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# LETTER FROM

The British orator and poet John Milton famously proclaimed that he preferred to reign in hell rather than to serve in heaven. There is the possibility that he was misquoted – the seventeenth century wasn't exactly the golden age of references.

We would prefer though, for Milton to have meant 'rain' in hell and 'surf' in heaven; a reminder of the inherent ambiguity of both language and foreign policy.

Just as vapour in the sky turns to drops of rain, a lessening of pressure and a loss of temperature can change the character of the most solid regimes. It can either loosen its grip, or increase both pressure and temperature until it vapourises. Once again, we'd prefer the first option over the last.

As the new team in charge for the magazine we, Aiysha and Josef, wanted to begin the year's issue with room for wider interpretation of matters. So what better way than utilising the advantage that ambiguity lends us – let it rain, or let me reign. Similar

# THE EDITORS

to wider interpretations, we have a vision for Utblick to become ambiguous in the most positive sense of the word: by reaching a wider audience, spanning from academia to the common man on the street.

As the first issue of this year, the span is very wide, ranging from the obscurity of North Korea getting probed by unconventional methods, to the cumulus clouds gathering above Uganda in anticipation of what will follow Museveni's exit.

Another reign of traditional stability is also currently changing character: in the United Kingdom, a looming secession of Scotland which would forever distort the image of Great Britain illustrated the crises found in all parts of Europe, where the regime of territorially bound nation states are increasingly blurred and dimmed.

We live in a globalised world where our roles as active citizens matter at all levels - whether national or international, we can make or break our societies. This is our effort at brining diverse issues to the forefront; ensuring active participation in order to maintain what Aristotle classified as the good society. For man is a political animal.

Now that we have reigned you in, hopefully having piqued your interest, quench your thirst by partaking in the latest issue of Utblick - hot off the press. We look forward to delivering insightful and thought provoking issues.

# WHO WILL STOP THE RAIN?

When the most extreme, unpreventable and disastrous things happen all available human forces are brought together; united to help. Everybody wants to reach out a strong supporting hand to aid the ones in need. Natural disasters such as typhoons or tsunamis are ingredients in everyday life for millions of people - both in developed, democratic countries and poor, less developed ones.

The reality is that some places are better prepared than others. This correlates with the region's leadership and economic power. Leadership makes the difference in what measures and policy plans come to force after a catastrophe.

Hurricane Sandy that hit New York City in 2012 with a wind speed of 51 meters per second (114 miles per hour) is a recent example. The mayors of the affected areas proved their force during the chaos that struck the North American East Coast\*. Evacuations and emergency plans were executed reducing the consequences of the so called "superstorm".

President Barack Obama also acted forcefully and promptly. Statements and recommendations were broadcast with Mr. President himself side-by-side with meteorological experts and Craig Fugate, the administrator of the F.E.M.A. (Federal Emergency Management Agency), in a low-profile bunker; control panels and satellite pictures of the hurricane's progress placed behind him. Barrack Obama was praised and was reelected for a second round in the White House shortly after Sandy struck.

\* <http://www.fema.gov/hurricane-sandy>

**“Leadership makes the difference in what measures and policy plans come to force after a catastrophe.”**

The forces of Mother Nature are difficult to predict and impossible to prevent. How hard will she strike? Where? And when? The cruel situations when less prepared countries are affected by her devastating effects are particularly upsetting.

In 2013 the Philippines was the center of attention when the typhoon Haiyan - also known as Yolanda - made four million people homeless and ended over five thousand human lives. More than three years earlier, Haiti was in a



Photo by US Embassy Jakarta

similar situation after an earthquake, measuring 7.0 on the Richter magnitude scale, hit.

What else is exposed in times of trouble and chaos except the lack of solid leadership? For example, crates and containers with supplies were piled high in the airports of Manila and Tacloban in the Philippines - but the supplies stayed there. The UN estimated that only a fifth of the population in Tacloban received support during the first week of the aftermath\*\* and the need of trucks was more than desperate.

Moreover, due to the lack of electricity, airplane after airplane set its wheels on the runway only during day-

\*\* <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/13/typhoon-tacloban-aid-effort-us-military-food-philippines>

\*\*\* [http://www.weather.com/news/  
weather-hurricanes/typhoon-haiyan-  
update-victims-aid-20131111](http://www.weather.com/news/weather-hurricanes/typhoon-haiyan-update-victims-aid-20131111)

time; country after country sent their collective effort of support; dollar after dollar was spent but little happened. In the middle of it all there are a great number of human beings in acute need. They have no homes; these blew away 48 hours ago. They are hungry; the grocery store took off in the same direction as their house. The lack of fresh water becomes critical. They are wounded and healthcare professionals have a hard time reaching the affected rural areas. Medical supplies are running low\*\*\*. The problem is crystal clear: Leadership.

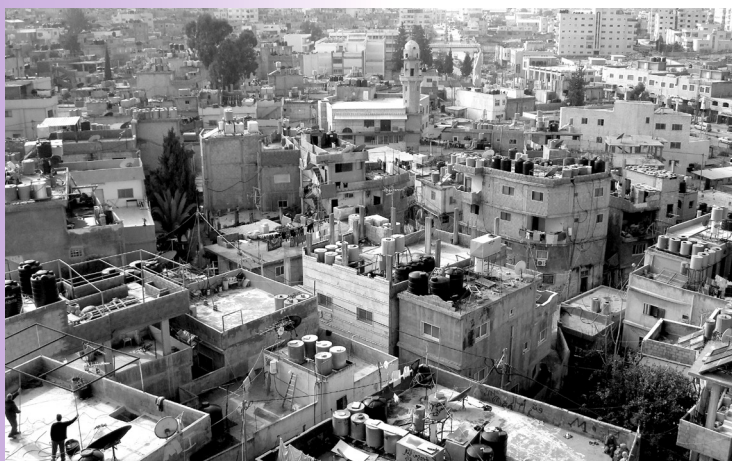
After the typhoon had passed, it took the President of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino III, more than two days to even react. His country was in shock and, very likely, so was he. As his government did nothing the people started looting in the remnants of their villages\*\*\*\*, struggling to find enough water and food to get by another day.

With climate change as an impending, potent threat and with an increasing number of natural disasters all over the planet, the need of strong leadership is crucial – particularly in the less-developed countries. Mother Nature will strike again. In regions with a leader worthy its name, many lives will be saved and material loss minimized. Without it the world will have yet another dismal war zone where people live by the law of the jungle.

\*\*\* [http://www.euronews.com/2013/11/12/  
philippines-supplies-looted-and-aid-convoys-mobbed](http://www.euronews.com/2013/11/12/philippines-supplies-looted-and-aid-convoys-mobbed)

# VATTENKRIG?

Barnen fyller färgglada plastpistoler med vatten och svalkar sig i sommarens hetta. Någon börjar gråta, en annan skratrar. En oskyldig lek under solen i mellanöstern. En lek som kräver tillgång till vatten. För att aktualisera vattnets betydelse för konflikt är här en skildring av 2011:s vattentillgång på olika ställen i Israel och Palestina.



Varje år växer husen. På höjden. Det byggs en våning till, sedan en till, hur skulle de annars få plats? Konstruktionen duger för tillfället men problemen kvarstår. Platsen kommer att falla ihop när husen rasar samman på de smala gatorna. Det kan inte undvikas. Deheishe flyktingläger är uppbyggt utanför Betlehem i Palestina. På hustaken står tank efter tank. En obekant syn som väcker förundran. De finns där för att samla vatten när regnet väl faller. För även om konflikter härjar, och rädslan finns för att den fattiga konstruktionen av hus ska få allt att falla ned, så är det bristen på rent vatten som barn och vuxna ser som det största problemet i läget.

I sekulariserade Haifa i Israel står istället vattenspridarna på högsta volym. På stadens konstverk, ett berg av prunkande blommor, smaragdgröna gräsmattor och exotiska palmer kan turister ta trapporna upp för att beskåda den vackra utsikten över hamnen. Att det skulle vara vattenbrist i regionen känns otänkbart, men bristen på vatten i Deheishe gör sig påmind



när en flaska vatten här går att köpa för endast fyra kronor.

Tillgången på vatten hanteras helt klart olika i olika områden i Israel och Palestina. I torra palestinska Jericho har människor, trots det vattenfattiga klimatet, lyckats leva i år-hundraden. 2011 har Jordens Vänner dock samlats för att visa upp "the spring", det vill säga, årets upplaga vatten i ursprungskällan till rent vatten i området. Källan skall försörja hela Jericho och samla hela periodens vatten. I vad som förväntas vara ett stort bäckutsprång ligger en pöl med en buske och en mindre palm, som glatt tar för sig av vattnet. Med en diameter på två meter och ett vattendjup som blottar stenarna över ytan, framkommer hur lite vatten som ligger till främsta grund för Jerichos hela vattenförsörjning.

Även öknar brukar vara allmänt kända för sitt torra klimat och på väg till det sjunkande döda havet syns bananodlingarna som på konstgjord väg kan odlas fram, just i öknen i Israel och Palestina. Bussen sveper bara förbi men man ser de stora gröna bladen som vattnas. En del av Israels produktion av bananer tycks finna fördelarna med att odla bananer på ett område där inga andra växter trivs.

Frågan om vatten. Jordens Vänner menar att konflikterna i området inte kan lösas om inte också frågan om tillgång till rent vatten även den löses. Vattnets problematik i Mellanöstern, och i synnerhet för konflikten mellan Israel och Palestina belyser ytterligare en aspekt på konflikterna i mellanöstern. Hur vattnet skall fördelas påverkar hur gränserna ska dras, hur vattnet skall användas och räcka till alla. Det gäller inte bara Israel och Palestina. Alla i regionen behöver tillgång till rent vatten.

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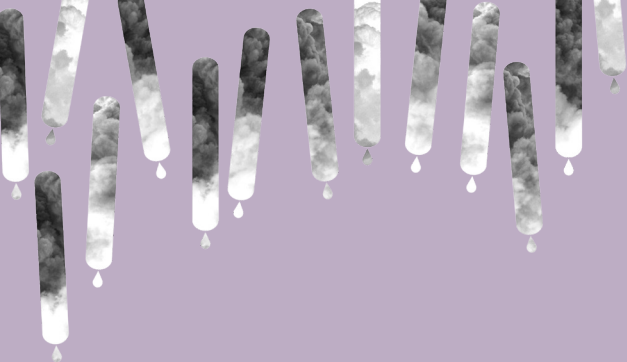
Barnen fyller på sina färgglada pistoler. I sommarens hetta kan väl inte en oskyldig lek skada? Ett hånfullt skratt kluckas. Någon träffas av det första skottet. Pistolens hårda stråle får barnet att gråta och ge igen. Det har börjat. Man hör det ropas "vattenkrig!"

### Tips

*Vem fan bryr sig?* Heter Nanny-Majas bok som förklarar hur varje liter Coca Cola kräver 9 liter rent lokalt vatten för att produceras i områden där bristen på vatten är ett faktum. Boken kostar 200 kr och tar upp världsliga problem på ett kortfattat, lättläst, provokativt och humoristiskt vis och beställs på mailen [nannymaja@nannymaja.se](mailto:nannymaja@nannymaja.se).







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Illustrations: Lise Søgård

# WEATHER FORECAST FOR NORTH KOREA: RAINCLOUDS OF HOPE

It is transparent, cylindrical, six meters long,  
floats through the air, and was until recently partly  
financed by the US government.  
What could it be?

The correct answer to the question is helium balloons destined for North Korea. In a creative operation led by “Fighters for a Free North Korea” (a South Korea-based civil society organization composed of northern defectors) and the American “Human Rights Foundation,” such balloons were launched last month. They were launched from a small border town just north of Seoul, to the country that ranks second lowest in the world for freedom of press.

Attached to the balloons were parcels containing tiny transistor radios, 1500 USB sticks with Wikipedia in Korean, DVDs detailing the North Korean regime’s human rights abuses, a thousand one-dollar bills and stacks of pro-democracy leaflets. The leaflets include cartoons ridiculing North Korea’s Supreme Leader Kim Jong-Un, which is perhaps why the regime doles out harsh punishments like the death penalty for anyone caught with such a leaflet. As soon as the balloons had floated far enough into North Korea, they burst open via a small timer so that the contents rained down over the countryside. All this was done in a desperate attempt to break through the information blockade of the Kim regime and encourage an uprising amongst ordinary North Koreans.

Although North Korea is still dubbed “the Hermit Kingdom” because of its isolation from the rest of the world, small improvements in media access have occurred in the past couple of years. Landline telephones have been around for a while, though senior government officials are usually the only ones allowed one. In 2008, a joint venture with an Egyptian telecom firm was set up and the first cellphones appeared in the country. Approximately 2 million subscribers are now registered, mostly in and around the capital Pyongyang. However, calls are so expensive that the phones often end up being used as a torch instead – convenient sources of light in a country frequently suffering from lengthy power cuts. The cellphones do not have access to the regular World Wide Web either, as there is only a very limited and strictly monitored domestic intranet in North Korea, run by the government. This system allows for a rudimentary e-mail service, national news perpetuating Kim Jong-Un’s personality cult, and a limited number of censored foreign websites. Radios and television sets are all distributed by the government and preset to receive only official broadcasts without any government criticism, nor any mention of the country’s political and economic

**“Smuggling (also punishable by death) has introduced cellphones that can make international calls by connecting to Chinese networks near the border. Similarly, contraband DVDs, MP3 Players, laptops and USB sticks are introducing South Korean drama series and international news.”**

problems. Re-wiring a radio or TV to gain access to foreign programs is strictly forbidden and punishable with heavy prison sentences.

Since the large-scale famine of the 1990s however, a thriving black market has been established to bypass these state-led products. Smuggling (also punishable by death) has introduced cellphones that can make international calls by connecting to Chinese networks near the border. Similarly, contraband DVDs, mp3 players, laptops and USB sticks are introducing South Korean drama series and international news. Crackdown by the regime on smuggling is intense, though. Last November, eighty people were reportedly executed in public, for the crime of watching Western movies.

It is within this context that a handful of South Korean civil society organizations work to provide their neighbors with rare updates from abroad. This has not gone unnoticed or uncriticized. In 2012, the South Korean police stopped a similar balloon launch out of concern for the safety of South Koreans living near the launch site. This fear stemmed from an official North Korean statement:

*We will never tolerate the foolish act of the puppet war-mongers but wipe out the provokers with merciless firing. We will deal a telling blow to make [the South Korean army] pay a very high price for its foolish provocation, as it is keen on staging psychological warfare against the North, in alignment with human scum.*

Such concerns about retaliation have decreased South Korean support for balloon actions. American funding has now largely been cut as well, even though the US government used to subsidize the launches. Some critics are also skeptical about the optimistic idea that North Koreans have sufficient access to computers to use the USB sticks and DVDs; others fear that ordinary people are so brainwashed by the Kim regime that they will not be able to believe the information they find.

Perhaps the most worrying possibility is the fact that North Koreans who innocently stumble upon such a leaflet, may be caught by the police and sent to one of the country's large prison camps. An estimated 200 000 North Korean "dissidents" are held captive there, often together with their entire family. According to Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, a yearly 10 000 people die in these camps. In worst case scenarios, North Koreans are sent to the even stricter "total control zones" for the rest of their lives, where they suffer torture, executions, starvation, forced labor, medical experimentation, rape and forced abortions.

While simple balloons may be a clever way to penetrate the world's most militarized society, it remains to be seen whether North Koreans will ever dare to use their new-found knowledge as long as they face such cruel consequences.



## REIGNING IN TIMES OF DECLINE

America... just a nation of two hundred million  
car salesmen with all the money we need to buy  
guns and no qualms about killing anybody else in the  
world who tries to make us uncomfortable."

– Hunter S. Thompson\*

\*It seems to require a  
madman to state such a  
claim as the one above.  
And yet, characteristically,  
the ambiguous nature of  
American do-no-wrong-  
ideology makes itself  
evident: Thompson alleg-  
edly was one of the most  
gun-loving people there  
ever was.

I once travelled alongside a bloke named Dave, a grizzly fellow who looked like an American settler taken right out of Moberg's novel. He said he was on a fishing trip around the globe; seeing the sights and catching fish from every ocean on the map. Me and Dave were hiking to Machu Picchu, and although I am still uncertain there is any fish to be found on that Peruvian mountain, Dave's poncho came in handy once the rain turned heavy. After we stood on the lookout and watched those famed ruins appear between the clouds, Dave turned to me and blurted out: "You know, I read about the Incas in history class, but this is something else. This is unique. But what I remember right now, most of all, is Bingham\*\*."

\*\* Hiram Bingham, American discoverer of Macchu Picchu in 1911.

I'm pretty sure that Dave was trying to be sarcastic: reading American history outplayed south of the Texan border meant learning the names of the significant discoverers and adventurers - the front-men of American exceptionalism - rather than contemplating the downfall of an Indian empire. If anything, most Americans I've known have had a great sense of humor.

But what's usually been the case for self-humored Americans in general - with a few exceptions - has been to offer self-criticism without self-doubt; the Americans that like to joke about their self-image, in my humble opinion, often fail to question one alleged certainty: the case for American uniqueness. Questioning the idea of America's Right to Might, the case for America's status as exemplar to a world of sorrowful nations and Corrector of Errors - directed at an American popular audience - has generally been associated with derailed derelicts such as the Hunter Thompsons of the day.

And yet, the pundits still feel the need - especially in times of crises - to propound the message into the Daves of the world, that America departs from other nations, in that it's an exception to the global rule. What is interesting is the insecurity, the fact that whenever President Obama supposedly fails to properly acknowledge this unique trait of Americanism, he is accused of being unpatriotic. Not even humor can save him from that. The posture of excellence therefore seems to be inherent in the American identity. If you're not excellent, you're not American enough. That could become problematic, once the tide starts to turn.

The turning of the tide is nothing new; similar to how many ordinary Americans responded to the Vietnam



debacle in the early 1970s, today the aftermath of two prolonged, costly wars, severe financial crises in contemporary times and indebtedness to China have temporarily turned the assertiveness of the United States down a notch. Although, this drizzle is beyond economics. There is a gradual change in the 'national identity', that some would say affects how the Last Emperor of states acts on the world stage.

One of the central pillars of the American identity used to be a strong, somewhat coherent Christian tradition grounded in organized churches. According to the Pew Research Center, young Americans in general still have their faith - they're just not that into the organizational format. Although it would still be almost inconceivable to imagine an American president to openly refuse his or her faith - religion is more often practiced outside of church.

Another gradual change in the national outlook is the re-emerging consciousness of class, or at least the acknowledgement of inequality. More specifically, young Americans nowadays are not so sure that the American Dream necessarily is for everyone, or even open to everyone.

Just as changing religious attitudes and admitting to be just as, or even less than equally opportunity-prone as other countries, Americans' attitudes to foreign policy is changing. There was no public beheading of Obama when the chicken-race for Syria ended up in a red-turned-grey line; interventionism is too costly to reflect American self-image as world police. Likewise, young Americans are more likely to oppose involvement overseas, suggesting tiredness of conventional war but also a critical stance on the use of drones and wiretapping.

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It constantly rained during our sojourn up on Macchu Picchu. On some occasions, it looked like it was going to clear, but it never did. The ruins were shrouded in fog, and as we began climbing down, Dave was as silent and tired as I was. We took the train back to Cuzco.

For more on the numbers, facts and trends in the United States and the world, check out the Pew Research Center on [pewsocialtrends.org](https://pewsocialtrends.org).

# THE RIP IN THE EMPIRE

This September, something remarkable is happening in Europe. As we in Sweden gingerly settle into post-election politics, the people of Scotland head to their polling stations on the 18th to answer one basic question: Should Scotland be an independent country? This simple idea sends a tidal wave crashing, testing the fabric of the United Kingdom and of the EU itself.

Why does the ruling regional party in Scotland, Scottish National Party (SNP), desire such a radical change and what potential consequences would secession bring to, not only Scotland and the UK, but Europe as a whole? Let us dig deeper.

After a quarrelsome history between the southern parts of the islands and Scotland, a union was at last established in 1707. Prior to this, Scotland had been a separate state for centuries. Even in modern times, very little nationalist feeling on behalf of Britain can be detected among the Scottish people. Not only historical grievances, cultural and linguistic schisms impede a full and harmonious merger, as has been the experience in for instance Wales, but also distinct political differences. Though Scotland enjoys some of the benefits of an independent state, for instance relatively independent legal and educational systems, the London-focused British government remains a thorn in the side. Westminster is remote to the Scottish not only geographically but politically as well. Scotland has consistently voted left-of-centre (Labour and Liberal Democratic parties) in, stark contrast to more conservative English politics. However, not all Scottish people are interested in seceding. Romantic notions of nationality are not appealing to everyone and critics point to the benefits of remaining in union with Scotland's biggest partner in trade. In polls, the ones in favour of remaining in a union are roughly 45 percent, 30 percent pro-independence and 25 percent undecided, which brings an element of excitement to the referendum.

Scottish independence in its current form is, despite the emotion it evokes, a rather modest affair. Keeping Crown and currency and a “social union” with the rest of the UK, the main changes in Scotland would be political and economic. It seems designed to be the least disruptive possible to both sides of Hadrian’s wall. What possible gripe could rump-UK have with it?

Having never formally abolished its empire, Britain retains a ghost of its lost glory as a super power in the form of the British Commonwealth. Though lingering control over Canada and Australia is negligible, the power England holds over the United Kingdoms remains a force to be reckoned with, despite devolutions in the 1990s. The UK has a lot to lose if Scotland secedes. Scotland is rich in natural resources such as oil and gas, mostly located in the North Sea, a contributing factor to the Financial Times’ evaluation that “Scotland has all the ingredients to be a viable nation state”. The pain of losing Scotland is not only economical, however. Prominent nationals such as Lord George Robertson warn it will bring a balkanisation of Europe, and mentions how a loss of land mass will weaken the UK, a disproportionately strong player on the international field.

One crucial factor for the success of a Scottish nation state in the event of a “yes” vote in the referendum, is the EU’s reaction. Unfortunately, the rules of secession and the EU are anything but clear-cut. If Scotland is instantly ejected from the Union and has to re-apply, the economic strain

Read more about the proposal for an independent Scotland in the White Paper on the

could prove dire, given how the fastest EU application process still took three years. On the other hand, if the country remains within the EU, Scotland could reap significant benefits from the EU's generous policies for rural areas. A worrying factor for Scotland's nationalists is that EU officials are less than enthused about secession. With many regions clamouring for independence, Basque country, Catalonia etc., it is a sensitive political issue in Europe. While the EU is on the one hand vehemently in favour of strong regions and decentralisation of power, it is also strongly against radical disruptive political action such as secession. Scotland, in contrast to the rest of the UK, is largely EU-positive. This might also have far-reaching consequences in a British referendum on whether they should stay in the EU, which will in turn impact all of Europe. Without the Scottish pro-EU vote, it is not unlikely that the UK will vote to leave. While losing one of its most restrictive and contrary member states might in the long run be a positive change for the development and progress of the EU, the immediate effects of a British defection will of course be disastrous, both politically and economically.

The Scottish people have an important decision to make in September, one that has possible implications on all of our lives. Will they stand up and demand the right to self-determination, or will they cower in the shadow of Westminster?

referendum published by the SNP: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/11/9348/0](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/11/9348/0)

# MUSEVENI: AN OVERSTAYED WELCOME?

Outside of Uganda Idi Amin is probably the statesman most closely associated with the country. Yet his bloody reign lasted for 9 years whereas the current president Yoweri Museveni has been in power for 28 of the 51 years of Ugandan independence. Combine this with one of the world's fastest growing populations, more than 70 percent of today's Ugandans have been born during his reign, and the extent of Museveni's impact starts to emerge.

The legacy of Mr. Museveni is yet to be determined, but to get an idea of what kind of Uganda he will leave behind, it is useful to first have a look at the Uganda he "inherited" back in '86.

Like so many other African nations, Uganda is not a historically united entity but was created out of fragmented tribal communities in 1894, when it was formally declared a British protectorate. Its borders were decided upon not with regard to tribal or geographical boundaries, but by the *spheres of influence* of the European colonial powers. This was a concept meant to stop "minor" territorial disputes in the colonies from spilling over to their continental homelands. This resulted in a Uganda comprising six kingdoms and a variety of peoples, social conditions and ways of life, with the central government as their only unifying influence.

Freed from the shackles of colonial rule, the diversity soon played out as civil war, pitting different peoples and regions against one another. The conflict was temporarily replaced by a different kind of terror as Idi Amin butchered tens of thousands of Ugandans in the 1970s. When the freedom fighter Yoweri Museveni at last took power, it was over a war-torn and traumatized country. In sharp contrast to the previous turmoil, a period of relative stability emerged, GDP growth averaged around 6 percent throughout the 90s and Museveni received widespread appraisal, celebrated as a new kind of democratic African leader. He acted decisively in countering an AIDS epidemic and perhaps reached his pinnacle as the new, highly regarded constitution was signed in 1995.

Since then however, the constitution has been changed several times to accommodate for Museveni's lengthy rule. Democratic institutions have eroded and corruption has festered, while virtually every major decision is taken by Mr Museveni himself. This has led to a culture of patronage and a drain of talent out of government. To further his grip on power, several of his fellow civil-war veterans have been

removed from top positions to be replaced by close relatives, such as his son.

Museveni remains quite popular with his people, still perhaps being favourably compared to what came before him. Nevertheless, today Uganda faces great challenges that urgently need to be addressed. The population still largely consists of country-dwelling self-subsistence farmers and land is getting scarce as it quickly increases. The land laws of Uganda still allow for unlimited land-ownership, something that has pushed prices upwards as land-grabbing foreign powers and wealthy individuals bid for fertile soil. Reforming these land laws to reinforce the smallholder's claim to land is urgent. In the long run however, the hope is for jobs to be created in the manufacturing sector, today virtually non-existent, to alleviate the countryside. The needed boost could be provided by oil deposits, found years ago in the north-west, but the inefficiency of Museveni's government has hindered exploitation so far.

The stability provided by Mr. Museveni continues to be a major asset for the country and is of course vital for further development. No one longs back to the chaotic post-liberation days, and in a troubled neighborhood, with unrest in DR Congo and a potentially lengthy civil war in South Sudan, the surrounding region will provide little help. However, stability alone will not translate into better lives for most Ugandans, especially when combined with corruption and bad governance. In addition, as Mr. Museveni gets older and it is not clear what will follow after him, concerns about power-struggles between different interest groups increase, and the treasured stability will swiftly erode. Mr. Museveni still has the opportunity to arrange an open and democratic transition, but time is running out.



### **Shortest American presidency:**

William H. Harrison (March 4th-April 4th, 1841) died upon serving just one month in office.

### **World's longest recorded drought:**

173 months (almost 15 years) in Arica, Chile, in 1903-1919.

### **Most rain ever recorded:**

186 cm, (72") in 1966 in La Reunion, an island situated east of Madagascar.

### **Longest standing monarch:**

Sobhuza II, a tribal chief, was king of Swaziland for 82 years (1899-1982), the longest verifiable reign of a monarch in recorded history. He allegedly had a thousand grandchildren by the time of his death.

### **Longest currently serving reign:**

The revered Bhumibol Adulyadej, the king of Thailand, is the longest living reigning monarch (67 years).

### **Longest non-royal reign:**

Fidel Castro served as First Secretary/Prime Minister/President of Cuba and ruled from 16 February 1959 to 19 April 2011, a total of 52 years.

PS Yoweri Museveni featured in this issue, records 28 years.

**"DET BÖRJADE  
MED FANELLI OCH  
SLUTADE MED  
FRANCO"**

Med Europas högsta arbetslöshet efter Grekland, social ojämlikhet och ökad misstro mot storfinanserna i åtanke, kan det vara relevant att titta tillbaka på Spaniens historia som anarkistiskt högfäste. Till den tidiga utvecklingen i spansk anarkistisk historia, hör Giuseppe Fanellis besök i Spanien 1868. Det var den ryske anarkisten Mikhail Bakunin som föreslog besöket för att söka medlemmar till den Första Internationalen. Fanelli var en napolitansk revolutionär anarkist som tidigare varit vapenbroder åt Giuseppe Garibaldi på Sicilien och polska anarkister under Januariupproret 1863.

Fanelli ordnade ett möte där han, trots att han inte pratade spanska, lyckades inspirera människor som var missnöjda med ojämlika villkor, kyrkan och staten, att starta en sektion till Första Internationalen i Madrid. Anarkistisk

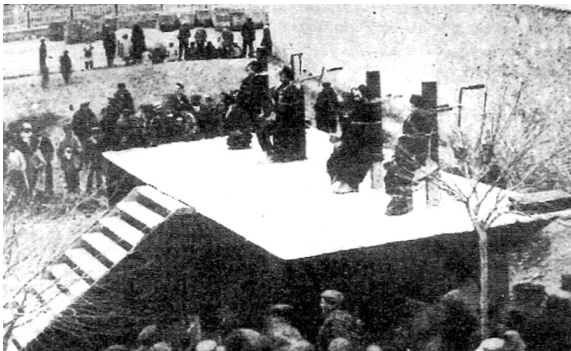
**"Förutom kollektiviseringar av jordbruk och industrier, där det till skillnad från i Sovjet ofta skedde med bönders och arbetares goda vilja, förde spanska revolutionen med sig förbättrade villkor för kvinnor med bland annat lagstadgad aborträtt som följd."**

filosofi och praktik spreds genom landet. I Barcelona och Katalonien, där arbetarrörelsen redan var stark, fick anarkistiska idéer ännu större genomslag. På många håll föll det sig naturligt då flertalet byar var "anarkistiska" till sin natur redan innan det anarkistiska idématerialet fick stor spridning.

Den anarkorevolutionära rörelsen växte sig starkare via möten, diskussioner, tal och publikationer. År 1870 hölls en kongress i Barcelona där arbetare och representanter från 150 arbetarorganisationer möttes. Därmed ändrade man namnet på den spanska sektionen av Första Internationalen till Spanska Regionala Federationen. I federationen fanns också icke-anarkister, och när socialister och liberaler inom federationen 1871 sökte omorganisera landet i fem övergripande handelsområden, såg många anarkister denna centralisering som kontrarevolutionär. Därefter följde ideologiska konflikter vilka utmynnade i att anarkister drev ut de "auktoritära" ur federationen. Spanska Federationen utvecklades efter schismer med tidigare vänsterallierade till en mer renodlad anarkistisk organisation med decentraliserad struktur.



Giuseppe Fanelli och spanska internationalister



Avrättning av arbetare efter uppror i Jerez de la Frontera

Längre fram, framförallt under 1930-talet under spanska revolutionen och spanska inbördeskriget, blev den anarkistiska rörelsen och bredare socialistiska rörelser framträdande i bland annat Katalonien, Aragonien, Andalusien och Spanska Levanten. I exemplet Katalonien tog arbetare kontroll över stora delar av företag och industrier. George Orwell, som i spanska inbördeskriget deltog på den republikanska sidan mot Francos nationalister, beskrev 1938 Barcelona så här (i boken "Hyllning till Katalonien"):

"Det var första gången någonsin som jag besökte en stad där arbetarklassen satt i sadeln. Praktiskt taget varje byggnad oavsett storlek hade blivit övertagen av arbetare och draperades med röda flaggor eller anarkisternas rödsvarta."

Orwell beskriver vidare hur till och med skoputsarna kollektiviserats och målat sina skoputsarhlådor i svart och rött och fortsätter: "Servitörer och butiksbiträden tittade en i ansikten och behandlade dig som sin jämlike."

Förutom kollektiviseringar av jordbruk och industrier, där det till skillnad från i Sovjet ofta skedde med bönders och arbetares goda vilja, förde spanska revolutionen med sig förbättrade villkor för kvinnor med bland annat lagstadgad aborträtt som följd. Kritiker hördes från flera sidor, bland annat från kommunistiskt håll där man menade att nationaliserade produktionsverksamheter var mer effektiva.

Spänningar och konfrontationer mellan olika politiska organisationer var återkommande under perioden men dödsstöten för anarkistiskt och socialistiskt styre kom slutligen när nationalisterna vann kriget och Francisco Franco utropades till diktator.

Kan dagens spänningar mellan samhällsskikten i Spanien någonsin frambringe liknande samhällsförändringar? Eller är den globala kapitalismen och dess starka aktörer för dominanta för att det skulle kunna ske? Med kanske världens starkaste anarkistiska tradition, där organisationer från spanska revolutionen lever kvar än idag, är det troligt att om det händer, så är det här det händer.



# UTBLICK RECOMMENDS

## Surely you must be joking Mr. Feynman!

By: Richard Feynman

Richard Feynman was somewhat of a superstar. Well, at least in the world of physics. If you have any interest in the sciences, you surely have heard of this man before. The initial impression one might assume upon finding out his profession (that of a physicist) is that he was obsessed with only physics. The Nobel laureate is probably one of the most diverse characters that the scientific world met – from playing the bongo drums\* to observing ants in his dorm room, he obsessed about many things.

The book not only reveals what occurred outside of academia, but gives us a most refreshing reminder of the importance of curiosity and constant questioning. The book in itself is a compilation of different anecdotes from Feynman's life, as told by the man himself. One of my favourites is the chapter where he finds out he's been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics; where the telephone call informing of the honour was found to be a nuisance to him as it interrupted his sleep. What follows is a complete freak-out over having to abide by custom and protocol as demanded by the traditions of the ceremony – such as not turning your back to the Swedish King.

As a reader you get to follow the odd obsessions, Feynman's unquenchable thirst for knowledge as well as take part in a part of history we thought to be so remote – the Manhattan Project. Realisations and epiphanies that one's work can truly affect the world at large, but at the core remains this unshakable thirst to know how our universe functions. This is a good starting point to get to know Feynman, the next step is most definitely Feynman Lectures – which allow us a peek into what it was like to be a student in his classroom.

\*[www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWabht9tUc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWabht9tUc)

Recommended by: Aiysha Varraich

## Africa is a Great Country Exhibition at Världskulturmuseét, 27/1–1/6 2014, Free admission

Jens Assur's recent photo exhibition seeks to challenge the way Africa is portrayed by contemporary media as a uniformly bleak disaster area. Assur shows pictures from various countries, outlining a diverse and evolving continent, mingled with short informative texts. The photographs throw the viewer from sprawling cityscapes in Johannesburg that would not look out of place in Hong Kong or New York, to lush Rwandan countryside. The most striking aspect of the exhibition, however, is not the fresh look on the African continent, but rather the empty, almost

Recommended by:  
Anja Johansson

deserted impression it gives. Vast patchworks of stacked shipping containers and unfinished apartment complexes are dotted with people, as if an afterthought, idly standing around. Africa is a Great Country does not portray a continent bursting with energy and change. Africa through Jens Assur's lens is evolving through the market forces of globalisation, removed from the agency of its inhabitants.

### Iran and The West – A documentary series about Iran and the Iranian Revolution



The Iranian Revolution led by Ruhollah Khomeini, also known as Ayatollah Khomeini, in 1979 changed the world. Documentary producer Norma Percy tells us the story about this notorious man who lived in exile for a long time before he returned; firstly to change Iran, make it a pariah state, and secondly the world.

In this documentary modern history is combined with parts where Percy leads us in the footprints of the leaders of the world and diplomats. Many situations displayed are early signs of elements found in today's political and diplomatic landscape. The Iranian Revolution gave Ayatollah Khomeini and Iran a so called "freedom from Western interference". However, included in an Iranian no-to-the-West is also a no to liberalism and secularism. Producer: Norma Percy, BBC 2009.

Recommended by: Mikael Boberg

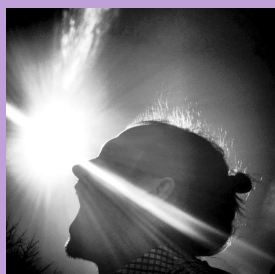


# MEET THE STAFF



Aiysha Varraich

A wandering soul – this is who I am, lived in four of the seven continents, Karachi, London, Washington DC, Calgary and Gothenburg. A law career couldn't bind me to London, so I returned to my childhood home – Gothenburg. This is where I had the courage to start anew, a political science direction. I research corruption on a full-time basis and I've ended up at Utblick by fluke: ranting on about my upset at the latest political developments in the US to my friend and colleague she directed me here. When I am not meeting friends, I paint, or entertain myself with observations of nature gained through my obsession with botany.



Mikael Boberg

Efter en tids runtfarande till diverse delar av planeten Tellus under sent nollnolltal och tidigt tiotal, valde jag att emigrera från en bästkust till en annan, från västra Gotland till västra Sverige.

Varför? För att studera till apotekare på Sahlgrenska Akademin. Och dessutom, utöver att få fördjupa mig inom biologin och kemins underbara värld, få vidareutveckla mitt intresse för Utriket – världen utanför hemlandets avlånghet – i en ickeakademisk regi.

Med ena foten i naturvetenskapen och den andra i samhällsvetenskapen hoppas jag kunna klampa runt, som en nyfiken elefant i en porslinsbutik och skapa någon form av tankeverksamhet. Vidare får jag förhoppningsvis via Utblick illustrera hur jag ämnar sprida information och väcka intresse.



Eva Corijn

Though I'm originally from Gent, Belgium (the Lonely Planet's "best European city you have never thought of visiting, in a country that continues to be criminally overlooked"), I grew up in Indonesia, where I acquired my first taste of distant shores. This restlessness has led me to studying in Thailand, getting a degree in Japanology, and now continuing as an International Relations student here in Gothenburg.

When I think about international relations, I do not only refer to Obama's policies, revolutions in the Middle East or tensions in the South China Sea. I also marvel at the diverse and interesting wanderers I've had the pleasure to meet while travelling, people who continue to be an enrichment in my life. Together with them, I have danced hand in hand with a hundred thousand Japanese in the neon-lit streets of a small town on Honshū. We have gone swimming in a misty jungle river during a rainstorm in southern Asia. We have stayed up all night under the midsummer sun, barbecuing on rocky islands off the Norwegian coast.

For me, this is what international relations are all about – a passport to the world.



## Utblick

### The Society of International Affairs' own Journal



Utrikespolitiska  
förbundet  
Göteborg

I think we are a lot of Swedish people that have already started to use the term *super election year* in an almost exclusively sarcastic manner. Referring to the rare incidence in Sweden of the national elections and the European parliament elections occurring during the same year, a sarcastic use of this media-invented term reflects dissatisfaction with a political climate that only has space for discussion of a limited number of issues. While I sometimes share this dissatisfaction, I still look at the upcoming political year as a source of opportunity rather than a source of disillusionment.

It's for this reason that I'm pleased to observe all the planning that the different committees in The Society of International Affairs are doing to put the international issues in the spotlight during this special year. Among many things, during the spring we will present a series of events giving you new insights before the European elections - including lectures and debates with some really well known profiles. Make sure to regularly check our website [ufgbg.se](http://ufgbg.se) for all the latest information about events or how to get involved. You can also stay updated about us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. And why not subscribe to our weekly newsletter? All our events are the result of the work our members volunteer for us, which means we are always looking for new people to get involved in our committees. If you've been thinking about getting involved, don't hesitate to get in touch with the head of the committee that interests you and they will tell you about their upcoming projects. And to tie this together with the initial discussion, it's really uplifting to see that we are already so many working to put the scarcely discussed issues of international affairs higher on the political agenda.

**Adam Josefsson**  
**President**

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The Society of International Affairs Gothenburg is a non-governmental organization with the ambition to spread knowledge and spark discussion about foreign policy issues. We organize lectures and trips, host movie screenings and publish the magazine Utblick. A one-year membership is 50 sek and everyone can join.

