



THE ORTUS

IDENTITY

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3



SUNCITY SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIA

THE ORTUS

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The Ortus newsletter is a quarterly publication of Suncity School International Academia. We publish a variety of original works that range from articles to reviews. The Ortus hopes to help students engage in well thought out dialogue and provoke critical thinking. All works of writing are freely chosen, written and edited by the students of International Academia. If you wish to submit a piece of work, which you feel fits the ethos of the Ortus, please contact the Ortus Editors.

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THE ORTUS



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FROM THE

EDITOR'S DESK

Identity is quite possibly the most vital aspect of people's lives, yet also the least explored. In our new-age society, identity is less emphasized and often replaced with standardized "cookie-cutter" clichés and ideas of everything from political thought, clothing style, opinions and personality. In an ever-globalizing world, unique identity is somehow more sparse to find, when in fact the opposite should be happening. This is likely because we have failed to compartmentalize the external influence of an interconnected world, and have replaced our own thoughts with an amalgamation of those we find online. The impacts of this are yet unknown, as the phenomenon has still not reached its peak, but its causes are clear. Instead of drawing inspiration, we base large chunks of our identity on things we read or see online.

I, as the designer of the Ortus, have also fallen victim to this, our design style is inspired by far more reputed and impactful magazines. While we never plagiarized or directly copied our design style, a reader could easily see where we got our inspiration from.

Talking about a topic such as *Identity* made me realize that we too need a completely unique identity, something that instantly

reminds you of our publication. Which is why, the Ortus, with this fitting theme, has gone through another complete redesign, one that hopefully our readers enjoy. As we stick to our familiar red and white colour scheme, we have completely switched up our format as well as a large portion of our content.

The Ortus is a publication whose identity lies in its long-form articles and thought-provoking ideas, not memes. This is an identity that we have struggled to reach and find a high viewership for. However, reflecting on how well this issue has come out, our bar is ever set very high for the next issue, and I stand assured of the identity this newsletter carries. Our motto remains not to reach the maximum viewership, but to deliver the best quality of content to our current viewership.

This is our identity and we stand by it. We truly hope that you do too.



(Vedaant Yadav)

Chief Editor, The Ortus

THE INDIAN COLONIAL IDENTITY





THE INDIAN COLONIAL IDENTITY

ANGLICIZATION, COLONIALITY AND CULTURAL REJUVENATION IN GLOBALIZED SOCIETY

By VEDAANT YADAV

The Indian colonial identity is a set of characteristics so vaguely defined and so habitually imposed that it can simultaneously be applied to a billion people decades after its initial inception regardless of generation or accrued intellect.

By coloniality, I mean first the habit of assuming that all culture can be classified in whole blocks of 'progressive and enlightened' or 'antiquated and worthless' depending on whether it came from your country or that of a foreign one. With most, inherently believing their own culture falls into the latter block. But secondly, and more importantly, coloniality is when a person who is no longer directly colonized remains unconsciously under the thumb of the colonizer.

Coloniality is not to be confused with inferiority. Both words are usually used in a way so vague that any explanation is liable to be challenged, but



one needs to draw a distinction between them, since two different ideas are at play here. By 'inferiority', one means an internalized attitude of hate towards your own culture and tradition due to an imposed colonial mentality. One can still be firm in the belief of their own culture while falsely acknowledging that it is inferior to that of a foreigner. Coloniality, on the other hand, is a different beast. It can be seen as the systematic eradication of an ethnic culture by way of its own people preferring a foreign culture under the guise of modernity.

To understand the causation and wider implications of coloniality, one needs multiple books worth of content. This short article, however, looks at the impact of coloniality and how it has personally affected me, and likely many of the readers of this article.

Coloniality acts as a filter that actively prevents the people of a country from accessing specific aspects of its past, in favour of accessing foreign knowledge and automatically deeming it to be superior. I do realize the irony of me, a student of the International Academia, making such statements. A student whose skills in both English linguistics and oratory are far superior to the same in Hindi. A student who has been engulfed in western culture from the moment he was born. A student who knows more about western society than western society knows about his culture. The irony is indeed not lost on me. This is because I am an

anglicised Indian, like everybody who reads this article, to no fault of my upbringing or my culture, but simply because postcolonial society deemed that the ultimate goal for any Indian is to be anglicised, and by virtue of being privileged, I have achieved the "goal" set by society, like everybody who reads this article.

Don't agree with me? Outside of a festival or wedding, when was the last time you wore a "dhoti" to go to a glitzy mall or a dinner party at your friend's house. Would you rather read this article in Hindi or in English? How many songs in your vast number of Spotify playlists are western and how many are Indian? Do you not know more about the World Wars of the white man when compared to your knowledge of the vast conflicts between great empires in the Indian subcontinent? Despite being a school with students of multiple religions and ethnicities, in a secular country, does your school not begin assemblies with Christian-influenced prayers. A practice that finds its origin in a British way to further colonize Indians, connecting education with Christian missionaries to establish convent schools.

Every change in generation leads to coloniality being more and more pervasive and it will continue to do so unless the cultural identity is strong enough to push back against the corrupting influence of coloniality. To do so, one can go down two paths: either the eradication of foreign culture in its entirety, which is the path

colonists like the British or Portuguese chose or the adaption of a nationalist thought process.

The first is not feasible due to the rise of the internet and the popularity of said cultures, not to mention its unethical nature. The latter aims to strengthen the people's culture by instilling a sense of pride in the same, so that ethnic culture can successfully coexist with western culture without the looming threat of irrelevance. Nationalism is the most common method to achieve this, as it elevates the group identity and culture above individual ideals. It instils a desire for power and creates a binding purpose to secure more power and more prestige, not for the individual but for the group and its culture in which the person has sunk their individuality into.

As this pattern of thought emerges in India, it is likely to rejuvenate the culture that has been lost and defeat coloniality to achieve final and true decolonization as well as the creation of a Global Indian Identity. While the anglicized Indian has lost its foothold on the branches of government, civil service and the military, it continues to gain dominance in the Indian middle class due to an inherent societal desire for anglicisation. However, this is also likely to change due to increasing nationalist sentiment.

The emergence of this new nationalist pattern of thought can primarily be credited to the end of an era. An era where the anglicised Indian ruled India.





THE BULLETIN

THE **INS** AND **OUTS** OF INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIA

By **AARNAV DIXIT**

IBDP Student Seminar

The Student Seminar conducted by IBDP year 1 students showed tremendous success, followed by high responses from candidates interested in the IA curriculum.

The Seminar introduced Grade 8 students to the different learning approaches that make the foundation for IA, embedding them with ideas of international mindedness and critical thinking to develop their understanding of global issues and their perception of them.

An engaging question and answer session dived down into the specifics of IA that included former IGCSE, now IBDP year 1 students, sharing their personal experience with regards to their subjects and transition to the IA curriculum.

Student Testimonial

As I started IBDP in Suncity, I was promised that the experience will change the kind of individual I am.

"I will become a more mature, open-minded and internationally cultured person. My skill-set will exceed that of my peers in college. I will have sharper leadership and visionary skills." All the claims made came true and it was not before the end of 2 years I saw how much I had changed. My IB experience got me in the University of Toronto and continues to help me while I race against students from all over the world at my university. I thank all my teachers at Suncity and my peers for challenging me in my high school.

- Sahil Sonarghare



THE ROMANI LEGACY

A LOOK AT THE ROMA PEOPLE

By ANANYA VIJH

Bavaria 1899. A mousy girl of nine scuttles down a cobblestone path, hiding from the piercing gaze of passersby, their scornful expressions, their hushed whispers of accusation and hatred. Evading their derision, she makes her way to the patch of desolate grass and dirt she had been forced to call 'home'. It was the third time that week that their family had been evicted from their campsite. They had abandoned the verdant landscape of their homeland for the promise of prosperity. Despite the tightening grip of the Zigeunerzentale (Central Office for Gypsy Affairs) on their brethren, she held out hope. One day she'd get to go to school like the German children.

She found a strange man in her home. He was seated near the stables-inspecting their horses and dogs. He probed the elders in a way that made them uncomfortable- "How many young do you have here? Do any of them work? Have they ever been arrested?" It would be many years hence that she would understand the reason for his interrogation. In 1905, the Office prepared the Zigeuner-Buch (The Gypsy Book)- a book containing marriage, birth and death records of the Romani people.



The Romani are an ethnic group predominantly found in the regions of Romania, Montenegro, Slovenia, Hungary, etc. Historically, they have been a nomadic community, tracing their origin to parts of the Indian subcontinent. It said that they left India 1500 years ago in staggered migrations, reaching Persia around the 11th century. They arrived in southeastern Europe by the 14th century, and Western Europe by the 15th. By the 20th century, a substantial Romani population was present in nearly every continent.

They travelled in smaller groups, with men practising metalwork, livestock trading and music and women as entertainers, sellers of potions and fortune-tellers. They were often consulted by farmers over the health of their animals. A possible by-product of their Indian origin, Roma families consist of a married couple, their unwed children and the family of at least one married son, i.e his wife and children. Traditionally, marriages were arranged by elders of the family or the leaders of their guild to strengthen kinship bonds. Other similarities include the equation of the colour white with mourning, applying mehndi before weddings, and laws of purity during childbirth.

The chieftain, or the voivode, was an elected leader from an influential family within the tribe whose powers vary depending on a tribe's customs. The voivode acted as the tribe's treasurer and point of contact with municipal authorities. He worked in

association with the council of elders, as well as on the advice of the phuri dai (an elder woman of the tribe). The phuri dai was most influential in matters concerning women and children.

Distinctions between Romani guilds are based on occupation, the principal of which are- The Kalderash (metalsmiths originating from the Balkan region), The Gitanos (performing artists from Northern Africa or the Iberian Peninsula) and The Manush also known as the Sinti (circus artists and entertainers predominantly from the Alsace region).

Roma patterns of migration are largely seasonal and ignore national boundaries. It was this aspect of Roma culture, along with racial prejudice, which led to popular suspicion. They were blamed as the cause of all social evils, facing harsh punishment for essentially just practising their culture. Though legislation aimed at "integration", they were barely allowed to seek shelter at campsites. During the medieval period, stereotypes of them being "an unclean, deceitful, lazy, thieving community" cemented themselves in society, and it was this attitude that percolated in future legislation. This situation was further exacerbated when local merchant and artisans' guilds were met with competition from Roma metalcrafts.

The changing political landscape of Europe was particularly harmful to the Romani.

Many Roma were forced to convert to Islam in order to continue living in territories occupied by the Ottoman Empire, which caused Emperor Maximilian I to order their expulsion in 1498. He accused them of disloyalty to the Holy Roman Empire. An estimated 130 laws were passed against the Roma community from 1551 to 1774.

However, the "enlightenment movement" brought a wave of appreciation for aspects of Roma culture, particularly music. Though this did not lead to their complete emancipation, fascination replaced distrust. Composer extraordinaire Franz List was inspired by Roma folk melodies for his composition "Hungarian Dances".

This fascination with Roma culture bled into the industrial revolution with the introduction of long working hours, and the phenomenon of alienation. The idea of constant migration appealed to many as being "free-spirited" and "wandering". Fascination did not result in reforms. Instead, the Roma lifestyle was romanticized, completely disregarding the awful circumstances they were forced into by cruel laws.

With the introduction of administrative reform in the late 1800s and early 1900s, many Roma migrated to prosperous Germany. This region soon became a hotbed for extremism and resentment. A law passed in 1885 tightened restrictions on licenses given to Roma traders. Moreover,

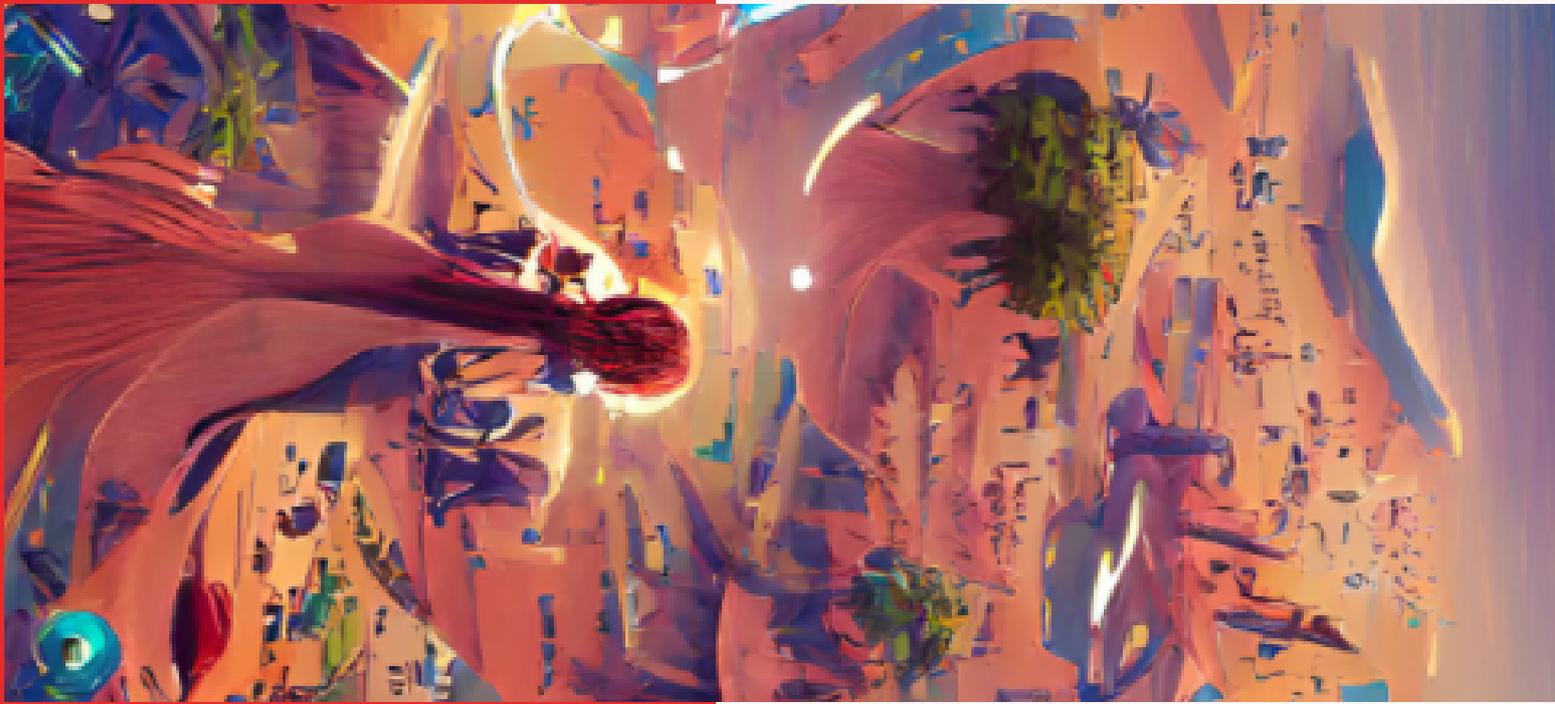
undocumented Romani could face imprisonment and would have to bear all legal costs. This was 14 years before the establishment of the Central Office for Gypsy Affairs.

Today many Roma have adopted a settled lifestyle as mechanics, metalworkers or wage labourers. They are faced with a severe housing crisis, inadequate healthcare and unemployment. They are at higher risk to suffer from health concerns, which has had a severe impact on their life expectancy. Without proper employment, they cannot afford proper education for their children.

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POEM

LAND OF LIFE

By NIHARIKA GULERIA

The travellers looked for a place to live, in that windy night, the night in the sandy desert, all of it in spite, in spite how hungry and tired they were, in the land of life. You had to reach your destiny, you had to be determined.

It was a journey you went through, it had its pros and cons, just like the waves of the sea, it went up and down. You were a free bird in the land of life, or an owl who knew it all. You probably reached till the end, or gave up before you could win it all.

The travellers were determined to run away, far away from their past. They wanted to live the life of a free bird like they dreamed to, in the past, one day. They were going to be caught and beaten up by the cruel king, a king who had lost it all. They reached their destination in the land of life. They died wealthy men, realizing that this was a game being played with their life, even now and even then.

Insight - The poem Land of Life is a metaphor for the journey of life. In the poem, reaching your destiny is more important than anything else. The relation to the waves of the sea represents the nature of life and how it tends to change. The constant need to reach one's destination in the land of life is the need to reach your destiny. The last line sums up the essence of the poem, "realizing that this was game being played with their life, even now and even then", the game being played with them is the misleading need to reach their destination in the land of life, although they all wanted to reach there, they wanted to reach their destiny, but they realized that it wasn't what they expected it to be.



RECIPE

CROQUE MADAME

A FRENCH ORIGINATED
HOT SANDWICH WITH A
HALF FRIED EGG ON TOP

By **AARNAV DIXIT**

Ingredients: 2 slices of bread, 2-3 cloves of garlic, 1.5 cups of milk, 3 tbsp of butter, 2 tbsp of flour, chicken ham, an egg, cheese (Mozzarella or any choice of your own), salt, pepper and oil.

Optional ingredients: 1 tbsp of Mustard, a bay leaf, 1 teaspoon of chilli powder.

1. The first step is making the Béchamel. In a saucepan on medium-low heat, add finely chopped garlic, cooking for a few seconds until fragrant.
2. Add equal parts of butter and flour (2 tbsp) to the same pan. Stir constantly, do not let it brown.
3. Whilst stirring, gradually add 1.5 cups of milk to the pan and cook till it comes to a soup-like consistency. Add salt and pepper to taste. Optional to add Mustard for a kick or a bay leaf.
4. Take out two slices of your bread and spread the Béchamel on one side. Add as much ham as you like (don't overdo it), then add a little more sauce and the second piece of bread on top.
5. Take your sandwich, and to a new scorching hot pan, add the remaining butter. Place your sandwich on the pan and cook for 2 minutes, flip then cook for 2 minutes again or till both sides are browned.
6. Take the sandwich off the pan, placing it onto the side. Add a little bit of the Béchamel to one browned side of the sandwich. Add as much cheese as you like on top.
7. Set the sandwich in an oven to broil on the middle rack. Broil till the cheese turns golden brown. Simultaneously, add oil to a new pan on low heat.
8. In this pan, gently crack an egg and cook for 2 mins. Optional to add Chilli powder on top here.
9. After the sandwich has cooked, place the egg on top and serve!



THE RACE IN FOOTBALL

EXPLAINING RACISM IN FOOTBALL

By HARMAN KHURANA

Football is one of the most played and most famous sports in the world, it's even referred to as 'the beautiful game', because of its nature to be unpredictable and the way it brings people together by connecting different cultures and societies. Nothing is perfect, and that includes football. With all the grace and glamour in football also come abominations like Racism. Racism in football refers to "the abuse of players, officials, and fans because of their skin colour, nationality, or ethnicity."

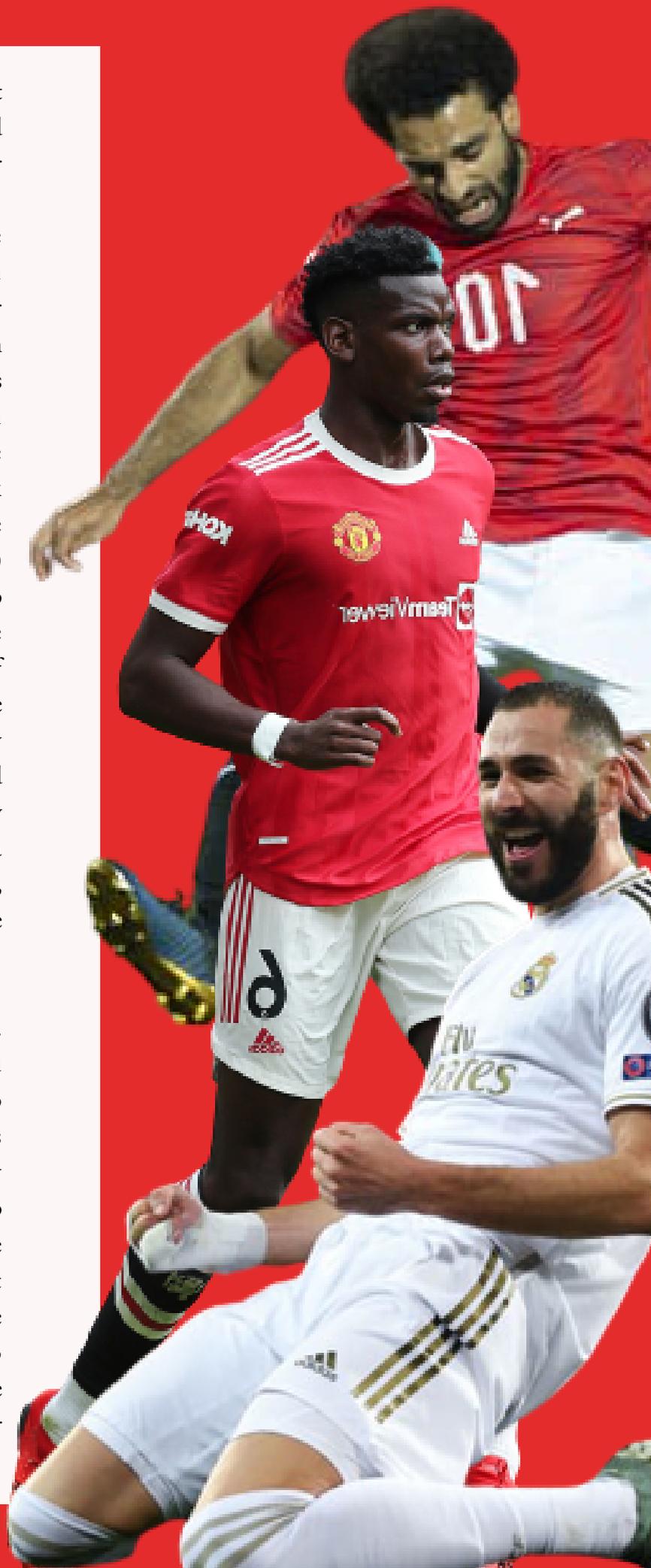
Fifteen players of the French national team come from Africa and seven are Muslim. Yet, this fact is in no way highlighted in the mainstream media. While the average Frenchman may have accepted and integrated African players into the national team, he is still sceptical about Muslim players. In my opinion, there is no reason for the religious beliefs of any footballer to be taken into account while offering criticism. However, within the context of France and its increasing Islamophobia, the media should take responsibility and play its role in bringing greater peace and tolerance to human minds. This was successfully summarized by Karim Benzema (centre forward for Real Madrid and France) a few years ago when he famously stated "If I score, I'm French ... if I don't, I'm an Arab".



As technology has advanced, more racist comments against players, staff and supporters have been catalogued, allowing for more action to be taken.

In the past there haven't been many severe punishments against racist audiences in football, for example in April 2009 Inter Milan's player Mario Balotelli, an Italian football player of Ghanaian descent was subjected to racial abuse by opposition supporters, they were handed a one-game home fan ban as a result. The recent Black Lives Matter movement led to one of the biggest football leagues (the Premier League) to launch its latest campaign known as 'no room for racism'. Under this campaign the Premier League will provide a series of educational resources on racism which will be available to more than 18,000 primary schools in England. To raise awareness and show the strength of this campaign, any supporter who is found to have behaved in a racially abusive manner to either the players, staff or supporters of the club will be permanently banned from the stadium.

Racism has been a prevalent force in history. Getting rid of it will take time, education and awareness. But, in the end what's needed to stop racism is loads of work and resources dedicated to initiatives that will actually reduce racism. The main goal for the 'no room for racism' campaign is to make people aware about how all people have different identities and should not be judged on the basis of their skin or culture. It has been 3 years since this campaign started, most people consider its outcomes to be positive so far and hope it continues this way in the future.



The image features a large, stylized question mark in a dark purple color, centered on a white background. The background is heavily distorted with a digital glitch effect, showing horizontal bands of color (red, yellow, cyan, blue) and black, creating a jagged, pixelated appearance. The question mark is composed of a curved hook and a small square dot at the top.

?

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WHO AM I?

FINDING ONE'S IDENTITY

By **AARNAV DIXIT**

Dissociative identity disorder (DID), despite its rather intimidating name, is a very simple concept. It is a psychiatric disorder that is characterized by two or more personalities, even affecting your day-to-day life as you slowly can't recall events that would ordinarily be encoded into your mind. It's a rather traumatic disorder born from trauma. It is accurate to say that one has multiple identities; your preferences, habits, perception- All alter from personality to personality, it's enough to make you lose yourself. In one curious case, Encina Severa was diagnosed with severe DID, to the extent that she has 11 different personalities living within her.

"I wish people understood that this isn't just an alter-ego. This isn't something we just made up. These are other, actual people, with their own lives. Their likes dislikes. Their taste in music. Their personalities. They all look different. They just share one body."

- *Encina Severa*

The multiple personalities that exist, the voices that reach out are conscious thoughts, or rather the inner voice that echoes in your head. These personalities individually form a whole world separate from your reality. There exists a little in all of us, ever heard of a mask? A covering shown to everyone else whilst only you are aware of what rests beneath, your true face. You can have multiple layers to that mask, switching whenever the compulsion forces you. It's as if every time your mask switches so does your world. It's an unneeded source of anxiety causing you to handle multiple personas. This is simply a social mask created to have a personality that fits each group and their demands. In every situation, you create a different personality, a different character.



Your social mask is a role in a theatre, created by you to match the setting of the theatre except it's worse. You play different characters as the setting in the theatre changes meaning that in every social group, a social being will play a different role, a different persona. A person's identity is shaped by their environment as they grow and learn, becoming more in touch with their personality. In the case of DID, it's possible to get lost in the abyss of different personalities and eventually lose your true self. The same case applies, you as an individual and the outside world are different, getting lost in the causality of the outside world (the social group) can make you lose your true self.

The catch here is that your true self doesn't get what it wants, freedom. It's slowly suffocating, dying away due to unrest, not having its wings free permitting it to show itself. Shoving any sentient thing into a box, locking it away is bound to get lost and never be found again. This "social mask" is nothing but a false self born out of a need to fit into a group, by expectations imposed on you. Be it friends, family, even strangers online, every social group you interact with eventually makes you create a different mask thus making different realities. Only a sense of awareness can help you realise and keep you attached to reality.

You don't have to look far to see an example. Many people online have a compulsion to act different from their true self, adopting a

persona even their polar opposite. Social media is one such enforcer. Every person online has a certain thought on what's expected from them, on what their perception of a requirement is to please their audience. Imagine creating a game character, one that has all the features you believe it needs. From the physical characteristics down to their traits, everything in a character can be altered. This character creation is the same process when a person adopts a persona. They alter or rather divulge from their true self making a new person altogether.

Ironically, having this system of a social mask only ends up making you isolated. The pent-up anxiety and fear of judgment push you away from other people. Distancing from a social group for a social animal is a risky approach. Similar to adding fuel to fire, it'll make what is already bad much worse. There are still many tough questions that arise when trying to understand the feeling of loneliness, one that you cannot express through words despite having felt it. I know how deeply this can impact someone. It tears you away from the sense of belongingness you had, scaring you and voiding you of what you need in the most desperate of times. This concept of social mask, despite its simplistic title, is a pool of information with great depth and the deeper you go, the more you realise its dangers. Finding your true identity is not an arduous task. Everyone finds their true identity as time passes. Not losing what you have found is what matters.

OBA YOZO

LIFE AS AN ANXIOUS AND SELF-DESTRUCTIVE MAN

By SARINA CHADHA



This digital art piece is a depiction of Oba Yozo, the protagonist of *No Longer Human* by Osamu Dazai. It focuses on Yozo's life as an anxious and self-destructive man. The cloud pattern on his clothes is referring to a quote, "I will become nothing, the wind, the sky" while the cigarettes refer to his bad habits. The women in the smoke refer to how his degenerate vices and sadness attract women and the design itself is referred from Junji Ito's interpretation of Yozo. The entire book is about a man, in conflict about his identity and where he fits into this world, ends up being the cause of his own downfall.

WOMEN IN FINANCE

IN CONVERSATION WITH VANDANA TOLANI

By MUKTEE TOLANI

CEO and Founder of one of India's leading Investment Banking Firms- Convanto, Vandana Tolani has been the recipient of numerous accolades, including "Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2021" and "Best Financial Institution for Supporting Startups 2022" awarded to her by Kiran Bedi. She is also a Suncity International Academia parent.

1. Women form a meagre 10% of the Finance industry in India. What do you think is the reason behind this? And what can be done to change it?

We live in a patriarchal society. A lot of professions, including finance remain male-dominated to this date. Even in the United States, which is thought to be a country that is, in general, more open-minded than India, the percentage of women in the Finance industry was less than a quarter, so you can imagine how bad the situation is in other countries. This should obviously be a concern because at the end of the day, women help lift up economies and should definitely be given more opportunities to work in this industry. For the Finance industry, the numbers are this shocking,

because of the simple reason, that bias is ingrained into our societies, and we are conditioned to think in a certain way. To this day, it is a widely held belief that women are meant to be homemakers, and that they're not business savvy or as capable of working in such an industry as a man is. A lot of them are held back by their families, they are told they aren't "allowed" to work after marriage and such. In some places, women are not even given financial independence or taught how to manage their money. This attitude needs to change.





2. What are the challenges you face as a female entrepreneur in the financial sector?

As a female entrepreneur in this sector, sometimes I come across people who believe I am not capable of running my business as well as a man. This mindset also affects who they choose to work with, and at times, my male colleagues tend to get more work, and therefore close more deals than me. There's also the stereotype that women tend to be more soft-spoken than men, which is why I tend to get more rude comments than the average entrepreneur does, or my work taken for granted. Unfortunately, other female colleagues have had similar experiences as well. When I address such issues publicly, it often makes people uncomfortable. I believe it's important to be headstrong when faced with challenges like this, and the importance of putting your foot down where necessary should not be underestimated.

3. At what stage of life did you start making financial decisions for yourself?

At 16, I was making financial decisions for myself. I was contributing to my household, helping fund my brother's education, and even pay rent. I think the fact that I was given freedom at an early age, has helped shape me into who I am today. If other women are given that opportunity at an early age, it doesn't necessarily have to be as young as 16, this would help them in the future too.

4. According to you, what shapes the identity of a person?

According to me, one's experiences and mindset is what shapes their identity. For me, being a single mother with the added responsibility of managing a business has given me the ability to make important decisions and to move forward in life with determination. It has also shaped me to be a more confident individual and helped me have faith in what I'm doing.

My experiences have taught me that in times of adversity, it is important to be able to discard the negativity that comes your way from external sources. It is also imperative to be authentic and humble as an individual and stay true to yourself because that is what your true identity is.



NBA 2K22 REVIEW

A REDEMPTION OF IDENTITY IN A SHAPELESS SERIES

By **ARNAV ARORA**

Being a basketball and video game fan at the same time, when my uncle bought me NBA 2K17 (way back in 2017) for my Xbox One, I fell in love with the game within minutes of playing. As the years went by, the newer games had very minor improvements and were extremely similar to their predecessors, and people's opinions weren't improving. So I stuck to 2K17, a game I still enjoyed. About a month ago, when I upgraded to the shiny, brand new Xbox Series X, I finally caved in and bought NBA 2K22 after more than five years of playing the same basketball game. Fortunately, I can say I made a decision I do not regret in the slightest. If you are looking for a high-quality basketball simulation video game, NBA 2K22 checks all the boxes. With breathtaking visuals, smooth animations and clean gameplay, 2K22 is almost surely the basketball game for you.

Simply put, the game is absolutely stunning. Though there are differences in graphical fidelity between the current (Xbox One, PS4) and the next generation (Xbox Series X|S, PS5) of game consoles, 2K22 is the best-looking basketball game currently on the market for whatever device you own, period. 2K has always been good at modelling NBA players, but this time it is a whole new story. The developers have been able to achieve hyper-realistic player models with intense precision.



Coming from 2K17, the change is most definitely noticeable in the graphics department.

Sound is as crisp as it has ever been. Crowd cheers sound massive with surround sound, commentary is clean, swishes sound as satisfying as ever, and the in-game chatter between players on the court is subtle but noticeable. The game's soundtrack is great as well, and if you happen to enjoy hip-hop music you will find yourself nodding your head to catchy songs more often than not.

The gameplay is fluid, responsive, and most importantly, much more realistic than any sports simulation video game I have ever seen. The older NBA 2K games have been guilty of copying a lot of the animations and gameplay mechanics of their predecessors, but 2K22 has its own identity. The dribbling, shooting and defence have all been revamped. The removal of the overtly 'cheesy' features of the older games like superhuman-speed dribbling moves, near-unlimited stamina or unrealistic three-point range provides a far more immersive experience. The game has also been successful at balancing offence and defence, something it has struggled with in the past. Defensive players finally have an equal chance at winning the game, and the strength of the offence has been toned down. Each player in the game now also has his/her own signature dribble combos, celebrations and dunks, and you can enjoy the unique identity of your favourite NBA player on the court. This was a very welcome addition to an already outstanding gameplay experience.

Perhaps the most hyped and awaited game mode in any 2K game, 'MyCareer' is back in 2K22, and it's better than ever. 'MyCareer' allows you to create your own NBA player, and with that, your own identity both on and off the court. You get to pick exactly what you're good at, whether it be shooting, dribbling, defence or rebounding. Your player's facial features, weight, height and body type are customisable as well. When you're not in an NBA game or practising with your team, you'll be in the 'neighbourhood', where you connect with other players from around the world. The neighbourhood has clothing stores, barber shops, accessories and so much more, where you can really define your personality off the court. Here, you can also invite your friends, team up and play casual games with other teams. Playing with my cousins from the US late at night has been a wonderful experience, and with a solid internet connection, you'll experience almost no lag. If you're looking for detailed customisation, a unique identity and some online fun, the neighbourhood in 2K22 is definitely the place to be.

In conclusion, 2K22 has finally been able to break the chain of boredom year after year and has been able to successfully create its own identity in the gaming landscape. With jaw-dropping visuals, crisp audio, all-new gameplay and an amazing career mode, it is as close to perfect as a basketball game can get. If you're looking to have fun with your friends, create your own player, simulate an NBA game or simply keep yourself busy at home, NBA 2K22 is definitely worth a shot.



Quiz

When is International identity day celebrated every year?

- September 12th
- September 16th
- February 29th
- October 12th

Who came up with the idea of 'Identity'?

- Subhash Chandra Bose
- Dr. Joe Ligma
- Erik Erikson
- Richard Thaler

When will pride month be celebrated in 2022?

- December
- November
- June
- August

How many identity discrimination cases have there been in 2020 (approx)?

- 72000
- 67500
- 89000
- 23000

When did Rosa Parks' bus boycott movement start?

- December 5, 1955
- October 9, 2001
- June 30, 1975
- April 24, 1968

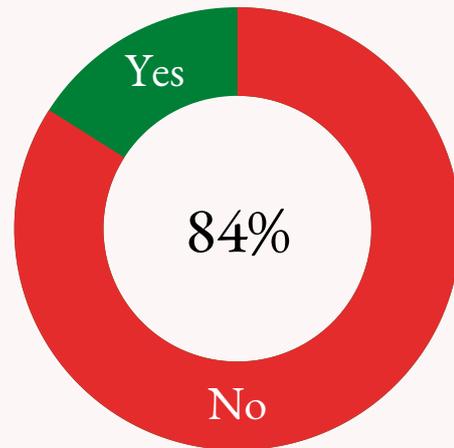
Who was a part of the biggest identity theft in history?

- Phillip Cummings
- Kenneth Gibson
- Turhan Armstrong
- Nakeisha Hall

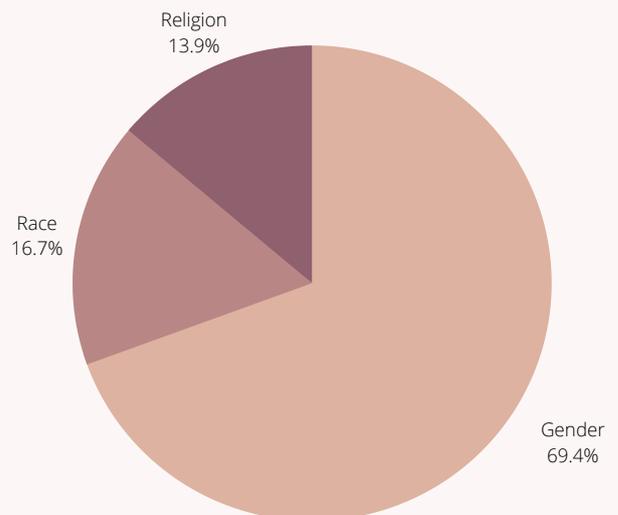
Poll

We asked our readers some interesting questions. Here is how they responded:

Do you consider your religion to be a substantial part of your identity?



Have you ever faced discrimination? If yes, what was the basis of the discrimination?



Answers
September 16th, Erik Erikson, June
67500, Dec 5th 1955, Phillip Cummings

EDITORIAL

DATED: 25/02/2022

VICTIMS OF REALPOLITIK



By VEDAANT YADAV



Realpolitik is a political science theory that you may or may not have heard of, but it has most definitely impacted your life in more ways than one. Realpolitik in its simplest definition can be remembered as putting practicality and a basis in reality before idealism, ethics and morals. But in its more succinct form, realpolitik is the morally correct justification of the loss of morals, ethics and idealism.

That statement may sound weird and self-contradictory, so I will attempt to break it down. Realpolitik based actions in this modern world are the obvious reaction to an increasingly multipolar world, a world free of countries needing to tie themselves to one of two superpowers. This has led to a consequence that is welcome in all aspects, countries do not feel the need to attach themselves to one party or another during a state of war.

Foreign policy is no longer dictated by petty and rudimentary global bloc politics, but with true and real values. Values that are driven purely and truly by countries' own self needs, in the sense, making a country more detached from global politics and more attached to self-serving and cynical values. We do not care about our way of life or ideology being spread in the global community anymore, we care about accumulating as much power as possible.

It should be clear that this way of thinking leads to countries simply not caring much

about things like human life or morality if it doesn't pertain to that of their citizens. This statement has been validated multiple times from the invasion of Crimea, to now Ukraine, from the battles of Yemen (which I doubt many would even know much about despite causing some of the worst humanitarian disasters of the modern world) to Tibet. All of these conflicts were in large parts, modern-day adaptations of 18th-century conquests, yet there was no global response beyond vague condemnations or sanctions, if any at all. This is the downside of Realpolitik. The loss of value of human life. The loss of the need to intervene, to stop someone from needlessly killing, to push your moral and ethical compass on somebody because it is "simply right". There is no country that believes in any of those aforementioned things or is willing to act upon it.

But, despite all those morally righteous words, it is important to remember: Morality causes larger wars. Righteousness is a fickle concept across nationalities. Idealism is a tool to grandstand. Going by these vague concepts to determine whether one should intervene in something that is considered wrong by the "traditional standards" is absurd. Sometimes the answer is obvious, and the justification is clear, yet the innate idea of morality must and should be ignored and in turn replaced with the clearest obligation. The obligation to one's own nation and its interests above all. One should never be in the position to have to weigh the life of a foreign citizen against

the life of a citizen of their own country. The only moral and ethical decision to be taken is the safety and security of country and country above all. This is simply the state of the global world, and one cannot argue with it. Despite globalization, despite increased international mindedness, despite more cultural interchange, the argument of humanity and morality simply cannot compete with the argument of nationalism and preservation.

This idea, may not have attained justice by my words, but it is ever clear in global policy.

THE ORTUS

As time passes, all things eventually lose their value, be it ever-changing norms or a shift in preferences. Everything withers away but some things stand the test of time, fighting against it forever. Each individual has that one belonging that immensely connects to them, serving as a reminder of a critical moment. With this we introduce our next issue, "timeless".

END OF VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

ISSUE 4 THEME:
TIMELESS