

GLOBAL.

NEWSLETTER

OUR WORLD IS COMPLICATED. YOUR NEWS SHOUDL'NT BE.

We are all just chess pieces in a never-ending game....





Nº7.

This week on GLOBAL. we look at the careful manipulations of land, truth, humanity, and freedom. The ways in which regimes and companies manipulate the reality of projects or nation-building can often lead to false promises and flat out lies. Our world is ever growing, but by taking a look at the way we handled disaster and manipulations of the past, can teach us to stop them for the future.

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HISTORY.

GLOBAL.

THERANOS.



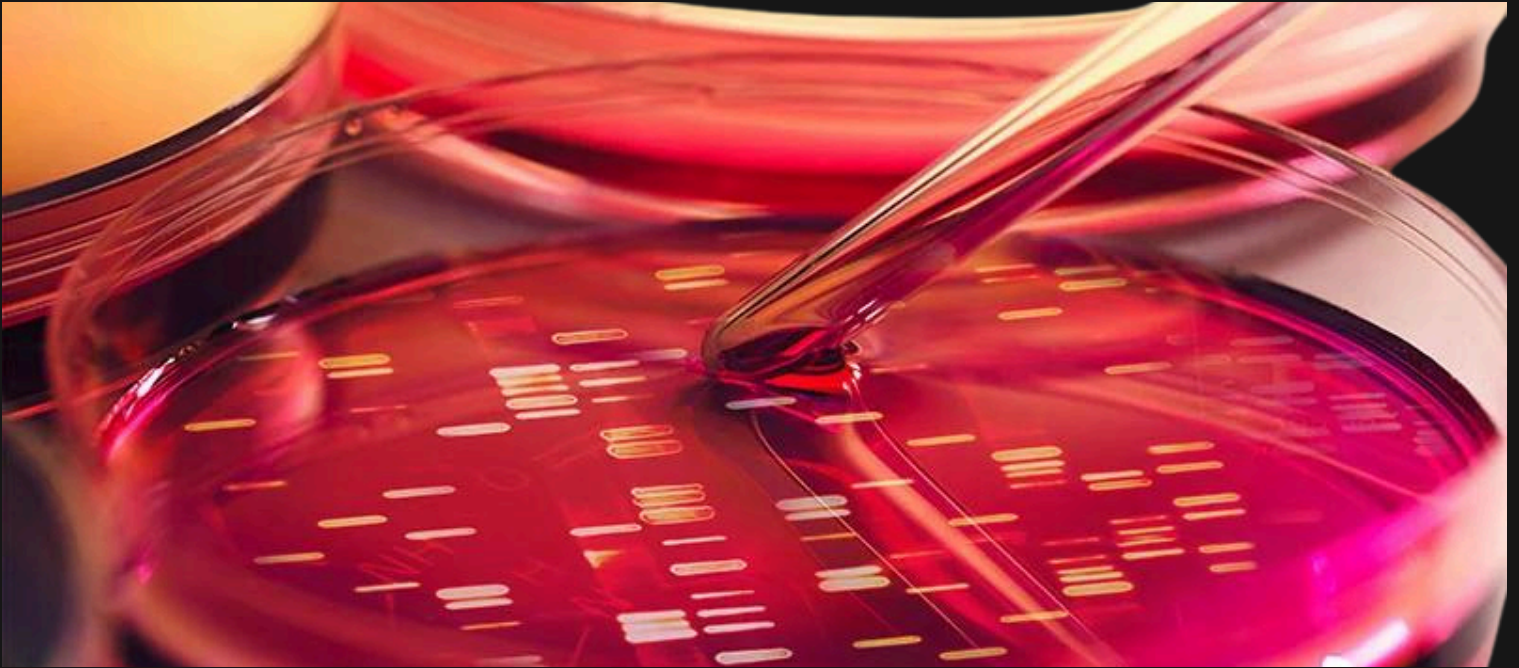
THERANOS.

GLOBAL INNOVATION TEAM



Modern tech companies are constantly driven to discover new technologies for profit and innovation globally. This process can breed innovation and drive humanity forward. However, more often than not, in the 21st century, it can create disasters that affect generations. When the Theranos startup emerged in the early 2010s, it was heralded as a groundbreaking solution that could potentially save thousands of lives by detecting illnesses in advance. This technology, initially promising, would later be marred in controversy and mystery, resulting in the loss of millions of dollars, jobs, and confidence in the tech side of medicine.

"For most of its existence, the now-defunct biotech startup Theranos operated in so-called "stealth mode" – disclosing little about the science behind its blood-testing device while boldly claiming that it could deliver faster, more convenient, and cheaper diagnostic tests to millions of people anxious to know if they had diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease, or scores of other conditions." (PEW, 2022). It's a claim that would rock the world of medicine and testing care. There is no need for intravenous needles, the possibility of finding out about life-threatening illnesses early, and a brand new women-led company. Elizabeth Holmes seemed to have killed Quest Diagnostics and LabCorp. Her company was valued in the billions and had a board with names like Murdoch and Kissinger. She had partnered with Walgreens and had even been named one of history's most inspirational women by Forbes. Holmes had the world on her fingers (CNN, 2022).



In reality, her company was a fraud. Holmes and Balwani had driven the company to be an aggressive workplace of secrets and lies. "In truth, Theranos' testing devices didn't work as advertised, a fact the company managed to conceal from investors, regulators, and customers for years until whistleblowers and a journalist exposed the firm's misconduct." (Pew, 2022). By 2015, Theranos appeared high, gaining FDA approval to test Herpes on the nanotamer Edison machine. However, behind the scenes, the company was consuming funds at an alarming rate, the Wall Street Journal was investigating it for fraudulent behavior, and Safeway dropped its partnership with Theranos. It was the beginning of the end for the Silicon Valley startup. While Holmes believed she could pull the company forward, like Steve Jobs, she was living in a fantasy world. In the coming years, Theranos would fall into disrepair. Balwani stepped down, CMS banned Holmes, Walgreens left the partnership, the FDA removed approvals, and almost all investors and partner companies sued Theranos. By 2018, Theranos had died, and Holmes and Balwani would see prison in the coming years.

The Theranos saga is a cautionary tale of misplaced trust, faulty federal approvals and investigations, tech freedoms, corporate espionage, and massive fraud. While Holmes may have initially harbored an altruistic idea to save millions of people, her plan to revolutionize the world of healthcare ended in tragic lies and a damaging stigma against women in the tech industry. The fallout from this scandal has been profound, triggering a global shift in the way tech companies are perceived. They are now under closer scrutiny, investors are more circumspect, and, most significantly, medical startups are now compelled to substantiate their technological claims. With Tiktok, Meta, and Amazon under growing scrutiny, it's become clear tech companies are no longer above the law.

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GLOBAL. CONNECT.



TECH.

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CUBA'S COMMUNISM.



CUBA'S COMMUNISM

GLOBAL POLITICS TEAM

For over half a century, Cuba has stood as a testament to the endurance of an authoritarian regime. It weathered the collapse of the Soviet Union and the global demise of communism, remaining a country both isolated and bolstered by a small group of like-minded nations. This resilience persisted despite a harsh American embargo, political isolation, authoritarian threats to its people, limited modern freedoms, food insecurity, and a significant population outflow. Cuba's regime, a unique anomaly in the world, is now viewed as one of the few remaining echoes of the traditional Soviet style of governance.

Throughout much of the 20th century, Cuba was a piece in the game between the Soviet Union and the USA for domination of the world's resources. Cuba would fight in foreign wars for communism in Africa, the Middle East, and even in Europe. It would support dictatorships and even allow for nukes to be held within its borders. It threatened Latin America with its confident support from the Soviet Union as well. However, after 1991, the proud communist state looked at a world distancing itself from communism and the Soviet style of rule (CFR, 2023). As nations like China and Vietnam became increasingly capitalist, and as North Korea became isolationist, Cuba was surrounded by capitalist states that either didn't want it to exist or did not care for it. Today, Cuba's situation is testing this resilience. "Cuba's centrally planned economy has been mired by stagnation for decades. However, over the past five years, the pillars propping up the island's already feeble economy collapsed one by one, sending it into a tailspin. First, Venezuela's socialist autocracy, which had lavished cheap oil on Cuba, saw oil output diminish under that regime's mismanagement, thus cutting down on Cuba's energy supply. Next, conservative and right-wing governments, such as those of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and Colombian President Iván Duque, won office across Latin America and ended exploitative arrangements under which Cuba sent medics abroad and garnered most of their wages. And in the United States, the Donald Trump administration tightened sanctions in place for decades and cut off remittances to the island." (CFR, 2023).

The World Food Program says Cuba is experiencing early onset famine caused by shortages in vital products such as milk, and as inflation hits 46%, mass economic woes (WFP, 2024). As resistance to the regime grows, so does its inability to fight back; much of Cuba's regime is currently experiencing declining support as the freedom of the press and speech continues to be suppressed (France24, 2024). Cuba is in a dire situation.

However, the new president is seeking to change all of this. Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez has shown a drive to change economic woes in the nation and bring it into the 21st century. However, recent putdowns of protesters, poor functioning of the government, and a dysfunctional social welfare system have meant his presidency has been marred by economic and political weakness. Due to lackluster support from Venezuela, China, and Vietnam, Cuba is once again isolated by a USA that is tightening its grip on the island nation (CFR, The New Yorker, 2023). The future of Cuba remains in doubt as growing instability shows signs of a shorter future for the once-stable communist dictatorship in Havana.



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ECONOMICS.

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A HYDROGEN

FUTURE?

A HYDROGEN FUTURE FOR CARS?

GLOBAL. TECH TEAM



The 21st century has been a witness to a myriad of technological advancements, from A.I. to Tesla, the iPhone, and now the hydrogen fuel cell car. This concept, which has been in development since the late 20th century, holds immense potential as an innovative and sustainable solution. Despite its current status as a niche project of a few companies in California, USA, it is important to recognize that this is just the beginning. The future of hydrogen fuel cell cars is promising, and with the right support and awareness, it could revolutionize the automotive world.

The first major hurdle that the Hydrogen car has is availability. The leading manufacturers are Toyota, Honda, Hyundai, and several others. They all make one model in several hundred and are only allowed in California, Japan, and South Korea. "There are only about 17,000 hydrogen-powered vehicles on U.S. roads right now, and all of them are in California. Meanwhile, E.V.s are out there in the millions." (CD, 2024). This is an enormous problem. The scarcity has yet to grow the appeal, as many of these cars can only get hydrogen from certain stations in a handful of locations statewide. Minimal federal funding and support have also weakened sales in the USA.



One of the major misconceptions about hydrogen cars is their perceived danger. However, it's crucial to note that no deaths have occurred in hydrogen fuel cell vehicles due to the hydrogen tech. This is a significant point, considering that electric and combustion vehicles are considerably more dangerous by ratio. Toyota and Hyundai, in particular, have conducted over 5,000 crash tests, making them some of the most comprehensive crash tests in the world (MIT, 2023).

The challenges facing hydrogen cars are numerous, from expensive refueling to costly maintenance and outdated vehicle compliance measures that have hindered their proliferation. However, it's important to shift the focus to the benefits of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. They offer a familiar driving experience, with easy refueling and a quiet, refined interior. They emit only water, can cover 400-mile distances quickly, and are backed by a sustainable, high-tech, practical product. While electric cars may struggle in extreme conditions, hydrogen vehicles have demonstrated their capabilities in the harshest environments (CD, 2024).

"Innovations to make hydrogen cleaner and cheaper could help fuel cell vehicles compete again. So, too, could changes in the E.V. market. For example, Paltsev says, batteries depend on minerals mined overseas and sometimes under problematic conditions. A shortage in those materials, or geopolitical turmoil in the countries that produce them, could raise the price of E.V.s—and make made-in-the-U.S.A. hydrogen appealing by comparison." (MIT, 2023). These changes and, importantly, the manufacturing benefits of hydrogen cars could become the defining characteristics of these sleek spaceships on the road. Nevertheless, for now, they remain a wealthy California niche.



TECH.

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STUDIO

Coming soon to the surface...



**FROM ONE
DISASTER TO
ANOTHER**



THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE'S COLLAPSE LED TO MODERN MIDDLE-EASTERN DISASTER.

GLOBAL, HISTORY TEAM

The Ottoman Empire, a formidable force in modern Middle Eastern history, held sway over the region from the 15th century to the early 20th century. Its rule, characterized by near total hegemony, laid the foundation for the events that would unfold towards the end of its regime.

The year was 1922, and the Ottoman Empire had just disastrously lost the First World War alongside Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Britain and France, who had lost thousands in the war against the Ottomans, had little sympathy for their empire, which had been a pain in their foreign policy for a century. "Even before the outcome of the Great War has been determined, Great Britain, France, and Russia secretly discussed how they would carve up the Middle East into "spheres of influence" once World War I had ended. The Ottoman Empire had been in decline for centuries prior to the war, so the Allied Powers already had given some thought to how they would divide up the considerable spoils in the likely event they defeated the Turks." (Smithsonian, 2015). The Sykes-Picot Agreement and the Treaty of Sevres would set the future systems of the area up under British and French hegemony (FP, 2015). "The Sykes-Picot Agreement launched a nine-year process—and other deals, declarations, and treaties—that created the modern Middle East states out of the Ottoman carcass. The new borders ultimately bore little resemblance to the original Sykes-Picot map, but their map is still viewed as the root cause of much that has happened ever since." (The New Yorker, 2016). The failing League of Nations would ratify these issues and, even later, the United Nations to bring peace to the region.

Whether it was the Russians, French, British, Greek, or Italian influence in the decision-making, it was clear from the very beginning that the people of the region would not be adequately consulted on the carve-up of their land, similar to how the Ottomans had once done it. Russia would drop out of negotiations as its empire crumbled, Greece could not afford the region it wanted, and Italy was ignored by the British and French. Britain, in particular, ran the whole show. By 1920, they were the largest empire in human history and still the global hegemon (although weakening) (FP, 2015). France held a more diplomatic position as the 3rd most powerful nation and the second largest empire on earth at the time. France had massive experience with the Arabic world in Western North Africa and had even found horrific ways to control the population through religious manipulation in their colonies. The British were still fans of the control through the people methodology, although the people were often the elites of the regions (The New Yorker, 2016). The British took this thinking to their new colonies, including modern-day Palestine, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and Kuwait. The French got modern-day Syria and Lebanon, and part of Turkey. The British and French would hold onto the region for decades, cementing the damage for a century.

"Moreover, Turkey's foundational struggle with colonial occupation left its mark in a persistent form of anti-imperial nationalism, directed first against Britain, during the Cold War against Russia, and now, quite frequently, against the United States." (FP, 2015). This thinking left the global environment on alert for the coming decades. Turkey would fight for these regions to come back, leading down the line to today's issues in Cyprus, the Kurdish lands, and even disputes with Iraq and ISIS. Further, in the Syrian Civil War, conflicts regarding the war between Israel and Egypt, and even the global problems with oil production, were all products of the decisions made by men in Paris and London in the 1920s. Even other participants like Greece, Russia, and Italy hold grudges against the French and British for their failures in the Middle East. Italy's lack of representation would help lead to a feeling of anger leading to Mussolini, Russia's issues would lead to today's Russian anger and relationship with Turkey and the Middle East, and Greece and Turkey remain at each other's wit's end. For the British and French, they got to remain global powers, even decolonizing with minimal damage to their prestige. The story of the downfall of the Ottoman Empire, the carve-up of the Middle East, and Britain and France's constant presence in the region have led to a legacy of prolonged tension and violence in one of the world's most contentious and dangerous regions in history.



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GEOPOLITICAL NEWS FOR THE 21ST
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THE DANGERS OF
MISINFORMATION
AN EXPOSÉ

PROPAGANDA IS MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN WE REALIZE. A SATIRICAL LOOK AT PROPAGANDA AND MISINFORMATION.

BY: ANONYMOUS

This entire piece was done to reflect on the major polarization occurring in the world of politics today. It is importantly satirical and not meant to be taken literally.



Lately I've been thinking about joining the Houthi Movement in Yemen. As a proud anti-colonial freedom fighter, I must support the Axis of Resistance against the oppressive West. When Hadi's Yemeni Republic fell to the Houthis for the first time in 2015, the Houthis took command, restructuring the highly populous northeast of Yemen and superimposing their own Sharia governance over the corrupted Republic of Yemen that preceded them. Today, Houthi fighters continue to advocate for the rights of Yemenis and other oppressed people on the peninsula, doing whatever it takes.

The Houthi Movement was formed by the Zaidi Muslim minority in the mountainous North West of Yemen in response to the former North Yemeni President Saleh's corrupt regime. It is believed that Saleh stole up to 10% of Yemen's GDP each year, accumulating nearly 60 billion dollars while in office. Combined with his blatant collusion with Western powers, the Zaidi Islamists were fed up and began their rebellion, calling themselves the Houthis.

Since then, the Houthi government has made great strides for Yemen, most notably in the education sector where they provide free, compulsory education to all, well, except for the 2.4 million children whose education has been disrupted by the ongoing civil war. The education itself is wonderful, however, teaching subjects in math, science, Islamic culture, and of course Houthi politics and studies in Jihadism. Not so distant from the pledge of allegiance commonplace in American schooling, students chant the Houthi slogan each day: "God Is the Greatest, Death to America, Death to Israel, A Curse Upon the Jews, Victory to Islam."

More importantly, though, the Houthis are champions of regional peace, resisting western involvement in the Arabian Peninsula from the United States all the way to Israel. In fact, the Houthis have been the most active of any group in the Axis of Resistance to support Palestine since the recent escalation in their war with Israel. The Houthis have taken down all ships that they believe supply Israel with weapons and support. They have since destroyed some unrelated ships, and some carrying aid to Palestine too, just to be extra sure. Unfortunately for Egypt and even the average citizens of Yemen, this has since lowered traffic through the Suez and the Yemeni Bab al-Mandab strait, by approximately 25%, drastically increasing extreme poverty, and quickly raising inflation by almost 300%. But, this is a small price to pay for freedom, I suppose.

Still, since the Houthi takeover, culture in Yemen has thrived! An American friend of mine recently said to me that “if freedom means wearing a piece of cloth, so be it,” clearly referring to the (not so bad) restrictions placed on women by the Houthis. In an effort to create a shared islamic cultural identity, the Houthis ask that women dress modestly and be accompanied by a man any time they leave the home under penalty of death. But don't worry, it's only culture! Besides, the forced adherence to religious guidelines is empowering to women, according to the Houthis. Truly, it is nothing to worry over.





I have nearly forgotten to mention what I mean when I refer to the “oppressive West,” the primary reason I intend to join the Houthi rebellion! As you may know, the United States, in agreement with Saudi Arabia, attacked the Axis of Resistance in Iraq, eventually killing Saddam Hussein. But, when Yemen stood in solidarity with Saddam, Saudi Arabia decided to deport hundreds of thousands of Yemeni immigrants back to Yemen, crashing Yemen’s economy completely. Adding insult to injury, Saleh asked the United States to attack Al-Qaeda freedom fighters in the Zaidi North West of Yemen, reducing the possibility of an anti-democratic, Sharia-governed Arabian Peninsula. The Houthis fought back against the American attacks, firing missiles at commercial American ships, and the United States has since declared The Axis of Resistance, including the Houthis, a terrorist organization.

The Axis of Resistance, led by The Islamic Republic of Iran is only loosely allied, but the ideology they share is powerful: destroy the West, and free the Arabian Peninsula from globalism, democracy, secularism, gender equality, and capitalism. The conflict in Yemen has many thinking about Yemen, the West, and the resistance, Hamas, but the issue is much, much larger. The Islamic Republic of Iran is spreading its message from its proxies in the Axis of Resistance, all the way to the youth in the United States. In the exact words of a my peer at Columbia, “I can’t wait to watch the West burn while I smoke a fat blunt, and eat garlic bread.”

A GLOBAL COMMITMENT,

THE WAR IN DARFUR,

DOES PEACE RESOLUTIONS

WORK, WHY RIVIAN HAS FAILED,

AND IS THERE A FUTURE FOR

MAGLEV.

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