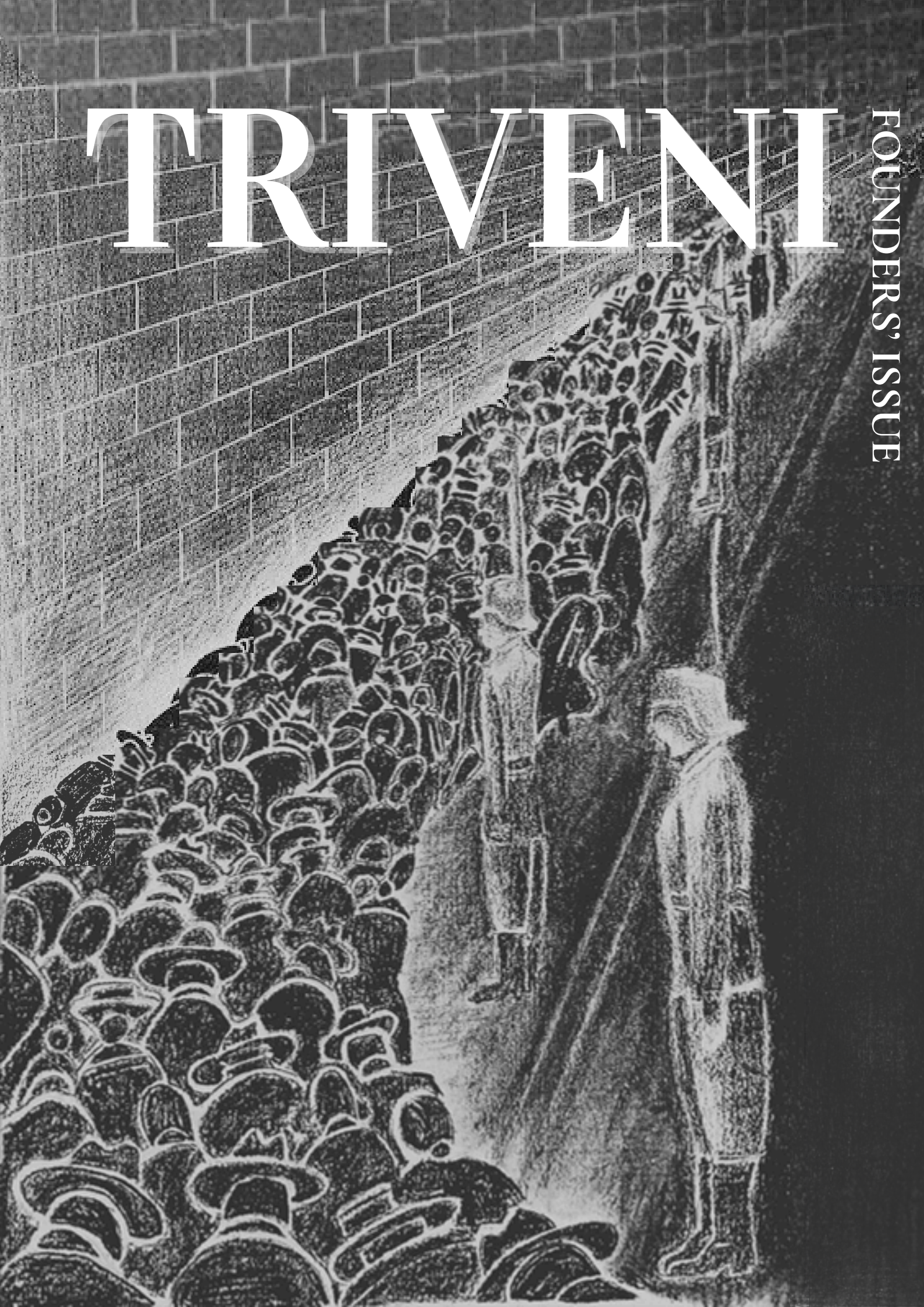


TRIVENI

FOUNDERS' ISSUE



EDITOR'S NOTE

"History is who we are and why we are the way we are."

-David McCullough

When political and cultural landscapes shift in both expected and unpredictable ways, one truth remains: our history is inseparable from our identity. The Latin phrase *Tempora mutantur, culturae mutamur cum illis*—times change, and cultures change with them—reminds us that societies are constantly changing. This issue attempts to explore the mosaic of relationships between cultural narratives and political realities, influencing each other in ways both subtle and overt. This symbiotic relationship lies at the heart of history—through revolutions, wars, and peace, culture not only reflects political shifts but also propels them forward.

As Welham celebrates its 67th Founders, Triveni reflects on how history is more than just a chronicle of events; it is an ongoing conversation between the past and present, a mirror of the world we live in, and a blueprint for the world we can create. This issue takes you through historical moments where the interplay between culture and politics has defined, and redefined, the course of societies.

From the weaponisation of nostalgia and the rise of populism that grips contemporary politics, juxtaposed with the lasting impacts of Hong Kong's colonial legacy on its nascent democratic identity, we see how political events redefine societal values. Through a look at gastro nativism, we explore how traditional culinary practices serve as symbols of resistance to globalisation, showing that even mundane aspects of culture can have profound political significance. We also explore the Carnation Revolution in Portugal, where political upheaval spurred cultural transformation, and how art influenced the Nazi regime, reshaping cultural identities through totalitarian ideology.

Every article within these pages reminds us that culture is far from a passive backdrop to events—it is an active agent of change. Whether in migration, colonisation, or conflict, cultural clashes can lead to political reform or repression—depending on the paths we choose as societies. This issue highlights the fact that political transformations often recast the lens through which we view our cultural identities and values, prompting us to reflect on who we are and what we stand for. We are reminded that our past informs our present, yet we possess the agency to sculpt the future we desire. The only question is—what narrative will we choose to write next?

Happy reading!

Naija Mehra
Editor-in-Chief

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Regency Reimagined: Bridgerton's Bold Take on Race and Representation



In the glittering ballrooms of the Regency-era London, where gossip flows as freely as champagne, Netflix's "Bridgerton" has caused quite the stir with its bold reimagining of history. This series, a spectacle of romance and intrigue, introduces characters of colour into the heart of high society, notably the Duke of Hastings, portrayed by Regé-Jean Page. His presence challenges period drama conventions, portraying a powerful aristocrat of African descent in a time when such roles were traditionally reserved for whites. In this rather glistening Regency-era London piece, the audience is taken straight into a world in which all cultures prosper and everyone is valued based on their talents as



opposed to their lineage. This parallel world is enriched by Queen Charlotte, portrayed by Golda Rosheuvel, who symbolises a powerful and dominant woman, even if this version of a historical figure cannot be considered remotely truthful.

Regency, historically a colonial and racially prejudiced setting, was retold differently by 'Bridgerton'. The practice of colour-blind casting sparked debate about diversity in media production and the creator's role in balancing historical accuracy with creative expression.

It prompted some critics to question whether this portrayal of blending ethnicity with happiness might, in fact, amplify the bitterness of the experience of people of colour in the 19th century. While crafting a world where race does not seem to affect the characters' social standing, Bridgerton raises questions about balancing realism with wishful thinking.



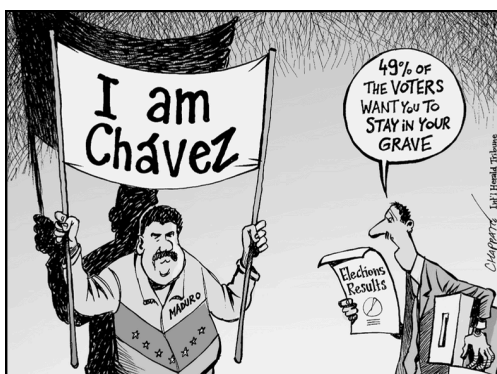
"Bridgerton" serves as more than mere entertainment. It is a beacon of change in popular culture and mainstream television. By boldly reimagining history through a diverse lens, the series invites us to reconsider how we portray the past and whose stories deserve attention. It sparks crucial conversations about race, representation, and the power of storytelling, urging us to embrace narratives that reflect the complexity of our world.

As we toast to "Bridgerton," let us raise our glasses not only to its sparkling romance and intriguing drama but also to its bold steps towards a more inclusive and thoughtful portrayal of history. Within the effervescent bubbles of this Regency-era fantasy lies a deeper reflection of our present-day aspirations and challenges.

With a toast to inclusivity,
Lady Whistledown

Prangya Singh
Class II

Hong Kong's Unique Democratic Sensitivity



Hong Kong, renowned for its shopping, unique cuisine, and cosmopolitan culture, has long been a symbol of 'East meets West.' Though a part of China, Hong Kong operates under the principle of "one country, two systems"—as a capitalist economy thriving within a socialist nation. This delicate arrangement was a compromise between the British Colonial Government and China in 1997, when the British returned Hong Kong to China. But the roots of today's political turbulence can be traced to the democratic seeds sown during the final years of British colonial rule.

In response to the anti-government riots of 1967, the British government introduced localisation policies, aimed at integrating Hong Kong's local population into governance. Socio-economic reforms, such as affordable housing and compulsory education, enabled citizens to focus on development and self-improvement.

By the 1990s, more than half of Hong Kong's civil servants were locals, with figures like Anson Chan and Donald Tsang rising to top positions. As the 1997 handover loomed, it was hoped that by the time the British left, Hong Kong would be governed by locals well-versed in democratic processes. This would make it difficult for China to replace them

with officials trained under its socialist framework.

As Hong Kong entered the 21st century, its population had grown accustomed to democratic rights, including the right to vote. Young people, in particular, were eager to participate in local governance, standing for District Council elections or running for a seat in the Legislative Council. With a strong sense of political identity and civic duty, many Hongkongers were unwilling to give up their democratic rights without a fight.

This democratic sensitivity is the reason behind Hong Kong's growing protests against the narrowing of electoral choices and increased influence of pro-Beijing politicians. The push for greater democratic freedoms, despite the region's legal status under China, is rooted in the British colonial legacy.

Even as pressure from Beijing grows, the people of Hong Kong remain committed to the values instilled in them during the final years of colonial governance. This push for greater democratic freedom reflects a deep-rooted political consciousness that continues to define Hong Kong's unique place in the world.

Samaira Agarwal
Class 10

HISTORICAL HEARTBEAT OF HEERAMANDI

Netflix's recent series "Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar" has captivated audiences with its portrayal of Lahore's historic red-light district. While the series offers only a brief glimpse into the lives of courtesans during the Indian independence movement, it barely scratches the surface of the complex and rich history that Heeramandi holds.

Heeramandi's origins can be traced back to the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. His Prime Minister, Hira Singh Dogra, envisioned Lahore as a successful economic hub. To this end, he established a grain market called *Hira Singh di Mandi*, which eventually evolved into *Heera Mandi*. Over time, this marketplace transformed into a cultural centre, attracting courtesans from across the region who came to showcase their mastery of the fine arts. These courtesans, known as *tawaifs*, became synonymous with the rich cultural heritage that flourished under the patronage of the nobility and the affluent elite of the time.

These *tawaifs* were not only accomplished dancers, musicians, and poets, but also significant contributors to India's freedom struggle, a lesser-known aspect of their legacy. In the early 20th century, as the gramophone gained popularity, *tawaifs* were among the first artistes to record music. Their voices were immortalised on records, helping to disseminate classical Indian music to a wider audience.

The British colonial rule brought about a significant shift in the perception and status of Heera Mandi. The British authorities' moralistic view of the *tawaifs'* occupation led to a decline in their social standing. Heeramandi was reduced from a cultural hub to what the British termed *Bazaar-e-Husn*, a marketplace of beauty, thus converting a centre of art and refinement into a mere red lantern district.

However, despite this diminishing status, *tawaifs* played an active role in resisting British rule. Their contributions extended from financial aid to serving as spies and informants. Their establishments, known as *kothas*, became meeting points and hideouts for those involved in the independence movement. During the Non-Cooperation Movement, the Tawaif Sabha was organised in Varanasi, where its members wore iron shackles instead of jewellery, symbolising their protest against colonial oppression. Though their contributions are often overlooked, they were a significant force in India's fight for freedom.

Today, Heeramandi is only a shadow of the lively, flourishing cultural hub it once used to be. However, its rich history remains etched in every corner of the walled city, a reminder of its indelible impact on India's cultural and political history.

Sharanya Maheshwari
and Srinika Agarwal
Class 10



THE CARNATION REVOLUTION

The Carnation Revolution, named after the flower symbolising love and peace, marked a significant change in Portugal's history exactly 50 years ago. On April 25, 1974, armed forces officers weary of war and repression staged an unarmed coup against the then authoritarian regime of Estado Novo.

For nearly four decades, the Estado Novo, or "New State," had held sway over Portugal with an iron fist. The regime was more concerned about colonial expansion in Africa than with its own people, leaving many Portuguese in abject poverty, as years of war bled the nation's resources dry. Over the years, frustration accumulated as people yearned for democracy, economic improvement, and an end to bloodshed overseas.

What set the Carnation Revolution apart from most other uprisings was its remarkable lack of violence. On the morning of April 25, soldiers took to the streets of Lisbon in what was initially a military coup. However, it quickly evolved into a popular movement when civilians poured into the streets, siding with the soldiers. The most iconic moment came when a young woman offered a carnation to a soldier who placed it in the barrel of his gun. The gesture spread rapidly, with civilians placing carnations in the rifles of soldiers, symbolising the peaceful nature of the revolution. The streets of Lisbon soon bloomed with red and white carnations, a vivid contrast to the typical imagery of revolutions.



“Carnation – a flower that symbolises love was translated into a symbol of historic revolution in the late 1900s.”

In a matter of hours, the regime fell with barely a shot fired, and by the end of 1974, negotiations for the independence of Portugal's African colonies were underway. Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, and others soon gained their freedom, sparking a reverse migration as hundreds of thousands of Portuguese settlers returned home.

However, the immediate aftermath of the revolution was not without its challenges. The "Processo Revolucionário em Curso" (Ongoing Revolutionary Process) was marked by political turbulence, with factions struggling to define the future of Portugal. In 1975, Portugal held its first free elections, marking a historic step towards democracy.

The Carnation Revolution remains one of the few instances in history where an authoritarian regime was overthrown through a virtually bloodless uprising. It stands as a testament to the power of non-violent resistance and the enduring human desire for freedom. Fifty years on, the symbol of the carnation continues to represent the lasting legacy of a revolution that transformed Portugal from a dictatorship into a flourishing democracy.

Aashna Garg
Class 9

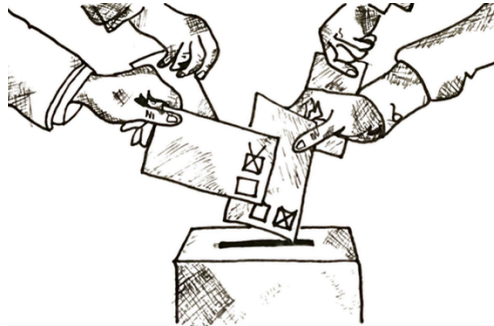
WEAPONISATION OF NOSTALGIA AND THE RISE OF POPULISM

A sentimental longing for the past, a powerful political tool for the present

How often do we come across online videos filled with nostalgic imagery—fluttering banners, triumphant music, and crowds of people united for a common cause? These visuals, often associated with rallies and political events, have become a hallmark of how modern populist movements cleverly manipulate nostalgia to sway public opinion and rally support. By conjuring up a romanticised vision of the past, they exploit emotional resonance to create a collective yearning for an idealised bygone era.

Political parties cleverly use these feelings, crafting stories that guarantee a revival of a secure and prosperous past. One of the most prominent examples is the former U.S. President Donald Trump's political movement "Make America Great Again." It garnered public support not only because of its simplicity, but because it straddled two emotional realms—personal nostalgia for an imagined golden age and a broader social narrative of national decline.

However, it is crucial to recognise that the past was not a utopia for everyone. Nostalgia, when weaponised, distorts history to support political agendas. Policies that seek to "restore" past greatness frequently hinge on identifying scapegoats—whether they be immigrants, globalisation, or progressive social changes—as threats to traditional values. By positioning themselves as defenders of tradition and culture, populist leaders tap into fears of cultural erosion, propagating a



pressing need to return to traditional values. In this process, these narratives oversimplify the complexities of the past and present, painting their opponents as enemies of the citizens.

This manipulation of nostalgia can have profound consequences on democratic societies. Emotional appeals can overshadow rational discourse, creating a political environment where facts are secondary to feelings. The rise of a post-factual political landscape, where sentiments eclipse truth, is a direct result of this tactic. While nostalgia itself is not inherently harmful, its potential for manipulation is clear.

As societies continue to grapple with rapid change and uncertainty, the allure of nostalgia will likely persist, shaping political narratives across the globe. Recognising the complexities of weaponised nostalgia is crucial. It serves as both a mirror and a mould—a reflection of societal values and a mould that can reshape political identities. In this context, the past is not merely a historical reference but a living force, potent enough to sway electorates and redefine political landscapes.

Ahana Jindal
Class 10

Even Pets are Political

As election day approaches, the urgency of this season intensifies for both Kamala Harris and Donald Trump, setting the stage for an unexpected political showdown — one where pets take centre stage as the lead characters.

During the recent Presidential debate, Donald Trump made the outrageous claim that Haitian immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, were stealing—and yes, eating—pets. The assertion, promptly dismissed by local officials, raised eyebrows nationwide. Not only were there zero verified reports of any missing pets, but the only thing these rumours had in their favour was their sheer outrageousness. Suffice it to say, this is one case where the dog really did not eat anyone's homework!

This comment quickly overshadowed the pressing issues facing the country, turning discussions about immigration into a punchline instead of a policy debate.

Trump, always keen on using sensationalism to fire up his base, has turned this peculiar accusation into a broader conversation about immigration. It is a classic move from the former president — playing on fear to rally supporters while avoiding the more complex nuances of policy. On the other hand, Kamala Harris is calmly reminding Americans that fear-mongering is not the way forward. Through fact-checking and a focus on actual issues, she is calling for unity and empathy, striving to redirect the conversation towards her vision of a more compassionate and united America.

As the November results approach, the focus shifts from pets and aliens to a more defined adversary and intense campaign handouts from both the candidates. One thing is clear — whether it involves pets or politics, America seems to be navigating uncharted waters.

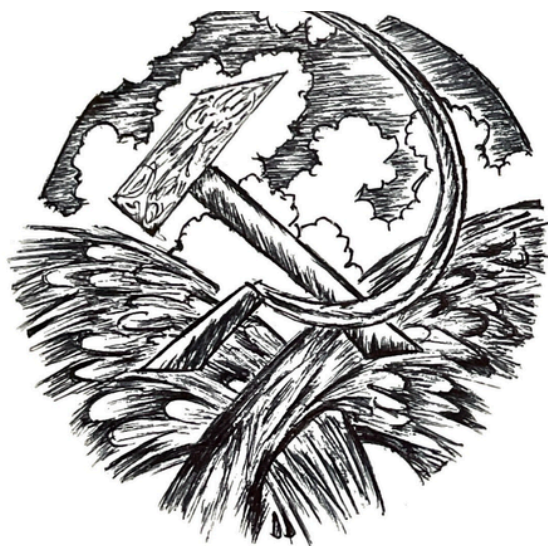
Aaliya Gupta
Anayna Agarwal
Class 9

The earliest flags were military standards in ancient civilisations, such as the Roman Empire's aquila (eagle) and the banners used by Chinese dynasties. These symbols not only inspired loyalty but also invoked fear and domination in battle, symbolising the might of the empire.



FLAGS

The UN flag, featuring a world map surrounded by olive branches, symbolises global peace, cooperation, and the shared responsibility of nations. It represents the hope for diplomacy over conflict and collective security.



The hammer and sickle of the communist flag, adopted during the Russian Revolution, powerfully symbolizes the solidarity of the proletariat—an emblem of revolutionary change where the hammer represents industrial workers and the sickle, the agricultural peasants.

THE POWER OF SYMBOLS



Political symbols are powerful tools that transcend language and literacy barriers, embodying ideals, struggles, and aspirations. They can unite people under a common cause or provoke dissent and resistance. Flags, gestures, and monuments—core political symbols—have evolved across different cultures and historical periods, adapting to the shifting landscapes of power and identity.

Originally a WWII victory symbol used by Winston Churchill, it was later co-opted by anti-war protesters during the Vietnam War, becoming a gesture for peace and non-violence.

Its evolution reveals how symbols can be reinterpreted to fit changing social contexts.



The raised movements of the hand and anti-violence symbolises unity and power lies in a clenched fist and strength.

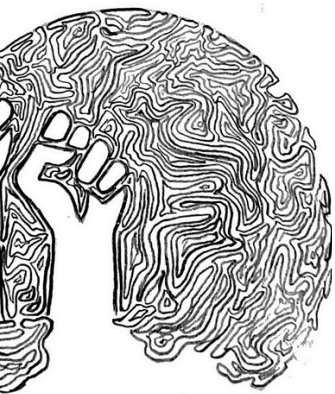


In recent years, there has been a global wave of statue removals as part of broader movements against colonialism, racism, and historical injustices. The toppling of statues, like that of Edward Colston during the Black Lives Matter protests, signals a powerful confrontation with history, a rejection of oppressive legacies.

The Arc de Triomphe in Paris or the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., originally built to honor triumph and leadership, have since evolved into rallying points for protests and gatherings, symbolizing modern political unity.

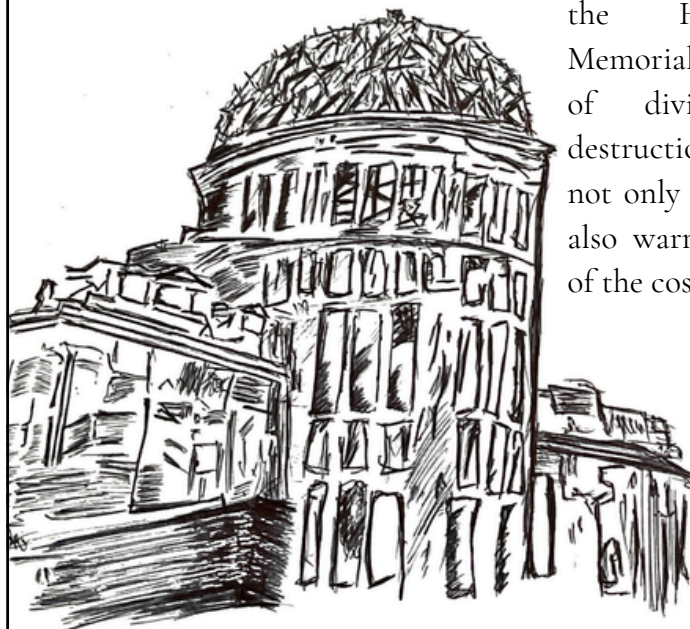


In contrast, monuments like the Berlin Wall Memorial or the Hiroshima Peace Memorial serve as reminders of division, war, and destruction. These symbols not only honour the past but also warn future generations of the cost of political failure.



fist, adopted by like Black Lives Matter apartheid activists, resistance, solidarity, against oppression. Its in its simplicity—a embodying defiance

GESTURES



MONUMENTS

Gastronavitism

FOOD, IDENTITY, POLITICS



In this globalised world, where Big Macs and instant ramen noodles are everywhere, comes a new movement: gastro nativism. This neologism—resulting from the combination of the words "gastronomy" and "nativism"—defends the preservation of local and cultural cuisines in front of the homogenising action of international fast food and supermarket chains. Gastro Nativism is not just about food; it's a political statement advocating for the protection and celebration of national identity and cultural heritage.

It emphasises traditional methods of cooking and locally sourced ingredients, lending authenticity to food from a particular place. It's a reaction—some might even say a rebellion—against the flattening effect of globalised food culture. While there isn't a precise point in history when gastro-nativism began, its roots can be traced to 19th-century efforts to resist the industrialization of food. As more countries developed their national identities, food became an

important symbol of cultural distinction and pride. The movement has gained momentum in recent years as communities grapple with the fear of losing their culinary heritage. However, gastronativism doesn't exist in a vacuum; it often intertwines with political agendas, promoting nationalism and a sense of patriotism. Governments may use it as a means to promote pride in one's local culture, but the rhetoric can take a darker turn. For instance, in Europe, more and more anti-immigrant feelings are increasing within different countries, which find their place in food quite often. Politicians and commentators rail against couscous and kebabs—the very staple of North African cuisine—as demonstrating a sort of encroachment of foreign cultures. This shows the perils of gastro nativism: purity morphing into exclusion and hostility toward other culinary traditions.

Yet, gastro nativism offers more than just cultural gatekeeping. It has the potential to further sustainable development by lessening the ecological effects of long-distance food transportation and strengthening local economies. A very good example is the adaptation of multinational menus to local tastes. In India, McDonald's boasts a plethora of vegetarian options, including the now-iconic McAloo Tikki burger, a testament to how local preferences can influence even global fast-food giants. Here, gastro nativism actually encourages innovation and cross-cultural understanding.

Gastronavitism is much more than food; it represents history, culture, and people. With a focus on traditional gastronomy and local foods, it ensures that the flavours of our forefathers are not lost to the coalescing forces of globalisation. It shows us how food, as simple as it may seem, is a symbol of who we are and where we come from. As the movement gains traction, we must question whether gastro-nativism is truly about protecting food traditions or if it's being hijacked as a means of promoting isolationism and exclusion.



VENEZUELA: A DEMOCRATIC CRISIS



Venezuela, already teetering on the edge, has been thrown into a storm of unrest following Nicolás Maduro's contentious re-election on July 28, 2024. Officially claiming victory with 52% of the vote, Maduro's third six-year term has sparked nationwide protests as citizens and opposition leaders accuse him of electoral fraud.

The streets of Caracas and other major cities have transformed into battlegrounds of resistance, with opposition leader Marina Corina Machado at the helm of dissent. Long barred from candidacy, Machado argues that her ally, Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, was the true victor, allegedly receiving 67% of the vote, according to independent polling tallies. The electoral commission, widely perceived as loyal to Maduro, has withheld detailed results, further inflaming public outrage.

Within hours of the results being announced, tens of thousands of Venezuelans flooded the streets in defiance. Crowds chanted, "¡Se ve, se siente, Edmundo presidente!" ("It can be seen, it can be felt, Edmundo is

president!"), their collective anger resonating in a country already struggling with economic collapse and political repression.

Despite the gravity of the unrest, Maduro and Gonzalez exchanged jabs at their respective rallies. While Gonzalez has called for an "orderly transition," Maduro has harshly dismissed him, suggesting he is "living in a cave." Meanwhile, security forces, backed by pro-Maduro armed groups known as "colectivos," have responded with force. At least 23 protesters have been killed, and over 2,400 arrested since the protests began.

In response to the unrest, Maduro's government has intensified its crackdown, executing mass detentions and launching "Operation Tun Tun," which encourages citizens to report anyone involved in protests—including neighbors and family members who dare to question the accuracy of election results or the democratic integrity of Venezuela.

On the international stage, the backlash against Maduro is mounting. The United States and European Union have refused to recognize his victory, condemning the election as fraudulent and undemocratic. Regional powers like Colombia and Brazil have called for new elections, demanding respect for the will of the Venezuelan people. The Organization of American States (OAS) has gone even further, accusing Maduro's regime of manipulating the results and urging the release of detailed voting records.

With public anger swelling and international pressure mounting, the fight for democracy in the embattled nation is far from over. Will Maduro's grip on power withstand this new wave of opposition, or is Venezuela on the brink of profound political change? For now, the streets of Caracas reverberate with a collective cry for freedom, echoing the hopes and dreams of a nation desperate for change.

Simrit Kaur
Class II

THE PARISIAN PLUNGE

The world is well aware of the French penchant for protest, and few could have anticipated the dramatic lengths to which Parisians would have gone leading up to the 2024 Paris Olympics. In the weeks leading up to the Games, it seemed as though even the mundane task of going to the bathroom in France had become political. Enraged Parisians were threatening to openly defecate in the city's famous Seine River after President Emmanuel Macron and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo made a joint claim that they would take a dip in the waterway to prove it was safe for certain Olympic swimming events.

It all began on September 13, 2017, when Paris was chosen as the host city for the 2024 Olympics during the 131st IOC Session in Lima, Peru. What had been a moment of joy soon gave way to years of growing discontent as Parisians became increasingly enraged by the deteriorating conditions of their city. At the heart of their anger was the condition of the Seine River, a central symbol of French life, culture, and identity. Heavily polluted and declared unfit for swimming as far back as 1923, the government's decision to host Olympic events in these waters was viewed by many as a significant misstep.

By the summer of 2024, Parisians were fuming over the astronomical sums France had spent trying to clean up the river—rumoured to be upwards of \$1 billion. Yet, despite this substantial investment, monitoring tests conducted by Eau de Paris between June 17 and June 23 revealed the continued presence of E. coli bacteria and other hazards. Compounding the issue, residents were also apprehensive about the anticipated transportation chaos as the Olympic Games approached.

Frustration reached a peak with a viral campaign and hashtag related to the protest, allowing users to calculate the distance they needed to be from central Paris to ensure their actions would impact the Seine by a specified time on June 23. While unconventional, this protest effectively captured the collective anger of the city.



Following this bizarre and nauseating campaign, both the President and the Mayor, who had vowed to dive in the Seine on June 23rd, backed out at the last minute citing “political reasons”, a likely nod to the then upcoming elections. By now, the protests have subsided, but this chapter in Parisian history serves as a reminder that, when it comes to stirring up drama, there's no one like the French!

Nabhya Shekhar
Class 11

RECOMMENDATIONS

Movies

All The President's Men
Citizen Kane
JFK
Munich
Hitler and the Nazi: Evil-
on Trial

Books

The Curtain and the Wall
Advise and Consent
The Manchurian
Candidate
Invisible Man

Songs

Give Peace a Chance- John Lenon
The Rimes They are a changin-
Bob Dylan
Street Fighting Man- Rolling
Stones
Urban Guerilla - Hawkind



THE SAHEL CONFLICT: VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Engulfed in a violent and complex conflict, the vast and sun-baked Sahel region of Africa, dividing North and Sub-Saharan Africa, has become a crucible of violence, extremism, and political instability. Due to insurgencies, ethnic rivalries, and collapsing governments, what began as localised disputes between farmers and herders over dwindling resources has evolved into a sprawling and multifaceted conflict. Jihadist groups like Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and affiliates of the Islamic State (ISIS) have exploited tax state regulation to further destabilise the region.

The growing shortage of food and water has forced millions to relocate and fuelled competition among local communities. Compounding this crisis is the dire environmental situation in the region, characterised by erratic rainfall patterns and accelerating desertification. Essential infrastructure such as schools and hospitals have been destroyed, and millions have perished due to disease or starvation. The region's economy is in a state of stagnation, leaving millions of people in a state of uncertainty and poverty.


Frontline Sahel nations like Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Chad have been engaged in a challenging battle to curb the rising tide of violence. As the instability intensifies, extremist militants take advantage of these tensions to recruit from marginalised communities, and aggravate the already fragile inter-communal relations. Consequently, there exists a vicious cycle of violence that seems to be unbreakable by both military action and humanitarian relief. The terrorists target both military personnel and civilians, frequently engaging in extortion, kidnapping, and brutal attacks. Despite significant international efforts and aid to tackle such jihadist organisations, the governments have struggled

to control the spread of violence and restore stability in their nations.

Although resource scarcity and fragile governance have made the conflict worse, the core causes of the conflict remain unaddressed. The successes of France's Operation Barkhane, and the ECOWAS and African Union's peacekeeping missions against militant groups provide the international community with a glimmer of hope. The unchecked continuance of the Sahel conflict will further destabilise Western Africa, and may spill over into the whole of Africa as well.

Sahel is, thus, a vivid testament to the adage, "You cannot quench a wildfire with a garden hose." True resolution requires deep-rooted change.

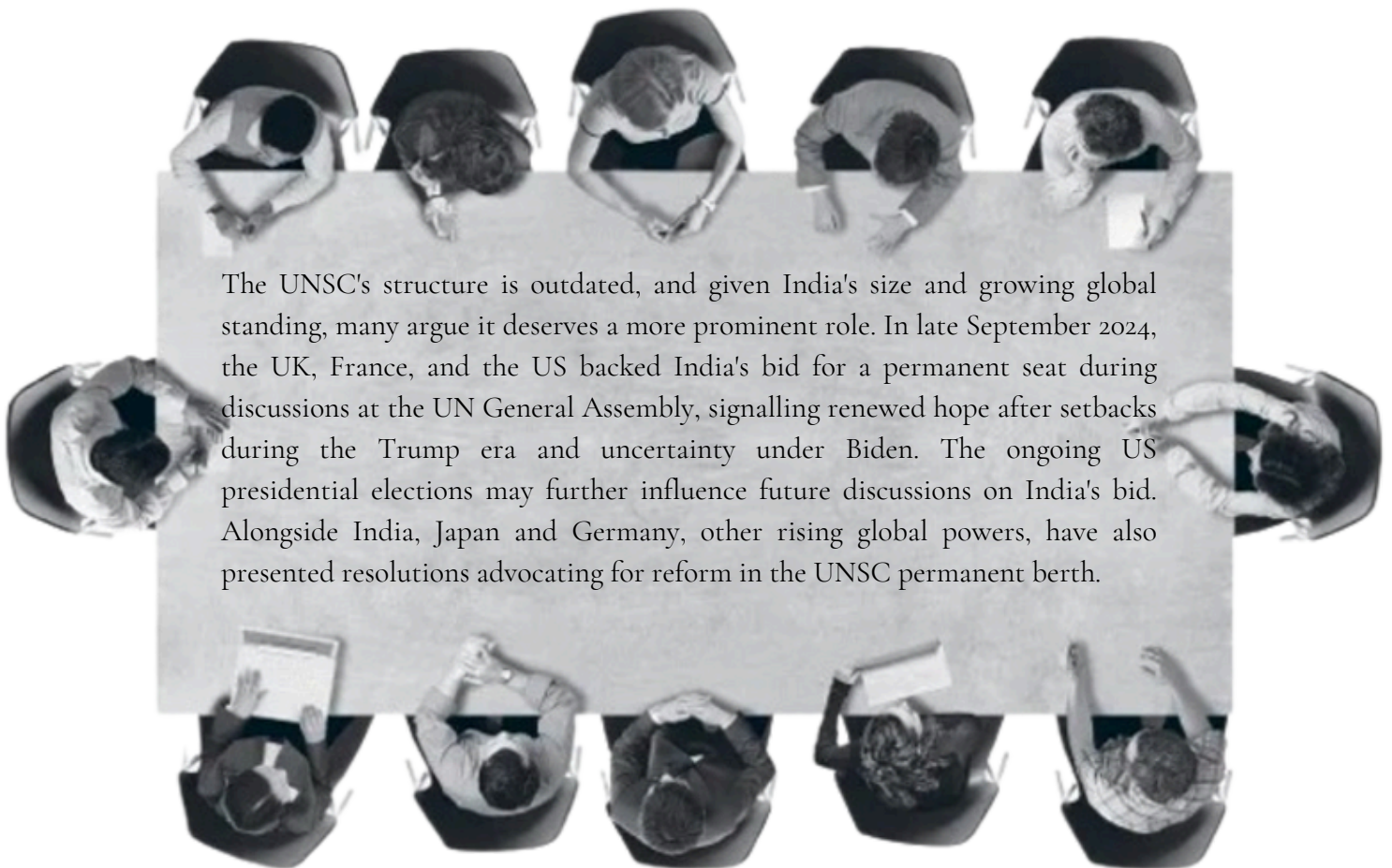
Yaisana Longjam
Yagyana Sharma
Class 10



INDIA'S SEAT AT THE TABLE

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has emerged as the key arena for evaluating the accommodation of emerging powers in the international system. Over a decade ago, President Barack Obama voiced aspirations for India to secure a permanent seat on the UNSC, a proposition subsequently endorsed by numerous eminent personalities. India's case exemplifies a rising power negotiating its place in a reformed Council as a permanent member

However, India's journey towards this goal has not been as simple as one thought it would be. In the 1950s, the US proposed that India replace Taiwan on the Security Council, but Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru disagreed, advocating for China's inclusion instead. Nehru believed China deserved this position due to its size and historical ties with India. For Indian policymakers, the past serves as a guide, and they have consistently argued for their inclusion among global powers in line with their advocacy for a multilateral international agenda.



The UNSC's structure is outdated, and given India's size and growing global standing, many argue it deserves a more prominent role. In late September 2024, the UK, France, and the US backed India's bid for a permanent seat during discussions at the UN General Assembly, signalling renewed hope after setbacks during the Trump era and uncertainty under Biden. The ongoing US presidential elections may further influence future discussions on India's bid. Alongside India, Japan and Germany, other rising global powers, have also presented resolutions advocating for reform in the UNSC permanent berth.

India has made significant contributions to UN peacekeeping operations since 1948, including deploying the first all-women peacekeeping force to Liberia. Indian diplomats have played crucial roles in diffusing post-war crises, such as during Belgium's withdrawal from colonial rule in Congo. While India has traditionally prioritised preserving domestic sovereignty over global human rights issues, major Western powers continue to advocate for its inclusion.

As India aims to transition the UN towards a multipolar framework, it seeks to alter the power dynamics in contemporary global politics. However, achieving this status will require consensus among system-determining states. With increasing support from influential countries, India's quest for a permanent seat at the UNSC is gaining traction.



Tamanna Baid

Class 11

AND ILLUSIONS TRICKED THE NAZIS

One of the strangest and most persistent theories about Adolf Hitler's virulent hatred for Jews has little to do with politics or race and more to do with personal failure—namely, his rejection from the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. You can trust Der Fuehrer not only to lead propaganda against an entire religious community because of the rejection but also to use the very thing that's parked it all to spread this propaganda: art.

Hitler's artistic ambitions manifested in a cultural crusade aimed at suppressing the very art forms that rejected him. In an effort to promote the values of Aryan supremacy, the Nazis condemned modern art as "degenerate." The avant-garde styles that characterized the period—Expressionism, Surrealism, and Cubism—were targeted. The regime staged the now notoriously detested "Degenerate Art" exhibition in Munich in 1937 with the hope of humiliating those art forms and their creators. However, the attempt backfired spectacularly. Rather than discrediting the art, the exhibition drew enormous crowds, fascinated by the very works the Nazis sought to demonize. Instead of diminishing the artists' reputations, the exhibition bolstered them, transforming it into an unexpected victory for the very art the Nazis aimed to suppress.

They looted art across Europe, hoping to create a collection that embodied their distorted vision of greatness. However, in their rush to confiscate treasures, they ended up with a confusing array of works, including many they had earlier deemed "un-German" or "degenerate." What was meant to be a showcase of Aryan superiority turned

into a display of artistic diversity, underlining the absurdity of their efforts to control culture.

The Nazis' propaganda aimed at inspiring fear and loyalty, often strayed into the absurd. Their exaggerated depictions of the Aryan "superman" and grotesque caricatures of enemies became so outlandish that they resembled comic book illustrations rather than serious propaganda. Despite censorship, many artists cleverly resisted by employing subtle irony and hidden symbolism, embedding anti-Nazi messages within seemingly innocuous works.

The Nazis' aim was to dictate what was to be deemed appropriate within their culture and ended up being ridiculed, outmanoeuvred by the very medium they sought to control. Ultimately, their attempts to manipulate culture became a testament to the resilience of art—a force they could never fully control, and one that consistently eluded their ideological grasp.

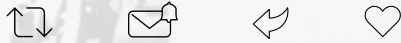


Tweets from the Past



Welhamite 🌟 @gulabosoverdoscos

Dear @Marie Antoinette,
What would you suggest to leaders trying to maintain popularity in the age of Twitter mobs and 24/7 news cycles?



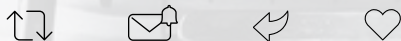
Marie Antoinette 🌟 @cakeoverbread

Well, my child, in the stint of these new-age bandwagons, which do I admit are quite enticing, I do acknowledge that they have emptied my coffers. My servants have worn out limbs, finding attire for my new posts. Now if this tempest mob were to turn to me for advice, amidst the relentless news cycles and “tweets” or so they call it, why not lure followers with some tempting hashtags like #letthemetatcake.

As you engage, remember to embrace transparency and sprinkle in a bit of humour—people connect with authenticity. Do make the effort to engage meaningfully with your audience, whether through quirky community initiatives or a few light-hearted memes. A cheerful spirit often carries further than a frown, and a wink can defuse tension like nothing else.

A wise bird once told me that shaking hands with fishwives and kissing orphan babies can do wonders for your image. Just avoid any awkward moments where you might accidentally call them 'the great unwashed'—that is a surefire way to anger a Twitter mob! And if anyone calls you out for being out of touch, just remind them that you are merely 'living your best life'—it worked for me until it didn't!

Always in your lavishing tweets (and treats)
Maria Antonia Josefa Johanna



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