

THE QUINTROSPECT

ISSUE NO. 1

SPRING 2023

Exploring
the
**DEPTHS OF
LOVE**

**THEME:
TIME**



THE
SCIENCE
OF THE
**MYSTERY
OF TIME**

*The secrets
behind*
**CLEOPATRA'S
TOMB**

**DISNEY:
THE TRUE
MESSAGES
OF FAIRYTALES**

Editor's note

Dear Readers,

It is an honour to be able to present to you this issue of the school e-magazine. We released our first edition last year, and since then, the magazine has experienced significant changes as it is now renamed "QUINTROSPECT". Over the past year, we have seen many changes inside and outside our little Queen's Gate Community. The year 2022 was significant internationally for many reasons: the start of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the death of the Queen and the polarisation of the left and right political factions. We experienced a truly historical year in a few months with three different Prime Ministers and many significant events. Overall, it is safe to assume that in a few decades, when 2022 makes it to the history books, students will have difficulty learning all the events and dates. Considering this truly historic year, we decided to explore the ideas of the passage of time and allocated the phrase, "the passage of time and interaction of 'old' and 'new' creates a cohesive story that teaches us remarkable lessons" as our starting inspiration in building this magazine.

Yiqiong Shi, my co-editor and the magazine's art director, has designed the cover art. She has drawn a beautiful image representing an abstract clock to symbolise the fluidity of the dynamic characteristic of time as a concept. The team of journalists and editors has put in hard work and intense research to produce well-thought-out articles. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Wallace and Mr Todorovic because, without their enthusiasm and support, our ideas would not have come to fruition. Similarly, I would like to thank Mr Moss for contributing to the magazine as he dedicated his time to share the finer intricacies of democracy in the ancient world via a truly invigorating article. The magazine has a range of articles on a variety of different topics and diverse perspectives.

I want to thank **Yiqiong Shi** and **Nikita Collins** for their amazing contributions to assembling the magazine, producing the artwork, and writing articles. I would also like to thank all the journalists - **Vanessa Lemer, Eleanor Wyatt, Victoria Allen, Susannah Aves, Lily-Lou Pastor, Fabiola Waldron Sanchez-Cid, and Amani Almasri**. Together, the magazine has 9 articles that explore the contrast between current and historical events to present an interesting narrative. From changing role of women in Disney movies to changes in the education system, we hope that you enjoy reading all the different articles.

In conclusion, we would like to thank anyone reading this; as you read the magazine, our efforts and hard work feel appreciated. On behalf of all the individuals involved, I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the school magazine just as we enjoyed creating it.

Sara Kapoor (Editor)

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More recent Representation of women in Disney animation and how that may influence young girls

Lilly-Lou Pastor

Damsels in distress. That's what Disney movies were initially all about. A beautiful young woman would require the help of a strong prince or man to be saved and then live happily ever after.

Disney is one of the largest entertainment companies in the world and has produced many movies and shows, especially for children. Most classic Disney movies follow the idea of a love story between a woman and a man who encounter some difficulty and end up together. The female character is usually represented as fragile and not very bright, while the man is portrayed as charming, witty and physically fit. Is that what children should be seeing? Is that what young girls should believe is normal? Thankfully, this has not been the case in recent years.

In the last decade or so, Disney has shown significant improvement in the Representation of women within their animations. It started in 2009 with *The princess and the frog*, which was a massive milestone in not only the Representation of women but also the Representation of the black community.

The movie follows a young black woman called Tiana to follow her dreams of opening her restaurant while she meets her "true love". Although the movie still follows the prince and princess idea, there are many differences from previous movies that follow it too.

Tiana is represented as a much more determined and hard-working woman who is strong within herself and her opinions which drastically compares to previous Disney princesses such as snow white.

This was the first time young girls saw a more independent woman with a strong work ethic within an animation.



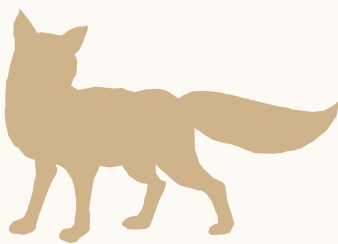


Then in 2013, the massive hit Frozen was released. This movie was extremely significant for female Representation and for influencing young girls.

Frozen follows two sisters called Elsa and Anna. Elsa is born with ice powers which she must learn to control as they can be compelling; therefore, she decides to run away as she can't handle being the queen of her kingdom with everything going on in her life. Anna then sets out on an adventure to find her sister, and when she does, she brings her back alongside her friend Christoph.

Although Anna thinks she has fallen in love with a prince called Hans, he turns out to be the story's villain who tries to kill her sister, but Anna saves Elsa even though it makes her freeze into a statue. The only thing that would unfreeze her is true love which then results in them asking Christoph to kiss her, but that fails as the only thing that saves her is her sister's love.

This movie was sensational for the growth of female Representation in animation as, for the first time, the female characters go on an adventure and must go through the struggles almost independently. The ending doesn't result in a marriage of any sort. The saving is also not done by a man or a prince but through the love and bond of two sisters, which is a compelling message for young girls. Both female characters have new qualities not seen in previous movies, as Anna is very loud, stubborn, and determined, while Elsa is reserved, dangerous, and caring.



Continuing in 2016, Zootopia was released, and although this may not be seen as having major significance to the progression within Disney animation, it arguably may be. It follows the story of Judy Hopps, a bunny who wants to become the first police officer. Although she faces many struggles to prove herself, in the end, she becomes one of the strongest officers on police officers alongside her best friend, Nick Wilde, who is a fox. Despite everything everyone told her and all the jokes people made about her, Judy was persistent and always got back up again. That's a wonderful message for the young female audience that watches these movies, as it not only allows them to see that they shouldn't give up on their dreams but also lets them realise how women can do stereotypical jobs for men. This movie also doesn't end in any romance and shows the viewers that it is ok to be friends with a boy and not have to be romantically interested in him, which has not been previously shown like this in these types of Disney movies.

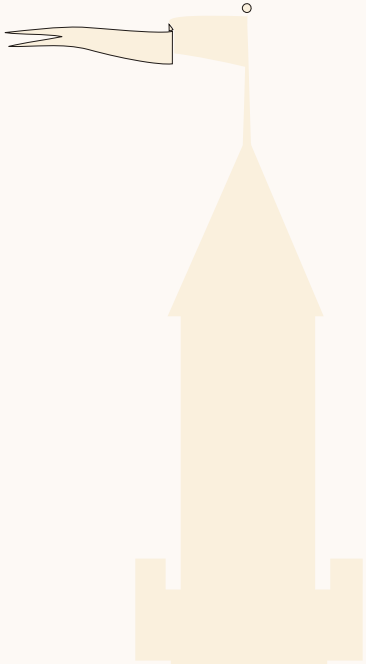
The next movie that deserves mention in the four female movies of the decade is Moana. Moana was released in 2016 and was another hit. It follows the story of a young girl from an island who follows her heart's desire and saves the oceans and her island. She learns how to sail by herself and goes against her family's expectations of her. On her travels, she meets Maui, a demigod, but he does not save the whole story as he is merely an accomplice on her travels. Showing young girls that following dreams and longings is wonderful, and although not everyone may support it, it is important to stick to oneself. It also highlights how women can learn skills associated with men and succeed at them even if they have to learn them themselves.

The last movie that deserves mention in this category is Encanto, released in 2021.

Encanto showed all these small growths in one movie and even more improvement. It's a top-rated movie and is incredible regarding female Representation. The movie follows a family crumbling due to the mistake of one of the daughters, Mirabel. Still, she ends up saving everyone by finally expressing her emotions and love to her grandmother, which causes their family's candle to be recreated, which then saves their magical house. It is a movie with a powerful message about family but also differences in women.

The daughters of the house each have different powers such as Luisa has super strength and is built very physically fit and more muscular; Dolores has super hearing and uses this to be extremely honest; Pepa can control the weather through her emotions which is rough as she is portrayed as rather short-tempered and many more. This movie doesn't only show one aspect of a woman but shows lots of different types of women to influence girls to be proud of themselves and not hide who they are just because they don't fit in with everyone else. This movie has a powerful message due to the portrayal of all the characters and the message of keeping those you love near you.

Movies have always been very influential in how we see the world but especially at a young age during the critical periods of finding oneself; movies can help a lot. A variety of different ages watch Disney movies, and having a more robust and more broad representation of women within these movies, will not only allow normalising things among girls, but it will also help them in the future as it will aid them to be more confident in who they are, what they're thinking and what they're feeling. Breaking away from stereotypical movie expectations is essential for future children's development and will benefit many different things.



A study by Coyne revealed how Disney movies encouraged "pro-social" behaviour, which is necessary for shaping parts of a child's personality and way of thinking as it enables them to be more open and positive and do things such as sharing, complimenting, helping and more. Griffin has even said that messages in Disney movies will be carried throughout a person's life and even to the workplace, which shows how essential movies can be for shaping a child and their future. Young girls do not have many inspirational characters in animation as many characters are stereotypical and can, in some cases, harm a child's development, such as Barbie. Disney movies are a part of many children's childhood. Therefore, the company's growth will help other aspects of the entertainment industry to participate in this movement, which means that there is expected to be a broader and more robust representation of women in the future.

Heartbreak; the complexity of love (science vs sentiment)

By Susannah Aves

Heartbreak is a concept that we are all well aware of or have encountered once. Whether we see it in media, in our favourite series, or have dealt with it first-hand, it is a phenomenon that we as humans are incredibly mindful of, yet we still struggle to comprehend and understand. Author E.A. Bucchianeri notes that “when all is said and done, grief is the price we pay for love”.

I remember being exposed to this proposal while completing an English essay on the world-renowned novel *Jane Eyre* a few years ago. While flipping through my copy of the text, I stumbled upon a line that stuck with me. In chapter 23, Rochester discloses his fear of losing Jane, saying, “I am afraid that cord of communion will be snapped, and then I’ve a nervous notion I should take to bleeding inwardly. As for you, -you’d forget me”.

Suddenly, my desire at that moment was less focused on whether I would be able to meet the 1,000-word limit per my teacher’s request, but I was now fixated on this one line. I could not shake it. Love- an idea that I solely viewed as an emotional feeling and a human construct, was now being expressed in an incredibly vivid and physical manner as I had never seen before. It is safe to say that this line scared me as a 14-year-old girl. However, I was oblivious to the fact that it would change my outlook on love as a whole forever.



Although I have not experienced heartbreak first-hand, I have always been incredibly fascinated with it. Many of my most listened-to songs of 2022 on Spotify were centred around the concept of failed love, so much so that it got to a point where I felt like I was over-consuming material about a phenomenon I knew so little about.

My all-time top 5 song is “Pink Matter” by Frank Ocean. Just after the chorus plays the line, “this unrequited love, for me it’s nothing but a one-man cult”. The word “cult” offered me a window into grasping the psychological side of heartbreak—an obsession. An unhealthy tendency and desire to be loved by the one you love so much is a primitive desire that species across the entire animal kingdom share. Take the case of Dorothy, an elderly chimpanzee who died in 2008 in the Sanagayong Chimpanzee Rescue Centre in Eastern Cameroon. Workers at the centre were well aware that Dorothy was a prominent figure within their chimp community at the site, but no one could predict the reaction that they would give after her death. The apes lined the perimeter of the enclosure quietly, questioning why their friend was being wheeled away and shielded by a white covering. Observers spotted the chimps placing their hands on one another’s shoulders in mourning, an unexpected occurrence for an animal so loud and boisterous.

So we know that mourning and heartbreak is not exclusive to the human race, but why does it impact music and culture so much? So much so that some are even willing to kill for love? Take SZA's new Billboard number 1 song "Kill Bill", for example. The 2-minute song addresses, in detail, the obsessive side of love. The first line of the chorus is quite literally, "I might kill my ex". She goes on to say that she would even "rather be in jail than alone". While we hope to assume that SZA doesn't genuinely want to kill her ex, she touches on an impulsive desire that some people have actually acted upon; a crime of passion as commonly referred to.

Not only is heartbreak expressed in a reckless and rageful light through music, but the vulnerable and melancholic side of love is also commonly used as the focus point in songs. In fact, 67% of all recorded songs have been about love, demonstrating the profound affect that love and heartbreak has on us. While the majority of society may not be successful musicians or multi-millionaire Grammy winners, a lot of us have experienced heartbreak, in fact 82% of people at some point in their lives experience it. Therefore, love songs are incredibly popular and are highly listened to, as 82% of us relate to the lyrics and connect to the songs, allowing us to be comforted, reminding us that we are not alone. Music therapist Dr Hilary Moss notes that "music stirs the emotions, it connects without language to our feelings". This serves to explain why many people find themselves drowning their sadness in love songs, as they make us feel things in a time where we may feel otherwise emotionally numb. Countless psychologists have proved that crying, an act that can be triggered by listening to sad songs, releases endorphins, leading to us feeling relieved and at peace. Songs about heartbreak can help us to regulate our emotions and enable us to cope with our feelings in a simple and healthy way, bringing us comfort in difficult times.

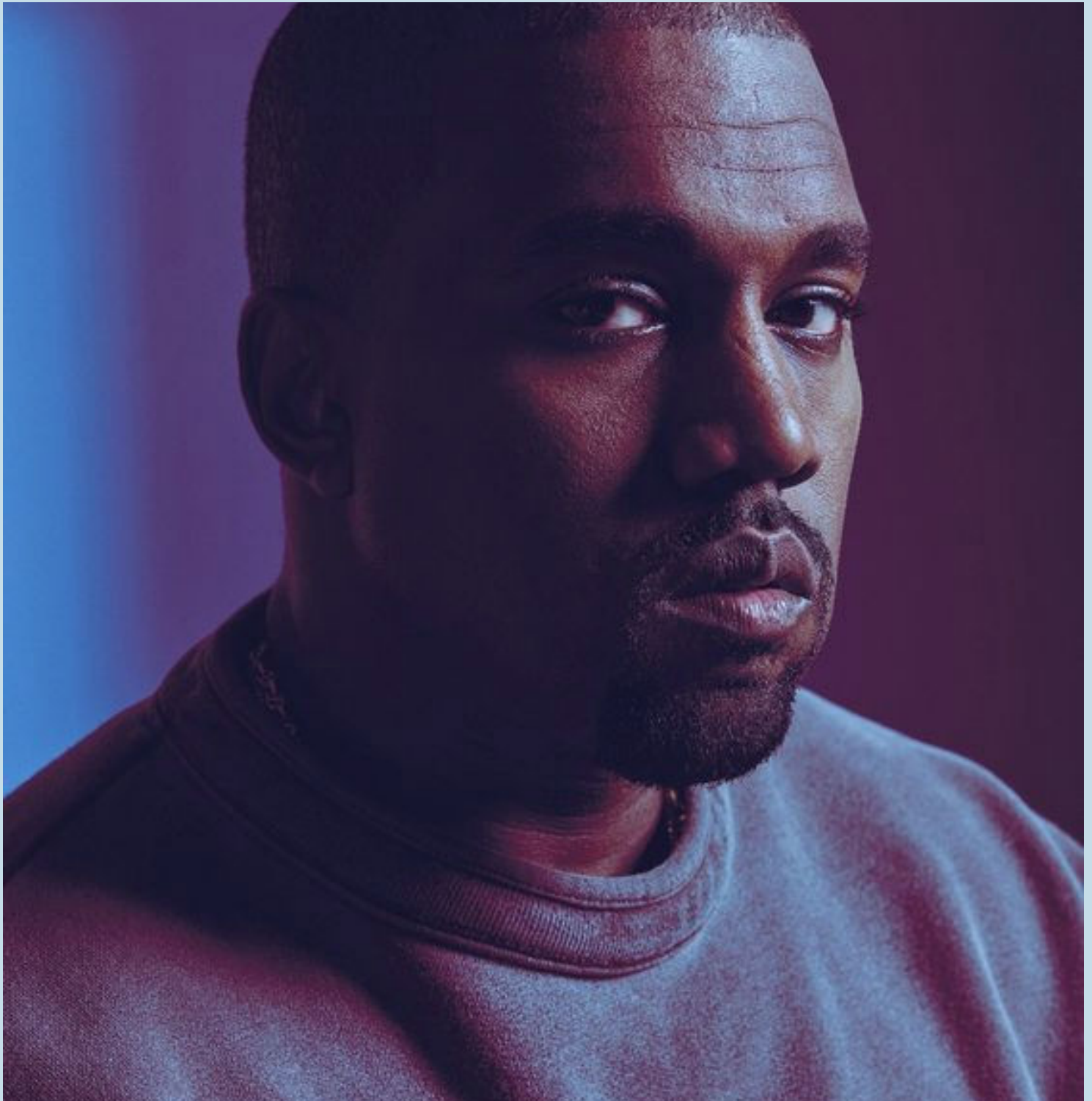


Heartbreak is also an extremely common literary theme. When I think about heartbreak in literature, my mind immediately goes to Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, undoubtedly the most famous love story of all time. The historical tale is a prime example of how extreme passion can lead to extreme tragedy. In *Romeo and Juliet*, love is a fierce, overpowering force that supersedes everything else, including other loyalties, values and duties. Love is so powerful in this case that it results in a double suicide. This tale's end is the most intense expression of love that the two could make, as they knew that the only way for them to preserve their love would be through death. In this occasion, love is shown in a way that overrides absolutely everything, presenting it as a terrifying force to the reader, almost like a curse. Almost as if being dead is more desirable than not being able to be with your beloved.

Love is not always easy, but it also is not always hard. Our existence is rooted in love because love is a driving force in our lives. Heartbreak can feel inescapable, whether it be mourning the loss of a loved one or ending an unhealthy relationship. Heartbreak can scar, but scars fade, and the healing process needs time and patience.

The Kanye West controversy: antisemitic racist or victim of mental illness?

By Vanessa Lemer



Kanye ("Ye") West is an American producer, rapper and fashion designer who rose to fame in the late 1990s and early 2000s. He has had four number-one singles on the Billboard Hot 100, sold over 160 million records, and won 22 Grammy awards. His ex-wife, Kim Kardashian, is one of the most famous "influencers" in the world, and together they have four kids. Despite Kanye's incredible success, his musical career and personal life have been marked with controversy. He is known to "walk the line between being famous and infamous due to his achievements and reputation for controversial actions or crazy statements." My question is: is Kanye West the "monster" he calls himself in his 2010 album *My Dark Beautiful Twisted Fantasy*, or has he been unjustly villainised as an unstable and outrageous man?

West's most recent controversy surrounding his racist and antisemitic actions and comments has been particularly damaging for the artist. However, before delving into this, I would like to discuss some of his problematic historical behaviour involving racism. For example, in an interview on a Chicago radio station in 2018, West said that slavery was a "choice". Despite the interview receiving considerable backlash, West posted a series of tweets to justify his commentary, saying, "I know that enslaved people did not get shackled and put on a boat by free will. My point is for us to have stayed in that position even though the numbers were on our side means that we were mentally enslaved." This tone-deaf response highlights West's ignorance due to his complete disregard for black people's struggles in America. The artist's opinions on the subject of slavery were relatively similar during his failed 2020 US presidential campaign, in which he stated that Harriet Tubman, a prominent antislavery activist, "never actually freed the slaves." Although technically Tubman did not free all enslaved people in America, she took part in several missions to help rescue enslaved people through the Underground Railroad.

West's racist discord continued. On October 3rd 2022, West performed at his fashion brand's private show at Paris Fashion Week, during which he was wearing a shirt with the text 'White Lives Matter'. White Lives Matter is a movement in response to the civil rights movement 'Black Lives Matter', associated with racist, neo-Nazi, and far-right views. The White Lives Matter website describes the movement as "dedicated to the promotion of the white race and taking positive action as a united voice against issues facing our race".

West was photographed at his show with Candace Owens, a notorious conservative American politician, who was also wearing White Live Matter shirt. This shocking behaviour comes from a black man who has previously voiced his opinions on racism in America, stating in 2005 that George Bush "does not care about black people" on a live telethon for Hurricane Katrina relief. West argued that Bush was not doing enough to help black people after the hurricane. Why would Kanye West change his views on black people and racism towards them in America? Perhaps he felt as if he was slipping from popularity and was trying to stay in the spotlight. Alternatively, perhaps he truly believed in the White Lives Matter movement and wanted to promote his views.

On October 7th 2022, West shared a text conversation between himself and Sean "Diddy" Combs on Instagram. Diddy disapproved of West's White Lives Matter shirt at Paris Fashion Week and suggested they meet in person to discuss it. West responded by saying that he would use Diddy "as an example to show the Jewish people that told [Diddy] to call [West] that no one can threaten or influence [West]." Sending a text to someone in private is one way to handle this, but sharing this hateful speech with millions of people on social media is uncalled.

West continued with his antisemitic streak, posting tweets on October 8th which violated community guidelines and were subsequently removed by Twitter soon after they were posted. One of his posts included the statement that when he woke up the following day, he would go "death [sic] con three on Jewish people" and that he "cannot be antisemitic because black people are Jewish." As a young Jewish woman, I found this heartbreaking: one of my favourite artists had seemingly said he wanted to attack people of my faith. Whether he said this with the true intention of committing the action or not, the fact that West would even post such a horrible comment was quite disturbing. To my disbelief, even after this outrageous tweet was posted, there still seemed to be many Kanye West supporters.

A few days after the tweet was posted, West's Twitter account was locked due to violating Twitter's policies. Over the next few weeks, his inflammatory statements ultimately led to his "cancellation", with many of the world's most prominent consumer brands terminating their partnerships with him, including Gap, Foot Locker, JP Morgan Chase, Madame Tussauds and The Real Real. On October 25th, Adidas, the company with which West had launched his brand, "Yeezy" and was his most lucrative relationship, formally ended its partnership with West and released a statement stating that "Adidas does not tolerate antisemitism and any other sort of hate speech." Forbes calculated that without West's partnership with Adidas, his net worth should decrease by \$1.5 billion, leaving him with a net worth of \$400 million, an almost 80% decline overnight. In my opinion, brands responding proactively and positively shows progress and an understanding of how harmful these comments can be, especially when said by an influential and widely respected person. However, losing these valuable partnerships did not stop West's rampage.

On November 22nd, West had dinner with Donald Trump, the former President of the United States and Nick Fuentes, a known Holocaust denier and white supremacist. The dinner occurred at Mar-a-Lago, Trump's resort/club in Palm Beach, Florida. Trump claimed that he was unaware of Nick Fuentes' background, but I find this hard to believe. A background check must have taken place for a guest to come into Mar-a-Lago and meet with the former President of the United States. Furthermore, West posted on his Twitter account a few days after the dinner that Trump was "really impressed" by Fuentes. In a statement, Trump said that the meeting was "intended to be Kanye and me only, but [West] arrived with a guest whom [Trump] had never met and knew nothing about." Due to opposing accounts of the night, it is difficult to tell who is telling the truth. Trump claims he was helping out a man who seemed to be in trouble. Nevertheless, I am not focusing on Trump. It does not matter whether or not Trump knew who Nick Fuentes was or that West was bringing him: West brought a notorious white nationalist to a dinner.


In addition, I feel I must also highlight Kanye West's mental health issues, including his diagnosis of bipolar disorder, about his erratic behaviour. Bipolar disorder is a mental health condition characterised by extreme mood swings that include episodes of drastic highs and lows. Before West's diagnosis became known to the public, he frequently displayed irrational and what most people would characterise as strange behaviour.

The 2009 MTV Music Video Awards is just one example of Kanye's eccentric conduct. During Taylor Swift's speech after winning the award for Best Video by a Female Artist, West marched onto the stage, grabbed the microphone from Swift, and pronounced, "Beyonce had one of the best videos of all time!" When West went on Nick Cannon's podcast in 2020, he claimed God told him to storm the stage at the VMAs. These sorts of delusions can often indicate a manic episode. In West's 2018 album entitled "Ye", the album cover consisted of an image of mountains with the text "I hate being bipolar; it is awesome."

While I sympathise with West, in my opinion, his bipolar disorder does not at all excuse his behaviour; however, it does explain to the world what may have caused him to say such offensive things.

On January 13th 2023, just two months after West finalised his divorce from Kim Kardashian and whilst I was writing this article, the press revealed that West had recently married Bianca Censori, a Yeezy designer with whom he worked for several years. This quick shift from marriage to marriage has been interpreted in media as another example of manic behaviour.

Ultimately, we may never know why West did and said these things or whether or not he regrets them. What matters is that we recognise that this is not respectable or acceptable conduct in today's society. I am not suggesting that one should not ever listen to Kanye West's music again (it is my guilty pleasure) or that one should throw out all of their Yeezy shoes, but we must acknowledge that when someone is as influential as Kanye West is, they need to be mindful of, and take accountability for their actions and commentary.



REPARATIONS: A question that dominated headlines in 1919 and 1945 becomes relevant again in the twenty-first century.

By Sara Kapoor


24th February 2022 was a defining day for many Ukrainians as their lives were shaken irreversibly. Almost a year after the conflict started, we hope the war will end, but we have the question of what comes next. Will the people of Ukraine who wander Eastern Europe as refugees ever recover from the economic and emotional trauma of the conflict? To what extent will Russia be condemned? Nevertheless, the most critical question is how this war will end.

Many of these questions were answered on 14th November 2022 as the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that calls for Russia to pay war reparations to Ukraine, as ambassadors met to resume their emergency special session devoted to the conflict. Ukraine insists that Russia must be held accountable and calls out hypocrisy as justified, "77 years ago, the Soviet Union demanded and received reparations, calling it a moral right of a country that has suffered war and occupation". The officials from Ukraine now plead with the UN and explain how "Today, Russia, who claims to be the successor of the 20th century's tyranny, is doing everything it can to avoid paying the price for its war and occupation, trying to escape accountability for the crimes it is committing". Prominent international politicians negotiate carnage and compensation amidst heavy criticism from Moscow.

Moreover, there will be no UN regulation within these negotiations as the stakeholders demand reparation funding from the Russian surplus. This sets the tone for the first half of what I will write about today as I discuss the historical and economic implications of post-war reparations.

Before understanding the effects of reparations, one must gauge how punitive social policy often leads to a reverse shock on the international body. To grasp this, I want to draw the reader's attention to the implications of the economic sanctions on Russia. One of the most dangerous implications of the global supply chain disruption caused by shunning Russian gas and oil, along with the loss of essential resources from Ukraine, has been the global recession. In the last financial quarter of 2022, high inflation meant that many countries, including the UK, have fallen into a recession.





However, another reason why punitive economic policies towards one powerful nation might have lasting impacts on the global economy is the interrelationships between all economies due to a historical relationship of trade and globalisation. Let us look at how close the Nord Stream 1 in Europe caused a \$100 price hike in energy prices in Pakistan, rendering its government speechless on how to foot the bills of their railways and cities. This caused a sizeable political conflict within the nation, beginning with the Railways being suspended as Pakistan could no longer afford the energy needed to run them. This relationship is one of the many examples in which we can find evidence of how interconnected the global society is and how reparations to one may also be reparations to all.

So, one side of the argument is that punitive sanctions on Russia to ruin their liquidity and balance of payments turned into a disaster as it disrupted global trade. However, this does not mean that the sanctions are not working – it is the very opposite of that. Global condemnation and freezing of foreign assets have significantly impacted the domestic Russian economy and their ability to fund the war.

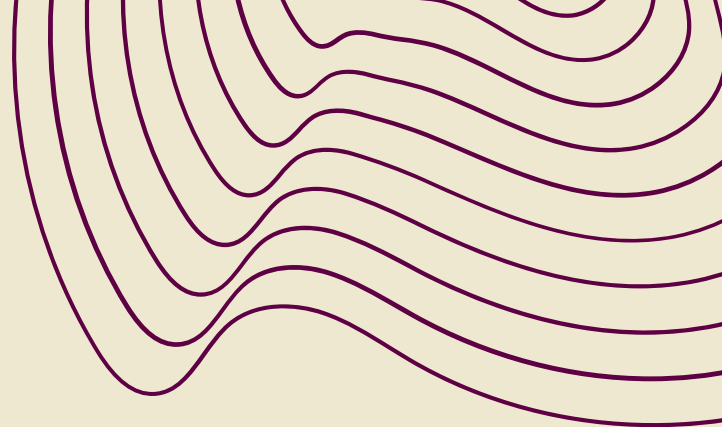
Moreover, pressure on Russia from foreign allies such as India has meant significant tension for the Kremlin on the foreign policy front. Thus, the answer is slightly inconclusive because of the reasons I just listed and because any war in history has disrupted the economy – the more deeply interconnected economic relationships emphasise this more in the 21st century. Putin tries to keep up the rhetoric of an "assured victory"; however, the current global atmosphere showcases that at the heart of the façade of Kremlin deniers lies a reckoning for the Russian government.

I draw historical examples to discuss whether reparations will create a global economic shock or be effectively centred in Russia. John Maynard Keynes opened his book "Economic Consequences of the Peace" with a similar explanation of the intertwined economies of Europe. He explores how the balance of Europe was first shaken by the Great War and is now threatened to be shaken again as the Allies set a list of punitive demands over Germany that their war-torn economy much less any other European economy would not be able to fulfil.

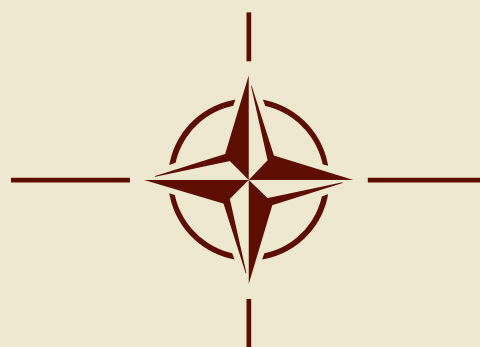
Firstly, he argues as an economist that Europe could not prosper without an equitable, effective and integrated economic system, which was impossible by the economic terms of the treaty. Secondly, the Allies had committed themselves in the Armistice agreement to critical principles regarding reparations, territorial adjustments, and evenhandedness in economic matters, which were materially breached by the treaty. He explains how the reparations will destroy the trade route to and from Germany and that Europe will have a bleak hole in its supply chain and demand after this war. True to Keynes's words, investors saw the uncertainty that troubled the global economy once the glamour of repair and government funding faded. The Wall Street crash then shook up the world, breaking it from the belief that recovery in the post-war era would be easy. Was the Wall Street crash rooted in the fact that reparations injured German production, creating a significant blow to the global supply chain?

To some extent, the answer is yes. By 1900, German steel production exceeded Britain's and was only second to the United States. Germany was essential to the international economy, and a good chunk of steel was provided by Germany. Britain, Germany and France had together controlled 45% of the world trade – the war-damaged all three countries, and reparations meant that it would be ages before Germany could reach post-war production levels. Two main reasons for the crash were buying on the margin and a mismatch between production versus consumption. Both reasons emerge from the fact that a significant part of the world had not repaired from the shock of the war and could not drive up enough demand for the innovation going on. The destruction of the domestic German economy in the 1923 hyper-inflation crisis and then the extended effect of the depression in 1930 (because of how deeply entertained their economy was with that of the US) meant that the assistance of the emerging middle class in the country was destroyed, leaving them in bleak despair as they turned to political extremism. So, to an extent, the economic crisis was brought about by the mismanagement of state funds and the long-term implications of the treaty of Versailles meant that Nazism found a significant ideological base within a desperate German population. However, one central point to emphasise here is that the Treaty of Versailles was not a very significant factor as Germany never paid the whole amount – the allies were, in instances, generous in providing them payment holidays and loans that exceeded the amount of the reparations paid.

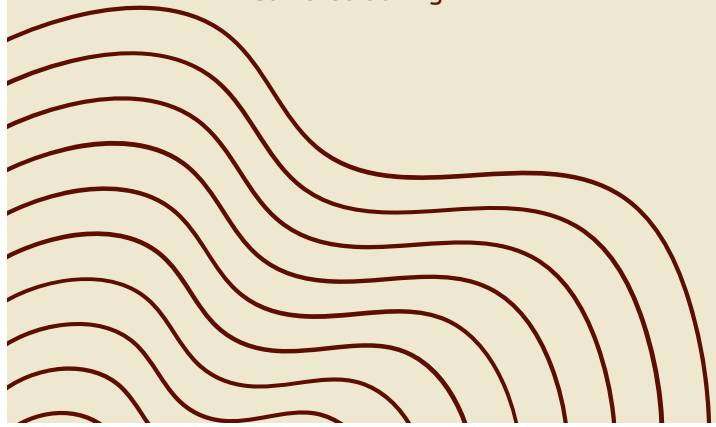
Post World War Two, the FRG adopted a policy of rebuilding Germany while the USSR-controlled areas were focused on extracting whatever they could. Then, we saw mixed results, but one thing was clear – reparations must not be centred on vengeance or malice like Keynes implied the Versailles agreement was. The lesson, though, to take away from this historical event is that one must take a calculated risk because sometimes, action may have a bit of a boomerang effect. Amidst recent tensions, the question of WWII reparations has become even more critical as last September, Poland demanded Germany compensation for the losses suffered during WWII.



This was alarming news as it threatened to develop animosity between two important NATO and trade partners. The conflict dates back to 1953 when the issue of reparation was officially closed, and experts think that post Ukraine's bold move to join NATO and other Eastern bloc countries moving away from USSR influence, Poland has decided to ask the Germans for some real compensation. Poland says that the sealing of terms of reparation in 1953 was under USSR pressure and that their citizens have the right to demand compensation. All of this brings us back to the real reasons why governments push for war reparations, why Clemenceau was dedicated to destroying the German economy – it was not revenge; it was a way to create enough funds to create hope for the innocent people of their nations that lost everything to the war. So, the question is not about how much reparations are considered fair, as Keynes posed to us, or even the question of the importance of reparations. It is asking who gets to decide the reparations.



For this, we should turn to a neutral body that understands the importance of maintaining a healthy economic relationship despite reparations. Throughout the article, we have explored how the global economy has interwoven inextricably in the past few decades. Thus, any decisions on the question of reparations must be based on the criteria that they are compensating the losses of the Ukrainian people and not being punitive towards the Russian economy. If reparations affect the domestic Russian economy extremely harshly in the post-war era, two main implications might occur:





1. The Russian people will suffer financially. Getting honest contemporary figures on the Russian economy and state of social well-being is hard right now, but one can easily estimate the adverse effects of the severe drop in demand for Russian exports. This comes when importing or getting loans for the country is complex, and the government is focused on war. The people who suffer are ordinary Russians. Any form of punitive reparations might result in the suffering of the ordinary Russians – something that happened post-Treaty of Versailles and had drastic consequences. A vulnerable population is susceptible to mass propaganda, which is fearsome in the modern age because of the power of social media.
2. Further disruption of global trade. Keynes explained that post-war, you want to reverse engineer all the damage so your economy can shift its long-run aggregate supply outward. Once this happens, you will only be able to trigger any form of economic growth. Therefore, it is vital that Russia and Ukraine both can repair their economies.

So, what do we want reparations to look like in the future? The UN no longer controls this question; thus, one can easily estimate that the US will be taking over from here. Therefore, we genuinely do not know what to expect and can only pray for the well-being of all affected because of this conflict. So, imagine if you had the power to set reparations – what would you choose? One can draw inspiration here from the collective western economies' decision to freeze the foreign assets of leading Russian government officials responsible for the atrocities against Ukraine and the ancient Persian method of dealing with winning a war. According to Herodotus, King Cyrus the Great had a set pattern on what to do after he won a war – plunder the royal treasury but make sure that the people in the region did not feel financially challenged so that they could be happy and not protest against Persian rule. Maybe, the real solution is to collect these frozen foreign assets as a compensation payment to foot the bill of the war. Thus, you can easily take a small quantity of the pressure from reparations that potentially come from taxpayer money. However, we are not living in the fifth century BC anymore and King Cyrus's method does not appear to be a way forward. Ultimately, one can only hope that everyone can recover after this war that has created a tumultuous start to this decade.



WHY IS THIS THE TIME TO MAKE A CHANGE FOR OUR PLANET?

By Eleanor Wyatt

Everyone says it is up to our generation to make a difference and save our planet. Grandparents, parents, and elders say it is up to us. They say this is the time to change, make a difference, and save our planet. But why? And why now?

The 'why' is easy, our planet is not everlasting and is slowly dying due to the harsh conditions it is under with the natural climate change caused by the solar flares, the earth's rotation and the greenhouse effect, but now it is happening way faster than it should as we are cutting down trees in large quantities to precisely 42 million trees are cut down each day, the burning of fossil fuels, the large meat consumption which is growing and growing demand for land for agriculture.

Thus, speeding up climate change by releasing greenhouse gases such as methane, carbon dioxide, and nitrous oxide causes a thick blanket over the earth to trap sunlight, warm our planet up, and cause climate change.

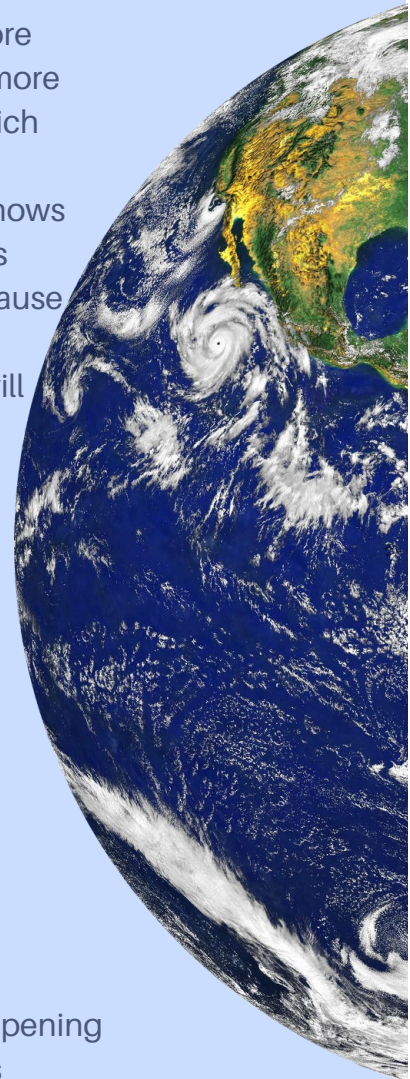
But why now? Could not our parents have done this for us? Why couldn't our grandparents do it? Moreover, why do we have to do it now when it has been happening for years? It is because, as we know, climate change is only getting worse and worse, and the older generations deny the fact it is happening as in some of their lives, it did not happen with tremendous consequences, and so they deny the facts and scientific evidence.

Also, no one believed in helping as everyone relied on politicians and world leaders to start the action, which they did not as they procrastinated as they have always said:

'we have a couple more years' and 'there are more important things', which might be valid but objective evidence shows that climate change is happening and will cause minor irreversible consequences and will have massive effects.

Climate change's effects on us and the environment are unmeasurable by any standard. We are fortunate to live in London, so not many people realise how severe the effects of climate change are.

Climate change is happening all around us: Venice is sinking due to rising sea levels and is said to be underwater by at least 2100 scientists, which is only 77 years away! We will lose and cause species to go extinct as the habitats are becoming hotter and they are not adapted to them.



Hurricanes and tropical storms are going to get stronger and will occur more often, and weather will get more extreme with hotter summers and colder winters everywhere.

This might seem like a great idea in London, where it does not snow much, but in countries such as Niger in Africa the growing season will become shorter, and they are running out of food, and the truth is they are starving to death.

You might be thinking, what can I do?
Alternatively, you might think anything you do is pointless and will not help.

That is very untrue! There are so many little things that you can do (that will massively help), such as; Taking a bus or tube to school. We have South Kensington and

Gloucester Road tube stations; take a reusable straw and cup to Starbucks. Did you know you can get a discount if you bring a reusable cup to Starbucks?

Alternatively, talk to Mr Moss when you see him around school or environmental monitors at school and ask them what you can do to help. UVMM set up project sound in school, which has significant meanings.

It is the process in which one spreads the word about climate change. Tell family and friends about facts you have learnt or how you can help and the small things you can do because spreading the word means it will gain a more extensive reach and impact on helping the environment.

Project sound does not mean having to change a complete lifestyle or taking massive leaps at a time, but it is the things that you can help with which can save money and save the planet at the time.

Next time you are on the 4th floor of Queen's Gate, go to 4.1 and look at the project sound pledges, where the school pledged what they would do and would not do. They are simple and easy ideas on the wall, but that is all that matters because, in the end, so many pledges and people want to get involved, which shows that it is possible when you believe it can have an impact.

Overall, the climate crisis is such a massive problem and caused by lots of different reasons, both natural.

One of the problems is that too many people think, 'Oh, it does not matter if I do nothing; someone else will' or 'Another time' or 'It does not matter if I do not do anything, others can do it for me' but by understanding what we are doing and the effects we are having on our planet, we can understand what to do to help as it is possible.

It might seem like a massive issue, but breaking it down and taking small steps towards a cleaner, more sustainable future will help bit by bit. If we can change our mindsets to believe that we can do it and it is possible, then we can influence people, friends and family, teachers and strangers to change their lifestyle as well, one step at a time.



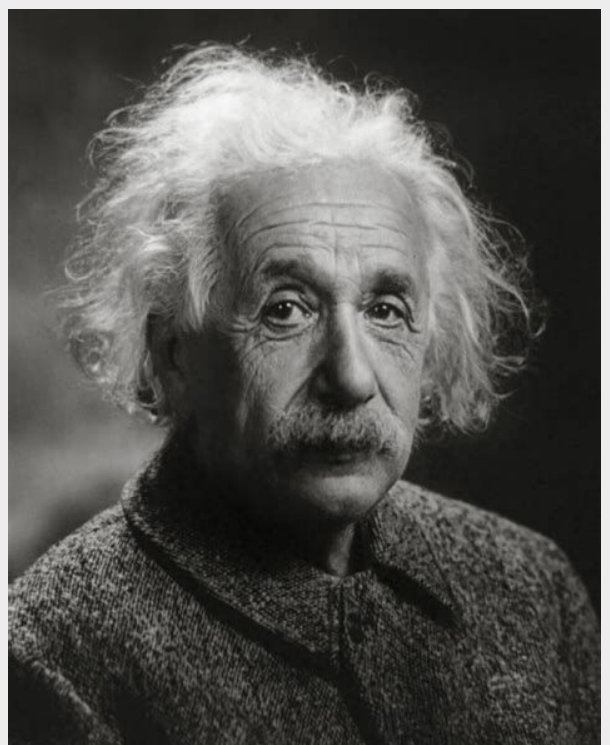
Explorations of time in the world of physics

Fabiola Waldron Sanchez-Cid

The notion of time and precisely what it is has always been a subject for debate, whether in philosophy, physics or daily life. Time has remained somewhat of a mystery to society for as long as we can remember; we know it as a measure that helps order and keeps track of events, but we still do not fully understand it. We believe there is a past, present and future, but are the past, current and future simply subjective? We seem to experience time as a moving present, but is this just an illusion? So, while this remains a great mystery for some of the greatest physicists, this article will include some of the most famous and relevant theories surrounding time to understand this mysterious phenomenon better.

Various theories have been investigated and developed throughout history to explore time by well-known scientists like Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, Erwin Schrödinger and Stephen Hawking (all four of the world's most notable time physicists). One of the first to famously apply for his work successfully to time physics was Sir Isaac Newton. He did this by laying down the foundation for the mechanics and mathematics of time. Newton believed time to have a linear relationship with space (or distance travelled). His important discovery of gravity would then help Albert Einstein further with his investigations. Hence, Newton's theories became outdated when Einstein proposed his theory of relativity.

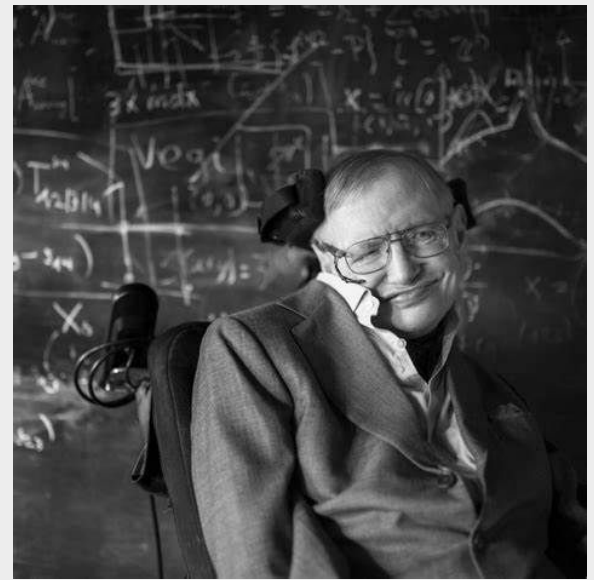
Albert Einstein's investigations led him to believe that time is relative to the physical universe- a physical universe defined by the presence of movement, matter and consciousness. He felt the passage of time would differ for objects moving at different velocities through space. He introduced a thought experiment through the theory of relativity to explain what he meant, called "the twin paradox". In physics, this "twin paradox" (which is often used to explain special relativity) involves identical twins: one of whom makes a journey into space in a high-speed rocket and returns home to find that the twin who remained on Earth has aged more; Einstein used this to demonstrate the curious manifestation of time dilation. His theory of relativity defined time as a fourth dimension, thereby transforming three-dimensional space into four-dimensional space-time. Relativity is the idea that the faster you travel through space, the slower you move through time, and that gravity travels in the form of waves. According to Einstein's calculations, an event that took one day to complete by someone standing on Earth would take 12 hours to complete if they were travelling at 87% of the speed of light. In 1915, he further unified space, time and gravitation with his general theory of relativity- showing that warps and curves in space and time are responsible for the force of gravity.





Erwin Schrödinger was also around at the time of Einstein and played a crucial role in the investigation of time- he was known as the 'father of quantum mechanics.' "Schrödinger's cat experiment" has become one of the most well-known paradoxes in quantum theory- it was meant to show that quantum mechanics does not necessarily always apply to more critical and concrete things. Furthermore, the famous Schrödinger equation explains how wavelength changes over a period of time and the solutions to his equation, unlike the solutions to Newton's equations, are wave functions that can only be related to the probable occurrence of physical events.

Lastly, Stephen Hawking was the most recent of these scientists and is most known for his contributions to cosmology, gravitation, quantum theory (related to black holes), thermodynamics and information theory. He discovered the laws of black hole mechanics, which would also be essential in physicists' studies on time. Hawking believed that according to the laws of physics and contrary to intuition, black holes should radiate away energy and slowly evaporate; he came to this conclusion by extrapolating information from well-established theories of quantum mechanics and thermodynamics. Hawking had an idea that if a book were thrown into a black hole, the information inside would disappear forever. However, this created a paradox, as laws of physics and quantum mechanics, in particular, do not allow data to be destroyed.



A more recent theory has started to emerge lately, and that is string theory (with particle physics). This theory attempts to merge quantum mechanics with Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity, and the potential of using this theory to try and explain time has also unfolded. In the 1980s, physicists realised that string theory had the potential to incorporate all four of nature's forces: gravity, electromagnetism, strong force and weak force- and all types of matter in a single quantum mechanical framework- suggesting that it may be the long-sought for unified field theory! While string theory is still a vibrant area of research that is undergoing rapid development, it remains primarily a mathematical construct as it has not yet experienced any experimental study, which is why string theory is so hard to prove, as we currently do have not got enough resources to establish or experiment with this theory.

In conclusion, the theory of relativity is widely accepted by many physicists as the possibility of time travel. Hawking also agreed with this idea, as he saw that a black hole of such size has a profound effect on time, making it a 'natural time machine'. It is believed that theoretically, black holes can create a tunnel through space-time and that, technically, laws of physics do not prevent time travel. Whether we want to travel into the future or the past, it comes down to the ability to travel close to the speed of light. We have still not found that one equation in physics which unifies all fields. However, string theory could be a way forward if we develop the resources in the future. It is fascinating to observe that specific laws of physics may change over time. However, time is the only aspect of the universe that remains timeless. As Albert Einstein famously stated: "the only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once."

The quest to find the tomb of Cleopatra: the woman behind it all



By Victoria Allen

Cleopatra's mention conjures images of illustrious wealth, daring adventures and perhaps her affairs with powerful Roman men. However, there is also a large and ever-present question: where is the resting place of the famous Egyptian Queen and her Roman consort, Mark Antony? Despite her death being immortalised in many pieces of literature and art, archaeologists have searched for her tomb for years. If it were found, it would undoubtedly be the most significant discovery of the 21st century. More than two millennia after the couple's death, archaeologists still have no idea where the remains lie.

Kathleen Martinez, however, a Dominican criminal lawyer turned Egyptologist from the University of Santo Domingo, believes that she may have an idea of where Cleopatra might be buried. Even though the search process has taken nearly 20 years, Martinez's recent discovery of a 1,305-metre-long tunnel, described as a 'geometric miracle' by experts, suggests a significant breakthrough in the search for Cleopatra. Within this tunnel, Martinez has uncovered a sacred lake, three sanctuaries and more than 1,500 objects, including statues, gold pieces, and a vast collection of coins portraying Cleopatra herself, the Ptolemies and Alexander the Great.

The tunnel is located under the Tapoiris Magna Temple, 60km southwest of Alexandria. Martinez has faced many challenges in her quest to find the resting place of Cleopatra, such as doubt and criticism from many archaeologists, strong discouragement from her father, and even a failed marriage as a result of her husband's refusal to move with her to Egypt for her to pursue her archaeological ambitions. She, however, has not been deterred from the task. If anything, this has fuelled her determination to find Cleopatra's tomb.

Where Martinez's obsession stems from :

As an only child, Martinez was doted upon by her parents, who enabled her to have a rigorous academic life. This allowed Martinez to have graduated from law school at the age of 18. Her father owned the most prominent personal library in the Dominican Republic, allowing her to quench her thirst for learning even further. Martinez's fascination with Cleopatra developed from an argument with her father in 1990 when she picked up a copy of Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra. He claimed that Cleopatra was not even worthy of consideration, and she was determined to prove him wrong.

Consequently, Martinez spent much time researching the Egyptian Queen, whose image had been highly corrupted through Roman propaganda and general historical bias. Looking at Egyptian sources, she understood Cleopatra was not what she had been made out to be, but a powerful and knowledgeable woman, in her words, "the greatest of her dynasty." Through her research, she found out that Cleopatra could speak 9 languages, wrote about law and medicine, and ruled one of the most powerful countries in the world at the time. This furthered her fascination with the Queen, and day by day, she continued her research in her spare time.



The Theory

While Martinez's interest in the Queen grew, she started constructing a theory as to why Cleopatra and Mark Antony's tomb had never been found. In her lifetime, Cleopatra believed that she was the human version of the goddess Isis and that her consort, Mark Antony was the living form of the god Osiris. Hence her reasoning that Cleopatra and Antony were buried in a temple rather than a tomb and the reason why their tomb had never been found.

After spending months attempting to contact the Egyptian government to obtain permission to explore temples not open to the public, Martinez decided to take matters into her own hands and planned a trip to Egypt. Once there, she secured a meeting with the Egyptian Minister of Antiquities. She was approved to do so for two months, during which her exploration seemed to be in vain until she reached the temple of Taposiris Magna.

Once she had decided Taposiris Magna was the time she wanted to excavate, there came the problem of obtaining an excavation permit. She returned home in order to organise another expedition to Cairo, pitching a presentation to the University of Santo Domingo in which she gained support for her journey. After making some meetings, Martinez was appointed the first Minister of Culture to Egypt in the Dominican Republic and returned to Egypt shortly after with a clear plan.

After meeting with the Egyptian Supreme Council on Antiquities, she was again granted two months of excavation to prove her theory. This posed a problem as she had not been awarded funding for this excavation. Consequently, she started the excavation with her funds. This was eventually resolved through her teaming up with Zahi Hawes, the former Minister of State for Antiquities Affairs, and the Egyptian government.

The excavation quickly brought up interesting artefacts, allowing Martinez to continue her project. Since 2005, she has been working on finding exactly where Cleopatra's tomb is located. The recent discovery of the tunnel makes her believe she is on the brink of making an incredible discovery. Martinez's latest project is to begin underwater excavations at Taposiris Magna, as she believes there may be something under the waves; According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the Egyptian coastline has been battered by earthquakes over the centuries, causing parts of the Taposiris Magna to collapse and sink.

Despite this, Martinez is hopeful for these new projects and intends to see them through.

Interview with Dr Emily Allen – Hornblower, a professor of Classics at Rutgers University

Interviewed by Victoria Allen as an addition to her article

“What do you make of Kathleen Martinez’s research?”

I find her persistence remarkable, and her intuitions compelling. I am a Hellenist, and no expert of Cleopatra nor that period. While I hope her hunch proves right, I must say I do worry about and indeed question the methodological problems inherent in an approach that involves doing research to prove a pre-existing theory, rather than one that involves conducting research with an open mind as to what the evidence might prove... (cf. Schliemann for example). This seems to me to lead scholars generally to read into evidence what they want to see in it, rather than allowing the evidence to speak for itself.

“What do you think the discovery of Cleopatra’s tomb would mean for the world, especially classicists?”

Goodness, I have never thought about that, and hence have given it virtually no thought until now... but I must say I do feel a tremor of excitement at the mere idea of such a discovery! I suppose it would all depend on what would be found, of course.



It seems to me it would be a most welcome opportunity for the world to think about the reception of Antiquity, and particularly of Cleopatra, in ways that would be far more productive and less reductionist than, say, the portrayal of Cleopatra by Elizabeth Taylor (a splendid one though it may be). For instance, it would be an opportunity to both shed further light on and continue to revisit the stereotypes pertaining to ancient women (e.g., through the lens of Orientalism, and involving the hyper-sensualization of the figure of the foreign female “seductress”); it would also be a welcome opportunity in the post-MeToo world to reflect on conceptions of women, particularly those in positions of power, then and now.

It would also be a welcome chance Martinez, if she were proven right, to be an inspiring example among many of women meeting countless glass ceilings along their path (in spite of many advantages and privileges in her case, which she fully acknowledges and of which she avails herself most fully) – and their breaking through such ceilings. Her story reminded me vividly of Jane Goodall’s – who was met by so much scepticism, including from the male-dominated institutions and scientific establishment of her time, and so went ahead (of necessity) on her own, into the jungle – going on, as is well known, to make some of the most earth-shattering and ground-breaking discoveries of her time when it comes to what differentiates man from animal, the use of tools, and so on.

As far as what it would mean for Classicists specifically, this is beyond the purview of my expertise, so I can’t say specifically what this would change, but surely the findings, if they were indeed found to be a temple and if said temple were indeed proven to be the tomb of the Doomed Lovers Cleopatra and Antony, would open up a wide new array of scholarly discussion about the (self-)divinization of rulers at various points in history; how religion and power interact in that context; and what role that interaction plays in enforcing power, creating myths, and shaping the subsequent, often idealized reception of such historic figures across time.

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How Education has changed through time:

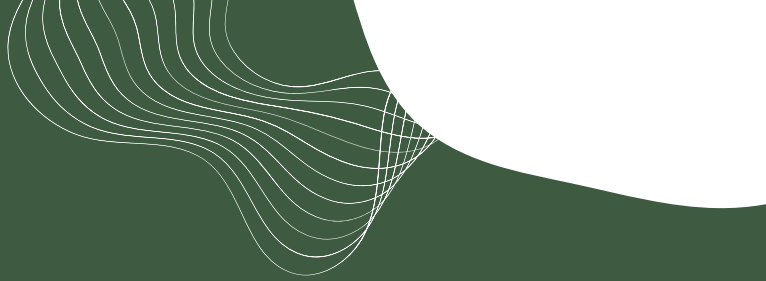
Documenting the changes in how we teach our younger generations

Amani Almasri

If you were in charge of all the critical institutions around the world, how would you construct the education system? What skills would you aim to generate? Perhaps you would create a world full of flexible and free thinkers whose Education shifted from memorisation and gravitated towards ideas and ways of thinking. Alternatively, you might like to see a world of critical thinkers, not easily swayed by views, with fascinating opinions on literature and an oratorical brilliance in forming arguments. Perhaps you would place a more significant emphasis on exercising the creativity of the mind, expressed through visual forms. Each reader would have unique and different approaches to the purpose of Education, as well as the nature of school life itself – for this reason, the mechanism of Education has been evolving. This article will look into the ways it has changed.

To explore the evolution of education, I would want us to understand the purpose of education – a much debated upon question, that forces us to evaluate whether education changed not based on the era, but on what the key leaders want to achieve via that.

There has been much speculation over what the prime purpose of Education is. Is it to shape the minds of the future and imbed specific characteristics into students? Primarily, the purpose of Education has been a reflection of the skills needed to pump out students that will be ready for the skills needed to take on the most prominent skills of that workforce. America, being the first colony to make schooling compulsory (in the 17th Century), used Education as a means to turn children into good Puritans, involving the introduction to the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments, under the purpose of engendering fear of God and the practice of respecting elders. Moreover, other parties, such as employers, found that schools stimulated children's punctuality, endurance and obedience – all of which would be useful in the working industry.



Similarly, national leaders viewed Education as a means of producing good patriots and potential soldiers – creating a centralised focus around teaching moral virtues of critical positions and the glories of the Fatherland. Indeed, during Nazi Germany or Stalin’s regime, a significant emphasis was placed on embedding the Stalinist ideology into the curriculum (more on this later). However, some believed that Education provided children with the measures to learn subjects such as mathematics and Latin to challenge their minds and pump out scholars. More precisely, Education was seen as incalculable – all of these reasons demonstrate the implantation of specific ideas or skills into children’s minds, such as repetition and testing for memory. This remains a prevalent criticism of Education whereby the intense focus on examination, grades and memorisation overrides the general desire to expand one’s knowledge.

To further explore the evolution of education, I would like to briefly introduce how the methods of education accompanied the objectives and purposes school was aiming to achieve (these being the skills they wanted to extract from children). Methods of teaching in contemporary schooling will prove to be very different to that of the early years of education, with the gap growing larger as we regress into history.

The traditional teaching methods revolved around memorisation and recitation rather than trying to awaken critical thinking and problem-solving skills. This is explicitly seen in the Victorian era, where Education aimed to teach children to read and write, whereby the methods used to do so cost the children their creativity or development of talent. One interpretation of the change in the dynamics of Education is that modern Education considers that students have individual needs and do not share the same level of understanding. The outdated chalk-and-talk methods are inadequate compared to the more interactive methods taken up by modern teaching. Discipline merely mirrors the teaching methods as traditional teaching methods used more vital disciplinary forces, tying back to the aims of Education.

Perhaps it can be seen that Victorian Education was more centralised around obedience than the actual knowledge consumed. Disciplinary measures have been altered drastically, seeing as discipline enforced in the Victorian Era was a means to cause intimidation. This was flawed because children had to suffer whatever consequences the teacher deemed suitable, shifting the power away from discipline and more towards asserting control. The change is visibly seen in the extinction of physical punishment (Education Act of 1986). This marks a positive change from the Education timeline: children are no longer grouped but treated as individuals.

To cement my argument that schools were reflective of the objectives desired by key leaders, I would like to magnify how some of the most powerful dictators exploited institutions to their benefit. The past has shown us how several dictators aimed to indoctrinate the youth through schools, as a means to further distribute their ideologies to vulnerable and unshaped minds. This was demonstrated in several political dictatorships, such as the regimes of Stalin, Mussolini and Hitler.

One could argue that their dictatorships would not have been as influential had they not held a firm grip on Education.

For Stalin's regime (1922 –1952), Education was designed to produce disciplined students that would be the next generation of Stalinism and lead to professional careers. This involved a government-written textbook to ensure the state could control that information. This would glamorise key figures, denote rivals, and emphasise critical battles whilst steering away from humiliating losses. For example, Trotsky was removed from history textbooks, followed by Zhukov. Zhukov was a key figure during the Battle of Stalingrad, yet his name was erased from the textbooks to maintain the central focus on Stalin's achievements. During Stalin's regime, enforcing indoctrination through schools was critical in priming young minds to worship and obey him.

Overall, the education system has been constantly evolving to adapt to the demands it has been faced with. The best way to demonstrate this concept is by comparing two vastly different era's schooling systems. Bringing together children of today's society and pairing them with the brutal and tedious measures of the Victorian era would transgress our social norm and be seen as too harsh.

Another key characteristic found was that teachers who disobeyed these strict measures would be arrested, reasserting the idea that opposition was strictly forbidden. As a result, this would teach the students that punishments would be issued for the opposition and would not be tolerated. The indoctrination of young people was furthered by the creation of youth organisations, such as the Hitler Youth and Stalin's Pioneers and Komsomol.

Similarly, Mussolini displayed similar, if not the same, features of dictatorship. His indoctrination of the youth aimed to create a loyal generation of young Italian Fascists. Once Mussolini created stable foundations of his dictatorship, the focus on Education was more directly influenced. In 1934, the Balilla was split into the Figli Della Lupa, the Balilla and the Avanguardisti, whereby the separation of students by age allowed Mussolini to place the most focus on the secondary school pupils, who were more prone to pick up the Fascist ideology. These organisations were state controlled by the Ministry of National Education to further monitor how this system was carried out. Mussolini encouraged involvement in the ONB to facilitate access to jobs and special scholarships, whereby following his Fascist ideology would be rewarding and beneficial. Thus, as a whole, dictators used schools to augment their ideologies into as many aspects as possible of people's lives, making their ideologies inescapable and harder to oppose.

GAMING: A HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Nikita Collins

1822 - the first computer is created. The Analytical Engine was the first general-purpose, automatic, mechanical computer able to solve any calculation given. Although far from capable of running any video game, it contained basic computing units which we still use in computers today.

Fast forward 140 years and the first computer game on a video display was created - Spacewar! Developed by MIT professor Steve Russell, the game played for the PDP-1 (Programmed Data Processor 1) (Programmed Data Processor-1) was a space combat game played by two people, in which the game aimed to shoot down the other ship while avoiding collisions with nearby stars. However, considered the most influential video game in the industry's history, Spacewar! It could only be played on giant, cutting-edge computers, mostly found at universities, so its impact was withheld mainly by the small programming community of its day.

Come 1970, the first commercial home video game console hit the market. The Magnavox Odyssey was developed by German video game inventor Ralph H. Baer but would, unfortunately, be discontinued after only 300,000 sales. Despite the mismanagement of the release, this was the birth of home gaming as we know it. However, with arcade games still dominating the market, the spotlight was mainly on games such as Computer Space and Pong, the iconic 2D table tennis game, which would act as the seeds of growth for the arcade industry. Pong was the first arcade game to gain international acclaim, and Atari certainly didn't slow down development after its success. Following the Magnavox Odyssey, Atari would release the Atari 2600 in 1977, also known as the Video Computer System, which featured interchangeable game cartridges sold separately. The VCS would effectively catalyse the second generation of gaming consoles. This would be considered the 'Golden Age' of video games, where rapid growth and technological advancement would further spread the industry's influence.

However, in 1983, the United States video games industry experienced a significant crash due to several factors. The oversaturated games console market, competition from P.C. gaming and an excess of low-quality games. Such is an example of Atari's infamous E.T., considered the worst video game ever made. It was not until 1985 that the industry began to recover. The Japanese gaming industry began to make its mark on the North American sector, thanks to the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES). Nintendo's products began to land on American shelves, including the iconic Super Mario Bros and The Legend of Zelda. No longer a novelty, video games were now an iconic part of quintessential American life.

With digital technology ever developing, the 5th generation of video games unlocked 3D gaming. Real-time 3D polygonal graphic rendering was incorporated into Sony's ground-breaking PlayStation, which knocked Sega and Nintendo off the market. Sony would continue to dominate the market into the next generation. In 2001 the PlayStation 2 was released, which remains today the highest-selling gaming console of all time, with 159 million sales. The console brought us iconic gaming titles such as Final Fantasy, Metal Gear Solid 2 and the ageless Grand Theft Auto series. The success of Sony's PlayStation would see companies such as Microsoft joining the playing field, such as the release of the Xbox in 2001, sparking the rivalry between the two industry behemoths.

By the mid-2000s, Sony, Sega, and Microsoft remained significant players in the console market. Microsoft and Sony developed online digital services such as Xbox Live and PlayStation Network. This revolutionised gaming online, allowing players to connect with friends virtually and purchase video games digitally. Connection to online players triggered the creation of MMO/MMORPG games (Massively Multiplier Online/Role-Playing Games), such as the cult-classic World of Warcraft. Suddenly, gaming was bringing people closer than ever before.

Video games began seeing increasingly large budgets for development, comparable to the Hollywood movie industry; Final Fantasy VII cost an estimated \$40-45 million to develop. As a result, these high-budget games and companies became informally known as 'AAA' or 'triple A' games, sitting at the top of the industry's hierarchy. Early triple-A titles include Final Fantasy VII and Shenmue, each costing over \$40 million!

The 8th generation of gaming consoles began with the release of Nintendo's Wii U, Xbox One and PlayStation 4. Games were continuously becoming increasingly photorealistic, incorporating innovative and dynamic storylines and characters many hold close to their heart to this day. Video games were swiftly spreading their influence everywhere in the form of significant gaming awards, conventions, merchandising, on social media platforms and international Esports events.

In 2005 and 2006, the Xbox 360, PlayStation 3 and Nintendo's Wii kicked off the next generation of high-definition gaming. The PlayStation 3 brought prominent names such as The Last of Us, LittleBigPlanet and God of War III, and the Xbox 360 got Halo 3 and 4, Alan Wake and Gears of War. With development budgets growing ever larger and aided by rapid developments in technology, the industry was thriving.

The industry now shows no sign of slowing its advances, especially in a digital world; if anything, its growth has accelerated. During the Covid-19 pandemic, U.S. video game sales reached \$56.9 billion, an increase of 27%. By 2026, the industry is predicted to reach a staggering \$321 billion net worth. Currently larger than the movie and music industries combined, the video game sector is undoubtedly a glimpse into the future of our modern society. With virtual and augmented reality becoming the norm, it is only a matter of time before we become entirely digital. Endless possibilities await us as a society, whether escaping to a fictional world in which you are in complete control or connecting with others around the world from your own home. It is clear that video games have always been and will continue to be among the main driving forces of connection between millions of people, regardless of race, gender, age or sexuality.

DEMOCRACY: A STUDY INTO HOW HAS IT CHANGED

MR MOSS ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON HOW DIFFERENT THE WAY WE SEE DEMOCRACY IS COMPARED HOW IT WAS ORIGINALLY IMAGINED IN THE ANCIENT WORLD.

Democracy. One of the most commonly used forms of government today finds its origins in 507 BCE in Athens and has since changed, adapted and enhanced through the ages to transform into the political system that dominates the political philosophy of some of the most powerful nations on this Earth. However, this ideology has repeatedly been contested by left and right-wing ideas such as fascism and socialism. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine and its subsequent economic consequences, as well as the break out of the civil war in multiple Asian nations such as Pakistan and Sri Lanka, has forced humanity to reevaluate the way government works. To look for answers, we can turn to the past and visit philosophers such as Plato and historians such as Herodotus and the father of democracy, Cleisthenes ideas to add another dimension to this question of what political style of government works best.

Mr Moss has answered four critical questions about modern-day democracy compared to ancient democracy, which allows us to gauge how this political ideology has changed. We are extremely lucky to have Mr Moss share his knowledge with us.

Short Introductory message by Mr Moss:

The question of the best system for governing a state, was one that was repeatedly looked at by the great thinkers of antiquity. Even in Homer's poetry we find passages exploring the dynamics of power, or fanciful descriptions of imagined societies which differ from Greek norms. Herodotus tackles the question with a debate which supposedly took place between the Persian King Darius and his supporters in which they discuss the system of government best suited to the managing the Persian Empire (they choose monarchy). Perhaps the best known work of the philosopher Plato, *The Republic*, has large sections devoted to exploring the qualities of four different systems of government ('timocracy', oligarchy, democracy and tyranny), and it's arguable that the analysis offered in his work still influences policymakers today. Plato and his intellectual successor, Aristotle, both believed that one system would inevitably evolve into another over time. What isn't often clear when we talk about democracy today is how fiercely it was criticised in the ancient world: its (admittedly aristocratic, and male) writers were almost unanimous in believing that it was a political experiment that usually ended in failure.

Cleisthenes, the father of democracy, had initially devised a unique governing system for the newly liberated Athenians whereby all tribes could have equal recognition and opportunity in self-governing their society. How would you say that this system differs from the way of democracy adopted later on in Rome with the senate and now in the United States of America?

'Cleisthenes is said to have put forward democracy as a way of escaping from the tyrannical aristocratic figures who tried to dominate Athenian political discourse in the sixth century BCE. It differed radically from those later systems in that it was a 'direct' democracy. Every political decision was debated and voted on by Athenian citizens - so everybody (as long as they were Athenian, freeborn males, of course) had a say - imagine having a 'Brexit' style referendum for every issue, on a monthly basis. Today, countries like the US use 'representative' democracy, where citizens are entitled every few years to elect somebody who is supposed to represent their interests in parliament. Halfway between these systems is that of Rome - which was for many years really an oligarchy with a small group of aristocrats controlling the state's wealth and policy. Some democratic elements were introduced over the centuries, such as elections, and some legislative power granted to the people, but these mechanisms were exploited, and undermined, by the powerful; eventually, it became unworkable and they settled on autocratic rule by emperors.'

Herodotus, who was regarded as the first historian in the world, had written an exciting dialogue exchange where the seven Persian Noblemen discussed what form of government would the Achaemenid Empire adopt after killing Bardiya (the man who pretended to be the rightful heir to Cyrus the Great's Empire after Cambyses's death) and instating Darius as the placeholder for the Empire. While historians speculate that most of Herodotus's account of the succession is untrue, they still like to pick apart this particular section to understand the contemporary response to democracy in the Ancient World. Do you think his reasoning for why Monarchy won out in the end for the Persians was only valid for the ancient world or is democracy challenging to sustain?

'I agree we can't take Herodotus' debate seriously as literal history but it is certainly a very useful source, possibly giving us an insight into elite Athenian criticism of the democratic system at a relatively early phase. Herodotus was living and writing in Athens about fifty years after the adoption of democracy. The Persian noblemen's main problem with democracy, as he writes, is that the lack of education amongst normal people as the main reason it is doomed to failure as a system - quite an elitist viewpoint but one we can imagine existing amongst wealthy and cultured Athenians. Another fifty years on, Athens would be defeated by Sparta in the Peloponnesian war, and the consensus among intellectuals like the historian Thucydides, and later Plato, is that this happened as a result of flaws in the democratic system. But both suggest that the main reason for this is the habitually deceptive arguments used by politicians to persuade the masses, rather than merely their supposed ignorance. This raises two questions for us today: firstly, do modern democracies also suffer from this susceptibility to dishonesty from the political class? And second, would better education of the electorate allow them to be more discerning of political figures, policies and ideologies?'

Turning to more recent history, Liberal Italy and democratic Weimar Germany were two instances where a fascist ideology seemed more appealing than a democracy. In Ancient Rome, too, the people of Rome saw Julius Caesar and his one-person militaristic rule as more appealing than the senate. Recently, in the past years, the integrity of American democracy was threatened as Donald Trump got with his to the White House an almost fascist-like ideology. Time and time again, we have seen Democratic ideas being challenged and reevaluated. How far do you think Cleisthenes or perhaps the Roman system is a workable government if tweaked with period-friendly ethics?

'I'm afraid developing a workable democratic system is above my paygrade! But there are parts of Plato's Republic where he seems to suggest that the answer to many politically derived ills is working on one's own knowledge and understanding - and this is a source of solace to me. I think that modern democratic systems are certainly vulnerable to the kind of cynical manipulation he describes as being perpetrated by political elites. But I also think that we are seeing more awareness of this in public discourse and media as our democracies mature. I want to believe that democracy is a workable, and desirable, option... but people need to be given the education, time and freedom to be able to engage with it properly.'

For the last question, it would be interesting to understand why Livy deliberately claimed that Rome was trying to adopt a democratic system during its foundation years (which we have no archaeological evidence for - Romulus and Remus are considered by historians to be more of a myth than a history). He was supposed to write a historical account, so why include fabricated stories? Moreover, why is he subtly critical of the Athenian system? Just like Livy, politicians like claiming that they are protectors of democracy, while at times, it is the complete opposite system. Do you think Livy's idea of democracy being too idealistic is still accurate, and just like the Roman writer, our politicians use liberal propaganda to appeal to their audience?

'In the ancient world, the lesson of Athenian democracy, was, essentially, 'don't try this at home!', due to the resulting imperialistic behaviour by Athens and her eventual defeat by the Spartans. Thucydides seems to think it can work, if you are lucky enough to have the right leader. Plato seems at times to be saying that the average person neither wants nor needs to be involved in political decision making. Livy is self-consciously adding to the corpus of literature on the subject: he saw democratic features of the Roman constitution in his own time as having caused great instability. But I think he also saw that the Roman aristocrats were also guilty of exploiting, oppressing and dispossessing the plebs at Rome. Plato's Republic has left us with some powerful tools for analysing political systems: his metaphors of the 'noble lie', the 'ship of fools' and the 'great beast' have all influenced political thinkers since, and continue to have an impact today. I don't think that he is saying that democracy is not sustainable. And just maybe it is the case that enlightened engagement by the electorate is one approach that might work.'

I think the nature of government is receiving more and more scrutiny these days from normal people, often helped (perhaps not always!) by the internet. These are certainly interesting times and I suppose we'll have to wait and see where it all leads.'



This was Mr. Moss's analysis of one of the most important questions to our generation – will we continue to choose democracy as an optimal way of government or will it change again?