

Delbarton's  
**THE FORUM**



VOLUME 4

# WRITERS IN THIS ISSUE

## ON NORTH KOREA

**ZACHARY BLUMENKEHL '13** In his brief article, Blumenkehl discusses a topic more complex than it seems: North Korea's relationship with the rest of the world. Despite North Korea's perceived weakness, it continues to act with aggression (particularly toward those who offer assistance). Such actions, Zach argues, will only lead to North Korea's undoing. As North Korea pushes forward, it will drive away China, and therefore render itself a non-threat.

**DERRICK YAO '15** Yao focusses on the relationship that exists between North Korea and China. Historically, China has been one of North Korea's biggest allies and supporters (some might argue that China's aid has even helped North Korea reach its nuclear capabilities). However, China has recently expressed its disapproval of North Korea's actions, and has even moved forward by cooperating with sanctions passed by the United Nations.

**MICHAEL CUPPARI '14** Cuppari analyzes the options of the United States as it moves forward. Using historical examples, Cuppari finds that there is only one course of action for the United States: it should respond to North Korean aggression with aggression. Just as Bill Clinton did successfully during his presidency, Obama needs to respond to North Korea with force, and seek out a "negotiated settlement" afterwards.

**ALEX ZHANG '15** In his article, Zhang presents North Korea's actual capacity to inflict harm against the common person. Citing a variety of specific examples, Zhang concludes that, in actuality, North Korea poses no real threat. Most of its technology is either outdated or unable to reach United States soil, while its actual military palls in comparison to that of the United States.

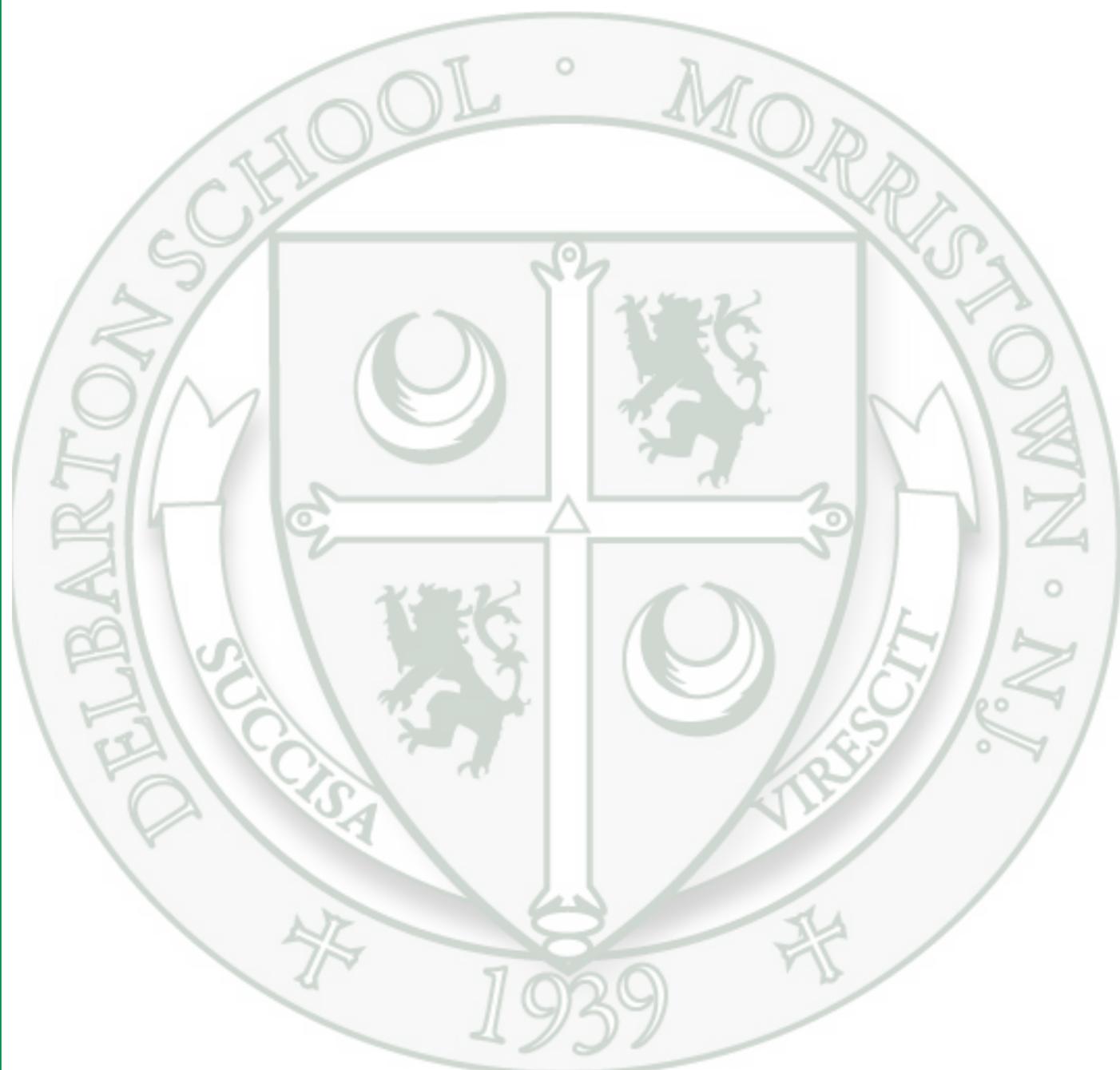
### ET CETERA

**RYAN TEEHAN '14** In his latest philosophical rant, Teehan delves into nationalism: a topic that has existed in the world for centuries. If historical events can teach us anything, it is pretty clear that every country's constant competition only serves to degrade the lives of every person. The only remedy is superficially simple: reject nationalism by fostering a new, larger sense of international cooperation and union.

**KABBAS AZHAR '13** Related in its own way to the topic of North Korea, Kabbas' article delves into a broader point of view. Kabbas explains that, in the modern era, the world needs to recognize the humanity that exists in all people, no matter how evil their leaders are. Humans generally tend to marginalize each other as a part of their natural limitations, and the only solution seems to be a sense of empathy.

**JACK LYNCH '14** In the wake of the recent bombings at the Boston Marathon, Lynch focusses on the method of punishing Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. Bringing up the points of view typical of this sort of issue, Lynch calls for a change to the norm of a harsh response to terrorism. Fighting violence with more violence, as Lynch argues, never sends the right message to terrorists worldwide. Instead, the United States should focus on a fair trial and imprisonment.

**MATTHEW CHUCKRAN '13** Given the relatively recent movement on the Affordable Care Act, the whole concept of health insurance mandates seems pertinent. By citing a plethora of sources, both scientific and political, Chuckran sets out a solid argument for why health insurance mandates make sense, particularly in the United States. Logically, Chuckran makes a simple conclusion: health insurance mandates will only benefit the American people.



# CONTENTS



**ON NORTH KOREA**

4 - North Korea: No Small Feat  
*Zach Blumenkehl '13*

5 - Calling their Bluff: The U.S.'s Reaction to North Korean Threats  
*Michael Cuppari '14*

10 - China: An Unexpected Ally Against North Korea  
*Derrick Yao '15*

16 - Kim Jong Un-Prepared : Why North Korea Isn't a Real Threat  
*Alex Zhang '15*

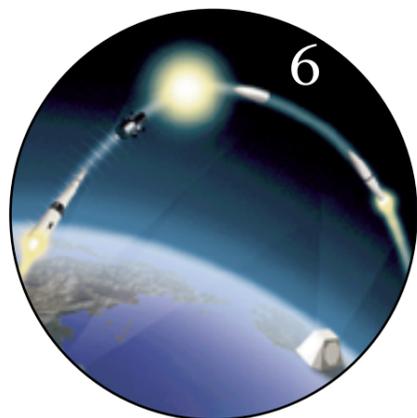
**ET CETERA**

7 - Cosmopolitanism: Towards International Justice and an End to Hypocrisy  
*Ryan Teehan '14*

13 - Dealing with Dzhokhar: The Terrorism Tipping Point  
*Jack Lynch '14*

14 - Dunbar and Other Numbers  
*Kabbas Azhar '13*

18 - Insurance: The Good, the Bad, and the Mandatory  
*Matthew Chuckran '13*



# LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

We editors here at *The Forum* would like to thank all of our faculty and student support over the past year. This issue will be the last of the school year, and it is a good one. This month, our writers chiefly investigate North Korea and the effect it has on the United States. Is the communist nation a true threat? What does a shift in power among the top ranks of the authoritative government mean? Where can I know all of this information? The answer is right here, in Volume 4.

When we conceived the idea of *The Forum* way back in 2012, we had always imagined an interesting, well put together, and aesthetically pleasing magazine for all the school to read. Well, it looks like we did it. This is that magazine. We have reached the summit! We have crossed the river! We have reached a new frontier in the art of school publishing! But we could not have done it without the help of others. From the constructive criticisms of readers all the way up to the help of our teacher supervisor, Mr. Conn, and our senior editors, Kabbas Azhar and Nishwant Swami, what you hold is a testament to the hard work of many. In fact, you might even notice some stylistic changes in this issue, like wider margins and a symbol to indicate the end of an article.

But, alas, all things pass—and so too must our time as head honchos over here at *The Forum*. That's why we're not unhappy passing the torch to Ryan Teehan and Jack Lynch, our new Editors-in-Chief for 2013-2014. That's right, they're the new editors. Ryan and Jack, *you better not mess up all we have done*.

Farewell, Delbarton.

— Matthew "The Wizard" Chuckran and Conor "[redacted]" Ryan  
*Editors-in-Chief*

## NORTH KOREA: NO SMALL FEAT

ZACHARY BLUMENKEHL

In recent news, North Korea's nuclear threat has raised alarm. According to the U.S. military, "The moment of explosion is approaching fast. No one can say a war will break out in Korea or not and whether it will break out today or tomorrow."<sup>1</sup> Oh, the horror.

South Korean citizen Choi Chang-ho sums up the South Korean view of North Korea with his nonchalant humor: "I am bored with them."<sup>2</sup>

North Korea has managed to pick fights with many countries and the Disney Corporation—yes, even the Disney Corporation—and still the US news has

been talking about North Korea as a "threat." However, when you look at North Korea as a whole, it is hard to image the country as an almighty treat.

Throughout the years, North Korea has been plagued with famines and relies on other countries' help. The World Food Program estimates that "6 million of North Korea's 25 million people are in need of food aid and one-third of children are chronically malnourished or stunted."<sup>3</sup> An estimated "2 million people died as a result of famine in the 1990s caused by erratic government farming policies and flooding."<sup>4</sup> In the year 2006 alone,

South Korea donated an estimate 500,000 tons of food.<sup>5</sup> Despite this fact, North Korea has the audacity to make threats to the country.

One of the U.S.'s biggest hurdles in dealing with North Korea is China; but recently, "The United States and China committed Saturday to a process aimed at ridding North Korea of its nuclear weapons, with the Obama administration gaining at least the rhetorical support of the only government that can exert significant influence over the reclusive North."<sup>6</sup> Without China's support, North Korea is not a threat. ■



## CALLING THEIR BLUFF: THE U.S.'S RE-ACTION TO NORTH KOREAN THREATS

MICHAEL CUPPARI

After several alarming threats from North Korea, the United States now faces the prospect of a nuclear calamity and a costly war in Northeast Asia. While Secretary of State Chuck Hagel recently called this possibility “real and dangerous,” I believe that North Korea’s threats are diplomatic bluster used solely

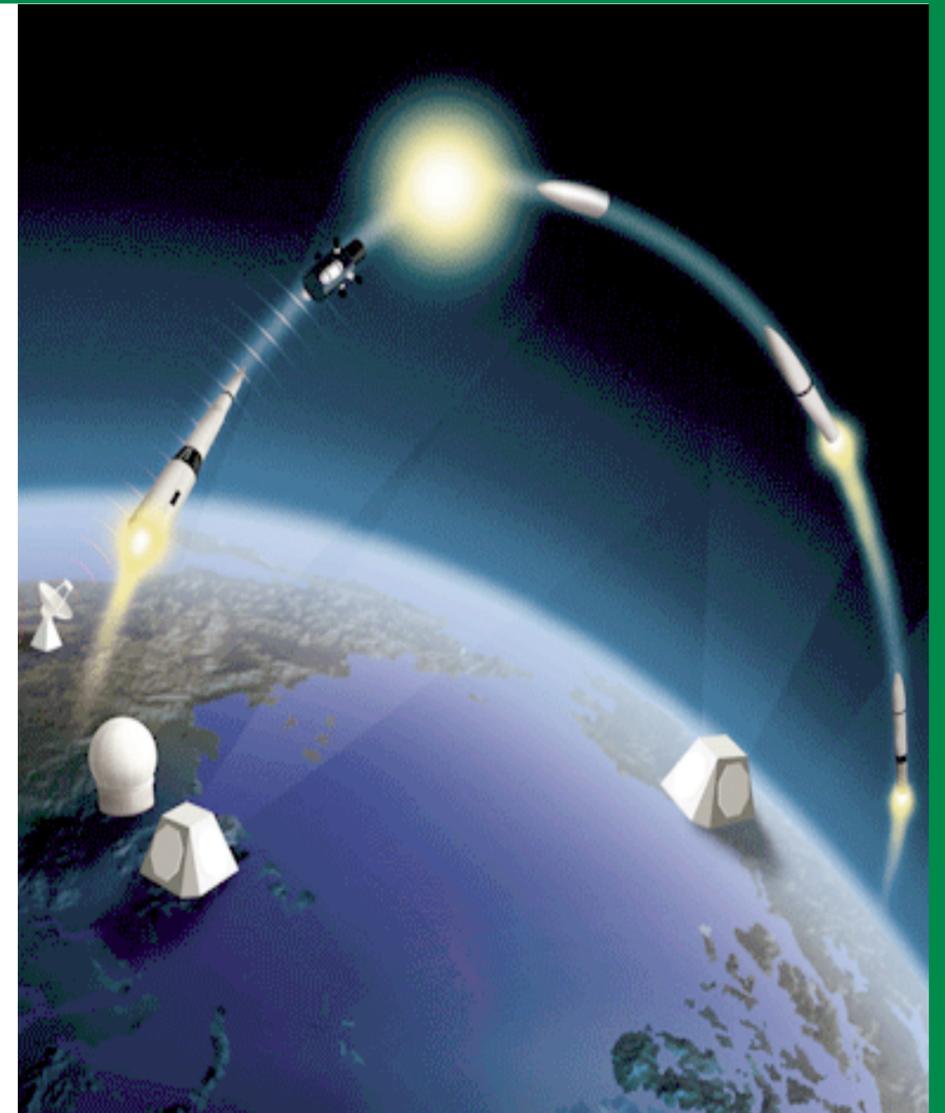
to coerce the United States into loosening stringent sanctions. As such, I agree with the current administration’s course of action: shifting strategic defense systems into Asia in order to pressure the regime into submission. I think, however, that this is only an ephemeral solution that masks, rather

than solves, the problems inciting the North toward military aggression; most notably, a lack of economic prosperity and a deep-seated sense of isolation. Ultimately, these problems are complex geo-political issues that can only be resolved through bilateral talks and a concerted, international ef-

fort to provide monetary aid to North Korea.

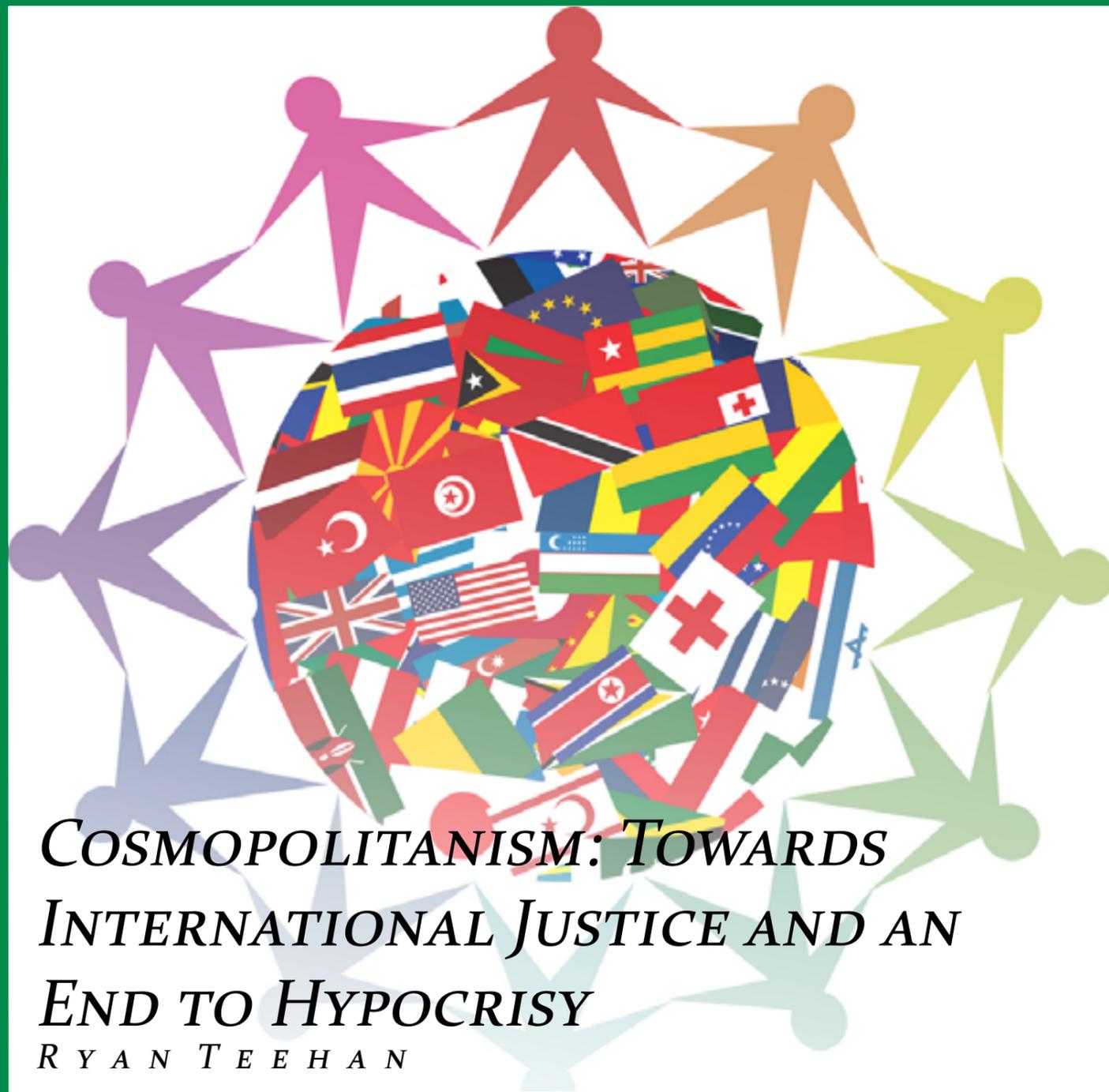
At the moment, putting military pressure on North Korea is the only effective way to dissuade its leaders from an attack on the South or a nuclear strike. As Michael Green of the CATO Institute notes, “The focus on deterring North Korea and punishing them for violations, and constraining their ability to move their nuclear program forward or proliferate has been historically effective and is the ideal strategy to deal with the North.”<sup>7</sup> In fact, using military intimidation has succeeded in diffusing tensions in past crises with North Korea. Bill Clinton, for instance, successfully employed this tactic in the mid 1990’s as leverage to combat North Korea’s nuclear threats. Surprised by this show of strength, Kim Jong-Il, then Supreme leader, was forced to sign the 1994 Agreed Framework concord that halted the regime’s nuclear program. Just like Clinton, the current administration must continue to place heavy military pressure on the North Koreans to bring them back to the bargaining table, where the United States, China, and other world powers can arrange a permanent solution to this imbroglio.

If military pressure is the means, a negotiated settlement with North Korea is the desired end for the United States. Such a settlement would have to be both stern and conciliatory; severe



enough to remove the North’s nuclear capacities but sufficiently generous that North Korea does not feel alienated from the international community. As John Kwan of the New York Times observes, North Korea must be treated “in the Metternich mold... which embraces the comprehensive and focuses as much on realpolitik as on human dimensions.” Using this framework as a guide, any agreement with North Korea must work to alleviate the economic distress and widespread poverty that its citizens contend with every day. In

doing so, the North’s motivation for pursuing brinkmanship to extort aid from other nations would be immediately removed. Likewise, North Korea’s hostile regime, which depends on anti-western sentiment for support, would be discredited, encouraging the growth of nascent democratic movements within the country. Ultimately, a negotiated settlement that disarms the North and provides aid to its economy is the only solution capable of permanently stabilizing the Korean peninsula. ■



## COSMOPOLITANISM: TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND AN END TO HYPOCRISY

RYAN TEEHAN

A man ran into a crowded square and said, "Where is Nationalism? Where is its altar upon which we have sacrificed countless men, women, and children? Where can I find it?"; "I will tell you. We have killed it, all of us. We are all murderers. But how did we do this? How could we drink up the sea? Who gave us the sponge to wipe away the borders? Is there

still any up or down? Are we not straying, as through an infinite nothing? Is not night continually closing in on us? Do we hear nothing as yet of the noise of the gravediggers who are burying Nationalism? Nationalism is dead, and we have killed it.

"Is not the greatness of this deed too great for us? Must we not all become a nation, to-

gether, to appear worthy of it? There has never been a greater deed; and whoever is born after us—for the sake of this deed he will belong to a higher history than all history hitherto."<sup>8</sup>

In many ways, nationalism has been the cornerstone of modern political discourse. It has reached a level of near divinity,

with politicians and regular civilians alike worshipping their nation-state and viewing the world with a simple division, the Us and the Them. In a pattern that reappears constantly and consistently non-citizens are denied essential human rights under the guise of nationalism. But whether one recognizes it or not, nationalism is dead and it's time to move on.

This degree of patriotism has been a continual force against justice and equality throughout the histories of all countries, especially the United States. For example, giving support to the string of foreign dictators who ended up committing massive human rights violations was justified because a benefit to American citizens, a benefit that was primarily monetary, was seen as more important than detriments to fellow human beings. All too often, foreign policy initiatives are justified based on the fact that those who the policies hurt are simply not "one of us."

On the other hand, the seeming importance of national borders has led to inaction in the face of situations that call to the humanity of all people. The most obvious example occurred during the Rwanda Genocide. The people that died simply were not important enough to warrant an attempt to stop the grave consequences that would follow. Moreover, the United States lobbied the United Nations for a complete withdrawal of U.N. forces in 1994. If, instead of occurring in Rwanda, the genocide happened in the middle of Arkansas, the U.S. would surely have done *something* to stop the killings. It is certain that, at the

very least, the U.S. would label the event a genocide as soon as possible, instead refusing to use the term genocide to describe it until weeks later.<sup>9</sup> The only true question is how one can possibly justify treating some people as subhuman and allowing oneself to ignore the distress of people experiencing massive human rights violations.

Certainly, these policies place us among the most hypocritical nations in the world. What other nation affirmed natural rights for all people even before its official inception? To quote the Declaration of Independence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."<sup>10</sup> In order to assert separateness from Great Britain, rights were expressed that belonged to all human beings by their very nature as humans. In acting under the guise of nationalism, America has destroyed the values at its very foundation and simultaneously covered them with a veil of self-interest.

All this would be irrelevant if sovereignty could still be held as the inviolable property that it once was. Surely the rights a nation has for its own self-definition come prior to benefits that may or may not come to pass in the future. Even on this level, however, the nationalist perspective is flawed. The territory of the state and its sovereignty are no longer binding upon other countries. Historically, supranational institutions such as the

International Criminal Court verify this shift. In the same vein, the Nuremberg trials expressed a shift towards an international sphere where leaders cannot hide behind the sovereignty of their countries to avoid the repercussions of crimes against humanity. Furthermore, nations are no longer independent and as such cannot limit their obligations to only those people in an implicit social contract. The emergence of the global financial system, where the currency of each country is tied to international perception as well as the currency of other countries, as well as the need for commodities, and approval beyond one's borders indicates that nations are interdependent.<sup>11</sup> The libertarian ideal of sovereignty fails on the level that one cannot express one's own freedom, and pursue the ends one chooses, without the cooperation and efforts of people from all around the world.<sup>12</sup> This is also true on an individual level: the money one spends on goods continues to be used by the original vendor in order to make more purchases to the point where that money can be found in the pockets of people the world over.

A somewhat more important justification lies in the basis for all current laws and precepts. Traditionally, following the Declaration of Independence, the acceptability of laws is found in their ability to stand up to the common discourse and thus be consistent with the consent of the populace. The freedom to speak out against government practices is a fundamental part of legitimizing those very same practices. This means, in the words of Jürgen Habermas,

that “every legal order, including that within the state, [comes] from a more original law, which gives rights to every person ‘qua human being.’”<sup>13</sup> All countries must therefore hold the basis for all laws, the value of the human being, in higher regard than sovereignty and thereby grant all people access to an international and global society comprising individuals with particular cultural backgrounds and beliefs but all accountable to their inherent humanity. Whether recognized or not, there is an underlying cosmopolitan structure to the international arena such that genocide in other countries is just as important as similar actions in America.

A transition to the cosmopolitan mode of thought from the nationalistic one is of the utmost importance, especially given the unique record of the United States in supporting human rights. Under the guise of spreading democracy, greatly reminiscent of justifications from the Age of Imperialism that described civilizing the savages, has waged war through both overt and covert operations to the devastation of the local population and American soft power. The role of the hegemon has allowed the United States to pass off interventions designed solely for self-interest as humanitarian and for the betterment of all mankind. While the record on that humanitarian front is dismal, the American political record similarly expresses the hypocrisy of this statement. Oftentimes, the United States will only ratify a United Nations charter once it has removed any precepts that

would force it to change its actions. It has also refused to ratify treaties that express values and principles that ought to speak to everyone. The US record in this area is a laundry list of lost opportunities. It includes the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

“Nationalism is an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind.”  
- Albert Einstein

the Convention against Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which outlawed cluster weapons that were primarily designed to harm civilians, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.<sup>14</sup> Time and time again, America has refused to stand up for human rights while simultaneously professing to be fit to promote values and democracy around the world.

This is not the problem of any one political party; both Democrats and Republicans alike have supported measures that dehumanize non-citizens. This became especially clear during the Presidential debates, when both Mitt Romney and Barack Obama expressed support for the current use of drone strikes and denial of due process to suspected terrorists. The justifications for these practices are tied to the same flawed mentality that allows for gross human rights violations. Due process is a way of verifying

whether a captured person is truly a criminal and as such is constitutive of the punishment process in general. The most common objection is some permutation of the phrase “But of course they are terrorists, we caught them trying to plant bombs in a crowded city street.” This rings hollow when one considers the fact that even mass murderers whom the po-

lice have witnessed in the act are granted a trial with all the proper rights that follow. In many other aspects of foreign policy, both of the major political parties in the United States have accepted and promoted American exceptionalism, and there are very few more dangerous ideologies.

It is time to stop proping up the long-dead figure of nationalism and finally move on to a more cooperative international arena. With this necessary transition, the world could finally begin to move away from the negative us-them rhetoric and become more inclusive. Nothing good has come from nationalism, besides eras of distrust where cooperation is second to military might and hard power. The world stands to lose nothing but gain much from the shift to cosmopolitanism. History has traditionally been divided into epochs, from the Stone Age to the Age of Imperialism. Future generations may very well mark this time as the beginning of what will be called the Age of Humanity. ■

# CHINA: AN UNEXPECTED ALLY AGAINST NORTH KOREA

DERRICK YAO

The relationship between China and North Korea has become increasingly important ever since Kim Jong Un and the North Korean government have threatened to bomb the United States and even declared war on the US. At first glance it may seem like the relationship between these two powerful countries may actually be dangerous for the United States because they have been allies for decades. For example, Jayshree Bayjoria of the Council on Foreign Relations explains, “China is North Korea’s most important ally; biggest trading partner; and main source of food and fuel.”<sup>15</sup> This statement depicts China as the reason why North Korea is still relatively powerful and an additional obstacle in the United State’s already difficult predicament. This reliance on China by North Korea, however, entails the completely opposite effect, one that is extremely beneficial for the interests of the United States. Brian Fung of Northwestern University justifies this claim, “North Korea’s closest ally will be more important than ever in President Obama’s second-term dealings with Pyongyang. In some ways, it’ll be more of the same: China has long been

a member of the Six Party Talks that the West has used as a bulwark against North Korea’s nuclear ambitions. China is among the DPRK’s biggest trading partners, and it’s where the isolated state gets much of its fuel, raw materials, and finished products, such as cars. As a result, Beijing is often thought to have a good deal of sway over Pyongyang.”<sup>16</sup> In addition, China is able to keep North Korea in check, unlike any other country in the world. Furthermore, China is uniquely able to exercise its influence over North Korea by threatening to pull the plug on any trade.

On March 7, 2013, the UN Security Council imposed new, harsher sanctions on

North Korea in an attempt to punish the unstable country for its recent nuclear test. Dissimilar to past actions, China went along with this resolution. The Christian Science Monitor then stated, “Beijing’s vote was widely seen as a signal of just how impatient China is getting with its ‘little brother,’ who has been getting more and more wayward in recent months, launching missiles and detonating nuclear devices despite public Chinese warnings not to do so.”<sup>17</sup> All in all, China’s leverage over North Korea and its recent compliance with the UN sanctions have proven beneficial for the national security of the United States. ■



# NOTABLE WORLD EVENTS

Compiled by Nishwant Swami

## **Boston Marathon Tragedy**

On Monday, April 15th, two bombs exploded near the finish line of the Boston Marathon. Over 144 individuals were treated in the aftermath of the terrorist attack, and three were reported dead at the scene. Almost immediately, the authorities focused their investigation on two brothers, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, who were Islamic extremists with roots in Dagestan and Chechnya. Within a few days, Tamerlan had been killed by authorities, and Dzhokhar was being prosecuted as he recovered from injuries sustained in his es-



cape. While this threat has been neutralized, the devastation has impacts thousands of people both in and out of Boston. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the victims of this horrific event.

## **Fertilizer Plant Disaster Spurs Debate About Regulatory Guidelines**

Last week, the nitrogen-rich chemical, ammonium nitrate, was responsible for the explosive destruction of the fertilizer plant in West Texas. The tragic was so powerful that it was equivalent to a 2.1 magnitude earthquake, and was responsible for the death of up to 15 people, including first responders. Local officials are now being criticized for a number of dangerous decisions, including building homes, schools, and a nursing home near the plant. As a federal official explained, "The whole thing may have fallen through a number of regulatory cracks."

## **White House claims Chemical Attacks in Syria**

The White House has released a statement declaring that they believe the Syrian government of President Assad is using the chemical weapon, sarin, on a small scale. For over a year, the people of Syria have made it quite clear that they will not stop revolting until their dictator Bashar Al-Assad is deposed. Despite a clear message from

the populace, the international community has done very little in assisting the rebellion. This official statement, however,



could signal a change in American policy in Syria, as President Obama has declared in the past that the use of chemical weapons would spur American intervention in the civil war-ridden country.

## **Domestic Flooding**

After months of coping with severe drought, the Midwest is now contending with the opposite, but equally dangerous problem: severe flooding. After nearly eight inches of rainfall fell in certain areas, the flooding has destroyed fields, forced evacuations, and inhibited traffic down the Mississippi River. Already, three people have died

in events linked to the flooding. Officials are currently struggling with possible solutions, including sandbags, in order to avoid



further damage, but unfortunately no efforts have been successful thus far. While the short term effects are clearly negative, the inability for farmers to plant their crops could lead to widespread economic hardship this summer.

## **New Prime Minister, but Same old Problems for Italy**

Desperately trying to find a solution to Italy's economic woes, President Giorgio Napolitano appointed center-left Demo-



cratic Party official Enrico Letta. With an unemployment rate of 11 percent, an uncooperative government, and growing public anger, Enrico Letta certainly has much to do. Despite being qualified for the job, many already doubt whether he will be

able to adequately deal with Italy's many problems. As deputy director of the School of Government at Luiss Guido Carli University in Rome, Giovanni Orsina, mentioned in a April 24, 2013 article by the New York Times, "It's going to be hard for him to change the bureaucratic structure, the state machine, because that is the main issue ... If your pan has a hole, changing the handle will do little good."

## **Earthquake devastates southwest China**

An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 rocked the Southwestern Sichuan province, killing at least 192 people. Chinese authorities are working quickly to accommodate the tens of thousands of people that are now homeless and lack basic resources. The international community is quickly responding, and the joint international and domestic effort is making strides towards returning Sichuan to normalcy.

## **Factory Collapse in Bangladesh**

The collapse of the Ranza Plaza building in Bangladesh could be considered one of the worst manufacturing disasters after the death toll reached 256 on Thursday. According to authorities, there were multiple signals that the building was unsafe, including visible cracks in the walls. Many major US and European clothing companies are now facing backlash, after labels including Children's Place, Benetton, Cato Fashions, and Mango were found at the factory.

## **When Teachers Attack...**

After Enrique Pena Nieto, the Mexican president, passed an overhaul of the education system, teachers across the country rose up in protest. The education effort takes away power from the teachers unions in key areas, including teacher evaluations, salaries, and dismissals. Already, local offices of Pena Nieto have been attacked, and the office of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (Pena Nieto's political party) has been set on fire.

## **The Fight For Mali Continues**

On April 25th, the United Nations Security Council agreed to a new peacekeeping force for Mali. As a country struggling with civil war, Mali needs the force is to restore democracy and stabilize the country as a whole. After a coup in March of 2012, Mali became a battlefield between the established government and numerous ethnic groups. Within a few months, a secular group of rebels known as the Tuaregs had taken over close



to half the country's north. With support from the international community, Mali hopes to establish itself as a proud democracy with a bright future. ■

# DEALING WITH DZHOKHAR: THE TERRORISM TIPPING POINT

JACK LYNCH

As the Boston Marathon bombings fade into the past and the prosecution of the one living suspect, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, begins to move forward, the United States government and judicial system will be faced with a daunting task: finding a satisfactory punishment for a 19 year old American student who, along with his older brother, killed three people, injured over one hundred others, and terrorized a city and a nation. Many patriotic Americans will likely be unhappy with anything short of capital punishment, considering the heinousness of the crime. In reality, however, capital punishment is perhaps the most un-American solution possible.

Over the past decade, the United States government has struggled with how to handle domestic terrorists. Some have been deported or sent to federal prisons within the country. Others have been hunted down by unmanned aircrafts in foreign lands or sent to prison camps in Cuba or the Middle East. But now, the government has been presented with a high-profile case of the utmost importance, with the nation and the world watching for the outcome. With this shift in spotlight must come a shift in policy. It is time to prosecute American terrorists as American citizens in a way that lives up to the principles of our Constitu-

tion and founding documents. And the first step to a principled, ethical prosecution of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is accepting that life in prison is a far better outcome for the country than the death penalty.

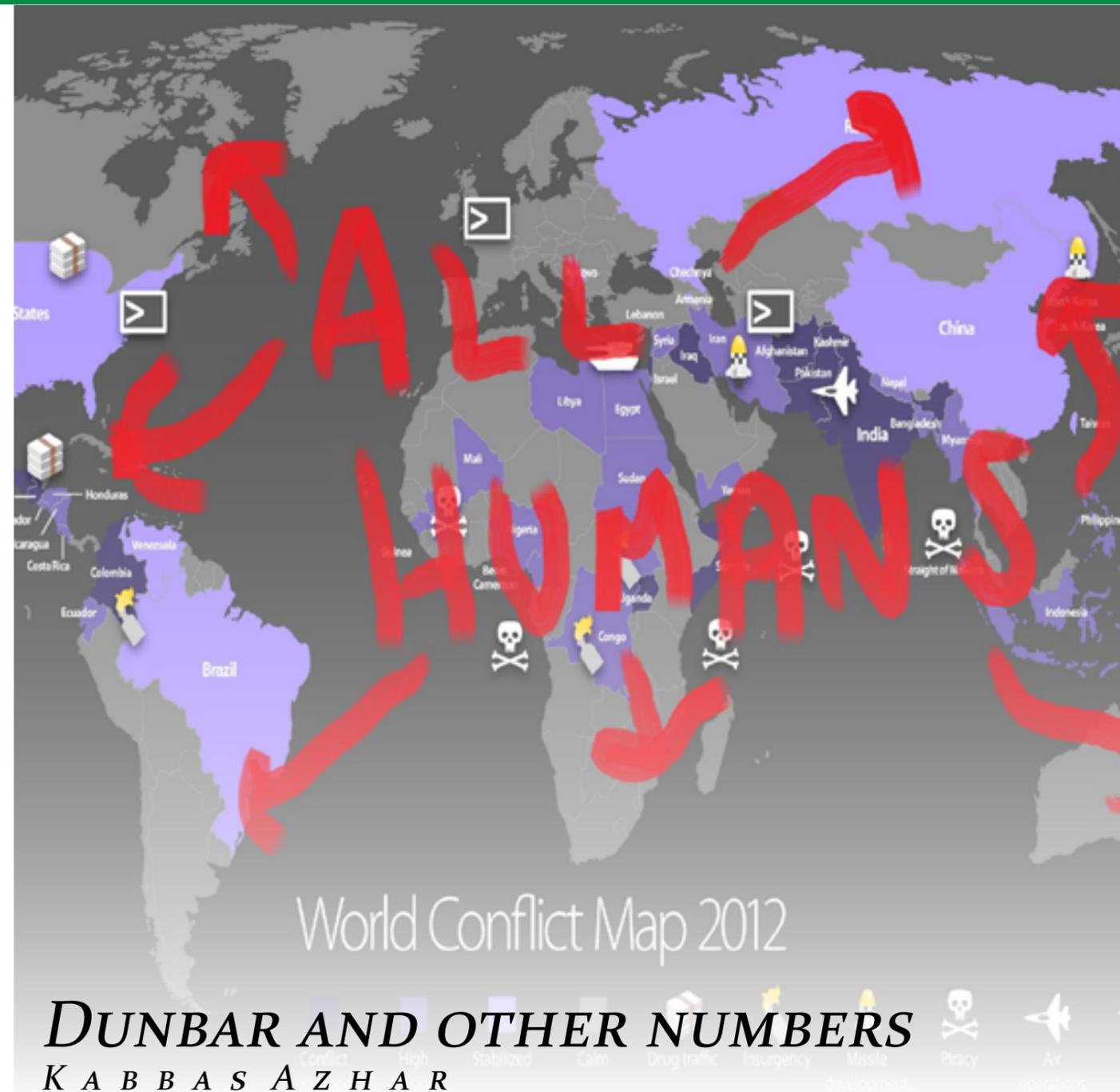
Tsarnaev and his older brother killed because they wanted to send a message. They wanted to advance their political views and make a statement to a nation that they believe is in the wrong. Their actions were violent, thoughtless, and despicable.

When the pro-death-penalty voice inevitably rises during the course of Tsarnaev's trial, it will be because capital punishment supporters will want to use his execution to send a message. They will want to make it clear to others across the globe and within our borders that terrorism against the United States will be dealt with harshly and mercilessly. They will want to show that violence like what was exhibited at the marathon is wrong.

But there is only one way to demonstrate that killing is not an acceptable form of political statement, and that is to imprison the Boston bomber for the rest of his natural life. Rather than fight violence with violence, it is time for the United States to make a real statement about its justice system. By imprisoning Tsarnaev, the U.S. would be

sending a message across the globe that terrorism cannot and does not damage the founding principles of American justice and that the U.S. legal system is stronger and more effective than any form of petty violence, state-ordered or not.

The coming weeks will be a definitive time in post-9/11 society. The moment has come for the world to show that it can combat terrorism while still protecting its citizen's rights and principles. It is essential that the United States takes the leads in ushering in this new era of counterterrorism. Whether it takes place in a crowded Boston street or in a cold execution room in a federal prison, killing will always be wrong. It is the duty of a truly just nation to rise above violence, and find a more profound sense of justice. ■



North Korea. Iran. China. Venezuela. The United States.

What do all of these terms have in common? Besides the animosity that pervades the relationships between these countries, all of them share one concrete thing: they're all made up of human beings.

Often enough, we, as human beings, marginalize the 'oth-

er' in an attempt to affirm our own humanity. Whenever any indication of humanizing the enemy combatant/political opponent/adversary captures our attention, a curious outrage takes over our mannerism. Case in point; consider the fact that Osama bin Laden was an avid reader that enjoyed volleyball and soccer.<sup>18</sup> This information is always re-

vealed as "shocking" and "mind-blowing," somehow forgetting the fact that while Osama was indeed a deplorable human being, he was still a human being with his own interests and hobbies. It seems to be a common habit: reducing individuals to caricatures for our own benefit. World War II, for example, saw the rise of the term 'gooks,' which dehuman-

ized the Japanese against whom we were fighting in the War. In all honesty, such behavior seems completely understandable and even practical, as killing another 'gook' presents itself to be much easier than killing another human being who fights in order to serve his country and to keep his family safe.

Yet, this perception of other individuals becomes extremely troubling at a more personal level. Even in our daily lives, we often see other individuals as only one-dimensional caricatures, typified by the functions they perform for us rather than as human beings. Sure, you intellectually realize that the waiter or the garbage collector is a human being, yet the empathy for their humanity does not necessarily exist. How many among you have seen a homeless individual, and instead of just giving some money (if even that is done), have actually talked to and empathized with that individual? Presumably, not most of us, I can assure you.

The problem inherently lies with the fact that we indeed are human beings. According to British anthropologist Robert Dunbar, we only can keep legitimate social relationships with approximately 150 people. (This limit is a direct function of the relative size of a human's neo-cortex.)<sup>19</sup> We, as a species, are evolutionarily biased against former deeper connections beyond a specified limit, and any connections made beyond that limit consist of cardboard cutouts rather than three-dimensional, living, breathing, feeling human beings. It's just another reason

why we are so nonchalant and unconcerned about others beyond a superficial veneer and conjure up specific images in our minds to relate to these 'others.' Be it the terrifying "Big Government" (Republicans) or the morally bankrupt "corporations" (Democrats), we tend to clump other humans and their motivations into one big vague mass (because both big government and morally bankrupt corporations are made up of multitudes of people).

Marginalization of other individuals composes a key facet of the human condition. In lieu of the globalization of the whole world, where we have connections with thousands of individuals, through a myriad of venues (a la Facebook), this fact regarding our very perception of other human beings becomes extremely important. The anonymity given by the internet and the subsequent rise in bullying can easily be attributed to our lack of empathy towards human beings.

In fact, most problems in society can be attributed to that lack of empathy that we possess, which in the end, seems to be inevitable.

It's indeed an evolutionary fact that we can only empathize with a select number of people. In fact, some people might venture to say that we cannot do anything about this truth of human interaction. Yet, just like we have risen above our base instincts, I do believe we can accomplish a similar feat in our daily social interactions. We can attempt to be conscious of our interactions with others, and raise ourselves beyond our natural state. As Atticus Finch said, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view—until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."<sup>20</sup> We all should endeavor to do the same, and always climb into another's skin and empathize with their basic humanity in whatever we attempt to do. ■



## KIM JONG UN-PREPARED : WHY NORTH KOREA ISN'T A REAL THREAT

ALEX ZHANG

On December 17, 2011, the Korean Central News agency reported the death of longtime ruler of North Korea Kim Jong Il. After a period of uncertainty, his son Kim Jong Un took up the mantle of his father; since then, North Korea has become increasingly aggressive toward the United States. We've all

heard of the new dictator's threats. On January 24, earlier this year, North Korea issued a statement that listed America as a target of its nuclear weapons program. "We do not hide that a variety of satellites and long-range rockets which will be launched by the D.P.R.K. one after another and a nuclear

test of higher level will target against the U.S., the sworn enemy of the Korean people," the statement said.<sup>21</sup> Pyongyang further issued threats against the United States, threatening to "break the waists of the crazy enemies, totally cut their windpipes and thus clearly show them what a real war is

like.”<sup>22</sup> Clearly, this is a hugely escalated version of North Korea’s standard diplomatic behavior. But should we, as American citizens, actually be worried by these threats? Is there a real threat of a nuclear attack, or are these statements just an exaggerated manifestation of North Korea’s usual bluffs, intended only to maintain domestic unity and facilitate government control?

It is my belief that these statements are ultimately unsubstantiated. According to the South Korean Defense Ministry, the D.P.R.K. has about 820 fighter jets in its air force. This is enough to cause some degree of damage, and is even greater than South Korea’s air force at 460, but the Ministry further reports that Pyongyang lacks an adequate fuel supply to operate them.<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, many North Ko-

rean jets are in disrepair and are not combat ready, whereas Seoul’s arsenal is fully functional and better maintained. The rest of the North’s army reflects these characteristics; at 1.1 million, its armed forces are the fourth largest in the world. However, these soldiers are poorly trained and rely on outdated tactics and military technology, severely diminishing any threat they may pose.

According to Jennifer Lind of Dartmouth College, Pyongyang’s clear goal of manufacturing nuclear weapons and missiles is a direct result of this “paper-tiger” army. Lind further draws upon 1995 analyses about North Korean military capabilities during the Korean War; these reports show that their air force was “so antiquated that it would have been shot out of the sky in the first few hours of a conflict.”<sup>24</sup>

Taking into account the recent food shortages and famines, it is likely that the D.P.R.K.’s military has deteriorated somewhat since the 1950s conflict; it is improbable that enough new technological advancements have been made so as to elevate Pyongyang’s military capabilities to a meaningful level.

Even with nuclear weapons, North Korea remains an insignificant threat. George Lopez, a political science professor at the University of Notre Dame, explains that while it is one thing to construct a small nuclear warhead, it is another to actually deliver it. He explains that even if the North does have such a weapon, “they do not have the capability to reliably reach a target.” Relatively unconventional delivery methods would still have a very low chance of success. For example, of using an airplane to deliver a nuclear payload, Lopez states that “it would be pretty difficult, probably impossible.”<sup>25</sup>

It is true that we should definitely not ignore these threats. North Korea does have some military competence, and it is entirely possible that its government is more capable than our estimates. However a quick run-down of the facts can let us relax, if only slightly. Simply put, based on all our cumulative knowledge of the D.P.R.K., it is unlikely that Pyongyang will be able to do any significant damage to Seoul or Washington. ■



## INSURANCE: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE MANDATORY

MATTHEW CHUCKRAN

In the United States today, we all hear a lot of debate over healthcare policy—especially since the Affordable Care Act was passed under President Obama. The largest point of contention is the health insurance mandate: a requirement for every citizen to buy health insurance. If the citizen cannot afford it, the government cov-

ers the costs. In this article, I argue in favor of a health insurance mandate. I believe it saves lives and money, improving quality of life for every American citizen.

### The mentally ill:

The Houston Journal of Health Law and Policy explains in 2011 that one in five adults

suffers from an anxiety disorder and one in ten from a mood or personality disorder.<sup>26</sup> Unfortunately, mental illness care in America is lacking. The Washington Post reports mentally ill individuals do not have health insurance for two primary reasons. First, about 45% of those not receiving care list cost as the barrier. Second, employer-

sponsored insurance tends to ignore mental health needs completely. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, however, “[Out of the] 32 million Americans (who would be covered with an insurance mandate), 6-10 million people will now get treatment for a mental disorder.”<sup>27</sup> Mandated health insurance will not only significantly improve the lives of the mentally ill, but it will also reduce the amount of violent criminal activities. The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare found that people with an *untreated* mental illness were 4-6 times more likely to commit a crime. It also concludes that mandated health insurance decreases the number of national criminals by 10 million.<sup>28</sup>

#### **Saving lives:**

Senate Majority leader William Frist explained in 2009 that those “Those without health insurance on average receive poorer care and die sooner.”<sup>29</sup> This is true for two main reasons. First, hospitals give worse treatment to the uninsured because they are less likely to be financially compensated. In fact, a study from the Council of Economic Advisers in 2009 found that after a severe auto accident, those without health insurance received 20% less care than those with insurance. Second, the uninsured have less access to preventive care. Families USA found in a June 2012 study that the unin-

sured are four times more likely than the insured to forgo medical screenings because of cost.<sup>30</sup> All in all, the New York Times reports that the uninsured are 50% less likely to receive important preventive care, like cancer tests.

Requiring health insurance, therefore, has several benefits. First, Michael McWilliams of Harvard Medical notes that adjusting for a wide set of characteristics, those with the most basic form of health insurance are 43% less likely to die within 10 years than those without insurance.<sup>31</sup> In fact, Alex Stewart of George Washington University notes that an insurance mandate would provide the option to 170 million Americans to be given vaccinations that they would not otherwise get, which, according to the Center for Disease Control, may solve for the 50,000 American deaths caused by vaccine-preventable diseases every year.<sup>32</sup> Additionally, David Cecere of the Cambridge Health Alliance finds that nearly 45,000 Americans deaths every year are directly caused by a lack of health insurance.<sup>33</sup> An insurance mandate reduces American excess mortality and could save these lives.

#### **Rural Americans:**

For those living in rural conditions, health insurance is limited for multiple reasons. Scott Lindstrom of the Idaho Law Review explains in 2011: in rural areas, one insurance com-

pany usually dominates the market, sometimes at around an 80% margin. Often, rural locations do not attract many insurance options, leading to this sort of monopoly and inflating the cost of insurance. Additionally, rural workers often do not qualify for insurance because they have preexisting conditions or high-risk occupations. Thus, they either do not receive insurance at all or are offered extremely high premiums solely because of their jobs.

The only way to fix this problem is by requiring health insurance. The Rural Policy Research Institute notes in 2009 that doing so would address the problems faced by rural Americans: First, it necessitates bringing state insurance exchanges into the market, breaking the monopoly. Second, it prevents preexisting conditions from becoming a factor for disqualification. In fact, a requirement would solve for the 17% of uninsured rural Americans by addressing the two primary issues they face: cost and access.

Approximately 21% of the U.S. lives in these rural areas, so it is important to address this far-reaching problem. Significantly, the Center for Rural Affairs reports that an insurance mandate could lead to significantly lower costs for businesses and households, quantifying that premiums would be up to 30 percent lower in rural areas.<sup>34</sup> ■

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CITATIONS

*Teacher Supervisor* - Kevin Conn

*Editors in Chief* - Matthew Chuckran '13  
Conor Ryan '13

*Magazine Production & Design* - Conor Ryan '13

*Cover Image Design* - Timmy Welman '14

*Senior Editors* - Kabbas Azhar '13  
Nishwant Swami '13

*Writers on North Korea* - Zach Blumenkehl '13  
Michael Cuppari '14  
Derrick Yao '15  
Alex Zhang '15

*Et Cetera Writers* - Kabbas Azhar '13  
Ryan Teehan '14  
Jack Lynch '14  
Matthew Chuckran '13

Back cover image created using *Tagxedo.com*

#### *Citations*

1. Robert Windrem, “North Korea moves missile to east as nuclear crisis escalates,” April 4, 2013. [http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/\\_news/2013/04/04/17595178-north-korea-moves-missile-to-east-as-nuclear-crisis-escalates?lite](http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/04/04/17595178-north-korea-moves-missile-to-east-as-nuclear-crisis-escalates?lite)
2. Jung Yoon Choi, “When North Korea roars, South Korea yawns,” April 5, 2013. <http://>

[articles.latimes.com/2013/apr/05/world/la-fg-south-korea-blase-20130406](http://articles.latimes.com/2013/apr/05/world/la-fg-south-korea-blase-20130406)

3. USA TODAY, “20 facts about North Korea,” April 13, 2010. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/04/13/north-korea-facts/2078831/>

4. USA TODAY, “20 facts about North Korea.”

5. Human Rights Watch, “North Korea: Ending Food Aid Would Deepen Hunger,” October 12, 2006. <http://www.hrw.org/news/2006/10/09/north-korea-ending-food-aid-would-deepen-hunger>

6. Harrison Barrus, “Nuclear-free North Korea goal of U.S.-China pledge,” April 16, 2013. [http://www.cbs12.com/news/top-stories/stories/vid\\_6572.shtml](http://www.cbs12.com/news/top-stories/stories/vid_6572.shtml)

7. New York Times, “South Korea gives Military Leeway to answer North,” 2013. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/30/world/asia/south-korea-give-military-leeway-to-answer-north.html>

8. This opening was adapted and paraphrased from The Parable of the Madman. In Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*.

9. William Ferroggiaro, “The US and the Genocide in Rwanda 1994: Evidence of Inaction,” National Security Archive.

10. Thomas Jefferson. Declaration of Independence. July 4, 1776. [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration\\_transcript.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html)

11. Jürgen Habermas, “Kant’s Idea of Perpetual Peace, with the Benefit of Two Hundred Years Hindsight,” in *Perpetual peace: essays on Kant’s cosmopolitan ideal*, ed. James Bohman and Matthias Lutz-Bachmann (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1997), 117.

12. Pogge.

13. Habermas, 119.

14. Noam Chomsky. “USA signs first human rights treaty this century!!” Last modified 2009. Accessed March 25, 2013. <http://chomsky-must-read.blogspot.com/2009/08/usa-signs-first->

human-rights-treaty.html.

15. Jayshree Bajoria, "The China-North Korea Relationship," February 21, 2013. <http://www.cfr.org/china/china-north-korea-relationship/p11097>
16. Brian Fung, "Why North Korea can't count on China's patronage," December, 2012. <http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/12/why-north-korea-cant-count-on-chinas-patronage-forever/266195/>
17. Peter Ford, "China voted for new North Korea sanctions, will it enforce them?" March 8, 2013. <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-News/2013/0308/China-voted-for-new-North-Korea-sanctions.-Will-it-enforce-them-video>
18. CBC News, "Al Qaeda Family: At Home with Osama bin Laden", March 3, 2004. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/khadr/alqaeda-family3.html>
19. University of Liverpool, "The Ultimate Brain Teaser" in Research Intelligence, August, 2003. <http://www.liv.ac.uk/researchintelligence/issue17/pdf/resint17.pdf>
20. Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, (New York, 2010) 81.
21. David Sanger, "North Korea vows nuclear tests as threats intensify," January 24, 2013. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/25/world/asia/north-korea-vows-nuclear-test-as-threats-intensify.html?pagewanted=all>
22. Emily Rauhala, "In the shadow of North Korean Threats South Korea shrugs," April 10, 2013. <http://world.time.com/2013/04/10/in-the-shadow-of-north-korean-threats-south-korea-shrugs/>
23. Japan Today, "North Korea can't hit America but South Korea and Japan in Range," March, 2013. <http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:KEynPJifiVMJ:www.japantoday.com/category/world/view/n-korea-cant-hit-america-but-south-korea-and-japan-in-range/comments/popular/id/3081603+&cd=4&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>
24. Scott Neuman, "How Credible are

North Korea's Threats," March 9, 2013. <http://www.npr.org/2013/03/09/173839660/how-credible-are-north-koreas-threats>

25. Neuman, "How credible are North Korea's Threats."
26. John Humphrey, "Deviant Behavior." Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2012. p. 181
27. Integral Care, "Needs of the People," 2012. [http://www.integralcare.org/mpd.html?nd=nacbhd\\_top10](http://www.integralcare.org/mpd.html?nd=nacbhd_top10)
28. National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, "Spillover Effect of Untreated Mental Illnesses," 2012. [http://www.thenationalcouncil.org/galleries/policy-file/Spill%20Over%20Effect\\_State%20Budgets\\_NCSL.pdf](http://www.thenationalcouncil.org/galleries/policy-file/Spill%20Over%20Effect_State%20Budgets_NCSL.pdf)
29. William H. Frist, "An Individual Mandate for Health Insurance would benefit all," September 28, 2009. <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2009/09/28/frist-an-individual-mandate-for-health-insurance-would-benefit-all>
30. Families USA, "Dying for Coverage," June 2012. <http://familiesusa2.org/assets/pdfs/Dying-for-Coverage.pdf>
31. Michael McWilliams, "Letting Perfect be the enemy of Good," February 15, 2010. <http://theincidentaleconomist.com/wordpress/letting-perfect-be-the-enemy-of-good/>
32. For Healthier America, "Prevention: Adult Immunization," 2013. <http://www.forahealthieramerica.com/ts/prevention-adult-immunization.html>
33. David Cecere, "New Study finds 45000 deaths annually linked to lack of health coverage," September 17, 2009. <http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2009/09/new-study-finds-45000-deaths-annually-linked-to-lack-of-health-coverage/>
34. Jon M. Bailey, "Why Rural America needs a Public Health Insurance Plan," July 2009. [http://files.cfra.org/pdf/public\\_plan.pdf](http://files.cfra.org/pdf/public_plan.pdf)

