have always been interested in looking at different flags and while I was doing this I noticed the use of the colour red in numerous flags. One of the reasons why I like flags is the fact that the colours most of the time carry a deeper value to the country. The same colour does not always mean the same meaning for every country. That is why I choose to write about the different meanings of the colour red in flags.

“It still amazes me how a simple colour could represent a higher value such as honour, progress or revolution, and how a small change of the tint could change its meaning as well”

I grew up in Azerbaijan and the later years of my life, in the Netherlands. If we take a look at the flags of these countries, both have the beautiful red colour in it. The flag is without a doubt important for Azerbaijan. It is so important that in 2011 the Azerbaijani government built a square for the tallest flagpole in the world (162 meters tall) and called it the National Flag Square, and the flag is also an important part of the national anthem. The colours of the flag are blue, red with star and crescent and green. The red colour stands for progress and culture as the composer of the national anthem said. One would think that it would have stood for Islam because of the star and crescent, but the colour green represents the Islamic culture of the country.

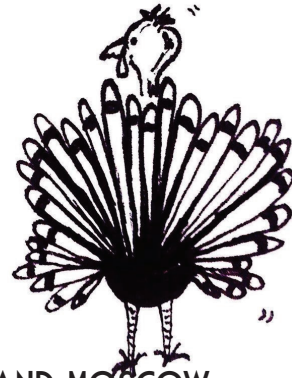
During the Soviet times the flag changed to the regular red Soviet flag with an additional blue line at the bottom of the flag. There was still a red colour in the flag but the meaning of course was not the same anymore. The red in the Soviet flag stands for revolution and in particular the proletarian revolution. This specific red colour was darker than the other red colour and has been used by numerous other socialist revolutionaries with similar symbols. After the fall of the Soviet Union the Azerbaijani flag became the official flag again. It still amazes me how a simple colour could represent a higher value such as honour, progress or revolution, and how a small change of the tint could change its meaning as well.

The Netherlands, the country where I spent most of my life has changed its flag over time. Orange white blue became red white blue (even though it was red white and blue before the orange colour became symbol of the Dutch rebellion). It once even changed to the flag of France, but this only lasted three years. There is not much information about the meanings of the colours of the Dutch flag. Some sources say that the colours represent the structure of the population. The red stands for the people, the white for the church and the blue for nobility. Some others say that the orange colour was replaced by the red colour for better visibility of ships at sea during and after the Dutch rebellion against Spain.

Whether it has a higher meaning or it is used for practical reasons, the colour red is frequently used for flags. It symbolises struggle, blood and tears, change, hope, patriotism, progress and many more positive values. It stands out by its intense contrasts and by its simplicity and therefore often used for a simple but meaningful flag.



NEWS 2 MUSE



THE GROWING RIFT BETWEEN ANKARA AND MOSCOW

Violating the Turkish airspace and the consequent downing of the Russian jet last November were not the first or last turning points in the Turkish-Russian relations. Previously, in December, Moscow fired warning shots at a Turkish vessel in the Aegean Sea, while a few weeks ago there was a new precedent of Turkish airspace violation. Ankara has warned the Russian leadership that “their patience has limits”, while the Kremlin has been openly accusing the Turkish government of buying oil from Daesh. Tension have been growing since then as the two countries step up military action in Syria in support of opposing sides. Just like the cat-and-mouse game of mudslinging and displaying power. One obviously wonders – what’s next? Military confrontation?

Looking back in history, the Russians and the Turks have always had a stormy marriage. After the Second World War Turkey became a member state of NATO, while additionally there were some tensions due to both countries’ clashing expansionist intentions in Central Asia. But then the beginning of 2000s showed a remarkable thaw in the bilateral relations. This does not come by surprise; ever since the positioning of Vladimir Putin as the president of the Russian Federation, a strong authoritarian grip on power has been demonstrated, whereas Turkey has also slowly, but steadily been leaning towards a different interpretation of democracy. The two nations, thus, have found a common ground of sympathy also expressed by their mutual growing disillusionment with the American hubris.

Initially, the annexation of Crimea and the Russian support of Assad in the Syrian conflict have not radically shaken up the bilateral relations either – Turkey, mastering the art of balancing politics, joined the choir of the Trans-Atlantic alliance, rightfully denouncing the illegitimate and immoral actions of the Russian leadership, yet avoided explicit confrontation with Vladimir Putin. This seems logical, as for the past 15 years the Turkish-Russian strategic partnership has been reinforced by economic ties too; Turkey has become the second biggest gas export-market for Gazprom while at the same time, the Russian market share accounts - or at least accounted till 2016 - for a substantial number of Turkish export revenues. Consequently, it isn’t difficult to grasp that both countries would be severely affected if there were (was?) to be a deterioration in Turkish-Russian affairs.

But that is how it has happened; Putin reacted on the spot and introduced economic sanctions on Turkey. The Kremlin imposed bans on Turkish imports, initiated a systemic discrimination against Turkish guest workers and companies registered in Russia, abolished the visa-free travel agreement and also suspended the construction of the Turkish Stream and a planned nuclear plant. While Ankara has been seeking for normalizing the relations through diplomatic means, economic tools of political coercion - also with the aim of pleasing the domestic public - have been extensively used by the Russian leadership. Looking at the current situation and the already strained relations, the question still remains; in case another incident happens, will it lead to military conflict?

As a matter of fact, both Russia and Turkey have already suffered extensively. The economic sanctions have had a severe impact on the Turkish economy especially on the agricultural sector and its tourist industry. Finding new alternative markets does not happen overnight. At the same time, it seems like Gazprom has become the victim of the Kremlin’s hasty foreign policy. Investing capital in infrastructural projects, just as the Turkish Stream was, and then cancelling it, consequently losing the already invested money, would make nobody happy. Besides that, there are other structural factors present at hand. Both nations are actively engaged in the Syrian conflict and the fight against terrorism, which - needless to say - already entail a huge financial, military and political burden. Furthermore, Russia has been harshly hit by the record-low oil prices and as we all know, its economy, and the social contract between its population and their political ‘representatives’ are substantially dependent on energy export revenues. Russia’s financial reserves are fresh out and the country has also suffered from the sanctions imposed by the West. At first glance, it seems like further military escalation is feasible neither for Ankara nor for Moscow. In theory, it indeed is not, looking at the potentially higher costs than benefits. But then again, does it not seem like as if Russia is pushing NATO’s ability to stand behind its members? Or is it rather trying to drag Turkey into a fight? The controversial steps taken by the Russian leadership in the past two years were already unexpected to most of the observers of international affairs. Another one would not come as disbelief. And after all, drawing from lessons of history, war has always followed slowdown and economic recession increasing war production and mobilization. Paradoxically enough, it has been - in most cases - aimed at solving domestic problems ...

MERCEDES ABDALLA

A PACIFIST'S PLEA



WAR

BY VIOLA REINDERS

'Red, is the colour of the sun with my eyes closed', for the singer Dave Matthews, this is what red is: that what is left when the brightness of the sun becomes too painful to handle for our open eyes. Red is the colour of the traffic light that can save us from the crash that comes of crossing a street at a wrong moment. Red is society's most plain and basic tool to regulate, to make you aware of the pain that might be caused if you pass the warning sign. Red is the colour of that what runs inside of us and what we're scared of as soon as it's outside of our bodies. Red is connected to pain. And pain – on any scale – is to be avoided.

When we are born, doctors are worried if we don't cry immediately. However, as soon as we are one day old, our parents don't want us to cry anymore. To cry is one of the first abilities we master as soon as we enter this world. We use it to make sure our parents know something is wrong, we cry to show our pain. When we're lucky, our parents love us and will try to give us what we need whenever they notice our eyes turning humid. But entering the public sphere, mommy and daddy are likely to become scared of bothering other people with our screaming. They put a dummy in our mouth and we think we're fine for a bit. When we grow older and don't get tricked by the dummy anymore they will simply tell us to be quiet when we feel the need to cry. We trust them, so we start to believe it's better to shut up.

Through this process of learning how to keep our tears inside, we simultaneously learn how to keep our pain inside. And somehow, the things that stay inside of us are so intangible that they seem unreal, or at least unimportant. We don't believe in the use of feeling our pain anymore. We believe pain is bad for us. Moreover, we believe our pain is bad for those around us. But what if there were no tricoloured traffic lights? What if they would be replaced by those flickering yellow ones? We might start paying attention again. And what if we just open our eyes and see all the colours the sun lighten up for us?

I don't want to advocate pain. Pain is awful. But I feel like it needs to be felt. Our hunger won't be stilled with a dummy. Personally, I cry a lot, and probably 80% of my friends have seen me weepy one day. Obviously I expect them to be there when I'm lost, when I need to collapse into their arms, when I need to be fed chocolate and forced to watch cat videos. But often they can't help me (especially those who made me cry in the first place), I just need to be left alone to cry, and I would never blame them for letting me be: by the contrary. This is how I become. Crying brings relief. Experiencing pain eventually gives understanding in what we need to make it stop, and sometimes all we need for it to end is for it to be felt, to fight our internal wars.

I hope you understand that this story is not about me and my emotional high highs and low lows resembling the image of a heart rate. This is about the world. This might just be about serious global politics, about conflicts and civil wars: pain on a bigger scale. This may be to show why I think 'we cannot just let them be' is not a valid argument. Allow for pain to be felt. Don't give red lights: give yellow and give people the chance to decide when and how to cross the road.



"A BLOODY
GOOD
MOVIE!"

BY PRATYAKSH ARNEJA
&
TOM MEINDERTS

DISCLAIMER:

The following article that you're about to read reflects the opinion of the author(s). Bear in mind that the article is downright subjective and it isn't exactly the easiest job to quantify something like this unless you're Stanley Kubrick's preceptor. Since the theme for this BAISMAG issue is red, we're counting down our picks for the Bloodiest movies ever produced. As much as I would like to include all the Tarantino films, it isn't possible, and rather unfair to other nominees. Therefore, we have decided to include the bloodiest of the Tarantino lot. The list isn't just confined to Hollywood movies, but the World Cinema at large. Moreover, the list, staying true to the title of the article, will include finest examples of cinema (even controversial works of art), and not just films with gore gushing out relentlessly between the scenes for the sake of it.

Now that we've established this, here goes:

PULP FICTION

It is very likely that you must have heard this name before in (pop) culturally and well calibrated conversations with your peers. Tarantino's most iconic black comedy featurette, Pulp Fiction. The film follows a distinctive non-linear storytelling revolving around the most neo-noir bunch of mobsters, gangsters, small thugs and debtors in Los Angeles. The narrative structure is divided into subtle 7 stories spanning across roughly 160 minutes. Now, for one thing that I can assure you: every story/episode involves some kind of blood-splashing sequence. (Even if it's the slightest) If we talk about the quantity of gore involved, some ardent Quentin Tarantino fans might argue otherwise and weigh in Uma Thurman's role in Kill Bill. Feel free to have an opinion like that, but unfortunately no film gives pulp Fiction a run for its money. A strong casting, unorthodox and inappropriate humour, and a serious cult following is what makes Pulp Fiction one of the better procrastinating alternatives and a tool for taking some basic biblical notes for us BAIS folks.

EVIL DEAD

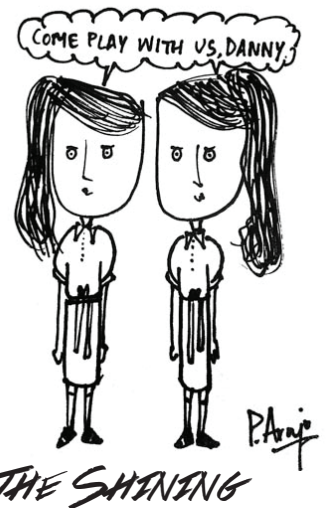
This reboot of the 1981 cult-film has drawn blood in so many different ways, from the classic chainsaw execution, to the bloody kiss (you have got to watch it to see it in all its gory glory). What this movie lacks in its originality (group of young adults in a cabin in the woods with chainsaws and demons) it makes up for in its use of visual gore. The only CGI used was done for touch-up, which lets us enjoy a more visually satisfying horror movie which are becoming more sparse every year. "Evil Dead" has done a great job of revitalizing a franchise more than 20 years later. If you are into gore

BRAINDEAD

Peter Jackson's "Braindead" did not receive a lot of attention originally, however after the success of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, it started gaining a cult following. Braindead is most memorable for its scenes of mass gore, like the infamous lawnmower scene, in which a horde of zombies is ripped apart with a lawnmower and heads slide through the room, only to end up in the blender as a bloody cocktail. Though maybe not a masterpiece, this movie set a new standard for splatstick and while some will see it as a bloody mess, it certainly has its charm.

SALO, OR THE 120 DAYS OF SODOM

Try visualising this. Portrayal of murder, torture, rape, and molestation coupled with gore and graphic violence. All this brews together to become the Italian-French Art film, 'Salò' or the '120 Days of Sodom'. The film revolves around horrible Fascist leaders who go on to kidnap eighteen teenagers and subject them to unspeakable amounts of sheer sadism and both, physical and mental torture. The movie was so controversial that its director, Pier Paolo Pasolini, was killed before the film's release. No points for guessing why. Furthermore, it remains banned in several countries even today. The movie continues to be a benchmark in cinematic history as one of the most notoriously gripping works in the 'Horror' genre. To add the cherry on top, there is a significant amount of political overtone involved; the rise of authoritarian 1%ers in Europe as well as references to Nietzsche's 1887 book 'On the Genealogy of Morality'. As an individual who can vouch for good cinema, bloody and excruciatingly disturbing sequences and politics, this one is worth every 145 minutes of its running time.



Now you may be wondering how Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining" is a bloody movie. Even though the movie adaptation to the classic Stephen King novel might not be remembered for being particularly bloody, there is one scene that will remove all that doubt; the bloody elevator scene. The elevator opens, and a river of blood flows out of the elevator through the halls of the hotel. Though it might not be a gory movie in the slightest, this scene does leave a nasty coppery taste and puts "The Shining" down as a bloody good movie.

CRIMSON

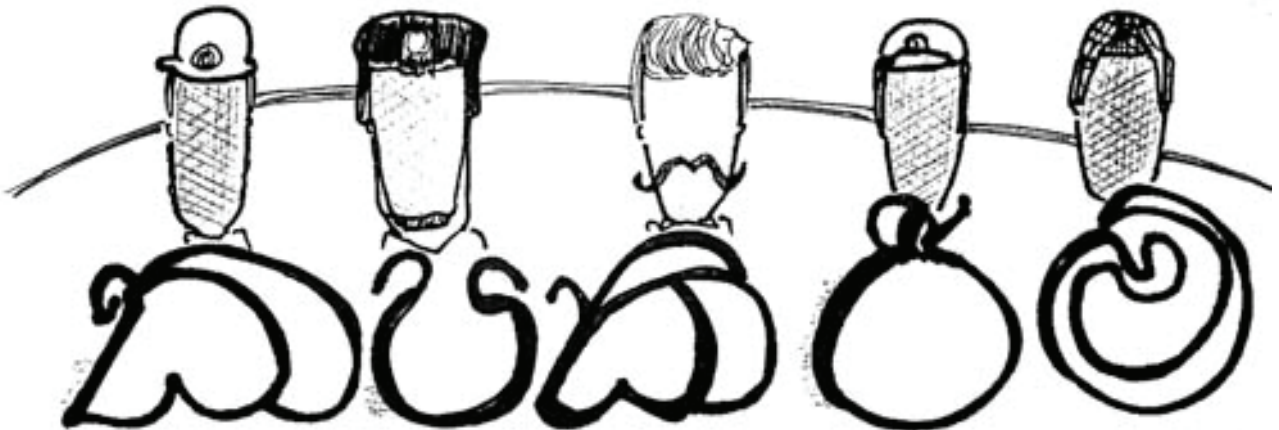
S.S. BARTLETT

What pile is this? Dumped –
Red rivers running down,
Against the wire slumped
Adorned with crimson crown

What lies behind these eyes?
Shut as they met their shell
The crack of fire and final cries
— and then the gates of Hell.

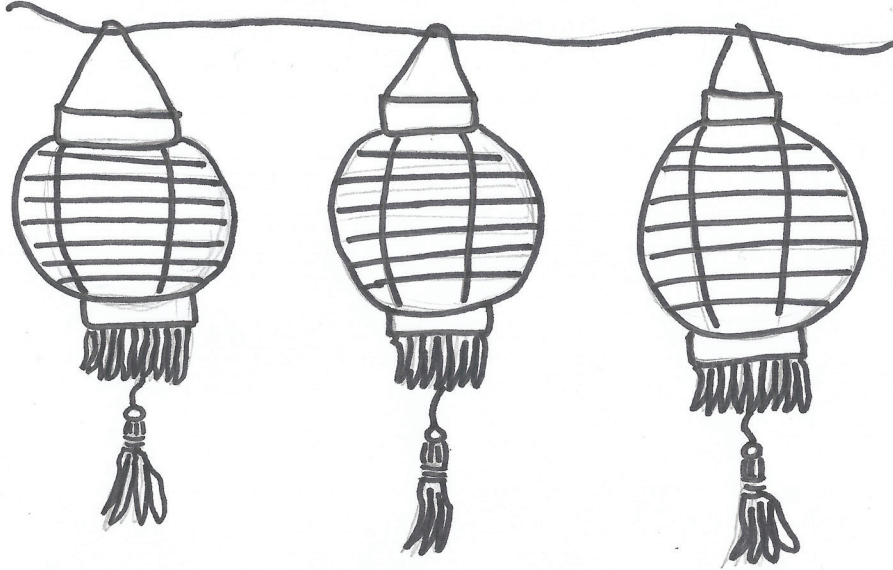
Did you pray O quiet pile?
Did you say a prayer?
On the bloody battlefield
Angels do not dare.

I pity you — you butchered youth.
You fought for naught but lies
And now you gape at the truth,
Accompanied by flies.



Author's note: War was a very real thing to children in my country. We were born into it and quite accustomed to the sudden blast of a suicide bomb that could tear a bus in two. But we were quite lucky living far from the frontlines where the fighting was at its worst. Infantrymen and women drafted largely from impoverished villages and farmlands far from the capital city of Colombo would end up paying the price for peace with their sight, limbs and lives while politicians would steal the credit. I wrote this for them, the butchered youth.

IS THE PAST THE KEY TO THE PRESENT?



Being highly expected as ever, the Dutch weather didn't let us down when heavy wind forecasts for February 8th 2016 caused the cancellation of a spectacular firework display in Amsterdam. This date marked the day of Lunar New Year, celebrated with great festivities in many Asian countries, as well as other parts of the world where the Asian population is plentiful.

Each year has been assigned to one of the twelve animals from the Chinese zodiac in combination with one of the five elements, with this year being the turn of the "fire" Monkey again after 60 years. Undeniably, the monkey heralded the start of the New Year with "fire" in East Asia. The fire had been haunting the post-war region for a long time, with security issues that continue to exist.

Kwangmyongsong-4, the satellite that North Korea has launched made headlines on (Lunar) New Year's Day and alarmed its direct neighbors including China (!), but also the United Nations and the United States. As North Korea is actually banned to develop ballistic missile technology, it is being feared that this rocket launch will help the regime in Pyongyang to develop inter-continental ballistic missiles that could be used as weapons.

While this happened, approximately 2400 km South-West of North Korea, an outbreak of rioting took place in Hong Kong. The reason may seem as being very trivial at first, namely: Mong Kok (fish-ball). The police intended to close all the unlicensed food stalls, which resulted in anti-China groups demonstrating for an independent Hong Kong. This particular revolt is even being dubbed as the worst outbreak since the 1960s.

Going back in time, 12 February 1956 also marked the start of the year of the "fire monkey". In the middle of the Cold War, it was all about the animosities between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Nikita Krushchev, the Soviet premier uttered in this year the words: "We will bury you!" to the West. Parallel to the situation in North Korea. Though the North Korean regime isn't as outspoken as Krushchev, and insists that the space program is of scientific nature. Will North Korea be able to accomplish what the Soviets couldn't?

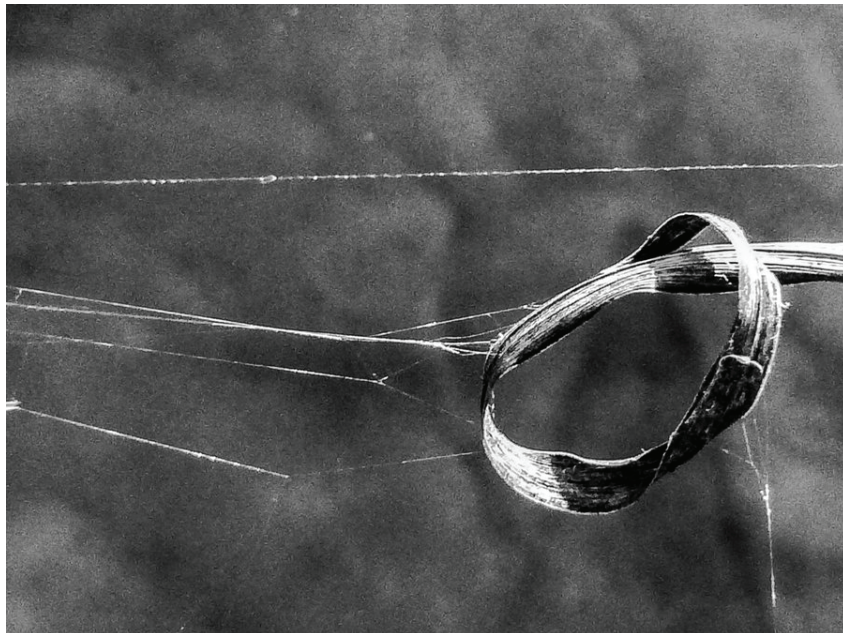
Likewise, comparable to the revolt in Hong Kong, sixty years ago, the Hungarian Uprising broke out against the pro-Soviet government. It originated as a student demonstration in Budapest, but was shortly crushed by the Red army sent in from Soviet Russia. The fall of the Soviet Union in 1989, and thereby communism led eventually to the democratic transition in Hungary.

It took thirty three years for the Hungarian people to achieve its ultimate goal. It has been nineteen years that Hong Kong is under China's rule on the pretext of "one country, two systems". Does it have to wait another fourteen years to gain its total independence? Or does it simply depend on China's fall?

Buket Yildiz

Micronature

Macro lense



Mathis
Gilsbach



A PRAGMATIC DEBATE TO DRUMPF OR NOT TO DRUMPF



In February, a BBC reporter interviewed Jeremy Kouba, a US veteran who had been a republican supporter for 20 years. However, faced with the choice between Trump and a Democrat, he said he would have to vote Democrat. Other republicans could not put into words the disdain they had for Trump – currently, Trump may be riding certain polls, but he has the highest disapproval rating of any candidate, at 60%.

Of course, Donald Trump is an indescribably terrible choice but in fact there is a plate full of Republican candidates who are far more dangerous than Trump. Take Ted Cruz, for example. He, like many other candidates is staunchly opposed to much of the Obama administration's ground breaking reforms, such in the healthcare industry, gay marriage, or the diplomatic success of the Iranian Nuclear Deal. Following a shooting in November, Cruz stated that "the simple and undeniable fact is that the overwhelming majority of violent criminals are Democrats", and that "Democrats for years have been viewed as soft on crime" because the majority of criminals vote for them. Moreover, despite year after year bringing new temperature records, Cruz has said that "the scientific evidence does not support global warming". He is even proud to be against the existence of Planned Parenthood, a non-profit which provides reproductive healthcare and support to millions of Americans in need of pregnancy testing, breast cancer screening, sexually-transmitted disease testing and treatment, birth control, and abortion.

This is a similar theme seen in many candidates. Ben Carson as another example, a skilled neurosurgeon who has somehow gotten through almost a lifetime of education in the natural sciences without believing in evolution. He stated that allowing in Syrian refugees to the US would be a 'huge mistake', since they could be influenced by ISIS. Presumably, his logic views them as fleeing ISIS to spread its word, rather than leaving in want of a better life than living under the tyrannical rule of religious psychos. Meanwhile, candidate Marco Rubio believes the primary reason for the emergence of ISIS was because the US military was pulled out of Iraq (rather than the decades of US military intervention creating power vacuums and some of the most unstable states in the world).

It seems that for now, red is an understandably difficult colour to be associated with, even for lifelong republicans.

Red is the colour of the tie around dear Donald's neck. Trump and the redneck policies he proposes are worthy of the ISIS manifesto, and thus place him first on the worst republican candidate list. It is hard to turn your head and not hear Trump's absurdities: he has created a celebrity of himself, and who wants a celebrity as president (Kanye 2020)?

Let's take it back to the origins, when a rich schmuck first announced his interest to run. Everybody (including myself) thought "He's not gonna last", "Who will vote for him?" and "Who wants an arrogant billionaire with a bad hairstyle?". Then the sympathy mode kicked in: "Oh look he's still running, I hope his feelings don't get too hurt when he gets trumped from the 'real' politicians". And now, well, its hard to explain how and why; it is like a crazy man feeding off the hatred of alarmed Americans. Donald Trump is an unexpected child of America! The fact that he is unforeseeable makes him dangerous, makes him like one of those games that you have to keep passing on until it pops, only that the Trump pop wont be enjoyable.

Let's make another comparison: Hitler and Trump. Hitler had rallies brainwashing people, telling them about the advantages of exterminating the Jewish people. Trump holds regular rallies where he chants "Who will build the wall?" as the spectator's shout in response "The Mexicans!", or advocates other bizarre views, especially with regards to Muslims. How can people accept such atrocities, unless of course they've been brainwashed?

We can all agree that Berlusconi was a foolish politician, he had no control over his 'bunga bunga' parties and was simply disrespectful to other politicians. Does that remind you of someone else? Ok, Trump doesn't hold mating parties but he did say that he'd fancy his daughter if she wasn't his. And his comments on twitter aimed at his fellow candidates were no sign of respect. As you can see voting for the Trump would be like voting for an ill mixture of Kanye, Hitler and Berlusconi, making him the worst candidate possible.

**BY ELSA COURT AND
ISIDORO CAMPIONI NOACK**

Cuba hosts two parallel realities that do not merge - that of cubans and that of the tourists - and they are extremely hostile to each other. The incipient market economy has started to make dents in foundations of what the revolution represented: the bonds of solidarity. Yet even though there is poverty and scarcity, misery is not existent. This is thanks to the legacies of mass campaigns on education and bottom-up cultural projects.



Santa Clara, Burial of the Che

FLASHBACKS

On the way to the Bay of Pigs



My most honest advice, is to travel the island by taking trucks, because this way you will meet locals the way locals do. This definitely enables you to experience what Cuba represented to me; the possibility to walk yourself the opposite way.

BY ROSA DE LUIS MATESANZ



La Habana Centro

FROM 3RD YEARS BACK FROM ABROAD

LETS GET NAKED AND DRAW



'Make a Wish' by Annelotte Speelman

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