

НЕБОРСКАЯ В.В., САДЫКОВА М.А., СИРАЕВА М.Н.

**ПОДГОТОВКА К ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОМУ
ЭКЗАМЕНУ ПО АНГЛИЙСКОМУ ЯЗЫКУ**

Учебно-методическое пособие



Ижевск
2023

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Учебно-методическое пособие предназначено для подготовки к итоговой аттестации по английскому языку, цель которой – определить степень готовности выпускника к выполнению задач профессиональной деятельности, и предполагает демонстрацию иноязычной коммуникативной и переводческой компетенций, установленных ФГОС ВО.

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ВВЕДЕНИЕ

Знание иностранного языка всегда расценивалось как проявление уважения к носителям языка и заинтересованности страной, ее культурой, новостями, политикой. Эффективное владение английским языком как *lingua franca* особенно актуально в связи с процессами, происходящими сейчас на международной арене.

Итоговая аттестация призвана проверить сформированность общепрофессиональной и универсальной компетенций, суть которых сводится к способности эффективно осуществлять профессиональную коммуникацию на русском и иностранном языках.

Настоящее пособие может быть использовано при подготовке к экзаменам по английскому языку студентами бакалавриата, изучающими международные отношения и политологию. В пособие вошли оригинальные публицистические тексты общественно-политического характера, а также тексты специалистов в области мировой политики и международных отношений. Источником материала послужили ресурсы сети Интернет.

Пособие состоит из двух частей, работа с текстами в которых направлена на отработку первого и второго экзаменационных заданий, выносимых на государственный экзамен по иностранному языку (см. Приложение 1). Приложения 2 и 3 содержат методические рекомендации для студентов по реферированию текста и особенностям перевода.

Знание лексических, грамматических и стилистических особенностей общественно-политических и новостных текстов как в языке оригинала, так и в языке перевода является определяющим при их переводе. Успешному выполнению заданий способствуют освоенные в течение курса обучения основы теории и практики перевода и занятия по практике иностранного языка.

Работа с текстами данного пособия может как проводиться во время аудиторного занятия, так и осуществляться самостоятельно обучающимися.

ЧАСТЬ 1. ТЕКСТЫ ДЛЯ РЕФЕРАТИВНОГО ИЗЛОЖЕНИЯ

Text 1

2024 Contest Comes into View with Hurdles for Both Parties

By Steve Peoples

<https://apnews.com>

02/02/2023

Both political parties are opening the new year confronting critical questions about the people and policies they want to embrace as the next election speeds into view.

The challenges are particularly urgent for Republicans, who hoped to enter 2023 with a secure grip on one, if not both, chambers of Congress. Instead, an underwhelming midterm election yielded only a thin House majority that will expose fierce intraparty divisions this week as California Rep. Kevin McCarthy fights for the speakership. And before the end of the month, the Republican National Committee must resolve a divisive leadership battle of its own.

A central figure in virtually everything is Donald Trump, the former president who transformed the GOP more than seven years ago and is still fighting to exert his will over Republicans in Congress, the RNC and Republican voters just as the next presidential primary season begins.

RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel acknowledged, in an interview, that her party's greatest political challenge ahead may come from within as party leaders navigate Trump's outsized role.

"There's so much at stake we can't afford to be divided heading into 2024," McDaniel said, promising that the RNC would be neutral in the looming presidential nomination process. "If we are divided, we will lose."

For now, at least, Democrats appear to be far more united than their Republican counterparts.

But much depends on Joe Biden and whether the 80-year-old president will follow through on his plan to seek reelection. If he eschews another term – and a formal announcement may be months away – Democrats would be thrust into a murky future with no obvious popular alternatives.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who did not rule out another presidential bid of his own, said Democrats are also at a "pivotal moment,"

facing cracks in their delicate political coalition among young people, African Americans, Latinos and working-class voters.

“It pains me very, very much that we’re seeing more and more working-class people voting Republican,” he said in an interview. “Politically, that is a disaster, and Democrats have to recognize that serious problem and address it.”

Though many voters may be tired of the never-ending campaign that is U.S. politics, especially after a high-stakes midterm election in 2022, the tense dynamics guarantee the political spotlight will only burn brighter in the new year. If history is a guide, the opening presidential primary debates are just seven months away. And the debate stage is expected to be crowded – at least on the GOP side. No fewer than 10 high-profile Republicans are actively weighing 2024 presidential bids in open defiance of Trump, emboldened by the growing belief that the former president is as politically vulnerable as he’s ever been.

At the moment, Trump is the only announced candidate in the Republican primary. But a handful of candidates are expected to join by the end of March, while some higher-profile contenders – Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, among them – believe they can wait until late spring or even early summer to make their intentions known.

Few believe Trump will be easy to topple in a GOP primary. Already, he has begun to lash out at would-be rivals by name, and he maintains a rock-solid grip among the party’s most active voters, who will dominate GOP primary contests.

Still, voters will have several options in a likely field that features DeSantis, former Vice President Mike Pence, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and outgoing Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, among several others. Most have already begun actively courting donors and making connections on the ground in early states on the presidential primary calendar. (3101 п. 3н.)

Text 2

Is Global Capitalism Compatible with Democracy? Inequality, Insecurity, and Interdependence

By Helen V Milner

International Studies Quarterly, Vol. 65, Issue 4

December 2021

Global Capitalism: How Did Capitalism Go Global?

Global capitalism is referred here as globalization. The integration of national economies into a world market has developed very extensively in the past 30 years. The main economic globalization index, the KOF one, shows globalization rising rapidly from the 1970s to 2009; after the global financial crisis, globalization plateaus and even falls in some areas a bit. The advanced industrial countries began their move toward greater openness in the 1970s and 1980s, while the developing world moved rapidly in the 1990's and 2000s. Key measures of the components of globalization – that is, international trade openness, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, and international migration – saw remarkable growth from 1970 until the global financial crisis in 2008.

However, the growth in globalization has stalled since the 2008 financial crisis: international trade has remained roughly the same representing only 58.2 percent of world GDP by 2019, with developing countries being hardest hit. FDI has failed to rebound, only accounting for about 1.9 percent of world GDP in 2019. International migration, however, continues to grow in both developed and developing economies (about 12.7 percent of the rich world is now foreign born). Globalization is now extensive but not advancing any more. Recent political changes, such as the trade wars launched by the United States, suggest it may be in retreat.

This is the second period of extensive globalization that the modern world has known. The first wave occurred from roughly 1870 to 1914. On the surface, these two periods look similar: trade, capital, migrants, and ideas surged across borders, while rapid technological change took place; however, the causes, processes, and consequences seem. After the mid-nineteenth century, an integrated international system emerged as the European great powers, led by the British, created a more open world economy, employing their military power and economic policy. The expansion of European trade, capital, values, and political pow-

er helped by the development of colonies around the globe established this period of globalization. By the late nineteenth century, the international economy reached levels of openness that had never been seen before. In some areas, such as the movement of labor, these high levels of global integration have never been achieved since then.

During the first wave of globalization beginning around the 1870s, a truly global economy was created, as Europeans spread their influence around the world, often not benignly but through colonialism and imperialism. Technological change, especially evident in the decline in transport and communication costs combined with the invention of steamships, railroads, and the telegraph, fueled the second Industrial Revolution in Europe and North America. But this Northern industrialization led to deindustrialization in the South, especially for China and India, as only a small number of countries benefited from the decline in transport costs. These changes enabled a boom in international trade, which also benefited from the removal of many trade barriers with the shift from mercantilist policies to freer trade in Europe. International financial markets became highly integrated as the British pound dominated global markets. Migration was also prominent, as a result of the drop in transport costs. This asymmetric structure of relations led to “differential” growth in globalization where some parts of the world—mainly the North—saw intense societal interactions and economic interdependence and others did not. British hegemony and European dominance shaped this wave of globalization. (3163 п. 3н.)

Text 3

What Is a Heat Pump and Why Does Elon Musk Want to Put One in Your Home?

By Olivia Rudgard

<https://www.bloomberg.com>

03/03/2023

Tesla’s investor day on Wednesday didn’t offer fans any new cars. Instead, Elon Musk and his executives teased a new area Tesla may look at entering — home heating.

Heat pumps, which are more efficient than traditional heaters and can help reduce planet-warming emissions, have attracted increasing

attention since Russia's war in Ukraine set off a global energy crisis. They're also the target of new subsidies from governments looking for ways to mitigate global warming.

In many ways, home heat pumps are an obvious next move for Tesla, which already makes electric cars that use heat-pump technology, as well as solar panels and home batteries. But what exactly is a heat pump, how does it work and why is Musk talking about it now?

What is a heat pump?

A heat pump is an electric way of heating a home or other space (like a car), but doesn't work in the same way as traditional car or home electric heaters. Heat pumps move heat around instead of creating it, which is more efficient and less energy-intensive. That makes heat pumps one important solution in efforts to heat the world's buildings without burning fossil fuels.

How do heat pumps work?

Rather than creating heat by forcing electricity through wire and making it hot, heat pumps extract heat that's already in the air, ground or water outside, transferring it to a refrigerant. This is then compressed and released to heat an indoor space.

Some heat pumps work by heating water, which is then pumped into radiators or underfloor heating, while others blow hot air directly into the space. This can be done even in low temperatures; heat pumps are used for almost a third of space heating in Sweden, for example, where temperatures are cold in winter.

Heat pumps are considered better than traditional electric heaters because they're more efficient. Whereas a typical electric heater is 100 % efficient — making one unit of heat for one unit of power, heat pumps offer two or three times the efficiency. The best are five times more efficient under perfect conditions.

What are the challenges?

As with any new technology, there are hiccups, including a shortage of expert engineers and components. Legacy systems like gas networks and the easier availability of installers make it easier and cheaper for householders to turn to a like-for-like replacement if their boiler breaks down. Poor-quality housing stock that isn't well insulated is also less suitable for heat pumps, so retrofitting can sometimes be difficult.

Heat pump adoption requires some behavioral adjustment on the part of the householder, too. People accustomed to a fossil fuel boiler might be used to pushing a thermostat up to provide a blast of heat for a couple of hours, but heat pumps are designed to run at a low level almost all the time.

Will getting a heat pump help save the planet?

Yes – electricity grids are increasingly based at least partly on renewable energy, so are less carbon-intensive than burning fossil fuels inside your home. In fact, electric heat pumps have the potential to reduce global carbon dioxide emissions by at least 500 million metric tons in 2030, according to the IEA. (2616 п. 3H.)

Text 4

McCarthy Vows to Stay in Speaker’s Race, with Trump Backing

By Lisa Mascaro, Farnoush Amiri and Kevin Freking

<https://apnews.com>

04/01/2023

Republican leader Kevin McCarthy said late Tuesday there’s no scenario in which he’ll drop his bid to become House speaker despite failing to win multiple rounds of voting, a historic defeat that brought the first day of the new Congress to an abrupt, messy end.

McCarthy promised to fight to the finish – encouraged, he said, by a phone call from Donald Trump – despite a highly uncertain path ahead amid opposition from the chamber’s most conservative members. Needing 218 votes in the full House, McCarthy got just 203 votes in two rounds – less even than Democrat Hakeem Jeffries in the GOP-controlled chamber – and fared even worse with in round three, losing 20 Republican colleagues.

“Today, is that the day I wanted to have? No,” McCarthy told reporters at the Capitol after a series of late-night closed-door meetings.

McCarthy said Trump wants him to stay in the race and told him to bring an end to the House Republican disarray and pull the party together.

The former President “wants to see the Republicans united to be able to accomplish the exact things we said we’d do,” McCarthy said.

Asked if he would drop out, McCarthy said, “It’s not going to happen.”

It was a tumultuous start to the new Congress and pointed to difficulties ahead with Republicans now in control of the House.

Tensions flared among the new House majority, and all other business came to a halt. Lawmakers' families waited around, as what's normally a festive day descended into chaos, with kids playing in the aisles or squirming in parents' arms.

Without a speaker, the House cannot fully form – swearing in its members, naming its committee chairmen, engaging in floor proceedings and launching investigations of the Biden administration.

The House agreed to return at noon Wednesday to try again.

But it was not at all clear how the embattled GOP leader could rebound after becoming the first House speaker nominee in 100 years to fail to win the gavel with his party in the majority.

A new generation of conservative Republicans, many aligned with Trump's Make America Great Again agenda, want to upend business as usual in Washington, and were committed to stopping McCarthy's rise without concessions to their priorities.

Railing against Democratic President Joe Biden's agenda, Scalise, himself a possible GOP compromise choice, said, "We can't start fixing those problems until we elect Kevin McCarthy our next speaker."

But the holdouts forced a third and final round of voting before Republican leaders quickly adjourned.

"A Latino is nominating in this chamber a Black man for our leader for the first time in American history," said Rep. Pete Aguilar of California, the third-ranking Democrat, in nominating his colleague.

But there was only negative history for the Republicans as McCarthy fell short, even with an endorsement from Trump.

Next steps are uncertain. Scalise could be a next choice, a conservative widely liked by his colleagues and seen by some as a hero after surviving a gunshot wound suffered during a congressional baseball game practice in 2017.

A speaker's contest last went multiple rounds in 1923.

This year's Republican deadlock was in stark contrast to the other side of the Capitol, where Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell will officially become the chamber's longest-serving party leader in history. Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York will remain majority leader.

Despite being in the minority in the Senate, where Democrats hold a slim 51-49 majority, McConnell could prove to be a viable partner as Biden seeks bipartisan victories in the new era of divided government. The two men are expected to appear together Wednesday in the GOP leader's home state of Kentucky to celebrate federal infrastructure investment in a vital bridge that connects Kentucky and Ohio. (3170 п. 3H.)

Text 5

**A Little-known Drug Brought Billions to Syria's Coffers.
Now it's a Bargaining Chip**

By Celine Alkhaldi, CNN

<https://edition.cnn.com>

11/04/2023

A highly addictive drug that became Syria's economic lifeline over a decade of isolation may now be serving as a bargaining chip as it tries to normalize ties with neighboring states, analysts say.

Captagon, a drug that is relatively unknown outside the Middle East, helped Syria turn into a narco-state after much of the international community cut off its economy due to its brutal crackdown on an uprising in 2011.

It is a synthetic amphetamine-type stimulant, fenethylamine, which goes by the trade name captagon, and has become the center of an increasing number of drug busts across the Middle East. Experts say the vast majority of global captagon production occurs in Syria, with the Gulf region being its primary destination.

The growth of the industry has raised alarms in the international community. Last year, the US introduced the 2022 US Captagon Act, which linked the trade to the Syrian regime and called it a "transnational security threat."

After more than a decade of boycotting him, Syria's Arab neighbors are now in talks to bring President Bashar al-Assad in from the cold. The Syrian leader has been received in some Arab capitals, but he is yet to be awarded the ultimate normalization with Saudi Arabia, one of Syria's staunchest foes – and the biggest market for its drugs.

Following the deadly February 6 earthquake that struck southern Turkey and northern Syria, Saudi relief planes landed for the first time in

a decade at regime-controlled airports. And last month, Saudi state media reported Riyadh was in talks with Damascus to resume providing consular services between the two countries.

Analysts say captagon is likely to be high on the agenda in attempts at normalization.

Saudi media has been sounding the alarm lately over the rise in drug use. In September, Saudi authorities announced the largest seizure of illicit drugs in the country's history after nearly 47 million amphetamine pills were hidden in a flour shipment and seized at a warehouse in the capital Riyadh. Millions more pills have been intercepted since. The UN says amphetamine seizures in the region refer predominantly to captagon.

“Captagon has been touted as a ‘card’ in rapprochement talks between the Syrian regime and counterparts pursuing normalization,” said Caroline Rose, director of the New Lines Institute's Project on the Captagon Trade in Washington, DC.

Exported by several actors, including Syrian smugglers, Lebanon's Hezbollah and pro-Iranian Iraqi militias, “the captagon smuggling is worth more than Syria's legal export,” said Vanda Felbab-Brown, a fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington DC and an expert on the topic. Hezbollah has denied ties to any drug trades.

The United Kingdom, which last month imposed new sanctions on Syrians connected to the trade, said the Assad regime has benefited from the captagon trade to the tune of \$57 billion. It described it as a “financial lifeline” for Assad that is “worth approximately three times the combined trade of the Mexican (drug) cartels.”

Syrian state media regularly reports on captagon drug busts, saying that the interior ministry is cracking down on its trade as well as that of other narcotics.

Jordan, which supported anti-regime groups at the start of the Syrian civil war, has in recent months also been on the road to rapprochement with Assad.

Its foreign minister this year made his first visit to Damascus since the start of the Syrian civil war and has been sending humanitarian aid following the February 6 earthquake.

Jordan has been directly impacted by Syria's captagon trade due to the prevalence of its use in border regions in the northeast of the coun-

try, said Saud Al-Sharafat, a former brigadier general in the Jordanian General Intelligence Directorate, as well as founder of the Shorufat Center for the Study of Globalization and Terrorism in Amman, Jordan.

“There is also the high cost of securing the borders and the increase in pressure on the armed forces and security services,” Al-Sharafat told CNN.

He welcomed the US Captagon Act as “the first serious international effort” to prevent the regime from expanding its use of the drug “to destabilize security in the region and the world.” Syria could potentially flood Europe and Western countries with the drug through Turkey and use it as a bargaining chip against them, he said. (3644 п.3н.)

Text 6

Consequences of Economic Sanctions: The State of the Art and Paths Forward

By Özgür Özdamar, Evgeniia Shahin
International Studies Review, Vol. 23, Issue 4
December 2021

Economic sanctions are increasingly used in international relations. Economic sanctions can be defined as restrictions over economic activity imposed by one international actor on another with a specific purpose. Purposes of sanctions may include “signaling” one's message to targeted or third states, enforcing a behavioral change, “constraining” one's behavior, meeting other goals, or achieving combinations of different purposes.

The actors involved may include not only the sanctioning and targeted states, but also the international organizations among senders, nonstate actors (specific groups within the state, terrorist organizations, or even specific people among targets), and third-party states.

Economic restrictions can result in multiple consequences with varying intensities depending on factors such as the type of sanction sender and the target, the scope and type of sanctions, and the relations between sanction senders, targets, and third-party states.

Economic Consequences of Sanctions

Research demonstrates that the intensity and probability of facing the economic impacts of sanctions vary across different actors. Tar-

gets may face consequences ranging from economic downfall to limited or no costs, while some sanctions may “strengthen” targets. In contrast, sanction senders and third-party states tend not to experience economic effects above minor or medium levels, while only minor impacts were witnessed on the system level.

Evaluations of the overall economic effects of sanctions on targets focus on detecting changes (after sanction imposition) in the gross domestic product (GDP), the gross national product (GNP), or GDP growth rates. However, such cumulative results of shrinking trade and other economic disturbances caused by sanctions vary across cases. While the United States’ selective sanctions against China had no “significant adverse effect” on its economy, the 2011–2014 sanctions against Iran decreased Iran's GDP by 17 percent; comprehensive UN sanctions devastated Iraq's economy. Investigating such differences, studies show that comprehensive UN sanctions have a higher negative effect on targets’ GDP than UN sanctions in general. However, EU sanctions are found to be less effective than those imposed by the UN.

Sanctions decrease financial flows between sanctions senders and targets. They may also lead to lower availability of international financing, as was experienced by Russia witnessing “institutional illiquidity,” “limited capital market access,” increased “state funding”, and “decoupling” of the local stock market from the global one. Decreasing access to financing, and possible overall economic shocks, increases the likelihood of banking crises (especially under financial and costlier sanctions).

Economic sanctions can also impact nonsanctioned sectors due to the reduced demand for intermediary goods, as well as to lower incomes and employment. Impacts on the target's welfare and employment, however, depend on the targets’ economic characteristics (such as the price elasticity of labor and goods markets). Targeted states may experience negative impacts in “tourism, communications, aid, transfer of technology”. Even in the case of a successful adjustment to sanctions, targets are likely to have additional logistical costs, higher “risk premiums,” and a slowdown in “long-run development”; they may end up buying commodities via third parties or of lower quality and selling products at lower prices. Moreover, economic sanctions may continue to affect a target's exports even after sanctions are lifted, which may be related to the “sunk costs” of the affected trade relationships. A study on

the long-term effects of sanctions shows that sanctions lead to protectionism because target's elites competing with imports may be strengthened by sanction and demand market protection after the sanctions end.

Nevertheless, some sanctions may unintentionally benefit targets by causing “siege morality” and mobilizing people, thereby contributing to the growth of domestic productive sectors (as reportedly happened in Iran) or possibly stimulating industrialization (Zimbabwe). Alternatively, the pre-2014 sanctions on North Korea “deepen[ed]” business relations between Korean and Chinese companies and made their interactions more efficient. (3712 п. 3н.)

Text 7

South Korea: Talks with US on Management of Nukes Underway

By Hyung-Jin Kim
<https://apnews.com>
03/01/2023

South Korea reconfirmed Tuesday that Seoul and Washington are discussing its involvement in U.S. nuclear asset management in the face of intensifying North Korean nuclear threats, after President Joe Biden denied that the allies were discussing joint nuclear exercises.

The difference came after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un entered the new year with a vow to mass-produce battlefield nuclear weapons targeting South Korea and introduce a more powerful intercontinental ballistic missile capable of striking the mainland U.S. Some experts say Kim would eventually aim to use his enlarged weapons arsenal to wrest outside concessions like sanctions relief.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said in a newspaper interview published Monday that the two countries were pushing for a joint planning and training involving U.S. nuclear assets and that the United States responded positively about the idea.

Asked by a reporter later at the White House about whether the two countries were discussing joint nuclear exercises, Biden replied, “No.”

Yoon’s spokesperson, Kim Eun-hye, issued a statement Tuesday saying that Seoul and Washington “are discussing an intel-sharing, a joint planning and subsequent joint action plans over the management of U.S. nuclear assets in response to North Korea’s nuclear (threats).”

Kim said Biden likely answered “no” because a reporter tersely asked him about a nuclear exercise without providing any background information.

In the Chosun Ilbo interview, Yoon said that while the U.S. nuclear weapons belong to the U.S., planning, intel-sharing and exercises involving them must be jointly conducted with South Korea. He said he finds it difficult to assure his people of a security guarantee with the current levels of U.S. security commitment.

South Korea has no nuclear weapons and is under the protection of a U.S. “nuclear umbrella,” which guarantees a devastating American response in the event of an attack on its ally. But some experts question the effectiveness of such a security commitment, saying the decision to use U.S. nuclear weapons lies with the U.S. president.

Yoon’s office didn’t provide many details about his government’s discussion with the United States. Some observers say South Korea is seeking to obtain a greater role on U.S. decision-making process on the deployment of its nuclear assets in times of tensions with North Korea.

Kim Taewoo, a former head of Seoul’s Korea Institute for National Unification, said the reported South Korea-U.S. discussion likely “benchmarked a NATO-style nuclear-sharing arrangement” that allows NATO member states’ warplanes to carry U.S. nuclear weapons. He said the discussion still appears to be falling short of the NATO arrangement because possible nuclear exercises between the two countries would likely be South Korean air force aircraft escorting U.S. aircraft practicing nuclear strikes during joint drills.

“North Korea would take this sensitively. (South Korea and the U.S.) are discussing this to get North Korea to take this sensitively ... because that can be a deterrence against North Korea,” Kim Taewoo said.

He said South Korea and the United States are likely using unofficial channels to discuss the topic. That allows South Korea to claim it’s discussing the issue with the U.S. at the same time it allows Washington to deny that, he said.

Last year, North Korea performed a record number of weapons tests by launching a variety of ballistic missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland and its allies South Korea and Japan. In September, North Korea also adopted a new law authorizing the preemptive use of its bombs in a broad range of cases, including non-war scenarios. (3116 п. 3н.)

Text 8

UN Ready for ‘Heartbreaking’ Decision to Pull Out of Afghanistan

Officials say it will leave in May if Taliban cannot be persuaded to let local women work for organisation

By Peter Beaumont

<https://www.theguardian.com>

18 Apr 2023

The UN is ready to take the “heartbreaking” decision to pull out of Afghanistan in May if it cannot persuade the Taliban to let local women work for the organisation, officials have said.

The warning comes after UN officials spent months negotiating with the group’s leaders in the hope of persuading them to make exceptions to a hardline edict this month barring local women from working for it, according to the head of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Achim Steiner.

The threatened move comes as two-thirds of the population, or 28 million people, are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2023, and the US government and other G7 members have been threatening to cut aid.

The Taliban have refused to change their position, announced in December apparently on the orders of their reclusive leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada. Women make up about a third of employees of locally hired aid agency staff and are also seen as most vulnerable to any aid reductions. The edict also limited women’s access to education.

The 3,300 Afghans employed by the UN – 2,700 men and 600 women – have stayed at home since 12 April, when the Taliban said Afghan women employed by the UN could no longer report for work. But they continue to work and will be paid, the UN spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric has said. The UN’s 600-strong international staff, including 200 women, is not affected by the Taliban edict.

“It is fair to say that where we are right now is the entire United Nations system having to take a step back and re-evaluating its ability to operate there,” Steiner said. “But it’s not about negotiating fundamental principles, human rights.”

He added: “I think there is no other way of putting it than heartbreaking. I mean, if I were to imagine the UN family not being in Af-

ghanistan today, I have before me these images of millions of young girls, young boys, fathers, mothers, who essentially will not have enough to eat.”

Despite initial promises of a more moderate rule than during their previous stint in power in the 1990s, the Taliban have imposed a harsh regime since taking over in 2021 as US and Nato forces pulled out after two decades of war. They have returned to some of their most notorious practices, including public executions and far-reaching restrictions on women’s rights and education.

Steiner said this month’s further restrictions on the UN’s female employees meant “a very fundamental moment” was approaching. “Obviously our hope and expectation is that there will be some common sense prevailing,” he said.

The potential withdrawal comes amid predictions that the departure of the UN and other agencies could affect women and children most.

A report from the International Crisis Group in February said women and girls often received the smallest share of food in Afghan families and were more vulnerable to malnutrition and disease.

It also voiced concerns about the long-term impact of aid groups and others withdrawing. “If they leave, international actors may have a hard time coming back to Afghanistan in the future,” it said.

“Negotiating access to rural communities is not only a matter of getting the Taliban’s permission; in many places, NGOs have nurtured relationships with villagers for years, even decades. Rebuilding the level of trust they currently enjoy after abandoning these communities would be no small feat.”

The UN’s warning comes in the midst of a complex environment for aid agencies in Afghanistan, where some have chosen to suspend operations. The UN and other humanitarian groups have been clinging to a small number of exceptions allowing women to work in specific circumstances in health, education and nutrition as senior UN officials have tried to persuade the Taliban to reverse their December edict with little sign of success. (3172 П.3Н)

Text 9

Keir Starmer was Against Proportional Representation all Along – What Else Hasn't He Told Us?

By John Rentoul

<https://www.independent.co.uk>

29/04/2023

The leaders of the two main parties both went back this week on things they seemed to have said when they were campaigning for the top job. On Thursday, Keir Starmer's spokesperson said he has a "long-standing view against proportional representation".

It is a view he kept well hidden during the 2020 Labour leadership election, when he said: "On electoral reform, we've got to address the fact that millions of people vote in safe seats and they feel their voice doesn't count. That's got to be addressed. We will never get full participation in our electoral system until we do that at every level."

On Monday, meanwhile, Kemi Badenoch, the business secretary, confirmed to a private meeting of Conservative MPs what Michael Gove, her cabinet colleague, had said to a select committee a month ago and none of them had noticed: that the Government was going to keep most EU-derived law.

This was not quite what Rishi Sunak had said during the leadership contest with Liz Truss, when he put out a video in which, to the strains of "Ode to Joy", the EU anthem, an actor fed documents called "EU legislation" into a shredder. A caption said: "In his first 100 days as prime minister, Rishi Sunak will review or repeal post-Brexit EU laws ... all 2,400 of them."

Carl Gardner, the legal commentator, noticed that this wording, too, was less than categorical, and that Sunak's formal manifesto for the leadership promised only to scrap "all EU laws that hold the economy back" and then only "before the next election".

While the public overwhelmingly thinks Boris Johnson is untrustworthy, we tend to have a more positive view of Starmer and Sunak. They are politicians, of course, so a certain slipperiness is written into the job description; but they both trade on their image as relatively honest.

Starmer's apostasy, on the other hand, is more dangerous for him. Labour Party members are overwhelmingly in favour of propor-

tional representation. What Professor Tim Bale calls “the party in the media” – that is, the Labour-leaning part of the commentariat – tends to be soggy in favour.

Both groups say they understand that Starmer had to say one thing to become leader and needs to say another to win a general election – but this might be a betrayal too far. He can drop renationalisation, but not the d’Hondt divisor.

Even if they understand that Labour must win under the existing voting system and that change is unlikely to be a priority after the election, they wonder what Starmer really does believe in – “apart from himself”, as one historian of the party put it to me this week.

Fortunately, the Labour leader set out to answer that question in an interview with *The Economist* on Wednesday. There have been several long interviews that have purported to show us “the real Keir Starmer”, in which we have been reminded again that his father was a toolmaker and his mother a nurse – but none of them has really penetrated the forcefield around him.

This interview was different in that it didn’t try to be personal, but to test him on policy and to try to find out what kind of prime minister he would be. It was hardly more successful than the personal interviews, as Starmer kept his answers at a level of mind-numbing generality. A Labour government under him would “reach out and govern in a more consensual way”. It would work in partnership with business, while giving companies the “certainty” that they need.

Even at the level of abstract principles, however, Starmer contradicted himself. Asked how he would achieve economic growth, he said “one of the first levers we need to pull is to put decision-making closer to communities and people affected”. Yet when asked a more specific question about whether a Labour government would take on Nimbyism on housing, he said: “I think we have to take this on.”

He said Sunak had “backed down now in the face of opposition on targets”. But that opposition to targets for house building comes from precisely the “communities and people affected” that he wants to empower.

When asked a more specific question about whether the green belt would remain, he retreated to: “Look, we’ll come up with a set of proposals. But I’m absolutely clear in my mind, the status quo is not

good enough. We have to change this. That will require us to be bold when it comes to things like planning.”

The trouble is that he said the voting system had to be changed once – or, rather, that its flaws had to be “addressed”. So his boldness is ambiguous.

And he has the same problem with the central message of the Economist interview, which is that a Labour government would keep taxes down. He said that he and Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, “intend to resist the pull that so many people urge on us: that the first place a Labour Government goes is to tax. The first place the next Labour Government will go is to grow.” (4020 печ. зн.)

Text 10

Tensions Rise in Middle East as Israeli Security Chief Visits Jerusalem Holy Site

By A.L. Lee

<https://www.upi.com>

03/01/2023

Palestinians condemn visit by Itamar Ben-Gvir.

Israel's newly installed minister of national security sparked anger among Palestinians after visiting a hotly contested holy site in Jerusalem on Tuesday despite threats of violence and protests by various Middle East groups.

Itamar Ben-Gvir, who was sworn in five days ago by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, was surrounded by heavy police security as he arrived at a Biblical temple considered by Jews and Muslims to be one of the most sacred places on Earth.

“The Temple Mount is open to everyone,” he tweeted on Tuesday along with an image of himself and the security detail walking past the iconic golden Dome of the Rock.

Muslims regard the compound as the third holiest site in Islam and refer to it as al-Aqsa Mosque or Haram al-Sharif, in honor of Muhammad's ascent to Heaven.

Jews, on the other hand, also lay claim to the site and refer to the compound as the Temple Mount, which is considered the most sacred place in Judaism.

Jews and other non-Muslims regularly visit the site, however, there is a long-standing tradition for them not to pray.

Ben-Gvir, who is the leader of the Otzma Yehudit party, previously indicated that he wants to change that rule to allow Jews to worship there.

Ben-Gvir's visit – the first by a high-level Israeli official in decades – infuriated the Palestinian Foreign Ministry, which blasted Netanyahu for a “flagrant attack” on the holy site.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the Palestinian leadership condemned the visit and said the provocative move by the Israeli government threatened to create further conflict between the longtime adversaries.

“The storming of al-Aqsa mosque by the extremist minister Ben-Gvir” is an “unprecedented provocation and a dangerous escalation,” the statement said.

The latest tensions come as Netanyahu's new right-wing government takes a more hardline stance toward Palestinians amid rising tumult in several Israeli-occupied territories.

In recent days, the Islamic militant group Hamas – which commands the Gaza Strip – has also vowed to retaliate with violence if Ben-Gvir visited the holy site, while saying the site “will remain Palestinian, Arab, Islamic.”

Meanwhile, senior officials in the Israeli government have made calls for annexing the West Bank, which the Palestinians consider their own territory for a future state.

During his first day in office Monday, new Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen called for Palestinian leaders to face a war crimes tribunal at The Hague. Late last week, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution which called on the International Court of Justice to assess the state of the ongoing conflict.

Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon was the last high-level official to visit the sacred compound back in 2000, which triggered a deadly Palestinian uprising that lasted for several years.

More recently, violence erupted at the site in May 2021 when Hamas fired rockets towards Jerusalem, which touched off an 11-day clash with Israel. (2540 п. 3H.)

Text 11

The Tories Could Be Heading for a Drubbing in the Local Elections

By John Curtice

<https://www.independent.co.uk>

30/04/2024

The local elections taking place in much of England outside London on Thursday will be Rishi Sunak's first key electoral test.

Although the gap has narrowed somewhat in recent weeks, his party is still 15 points behind Labour in the polls. That deficit would seemingly indicate that the Conservatives are heading for a drubbing, and leave Conservative MPs wondering whether Mr Sunak can win a general election next year.

Yet in practice this test is not as tough for the Prime Minister as Labour's opinion poll lead suggests. Mr Sunak has the good fortune that his party performed badly the last time the seats being contested this year were previously up for grabs. As a result, his party has much less to lose.

Ninety per cent of the council seats being filled on Thursday were last contested in May 2019. That now represents psephological pre-history. Theresa May was still Prime Minister, struggling – and ultimately failing – to get the Brexit deal she had negotiated past the Commons.

The Brexit Party had just been launched and was commanding the support of nearly one in five voters. The Conservatives themselves stood at just 26 per cent in the polls.

That downturn was reflected in the local results. The Conservatives suffered a net loss of over 1,300 seats and control of nearly 50 councils. It was the party's biggest local election reverse for nearly a quarter of a century.

Still, that does not mean that the Conservatives can avoid some net losses this year. For if the Conservatives performed badly four years ago, Labour – divided at the time under Jeremy Corbyn's leadership over antisemitism and Brexit – registered a disappointing performance too.

With the party's own average poll rating at only 32 per cent, Labour also fell back slightly, suffering a net loss of 86 seats and five councils.

Labour are clearly much stronger now. Even so, the polls point to a swing of only four to five points from Conservative to Labour as

compared with four years ago. Such a performance could limit Labour's net gains of council control to less than double figures, with Cheshire West & Chester, Plymouth and Swindon among the party's top targets.

Labour might also make the 400 net gains from the Conservatives that would make it the biggest party in local government across Britain as a whole.

Meanwhile, a Labour advance on that scale could see the Conservatives lose control of a dozen or so councils, but perhaps not much more than that. Given the government's campaign to "stop the boats" it will, though, particularly want not to lose control of potentially marginal Dover.

Not least of the reasons why Labour's advance might appear quite limited is that 5,000 of the 8,000 seats at stake are in predominantly rural district councils, in many of which the party has a limited presence. Here it is often the Liberal Democrats who are the Conservatives' principal challengers.

However, in contrast to both Labour and the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats are defending a relatively good performance four years ago. They made net gains of 700 seats, and captured control of a dozen councils.

While the party always performs better in local elections than its current standing in the national polls, it is still of note that its current poll rating of 9 per cent is much the same as the 8 per cent at which it stood four years ago.

That suggests that the Liberal Democrats may not do much more than hold their own. While that may be enough to retain control of most of the 17 councils they currently run, it is unlikely to be enough to inflict much damage on a Conservative Party that is at least not performing any worse than it was four years ago. That could reduce significantly the total tally of Conservative losses.

The Greens, who made nearly 200 net gains four years ago in what was one of their best local election performances ever, face much a similar challenge to the Liberal Democrats. Their sights are very much set on winning control of Mid-Suffolk, the one council where the party starts off in sight of the winning post.

However, there is one pattern that could upset the Conservative apple cart. What if opposition supporters are so disenchanted with the

government that they back whichever of the Conservatives' opponents are best able to defeat them locally?

There were clear signs of that happening in last year's results, with the Liberal Democrats advancing most where they started off second to the Conservatives, and Labour doing so when they appeared the better placed to win locally; a pattern that inflated the party's losses.

Mr Sunak has to hope that opposition voters are not as keen to give him a bloody nose as they were Boris Johnson 12 months ago. (3893 печ. зн.)

Text 12

**The Illegal Migration Bill:
Seven Questions for the Government to Answer**

by Rhys Clyne and Sachin Savur

<https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk>

10/03/2023

One of the five key pledges Rishi Sunak set out in January was to stop asylum seekers arriving in the UK by small boats crossing the English Channel. The number of people arriving this way has increased in recent years, from the low hundreds before 2020 to 45,755 people in 2022. Tragically, more than 130 people have died or gone missing trying to cross the Channel since 2019. Of those who arrived safely, the vast majority (around 90 %) have claimed asylum³ and the Refugee Council estimates that over two thirds of these claims are likely to be successful under the current system.

To act on the Prime Minister's commitment the home secretary, Suella Braverman, has introduced the Illegal Migration Bill to parliament. The new bill aims to deter people from crossing the Channel in small boats by preventing those that do so from claiming asylum in the UK, detaining and removing them from the country.

The bill will now be subject to scrutiny as it passes through Parliament. Given its importance and risk, the Government should not rush the legislation through its stages to avoid detailed scrutiny. Without clear answers to the following questions, the new bill will fail to make a meaningful difference.

1. Does the bill adhere to the UK's international legal obligations?

Within the legislation, the home secretary states under Section 19(1)(b) of the Human Rights Act that she is unable to confirm the bill is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. This does not mean that it is necessarily incompatible, but that the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) may rule against the UK government's policies. Braverman confirmed in a letter to backbench MPs that "there is a more [than] 50 % chance" that it may be incompatible with the convention.

2. How does the bill change existing policy on inadmissible claims?

This bill is not the first effort by the government to ban people arriving by small boats from claiming asylum. In January 2021 the Boris Johnson government introduced a rule to deem anybody who travelled to the UK via a 'safe' country including France (and so all those crossing the Channel, and the vast majority of other irregular arrivals) inadmissible for asylum. This was further defined by the Nationality and Borders Act 2022.

3. Where can the Government send asylum seekers deemed inadmissible?

In theory, the government has several options for countries to which it can remove people whose claims have been deemed inadmissible. They can be sent to the country from which they travelled to the UK, provided it is deemed "safe" by the government. Certain European nationals can be removed to their home country; this includes Albania. Or they can be removed to any other country, provided there is reason to believe they will be admitted and the home secretary considers there to be no risk the person will be persecuted.

But in practice, the government's options are extremely limited, which is why so few removals have been made in recent years.

4. What does the home secretary consider to be a "reasonable prospect of removal"?

The Home Office's current guidelines state that a reasonable timescale to remove people with inadmissible asylum claims is usually six months. It can be shorter, if no countries agree to accept the person, or longer, if progress towards a removal agreement is delayed. After this time, most people have been admitted into the UK asylum system.

5. What will happen to people the Government cannot remove to another country?

Without increased capacity to remove people, it is likely tens of thousands of people will arrive in the country by small boat, be detained

and declared inadmissible for asylum in the UK, but with little prospect of removal from the country.

6. How will the government accommodate people it has detained and how will it pay to do so?

Alongside moral and legal issues, the potential of indefinite detention of large numbers of people is practically extremely difficult. The UK has a limited immigration detention capacity of around 2,286 people, according to the Refugee Council. If everyone who crossed the Channel last year had been detained for 28 days and then bailed or removed, by 1 September a minimum of more than three times that number (around 7,500 people) would have been being held in detention.

7. Will it actually deter people from crossing the channel in small boats?

The bill states that by requiring the removal of people who arrive in the UK by irregular means, it aims to deter unlawful migration, particularly by dangerous routes. But there is little evidence to demonstrate that those willing to risk their lives crossing the Channel will be deterred by changes to asylum policy. This was seen with the Rwanda scheme in 2022, where again this lack of evidence led the Home Office permanent secretary, Matthew Rycroft, to request a ministerial direction from the home secretary on the grounds that the civil service was unable to confirm the value for public money. (4151 печ. зн.)

Text 13

Scotland Blocked from Holding Independence Vote by UK's Supreme Court

By Rob Picheta

<https://edition.cnn.com>

23/11/2022

Britain's Supreme Court has ruled that Scotland's government cannot unilaterally hold a second referendum on whether to secede from the United Kingdom.

The court unanimously rejected an attempt by the Scottish National Party (SNP) to force a vote next October, as it did not have the approval of Britain's parliament. But the decision is unlikely to stem the

heated debate over independence that has loomed over British politics for a decade.

Scotland last held a vote on the issue, with Westminster's approval, in 2014, when voters rejected the prospect of independence by 55 % to 45 %.

The pro-independence SNP has nonetheless dominated politics north of the border in the intervening years, at the expense of the traditional, pro-union groups. Successive SNP leaders have pledged to give Scottish voters another chance to vote, particularly since the UK voted to leave the European Union in 2016.

The latest push by SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon involved holding an advisory referendum late next year, similar to the 2016 poll that resulted in Brexit. But the country's top court agreed that even a non-legally binding vote would require oversight from Westminster, given its practical implications...

Sturgeon said she accepted the ruling on Wednesday, but tried to frame the decision as another pillar in the argument for secession. "A law that doesn't allow Scotland to choose our own future without Westminster consent exposes as myth any notion of the UK as a voluntary partnership & makes (a) case" for independence," she wrote on Twitter. She accused the British government of "outright democracy denial" in a speech to reporters later on Wednesday.

Sturgeon said her next step in her effort to achieve a vote will be to brand the next British general election – scheduled for January 2025 at the latest – as a proxy referendum in Scotland on which course to take.

But UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak heralded the court's "clear and definitive ruling" as an opportunity to move on from the independence debate. "The people of Scotland want us to be working on fixing the major challenges that we collectively face, whether that's the economy, supporting the NHS or indeed supporting Ukraine," he said in Parliament.

Opinion polls suggest that Scots remain narrowly divided on whether to break from the UK, and that a clear consensus in either direction has yet to emerge.

England and Scotland have been joined in a political union since 1707, but many Scots have long bristled at what they consider a one-sided relationship dominated by England. Scottish voters have historically re-

jected the ruling Conservative Party and voted heavily – but in vain – against Brexit, intensifying arguments over the issue in the past decade.

Since 1999, Scotland has had a devolved government, meaning many, but not all, decisions are made at the SNP-led Scottish Parliament in Holyrood, Edinburgh. (2417 п. 3н.)

Text 14

The Past, Present, and Future(s) of Feminist Foreign Policy

By Columba Achilleos-Sarll, Jennifer Thomson, Toni Haastrup,
Karoline Färber, Carol Cohn, Paul Kirby
International Studies Review, Vol. 25, Issue 1
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The Emergence and Development of FFP

What is the history of feminist foreign policy (FFP)? The oft-cited origin story of FFP usually begins with Sweden, the first country that explicitly labeled their foreign policy “feminist,” after which the various states that followed in its wake are listed. Two aspects of this narrative are particularly noteworthy. First, FFP is presented as a practice emanating from the Global North that has been exported elsewhere. The uptake of FFP by Mexico, Libya, Chile, Colombia, and Liberia is then read as a sign that FFP might now be taking root in the Global South. Second, FFP is narrated as firmly rooted in state practice, with civil society using the concept only after Sweden adopted an FFP in 2014. While the narrative of Swedish feminist leadership appears to be widespread, it is increasingly challenged for its erasure of centuries of global feminist activism, research, and policymaking.

There are five factors central to the development of FFP: (1) Women's intellectual thought that imagined a world free of violence; (2) feminist peace activism that promoted a new vision of the international order at the International Women's Congresses in 1915 and 1919; (3) feminist international relations research that examined global systems of power; (4) norm entrepreneurs such as the former Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström; and (5) pro-gender equality initiatives at the UN, including the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. The embeddedness of pro-feminist norms in bureaucratic and state structures provided favorable conditions for the emergence of FFP. Perhaps an al-

ternative history to the narrative of Swedish leadership begins in The Hague in 1915. Here, more than 1,100 women delegates from twelve European and North American countries came together to advocate an end to World War I. They not only created the International Congress of Women (ICW), which later became the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), but also discussed mediation strategies to end the war and, ultimately, eradicate its root causes. They advocated a demand for the immediate cessation of all warfare as well as demanding complete disarmament and arms control, highlighted that women were especially vulnerable in situations of war, recognized the right of states to self-determination and self-government, recommended the creation of a conference of nations, and called for the equal representation of women. These can be seen as core principles of “FFP” broadly defined and are particularly visible in civil society advocacy.

While this narrative has gained some ground recently, particularly in German foreign policy discourse, it excludes feminist international thought from non-Global North locations and traditions. Feminist objectives go beyond the representation of women and extend, more importantly, to commitments to empathetic and ethical foreign policies in support of gender justice and human rights, often rooted in the struggles of marginalized people. Black feminist thinkers have similarly centered the lived realities of racialized groups, calling on states to “make foreign policies as if Black and Brown lives mattered”. More conventional state-centric understandings and adoptions of FFP show a policy position that is still germinating. So what does FFP mean for these states?

The countries that have adopted an FFP are at very different stages of developing a fully fledged policy. Sweden, as described, pioneered the idea of an FFP and then developed an extensive FFP policy portfolio, before abandoning it after the 2022 elections. Conversely, Colombia and Liberia, the most recent countries to announce an FFP, have yet to produce any formal written documentation. In many cases, a formal FFP declaration occurs before any policy or clear definition is produced. This may be due to new governments or new ministers eager for an “announceable”, or a desire for administrations to attach themselves to the FFP zeitgeist. (3392 п. зН.)

Text 15

How Pop Culture Went Multipolar

*Fears that globalisation would lead to a worldwide monoculture have proven utterly wrong
(extract)*

[https://www.economist.com/
6/10/2022](https://www.economist.com/6/10/2022)

Thongs descended on the Jamsil Arena in Seoul, the South Korean capital, in July to see Super Junior, a band that exemplifies the “Korean Wave”. The crowd reflected the global reach of k-pop. Melonie was visiting from Ecuador. When asked about her “bias”, the term fans use to discuss which band member is their favourite, she pulled her top aside to reveal a tattoo of the name of the group’s leader, Leeteuk, on her chest. Karen, from Peru, is doing a master’s degree in South Korea. She thinks she likes Super Junior even more than she likes Korea itself.

Once the show began it was clear why Super Junior appeals to people around the world. The band’s rotating membership are dewy-faced heart-throbs recruited from South Korea, China and America. With backgrounds in acting and dance, they are consummate performers. The strutting and pouting was directed not just at the screaming women in the stadium but also at cameras dotted around the stage, streaming the performance to audiences in other time zones.

Helped by government money and savvy marketing, South Korean popular culture has taken the world by storm. Besides music are films such as “Parasite”—which became the first film in decades to win both the Palme d’Or and a Best Picture Oscar—dramas such as “Squid Game”, and a bevy of fashion and beauty brands. But it is only part of a broader transformation. Throughout the 20th century, cool was mostly a Western thing. From flappers to hip-hop, people looked to cities like London, New York and Paris for fashion, music and entertainment. After the Cold war, as the world grew richer and more connected, says Marty Kaplan, a professor at the University of Southern California, many people feared that the West’s cultural dominance would keep growing and ultimately produce a global monoculture.

The opposite has happened, says Dr Kaplan. Today, a teenager sitting in New York is as likely to listen to k-pop and Afrobeats tracks, a

sort of west African pop, as American hip-hop. A young Mumbaikar logging onto a video-streaming platform for an evening's entertainment is as likely to watch "Made in Heaven", an Indian-made romantic drama about two wedding planners in New Delhi, as "Call My Agent", a French comedy about a talent agency in Paris. Pop culture has gone multipolar.

This can be seen even in deeply uncool things such as trade data. The World Trade Organisation and the OECD, a club of mostly rich countries, produce estimates of the trade in "audio-visual services", which includes films, radio and television. Their data suggest that, across the OECD, imports from America were 25 % of the total in 2020, down from almost 40 % a decade earlier. America's cultural imports, meanwhile, have risen almost six-fold, and are coming from all over the world.

Say goodbye to Hollywood

... Two things have driven the emergence of multipolar pop culture. The first is economic growth in countries that until recently were poor. Rising incomes give consumers more money to spend, much of which goes to local musicians and film-makers. More money in turn means more artists. With that virtuous spiral comes self-confidence.

The second factor is the rise of the internet, which has created many more opportunities to put out content. On traditional TV and radio channels, executives carefully chose what would air in the limited number of time slots available each day. Online-streaming firms are free from such scheduling constraints, and can host far more content. Netflix, Spotify and the like are global, which makes it easier for local productions to earn fans overseas.

Most democratic of all are social-media platforms such as Instagram, TikTok and YouTube, which let aspiring performers anywhere in the world create songs or art that can be distributed at no cost. Recommendation systems that sift through millions of accounts every day offer an automated alternative to record-company talent scouts or TV commissioners.

The upshot is that there is far more entertainment and culture out there than there used to be, and that borders matter much less than they used to. The biggest account on TikTok, for instance, belongs to Khaby Lame, a Senegalese-Italian. His light-hearted posts, which mock social-media trends and generally have no words, have an international appeal that has won him over 150m followers. T-Series, an Indian record label and film company, has 226m subscribers on YouTube, the most of any

account. But these days a third of its audience is based outside its home country.

The decentralisation of cool is forcing change on the arts and entertainment industry, which is coming to recognise that many of today's most influential tastemakers come from the developing world. Earlier this year, United Talent Agency (uta), a Los Angeles-based group, whose clients had traditionally been American actors based in Hollywood, began representing Anitta, a singer, who has since become the first Brazilian to win a prize at the mtv Video Music Awards.

The winds of change are even blowing through European luxury fashion, one of the most hidebound corners of the cultural industry. Launchmetrics, an analytics group, studied celebrities talking about Paris Fashion Week this year and found half of the ten most valuable voices, in terms of the boost they gave to advertising, came from emerging markets. They included a Filipino actress, and a Brazilian football player. Only one French influencer—and no Americans—made the list. (4576 п. 3н.)

Text 16

Trump Rings in 2023 Facing Headwinds in his White House Run

By Jill Colvin

<https://apnews.com>

02/01/2023

Donald Trump began 2022 on a high. Primary candidates were flocking to Florida to court the former president for a coveted endorsement. His rallies were drawing thousands. A bevy of investigations remained largely under the radar.

One year later, Trump is facing a very different reality.

He is mired in criminal investigations that could end with indictments. He has been blamed for Republicans' disappointing performance in the November elections. And while he is now a declared presidential candidate, the six weeks since he announced have been marked by self-inflicted crises. Trump has not held a single campaign event and he barely leaves the confines of his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida.

Instead of staving off challengers, his potential 2024 rivals appear ever more emboldened. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, fresh off a re-

sounding reelection victory, increasingly is seen as Trump's most formidable competition.

Trump's subdued campaign announcement has left even former stalwarts wondering whether he is serious about another run for the White House.

"There was a movie called 'Failure to Launch.' I think that's what Donald Trump's process of running has been so far. He had the announcement, and he hasn't done anything to back it up since then," said Michael Biundo, a GOP operative who advised Trump's 2016 campaign but is steering clear this time.

"What campaign?" asked longtime GOP donor Dan Eberhart, who gave \$100,000 to Trump's 2020 reelection effort but is now gravitating to DeSantis. "Trump's early launch seems more a reaction to DeSantis' overperformance and a legal strategy against prosecution than a political campaign."

Trump campaign officials insist they have been spending the weeks since his Nov. 15 announcement methodically building out a political operation. Trump, they note, announced just before the holiday season, when politicians typically lie low, and he did so unusually early, giving him plenty of time to ramp up.

"This is a marathon and our game plan is being implemented by design," said Trump spokesperson Steven Cheung.

"We're also assembling top-level teams in early voting states and expanding our massive data operation to ensure we dominate on all fronts," he said. "We are not going to play the media's game that tries to dictate how we campaign."

Trump also defended criticism of his campaign's slow start. "The Rallies will be bigger and better than ever (because our Country is going to Hell), but it's a little bit early, don't you think?" he wrote on his social media site.

While he has eschewed campaign events, the former president has nonetheless courted controversy.

There was his dinner with a white nationalist and the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, who has been spouting antisemitic tropes and conspiracies; his suggestions that parts of the Constitution be terminated to return him to power; and the "major announcement" that turned out to be the launch of \$99 digital trading cards that do not benefit his campaign.

Since his announcement, he has also faced a series of legal losses, including the appointment of a special counsel to oversee the Justice Department's investigation into the presence of classified documents at Trump's Florida estate as well as key aspects of a separate inquiry involving Trump's efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election. Trump's namesake company was convicted of tax fraud last month for helping executives dodge taxes on extravagant perks. In Georgia, a special grand jury appears to be wrapping up its work investigating his efforts to remain in power.

Trump's potential rivals have spent months laying the groundwork for their own campaigns, visiting early-voting states, speaking before conservative groups and building the kinds of relationships that could benefit them down the line. (3199 П. ЗН.)

Text 17

Some of the New King's Realms May Become Republics

The queen's passing gives them an opportunity to break the link to the British crown

<https://www.economist.com>

9/09/2022

Over the course of her long reign Elizabeth II served as head of state of 32 countries, most of them colonies. At her death she remained so for just 15. And for most of the subjects that she retained, the queen maintained a mere ceremonial presence in their lives. Her face appeared on banknotes and coins; prime ministers met her; parliaments were opened on her behalf. But as King Charles III takes over from his mother, for some of the 15 remaining realms even that limited interaction may be too much.

Many see maintaining links with Britain's monarch as a colonial anachronism. "The time has come to fully leave our colonial past behind," declared Mia Mottley, Barbados's prime minister, in September 2020. Last November her country replaced the queen as head of state with Dame Sandra Mason, previously the island's governor-general. Jacinda Ardern, the prime minister of New Zealand, has said she expects her country to become a republic "within my lifetime". Before Barbados, the last country to sever ties with the British monarchy was Mauritius, in

1992. The queen's passing provides an opportunity for others to make the break in a tasteful, diplomatic way.

Australia is a particularly interesting case. The British monarch's notional sway over its national affairs has long seemed anachronistic. In 1975 a deadlock between the House of Representatives and the Senate created a national crisis. To break it Sir John Kerr, the governor-general, or queen's representative, of Australia personally dismissed the Labor government. Labor's supporters were distraught; in 1977 Sir John had to resign after enduring two years of protests and criticism.

His act remains one of the most controversial, and disputed, moments in Australian history. Sir John said he had informed Buckingham Palace of his decision only after making it. But in 2020 Jenny Hocking, an Australian historian, secured the release of papers from the palace showing that the queen's private secretary, Martin Charteris, had told Sir John in advance that he had the power to dismiss the government. Other papers showed that Prince Charles had written to Sir John after the dismissal, saying that, "What you did last year was right and the courageous thing to do".

The release of the papers caused a storm. The reminder that, at least until recently, Britain's monarchy exerted a considerable influence on Australian politics reinvigorated republicanism in the country. And with Charles now Australia's king, many of its citizens will wonder if this is the moment to relinquish the monarchy. Polling finds that around one-third of Australians would back a republic. Fewer Australians have links with Britain today than in the 1960s and 1970s, when it was still the primary source of new immigrants; more are aware of the enormities inflicted on indigenous Australians by British colonialism. Ms Hocking, a republican activist as well as a historian, says that replacing the monarchy would be "the obvious end point of our postcolonial settlement" with Britain.

But breaking free is easier said than done. The switch to a republic would require a referendum to pass with majorities not only nationally but in at least four of Australia's six federal states. The motion would also have to propose an alternative head of state, such as an elected or appointed president. In 1999, despite pro-republican polling, a referendum failed by ten percentage points thanks partly to splits among the republican movement over which alternative to plump for.

Canada, too, may decide to ditch the monarchy. But the hurdle to getting rid of Charles is even higher than in Australia. Instead of a refer-

endum, Canada requires “unanimous consent”: that is, a majority of the House of Commons, the Senate and all ten provincial legislatures. Emmett Macfarlane, a political scientist at the University of Waterloo, points out that no proposed constitutional amendment has ever passed such a high bar. “The irony is that probably the most likely way Canada would abolish the monarchy is if the United Kingdom did it,” he says.

Some places are less strict. In New Zealand, an act of parliament would suffice to remove the monarchy. But despite her conviction that the monarchy will not last her lifetime, last year Ms Ardern said that she had not yet “sensed an appetite from New Zealanders for significant change in our constitutional arrangements”. Many Caribbean countries could turn republican without referendums, too. Yet several have failed to deliver on promises to do so in the past. A number of Jamaican prime ministers have announced fruitless plans to unseat the queen. A referendum in St Vincent and the Grenadines in 2009 failed. Barbados’s successful attempt to remove the queen was preceded by a failed one in 2008. Several Caribbean realms still rely on the privy council, a court that advises the monarch, as a supreme court. Changing that is another tricky challenge for republicans.

In the end, King Charles III may continue to reign over several places simply because of inertia. The modern monarchy is not as popular as it once was, but neither is it widely resented. In many places certain politicians might like to get rid of it; now, as the crown passes from Elizabeth to Charles, should be their moment. But many countries have far more pressing problems than King Charles. (4476 п. 3н.)

Text 18

'Nuclear Winter' from a US-Russia Conflict Would Wipe Out 63 % of the World's Population

By Ben Turner

<https://www.livescience.com>

19/08/2022

More than 5 billion people — roughly 63 % of the world's current population — would die of famine in the aftermath of a full-scale nuclear war between the United States, Russia and their allies, a new study has revealed.

According to the researchers, the conflict would create widespread fires that could eject up to 165 million tons (150 million metric tons) of soot into Earth's atmosphere, leading to crop declines in the food-exporting U.S. and Russia that would send global calorie production plummeting by as much as 90 %.

The study, published Aug. 15 in the journal *Nature Food*, is the latest in four decades of landmark research that has attempted to sketch out the threat of a nuclear war. Of the world's approximately 12,705 nuclear warheads, Russia has 5,977, and the United States has 5,428, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's latest report. The country with the third most nuclear warheads is China, with 350. India and Pakistan have 160 and 165, respectively.

A full-scale nuclear war "would produce climate change that is unprecedented in human history," study co-author Alan Robock, a professor of climate science at Rutgers University in New Jersey, said at a news conference on Monday (August 15). "In a U.S.-Russia nuclear war, more people would die [from famine] in India and Pakistan alone than in the countries actually fighting the war."

The most immediate effects of any nuclear war, at least for those in a targeted city, have been popularly known since the dropping of the U.S. atomic bomb "Little Boy" on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. ...

Studies sprung up as soon as 1947 to document the suffering following the attack, which for many would last a lifetime. Radioactive fallout, a byproduct of the nuclear fission reaction that gave Little Boy its cataclysmic power, had blanketed the area. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which was bombed three days later, increased rates of cancer, cataracts and other health conditions persisted for years in survivors who had been close to the bombs' epicenters.

But it would take four more decades for scientists to begin to learn and discuss the most lethal and frightening outcome of even a small-scale nuclear war: so-called "nuclear winter".

To model how this apocalyptic event would affect the planet's ability to sustain life, the researchers calculated the amount of soot that would be generated from six potential nuclear war scenarios: ranging from five scenarios based on a "limited" war between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir region, which would produce 5.5 million to 52 million

tons (5 million to 47 million metric tons) of soot depending on the conflict's scale, to full-scale global nuclear war involving the U.S. and Russia, which would produce countless conflagrations veiling the sky with 165 million tons (150 million metric tons) of soot.

With the soot quantities in hand, the scientists plugged the data into the National Center for Atmospheric Research's (NCAR) Community Earth System Model, a forecasting tool that simulates changes to Earth's sunlight, temperature and precipitation.

The researchers found that in the worst-case scenario of a nuclear war between the U.S. and Russia, temperatures on Earth's surface would drop by as much as 29 degrees Fahrenheit (16 degrees Celsius, or more than three times the temperature difference between now and the last ice age) and that 5 billion people would perish. In the most extreme war between India and Pakistan, global calorie production could drop by 50 %, causing 2 billion deaths.

The hardest-hit regions would be food-importing countries in Africa and the Middle East, according to the scientists. Australia and New Zealand, meanwhile, would fare the best, because they would avoid most of the bombs dropped in the Northern Hemisphere and rely on wheat crops that could grow better in the cooler climate. (3263 п. зН.)

Text 19

Mistakes Were Made on All Sides in Handling of Brexit, Says Leo Varadkar

by Jonathan McCambridge, PA

<https://www.bloomberg.com>

03/01/2023

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar has said mistakes were made on all sides in the handling of Brexit, but vowed to be "flexible and reasonable" when attempting to solve issues with the Northern Ireland Protocol.

He conceded that the post-Brexit protocol is "too strict" and said he understands unionist concerns that the treaty has made them feel less British.

Mr Varadkar, who became Taoiseach for a second time in December, has become deeply unpopular within some sections of unionism

and loyalism who claim he was an instrumental figure in the creation of the contentious protocol.

His name and image have recently appeared in threatening graffiti and posters in loyalist areas of Northern Ireland.

Despite this, he has insisted he is looking forward to travelling to the region early this year.

Asked about the negative perception of him within unionism, the Taoiseach said: "I'm sure we've all made mistakes in the handling of Brexit.

"There was no road map, no manual, it wasn't something that we expected would happen and we've all done our best to deal with it.

"Again, I look forward to travelling to Northern Ireland early in the new year, meeting with all the parties, and reaching out to all parties and all communities in an effort to find a solution."

He added: "One thing I have said in the past is that, when we designed the protocol, when it was originally negotiated, perhaps it was a little bit too strict.

"And we've seen that the protocol has worked without it being fully enforced.

"And that's why I think there is room for flexibility and room for changes and we're open to that and up for that, and I know from speaking to (European Commission) President (Ursula) von der Leyen and (EC vice president) Maros Sefcovic, that's their position too.

"So, we are willing to show flexibility and to make compromises. We do want there to be an agreement.

"And, you know, I have spoken to a lot of people who come from a unionist background in Northern Ireland over the years.

"I do understand how they feel about the protocol. They feel that it diminishes their place in the Union, that it creates barriers between Britain and Northern Ireland that didn't exist before.

"And I do understand that and I do get that. But that's also true of Brexit.

"Brexit was imposed on Northern Ireland without cross-community consent, without the support of the majority of people in Northern Ireland, and one of the good things about the European Union was that it diminished barriers and diminished borders between north and south and that was a great reassurance to people who come from a nationalist background in particular.

"So I understand that there are two sides to this story.

"A lot of people who are unionists feel that the protocol has separated them from Great Britain.

"A lot of people from a nationalist background in Northern Ireland feel that it separated them from the rest of Ireland.

"So there are two sides to this story."

Mr Varadkar said Brexit is a reality which is not going to be reversed.

Powersharing in Northern Ireland is currently in flux due to a DUP boycott of the Stormont institutions in protest over the protocol.

The region's largest unionist party has insisted it will not return to devolved government unless radical changes are made to trading arrangements that have created economic barriers between Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK.

The EU and the UK are involved in negotiations to reduce the impact of the protocol. It remains to be seen if any deal struck by London and Brussels will be enough to convince the DUP to lift its block on powersharing.

The UK and Irish Governments are keen to see devolution return before April's landmark 25th anniversary of Northern Ireland's Good Friday peace agreement. (3104 п. 3н.)

Text 20

'2024 Senate Sweep': Delay in DSCC Chair Nomination Could be Due to Democrats Daunting 2024 Map

By Aubrie Spady

<https://www.foxnews.com>

03/01/2023

'Leader Schumer understands that the landscape for Democrats in 2024 will be tough,' a strategist said.

There does not seem to be any Democrats eager to take charge of the party's Senate re-election arm.

The 2024 Senate map highly favoring Republicans next cycle casts a dark shadow over the Democratic Party's already slim majority, leading some strategists to believe it is the reason why no one is nominating a chair to the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC).

As the 118th Congress begins Tuesday, the Democratic Party has not made a nomination for who will head the DSCC, despite both chambers on either side of the aisle filling other campaign chair positions.

Jessica Anderson, executive director for Heritage Action, told Fox News Digital that the delay is a reflection of the 2024 map that does not look promising for the Democrat Party.

"Conservatives are well positioned for a successful 2024 Senate sweep, so it comes as no surprise that the Democratic establishment is still unable to find someone to lead their efforts to cling to power. The Democratic Party is more radical today than ever before with moderates no longer welcome and dangerous leftist policies being advocated. Heritage Action, and its partner organization, The Sentinel Action Fund will work to ensure that all Americans know conservatives have a clear plan to win and govern for all Americans, and just how radical the Left's policies are in the lead up to 2024."

Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., currently leads the committee, but recently said that he will not stay on for another term as chairman, raising the question of who will run the Senate committee going into the critical 2024 election.

"I wouldn't call it a mystery per se as to why the pick is taking so long, but it's more on the reality that Leader Schumer understands that the landscape for Democrats in 2024 will be tough," Jose Aristimuño, Democratic strategist and host of *Americano Media*, told Fox regarding the delay in a committee leadership nomination.

"We are talking about 23 Senate seats that Democrats need to defend. Three are in purely red states while five are swing states. So it's no wonder that no senator is jumping at the opportunity, especially during a presidential election year."

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., is expected to select the next chair, but it's unclear when he will make an announcement.

Despite no Democrats being eager to chair the committee given the high stakes of the next election, Aristimuño suggested the position holds beneficial opportunities for whoever the caucus decides to take charge of the committee.

"But with that being said – I think there are important opportunities for whoever ends up leading the DSCC. It will raise their national profile, expand their network of grassroots donors, and it will build sup-

port for any future leadership bids. Schumer served as chair of the DSCC in the past, and it has served him well. In addition, I think it's fair to say that the same way everyone waited for a red wave that never came in this past cycle, Democrats will do just fine come 2024. But whoever Schumer ends up picking, they will have to hit the ground running. That's for sure," Aristimuño added. (2685 п. 3H.)

Text 21

Church of England to Consider Use of Gender-Neutral Terms for God

<https://www.theguardian.com>

07/02/2023

Use of 'he' when referring to God to be examined by new a commission in spring

The Church of England is considering whether to stop referring to God as “he”, after priests asked to be allowed to use gender-neutral terms instead.

The church said it would launch a new commission on the matter in the spring. Any potential alterations, which would mark a departure from traditional teachings dating back millennia, would have to be approved by synod, the Church’s decision-making body.

The Rt Rev Dr Michael Ipgrave, Bishop of Lichfield and vice-chair of the liturgical commission responsible for the matter, said the church had been “exploring the use of gendered language in relation to God for several years”.

“After some dialogue between the two commissions in this area, a new joint project on gendered language will begin this spring,” he said. “In common with other potential changes to authorised liturgical provision, changing the wording and number of authorised forms of absolution would require a full synodical process for approval.”

The specifics of the project are as yet unclear.

The bishop’s comments came in response to a question asked at synod by the Revd Joanna Stobart, vicar of Ilminster and Whitelackington in Somerset, about the progress on developing “more inclusive language” in services.

It is unclear what would replace the term Our Father in the Lord's Prayer, the central Christian prayer that Jesus is said to have instructed his followers to say together down the generations.

Conservative critics have hit back at the possibility of changes, with the Rev Dr Ian Paul telling the Telegraph that they would represent an abandonment of the Church's own doctrine.

He said: "The fact that God is called 'Father' can't be substituted by 'Mother' without changing meaning, nor can it be gender-neutralised to 'Parent' without loss of meaning.

"Fathers and mothers are not interchangeable but relate to their offspring in different ways."

A spokesperson for the Church of England said: "This is nothing new. Christians have recognised since ancient times that God is neither male nor female, yet the variety of ways of addressing and describing God found in scripture has not always been reflected in our worship.

"There has been greater interest in exploring new language since the introduction of our current forms of service in contemporary language more than 20 years ago.

"There are absolutely no plans to abolish or substantially revise currently authorised liturgies, and no such changes could be made without extensive legislation." (2153 п. 3н.)

Text 22

'New Chapters' as Croatia Joins Euro and Free-Movement Area

by Karl Mathiesen

<https://www.politico.eu/>

01/01/2023

The boom gates at Croatian border posts swung up at midnight Sunday as the country joined Europe's zone of free movement and adopted the euro as its currency.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen hailed "two immense achievements," speaking alongside Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenković and Slovenian President Nataša Pirc Musar at a border post in the town of Bregana.

"There is no place in Europe where it is more true today that it is a season of new beginnings and new chapters than here at the border between Croatia and Slovenia," von der Leyen said.

"Nothing is the same after this," said Plenković, noting the convenience that free movement and currency union will bring to Croatians.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the former Yugoslavian republic joining the EU. Von der Leyen praised the hard work of the Croatian people and singled out Plenković for pushing through the reforms needed to make the rapid ascension into the EU's currency club.

She said the euro "brings macroeconomic stability and credibility" at home and abroad.

"Our citizens and the economy will be better protected from crises," said Plenković.

But more than that, von der Leyen said, the euro coin imprinted with the pine marten – which gave its name to Croatia's former currency, the kuna — is "a symbol of the successful union between your national identity and your European destiny."

The adoption of the euro comes on the back of a long campaign to demonstrate that Croatia can adhere to the currency zone's requirements for economic management. Croatian Finance Minister Marko Primorac told POLITICO last week that he expected the country's debt-to-GDP ratio to fall steeply in the coming years as the recovery from the pandemic continues.

Shortly after midnight, Primorac withdrew the first euros from a Croatian ATM.

The entry into the Schengen zone means the removal of land and sea border checks with Croatia's European neighbors. Airport checks from the 26 other countries that participate in the scheme will end in March.

The fall of these barriers to movement is "the final affirmation of our European identity, for which generations of Croats fought and fought," said Interior Minister Davor Božinović, who opened the barrier at Bregana at midnight on New Year's Day alongside his Slovenian counterpart, Sanja Ajanović Hovnik.

Parties were organized by citizens at the border. Von der Leyen said those living close to Slovenia and Hungary would see "tangible re-

sults” as they were able to travel freely across the frontier for employment and shopping. “Communities will grow closer together,” she said.

The Commission president also noted the responsibility that joining Schengen confers on Croatia, at a time when migration pressures are a matter of growing political tension between the bloc's members.

“We will need to work very closely together to protect Schengen and preserve its benefits,” said von der Leyen. “In Schengen, we rely on each other and we know that we can trust you and that we can rely on Croatia.”

In a statement, Slovenia’s Hovnik congratulated Croatia on a “historic” step and tried to settle Slovenian anxiety about security along the newly open border.

"It is an event for which we have been preparing for a long time on both sides of the border," she said. (2762 п. 3H.)

Text 23

Sorry, Senators, But Kids Have Free Speech Rights Too

<https://www.bloomberg.com>

by Noah Feldman

27/04/2023

The new bipartisan bill to limit kids’ access to social media will no doubt appeal to many parents. The trouble is that, under existing First Amendment doctrine, the proposed law is almost certainly unconstitutional. For the Supreme Court to uphold it would require it to repudiate a 2011 precedent, *Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Association*, which struck down a California ban on selling or renting violent video games to minors.

Before I analyze the bill through the lens of First Amendment law, let me be clear that I continue to advise Meta on free-speech related issues, as I’ve done for several years. So feel free to discount my analysis if you choose. But full disclosure: I am also a longtime teacher of First Amendment law and am co-author of a casebook in the field. What I am about to say is, I think, fairly uncontroversial as a matter of existing jurisprudence.

The proposed legislation, named the Protecting Kids on Social Media Act, has three major components. It bars kids under 13 from hav-

ing their own social media accounts or interacting with other users on social media platforms, although they would be allowed to passively look at social media sources. The bill requires the platforms to get parental consent before teens between 13 and 18 could create accounts. And it prohibits “the use of algorithmic recommendation systems on individuals” under 18.

The first two parts of the bill run headlong into well-established constitutional law. The third, about algorithmic recommendation, is less obviously unconstitutional; but on close examination, it, too, probably fails First Amendment scrutiny.

The 2011 opinion that’s relevant here was written by the late Justice Antonin Scalia. In it, the Supreme Court affirmed that kids have First Amendment free-speech rights. It applied strict scrutiny to the video game law, the most exacting form of constitutional inquiry. To survive strict scrutiny, a law must serve a compelling government interest and be narrowly tailored to achieving that interest. Put another way, the government must’ve adopted the least restrictive means to achieve its compelling interest.

Young people’s free-speech interests in participating in social media are greater than in playing video games. Today, social media is where public discourse lives. Back in 2017, the Supreme Court put it this way: “While in the past there may have been difficulty in identifying the most important places (in a spatial sense) for the exchange of views, today the answer is clear. It is cyberspace – the vast democratic forums of the Internet in general, and social media in particular.” That interest includes posting and interacting, not just consuming content.

To overcome this free-speech interest, the government has to prove that it has a compelling interest in protecting those under 13 from social media interaction and those under 18 from having social media accounts without parental consent – and that there is no more narrowly tailored way to provide the protection.

To be sure, there is a growing body of scientific literature that associates social media use with genuine, serious harm to kids’ mental health. But to satisfy narrow tailoring, the research would have to identify what sort of content is causing the harm and target that. If kids are using social media at least in part in ways that do not cause them harm, then the law is too broad.

As for the parental consent requirement for kids aged 13-18, it, too, is overly broad. In the 2011 case, the California violent video games law allowed an exception for parental consent.

Thus, the consent provision is unconstitutional from the get-go.

That leaves the algorithmic recommendation component. Users may well not have a constitutional right to content tailored to them based on their behavior. But the platforms likely do have a constitutional free-speech right to decide what content to show their users – including minors.

The precise rights of the platforms when recommending content are currently before the Supreme Court and may be clarified by the end of its term in June, so it is too soon to be absolutely sure. But if the court treats recommendations as part of the platforms' constitutional right to curate content, that would render this part of the law unconstitutional.

Think of it this way: if platforms have the right to show recommended content to adult users, they are going to have the same right to show recommended content to minors unless the recommendation ban can be shown to be narrowly tailored to the compelling interest of protecting kids aged 13-18.

Of course, these justices have shown themselves willing to toss out precedent when they wish. If they want to change free speech doctrine, they can. But that's up to the Supreme Court – not Congress. (4004 П. ЗН.)

Text 24

'They' Is Merriam-Webster's Word of the Year 2019

<https://www.merriam-webster.com>

Merriam-Webster's Word of the Year is determined by data: the word must have been a top lookup at Merriam-Webster.com in the past twelve months, and it must have seen a significant increase in lookups over the previous year.

Our Word of the Year for 2019 is *they*. It reflects a surprising fact: even a basic term, among the most common in the language—a personal pronoun—can rise to the top of our data. Although our lookups are often driven by events in the news, the dictionary is also a primary resource for information about language itself, and the shifting use of *they* has been the subject of increasing study and commentary in recent years, and especially in the past year. Lookups for *they* increased by

313 % in 2019 over the previous year. This curiosity is remarkable for a venerable old pronoun, but this is a special case, and a consequence of shifts in the way *they* is used.

English famously lacks a gender-neutral singular pronoun to correspond neatly with singular pronouns like *everyone*, *someone*, and *anyone*, and as a consequence *they* has been used for this purpose for over 600 years. Much of this use is unremarkable:

Everyone likes pizza, don't *they*?

No one has to come if *they* don't want to.

More recently, though, *they* has also been used to refer to one person whose gender identity is nonbinary, a sense that is increasingly common in published, edited text, as well as all over social media and in daily personal interactions between English speakers. There's no doubt that its use is established in the English language, which is why it was added to the Merriam-Webster.com dictionary this past September. The addition of this new sense, "used to refer to a single person whose gender identity is nonbinary," did itself create a spike of interest in the word, but a substantial increase in lookups for *they* had been occurring all year to that point—with lookup numbers nearly double from the previous year.

Nonbinary *they* was also prominent in the news in 2019. Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (WA) revealed in April during a House Judiciary Committee hearing on the Equality Act that her child is gender-nonconforming and uses *they*. Singer Sam Smith announced in September that they now use *they* and *them* as pronouns. And the American Psychological Association's blog officially recommended that singular *they* will be preferred in professional writing over "he or she" when the reference is to a person whose gender is unknown or to a person who prefers *they*. It is increasingly common to see *they* and *them* as a person's pronouns in Twitter bios, email signatures, and conference nametags.

Nonbinary *they* takes a plural verb, despite referring to one person, which can make the grammatically conservative uncomfortable. It's helpful to remember that the pronoun *you* was initially plural, which is why it too takes the plural verb even when it's referring to a single person. "You are" has, of course, been perfectly grammatical for centuries, and it's worth noting that *thee* and *thou* were long ago completely displaced by singular *you* in standard speech and writing—concrete evidence of the constant evolution of language. We don't even notice the

singular use of *you* today, and it's quite possible that the nonbinary *they* is headed for a similarly unremarkable fate—only usage and time will tell. In the meanwhile, the word is spending some time in the spotlight in 2019. (2826 п. 3н.)

Text 25

Analysis: Fears Mount for the Arctic as Cooperation with Russia Stalls

By Humeyra Pamuk, Gloria Dickie and Gwladys Fouche

<https://www.reuters.com>

9/05/2023

WASHINGTON/LONDON/OSLO (Reuters) – For nearly three decades, the Arctic Council has been a successful example of post-Cold War cooperation.

Its eight members, including Russia and the United States, have cooperated on climate-change research and social development across the ecologically sensitive region.

Now, a year after council members stopped working with Russia following its invasion of Ukraine and as Norway prepares to assume the chairmanship from Moscow on May 11, experts are asking whether the polar body's viability is at risk if it cannot cooperate with the country that controls over half of the Arctic coastline.

An ineffective Arctic Council could have dire implications for the region's environment and its 4 million inhabitants who face the effects of melting sea ice and the interest of non-Arctic countries in the region's mostly untapped mineral resources.

The work of the council, which comprises the eight Arctic states of Finland, Norway, Iceland, Sweden, Russia, Denmark, Canada and the United States, in the past has produced binding agreements on environmental protection and preservation.

It is also a rare platform giving a voice to the region's Indigenous peoples. It does not deal with security issues.

But with the end of cooperation with Moscow, about a third of the council's 130 projects are on hold, new projects cannot go ahead and existing ones cannot be renewed. Western and Russian scientists no

longer share climate change findings, for example, and cooperation for possible search-and-rescue missions or oil spills has stopped.

"I am worried that this will really hobble the ability of the Arctic Council to work through these various issues," U.S. senator Angus King from Maine told Reuters.

A Divided Region?

The Arctic is warming about four times as fast as the rest of the world.

As sea ice vanishes, polar waters are opening to shipping and other industries eager to exploit the region's bounty of natural resources, including oil, gas, and metals such as gold, iron and rare earths.

The discord between Russia and the other Arctic Council members means that an effective response to these changes is far less likely.

"Norway has a big challenge," said John Holdren, co-director of the Harvard Kennedy School's Arctic Initiative and a former science advisor to U.S. President Barack Obama. "That's how to rescue as much as possible of the Arctic Council's good work in the absence of Russia."

Russia argues this work cannot continue without it.

The council is weakening, Russian Arctic Ambassador Nikolay Korchunov told Reuters, saying he was not confident it "will be able to remain the main platform on Arctic issues".

Adding to the worries is the possibility that Russia will go its own way on issues affecting the region or even establish a rival council.

Recently, it has taken steps to expand cooperation in the Arctic with non-Arctic states. On April 24, Russia and China signed a memorandum establishing cooperation between the countries' coast guards in the Arctic.

Days earlier, on April 14, Russia invited China, India, Brazil and South Africa - the BRICS - to conduct research at its settlement on Svalbard, an Arctic archipelago under Norwegian sovereignty where other countries can operate under a 1920 Treaty.

"Russia is seeking to build relationships with some non-Arctic countries, particularly China, and that is a development that is concerning," said David Balton, executive director of the Arctic Steering Committee at the White House.

Russia's Korchunov said Moscow welcomed non-Arctic states in the region, provided they did not come with a military agenda.

"Our focus on a purely peaceful format of partnership also reflects the need of development of scientific and economic cooperation with non-Arctic countries," he said.

How To Engage With Moscow

Norway says it is "optimistic" a seamless transition of the chairmanship from Russia can be achieved as it is in the interest of all Arctic states to maintain the Arctic Council.

"We need to safeguard the Arctic Council as the most important international forum for Arctic cooperation and make sure it survives," Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Eivind Vad Petersson told Reuters.

That will not be easy, given Oslo's own strained relations with Moscow. In April, Oslo expelled 15 Russian diplomats saying they were spies. Moscow denied the accusations and Korchunov said the expulsions undermined the trust needed for cooperation.

Analysts say NATO-member Norway, which shares an Arctic border with Russia, is still well-placed to handle the delicate balancing act with Moscow.

"Norway has been the most outspoken when it comes to the possibility of keeping the door ajar so that Russia could, when politically feasible, be part of the Arctic Council again," said Svein Vigeland Rottem, a senior researcher in Arctic governance and security at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Oslo.

Indeed, said lawmaker Aaja Chemnitz Larsen, the council will eventually need to reengage with Russia even if that moment has not yet arrived.

"I don't see an Arctic Council without Russia in the future," said Larsen, a Greenland lawmaker at the Danish Parliament and the Chair of Arctic Parliamentarians, a body including MPs from across the Arctic countries.

"We need to be prepared for a different time when the war (in Ukraine) one day will be over." (4508 П. ЗН.)

Text 26

Brussels Fears Swedish Far Right Aims to Thwart EU Law-Making Program

By Charlie Duxbury and Jacopo Barigazzi

<https://www.politico.eu>

29/12/2022

Sweden is due to take over the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU on January 1.

A far-right shadow is looming over Sweden's imminent EU presidency.

Sweden has long been seen as a cooperative and constructive member of the EU with a succession of mainstream governments able to corral domestic parliamentary support for many of Brussels' big ideas.

But a general election in September left the new center-right Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson dependent on the far-right, Euroskeptical Sweden Democrats (SD) for his parliamentary mandate. That's raised a question mark over whether Stockholm can maintain momentum on the key files piling up in the EU's in-tray.

Diplomats in Brussels – who were looking forward to the Swedish presidency as one that would be able to get things done – are now worried that the Sweden Democrats' anti-EU tone will infect the way they operate.

“It's news to no one that the Sweden Democrats are the parliament's most EU critical party,” SD leader Jimmie Åkesson said during a parliamentary debate on EU affairs earlier this month. “We believe in cooperation ... but we must move away from the almost manic idea that [Brussels] should meddle more and more in the politics of member states.”

The EU's institutional architecture gives the country with the rotating six-month presidency of the Council of the EU – currently the Czech Republic – a central role in setting and progressing the bloc's policy agenda. To that end, it is seen as helpful if the presidency country has a clear attitude to EU cooperation and a widely understood position on central issues on the agenda.

But the rise of SD, a party with neo-Nazi roots, has scrambled the picture of Swedish-EU relations for outsiders looking in. This is the first time SD has held real influence, and officials in Brussels are still

figuring out what policy stances like its ultra-hard line on immigration and relatively friendly attitude to Viktor Orbán's Hungary could mean for the way Sweden deals with the EU.

Swedish diplomats in Brussels have assured their colleagues that their presidency will be run from Brussels and not from Stockholm. That has reassured some in the Council, but the potential influence of SD has prompted unease among others in Brussels.

Iratxe García Pérez, the leader of the Socialists and Democrats group in the European Parliament tweeted following a recent trip to Stockholm: "I expressed my concern about the negative influence that extreme-right Sweden Democrats will have not only on the Swedish government, but also the Swedish EU presidency starting in January."

While Kristersson's Moderate Party and its two smaller center-right coalition allies are staunchly pro-EU, SD pushed for a referendum on Sweden's EU membership in the months after Brexit.

At the parliamentary debate in Stockholm this month, the dissonance in messaging between Kristersson and SD leader Åkesson was on full display.

"In my government, we see all the possibilities of a stronger EU," Kristersson said as he opened the session. (2535 п. зН.)

Text 27

Minority Languages Fight for Survival in the Digital Age (Op-Ed)

By Jeremy Colin Evas

<https://www.livescience.com/>

18/02/2014

Language is about much more than just about talking to each other; it's one of the bases of identity and culture. But as the world becomes increasingly globalised and reliant on technology, English has been reinforced once again as the lingua franca.

The technological infrastructure that now dominates our working and private lives is overwhelmingly in English, which means minority languages are under threat more than ever.

But it might also be true that technology could help us bring minority languages to a wider audience. If we work out how to play the

game right, we could use it to help bolster linguistic diversity rather than damage it. This is one of the main suggestions of a series of papers, the most recent of which looks at the Welsh language in the digital age.

Welsh was granted official status in Wales by the Welsh Language Measure 2011. This builds on previous legislation that sought to ensure that bodies providing a service to the public in Wales – even those that are not actually based in Wales – must to provide those services in Welsh.

As more public services go online, the language in which those services are presented is all important. At the European level, around 55 million speak languages other than one of the EU's official languages. In the UK, the total speakers of Welsh, Cornish, Scottish Gaelic and Irish number hundreds of thousands.

Language technology advances mean it will be possible for people to communicate with each other and do business with each other, even if they don't speak the same language.

Technology fail

These language technology and speech processing tools will eventually serve as a bridge between different languages but the ones available so far still fall short of this ambitious goal. We already have question answering services like the ones you find on shopping sites, and natural language interfaces, such as automated translation systems, but they often focus on the big languages such as Spanish or French.

At the moment, many language technologies rely on imprecise statistical approaches that do not make use of deeper linguistic methods, rules and knowledge. Sentences are automatically translated by comparing a new sentence against thousands of sentences previously translated by humans.

This is bad news for minority languages. The automatic translation of simple sentences in languages with sufficient amounts of available text material can achieve useful results but these shallow statistical methods are doomed to fail in the case of languages with a much smaller body of sample material.

The next generation of translation technology must be able to analyse the deeper structural properties of languages if we are to use technology as a force to protect rather than endanger minority languages.

Chit chat to survive

Minority languages have traditionally relied on informal use to survive. The minority language might be used at home or among friends but speakers need to switch to the majority language in formal situations such as school and work.

But where informal use once meant speaking, it now often means writing. We used to chat with friends and family in person. Now we talk online via email, instant messaging and social media. The online services and software needed to make this happen are generally supplied by default in the majority language, especially in the case of English. That means that it takes extra effort to communicate in the minority language, which only adds to its vulnerability.

Enthusiasts are live to this problem and crowdsourced solutions are emerging. Volunteers have produced a version of Facebook's interface in Welsh and another is on the way for Twitter, so who knows what might be next?

It's also possible for language technologies to act as a kind of social glue between dispersed speakers of a particular language. If a speaker of a minority language moved away from their community in the past, the chances of them continuing to speak that language would have been dramatically reduced. Now they can stay in touch in all kinds of ways.

More and more, communities are developing online around a common interest, which might include a shared language. You can be friends with someone who lives hundreds of miles away based on a shared interest or language in a way that just wasn't possible 20 or even ten years ago.

Unless an effort is made, technology could serve to further disenfranchise speakers of minority languages. David Cameron is already known to be keen on an iPad sentiment analysis app to monitor social networks and other live data, for example. But if that app only gathers information and opinions posted in English, how can he monitor the sentiments of British citizens who write in Welsh, Gaelic or Irish?

On the cultural side, we need automated subtitling for programmes and web content so that viewers can access content on the television and on sites like YouTube. With machine translation, this could bring content in those languages to those who don't speak them.

All this is going to be a big job. We need to carry out a systematic analysis of the linguistic particularities of all European languages and then work out the current state of the technology that supports them. But it's a job worth doing. (4382 п. 3н.)

Text 28

The President of Uzbekistan Calls for Broad International Cooperation in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn>

25/06/2022

The Embassy of Uzbekistan in China

On June 24, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in a High-level Dialogue on Global Development in the BRICS Plus format.

The heads of state and government of 18 countries of the world took part in the online forum, which was chaired by the Chinese side. Along with the leaders of Uzbekistan and China, President of Algeria Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of Argentina Alberto Fernandez, President of Egypt Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, President of Indonesia Joko Widodo, President of Iran Ibrahim Raisi, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Russia Vladimir Putin, President of the Republic of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa, Vice President of Brazil Hamilton Mourao, as well as the heads of governments of Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Fiji and Ethiopia.

The organizers identified the development of global partnership and joint promotion of the Sustainable Development Agenda as the main theme of the event.

The issues of multilateral cooperation in the field of security and stability, expansion of practical cooperation in the field of trade and investment, "green" economy, high technologies and innovations, digitalization, transport and logistics, ecology, humanitarian sphere were considered.

In his speech, the President of Uzbekistan noted the special importance of the BRICS Plus dialogue as a popular platform for inclusive partnership in promoting the Sustainable Development Agenda.

It is emphasized that the modern world is undergoing a profound transformation, accompanied by a number of alarming trends – international tensions are increasing and signs of a systemic economic crisis are emerging.

The attention of the participants was drawn to the fact that under these conditions, the New Uzbekistan, consistently continuing reforms

based on the principle of "Human interests above all", is open to broad international cooperation, including cooperation in the South-South format.

In order to overcome the consequences of the crisis phenomena in the global economy, the importance of taking coordinated measures to eliminate trade barriers, create new production and logistics chains, attract investment in cooperation projects and infrastructure, as well as technology transfer and innovation, deepen cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence, digitalization, biotechnology, and vaccine development was noted.

In order to promote joint projects and initiatives, it was proposed to launch the BRICS Plus Business Community Forum.

The President of Uzbekistan called for the strengthening of transport and communication interconnectedness and the inclusion of our region in the transcontinental routes "North-South" and "West-East".

The UN call to ensure stable and open turnover of food products in the markets was supported.

One of the key areas identified is the implementation of programs in the field of poverty reduction and entrepreneurship support, the activation of multilateral cooperation on the climate agenda and human development. The interest of our country in participating in the programs of the League of Universities and the BRICS Network University, as well as in the field of vocational education and youth policy was expressed.

In conclusion, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that the holding of the Dialogue in the BRICS Plus format once again demonstrated the common spirit for overcoming common challenges as soon as possible, ensuring global stability and sustainable development of our countries.

In the speeches of other foreign leaders, these were also made about the importance of expanding global partnership and mutually beneficial cooperation in promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Promising areas of multilateral dialogue in the field of economy, investment, innovation and "green" technologies, trade, transport and communications, ecology, and other priority areas are outlined. (3400 П. 3Н.)

Text 29

Should Rich Countries Pay for Climate Damage in Poor Ones?

That question dominated this year's big climate summit

<https://www.economist.com>

24/11/2022

This year's summit, the annual UN climate talks, was held at the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, and is known in the jargon as COP27.

The talks had been due to finish on November 18th. By the wee hours of November 20th, they were still going. In the end, it was sleep deprivation and weariness, more than any grand political breakthrough, that forced a result. The outcome was a text that ducked the biggest challenge, with countries refusing to promise to stop burning fossil fuels. Instead they repeated earlier pledges to “phase down unabated coal” and to get rid of “inefficient” fossil-fuel subsidies—phrases that leave plenty of useful wiggle room for the unmotivated.

But COP27 may have tipped the balance of debate on two other points. The first is “loss and damage”. This is, essentially, the “polluter pays” principle of environmental regulation applied to the entire world. The idea is that rich countries will pay poor ones to help them deal with damage caused by immediate climate-related disasters, such as floods, and creeping ones, like desertification. The second is that fixing climate change will require tinkering with the fundamentals of the global financial system. Once a niche idea, it too is gathering momentum.

Loss and damage generated the most headlines. The idea dates back to 1991 when Vanuatu, an island nation in the Pacific, suggested an insurance scheme to help pay for the consequences of rising sea levels. For 30 years such demands were rebuffed. Leaders of big carbon-emitting countries—and their lawyers—would not give any airtime to anything that might suggest financial liability for climate change.

But last year, at the previous COP summit in Scotland, that country's first minister promised £2m (\$2.4m) to the cause. Against the scale of the problem, of course, that is an invisibly tiny sum. But it was a first hint that the tide might be turning. Earlier this year, heavy monsoon rains caused more than \$30bn of damage and financial losses in Pakistan, nearly 9 % of the country's GDP. Natural climatic variations, notably an ocean-cooling phenomenon known as “La Niña”, were partly responsible.

The floods were seized upon at COP27 as demonstrating the need for rich countries to loosen their purse-strings. A scattering of promises made by other European governments brought the total pledged to €255m (\$262m), with the bulk of the money—€170m—coming from Germany. Bolstered by support from the European Union, the G77, a group of poor and middle-income nations, obtained a promise to set up a new fund under the auspices of the UN.

The summit, in other words, created a coffer. But how much money will end up inside it is unclear. Persuading the citizens of industrialised nations to pay up for sins committed at least partly by their grandfathers will be tricky, to put it mildly. And history suggests poor countries would be unwise to hope for too much. One common complaint at cop27 concerned the developed world's failure to honour promises made at the Copenhagen climate summit in 2009. That had promised to raise \$100bn a year to help poor countries adapt to a warmer world by building flood defences, heat-proofing homes and the like. That amounted to an "egregious and unexplained default", said William Ruto, Kenya's president. (No more than \$83bn has arrived in any single year.)

Even if the idea of a separate loss-and-damage fund does catch on, there is still plenty to argue about when it comes to the question of who, exactly, should pay. There are many ways to estimate a country's historic emissions, for instance (and therefore the amount of warming they have caused). One analysis compiled by Carbon Brief, a specialist website, and based on a variety of scientific papers and official sources, includes both industrial emissions and those from changes in land use, such as cutting down forests. Unsurprisingly, it puts America at the top of the list. But it is followed not by other rich countries, but by big, middle-income places such as China (now the world's biggest greenhouse-gas polluter), Russia, Brazil and Indonesia.

There is likely to be squabbling over who might benefit, too. The EU wants the money to go mostly to "particularly vulnerable" countries rather than "developing" ones. Under the outdated definitions of the UN Climate Convention, the latter category includes places such as middle-income China and super-rich Singapore, whose citizens these days earn more than twice as much as those of the EU.

The conference also looked into more technocratic ways to raise cash for poorer nations. The "Bridgetown Initiative", named after the

capital city of Barbados, was championed by Mia Mottley, that country's prime minister. It proposes overhauling international financial institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank.

Rows between rich countries and poor ones are a standard feature of climate summits. This time, though, both rich and poor countries were feeling more squeezed than usual. National debt burdens ballooned during the covid-19 pandemic. The rising cost of food and energy, a consequence of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, is causing belt-tightening in rich countries—especially in Europe—and havoc in poor ones, whose suffering is further compounded by the strength of the dollar. The world's economic outlook is gloomier than it has been in recent years. All of that makes it even harder to scrounge up the money needed to deal properly with climate change. (4579 п. 3н.)

Text 30

Rushdie Joins 102 International Writers to Demand Freedom of Expression in India

By Mehru Jaffer

<https://www.ipsnews.net>

17/08/2022

On the eve of India's 76th Independence Day, the president of the country, Droupadi Murmu, received a letter signed by 102 international writers, including authors from India and the Indian diaspora expressing "grave concerns about the rapidly worsening situation for human rights" and calling for the release of imprisoned writers and "dissident and critical voices".

Salman Rushdie signed the letter before the attack on him on August 12, 2022. Rushdie joined PEN America and PEN International, two worldwide associations of writers, to convey his anguish to the highest office in India.

Dated August 14, 2022, the letter urged the President of India to support the democratic ideals promoting and protecting free expression in the spirit of India's independence and to restore India's reputation as an inclusive, secular, multi-ethnic and -religious democracy where writers can express dissenting or critical views without threat of detention, investigation, physical attacks, or retaliation.

“Free expression is the cornerstone of a robust democracy. By weakening this core right, all other rights are at risk and the promises made at India’s birth as an independent republic are severely compromised,” the writers emphasised.

In its Freedom to Write Index 2021, PEN America considered India the only “nominally democratic country” among the “top 10 jailers” of writers and public intellectuals worldwide. The letter highlighted the arrest of writers, including poet Varavara Rao who was recently granted bail.

The “grave concern” regarding threats to free expression and other core rights has grown steadily in recent years.

The signatories underlined that writers and public intellectuals were “subject to arrest, prosecution, and travel bans intended to restrain their free speech”.

Well-known authors Amitav Ghosh, Perumal Murugan, Orhan Pamuk, Jerry Pinto, Salil Tripathi, Aatish Taseer and Shobhaa De, have signed the letter that said, “Online trolling and harassment is rife, hate speech is expressed loudly”, and criticised frequent internet shutdowns “centred on Kashmir” limit the access to news and information.

The letter registered a strong protest over the “persecution” of writers, columnists, editors, journalists, and artists, including Mohammed Zubair, Siddique Kappan, Teesta Setalvad, Avinash Das, and Fahad Shah.

In yet another PEN America initiative, 113 authors from India and the Indian diaspora have contributed to a collection reflecting on the state of free expression and democratic ideals. Titled *India at 75*, the collection includes original writings by Salman Rushdie, Jhumpa Lahiri, Geetanjali Shree, Rajmohan Gandhi and Romila Thapar, among others.

Rushdie writes that India’s “dream of fellowship and liberty is dead, or close to death”.

“Then, in the First Age of Hindustan Hamara, our India, we celebrated one another’s festivals, and believed, or almost believed, that all of the land’s multifariousness belonged to all of us. Now that dream of fellowship and liberty is dead, or close to death. A shadow lies upon the country we loved so deeply. Hindustan isn’t hamara anymore. The Ruling Ring – one might say – has been forged in the fire of an Indian Mount Doom. Can any new fellowship be created to stand against it?”

On August 15, India celebrated 75 years of independence from colonial rule. The country has yet to conquer poverty, but the largest democracy in the world did enjoy an excellent track record of encouraging free and fair media.

However, press freedom, as well as the unity of the country, is threatened by communal politics. A large section of mainstream media has turned pro-government, especially after the general elections in the spring of 2019. Ever since pressure has increased on the media to toe the line of the Hindu nationalist government. For the same reason, it is often difficult to distinguish between a ruling party spokesperson and a journalist in India today. (3328 п. зН.)

Text 31

Burkina Faso Expels Reporters from Two French Newspapers

<https://www.theguardian.com>

02/04/2023

Burkina Faso has expelled correspondents from *Le Monde* and *Libération*, the newspapers said on Sunday, the latest move the junta running the west African country has taken against French media.

Burkina Faso, where two coups took place last year, is battling a jihadist insurgency that spilled over from neighbouring Mali in 2015.

“Our correspondent in Burkina Faso, Sophie Douce, has been expelled from the country ... at the same time as her colleague from *Libération*, Agnès Faivre,” *Le Monde* said.

The authorities summoned the two journalists on Friday evening and gave them 24 hours to leave the country. They landed in Paris on Sunday morning, the newspaper said.

Le Monde said it condemned what it called an arbitrary decision in the strongest terms and demanded the authorities rescind it.

Libération said it “vigorously protests these absolutely unjustified expulsions” and suggested they were linked to an investigation it published earlier in the week.

“The March 27 publication of a *Libération* investigation into the circumstances in which a video was filmed showing children and adolescents being executed in a military barracks by at least one soldier evidently strongly displeased the junta in power in Burkina Faso.”

Jean-Emmanuel Ouédraogo, a government spokesperson, wrote after the piece was published that it “strongly condemns these manipulations disguised as journalism to tarnish the image of the country”.

The expulsions are the latest move against media from the former colonial power.

The authorities suspended all France 24 broadcasts on Monday after the news channel aired an interview with the head of al-Qaida in north Africa, saying it was “part of a process of legitimising the terrorist message”.

“We know the effects of this message in this country,” the government said.

France 24 hit back. The security crisis the country is going through must not be a pretext for muzzling the media,” it said.

The junta also suspended Radio France Internationale (RFI), which belongs to the same France Médias Monde group as France 24, in December, accusing it of airing a “message of intimidation” attributed to a “terrorist chief”.

Soldiers in Burkina Faso, one of the world’s poorest countries, staged two coups in 2022 over its failure to tackle the threat from jihadist groups.

More than 10,000 civilians, troops and police have been killed, according to one NGO estimate, and at least 2 million people have been displaced. Official figures say jihadists effectively control about 40 % of the country.

The junta leader, Capt Ibrahim Traoré, vowed to recover lost territory after taking power in September, but attacks have escalated since the start of the year, with dozens of soldiers and civilians killed every week.

RFI and France 24, which cover African affairs closely and are popular in African francophone countries, have been suspended in neighbouring Mali, which is also run by a military junta fighting jihadist forces. (2483 п. 3н.)

How TikTok Became a US-China National Security Issue

By Alex Barinka and Daniel Flatley

<https://www.bloomberg.com>

23/03/2023

Depending on whom you ask, the short-form video app TikTok is where you watch goofy dances and makeup tutorials, or it's a gravely sophisticated threat to US national security. Because TikTok is owned by a Chinese company, ByteDance Ltd. – and because China is known to be interested in having its technology companies share the data they collect – its ubiquitous popularity among Americans carries geopolitical implications far beyond the mobile-phone screen.

1. What makes TikTok different from other social media sites?

Like US-owned social media platforms such as YouTube, Facebook and Instagram, TikTok collects all sorts of data about each user and, through an algorithm, uses that information to deliver more of what the person seems to want. But TikTok is viewed as potentially the most advanced, and uncannily effective, at learning about your interests – based on how long you stay with a video and whether you like, forward or comment on it – and, through its algorithm, delivering more of that to your “For You” feed. Some people joke that TikTok’s “For You” knows you better than you know yourself. That makes Chinese ownership of TikTok – the most salient difference between it and other social media, in the eyes of US critics – particularly worrisome. So does this: American adult users of TikTok will spend an average of 56 minutes a day on the app this year, far more than on either Facebook or Instagram, according to researcher Insider Intelligence.

2. What are the biggest worries about TikTok?

The national security concerns involve hypothetical, though not implausible, scenarios in which China’s government employs its influence over ByteDance to turn TikTok into an instrument of harm against American interests, through such channels as:

- **Data collection.** Along with what you seem to be interested in, TikTok learns your computer’s unique internet protocol (IP) address as well as – if you choose to let it – your precise location data and who is on your contact list. All that could be used to “develop profiles on millions of

Americans” that could be used to blackmail them, Senator Marco Rubio of Florida and Representative Mike Gallagher of Wisconsin, both Republicans, wrote in November.

- Espionage. A 2020 executive order by then-President Donald Trump broached the possibility that China could use TikTok’s data to “track the locations of federal employees and contractors” and to “conduct corporate espionage.”
- Influence operations. US national security officials are concerned that TikTok could try to shape US public opinion by strategically suppressing or promoting certain videos.

3. Is there evidence to back up those concerns?

In December, the chief executives of ByteDance and TikTok admitted that ByteDance employees had inappropriately accessed the IP address of American users, including journalists writing critical stories about the company. The Justice Department is investigating whether that amounted to improper surveillance of Americans. While not involving TikTok specifically, there have been numerous reports in recent years about China attempting through various means to influence US politics, including elections. These types of concerted campaigns continue to proliferate across all social media apps.

4. What does the company say?

TikTok says its independence is reflected in the fact that its chief executive officer is based in Singapore, its chief operating officer in the US and its global head of trust and safety in Ireland. “I understand that there are concerns stemming from the inaccurate belief that TikTok’s corporate structure makes it beholden to the Chinese government or that it shares information about US users with the Chinese government,” TikTok CEO Shou Chew said in prepared remarks to be delivered Thursday at a hearing in the US Congress. “This is emphatically untrue. Let me state this unequivocally: ByteDance is not an agent of China or any other country.” TikTok had hoped that concerns over data had been resolved through its so-called Project Texas, which included partnering with Austin, Texas-based Oracle Corp. to store user data and audit the platform’s algorithms.

5. What are the worries about TikTok outside government circles?

Its success at holding the attention of its users has alarmed some parents and educators. Qustodio, a maker of parental control software,

analyzed 400,000 family accounts for TechCrunch and found that American teenagers and kids spent an average of 99 minutes a day on TikTok in 2021, compared with 61 minutes on YouTube. A number of viral TikTok trends have also raised concern. A particularly notorious one, called the blackout challenge, was linked to the deaths of at least 15 kids age 12 or younger, plus five additional children age 13 and 14, over an 18-month span, Bloomberg Businessweek reported in November. (4075 печ. зн.)

Text 33

Mexico Migrant Camp Tents Torched across Border from Texas

By Valerie Gonzales

<https://apnews.com>

22/04/2023

About two dozen makeshift tents were set ablaze and destroyed at a migrant camp across the border from Texas this week, witnesses said Friday, a sign of the extreme risk that comes with being stuck in Mexico as the Biden administration increasingly relies on that country to host people fleeing poverty and violence.

The fires were set Wednesday and Thursday at the sprawling camp of about 2,000 people, most of them from Venezuela, Haiti and Mexico, in Matamoros, a city near Brownsville, Texas. An advocate for migrants said they had been doused with gasoline.

“The people fled as their tents were burned,” said Gladys Cañas, who runs the group Ayudandoles A Triunfar. “What they’re saying as part of their testimony is that they were told to leave from there.”

There were no reports of deaths or significant injuries. But about 25 rudimentary shelters made up of plastic, tarps, branches and other materials were torched in a sparsely populated part of the camp. Many who lived there also apparently lost clothing, documents and whatever other modest belongings may have been left inside.

Margarita, a Mexican woman staying at the camp, said Friday she saw migrants from Venezuela screaming during the previous day’s blaze.

“They had their children with them and a few other things they had a chance to get,” Margarita said. She spoke on the condition that her last name not be published due to fears for her safety.

Gangs recently threatened migrants who were wading across the river border illegally, as well as their guides, Margarita said, but the crossings had continued.

Criminal groups often prey upon migrants in the area and demand money in return for permission to pass through their territory.

However, Juan José Rodríguez, director of the Tamaulipas Institute for Migrants, a state agency coordinating with Mexico's federal government, said he had no information that a gang was responsible for the fires.

Rodríguez attributed them to a group of migrants and said some 10 tents that had already been abandoned were burned. He added that they apparently set the fires to express frustration with a U.S. government mobile app that assigns turns for people to show up at the border and claim asylum.

Migrants have been applying for 740 slots made available daily on the glitch-plagued app, CBPOne, which allows them to enter the U.S. legally at an official crossing.

There are far more migrants than available slots, exacerbating tensions in Mexican border cities that house them, often in shelters and camps like the one in Matamoros. Last year hundreds of migrants blocked a major pedestrian crossing between Tijuana and San Diego until authorities shut down the protest.

In Matamoros on Wednesday night, about 200 migrants gathered on the southern side of an international bridge and halted all U.S.-bound traffic, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported. Vehicles were able to resume crossing after about two hours and pedestrians were allowed to cross after about four hours.

CBP made no mention of fires at the Mexican camp in its statement about the bridge shutdown.

The tent fires in Matamoros come on the heels of a March 27 blaze that killed 40 men at a Mexican immigration detention center in Ciudad Juarez. The fire was allegedly started by a detained migrant to protest conditions at the facility in the city across from El Paso, Texas.

The U.S. government is increasingly turning to Mexico while preparing to end pandemic-era asylum restrictions, known as Title 42 authority, on May 11. Mexico recently began accepting people from Cu-

ba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela who cross the border irregularly and are turned back by the U.S.

The Biden administration also is putting final touches on a policy under which asylum would be denied to people who pass through another country, such as Mexico, to reach U.S. soil. (3214 печ. зн.)

Text 34

New liberal Latino Lawmakers are Preparing to Challenge Status Quo

By Silvia Foster-Frau

<https://www.washingtonpost.com>

02/01/2023

The record number of Hispanic legislators, including five Republicans and nine Democrats, joining Congress this year reflects the growing influence of the Latino electorate.

When the 118th Congress swears in its newly elected members this week, it will include a record number of new Latino members.

The five Republican and nine Democratic freshmen driving the boost in representation include the first member of Generation Z, the first openly gay Republican elected to Congress, and the first Latinas from Colorado and Illinois. Oregon has never sent a Hispanic person to Congress and now is sending two – one Democrat and one Republican.

Many are young, liberal members who embraced left-leaning politics and ran campaigns that championed Medicare-for-all, raising the minimum wage and a pathway to citizenship for the country's 11 million undocumented immigrants. The new lawmakers' average age is about 38 — 20 years younger than the average age of House members at the start of the 117th Congress, according to the Library of Congress.

Though much has been made of the rightward shift of some Latino voters in recent years, these left-leaning members reflect a growing part of the Latino community whose politics have become more liberal as a result of the relative youth of their voters and in response to the rise in recent years of Hispanic candidates backed by former president Donald Trump, experts say.

“A lot of the news coverage has been sharply focused on Trump's success [with Latino voters] in 2020 and in 2022, but, of

course, there is a wider story,” said Mark Hugo Lopez, the Pew Research Center’s director of race and ethnicity research. Latinos are “not so easily characterized one way or another, so why wouldn’t we see the emergence of candidates from many parts of the political spectrum?”

Many of the incoming Democrats were endorsed by the Congressional Progressive Caucus PAC, share working-class backgrounds or immigrant experiences, and ran liberal campaigns in congressional districts with significant Latino populations.

“It’s not just all in Los Angeles and San Antonio and Miami where we have our Latino electeds, but in many of these areas where Latinos were not a majority of a population,” said Matt Barreto, a Democratic strategist who has specialized in Latino voters. “Those candidates are saying, ‘We’re just as much a part of this district as anyone else.’”

Some of the liberal soon-to-be-freshman Latino members gathered recently to hold their first D.C. news conference. As they waited to talk about their legislative priorities, including immediate immigration changes and expanding the child tax credit, Garcia, Delia Ramirez of Illinois and Greg Casar of Texas compared how they had fared in the office-selection lottery and the colors they had picked out for their new spaces.

They also signaled that they wouldn’t shy away from using aggressive tactics to influence veteran Hispanic members of Congress, many of whom express more-moderate viewpoints than theirs.

“We’re going to work really hard to not just change our own Progressive Caucus, but our Hispanic Caucus, and try to bring a new sense of urgency. We do not want to wait anymore” for change, Garcia told reporters, with the stately pillars of the U.S. Capitol behind him.

The group had giddily toured their new workplace, some noting the number of White, upper-class legislators depicted in paintings and statues in the Capitol. Despite a record number of Latino members in Congress, Hispanic lawmakers will make up only about 10 percent of the House, a significantly smaller share than the country’s Latino population. Of the 47 Latinos who will be part of the House, 35 are Democrats and 12 are Republicans, according to an analysis by the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Text 35

**Many Predicted NATO Expansion Would Lead to War.
Those Warnings Were Ignored**

(extract)

By Ted Galen Carpenter

<https://www.theguardian.com>

28/02/2022

It has long been clear that NATO expansion would lead to tragedy. We are now paying the price for the US's arrogance

Thinking through the Ukraine crisis – the causes

“It would be extraordinarily difficult to expand Nato eastward without that action's being viewed by Russia as unfriendly. Even the most modest schemes would bring the alliance to the borders of the old Soviet Union. Some of the more ambitious versions would have the alliance virtually surround the Russian Federation itself.” I wrote those words in 1994, in my book *Beyond Nato: Staying Out of Europe's Wars*, at a time when expansion proposals merely constituted occasional speculation in foreign policy seminars in New York and Washington. I added that expansion “would constitute a needless provocation of Russia”.

What was not publicly known at the time was that Bill Clinton's administration had already made the fateful decision the previous year to push for including some former Warsaw Pact countries in NATO. The administration would soon propose inviting Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary to become members, and the US Senate approved adding those countries to the North Atlantic Treaty in 1998. It would be the first of several waves of membership expansion.

Moscow's patience with NATO's ever more intrusive behavior was wearing thin. The last reasonably friendly warning from Russia that the alliance needed to back off came in March 2007, when Putin addressed the annual Munich security conference. “NATO has put its front-line forces on our borders,” Putin complained. NATO expansion “represents a serious provocation that reduces the level of mutual trust. And we have the right to ask: against whom is this expansion intended? And what happened to the assurances our western partners made after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact?”

Western (especially US) leaders continued to blow through red warning light after a red warning light, however. The Obama administra-

tion's shockingly arrogant meddling in Ukraine's internal political affairs in 2013 and 2014 to help demonstrators overthrow Ukraine's elected, pro-Russia president was the single most brazen provocation, and it caused tensions to spike. Moscow immediately responded by seizing and annexing Crimea, and a new cold war was underway with a vengeance...

Could the Ukraine crisis have been avoided?

Events during the past few months constituted the last chance to avoid a hot war in eastern Europe. Putin demanded that Nato provide guarantees on several security issues. Specifically, the Kremlin wanted binding assurances that the alliance would reduce the scope of its growing military presence in eastern Europe and would never offer membership to Ukraine. He backed up those demands with a massive military buildup on Ukraine's borders.

The Biden administration's response to Russia's quest for meaningful western concessions and security guarantees was tepid and evasive. Putin then clearly decided to escalate matters. Washington's attempt to make Ukraine a NATO political and military pawn (even absent the country's formal membership in the alliance) may end up costing the Ukrainian people dearly.

The Ukraine tragedy

History will show that Washington's treatment of Russia in the decades following the demise of the Soviet Union was a policy blunder of epic proportions. It was entirely predictable that NATO expansion would ultimately lead to a tragic, perhaps violent, breach of relations with Moscow. Perceptive analysts warned of the likely consequences, but those warnings went unheeded. We are now paying the price for the US foreign policy establishment's myopia and arrogance. (3077 п. зн.)

Text 36

UN Climate Boss Settles for No Cuts on Emissions

By Seth Borenstein

<https://apnews.com>

21/11/2022

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) – Given an energy crisis in Europe and progress made in helping climate victims, the new climate chief for the United Nations said he'll settle for a lack of new emissions-cutting action coming out of the now-concluded climate talks in Egypt.

It could have been worse, UN Executive Secretary for Climate Simon Stiell said in a seaside interview with The Associated Press. The talks did achieve the historic creation of a fund for poor nations that are victims of climate disasters, he said.

The progress made last year at the global climate meeting in Glasgow was maintained. “There was no backtracking. Which as a result, one could say, is highly unambitious. And I would actually agree,” a tired Stiell said hours after the Egyptian climate talks finished with one last around-the-clock push.

“To say that ... we have, stood still. Yeah, that’s not great,” Stiell said. But he still likes the overall outcome of the first set of climate talks he oversaw, in particular the long-sought compensation fund for nations that didn’t cause warming.

More than 90 nations repeatedly asked – many of them publicly – for the agreement to include a phase down of oil and gas use. The Glasgow agreement calls for a phase down of “unabated coal” – that is, coal burning where the carbon goes into the atmosphere rather than being captured somehow. Poor nations point out that they rely more on coal whereas oil and gas are used more in rich countries. These should also be required to phase down they said.

But the Egyptian presidency never put the proposal, which came from India, in any of the decision documents. The country that hosts and runs the climate talks has the power to make that choice.

Critics - including negotiators during the talks - blasted the Egyptian presidency and its agenda setting. Environmental groups repeatedly pointed out Egypt’s dependence on exports of natural gas, its role as operator of Suez Canal petroleum traffic and income from neighboring oil states. Oil and natural gas are both principal contributors to climate change.

Next year’s climate talks will be held in the United Arab Emirates, a major oil power. Environmental advocates and outside experts fear that oil and gas phase down language won’t get a fair shake next year either.

Asked about the wisdom of having fossil fuel exporting countries host and control climate talks, Stiell said: “They are part of the problem, but they are also part of the solution.” To try to manage this

process without their involvement, would give “an incomplete picture. And that is the challenge,” Stiell said.

Climate Analytics CEO Bill Hare, a climate scientist, called this a serious problem.

“The massive presence of oil and gas interests at the COP undermines the integrity of the UN climate process and could be slowly eroding its legitimacy,” Hare said. “The suspected influence of petrol states and oil and gas lobbyists on the Egyptian presidency is unhealthy to say the least.”

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, the climate talks president, didn’t answer a shouted question Sunday about oil and gas phase down language.

Stiell said countries have to keep coming back and putting pressure on each other to include language calling for a phase down on oil and gas. That worked for this year’s key accomplishment - the establishment of a fund for poor nations that are victims of climate disasters. (2840 П. 3Н.)

Text 37

The Countries That Avoided a Pandemic Inequality Disaster

Covid has threatened decades of economic progress. Some places have blunted the damage.

(extract)

By Ben Steverman and Enda Curran

<https://www.bloomberg.com>

12/05/2022

From 2000 to 2019, median incomes in poorer nations rose faster than in wealthy ones, and the number of people living in extreme poverty fell from more than one in four to less than one in 10.

Then came Covid-19, threatening to undo that progress. At the start, it seemed obvious that the economic costs — job loss, erosion of wealth, even loss of life — would fall disproportionately on the poor and leave them worse off. The rich, while unable to insulate themselves from illness and mortality, would be safeguarded by an abundance of resources.

Depending on where you were, however, Covid also unleashed trends and sparked reactions that challenged this foregone conclusion.

Inequality didn't rise everywhere. Some governments cushioned the blow for their citizens. Workers everywhere hustled — many risked their lives — to keep their families fed, housed and otherwise provided for.

Data on inequality can be patchy and slow to arrive at the best of times. Economists are still arguing over exactly what happened in 2020 and 2021 — never mind how new crises, like war and inflation, might impact wealth and income disparities going forward.

Still, it's important to draw some early conclusions. In order to recover from the economic damage of the pandemic, we need to understand who is still struggling. Policymakers need to know where to target aid and how broader economic policies — on taxes, trade, infrastructure spending, and efforts to fight inflation — might affect people's economic well-being.

Overall, one thing seems clear: Nearly everyone lost money at the beginning of 2020, and wealthier nations, and wealthier people, bounced back far more quickly.

Poor Countries Hit Hardest

In rich countries, governments could afford to protect their populations from the economic fallout if they chose to do so. In many poor countries, large aid packages simply weren't an affordable option.

These dollars made a difference. Spain, for example, allocated an additional 8.4 % of GDP to pandemic support. According to a study last year, inequality in the country would have increased by almost 30 % in one virus-laden month alone, absent government intervention.

Covid-19 Relief Varied Widely

The U.S. poured trillions of dollars into its economy — more than anywhere else — and relief went to a wide swath of society. That included generous bailouts for businesses as well as stimulus checks, enhanced unemployment benefits and tax credits for the poor and middle classes. After incomes plunged in early 2020, the extra dollars helped households up and down the income spectrum recover.

Full Recovery

China also managed to keep inequality broadly in check, though for another reason: After the virus was first discovered in Wuhan, the government implemented a swift, severe and largely effective set of Covid containment policies. Without the disruptions of major outbreaks, the rebound was swift.

But gauging the true picture of inequality in the world's second-biggest economy isn't easy. By one popular measure, the divide hasn't budged in the past several years. The top 20 % of households still earns 10 times what the bottom 20 % does. The urban-rural divide is also deep as city dwellers earn 2.5 times what their counterparts in the countryside do.

Covid-19's Job Impact

Data shows that woman-owned businesses were more likely to have closed temporarily and stayed shut longer compared with those run by men. They also suffered a bigger decrease in demand, were more likely to cut workers and suffer financial distress.

This snapshot is far from complete, and Covid hasn't finished wreaking havoc on the global economy. In China, for example, efforts to reduce inequality have taken a back seat to Covid controls, pushing unemployment to 5.8 % in March, the highest level since May 2020. Authorities have provided little direct financial support to households. Beijing suspended planned trials of a nationwide property tax, which was seen as part of an effort to reduce wealth inequality when it was announced last year...

The pandemic demonstrated how emergency public spending can limit the scale of economic damage. Unlike the years after the global financial crisis when austerity ruled, the pandemic recovery is happening faster because governments put a floor under their sliding economies. But now, global growth is slowing again, raising questions about the capacity of governments, rich or poor, to respond to the next crisis with the same kind of fiscal and monetary firepower. (3775 п. 3H.)

Text 38

Saudi Arabia Wants to Be a Bigger Player in the Middle East – This Time with Diplomacy

By Nadeen Ebrahim

<https://edition.cnn.com/>

4/05/2023

When Iranian evacuees from Sudan were being flown out of Saudi Arabia on Saturday, a top Saudi military official went as far as boarding their plane back home to bid them a warm farewell.

Sixty-five Iranians evacuated from Sudan by the Saudi military were welcomed in the Saudi Red Sea city of Jeddah with flowers, images

of which were broadcast on both Iranian and Saudi state television. Dabais told Zarangar that the friendly welcome for the Iranians was “from the directives of the leadership, from the king, from the crown prince.”

Such images would have been inconceivable just months ago, when Iran and Saudi Arabia were bitter regional foes engaging in multiple proxy conflicts across the Middle East. But the two buried the hatchet in March with Chinese mediation after nearly seven years of hostility, and hope to re-open embassies soon.

“This can only bring goodwill from the Iranians with the hope that it will be reciprocated,” Ali Shihabi, a Saudi analyst and writer, told CNN.

The kingdom is now on a mission to revamp its global image and mend fences with former foes.

The diplomatic efforts are the latest in a series of moves that position Riyadh in a peacemaking role, which analysts say is a strategic pivot away from more than a decade of a confrontational and interventionist foreign policy.

“There is a new foreign policy at play here,” Anna Jacobs, senior Gulf analyst at the Brussels-based International Crisis Group think tank, told CNN. “Saudi Arabia is seeking to assert itself more and more on the international stage through mediation and raising its diplomatic profile.” Riyadh’s new foreign policy is more independent and prioritizes Saudi interests, she said.

Sudan diplomacy

The kingdom’s latest attempt at diplomacy came in Sudan, where forces loyal to two rival generals, Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) commander Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, head of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), are vying for control. Hundreds have been killed and thousands injured in the fighting.

In images broadcast widely across Saudi news outlets, Saudi Arabian forces were seen evacuating thousands of evacuees from Port Sudan to the coastal city of Jeddah, a 12-hour journey across the Red Sea. Men, women and children were given Saudi flags to wave as cameras documented their arrival.

The kingdom on Monday said that it has evacuated more than 5,000 people from over 100 nationalities.

With the help of the United States, Saudi Arabia last week also mediated a brief truce between Sudan’s SAF commander Al-Burhan and RSF chief Dagalo. The truce was extended for another 72 hours on Monday, and the kingdom is reportedly joining the United Arab Emir-

ates, the US and Egypt in efforts to broker a truce between the two commanders.

This new diplomacy comes as Saudi Arabia prioritizes economic growth at home, which requires regional stability to succeed. The \$1 trillion economy has been on a quest to move away from its traditional reputation as a conservative, combative oil producer, and towards a global economic player and key regional tourism and business hub.

Aside from Iran, Riyadh is mending ties with Yemen's Houthis, Turkey and Syria's regime. It has been spearheading efforts to bring Syria's pariah President Bashar al-Assad back into the Arab fold over a decade after severing ties with it.

And last month, senior leaders from the Palestinian militant group Hamas were seen performing an Islamic pilgrimage in Mecca. Two days later, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas met Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, known as MBS, in the nearby city of Jeddah. Hamas and the Palestinian Authority have been at odds for over a decade. Saudi Arabia's ties with Hamas had been strained for the past decade too.

Credibility challenges

Saudi efforts at revamping its image as a peace-broker may face credibility challenges, however, given its near decade-long combative foreign policy and the bad press it attracted.

As peace talks between Yemen's Houthis and the Saudi delegation took place in the Yemeni capital Sanaa last month, Houthi officials were keen to point out that Saudi Arabia is not a mediator in the Yemen conflict, as it has claimed, but rather a participant.

Asked by CNN whether the kingdom bears any responsibility for the Sudan conflict given its connections to RSF, Nazer of the Saudi embassy in the US said the kingdom is "engaged with all relevant parties in Sudan" and that Riyadh is "trying to promote an inclusive political process and dialogue that will restore peace and stability to Sudan."

Despite its controversial past, Saudi Arabia may still carry enough influence to bring quarreling parties to the negotiating table, analysts say. The oil producer is home to Islam's holiest sites and is one of the richest Arab nations.

"Saudi Arabia does not pretend to be an impartial mediator but its voice carries weight with many parties in the region," Shihabi said, adding that where it can, Saudi Arabia wants to use that influence to reduce tensions. (4202 П. 3Н.)

US, Mexico Agree on Tighter Immigration Policies at Border

By Colleen Long

<https://apnews.com>

3/05/2023

U.S. and Mexican officials have agreed on new immigration policies meant to deter illegal border crossings while also opening up other pathways ahead of an expected increase in migrants following the end of pandemic restrictions next week.

Homeland Security adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall spent Tuesday meeting with Mexico President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and other top officials, emerging with a five-point plan, according to statements from both nations.

Under the agreement, Mexico will continue to accept migrants from Venezuela, Haiti, Cuba and Nicaragua who are turned away at the border, and up to 100,000 individuals from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador who have family in the U.S. will be eligible to live and work there.

Despite sharing a 1,951-mile border with the U.S., Mexico had been notably absent from the rollout last week of a fresh set of efforts, including the creation of hubs outside the United States where migrants could go to apply to legally settle in the U.S., Spain or Canada. The first centers will open in Guatemala and Colombia.

The COVID-19 restrictions have allowed U.S. officials to turn away tens of thousands of migrants crossing the southern border, but those restrictions will lift May 11, and border officials are bracing for a surge. Even with the restrictions, the administration has seen record numbers of people crossing the border, and President Joe Biden has responded by cracking down on those who cross illegally and by creating new avenues meant as alternatives to a dangerous and often deadly journey.

Mexico's support is critical to any push by the U.S. to clamp down at the southern border, particularly as migrants from nations from as far away as Haiti are making the trek on foot up through Mexico, and are not easily returned back to their home countries.

With Mexico now behind the U.S., plus an announcement Tuesday that 1,500 active-duty U.S. troops are deploying south for administrative support, and other crackdown measures in place, border officials

believe they may be able to manage overcrowding and other possible issues that might arise once the COVID-19 restrictions end.

Biden, who announced his Democratic reelection campaign a week ago, is trying to signal his administration is making a serious effort to tamp down the number of illegal crossings.

But the effort also draws potentially unwelcome comparisons to Biden's Republican predecessor, Donald Trump, whose policies Biden frequently criticized. Congress, meanwhile, has refused to take any substantial immigration-related actions.

The U.S. will continue to turn away Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans who cross illegally. Mexico said Tuesday it would continue to accept up to 30,000 migrants per month from the four countries that are making up a ballooning share of the overall illegal border crossings, with no easy way to quickly return migrants to their home countries.

According to data on asylum seekers in Mexico, people from Haiti remained at the top with 18,860 so far this year, higher than the total for the whole of 2022.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is accepting 30,000 people per month from the four nations for two years and offering them the ability to legally work, as long as they come legally, have eligible sponsors and pass vetting and background checks.

The administration also plans to swiftly screen migrants seeking asylum at the border itself, quickly deport those deemed as not being qualified, and penalize people who cross illegally into the U.S. or illegally move through another country on their way to the U.S. border.

In addition, 1,500 active-duty personnel will be deployed to the border area for 90 days and will be pulled from the Army and Marine Corps. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin will look to backfill those troops with National Guard or Reserve troops during that period, Pentagon spokesman Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said. There are already 2,500 National Guard members at the border. They are not working in a law enforcement capacity, but their mere presence sends a message.

Then-President Trump deployed active-duty troops to the border to assist border patrol personnel in processing large migrant caravans, on top of National Guard forces that were already working in that capacity.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre downplayed any similarity between Biden’s immigration management and Trump’s use of troops during his term: “This is a common practice,” she said. “

But some in Biden’s own party objected to the decision.

“The Biden administration’s militarization of the border is unacceptable,” said Senate Committee on Foreign Relations chair Bob Menendez, D-N.J. “There is already a humanitarian crisis in the Western Hemisphere, and deploying military personnel only signals that migrants are a threat that require our nation’s troops to contain. Nothing could be further from the truth.”

The Pentagon on Tuesday approved a request for troops made by the Department of Homeland Security, which manages the border.

As part of the agreement, the Pentagon has requested quarterly updates from Homeland Security on how it would staff its border mission without service members. It was not immediately clear if those updates have happened or if border officials will be able to meet their terms of the agreement — particularly under the strain of another expected migrant surge. (4527 п. 3н.)

Text 40

US-Saudi Oil Pact Breaking Down as Russia Grabs Upper Hand

An empowered OPEC+ led by Saudi Arabia and Moscow is calling the shots on oil prices, boosting inflation and raising recession risks (extract)

By Ziad Daoud and Courtney McBride

<https://www.bloomberg.com>

13/04/2023

Just three years ago, when OPEC+ oil giants fell out, the US found itself playing the role of peacemaker. Now it looks more like their target.

The Saudi-Russia oil alliance has the potential to cause all kinds of trouble for the US economy – and even for President Joe Biden’s reelection campaign. This month’s OPEC+ decision to cut crude output, for the second time since Biden flew to Saudi Arabia last summer seeking an increase, may be just the start.

That April 2 announcement has lifted oil prices by about \$5 a barrel. OPEC’s own projections show that the cuts will widen the supply

shortfall later this year. That means inflation will be higher, and recession risks are bigger than they otherwise would have been – because consumers spending more on energy will have less cash left for other stuff.

But more significant is what the OPEC+ move says about the likely path of oil prices over the coming years.

In a world of shifting geopolitical alliances, Saudi Arabia is breaking away from Washington’s orbit. The Saudis set oil production levels in coordination with Russia. When they wanted to ease tensions with regional rival Iran, they turned to China to broker a deal – with the US left out of the loop. Western influence over the oil cartel, in other words, is at its lowest point in decades.

And the OPEC+ members all have priorities of their own, from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman’s ambitious plans to reinvent his economy, to Putin’s war. Any extra revenue they get from charging more for oil is a help.

Asked about US concerns that OPEC+ has twice elected to cut production since President Biden’s visit to Saudi Arabia, a State Department spokesperson said the administration is focused on holding down domestic energy prices and ensuring US energy security. The US views production cuts as inadvisable given ongoing market volatility, but will wait to see what actions OPEC+ ultimately takes, said the spokesperson.

Meanwhile, the threat of competition from US shale fields, a deterrent to price hikes in the past, has receded. And while there’s a global effort to reduce fossil-fuel use – and higher prices will accelerate that effort – the dash to drill in the last year shows that the zero-carbon economy remains more long-term aspiration than short-term driver.

Oil's Wild Ride

For the global economy writ large, lower oil supply and higher prices is bad news. The major exporters are the big winners, of course. For importers, like most European countries, more expensive energy is a double blow – dragging on growth even as inflation rises.

The US falls somewhere in between. As a major producer, it benefits when prices rise. But those gains – unlike the pain of higher pump prices – aren’t widely shared.

Geopolitical Frictions

For decades, the US-Saudi “oil for security” pact has been a pillar of the energy market. Now it’s wobbling. Symbolized by the 1945

meeting between President Franklin D. Roosevelt and King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud, aboard a US cruiser in the Suez Canal, the deal gave the US access to Saudi oil in exchange for guaranteeing the kingdom's security.

But the pact is no longer what it once was:

- In 2019, Biden — then a presidential candidate — threatened to turn Saudi Arabia into a pariah state and halt arms sales.
- Last month, Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed to restore diplomatic ties in a deal brokered by China and signed in Beijing.
- The Saudi government has also agreed to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization — a group with China and Russia at the helm, and seen as a rival to Western institutions — as a “dialogue member”.

"The Saudis are looking for an aggressive hedge," said Jon Altermann, director of the Middle East Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank.

In the aftermath of the April 2 move, Saudi officials said it was motivated by national priorities rather than any diplomatic agenda.

“OPEC+ has succeeded now and in the past in stabilizing oil markets, and contrary to claims by Western and industrial states this has nothing to do with politics,” former Saudi oil ministry adviser Mohamad Al Sabban said, according to Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper.

There's more urgency this time around. Environmental targets are pushing countries to reduce dependence on fossil fuel. National security concerns in Europe — which until the war in Ukraine turned off the taps, was heavily reliant on Russian oil and gas — could speed the transition.

And there's no guarantee that the Saudis, Russia and the rest of the OPEC+ cartel will be able to maintain their united front. That's easier to do when prices are high — but when the cycle turns, members prove less willing to limit supply.

Still, at least for now, the price of the world's most important commodity is being set by a country the US can no longer count on as a friend. (4024 п. 3н.)

ЧАСТЬ 2. ТЕКСТЫ ДЛЯ ПЕРЕВОДА С ЛИСТА

1) Politico Magazine, 05/09/2022 – Almost without exception, the potential Republican candidates for the party's presidential nomination in 2024 are showing conspicuous deference to Donald Trump, bordering on fear. Their reticence is understandable with the party still largely in his grip, but it's hardly a way of persuading voters they are presidential timber, even at this early stage. Their theory of victory appears to hinge almost entirely on the possibility that Trump will be sidetracked or disqualified from running in 2024. (423 п. зн.)

ООН – Благодаря посредническим усилиям ООН или действиям третьих сторон при поддержке ООН с 1990-х годов прошлого века удалось положить конец многим конфликтам, в частности, в Сьерра-Леоне, Либерии, Бурунди и конфликте между северной и южной частями Судана и Непале. Используя превентивную дипломатию и другие формы превентивных действий, ООН сумела предотвратить многие потенциальные конфликты. Кроме того, осуществляемые ООН 11 миротворческие миссии на местах участвуют в урегулировании постконфликтных ситуаций и занимаются миростроительством. (472 п. зн.)

2) Bloomberg, 2/05/2023 – Efforts to hold peace talks between two warring generals in Sudan appeared to have faltered as yet another cease-fire was broken and the African Union planned an emergency session to discuss how to end the conflict.

The fighting in the North African country has killed more than 500 people and sent about 50,000 fleeing across borders, according to the UN. The region is now preparing for the possibility that more than 800,000 may flood into neighboring countries, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said on Monday. (443 п. зн.)

Russia Today, 1/05/2023 – Украинские власти оскорбили индуистов по всему миру, опубликовав в Twitter Министерства информации и радиовещания Индии Канчан Гупта. Ранее Минобороны Украины распространило это изображение в своём сообщении, посвящённом ударам по топливной базе в Севастополе. В то же время Киев тре-

бует от Нью-Дели поддержки в конфликте с Москвой. Эксперты отмечают, что подобные инциденты демонстрируют реальное отношение украинского режима к другим странам и говорят о его ксенофобском характере. (462 п. зн.)

3) Politico Magazine, 22/11/2022 – Former Vice President Mike Pence is building out his political staff, the latest indication that he’s prepping a White House bid that will pit him against his former boss, ex-President Donald Trump.

Ben Sasse, has been tapped to serve as communications director for Advancing American Freedom, a Pence-aligned non-profit organization that is serving as the former vice president’s campaign-in-waiting. Pence’s team is also looking to bring on fundraising aides. (392 п. зн.)

Российская газета, 01/01/2023 – В Бразилии 1 января прошла инаугурация президента страны Луиса Инасиу Лулы да Силвы. Россию на церемонии представила Спикер Совета Федерации Валентина Матвиенко. Она также провела в Бразилии ряд встреч.

По ее словам, переизбранный президент Бразилии подтвердил готовность и заинтересованность в перезапуске российско-бразильских отношений с точки зрения наращивания объема торгово-экономического сотрудничества, в научной сфере, в технической сфере, в сфере природоохранной и в самых разных иных. (432 п.зн.)

4) Associated Press, 30/04/2023 – Voters in Uzbekistan, the most populous former Soviet Central Asian republic, cast ballots Sunday in a referendum on a revised constitution that promises human rights reforms but that also would allow the country’s president to stay in office until 2040. Approval appears certain. Backers have conducted an array of promotional events featuring local celebrities, and elections in Uzbekistan are widely regarded as noncompetitive. (369 печ. зн.)

Russia Today, 20/04/2023 – Тенденция к многополярности в международном сообществе будет только усиливаться, заявил Владимир Путин. В декабре 2022 года Владимир Путин отмечал, что в данный момент «рождаются контуры по-настоящему многополярного миропорядка», в рамках которого в Азии, Африке, Латинской Америке

формируются новые центры развития, отстаивающие собственные национальные интересы, защищающие свой суверенитет и право на собственный путь развития. (378 печ. зн.)

5) Associated Press, Islamabad, May 3, 2023 — The Taliban's intimidation, threats and attacks on Afghan journalists are unacceptable, the UN said Wednesday, as it expressed concern for the future of the country's media.

Many journalists lost their jobs after the Taliban takeover in August 2021, with media outlets closing over a lack of funds or because staff left the country. Women journalists face additional hardships because of work bans and travel restrictions.

The UN mission in Afghanistan comments coincide with World Press Freedom Day, which is observed May 3. (443 п. зн.)

Russia Today, 29/04/2023 – В МИД РФ сообщили, что Соединённые Штаты и их союзники в Азиатско-Тихоокеанском регионе (АТР) развивают деструктивные для международной безопасности схемы так называемого расширенного (extended) ядерного сдерживания. Эти схемы Вашингтон практиковал ранее и продолжает развивать в рамках НАТО. По мнению экспертов, распространяя стратегию расширенного ядерного сдерживания на АТР, США стремятся нарастить потенциал так называемого азиатского НАТО, формируемого для противостояния РФ и КНР. (417 п. зн.)

6) TASS, 01/01/2023 – Belarus will chair the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in 2023.

The organization's Secretary General Stanislav Zas pointed that the CSTO seeks to resolve differences between the organization's members in the short term and prevent destabilization. As for external activities, strengthening the CSTO's role and importance in the system of international relations will be the organization's top priority, along with making sure that its activities are fully in line with the current regional and global security situation. (458 п. зн.)

Москва 24, 31/12/2022 – В России выборы президента пройдут в 2024 году. Ранее Владимир Путин заявил, что имеет право вновь избираться президентом России, но пока не решил, будет ли это де-

вать. Он отметил, что само наличие этого права уже стабилизирует внутривнутриполитическую ситуацию, однако говорить о планах на 2024 год преждевременно.

Президентский срок Владимира Путина начался 7 мая 2018 года. Согласно Конституции РФ, Путин может избираться на новый срок. (369 п. зн.)

7) Associated Press (AP), Madrid, May 3, 2023 — Colombian President Gustavo Petro began a state visit to Spain on Wednesday to seek support for his peace plan for the South American country while urging for greater action against climate change from Europe, according to reports from Spanish high-ranked officials.

One of the main topics on his agenda is his peace process with the National Liberation Army (ELN), a communist-inspired guerrilla organization. Petro has called the talks a cornerstone of his effort to resolve a conflict that dates back to the 1960s. (435 п. зн.)

Russia Today, 28/04/2023 – США не смогли изолировать российскую делегацию от международного сообщества на мероприятиях Совета Безопасности ООН в Нью-Йорке, заявил посол РФ в США Анатолий Антонов. По его словам, на итоговой пресс-конференции главы МИД России Сергея Лаврова сложно было найти свободное место в зале, а журналисты задавали ему множество вопросов. Ранее Лавров посетил штаб-квартиру ООН в США и принял участие в заседаниях СБ. Антонов подчеркнул, что эти мероприятия прошли блестяще и результативно. (415 п. зн.)

8) UPI, 02/01/2023 – US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Qin Gang, China's newly appointed foreign minister, have each expressed hopes for improved relations between the superpowers.

Qin was appointed as China's foreign minister after serving as an ambassador to the US. During that time he worked closely with Blinken to navigate the complicated relationship between the two countries.

Blinken, meanwhile, also confirmed the two had a cordial call and similarly expressed hopes that they could continue their efforts to improve relations. (444 п. зн.)

Interfax, 21/11/2022 – Евросоюз согласился на компромисс на конференции ООН по климату COP27 в Шарм-эль-Шейхе (Египет), чтобы сохранить Парижское соглашение и защитить тех, кто наиболее подвержен изменениям климата, говорится в коммюнике Еврокомиссии.

Участники конференции согласились, что ограничение глобального потепления до 1,5 градусов - цели Парижского соглашения - требует быстрого и устойчивого сокращения всемирных выбросов парниковых газов на 43 % к 2030 году по сравнению с уровнем 2019 года, говорится в документе. (436 п.зн)

9) The Economist, 4/05/2023 – Sudan's latest "ceasefire" was meant to begin on Thursday. Brokered by Salva Kiir, the president of South Sudan, it is supposed to last seven days. That would be the longest truce yet and could even lead to peace talks.

But neither of the armed factions which have been battling since April 15 has shown willingness to cede ground. The national army believes it will soon regain control of Khartoum, Sudan's capital. Meanwhile the Rapid Support Forces are spread throughout Khartoum and will not be defeated easily. (429 п. зн.)

РБК, 29/04/2023 – Искусственный интеллект может использоваться для благих целей, но он несет и угрозу для человеческой цивилизации, заявил историк, писатель и автор «Sapiens» Юваль Ной Харари в статье для The Economist.

Искусственный интеллект может саморазвиться вне контроля человека. «В то время как (Whereas) ядерные бомбы (nukes) не могут сами изобрести более мощное ядерное оружие, искусственный интеллект может создать более мощный искусственный интеллект», — предупредил Ной Харари. (392 п. зн.)

10) UPI, 01/01/2023 – Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Sunday was sworn in as Brazil's president for the third time, replacing his political opponent, Jair Bolsonaro, who served four years.

"I promise to maintain, defend and fulfill the constitution, observe the laws, promote the general good of the Brazilian people, support the uni-

ty, integrity and independence of Brazil," the left-wing politician said in a speech to Congress' Lower House.

He won by 2 percentage points in a runoff on October 30 against the right-wing Bolsonaro. (426 п. зн.)

ИА Regnum, 12/12/2022 – Законопроект о снижении возрастного ценза для участия в выборах внесли в Госдуму депутаты от ЛДПР во главе с Леонидом Слуцким

Предлагается установить, что гражданин, достигший возраста 16 лет, имеет право избирать, быть избранным депутатом представительного органа муниципального образования, голосовать на референдуме, а по достижении возраста, установленного Конституцией РФ, быть избранным депутатом законодательного (представительного) органа государственной власти, выборным должностным лицом. (439 п. зн.)

11) The Economist, 4/05/2023 – Local elections in Britain offer a test of public opinion outside of the general-election cycle.

Contests are taking place in England on Thursday involving some 8,000 seats in 230 local authorities. National polls suggest that the opposition Labour Party has a 15-point lead over the ruling Conservative Party under the prime minister Rishi Sunak.

The Conservatives hope they can catch up with Labour before a general election expected next year. (376 п. зн.)

Russia Today, 3/05/2023 – В ночь на 3 мая киевским режимом была совершена попытка нанесения удара беспилотными летательными аппаратами по кремлёвской резиденции президента РФ.

Заместитель официального представителя Генсека ООН Фархан Хак заявил, что всемирная организация призывает стороны конфликта на Украине воздержаться от любых слов и действий, ведущих к дальнейшей эскалации конфликта. Хак отметил, что ООН «не может подтвердить» информацию об атаке беспилотников на Кремль. (395 п. зн.)

12) Bloomberg, 01/01/2023 – Foreign ministers from Russia, Syria and Turkey will meet in the second half of January after last week holding the highest-level gathering since the Syrian civil war erupted in 2011.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said late on Saturday that he had a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov to discuss the timing and venue of the next meeting, according to state-run Anadolu news agency. The stepped-up diplomacy comes after a recent rapprochement between Turkey and its southern neighbor. (445 п. зн.)

Российская газета, 29/12/2022 – Опрос Suffolk University/USA Today показал: 50 % зарегистрированных избирателей хотели, чтобы их "идеальному президенту" было от 51 до 65 лет. Еще 25 % нравится глава Белого дома в возрасте от 35 до 50 лет. Еще 15 % сказали, что возраст не имеет значения, 8 % заявили, что предпочитают президента в возрасте от 66 до 80 лет, и лишь 0,4 % заявили, что хотели бы президента старше 80 лет. (318 п. зн.)

13) Reuters 09/05/2023 – HONG KONG – A Chinese investigation of consulting firm Capvision Partners over national security concerns is the latest step in a years-long campaign by Beijing to tighten control of data generated within its borders.

State media accused overseas institutions of using domestic consulting firms to steal state secrets and intelligence in key areas key, state broadcaster CCTV said in a programme on the Capvision investigation. (354 п. зн.)

Russia Today, 3/05/2023 – Российский постпред при ООН Василий Небензя заявил, что дело дошло до опосредованной (проху) войны НАТО против России. Об этом он сказал в ходе заседания Совбеза ООН по вопросу укрепления доверия в международных делах.

Небензя отметил, что для этого на российских границах за восемь лет сформировали русофобскую неонацистскую диктатуру, «провозгласившую войну всему русскому».

Ранее российский министр иностранных дел Сергей Лавров заявил, что США объявили крестовый поход (a crusade) против России. (410 п. зн.)

14) Bloomberg, 03/01/2023 – The US is in discussions with South Korea on ways to deter Kim Jong Un's regime from using nuclear weapons, according to a spokesperson for the National Security Council.

Following a meeting in Cambodia last year, US President Joe Biden and South Korean counterpart Yoon Suk Yeol asked their teams to plan for an effective coordinated response to a range of scenarios, including nuclear use by North Korea, the spokesperson said, adding that the two nations aren't discussing joint nuclear exercises because South Korea is a non-nuclear weapons state. (462 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 29/11/2022 – Ватикан ценит добрые отношения с РФ и надеется на продолжение курса на их развитие, сообщил дипломатический источник в папском городе-государстве, комментируя опубликованное в журнале американских иезуитов *Americamagazine* интервью Папы Римского Франциска, в котором ему приписываются высказывания о якобы имеющих место жестокостях российских военных в ходе спецоперации на Украине, в том числе со стороны чеченцев и бурятов.

По словам источника, в Ватикане "никак не хотели обидеть народы России". (428 п. зн.)

15) Reuters, Madrid, 09/05/2023 – UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said he sees no immediate possibility of reaching a comprehensive ceasefire in the war in Ukraine as both sides are convinced they can win, according to an interview published by Spanish newspaper El Pais on Tuesday.

Guterres, who is in Spain to receive the Charles V European Award, told El Pais the UN was instead focusing on talks with both Russia and Ukraine to solve concrete problems such as extending the Black Sea grain deal that is set to expire on May 18. (415 п. зн.)

<https://www.kommersant.ru>, 01/05/2023 – Генеральный секретарь ООН Антониу Гутерриш проводит встречу со спецпосланниками нескольких стран по Афганистану. В консультативных переговорах участвуют дипломаты из России, Китая, США и европейских стран. В ООН сообщили, что мероприятие направлено на достижение международным сообществом общего понимания того, как взаимодействовать с правительством, которое с 2021 года контролирует движение «Талибан» (признано в РФ террористическим и запрещено). (393 п. зн.)

16) Bloomberg News, 03/01/2023 – New Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang offered effusive praise of Americans after stepping down as his nation’s top envoy to Washington, signaling that ties between the world’s biggest economies appear to be warming despite recent tensions over Taiwan.

Qin said he’d continue to “support the growth of China-US relations,” and promote peace and development – comments that add to signs Beijing is adopting a softer diplomatic touch. (364 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 29/11/2022 – Главное из приветственной речи Си Цзиньпина участникам IV Российско-Китайского энергетического бизнес-форума:

- Энергетика является краеугольным камнем сотрудничества Китая и России;
- Сотрудничество РФ и КНР в энергетике демонстрирует устойчивость, несмотря на внешние вызовы;
- Китай намерен выстраивать более тесное партнерство с Россией в сфере энергетики;
- Китай готов вместе с Россией поддерживать международную энергетическую безопасность. (387 п. зн.)

17) Reuters, 27/04/2023 - Turkish citizens based in Germany began voting on Thursday in Turkey’s presidential and parliamentary elections, which represent the biggest electoral challenge for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who lags in opinion polls, in two decades in power.

Germany is home to the world’s largest Turkish diaspora and some 1.5 million Turkish citizens there, who in the past have shown strong support for Erdogan and his conservative AK party (AKP), are eligible to vote ahead of the elections on May 14 in Turkey. (425 п. зн.)

Russia Today, 21/04/2023 – Французский европарламентарий Доминик Бильд подняла вопрос о перспективах финансирования работ по созданию «электронного заграждения» на российско-польской границе для обеспечения безопасности ЕС от возможного наплыва мигрантов.

Как отметила Бильд, ссылаясь на февральские публикации европейских СМИ, у властей Польши были намерения «возвести электронное заграждение на границе с Калининградом» из-за опасений возможного увеличения в будущем потока мигрантов в Евросоюз. (415 п. зн.)

18) The Economist, 09/05/2023 – In the past two years Myanmar’s civil war is estimated to have cost 30,000 lives and displaced 2m people. But Myanmar’s neighbours are divided on how to end the conflict. This split will cast a shadow over the summit of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), a ten-member talking-shop, which meets from Tuesday on the Indonesian island of Flores.

Some countries’ leaders, including those of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, favour more engagement with Myanmar’s ruling generals. Others want to isolate them further. (450 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 28/04/2023 – Совет Безопасности ООН единогласно поддержал резолюцию, осуждающую введенный талибами (члены запрещенного в России радикального движения "Талибан") запрет на работу женщин.

В 2022 году были введены ограничения на работу женщин, в начале 2023 года эти ограничения были усилены. В результате на протяжении нескольких недель не могут осуществлять свои обязанности сотрудницы миссий ООН в Афганистане, из-за чего сократились объемы гуманитарной деятельности всемирной организации в этой стране. (426 п. зн.)

19) Bloomberg, 01/01/2023 – China cut off senior-level talks with Taiwan after Tsai came into power in 2016. Beijing views Tsai as a pro-independence figure who opposes its claim over Taiwan.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen urged Beijing to resume talks with Taipei to help maintain stability in the region in the face of renewed threats by Beijing to use force against Taiwan.

“War is never an option for solving a problem,” Tsai said in her New Year’s speech on Sunday. “Only by boosting stable development in the region together through dialogue and collaboration can we bring security and happiness to more people.” (493 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 27/11/2022 – Министр иностранных дел Китая Ван И заявил на встрече с послом РФ в КНР Игорем Моргуловым:

"Китай и Россия вместе продвигают многополярный мир и не признают однополярную гегемонию, вместе упорно отстаивают систему международных отношений, ядром которой выступает ООН, и миропорядок на основе международного права, а также не призна-

ют политику грубой силы. Эта позиция находится на верной стороне истории и соответствует тенденциям развития современности". (389 п. зн.)

20) Bloomberg, 21/04/2023 – Trump, according to his allies, will use the occasion to remind local officials how he turned some swing states red in 2016 and also try to muddy up the brightest parts of the governor's record. A new Wall Street Journal poll Friday showed Trump gaining on his opponent. In a head-to-head matchup it points to Trump having 51 % of support among Republican primary voters, compared with 38 % for DeSantis. The Trump-DeSantis clash unfolds as President Joe Biden is preparing to announce his reelection campaign as early as next week. (442 п. зн.)

Gazeta.ru, 19/04/2023 – США и Европа давят на Турцию в преддверии президентских и парламентских выборов 14 мая, заявил министр внутренних дел страны Сулейман Сойлу. Он добавил, что Европа «стала пешкой Америки в Африке», а саму Америку «ненавидит весь мир».

«Турция меняет свою историю. С выборами 14 мая она полностью изменится. Это не выборы Эрдогана, а выбор будущих поколений Турции, ее полной независимости, поэтому США и Европа оказывают на нее давление», – заявил глава турецкого МВД. (396 п. зн.)

21) Reuters, 05/05/2023 – The foreign ministers of India, Russia and Pakistan on Friday called for a representative government in Afghanistan and the protection of women's rights, almost two years after the Islamist Taliban swept to power in Kabul.

They were speaking at the day-long meeting of foreign ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Indian coastal resort state of Goa, just ahead of a meeting scheduled over the weekend in Pakistan between the foreign ministers of Pakistan, China and Afghanistan. (426 п. зн.)

Коммерсантъ, 28/04/2023 – Генассамблея ООН одобрила Договор о всеобъемлющем запрещении ядерных испытаний (ДВЗЯИ) (The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (СТВТ)) еще в 1996 г., однако он до сих пор не действует. Для того чтобы ДВЗЯИ зарабо-

тал, нужна ратификация всех стран, имеющих ядерное оружие или возможности его создания. Из этого списка документ ратифицировали 36 государств, включая Россию. Из оставшихся восьми стран договор не подписали три: Индия, КНДР и Пакистан; подписали, но не ратифицировали пять: США, Китай, Египет, Израиль и Иран. (400 п. зн.)

22) Bloomberg, 29/12/2022 – Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in as Israel's new prime minister on Thursday. 63 members of parliament voted in favor of the new government that brings together Netanyahu's Likud with ultra-orthodox and religious nationalist parties, while 54 voted against it.

Addressing parliament earlier in the day, Netanyahu listed three important tasks for his cabinet: preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, developing the country's infrastructure, including a bullet train, and expanding diplomatic accords to more Arab countries. (453 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 25/11/2022 – Российская спецоперация на Украине не может быть квалифицирована как спонсирование терроризма, поэтому решение парламента Нидерландов признать Россию страной-спонсором терроризма юридически безграмотно, считает вице-спикер Совфеда Константин Косачев.

Он пояснил, что ведущиеся боевые действия не являются террористическим преступлением, проводятся и квалифицируются на основе применимых норм международного гуманитарного права и статьи 51 Устава ООН, а само государство не может быть субъектом этого вида преступления. (457 п. зн.)

23) Bloomberg, 08/05/2023 – Germany's Merck KGaA will soon have women occupying the top two posts on its executive board, marking a first in a corporate world more noted for its preponderance of men.

Former investment banker Helene von Roeder, 52, will replace Marcus Kuhnert as Merck's finance chief in July, the Darmstadt-based drugmaker said in a statement on Monday. She'll join Chief Executive Officer Belen Garijo Lopez, 62, who's currently the only female CEO of a DAX 40 company, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. (418 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 21/04/2023 – Китайские военные считают, что TikTok присоединился к другим западным социальным и информационным платформам в проведении пропагандистской компании против России на фоне конфликта на Украине. Об этом пишет газета South China Morning Post, указывая на результаты исследования, проведенного экспертами Народно-освободительной армии Китая. По данным South China Morning Post, TikTok "предложил себя в качестве платформы для ведения когнитивной войны против РФ". (398 п. зн.)

24) Bloomberg, 29/12/2022 – China said it is up to the US to take steps toward resuming high-level military discussions that were suspended after Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan, comments that hint at lingering tensions between the world’s two largest economies. Defense Ministry spokesman Tan Kefei said Thursday at a briefing in Beijing that Washington should “respect China’s core interests and major concerns.” “The US side cannot seek to fully resume dialogue and exchanges with China while constantly harming China’s interests,” Tan said. (430 п. зн.)

Interfax, 20/11/2022 – Встреча ООН по климату (COP27) завершила работу в Шарм эль-Шейхе на два дня позже запланированного срока. Все это время участники пытались согласовать итоговую декларацию. По данным *Associated Press*, этот документ предусматривает, в частности, создание фонда, средства из которого будут направляться странам, которые наиболее страдают от климатических изменений. Многие участники встречи высказали разочарование ее итогами. В частности, они обратили внимание на то, что в итоговую декларацию не вошел пункт о необходимости резкого сокращения выбросов парниковых газов. (493 п. зн.)

25) PLOS journals, 17/10/2022 – The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021 to 2030) aims to transform Ocean science to support sustainable development, and to connect people to the Ocean. The UN General Assembly declared the UN Ocean Decade in December 2017 after the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO developed a proposal for the decade to champion

new oceanographic scientific, technological, and research advancements to support Ocean sustainability. (400 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 25/01/2023 – Символические стрелки Часов Судного дня (Doomsday Clock) 24 января перевели на 10 секунд ближе к полуночи. Теперь они отмеряют 90 секунд до уничтожения человечества. Президент издания "Бюллетень ученых-атомщиков" (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists) Рейчел Бронсон заявила, что данное решение принято главным образом в свете ситуации вокруг Украины. По ее словам, "вероятность того, что конфликт может выйти из-под чьего-либо контроля, остается высокой".

Впервые часы появились на обложке данного журнала в 1947 году. (397 п. зн.)

26) Fox News, 26/04/2023 – Hundreds of professors at the University of North Carolina signed a public letter Tuesday opposing legislation that would require university students to take courses on America's government and founding documents.

Required reading for the course would include the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, at least five essays from the Federalist Papers, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter from Birmingham Jail and the Gettysburg Address. (413 печ. зн.)

RIA, 21/04/2023 – Более 550 тысяч избирателей зарегистрировались на предварительное голосование «Единой России», это 2,4 % от общего числа избирателей в регионах, где в этом году пройдут выборы, сообщили в пресс-службе партии.

Активнее всего регистрируются жители Ростовской области. Уже 5,3 % избирателей этого региона заявили о своём желании выбрать кандидатов от партии. Также – в Башкирии (4,6 %) и в Ивановской области (3,3 %). Среди новых регионов лидирует ДНР. (384 печ. зн.)

27) Reuters, 01/05/2023 – A UN Security Council (SC) committee on Monday agreed to allow the Taliban administration's foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to travel to Pakistan from Afghanistan next week to meet with the foreign ministers of Pakistan and China.

Muttaqi has long been subjected to a travel ban under SC sanctions.

Chinese and Pakistani officials have both said in the past that they would welcome Taliban-led Afghanistan into the multibillion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor infrastructure project, part of the Belt and Road Initiative. (448 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 28/04/2023 – Новая партнерская миссия Евросоюза в Молдавии вряд ли будет содействовать стабилизации ситуации в стране и регионе, учитывая, что ЕС превратился в геополитический инструмент США и НАТО. *"Видим, что Евросоюз все активнее пытается закрепиться на постсоветском пространстве. В качестве инструмента использует развертывание своих полевых присутствий"*, — прокомментировала официальный представитель МИД РФ Мария Захарова решение, принятое на прошедшей 24 апреля в Люксембурге встрече министров иностранных дел стран-членов ЕС. (454 п. зн.)

28) Bloomberg, 30/12/2022 – For years, the European Union failed to muster an effective response as Hungary and Poland challenged the bloc's democratic norms.

While countries must adopt stringent democratic criteria to join the world's largest trading bloc, there are few tools available to deal with errant members once they're in. The EU's Article 7 procedure can ultimately lead to the suspension of voting rights for a member that has violated common values. But because its use requires unanimity, pledges by Hungary and Poland to veto such a motion against the other have rendered the article useless. (486 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 24/01/2023 – ФСБ пресекла в Крыму деятельность ячейки международной террористической организации "Хизб ут-Тахрир аль-Ислами" (запрещена в РФ), сообщили в ЦОС ФСБ России.

По данным спецслужбы, при координации эмиссаров террористической организации, пребывающих на Украине, "данные лица проводили целенаправленную работу по распространению на территории нашей страны террористической идеологии".

В процессе конспиративных собраний они вербовали в свои ряды жителей России из числа местных мусульман. (425 п. зн.)

29) <https://www.lbc.co.uk>, 21/01/2023 – London's British Museum and National Museums Scotland no longer use the term 'mummy' which has been used since around 1615, preferring "mummified person" or "mummified remains" as a politically correct alternative.

A National Museums Scotland spokesperson said: "Where we know the name of an individual we use that, otherwise we use 'mummified man, woman, boy, girl or person' because we are referring to people, not objects.

"The word 'mummy' is not incorrect, but it is dehumanising, whereas using the term 'mummified person' encourages our visitors to think of the individual." (489 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 25/01/2023 – Исторический центр Одессы был внесен в список всемирного наследия ЮНЕСКО. Новый статус дает Киеву возможность запросить "усиленную техническую и финансовую международную помощь" для обеспечения защиты и восстановления объекта, в случае нанесения ему ущерба.

Решение ЮНЕСКО по включению Одессы в список всемирного наследия принято в обход правил процедуры и не выдерживает критики, т.к. Киев утаил от ЮНЕСКО информацию о сносе памятников в Одессе перед ее включением в список всемирного наследия, сообщили в постоянном представительстве РФ при организации. (479 п. зн.)

30) Bloomberg, 22/04/2023 – Japanese voters head to the polls in five constituencies on Sunday, elections that could sway Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's decision on whether to call a general election in the coming months.

The Premier's ruling Liberal Democratic Party is fighting to keep the three seats it previously held of the five. Managing to take a fourth would further fuel speculation that Kishida may opt for a national election after hosting the Group of Seven summit in Hiroshima from May 19-21. (400 печ. зн.)

РИА, 27/04/2023 – И с чего это вы взяли, будто однополярный (то есть американский) мир только что кончился на наших глазах и возникла многополярность? Ничего такого нет и не будет никогда.

Америка – гегемон навеки. Это выступление принадлежит двум профессорам из Дартмутского колледжа.

Авторы раскладывают показатели мощи, особенно военной, при-суждают каждому показателю очки. Получается, что ближайший конкурент – Китай – еще несколько десятилетий не сравняется с США по всем показателям военной мощи. (436 печ. зн.)

31) TASS, 01/01/2023 – In 2023 Kazakhstan is passing the chairmanship of the CIS to Kyrgyzstan. Russia and Kazakhstan will be co-chairing. The republic's President Sadyr Japarov vowed that, as chairman, his country will pay special attention to bolstering good-neighborly relations and trust between CIS member states.

He also noted that it is important to make efforts to support and develop partner interactions between CIS countries in transportation, communications, migration policy, cultural and humanitarian cooperation and the implementation of international initiatives and interstate programs. (500 п. зн.)

<https://www.rbc.ru>, 16/11/2022 – Бывший президент США Дональд Трамп заявил, что будет участвовать в выборах главы государства в 2024 году. Его представители подали заявку в Федеральную избирательную комиссию на участие в выборах. При этом действующий президент Джо Байден говорил, что уверен в своей победе над Трампом, однако еще не объявлял о собственном участии.

«Чтобы снова сделать Америку великой, я сегодня вечером выдвигаю свою кандидатуру на пост президента Соединенных Штатов», – сказал Трамп, выступая перед сторонниками в своей резиденции Мар-а-Лаго во Флориде. (463 п. зн.)

32) Bloomberg, 28/12/2022 – The US and the European Union called for an immediate end of tensions in northern Kosovo, where local Serbs have confronted predominantly ethnic Albanian authorities with road blockades and protests for more than two weeks.

The standoff between the wartime foes has brought the region to the verge of a renewed conflict. The minority Serb community in Kosovo is backed by the government of neighboring Serbia and President Aleksandar Vucic, who has traded accusations with the Kosovo government led by Premier Albin Kurti. (439 п. зн.)

Вестник КазНУ, <https://articlekz.com/article/11794>, 2013 – В Стратегической концепции НАТО 2010 года можно проследить четко выраженную идею «глобализации НАТО». Она находит свое отражение в готовности блока реагировать на т.н. новые угрозы трансграничного характера, включая угрозу распространения ОМУ и международного терроризма и заканчивая наркотрафиком и угрозами техногенных катастроф, что дает основания говорить о глобальной деятельности НАТО в ее функциональном измерении. (368 п. зн.)

33) The Guardian, 21/04/2023 – Blue checkmarks now indicate paying customers, rather than authenticated individuals, while grey ticks indicate government ties.

Government accounts, such as government agencies or heads of Government such as the US President, Joe Biden, have grey ticks that note their connection with government agencies.

Media accounts by and large are given yellow ticks. Musk last week began putting disclaimers such as “state-affiliated” and “Government funded” on various media accounts. (410 печ. зн.)

РИА, 27/04/2023 – 27 апреля отмечается День российского парламентаризма.

27 апреля 1906 года начала свою работу Государственная Дума – первый в отечественной истории демократический институт, заложивший основы парламентаризма в России.

Этот день призван привлечь внимание к деятельности законодательных органов страны, их ответственности за процесс становления современного гражданского общества, укрепление российской государственности. (372 печ. зн.)

34) Bloomberg, 29/12/2022 – Democrats’ plans to release former President Donald Trump’s tax returns could be the start of a tit-for-tat battle using Internal Revenue Service documents to target political foes, a Republican aide said.

The threat of retribution comes a day before Democrats are slated to release six years of Trump’s personal and business tax records, the culmination of a years-long effort to make the former president’s tax information public. (365 п. зн.)

ИА Regnum, 09/12/2022 – Законопроект, снижающий возрастной ценз для участия в выборах, разработали депутаты Госдумы от ЛДПР.

Предлагается разрешить голосовать на выборах гражданам с 16 лет. По мнению парламентариев, принятие закона расширит электорат, избирателей станет больше примерно на 3 млн.

Депутаты от ЛДПР, в частности Василий Власов, регулярно вносят законопроекты о снижении возраста для участия в выборах с 18 до 16 лет, однако они не находят поддержки у большинства парламентариев. (404 п. зн.)

35) ТАСС, 26/12/2022 – In the first half of January, the members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) will again face the problem of extending the mechanism of cross-border assistance to Syria. The current international mandate, which allows humanitarian supplies to be transported through the Bab al-Hawa crossing point on the border with Turkey, mainly to rebel areas, is valid until January 10. Russian officials doubt the need to extend this initiative, believing that its format discriminates against territories under the control of the central government. (454 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 03/01/2023 – Членство в НАТО и союзнические отношения с США не препятствуют поддержанию Турцией конструктивных отношений с Россией. Об этом заявил официальный представитель турецкого Президента Реджепа Тайипа Эрдогана Ибрагим Калын. «Нашим приоритетом является обеспечение в нашем регионе и за его пределами поясов мира, стабильности и процветания. Руководствуясь этим и сохраняя традиционную линию во внешней политике, мы одновременно расширяем за счет новых подходов горизонты внешней политики», – сказал он в интервью для январского номера журнала Kriter. (470 п. зн.)

36) ТАСС, 03/01/2023 – Brazil's newly-inaugurated President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will pay an official visit to Argentina on January 23, his Argentinian counterpart Alberto Fernandez said following their meeting in Brasilia on Monday.

"We agreed to restore working relations between Argentina and Brazil to a degree that they have always deserved. The past four years saw difficulties, but now we both believe in the importance of these ties," Fer-

andez said, hinting at the no simple relationship with Brazil's ex-president Jair Bolsonaro. (442 п. зн.)

АИФ, 4/02/23 – Жители Республики Гаити, одной из беднейших стран в мире, берут штурмом миграционные центры в надежде получить документы на выезд в США. Это произошло после того, как американские власти объявили, что до 30 тысяч человек из Гаити и некоторых других стран смогут ежемесячно получать разрешение на миграцию, сообщает агентство Reuters.

Администрация президента США Джо Байдена намерена в ближайшем будущем навести порядок с миграцией и планирует выселить пойманных при пересечении границ нелегалов. (426 п. зн.)

37) Reuters, 12/02/2023 – Nikos Christodoulides won the Cyprus presidential election on Sunday after a second and final round of voting, promising a unity government tasked with breaking a deadlock in peace talks with estranged Turkish Cypriots.

Official results showed Christodoulides, 49, a former foreign minister, taking 51.9 % of the vote, compared with runoff rival Andreas Mavroyiannis, 66, a former permanent representative of Cyprus to the United Nations, taking 48.1 %. Christodoulides ran as an independent with the backing of centrist and right-of-centre parties. (426 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 03/01/2023 – Ушедший 2022 год стал годом «девестернизации», поскольку все больше государств – от Китая до Латинской Америки и стран АСЕАН – «тихо, но решительно отвергают западный мировой порядок». Такую точку зрения выразил профессор Чунъянского института финансовых исследований в Китае Ван Вэнь: «Ответ этих стран на гегемонию Запада не обязательно заключается в конфронтации, конфликте или настойчивости в системе сдержек и противовесов. Вместо этого они просто избавляются от западного контроля, все больше ставя во главу угла свои национальные интересы». (465 п. зн.)

38) The Guardian, 31/03/2023 – From Saturday, it will be Russia's turn to take up the monthly presidency of the 15-member UN security council. The US, Britain, France and their supporters on the council are likely to show their disapproval by downgrading the level of their representation at Russian-hosted events over the course of the month.

The Kremlin said on Friday that Russia plans to exercise all its rights on the council. (333 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 3/03/2023 – Лондон заявил, что Фолкленды принадлежат Великобритании.

"Фолклендские острова британские. Жители островов сделали выбор оставаться заморской территорией Соединенного Королевства с правом самоуправления", – написал глава МИД Великобритании Джеймс Клеверли на своей странице в Twitter, отвечая на твит своего аргентинского коллеги Сантьяго Кафьеро, объявившего ранее, что Аргентина денонсирует соглашение Форадори-Данкана, которое касается вопросов ведения административно-хозяйственной деятельности в районе островов. (460 п. зн.)

39) Associated Press, 2/04/2023 – An international arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin might undermine efforts to reach a peace deal in Ukraine, Daniel Krmaric, an associate professor of political science at Northwestern University, said in emailed comments to the AP.

One potential way of easing the way to peace talks could be for the UN Security Council to call on the International Criminal Court to suspend the Ukraine investigation for a year, which is allowed under Article 16 of the Rome Statute treaty.

"But that appears unlikely. The Western democracies would have to worry about public opinion costs if they made the morally questionable decision to trade justice for peace," Krmaric said, adding that Ukraine also is unlikely to support such a move. (618 п. зн.)

АИФ, 4/02/23 – По данным ООН, ежемесячно сотни граждан Гаити пытаются прорваться в Штаты на лодках, при этом большинство из них оказывается в руках пограничников и полиции. Количество желающих покинуть Гаити беспрецедентно выросло в последнее время в результате противостояний между полицией и вооруженными бандами, нередко принимающих черты гражданской войны.

Находящаяся по соседству с Гаити Доминиканская Республика максимально усилила охрану своих границ, однако гаитяне все чаще пытаются любыми способами выбраться из своей страны. (452 п. зн.)

40) Associated Press, 2/04/2023 – A general election in Finland was expected to result in a close finish by three political parties Sunday, with Prime Minister Sanna Marin’s Social Democrats fighting to secure a second term running the government.

Some 40 % of eligible voters cast their ballots in advance.

Marin remains popular at home but her party’s views on the Finnish economy were being challenged by two main opponents: the center-right National Coalition Party led by Petteri Orpo and the right-wing populist The Finns party, which is led by Riikka Purra. (443 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 03/01/2023 – Возвращение к «дипломатии саммитов» образца 2018-2019 годов в корейском урегулировании, когда Пхеньян совершал инициативные и безответные жесты доброй воли своим оппонентам, уже невозможно. Об этом заявил в интервью ТАСС замглавы МИД РФ Андрей Руденко.

Теперь, чтобы вернуться к конструктивной повестке, США и их союзникам необходимо, во-первых, «отказаться от идеи дальнейшего санкционно-силового давления на Северную Корею. Во-вторых, направить в КНДР сигнал о готовности к диалогу с конструктивной повесткой дня», – добавил Руденко. (464 п. зн.)

41) Associated Press, 2/04/2023 – A women-run radio station in Afghanistan’s northeast has been shut down for playing music during the holy month of Ramadan, a Taliban official said Saturday.

Moezuddin Ahmadi, the director for Information and Culture in Badakhshan province, said if this radio station accepts the policy of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and gives a guarantee that it will not repeat such a thing again, they will allow it to operate again.

Station head Najia Sorosh denied there was any violation, saying there was no need for the closure and called it a conspiracy. (462 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 22/03/2023 – Великобритания будет поставлять Украине снаряды с обедненным ураном. Такие снаряды обладают высокой эффективностью при поражении танков и бронетехники.

Поставка Великобританией на Украину снарядов, содержащих обедненный уран, не ведет к ядерной эскалации конфликта, считает министр иностранных дел Соединенного Королевства Джеймс Клеверли.

Решение Лондона поставлять Киеву боеприпасы с обедненным ураном приведет к серьезным последствиям для отношений с Москвой, заявили в МИД РФ. (420 п. зн.)

42) Bloomberg, 22/04/2023 – The Government has in practice completed its term, Mitsotakis said during a meeting with President Katerina Sakellaropoulou in Athens. “I have the pleasure to hand you the cabinet meeting’s decision according to which we recommend the dissolution of parliament and the holding of elections on May 21.”

The announcement was made when the Greek Parliament was already closed for the Orthodox Easter holidays, meaning that it will remain closed until the vote. (386 печ. зн.)

РИА, 21/04/2023 – Главный редактор «России сегодня» Маргарита Симоньян сообщила в Telegram-канале, что Twitter снял метку «СМИ, финансируемые государством» с нее и каналов медиагруппы. Осенью прошлого года владельцем Twitter стал американский предприниматель Илон Маск. Он обещал либерализовать редакционную политику, которую критиковали за жестокую цензуру. В апреле сервис снова начал выдавать в поиске аккаунты RT и Sputnik, а также российских государственных ведомств. (397 печ. зн.)

43) Associated Press, 31/03/2023 – Russia and the US clashed in the UN on Friday over Moscow’s plans to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus.

Ukraine’s UN Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya said it took only four days for Putin to violate a pledge he made to China’s President Xi Jinping in a joint statement at their recent meeting in Moscow. It declared that all nuclear states should refrain from deploying nuclear weapons outside their countries and withdraw those deployed abroad.

The same point was emphasized by the US and Chinese deputy UN ambassadors, among others. (449 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 21/03/2023 – Российское посольство в американской столице отвергло обвинения в адрес РФ, содержащиеся в докладе Госдепартамента о ситуации с правами человека в мире.

"Категорически отвергаем обвинения в адрес нашей страны. Призываем американские власти прекратить использовать правозащитную тематику как повод для вмешательства в наши внутренние дела и работу российских компетентных органов. Россия последовательно идет демократическим путем, учитывая свой исторический опыт и традиции", — говорится в распространенном комментарии дипломатического представительства РФ. (490 п. зн.)

44) The Independent, 27/03/2023 – A number of Agatha Christie’s novels have been rewritten for modern sensitivities, with racist terms removed and passages of text amended.

The news comes weeks after books by Roald Dahl and Ian Fleming were similarly edited following sensitivity reviews.

Original passages have either been reworked or removed in new editions published by HarperCollins. These new editions were either already released in 2020 or are set to be released. (368 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 30/03/2023 – Главное из заявлений посла РФ в Великобритании Андрея Келина в интервью RTVI:

- Россия и Британия не находятся в состоянии войны, "сейчас не та ситуация", чтобы говорить о разрыве дипотношений;
- С Британией сейчас нет никакого политического диалога, Лондон разрушил всю архитектуру отношений с РФ;
- При нынешнем конфронтационном отношении Лондона нельзя представить возможность встречи лидеров или глав МИД России и Британии. (365 п. зн.)

45) The Independent, 6/09/2021 – A group of world leaders has warned that Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro and his allies may be plotting a military coup that could “endanger democracy in Brazil”.

In an open letter, some 150 parliamentarians, ministers, and ex-presidents from 26 countries sounded an alarm about a potential insurrection on 7 September, modeled after the “stop the steal” uprising at the US Capitol in January. It details the ways in which the world leaders claim Mr Bolsonaro has undermined democratic institutions in recent weeks. (436 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 24/03/2023 – Главные заявления постоянного представителя России при ЮНЕСКО Рината Аляутдинова в интервью агентству ТАСС:

- Обеспечить преемственность российской линии в организации и продвижении новых проектов является сейчас приоритетом;
- Западу и Украине не удалось заблокировать сотрудничество РФ с ЮНЕСКО, большинство делегаций выступают против этой деструктивной линии;
- Моральный долг ЮНЕСКО — выступить в защиту памяти борцов с нацизмом на фоне уничтожения мемориалов на Украине и в Восточной Европе. (429 п. зн.)

46) Mezha Media, 12/08/2022 – The English language can get a special status in Ukraine, at least after Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal's statement about such a possibility in June, the Ministry of Culture began to develop a corresponding draft law. This was announced by Rostyslav Karandeev, First Deputy Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine. Ukraine currently ranks only 40th out of 112 countries in the world ranking citizens' knowledge of the English language. The new status of the English language is supposed to solve this problem and emphasize Ukraine's strategic course toward EU membership. (492 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 21/02/2023 – 21 февраля отмечается Международный день родного языка. Ежегодно в этот день во многих странах проводятся акции, конференции и презентации, посвященные защите родного языка.

По данным Всероссийской переписи населения (Russian National Census), которая проходила в 2021 году, жители России считают родными более 170 языков. Самым многочисленным остается русский, на втором месте — татарский, на третьем — чеченский. По данным Института языкознания РАН, на сегодняшний день в России бытует 155 живых языков. (410 п. зн.)

47) The Wall Street Journal, 13/02/2023 – The European Union issued strict regulations for what qualifies as renewable hydrogen under its clean-energy transition plan in the coming years.

Governments around the world are looking to hydrogen to help replace fossil fuels in industrial processes and electricity generation. Current

supplies of hydrogen are largely produced from cracking open molecules of natural gas. The US, Europe and other countries are planning to invest hundreds of billions of dollars on factories which produce hydrogen by splitting open molecules of water. (458 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 2/03/2023 – Россия разрабатывает новый вид военных операций с применением ядерного потенциала для защиты от возможных атак со стороны США, сообщил журнал Минобороны РФ "Военная мысль".

В статье отмечается, что для достижения "самых решительных целей по разгрому агрессора" предполагается использование современных стратегических наступательных и оборонительных, ядерных и неядерных вооружений с учетом новейших военных технологий. (366 п. зн.)

48) Bloomberg, 20/04/2023 – The US Government knows that migration policy must take into account the forces driving migrants from their homes. Back in the day Nafta was sold, in part, as an economic stimulus designed to keep Mexicans in Mexico.

The US is even providing some money to help it along: last year it gave \$240 million to Guatemala, \$150 million to Honduras and \$108 million to El Salvador, to fund projects in health, education, economic development and the like. (371 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 2/03/2023 – Говорить о скором возобновлении диалога Москвы и Вашингтона по стратегической стабильности сейчас не приходится, заявил в интервью нашему агентству постоянный представитель РФ при международных организациях в Вене Михаил Ульянов.

"Вашингтон открыто декларирует цель нанесения "стратегического поражения" России и предпринимает многочисленные враждебные шаги, идущие в этом направлении. О каком диалоге может сейчас идти речь?" — сказал российский дипломат. (399 п. зн.)

49) Reuters, 02/05/2023 – The United States worked together to impose terrorism-related sanctions on two individuals linked to funding two Syria-based groups already sanctioned by the US and UN, the Treasury Department (Министерство финансов) said on Tuesday.

"As terrorist groups continue to seek access to the international financial system, collaboration with our partners increases our ability to more effectively disrupt these facilitation networks," the department said. (366 п. зн.)

ТАСС, 29/04/2023 – США и Европейский союз, не считаясь с нормами и традициями разных стран, используют информационно-коммуникационные технологии для агитации, провокации, пропаганды и распространения фейков. Об этом заявила Мария Захарова на Всемирной онлайн-конференции по многополярности.

Она также указала на невозможность существования единого центра по управлению информацией, "к созданию которого стремится некоторая часть элит на Западе". (375 п. зн.)

50) The Independent, 29/04/2023 – Scotland will be a key battleground in the next general election, Tory chairman Greg Hands said, adding that votes for the party north of the border could keep Sir Keir Starmer out of Downing Street.

With the Scottish National Part "weakened" amid the turmoil of the police investigation into its finance, Mr Hands said there is an opportunity for the Conservatives to gain seats in the next UK election, which is likely to be held next year. (366 печ. зн.)

Russia Today, 24/04/2023 – На данный момент вступление Украины в НАТО не обсуждается в альянсе, заявил министр обороны Германии Борис Писториус.

«Германия никогда не была критически настроена касательно вопроса вступления Украины в НАТО, мы лишь заявили о том, что сейчас не время вести дискуссии об этом», – приводит ТАСС слова Писториуса.

По его словам, данную позицию разделяют все страны альянса.

Он отметил, что до вступления Украины в НАТО необходимо «пройти определённый путь». (390 п. зн.)

51) Bloomberg, 21/04/2023 – Deadly conflict in Sudan is prompting a surge in refugees to neighboring countries, the United Nations warned, as pressure mounts on warring parties to observe a cease-fire.

In recent days, between 10,000 and 20,000 people have fled the Darfur region to neighboring Chad, according to UN estimates, and concern is growing that scores more may flee the capital.

There will be a massive refugee population that's created out of this if the fighting continues. (384 п. зн.)

РИА, 26/04/2023 – Намерение президента США Джо Байдена переизбраться в следующем году показывает, что американская политика заострена и свидетельствует об упадке глобального могущества США, пишет китайская государственная газета Global Times.

Как говорится в публикации Global Times, возможное повторение соперничества Байдена и Трампа в ситуации, когда оба политика сталкиваются с критикой, демонстрирует неспособность решать проблемы, стоящие перед страной, и свидетельствует о ее упадке. (416 печ. зн.)

52) Bloomberg, 24/03/2023 – The American public remains divided on whether TikTok is just a place to watch goofy teens dance and lip-synch to pop music, or a portal through which Beijing might touch the lives of 150 million-plus users. The latter concern is underscored by the fact that Chinese laws give the Government power to request data from Internet companies on demand, if deemed in the interests of national security.

That's why TikTok has become a touchstone for escalating US-Chinese tensions. (398 печ. зн.)

Russia Today, 25/04/2023 – Ни для кого не секрет, что Россия выступает за ооноцентричный мир. За мир, где действует международное право и где ООН как глобальная организация является не только форумом для решения ряда вопросов, но и эффективной структурой, поддерживающей международный порядок.

Министр иностранных дел России Сергей Лавров поддержал идею переноса штаб-квартиры ООН из Нью-Йорка в другое место.

Это должно быть стабильное государство. Это государство не должно иметь серьезных проблем с соседями, а в идеале быть нейтральным. (441 п. зн.)

53) Associated Press, 26/04/2023 - Russia's top diplomat warned Tuesday that the European Union "is becoming militarized at a record rate" and aggressive in its goal of containing Russia.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a news conference he has no doubts that there is now "very little difference" between the EU and NATO.

Lavrov said they recently signed a declaration, which he said essentially states that the 31-member NATO military alliance will ensure the security of the 27-member EU political and economic organization. (419 п. зн.)

Rambler, 17/04/2023 – Бывший Помощник президента США по национальной безопасности Джон Болтон напомнил об идеях бывшего испанского Премьера Хосе Марии Аснара, призывавшего сделать НАТО «всемирным» альянсом. Болтон заявил, что Аснара был прав и в НАТО стоит пригласить Австралию, Израиль, Японию, а также другие страны, которые смогут следовать цели альянса по расходам на оборону.

На саммите НАТО, состоявшемся в 2014 году, члены альянса договорились о постепенном увеличении расходов на оборону до двух процентов от ВВП каждой страны в течение десяти лет. (458 печ. зн.)

54) Bloomberg, 25/04/2023 – Countries including China and Iran are deploying digital repression more frequently to target dissent both at home and beyond their borders, the top US intelligence official said, raising the alarm about the erosion of democratic norms worldwide.

Invasive spyware, disinformation and other technological tools pose a grave threat to US national security. Even worse, artificial intelligence can enable regimes to head off efforts to counter them. (381 печ. зн.)

РИА, 26/04/2023 – Вице-премьер Дмитрий Чернышенко поручил Минцифры России до 1 июня организовать общественное обсуждение проекта стратегии развития отрасли связи до 2035 года.

Разработка стратегии отрасли связи идет по поручению Президента России Владимира Путина. До конца мая проект должен быть представлен в Правительство России. Важно по каждому направлению определить показатели по достижению технологического суверенитета. (360 п. зн.)

55) Bloomberg, 24/04/2023 – Nineteen countries expressed an interest in joining the BRICS group of nations as it prepares to hold an annual summit in South Africa.

The emerging-markets bloc of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa will meet in Cape Town on June 2-3 to discuss its enlargement.

China initiated the conversation about expansion when it was BRICS chair last year, as the world's second-biggest economy tries to build diplomatic clout to counter the dominance of developed countries in the United Nations. (413 печ. зн.)

Russia Today, 22/04/2023 – Переговоры о вступлении Молдавии в Евросоюз могут занять годы, считает лидер правящей в республике партии «Действие и солидарность», председатель Парламента Игорь Гросу.

По его мнению, важно начать переговоры в 2023 году.

«Переговоры – это длительный процесс, который может занять годы, каждая страна устанавливает скорость, с которой она переходит от одной главы к другой. Для нас важно иметь этот старт», – сказал он в эфире TVR Moldova. (374 п. зн.)

56) Bloomberg, 25/04/2023 – President Joe Biden formally announced that he would seek reelection in 2024, readying a historic campaign against a Republican field dominated by his predecessor while economic uncertainty clouds his case for a second term.

Biden, 80, implored voters to let him “finish this job” he began when he took office and put aside any worries about his age. The president is on track to easily be renominated, but faces a tough general-election battle to remain in the White House with the nation as divided as ever. (424 п. зн.)

TACC, 25/04/2023 – Телеведущий Такер Карлсон прекратил сотрудничество с каналом Fox News.

Карлсон, принадлежащий к правому крылу Республиканской партии США, известен своей критикой действий американского правительства. Так, Карлсон заявлял, что администрация Джо Байдена нарушает американское законодательство и ведет необъявленную войну против России в рамках украинского конфликта.

Ведущий также отмечал, что Байден и его администрация намеренно затягивают конфликт на Украине, чтобы поднять цены на энергоносители и получить от этого выгоду. (459 п. зн.)

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ 1

ВЫДЕРЖКА ИЗ ПРОГРАММЫ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЙ ИТОГОВОЙ АТТЕСТАЦИИ

4. Содержание государственного экзамена

4.1. Перечень вопросов, выносимых на государственный экзамен по иностранному языку

1. Устное реферативное изложение на английском языке аутентичного текста общепрофессиональной направленности. Беседа по тексту. Объем текста 3500-4000 п. зн. Время на подготовку – 40 минут.

2. Устно-зрительный перевод с листа двух текстов по профессиональной тематике с английского языка на русский, и с русского языка на английский. Объем каждого фрагмента примерно 350-400 п. зн. Время на подготовку – 3 минуты.

3. Высказывание на английском языке на предложенную профессиональную тему и беседа по ее содержанию с экзаменационной комиссией.

Критерии оценки результатов ответов на государственном экзамене

Критерии оценки реферирования текста

В реферировании на английском языке оценивается эффективность передачи студентом содержания и информации исходного текста на английском языке с определенной заданием структурой и объемом реферативного изложения.

Ошибкой в реферировании считается искаженная или неправильно переданная информация, грубые нарушения норм английского языка, повлекшие за собой нарушение коммуникации.

При оценивании реферирования учитываются грамматические, лексические, стилистические ошибки, а также нарушение структуры и правил реферирования первичных текстов при создании вторичных текстов.

Параметры	Снижение баллов
Содержание (max. 45 %)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - исходный текст на английском языке не полностью понят – 20 % - тезис(-ы) не соответствует теме, аргументы не в полной мере соответствуют тезису и/ или отсутствуют конкретные факты и примеры, подкрепляющие аргументы – 10 % - нарушение логики (необоснованные аналогии / обобщения) – 10 % - неадекватный ответ на вопрос собеседника по теме реферируемого текста – 5 %
Лексика / грамматика (max. 35 %)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - используемая лексика не соответствует этапу обучения – 10 % - неадекватная лексическая сочетаемость – 10 % - допускаются грубые грамматические ошибки – 10 % - отсутствие адекватных средств связи при аргументации – 5 %
Форма и структура высказывания (max. 20 %)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - отсутствие четкой структуры высказывания (вступление, основная часть, заключение) – 10 % - несоблюдение официального стиля речи – 5 % - произношение, затрудняющее понимание – 5 %

Оценка	Требования к реферированию текста
Отлично	90–100 %
Хорошо	80–89 %
Удовлетворительно	60–79 %
Неудовлетворительно	< 60 %

Критерии оценки устно-зрительного перевода с листа

Оценка	Требования к переводу
Отлично	<p>Смысловое содержание текста – полностью адекватный перевод, в котором точно и полно передано более 90 % информации исходного текста. Допустим пропуск 1-2 слов, не ведущий к потере смысла.</p> <p>Языковое оформление текста перевода – перевод не содержит нарушений правил языкового оформления текста или содержит 1-2 незначительные стилистические ошибки.</p> <p>Темп перевода – перевод выполнен в хорошем темпе, без пауз.</p>
Хорошо	<p>Смысловое содержание текста – полностью адекватный перевод, правильно, точно и полно передающий основную информацию исходного текста. Перевод не содержит искажений, но может содержать не более 2-4 неточностей при отсутствии прочих ошибок. Допустим пропуск 2-3 слов, не ведущий к потере смысла.</p> <p>Языковое оформление текста перевода – допускается не более 3-5 стилистических ошибок.</p> <p>Темп перевода - перевод выполнен в хорошем темпе, допускается небольшое количество непродолжительных пауз, не затрудняющих восприятие.</p>
Удовлетворительно	<p>Смысловое содержание текста – в целом адекватный перевод, в котором сохраняется не менее 60 % информации исходного текста. Допускается не больше 2 искажений или 4-6 неточностей при отсутствии прочих ошибок. Пропущено более 3 слов без существенной потери смысла.</p> <p>Языковое оформление текста перевода - перевод содержит не более 5 стилистических ошибок.</p> <p>Темп перевода несколько замедленный, содержит некоторое количество непродолжительных пауз, вызывает некоторое напряжение у слушающего.</p>

<p>Неудовлетворительно</p>	<p>Смысловое содержание текста – неадекватный перевод, содержащий менее 60 % исходного текста. Перевод содержит 3 и более искажений или более 6 неточностей.</p> <p>Языковое оформление текста перевода – перевод содержит более 6 случаев грубого нарушения правил языкового оформления высказывания на языке перевода.</p> <p>Темп перевода замедленный, содержит большое количество пауз, вызывает сильное напряжение у слушающего.</p>
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ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ 2

РЕКОМЕНДАЦИИ ПО РЕФЕРИРОВАНИЮ ТЕКСТОВ НА АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

В ходе реферирования всегда выполняются две задачи:

1) выделение основного и главного и отсеивание второстепенного и несущественного и 2) перефразирования главной мысли в краткую форму речевого произведения.

При реферировании текстов на английском языке существуют определенные особенности способа изложения материала и использования лексики и грамматических конструкций.

Рекомендуется придерживаться следующей последовательности действий:

1. Внимательно **прочитайте текст** несколько раз.
2. Определите **основную тему** текста, подчеркните предложения, которые ее выражают.
3. **Проанализируйте каждый абзац**, сформулируйте его основную мысль. Если идеи повторяются, объедините их.
4. Начните писать реферат, указав **название текста, автора, источник** и дату публикации.
5. Сформулируйте **предложение, отражающее основную проблему** текста. Придерживайтесь правила «от общего к частному».
6. Составляйте **простые предложения**, которые способствуют быстрому восприятию содержания. Для характеристики различных процессов могут быть использованы причастные обороты.
7. **Избегайте цитирования** автора, использования **прямой речи**.
8. **Перефразируйте**, изменяя утверждения с помощью **синонимов, антонимов, толкования** или **изменения грамматической структуры** предложения, при этом смысл утверждения не должен меняться.
9. Можно использовать слова, фразы или примеры из текста, только если Вы находите их важными.
10. **Избегайте повторений**, придерживайтесь сути.
11. Используйте различные **связующие слова** (*linkers*), чтобы логично переходить от одной идеи к другой.

12. **Опускайте ненужные детали**, например, перечисления, примеры и т.п., если они второстепенны. Цифровые данные можно представить более обобщенно, например, 2 %= a very small proportion of; 20 %= a fifth; 24 %= almost a quarter; 25 %= a quarter; 49 %= just under a half; 51 %= just over a half; 55 %–65 %= more than a half; 73 %= nearly three quarters; 76 %= just over three-quarters.

Особое внимание следует уделить отработке специальных клише, характерных для жанра реферата:

1. Общая характеристика статьи:

The text/ article under summarizing/ consideration is intended / aims to describe (explain/ examine/ survey) ...

The present text ... goes /inquiries into/ focuses on / deals with ...

The text is devoted to/ concerned with

This paper aims at...

2. Задачи, поставленные автором:

The author outlines (points out, reviews, analyses)...

The author begins /continues/ argues / states/ maintains / claims / mentions / believes /concludes that

Special attention is paid/ given to

Some factors are taken into consideration/ account

A brief account of ... is given.

The author refers to ... / Reference is made to

The author gives a review of ... / A review of ... is given.

It is observed/ reported/ known/ demonstrated that

It appears/ seems/ proves that

It should be noted/ mentioned

3. Подведение итогов, выводов:

(если текст носит аналитический характер, и автор четко делает вывод)

The paper summarizes ..., At the end of the article the author sums up...

(если текст является новостным) *The final part/ paragraph says / reminds the reader...*

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ 3

НЕКОТОРЫЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ ПЕРЕВОДА С АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА НА РУССКИЙ И С РУССКОГО НА АНГЛИЙСКИЙ

Моноремы несут новую информацию и обычно встречаются в начальных фразах текста/ абзаца, где высказываются мысли, о которых ранее читатель или слушатель не знал. Ярким примером являются новостные тексты. Первое предложение такого типа текстов, как правило, является моноремой: «Вчера состоялась конференция», «Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in as Israel's new prime minister on Thursday» и т. п.

Моноремы могут быть и посреди повествования, как бы привлекая внимание на что-то более важное или новое. В этом отношении характерно английское предложение комбинированного типа, использующее два времени, например, *Past Simple* и *Past Continuous*:

- We were running trials when **an urgent message** came from the head office. – Мы проводили испытания, когда из штаба пришло **срочное сообщение**.

В середине абзаца монорема выделяется пунктуационно, перед ней ставится запятая, отделяя ее от предыдущей части высказывания:

- Nevertheless, **a hope for peace** remained. — Тем не менее, оставалась хоть **какая-то надежда на мир**.

Английские моноремы могут встречаться не только по одной, но и целыми группами.

При передаче английской моноремы на русский язык подлежащее сохраняется, меняется лишь его место в предложении. В русском высказывании используется обратный порядок слов, при котором рема, а с ней и подлежащее, перемещаются в конечную позицию.

- In 1990, **the Advisory Center for Education** was established. – В 1990 году был образован **Консультативный совет по вопросам образования**.

При переводе с русского языка на английский так же следует помнить об актуальном членении русского предложения и жестком

«формальном» членении английского предложения, где порядок следования его членов определяется правилами синтаксиса – подлежащее, сказуемое, обстоятельства следуют за сказуемым, причем обстоятельство места предшествует обстоятельству времени:

• В Бразилии 1 января прошла инаугурация президента страны Луиса Инасиу Лулы да Силвы. – President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva was inaugurated in Brazil on 1 January.

Существует ряд особенностей и при переводе дирем – высказываний, в которых «тема» или «старая/ известная» информация связана с повествованием в предыдущей части текста и непосредственно из него вытекает. В отличие от моноремы, схема строения диремы в английском языке такая же, как в русском:

• Глава МИД РФ также выразил готовность «к поддержанию высокой динамики взаимодействия между внешнеполитическими ведомствами стран». – The Russian Foreign Minister also expressed his readiness “to maintain high dynamics of cooperation between the countries’ foreign ministries”.

Приемы грамматических и лексических замен, замена членов предложения могут помочь при переводе с английского языка на русский, например, можно превратить начинающее предложение дополнение или обстоятельство в подлежащее:

• Морозова поддерживает представитель президента. – Morozov enjoys the support of the President’s envoy.

Можно найти тематическое подлежащее, т. е. «ввести» исполнителя действия:

• В 30-х годах началась подготовка к строительству гидростанции под Самарой. – In the 30s the Soviet Union launched preparations for the building of a hydro-power project near Samara.

Так же эффективно использовать способы перевода через обстоятельственный оборот *there is/ are*, например:

• Проводился регулярный обмен правительственными делегациями. – There was a regular exchange of government delegations, или начать с номинального подлежащего *It*:

• Укоренились связи в области культуры. – It has become standard practice to maintain cultural ties.

Особенностью английского языка является то, что субъект действия (подлежащее) в предложении выражается неодушевленным существительным значительно чаще, чем в русском. Так, например, согласно норме русского языка невозможно, чтобы "утро/ вечер/ месяц/ год" "увидел перемены", или чтобы "организация", например, "киностудия/ гостиница" "полагала" и т. п. Для английского же языка такие сочетания являются нормой. Поэтому, во избежание нарушения нормы русского языка при переводе с английского приходится прибегать к различным приемам: добавлению, грамматическим и лексическим заменам, приему замены членов предложения.

Так, английскую фразу *The chips can control blood stream ...* не следует переводить как «Данные микросхемы могут контролировать кровотоков...», а лучше дать такой перевод: «Благодаря данным микросхемам можно контролировать...» или «Данные микросхемы позволяют контролировать...», т. е. с помощью приема добавления («позволяют», «благодаря») необходимо снять с неодушевленного существительного функцию деятеля.

Сталкиваясь с таким явлением, необходимо определить те обстоятельственные отношения, которые присутствуют в предложении между неодушевленным подлежащим и сказуемым. Наиболее часто здесь присутствуют обстоятельства причины, времени или места. Например:

• Unexpectedly mild **weather has made** November gardening a greater pleasure than usual. — **Благодаря** необычно теплой **погоде**, установившейся в ноябре, работа в садах стала более приятным делом, чем обычно в это время.

Перевод «...погода сделала ...» неприемлем. Учитывая наличие причинной связи, подлежащее английского предложения *weather* заменено обстоятельством причины «Благодаря... погоде», а дополнение, выраженное отглагольным существительным *gardening*, стало подлежащим «работа в садах».

• **Five days** of talking **produced** a 17-page communique. – **Через пять дней** переговоров было опубликовано коммюнике.

В русском языке «дни» не могут «создать» или «произвести» что-либо. При переводе необходимо учесть наличие в английском предложении между субъектом действия и самим действием обстоятельственных отношений времени. Поэтому подлежащее *five days* преобразовано в обстоятельство времени «через пять дней», подлежащим в русском переводе стало дополнение английского предложения *communique*, а активная форма глагола-сказуемого *produced* преобразована в страдательную («было опубликовано»).

ОПИСАНИЕ ФУНКЦИОНАЛЬНОСТИ ИЗДАНИЯ:

Интерфейс электронного издания (в формате pdf) можно условно разделить на 2 части.

Левая навигационная часть (закладки) включает в себя содержание книги с возможностью перехода к тексту соответствующей главы по левому щелчку компьютерной мыши.

Центральная часть отображает содержание текущего раздела. В тексте могут использоваться ссылки, позволяющие более подробно раскрыть содержание некоторых понятий.

МИНИМАЛЬНЫЕ СИСТЕМНЫЕ ТРЕБОВАНИЯ:

Минимальные системные требования: Celeron 1600 Mhz; 128 Мб RAM; Windows XP/7/8 и выше; 8x CDROM; разрешение экрана 1024×768 или выше; программа для просмотра pdf.

СВЕДЕНИЯ О ЛИЦАХ, ОСУЩЕСТВЛЯВШИХ ТЕХНИЧЕСКУЮ ОБРАБОТКУ И ПОДГОТОВКУ МАТЕРИАЛОВ:

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