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Even before going global
“Water Crisis” was already there

P/30 —
AS MINIMALISM TAKES OVER,
the World Is Losing Its Detailing.



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A Step Towards Sustainability: Embracing Change at British Herald

Dear Readers,

We are thrilled to announce a significant transformation that aligns with our commitment to building a more sustainable future. Starting this month, your beloved British Herald will be transitioning into a monthly publication, with a renewed vision and dedication to making your reading experience both economical and invaluable.

Change is an inherent part of progress, and as an organization, we firmly believe in evolving with the times. In a world where the urgency of climate action grows stronger by the day, it is our responsibility to contribute towards a greener planet. By moving to a monthly format, we aim to reduce our ecological footprint and champion a more sustainable approach to publishing.

This decision did not come lightly, but after careful consideration and discussions with our passionate team, we concluded that quality should always triumph over quantity. Our goal has always been to provide you, our esteemed readers, with the most engaging, insightful, and thought-provoking content. By shifting to a monthly rhythm, we can invest more time and resources into curating content that truly matters, ensuring each edition becomes a treasure trove of knowledge and inspiration.

Beyond our dedication to environmental sustainability, this change is driven by the desire to enhance your experience as readers. We understand that your time is precious and that keeping up with a bi-monthly publication can be a challenge in today's fast-paced world. With our new format, you can now look forward to a comprehensive collection of articles, features, and analyses that encompass the most compelling and relevant subjects of the month. Each issue will be a curated compendium, designed to equip you with a deeper understanding of the world around us.

Rest assured, our editorial team remains steadfast in upholding the values and journalistic integrity that have defined British Herald throughout its rich history. We remain committed to delivering unbiased and diverse perspectives, challenging the status quo, and celebrating the incredible accomplishments of individuals from various walks of life. Our commitment to you, our readers, is unwavering.

As we embark on this exciting journey, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your continued support. British Herald has always been an embodiment of shared experiences, intellectual growth, and fostering a sense of community. We believe that this transition to a monthly publication will strengthen these bonds further, allowing us to explore deeper into the topics that matter most to you.

We invite you to embrace this change with us and embark on this new chapter of our shared story. Together, let us create a more sustainable environment and a readership that is both economical and invaluable.

Thank you for being a part of the British Herald family.

Warm regards,

Soumia Grace Lobo
Editor-in-Chief, British Herald



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Erdogan Rises Again in the Black Sea

After the most difficult campaign ever, he extends his two-decade reign in Turkey.

The neo-Ottoman era continues, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been re-elected in a tight run-off after failing to collect more than half of the votes needed for an outright victory in the first round. In terms of domestic policy, the Turkish people benefit from continuity. Erdogan has won every election in his political career, has dominated Turkish politics for two decades, and now wields more power than any previous leader in the country's modern history.

Erdogan has now won eleven elections in a row. He has dominated Turkish politics for the past two decades and is now ready to serve a fifth five-year term. He



received 52.1 percent of the vote in a suspenseful run-off. Meanwhile his rival Kemal Kilicdaroglu received 47.9 percent.

“We finished the second round of presidential elections with our people's support,” Erdogan remarked. “God willing, we will continue to be worthy of your trust, as we have been for the last 21 years.”

He went on to say that the country's 85 million residents were all ‘victors’ in the two rounds of voting on May 14 and May 28. Erdogan supporters celebrated by waving Turkish or governing party flags, blowing car horns, and chanting his name. In some Istanbul neighbourhoods, celebratory gunfire was heard.

Erdogan won the most difficult challenge yet

While the incumbent entered the run-off with considerable momentum and an advantage over his opponent, his chances were boosted by the backing of nationalist Sinan Ogan, who finished third in the presidential election. Erdogan outperformed expectations in the first round in areas ravaged by devastating earthquakes in February that killed more than 50,000 people in the country, confounding critics who chastised the administration for its tardy reaction to the disaster.

Ultimately, the man who has led Turkey for more than two decades fought off what many experts predicted would be his most difficult challenge yet, as Kilicdaroglu forged a six-party

alliance to unseat him, which comprised the CHP, a nationalist party, and former Erdogan friends. The president's position has been fragile due to Turkey's increasing economic crisis, surging inflation and currency depreciation, as well as the fervour behind the opposition campaign, particularly



“We finished the second round of presidential elections with our people's support,” Erdogan remarked.

among youth. In the days leading up to the run-off, Kilicdaroglu ran a tougher campaign, intensifying his rhetoric on the divisive topic of Syrian and other refugees and promising to send them home to win nationalist support.

That was insufficient to unseat Turkey's long-serving leader, who has been president since 2014 and prime minister since 2003. These elections have been billed as the most important since Turkey's first fair multi-party polls in 1950, boiled down to a choice between five more years of Erdogan, the country's most electorally successful politician or a new direction under an old party, the CHP, that has attempted to reinvent itself in recent years.

Critics blame Erdogan's unusual economic policies for driving up inflation and fuelling a cost-of-living problem.

In his victory speech, Erdogan stated that reconstructing the earthquake-ravaged cities would be his priority and that a million Syrian refugees would return to Turkish-controlled “safe zones” in Syria as part of a joint resettlement initiative with Qatar. Erdogan has maintained the support of conservative voters who support him for elevating the profile of Islam in Turkey, which was founded on secular ideals, and for increasing the country's role in global politics.

Erdogan and his rise to Power

Recep Tayyip Erdogan was born in February 1954, the son of a coastguard on Turkey's Black Sea



coast. When he was 13, his father chose to relocate to Istanbul to provide a better upbringing for his five children. To supplement his income, the young Erdoğan peddled lemonade and sesame buns. He went to an Islamic school before earning a management degree from Istanbul's Marmara University and playing professional football.

Erdoğan was prominent in Islamist circles in the 1970s and 1980s, joining Necmettin Erbakan's pro-Islamic Welfare Party. He was elected as the party's candidate for mayor of Istanbul in 1994 and controlled the city for the next four years as the party surged in popularity in the 1990s.

However, his sentence was terminated when he was found guilty of inciting racial hatred

after publicly reading a nationalist poem that included the lines: "The mosques are our barracks, the domes our helmets, the minarets our bayonets, and the faithful our soldiers."

He returned to politics after serving four months in prison. However, his party had been banned for breaking the new Turkish state's strong secular norms. With ally Abdullah Gül, he created a new Islamist-rooted party in August 2001. The AKP secured a parliamentary majority in 2002, and Mr Erdoğan was chosen prime minister the following year. He is still the chairman of the AKP, or Justice and Development Party.

He served three terms as Prime Minister beginning in 2003, presiding through steady

economic growth and earning international acclaim as a reformer. As Mr Erdoğan focused on massive infrastructure projects to improve Turkey, the middle class expanded and millions were lifted out of poverty. However, detractors have cautioned that he is becoming increasingly despotic. Protesters went to the streets in 2013, partially in response to his government's plans to change a popular park in Istanbul's core, but also as a challenge to more authoritarian governance. The prime minister referred to the demonstrators as 'capulcu' (riff-raff), and every night at nine o'clock, residents would clang pots and pans in defiance. Corruption allegations entangled the sons of three cabinet allies. The Gezi Park protests were a watershed moment in his presidency. According to his critics, he was



behaving more like an Ottoman monarch than a democrat.

Erdogan also clashed with Fethullah Gulen, a US-based Islamic professor whose social and cultural movement helped him win three consecutive elections and was involved in removing the military from politics. It was a feud that would have far-reaching consequences for Turkish society. He had also become more oppressive, notably after a failed coup attempt in 2016, with his administration imprisoning journalists, critics, and thousands of perceived opponents. Tens of thousands of people have been fired from government employment after being accused – frequently without evidence – of supporting the coup attempt. He filled the courts with his picks, and in certain cities, he replaced

“We finished the second round of presidential elections with our people's support,” Erdogan remarked.

elected mayors with his loyalists.

When earthquakes destroyed parts of southern Turkey in February, killing over 50,000 people, citizens criticised the government for its delayed reaction and corrupt and negligent construction code enforcement, which all contributed to the death toll. Many people blamed Erdogan for the failings, blaming him for concentrating power around his presidency.

Turkey and global geopolitics

Turkey occupies a unique position in world affairs, serving as a crossroads between Europe and Asia and as a gatekeeper to the Black Sea. In a letter to President Erdogan celebrating his narrow run-off victory on Sunday, Putin addressed the Turkish leader as a Dear Friend and praised his efforts at strengthening Russian-Turkish relations.

“From the bottom of my heart, I wish you new successes in such a responsible activity as head of state, as well as good health and well-being,” he concluded.

Zelensky also congratulated Mr Erdogan and emphasised the importance of further strengthening Ukraine and



Turkey's 'strategic' partnership. Western leaders, like Rishi Sunak, Joe Biden, and Emmanuel Macron, joined him on Twitter to congratulate Mr Erdogan on his election victory.

Turkey has a vital role in global politics, in part because of its physical location at the intersection of Europe and Asia, particularly the Middle East. With Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Turkey has grown in prominence as the Black Sea's gatekeeper and has played a significant role in negotiating crucial accords to keep Ukrainian grain exports going.

Despite being a NATO member and a former candidate for European Union membership, Turkey maintains diplomatic

relations with Russia. Putin mentioned the joint Turkish-Russian Akkuyu nuclear power facility and the establishment of a gas hub in Turkey in his letter of congratulations to Erdogan.

Erdogan, on the other hand, has already stated the significance of preserving Ukraine's territorial integrity and negotiating a peace accord to end the conflict. When asked in September last year whether Russia should be permitted to preserve its territorial gains, he told PBS in the United States, "No, and undoubtedly no."

"If peace is going to be established in Ukraine, of course, the return of the land that was invaded will become important. This is what is expected."

Erdogan may not fit into Western dreams

Since Putin launched the invasion of Ukraine and spurred a firestorm of sanctions on his country's economy, Turkey has become a primary lifeline for Moscow, with the pugnacious Erdogan insisting on maintaining economic and diplomatic links.

"We are not at a point where we would impose sanctions on Russia as the West have done," Erdogan said in an interview with CNN. "We are not bound by the West's sanctions."

"We are a strong state and we have a positive relationship with Russia," he said. "Russia and



Turkey need each other in every field possible.”

Erdogan, on the other hand, promotes himself as valuable to the West. He thinks he can play a role in negotiating peace, and he was instrumental in bringing Putin on board with last year's Black Sea Grain Initiative, an agreement arranged by the UN that allowed grain exports from Ukraine to continue while alleviating a spike in food prices. He also assisted in the negotiation of a prisoner swap between Ukraine and Russia.

Russia is Turkey's major energy provider, accounting for one-third of its oil and gas imports. Moscow agreed earlier this month to postpone part of Turkey's natural gas payments, a move regarded

as a favour to Erdogan ahead of the election. Both countries are also collaborating on Turkey's first nuclear power plant, which is scheduled to open later this year.

The Nord Stream pipeline blockage, which would have transported oil from Russia to Germany and Western Europe, has also encouraged Russia to seek for Turkey to become a regional gas hub for commerce with the European Union. Turkey has sent drones and other equipment to Ukraine, but the country under Erdogan shares much of Putin's antipathy towards the West, making him a difficult NATO partner. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, both Sweden and Finland, which have traditionally maintained official

neutrality, sought membership in the transatlantic alliance. Both cases came down to Turkey, which eventually conceded to Finland but not to Sweden because the vote to accept new members must be unanimous.

Erdogan alleges that Sweden is home to Kurdish activists affiliated with the Kurdistan Workers' Party, which Turkey and the US both consider a terrorist organisation.

The United States Congress penalised Turkey for impeding Sweden's purchase of American-made F-16 fighter fighters. Because of concerns that Russia could manipulate the system to spy on the West, Turkey's purchase of a Russian S-400 missile defence system in 2021 has already lost



its access to F-35s. Erdoğan may exploit Sweden's NATO bid to press for a face-to-face meeting with Biden at the alliance's July summit in Lithuania.

And there will be a seismic upheaval in foreign policy following this election, with Türkiye realigning itself towards Russia, China, and the BRICS.

Inflation to Reconstruction: A List of Priorities for Erdoğan

Erdoğan's government announced plans last month to construct hundreds of thousands of housing units in northern Syria to facilitate the "voluntary" return of at least one million people.

Combating Inflation

A severe cost-of-living problem has decimated Turks' purchasing power, with annual inflation hovering around 40% in April after reaching an all-time high of 85% last year. Spiralling prices were compounded by Erdoğan's unconventional policy of decreasing interest rates in the hope of lowering inflation, a stance he reiterated during the election campaign.

The central bank defended its most recent lowering of 0.5 percentage points in February as a means of boosting jobs and industrial activity in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that occurred that month. Turkey's policy rate for banks is now far lower than the rate at which

prices are rising, implying that customers are effectively losing money if they leave their liras unspent in their accounts. This is hastening spending and stoking the inflationary cycle.

Despite major state interventions aimed at averting politically sensitive declines before the vote, the lira has lost more than half its value in two years and briefly traded at 20 liras to the dollar on Friday for the first time. According to official data, the central bank spent \$25 billion in a month trying to shore up the lira.

Sweden's NATO membership attempt

NATO allies, led by the US, are eager for Ankara to waive its veto



on Sweden joining the world's most powerful defence alliance. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine sparked a fundamental shift in the countries' long tradition of military non-alignment, Stockholm applied to unite with Nordic neighbour Finland in 2022. Ankara, however, rejected the proposals by demanding the extradition of Turkish officials accused of having ties to outlawed Kurdish militants.

Syria's reconciliation

Relations with neighbouring Syria are at an all-time low after Erdoğan backed opposition forces fighting to depose President Bashar al-Assad during the country's lengthy and bloody civil war. Ankara launched the first of many invasions against Islamist and Kurdish organisations in northern Syria in 2016, and it

maintains a military presence there to this day.

In recent months, Erdoğan has attempted to restore relations, but Russian-mediated discussions have failed to normalise diplomatic relations, even as Assad emerges from years of isolation from Arab neighbours.

Turkey also wants to repatriate the more than three million Syrian refugees who have fled the turmoil. Erdoğan's government announced plans last month to construct hundreds of thousands of housing units in northern Syria to facilitate the "voluntary" return of at least one million people.

Earthquake reconstruction

The 7.8-magnitude earthquake that rocked southeastern Turkey

on February 6 killed over 50,000 people and reduced entire cities to rubble mounds. Aside from the massive loss of life, the economic and social issues brought on by the accident remain enormous over four months later.

The damage is officially predicted to cost more than \$100 billion, and the massive restoration effort is still in its early stages. In March, a fundraising conference held by the European Union in Brussels generated donor pledges of seven billion euros (\$7.5 billion) for Turkey and Syria, both of which were affected. The disaster caused Europe's development bank to lower its forecast for Turkey's economic growth in 2023, partly because hundreds of thousands of people lost their jobs overnight.

What Made the Cut and What Didn't: Debt Limit Bill to Prevent US Default



The US Senate has achieved a significant milestone with the approval of bipartisan legislation backed by President Joe Biden, aimed at lifting the government's \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling. The passage of the Fiscal Responsibility Act effectively suspends the debt ceiling until 2025, safeguarding the US economy from the dire consequences of a potential default. The bill encompasses a mix of measures including government spending cuts and expanded work requirements, addressing concerns raised by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Comprising 99 pages, the bill enforces spending restrictions for the next two years while

suspending the debt ceiling until January 2025. Notably, it introduces various policy changes such as implementing new work requirements for older Americans receiving food aid and granting approval for the construction of an Appalachian natural gas line. The latter decision has faced opposition from several Democrats, highlighting the intricate nature of the bill and the compromises necessary to secure bipartisan support.

The passage of this legislation brings temporary relief and stability to the US economy by averting the potential risks associated with a default. It

reflects a collaborative effort among bipartisan lawmakers to address fiscal challenges and ensure responsible management of the nation's finances.

TWO-YEAR DEBT LIMIT SUSPENSION, SPENDING LIMITS

The agreement would suspend the debt ceiling until January 2025, after the following presidential election, while maintaining nondefense spending nearly unchanged in the fiscal year 2024 and increasing it by 1% the following year.

The measure allocates \$704 billion for nondefense spending and \$886 billion for defence for the upcoming fiscal year.

The bill also mandates that Congress pass 12 annual spending bills; otherwise, the preceding year's spending caps, which result in a 1% reduction, will take effect.

The law promises to keep federal budget growth to 1% over the following six years, although that clause won't take effect until 2025.

According to projections made by the Congressional Budget Office on Tuesday, the bill will lower budget deficits.

VETERANS CARE

Following Biden's proposed budget blueprint for 2024, the agreement will fully cover veterans' medical care, including a fund specifically for soldiers who have been exposed to dangerous substances or environmental risks. In his budget, Biden requested \$20.3 billion for the toxic exposure fund.

UNSPENT COVID MONEY

The deal would revoke \$30 billion in unapplied coronavirus relief funds that Congress had previously approved through other bills. It recovers unused funds from numerous federal programmes that received funding during the pandemic, such as broadband for rural areas, small business loans, and rental assistance.

The legislation safeguards \$5 billion for a programme aimed

at quickly creating the next generation of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, as well as funding for housing assistance, the Indian Health Service, medical care for veterans, and other programmes.

IRS FUNDING

Republicans targeted the funds given to the IRS last year to combat tax fraud. The bill cancels \$1.4 billion in funding for the IRS. Because there would be less enforcement, there would be less money going into the Treasury, according to budget watchers, which would result in a \$900 million increase in deficits.

According to the White House, the agreement also calls for taking \$20 billion from the IRS over the next two years and using that money for non-defence programmes.

WORK REQUIREMENTS

The agreement would increase the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, work requirements, which has long been a Republican priority. However, the changes are lessened by the debt ceiling bill that the House passed.

For the majority of physically fit adults between the ages of 18 and 49, work requirements already exist. By 2025, the bill's phased-in higher age restrictions would raise the top age to 54. However, when the clause runs out in 2030, the upper age limit will return to 49.

Additionally, Democrats won some newly increased benefits for

veterans, the homeless, and young people transitioning out of foster care. Besides, that would end in 2030, per the agreement.

The agreement would also make it slightly more difficult for states to exempt some people from SNAP's work requirements. The number of people who can be exempted from the work rules is currently capped, but the law allows states to grant some exemptions at their discretion. The agreement would limit the number of exemptions that a state may grant and would prevent states from carrying over exemptions from one month to the next.

The Temporary Assistance to Needy Families programme, which provides financial assistance to families with children, would also change as a result of the agreement. The agreement would modify a credit that permits states to require fewer recipients to work, updating and readjusting the credit to make it more difficult for states to avoid, even though it did not go as far as the House bill had proposed.

SPEEDING UP ENERGY PROJECTS

For the first time in almost four decades, the agreement implements amendments to the National Environmental Policy Act that, to streamline the procedure, designate "a single lead agency" to plan and develop environmental reviews. Additionally, it streamlines some of the specifications for environmental reviews, such as imposing time restrictions on impact and environmental assessments.



Environmental reviews must be completed by agencies within a year, and they must be completed within two years for projects that are thought to have complex environmental effects.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline, a West Virginia natural gas pipeline supported by Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito, also receives special treatment under the bill, which approves all of its pending permit requests.

STUDENT LOANS

Republicans have long sought to undermine the Biden administration's initiatives to help millions of borrowers with their student debt during the coronavirus pandemic. Biden agreed to end the moratorium on student loan repayment, even though the GOP's proposal to

rescind the White House's plan to waive \$10,000 to \$20,000 in debt for nearly all borrowers was rejected.

In the final days of August, the suspension of student loan payments would come to an end.

The future of Biden's more comprehensive student loan relief will be decided by the Supreme Court, which is dominated 6-3 by its conservative wing. During the oral arguments in the case, several justices expressed their profound scepticism regarding the viability of Biden's plan. There needs to be a decision made before June is over.

What wasn't cut?

Last month, House Republicans passed legislation that included new work requirements for some Medicaid recipients, but that

language was not included in the final deal. The White House and congressional Democrats fiercely opposed the proposal, arguing that it would result in fewer people being able to afford food or health care without actually increasing the number of people in the labour force.

The GOP proposal to repeal many of the clean energy tax credits Democrats passed in party-line votes last year to increase the production and consumption of clean energy is also not included in the final agreement. The tax breaks, in the words of McCarthy and Republicans, "distort the market and waste taxpayer money."

The tax credits, according to the White House, have led to hundreds of billions of dollars in private-sector investments and thousands of new manufacturing jobs in the United States. ●

G7 SUMMIT 2023

When the “World Leaders” Met..

The annual Group of Seven (G7) summit allows the world's most powerful advanced democracies to coordinate on geopolitical, economic, and security matters. On May 21, 2023, the G7 ended its annual summit with the publishing of the G7 Hiroshima Leaders Statement. Japan, this year's G7 president, hosted the summit in Hiroshima, where leaders from the United States, the United Kingdom,

Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan, as well as representatives from the European Union and other invited visitors, convened to discuss a variety of critical global concerns.

The leaders' statement, as predicted, included commitments and declarations on a variety of themes, including climate, health, food security, and technology. The war in Ukraine, nuclear

non-proliferation, and economic security, on the other hand, were the most prominent.

This year's G7 summit's principal focus was renewing support for Ukraine; it was the first item addressed in the communiqué and the topic of a separate statement by G7 leaders. President Volodymyr Zelensky's surprise visit to Hiroshima emphasised the significance of this issue even



further. At the summit, G7 leaders agreed to impose further sanctions on critical Russian sectors, provide Ukraine with budget support until early 2024, and reduce dependency on Russian energy.

The leaders also stated that Russia should shoulder the lion's share of the financial burden for Ukraine's reconstruction and that all war criminals should be held accountable. Individually, the United States and the United Kingdom imposed further sanctions against Russia. In addition, President Biden reversed his former attitude and agreed to train Ukrainian pilots on F-16 fighter jets.

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation were also hot topics at the meeting. In The G7 Leaders' Hiroshima Vision on Nuclear

Disarmament, G7 leaders stated their commitment to a future free of nuclear weapons, but they also acknowledged that this issue requires a "realistic, pragmatic, and responsible approach."

Russia was chastised in the statement for threatening to use nuclear weapons in its invasion of Ukraine. Similarly, the leaders urged North Korea to cease its nuclear programme and emphasised the necessity of preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

G7 leaders focused on economic security by strengthening supply chains, combating economic coercion, and safeguarding important technologies. In an unprecedented section of the statement, the leaders openly addressed China, stressing that

G7 economic measures are not intended to hurt or detach from China, but rather to diversify and de-risk. The summit singled out vital minerals, semiconductors, and batteries as supply chains of particular concern, and it promised improved coordination among the G7 and poor countries.

In terms of climate and energy, the leaders began by emphasising their commitment to the Paris Agreement but made very modest headway in determining how to achieve that aim.

The leaders also adopted the G7 Clean Energy Economy Action Plan, which emphasises the role of trade policy in achieving net-zero emissions.

At the summit, the G7 leaders also mentioned food security and



G7 LEADERS FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC SECURITY THROUGH STRENGTHENING SUPPLY CHAINS, COMBATING ECONOMIC COERCION, AND SAFEGUARDING IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGIES.

health. In terms of food security, the leaders emphasised the importance of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and urged all partners to follow through on their pledges. Throughout the communiqué, the leaders emphasised that all countries must do their part to limit the global impact of the Ukraine conflict.

JAPAN THE HOST

The summit agenda reflected Japan's interests, with a focus on traditional and economic security, Ukraine, technology, and a variety of topics relating to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The leaders made significant pledges on the majority, but not all, of these concerns. Japan's G7 meeting resulted in significant progress on cooperation against economic coercion and the G7's sustained support for Ukraine. However, the G7 made no significant new pledges on climate, health, or food security challenges.

Japan also earned points for inclusivity by inviting a broad



group of observer nations. In addition to the G7 and the European Union, leaders from India, Brazil, Indonesia, Vietnam, Australia, South Korea, Ukraine, the Comoros, and the Cook Islands attended the meeting. The participation of Australia and the Republic of Korea (ROK),

the next two greatest advanced democracies, demonstrates Japan's understanding of the need for multi-lateralization of traditional and economic security measures.

Bringing in some of the greatest rising economies and regional delegates aided Japan achieve its goal of working more closely with the Global South to increase pressure on Russia, combat climate change, and respond to a more aggressive China.

Since Hiroshima was the site of the first nuclear bombing, Japan strategically chose the city to promote its aim of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. When the G7 leaders arrived, they were greeted at an event monument, visited the Peace Museum, and met with a survivor.

The G7 meeting also provided an opportunity to strengthen Japan-ROK relations. Despite





THE G7 LEADERS DID NOT STOP AT DEMANDING RUSSIA'S COMPLETE DISENGAGEMENT. THEY ALSO PLAN TO IMPOSE REGIME CHANGE IN MOSCOW AND ECONOMICALLY AND FISCALLY DEVASTATE THE COUNTRY.

the cancellation of a planned trilateral meeting with President Biden, Prime Minister Kishida and President Yoon visited a small memorial to Korean victims of the atomic attack in Hiroshima - around 20,000 people were killed, many of whom were labourers sent to Japan during the colonial period. Yoon was the first sitting South Korean president to visit the memorial, and he referred to Kishida's visit as a "brave act."

WAR OR PEACE? WHAT DO THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL LEADERS INVEST IN?

The G7 countries—the United States, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Canada—issued an ultimatum to Russia that leaves little opportunity for diplomatic solutions.

"We urge Russia to stop its ongoing aggression and immediately,

completely and unconditionally withdraw its troops and military equipment from the entire internationally recognized territory of Ukraine," the statement said.

As a result, the G7 members declared Moscow's unconditional surrender, including the evacuation of Crimea and the strategically crucial Sevastopol naval station, a precondition for any peace talks. They made no concessions, such as security guarantees for Moscow or a refusal to admit Ukraine to NATO. Instead, the statement promised "to provide Ukraine with the financial, humanitarian, military, and diplomatic support it requires for as long as it takes," i.e., until Russia's military defeat.

In this framework, the decision to supply Ukraine with nuclear-capable F16 fighter fighters makes sense. The F16s have the capability of carrying the fight well into Russian territory. Another military

escalation, involving NATO forces directly in combat and threatening to set Europe on fire, is thus unavoidable.

The G7 leaders did not stop at demanding Russia's complete disengagement. They also plan to impose regime change in Moscow and economically and fiscally devastate the country. They voted to impose new sanctions on Russia to ensure that "Russia pays for Ukraine's long-term reconstruction" and that its leaders face punishment for "war crimes and other atrocities."

Vladimir Putin's administration cannot reach this deadline without writing its death certificate. It is an ultimatum whose sole purpose is to keep the war going until NATO achieves its goal of installing a puppet regime in Moscow and destroying the Russian Federation. The G7 is willing to accept the risk of nuclear escalation. ●

“Hiroshima Accord”

A Global Strategic Partnership between UK and Japan to strengthen ties

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida agree to a landmark new global strategic partnership, 'The Hiroshima Accord' in Hiroshima during the G7 summit, in Japan.

The Hiroshima Accord includes new agreements on defence, trade and investment, science and technology collaboration, and joint work on tackling global issues like climate change.

Japan's relationship with the UK has developed faster and further than any other international partner, reflecting Japan's vital role in the Indo-Pacific and its importance to the UK's security and economy. The government of the UK has finished discussions

to join the CPTPP trading bloc, inaugurated the UK-Japan-Italy Global Combat Air Programme, and signed a groundbreaking Defence Reciprocal Access Agreement in the previous six months.

With new agreements on defence, commerce and investment, research and technology collaboration, and combined engagement on global concerns such as climate change, the Hiroshima Accord will solidify this partnership.

When Prime Minister Rishi Sunak arrived in Tokyo on Thursday, he visited a naval base and confirmed a new UK-Japan defence collaboration. This includes doubling UK troop numbers in upcoming joint exercises, committing to deploying the Carrier Strike Group

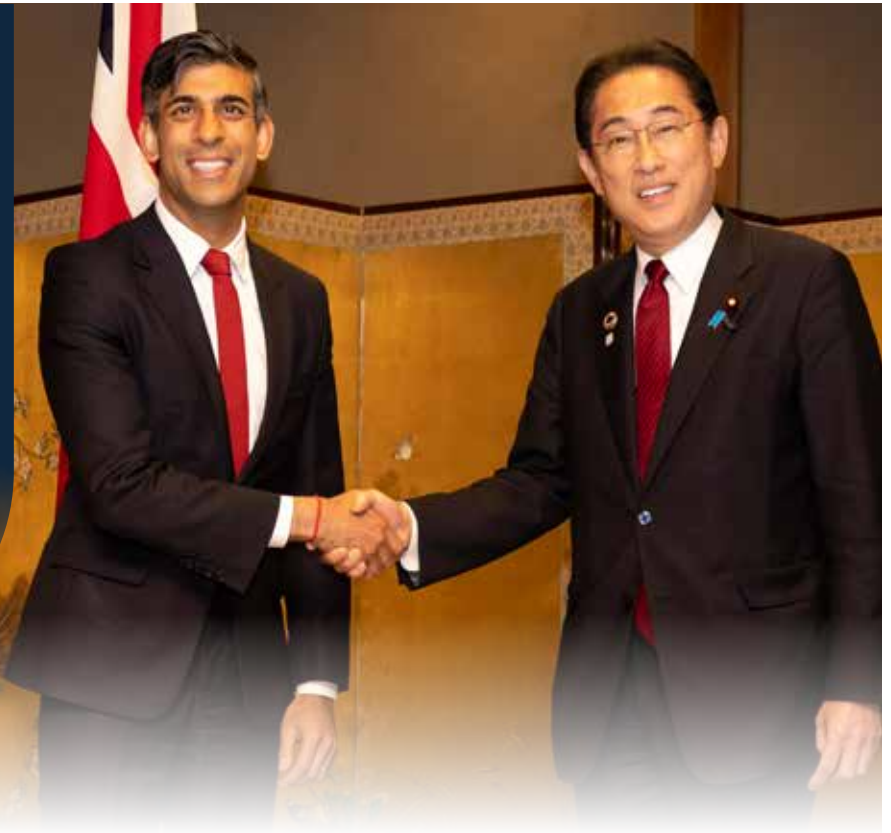
to the Indo-Pacific in 2025 and agreeing to a formal Consult Clause. In which the UK and Japan consult each other on important regional and global security issues and consider response measures.

As part of the new Accord, the UK and Japan will establish a Semiconductors Partnership, with additional pledges to pursue ambitious R&D cooperation and skills exchange, boosting their domestic sectors and increasing supply chain resilience in an increasingly competitive market.

Rishi Sunak hosted a reception in Tokyo with top Japanese business leaders to emphasise the importance of their trade and investment relationship. He announced billions of pounds in



The fleet, which comprises an aircraft carrier, escorts, and aircraft, will collaborate with the Japanese Self-Defense Forces and other regional partners to safeguard peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.



new job-creating investments in the United Kingdom.

The fourth UK-Japan joint 'Vigilant Isles' military exercises, scheduled for later this year in Japan, will be the largest ever, with over 170 UK personnel participating, including members of the 1 Royal Gurkha Rifles and the 16 Air Assault Brigade. Following its inaugural cruise to the Indo-Pacific in 2021, the UK also revealed that its Carrier Strike Group will return to the region in 2025.

The fleet, which comprises an aircraft carrier, escorts, and aircraft, will collaborate with the Japanese Self-Defense Forces and other regional partners to safeguard peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. It is expected that the Prime Minister will commit to a new Cyber Partnership with Japan, forming part of the Hiroshima Accord defence agreements. The

participation of Fujitsu UK in the National Cyber Security Centre's Industry 100 program, along with the launch of a Japan Cyber Security Fellowship by the UK and Japan to nurture future cyber leaders will foster expanded cyber collaboration between the two countries and set ambitious goals for their future relationship.

Additionally, the UK government will initiate a new Renewable Energy Partnership aimed at expediting the deployment of sustainable energy in the UK, Japan, and other nations.

JAPANESE FIRMS COMMITTED TO INVESTING £18 BILLION IN THE UK

Japanese firms made a record investment of £17.7 billion in the UK. These new investments represented a huge vote of

confidence in the UK's thriving economy, generating high-quality jobs from the Highlands to Bridgend.

Leading Japanese corporations pledged to invest around £18 billion in UK firms and projects. Boosting development in important sectors, creating high-skilled employment, and driving technological innovation.

The statement came as Prime Minister Rishi Sunak held a business reception in Tokyo, where he acknowledged the strength of the UK-Japan economic partnership and outlined future potential.

Japan was the fifth largest investor in the UK, having invested £92 billion, and UK's trade in goods and services was worth £27.7 billion last year. A figure that was expected to rise further when the UK entered



Rishi Sunak hosted a reception in Tokyo with top Japanese business leaders to emphasise the importance of their trade and investment relationship.



the regional CPTPP trading bloc. The Prime Minister personally thanked Japanese CPTPP Minister Goto for Japan's strong support for the UK's participation.

Marubeni's latest investments included money for offshore wind, low-carbon hydrogen, and other sustainable energy initiatives. The world's largest trading firm revealed its intention to sign an agreement with the UK government that would see it invest around £10 billion in the UK alongside its partners over the next ten years, including offshore wind in Scotland and green hydrogen projects in Wales and Scotland.

Through its subsidiary SmartestEnergy Limited, the company already supported 500

UK jobs and worked with the government to create a significant number of new green jobs in the UK.

Mitsubishi Estate and Mitsui Fudosan, two of Japan's largest real estate corporations, also

announced plans to spend £3.5 billion in the UK. The planned projects in London would have constructed affordable housing, high-quality office space, and a life-science laboratory, sustaining thousands of jobs and serving to reinvigorate regions of the city.





Sumitomo Corporation aimed to extend its UK offshore wind projects, with plans to invest a total of £4 billion alongside partners in projects off the coasts of Suffolk and Norfolk. This substantial investment bolstered the UK's position as a leader in renewable energy and played a vital role in achieving the government's objective of installing 50 GW of offshore wind power by 2030.

Sumitomo Electric Industries also announced plans to develop a strategically vital high-voltage cable manufacturing factory in the

Rishi Sunak hosted a reception in Tokyo with top Japanese business leaders to emphasise the importance of our trade and investment relationship.

Scottish Highlands, investing more than £200 million and creating 150 highly skilled green jobs. This investment would have assisted the UK in developing robust supply chains for essential infrastructure such as offshore wind projects and

assisting UK developers in increasing their contribution to UK growth.

The proposed investment had significant potential to stimulate growth in the UK's most innovative industries. For example, Toshiba planned to expand operations at their Cambridge Laboratory, focusing on the invention and delivery of advanced quantum-safe cryptography communication solutions. This expansion would have initially created over 30 new jobs and involved an investment of more than £20 million in the development of cutting-edge technologies. ●

Even before going global “Water Crisis” was already there

: FREDRICK MUGIRA, Project InfoNile

FREDRICK MUGIRA, A National Geographic Storytelling explorer, Pulitzer Center Grantee, and Bertha Fellow, Fredrick has reported rivers and water in general for over 18 years from various countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, and the United States.

He founded Water Journalists Africa, a non-profit media group that brings together journalists in 50 African countries to report on water conservation issues. He co-founded InfoNile, a GeoJournalism project that maps data on water issues in the Nile River basin and overlays them with journalism stories to promote transboundary peace.

In an exclusive interview with British Herald Magazine, he opens up about his journey, shares his thoughts, and discusses his projects.

The United Nations recently declared the “Water Crisis” to be a “Global Endemic,” with 2 billion people worldwide lacking access to adequate drinking water. With over 18 years of expertise reporting on rivers and water, what are your thoughts on global water scarcity?

The global water crisis is serious. Even before going global, water is already scarce in local communities. I have witnessed shallow wells dry up and streams and rivers that once worked as lifelines for hundreds of people dry up in several areas of Africa. One example is in southwestern Uganda, my home area. According to Uganda’s national environment watchdog NEMA, over 60 percent of water bodies in the region have dried up in the last 30 years. For such communities, water can only be accessed after walking dozens

of kilometres. And for these alternative sources, water demand is soon exceeding supply! It is a crisis. Worrying is that this crisis is resulting in inter-community and interstate conflicts. You know the dispute between Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, which Ethiopia is building on the Nile. The global water crisis is no longer a silent crisis. It is loud! I have witnessed it.

“InfoNile” Project: Could you tell us about the venture?

InfoNile is a flagship project of Water Journalists Africa. Water Journalists Africa, the mother of InfoNile, is a media development NGO registered in Uganda. Water Journalists Africa is the largest network of journalists reporting about issues of water and the environment on the African

continent, comprised of more than 1200 journalists from 50+ countries. I founded this NGO in 2011.

In 2017, I cofounded InfoNile together with American journalist Annika McGinnis. InfoNile is a collaborative cross-border group of geo-journalists whose mission is to uncover critical stories on water and the environment in the Nile River Basin of Africa through data-based multimedia storytelling. There are 11 counties in the Nile basin. We have a membership of over 800 journalists in this region.

At InfoNile, we publish original collaborative investigative journalism projects on undercovered issues of water and the environment in the Nile Basin; we provide story grants to journalists to conduct data-based water journalism projects. We also mentor and train journalists in data journalism and science communication and create interactive maps and data visualisations on critical issues of water, environment, and climate change. We also bring journalists

and scientists together under our platform named Nilewell which means bridging the widening gap between the two.

You have given a new meaning to the term "investigative journalism," intending to rescue the entire globe from a predicament. What prompted such a thought?

I was a water journalist before I started this network. I had witnessed communities suffer due to water shortages, mainly due to climate change. Farmers including my father, worried about why they could not plant at the right time—farming seasons started to change in the last decade of the 20th century and the first decade of the current century. So I thought it was not enough to write these stories but bring African journalists interested in this beat together to tell a bigger story. Consequently, I started this organisation with a mission to bring together water journalists on the continent to investigate such stories and tell the world what was going on and the reasons why.



Fredrick Mugira embarks from a fishing boat at Zengebe landing site in Rwampanga town council. Photo by Andrew Aijuka



Regarding the investigation you conducted with your colleagues, what aspect or findings shocked you?

We have conducted several collaborative cross-border investigations on different themes in the region. I will give you an example of the Sucked Dry project we conducted with support from the Pulitzer Center in 2019/2020 that focused on land grabbing by foreign investors in the Nile basin. This was a yearlong investigation. We worked with over 12 journalists, researchers, drone videographers, and data wranglers.



Fredrick, second from Right, and Annika McGinnis, second from left, pause for a photo with community members living close to Queen Elizabeth National Park in Kihihi, on the Uganda-DR Congo border.

The journalists on the team conducted cross-border investigations producing in-depth multimedia story packages incorporating scientific research, data visualisations, video, and photography on land use issues in their communities.

Working with partners such as Code for Africa, African Network of Centres for Investigative Reporting (ANCIR), and IHE Delft Partnership Programme for Water and Development, we accessed and interviewed some of the world's top land and water researchers and created data visualisations and maps to go along with each of the stories reported by the journalists.

Based on these investigations and land grabs location data generated by Land Matrix, we discovered that foreign investors are acquiring vast swaths of land in the Nile Basin, displacing

communities and exporting profits. We also discovered that these foreign investors are not attracted by land in the Nile basin but rather by what is in it. I mean water.

Your Nile River inquiry stories have attracted international attention. What was the impact of that report?

We are still analysing the impacts of our stories, but we already know that the stories we do and those done by our member journalists lead to high personal and societal impacts. For example, based on our annual evaluation, the Sucked Dry project inspired media houses in the Nile basin to do more stories on land grabbing in their communities.

Several journalists in the region have told us that their media houses are now more receptive to publishing environmental and

data-driven stories because of the mentorship and data journalism training they received as we investigated this project. Generally, there has been an increase in the incorporation of data/data visualisation in stories in the region.

But also, more and more local governments and communities in the region are demanding a change in land tenure, with some asking to process land titles to secure their land. The journalists have told us this is happening in South Sudan and Uganda.

A continent with abundant water resources, forests, and the world's longest river. Why, in your opinion, is Africa experiencing a massive water crisis?

It is because it has these abundant resources. This may sound funny but I firmly believe it is true. Several people on the continent



take these resources for granted. They never care for them. They think they are God-given. This makes them believe such resources will be forever even if they are not cared for. I'm afraid that's not right. It may be too late when these communities start defending their rights for these resources. Even now, it is late, but not too late.

You investigated the sources of plastic pollution in rivers and lakes in partnership with the Bertha Foundation. What was your experience like?

For the whole of last year, I investigated the impact of plastic pollution on some rivers, including the Nile, the longest river in the world, and lakes in Uganda and the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo. One of the stories from this project explores how River Nile, the longest river in the world, works as a freeway of plastics from the African Great Lakes to the Mediterranean Sea.

Stories from this project explored the sources of plastic pollution, the levels of microplastics in the rivers and lakes, and the failures of local authorities to

enforce environmental standards. Various media houses in Africa published stories from this year-long investigation. These stories live at this link now: <https://waterjournalistsafrica.com/contaminated/>

From my observations, plastics are indiscriminately littered on the shores, which can quickly end up in the lakes. At almost all landing sites, fishing nets are floated using plastic materials, including used plastic water bottles and plastic sandals and anchored using plastic bags filled with sand. These introduce plastics into these water bodies increasing the chances of plastic pollution. Given the massive amount of plastic waste observed at the landing sites, these lakes are exposed to a high risk of microplastic pollution.

From my investigations, these water bodies are polluted by the custodians, such as the fishers and neighbours, who should have been the defenders. Also, my studies documented how the longest river in the world, the Nile works as a freeway of plastics from the African great lakes to the Mediterranean Sea.

A large volume of plastic waste, primarily used soft drink bottles, generated from urban centres in Uganda, ends up in small rivers that drain into these lakes. These lakes, too, drain into the Nile. The introduction of plastic waste in these lakes that drain into the river Nile deposits such debris into the Nile, and from there, Nile takes these plastics, especially the microplastics, all the way to the Mediterranean Sea.

Research, including the one done by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Germany, has indicated that 95 percent of the plastic waste transported by rivers into oceans and seas comes from ten rivers. The list includes the Nile, which drains into the Mediterranean Sea.

In addition to "InfoNile," you developed the "Big Gorilla Story project." The phrase "conserving endangered mountain gorillas through journalism" caught my attention. Please inform us about it.

In 2019, I founded the Big Gorilla Story project, a project of Water Journalists Africa which, through short newsy video stories and podcasts, informs, educates, and inspires a passion for conservation in people to protect the endangered mountain Gorillas and the rainforests they live in. This project operates in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and Rwanda, the countries that host the endangered mountain gorillas.

Through this project, we are building a community of journalists focused on telling stories of mountain gorillas, their habitats, and other related

conservation stories; and offering them a physical space in Mbarara city, southern Uganda, a city close to various biodiversity hotspots to coproduce knowledge; We also organise capacity-building training for journalists in the three countries to gain skills in reporting about mountain gorillas, their habitats, and general conservation issues.

We also support journalists to produce cross-border, humanistic video documentaries and podcasts on mountain gorillas and their habitats published on television, radio, and online media platforms in the three countries. We feature stories about mountain gorillas and their habitats to national and international policymakers through local and international forums.

Last year we partnered with the South Africa-based Nature Environment Wildlife Filmmakers organisation to train journalists based in communities close to the habitats of the mountain gorillas in video documentary making. We want them to document stories of the mountain gorillas!

You may confront numerous difficulties while conducting such investigations. What memorable situation do you recall?

There are several challenges, of course. The most striking one is that water issues are not open to the public in some countries. In some of these countries, water is a national security issue. This limits reporting about it. For example, reporting on the Grand Renaissance Dam in Ethiopia and Egypt is difficult.



This problem is further compounded by the political interests that shape the media coverage in Africa. In some African countries, authoritarian governments still strongly influence the media. Journalists are forced to serve the interests of governments in power. However, it is essential to note that the role of journalists goes beyond what governments like or dislike. In such a situation, therefore, it is necessary to cast the analysis wider and look at the role of the media in general. Journalists should remain responsive to the interests of their audience.

Also, to take on such activities, you need enough funds. We struggle to access funding for implementing these projects. We are donors funded.

What would you suggest to remedy the water situation if we asked you?

By conserving water sources and the environment in general. There is a direct interaction between environment and water. For example, surface water systems, such as forests and wetlands, recharge groundwater. And also, groundwater recharges these systems. By conserving and

respecting the rights of these systems, water remains available.

What future goals do you have for the InfoNile?

At InfoNile, we are focused on building and strengthening our Nilewell project, connecting environmental journalists and researchers in the Nile Basin. We wish to promote science-based environmental journalism by facilitating collaboration between journalists and scientists.

At the Big Gorilla Story project, we are focused on offering a physical space for conservation journalists in Mbarara city, southern Uganda, a city close to various biodiversity hotspots to coproduce knowledge. We want to build a centre for them and equip them with all the equipment conservation journalists need. This will be the first of its kind in Africa.

Do you believe we will ever recover from this adversity?

YES, let us all play our roles and desist from waiting for others to find solutions to our problems. There are simple solutions, such as planting a tree in our backyard, which we can take as individuals against this stubborn problem. ●

AS MINIMALISM TAKES OVER, the World Is Losing Its Detailing.



Since ancient times, the world has admired every artist, worker, and designer who brought detailing into existence. These details can be witnessed in historical paintings, constructions, and designs.



The world has followed and embraced the admiration for meticulous detailing. However, in this new era, where the world seems to be moving at an ever-increasing pace, the concept of detailing is gradually fading into the background as minimalism takes centre stage. As time progresses, we may become too preoccupied to notice this subtle shift. Minimalism has progressed to a new level, encompassing everything from small objects to large buildings. There is a gradual shift away from the meticulous focus on detailed design and ornamentation that once characterised many aspects of our lives towards a desire for

simplicity and an emphasis on the basics. Even though minimalism has its advantages, it is important to recognise and appreciate the beauty that can be found in the practice of detailing.

The art of detailing encompasses a variety of fields, including architecture, painting, interior design, and even storytelling. It involves the process of incorporating intricate elements, embellishments, and subtle nuances into something to add depth and complexity. No detail is too small to be taken into account when detailing, and each element contributes to the overall visual experience.

The allure of detailing lies in its ability to immerse us in a captivating and fascinating world. It encourages us to take our time and savour the craftsmanship that goes into creating something truly exceptional. Whether it's the intricate carvings on a historic structure or the delicate needlework on a couture gown, detailing captivates our senses and urges us to explore its intricacies.

However, in recent years, there has been a shift towards minimalism—a design philosophy that advocates for simplicity, functionality, and a reduction of clutter. Minimalism promotes clean lines, neutral colour

palettes, and a focus on essential elements, removing the excess to create visually serene and uncluttered spaces and objects. It is an aesthetic movement that resonates with the modern mindset of efficiency and practicality.

Detailing adds a layer of richness and complexity to our surroundings, providing a sense of depth and history that minimalism often lacks.

Moreover, detailing encourages us to engage with our environment

on a deeper level. It invites us to explore and discover hidden narratives within the intricacies. It fosters a sense of curiosity and wonder, stimulating our imagination and challenging us to look beyond the surface.

Whilst minimalism may dominate the current design landscape, it is important to preserve and celebrate the art of detailing. The two can coexist harmoniously, with minimalism providing a sense of simplicity and order, while detailing adds a touch of enchantment and personality.

Embracing both allows us to strike a balance between functionality and aesthetic appeal, creating spaces and objects that are not only visually pleasing but also rich in character and meaning.

As we navigate an ever-changing world, let us not forget the art of detailing. Let us cherish and preserve the intricate designs that tell stories of our past and inspire us in the present. Detailing may be fading, but its beauty and significance endure, reminding us of the richness that lies in the smallest of details.



In these pictures of furniture, one is minimalist and the other is a detailed one, a clear difference is noticeable. The minimal one looks sleek and simple, but it lacks a certain soul compared to the old, detailed furniture.



Minimalism leaves its mark on the everyday objects in our lives, shaping our visual preferences and influencing our everyday objects.



In urban design, there's a rising trend of replacing regular trees with minimalist trees along roads. The aesthetic appeal of minimalist trees often comes at the expense of sacrificing the natural beauty and grandeur that larger, more intricate trees can offer.



Minimalist buildings, while embracing simplicity and clean lines, lacks a certain depth and character. They do not evoke the same sense of awe and wonder that comes from the intricate beauty of the old buildings.



Minimalism might overshadow the beauty and significance found in intricate details and the richness they bring to our surroundings. Striking a balance between minimalism and appreciating the art of detailing allows us to create spaces and objects that are visually pleasing, yet also rich in character and meaning.

Cannes Film Festival

Celebrating Cinematic Excellence Globally



The Cannes Film Festival was conducted from 16 to 27 May 2023, a 15-day line-up where the organisation put its profile and platform to work in giving film the space to shine. Cannes ensures that a diversity of voices, sensibilities and talents are showcased. Showing faith and commitment to hearing these voices rise up to bear witness to their times is what has gradually shaped the Cannes Festival as we know it today.

Here are the key insights of the festival, from Thierry Frémaux,

General Delegate of Festival de Cannes since 2007.

As Cannes Film Festival celebrated its 76th edition it has remained faithful to its founding purpose: to draw attention to and raise the profile of films, aiming to contributing towards the development of cinema, promoting films and the film industry at an international level. The cinematic creations are screened in world preview showings, under the watchful gaze of an intelligent audience consisting of professionals, film

lovers and critics. Official Selection serves to highlight the diversity of cinematic creation through its different sections, each of which having its own unique identity.

Competition section presents incredibly high-level “mainstream art film” works culminating in awards. Un Certain Regard, focuses on more experimental up-and-coming arthouse directors. The Official Selection also centres on Out of Competition, Special Screenings, Midnight Screenings, and Cannes Première films, as well as heritage works screened as part of Cannes Classics and the Cinéma de la Plage. Cinema lovers can also explore the world of cinema in different ways by attending masterclasses, tributes, or exhibitions which make up the Events of an edition.

Speaking of the red carpets, he

said that they are the part of the festival that draws the most media attention. They represent an opportunity to give an initial and equally special welcome to both the world's greatest film artists and emerging talents.

Official Selection Competition:
Here is an analysis of some of the promising movies.

May December, by Todd Haynes

An introspective romantic drama on the scandalous past of a famous couple. Todd Haynes questions the choices of two women at two stages of their live through a strong screenplay by Samy Burch. According to the plot, Elisabeth (Natalie Portman), a famous actress, meets Gracie (Julianne Moore), who she is going to portray on the screen as a part of her preparation for the role. Gracie had once caused a scandal in the press and captivated the country two decades prior with her relationship with Joe (Charles Melton), 23 years younger to her. Twenty years after their notorious tabloid romance, the married couple buckles under the pressure.

Todd Haynes questions the choices of two women at two stages of their lives. A painful turn to the past for the old star in her sixties, who wants to turn the page, faced with a sincere and dangerous search for the truth from a Hollywood star at the top of her career.

Charles Melton becomes the connecting element between the actresses and the eras.



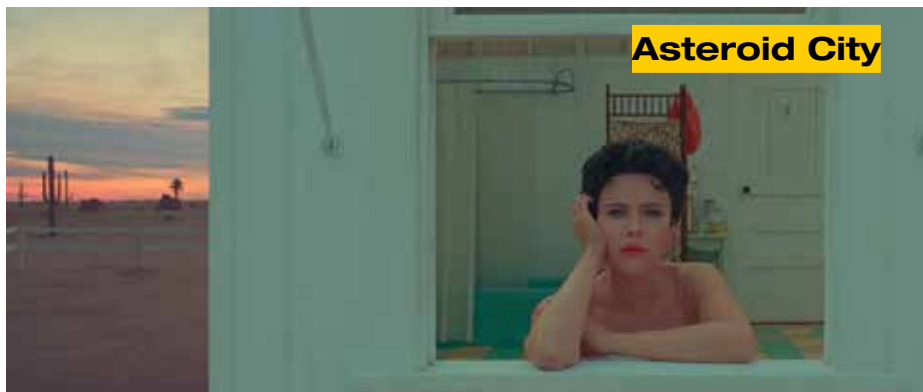
May December



Asteroid City by Wes Anderson

Wes Anderson tells the story of town in a desert in Southwest US in the 1950s and its inhabitants in Asteroid City. The city is known for its meteor crater and is an astronomical observatory. The city is preparing to host the Junior Stargazer convention a weekend in 1955. Soldiers, scientists and parents across the country gather to discover the spectacular inventions of gifted students. And then extra-terrestrials crash the party.

The director is known for his distinct style elements like symmetrical shots, pastel photography, dead pan stares and minimalist performances from actors. With his signature techniques, he presents a science-fiction story with UFOs into a love story. Jason Schwartzman and Scarlett Johansson star as the two lovers, alongside Tom Hanks, Jeffrey Wright, Tilda Swinton, Brian Cranston, Adrien Brody, Margot Robbie and Steve Carell.



Club Zero by Jessica Hausner

Australian Director Jessica Hausner became a candidate for Palme D'Or for the second time with Club Zero, the first time was in 2019, with the movie Joe.

The story starts when the newest teacher of a private school Miss Novak, proposes

a novel course on nutrition. She teaches a conscious eating class and tells them that eating less is healthy. Soon, her students become devoted fans under her influence, and become a part of the mysterious Club Zero.

The movie looks at how parents hand over their children's responsibility to a teacher who misuses this trust. Miss Novak manipulates the children and alienates them from their parents. Once the parents decide to save their children, it is already late. They are forced to live through the biggest nightmare of every parent: losing their child. Club Zero addresses this existential fear and asks, "How can parents check on their children when they do not spend time with them?"

To emphasise this disconnect with parents, Jessica Hausner places her students in a boarding school. Club Zero also addresses teenage



Club Zero

issues such as their relationship with food, peer pressure and group mentality.

Another interesting aspect of this movie is how it observes the mindset of the youth. Jessica Hausner explains how young people are worried about their future. They fight and assume responsibility, to have power over their lives, to make a difference. While doing so they become political and some of them join radical groups. And Novak takes advantage of that fear and insecurity.

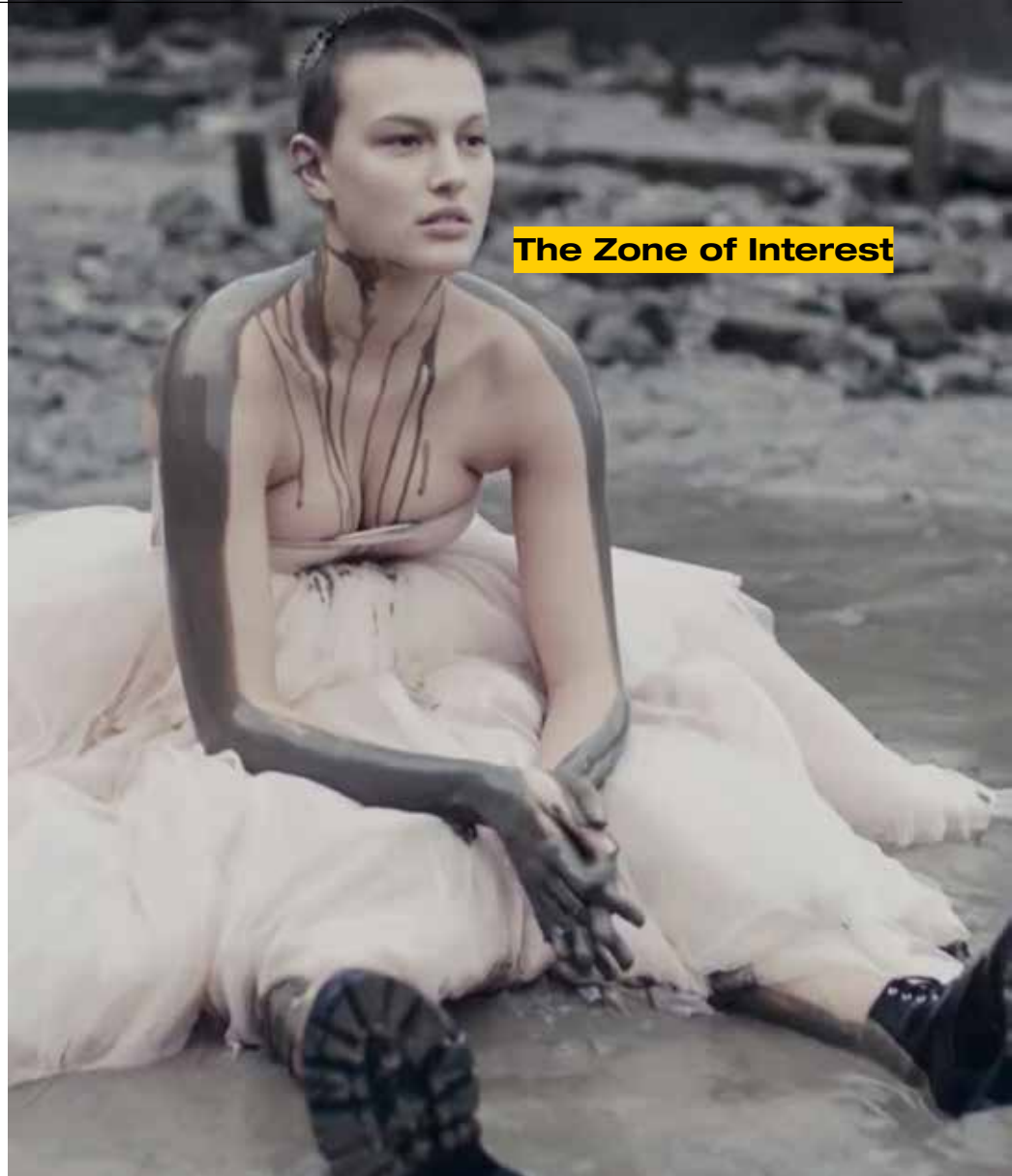
The cast include Mia Wasikowska, Sidse Babett Knudsen, Amir El-Masry, and Elsa Zylberstein.

The Zone of Interest by Jonathan Glazer

In this movie, the British filmmaker, Jonathan Glazer offers an adaptation of Martin Amis' novel by the same name. The movie offers a grave and chilling snapshot of the concentration camp realities; a reflection on the boundaries and borders of the human soul.

The story starts as the commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Höss, and his wife Hedwig, strive to build a dream life for their family in a house and garden next to the camp.

The film looks at the daily life of a rich German family living next-door to Auschwitz, in a linear narrative format. A magnificent house surrounded by gardens, the commandant and his wife are busy relishing the prospect of a bright future built on wealth



stolen from the victims of the Holocaust, as millions of Jews from across Europe dies on their doorstep.

Jonathan Glazer makes a point of keeping his camera distant. He explained how he was deeply struck by the archive images that showed those living next-door to the death camps 'enjoying this spectacle'.

Glazer shines a light on the truth of the Holocaust by choosing to shoot the film in Poland and Germany, and using the Nazis'

dated, trademark phrases, slang and grammar. The cast includes Sandra Hüller and Christian Friedel.

L'Été Dernier (Last Summer) by Catherine Breillat

Catherine Breillat explores the nuances of love affair between a lawyer and her 17-year-old stepson in L'Été Dernier (Last Summer). The movie was also Catherine Breilla's comeback as a director, at the age of seventy-five.



L'Été Dernier (Last Summer)

of
seventy-fiv
While Léa Drucker and Samuel Kirscher play the characters Anne and Théo, the movie highlights the incandescent beauty of adolescence. The Danish feature film is very raw and portrays the constant pain that adolescents sometimes carry within them.

Théo is ill at ease in the adult world, and at first, he finds Anne just as horrible as the other adults. And then there is this pivotal scene, when she returns him his keyring, s is when the film actually starts. He looks up at her, he sees her differently, as if for the first time, and he too takes on another dimension. The nature and temporality of their faces change.

With the signature style of

expressionism, the film shows the transformation from the carnal order to the order of love and ecstasy rather than pleasure. Catherine Breillat presents the souls of the characters through them, not their bodies.

Les Filles d'Olfa (Four Daughters) by Kaouther Ben Hania

The Tunisian director Kaouther Ben Hania was a member of the Cinef and Short Films Jury in 2021, blurs the boundaries between documentary and fiction, between being on-screen and off-screen, between pain and joy.

The life of Olfa, a Tunisian woman

and mother of 4 daughters, oscillates between light and shadow. One day, her two eldest daughters disappear. To fill their absence, director Kaouther Ben Hania calls upon professional actors and sets up an extraordinary film mechanism to unveil the story of Olfa and her daughters. *Les Filles d'Olfa* is an intimate journey full of hope, rebellion, violence, intergenerational transmission and sisterhood, which will question the very foundation of our societies.

Hania heard Olfa talking on the radio about the tragic story of her daughters in 2016. Olfa had been conditioned by journalists. She played with great tragedian talent, the role of the grieving, hysterical, guilt-ridden mother. Most of these reports did not allow for the different dimensions of an individual to be explored. Yet Olfa was exuberant, ambiguous, and complex that it is impossible to show just one side of her. While the journalist could not do that, Hania felt the movie could. Meanwhile the actors served as eye-openers for Olfa and her daughters to help them to find their inner truth.

Perfect Days by Wim Wenders

German director Wim Wenders won the Palme d'or for *Paris, Texas* in 1984, the Best Director Award in 1987 for *The Wings of Desire*, and the Jury Grand Prix in 1993 for *Faraway, So Close!* *Perfect Days* is the sixth film in the Official Selection for Wim Wenders. *Perfect Days* tells the story of a man who cleans toilets in Tokyo,



Les Filles d'Olfa



Perfect Days

starring the actor Koji Yakusho (Hirayama).

Hirayama seemed content with his simple life as a cleaner of toilets in Tokyo. Outside of his very structured everyday routine he enjoys his passion for music and for books. And he loved trees and taking their pictures. A series of unexpected encounters gradually reveal more of his past. A deeply moving and poetic reflection, *Perfect Days* is a movie that help us find beauty in the everyday world around us.

Perfect Days was shot in Tokyo as

the feeling of “service” and “the common good” in Japan is strong, in addition to the sheer architectural beauty of these public sanitary places. We can see how toilets can be part of everyday culture, and not an almost embarrassing necessity.

La Passion de Dodin Bouffant (The Pot-au-Feu) by Trần Anh Hùng

The French-Vietnamese director and screenwriter Trần Anh Hùng tells a story revolving around gastronomy, both as a profession and an art. He adapted Marcel Rouff’s novel *La Vie et la Passion*

de Dodin-Bouffant, gourmet. But unlike the book, which tells the story after Eugénie’s death, the film imagines the relationship between the protagonists during their lifetime, their conjugality, subtly expressed in this understated work.

Eugénie and Dodin played by Juliette Binoche and Benoît Magimel, share a long history of gastronomy, and love. While emotions remain contained, the culinary discoveries are, on the other hand, breathtakingly exquisite. The only hitch is that Eugénie refuses to marry Dodin. So, the food lover decides to do something he has never done before, to cook for her.

Trần Anh Hùng filmed cuisine in an unprecedented way. The director called on Pierre Gagnaire to prepare the food before filming, and there were no fake dishes on set, unlike most films dealing with food.

La Passion de Dodin Bouffant



And The Winners...

After 11 days of rich cinematic excellence, the Jury of the 76th Festival de Cannes, chaired by Swedish director Ruben Östlund, surrounded by Moroccan director Maryam Touzani, French actor Denis Ménochet, British-Zambian screenwriter and director Rungano Nyoni, American actress and director Brie Larson, American actor and director Paul Dano, Afghan author Atiq Rahimi, Argentinian director and screenwriter Damián Szifron, and French director Julia Ducournau, presented its winners' list among the 21 films presented in Competition this year.



Palme d'Or: Justine Triet for Anatomie d'une chute (Anatomy of a Fall)

Anatomie d'une chute (Anatomy of a Fall) grabbed the Prestigious Palme d'Or. The story of the award-winning movie revolves around Sandra, Samuel and their visually impaired son Daniel who had been living in a remote mountain location for the past year. A movie about the relationship between men and women, on how a couple falls apart. Justine Triet tells the tale of a body that collapses, in a technical manner, parallelly connecting to the disintegration of a relationship.

On receiving the honourable Palme d'Or, Justine said, "There are more women among us today. I'm thrilled by this award, and thrilled at being the third woman [to win a Palme d'or], it's a little crazy. I'm very touched, I don't think it has quite sunk in yet. I didn't expect this. What makes me so happy is that there will be a ripple effect based on the film. The third woman? That bodes



well for the future. The women are coming. I struggled to identify with female role models because there weren't that many of them."

Grand Prix: Jonathan Glazer for The Zone of Interest

Speaking to media, Jonathan said, "In The Zone of Interest, the cameras don't interfere with the actors, so they had a lot of freedom. We filmed each scene just once, with each taken from multiple different angles. I'm very



pleased the film was screened and we had a discussion around it. Cannes is going to help The Zone of Interest be seen around the world."

Best Director Award: Trần Anh Hùng for La Passion de Dodin Bouffant (The Pot-au-Feu)

Hùng said, "When I make a film, I always try to go beyond the story to give viewers a rush of cinematic momentum and a film



with poetry. Cooking is an art. I found it fascinating to tackle this theme and incorporate a romance. Smell, taste and touch are senses common to both cooking and love. I set out to illustrate this same sensuality in both themes.”

Michael Douglas, Honorary Palme d’Or

The Festival de Cannes paid a tribute to Michael Douglas during the Opening Ceremony. The documentary *Michael Douglas, The Prodigal Son*, by Amine Mestari, produced by Folamour and soon to be broadcast on Arte, was shown on the Festival site for two days.

She added, “This special documentary shows us how Michael, an actor and producer like his father Kirk, had to embrace their resemblance throughout his remarkable career in order

to assert his difference. The time to learn how to become Michael when your name is Douglas.”

Other winners

- Aki Kaurismäki, Jury Prize for *Kuolleet Lehdet* (Fallen Leaves)
- Yuji Sakamoto, Best Screenplay Award for *Kaibutsu* (Monster)



- Merve Dizdar, Best Actress Award for *Kuru Otlar Ustune* (About Dry Grasses)
- Koji Yakusho, Best Actor Award for *Perfect Days*
- Pham Thien An, Caméra d’or for *Bên Trong Vo Ken Vang* (Inside The Yellow Cocoon Shell)
- Gunnur Martinsdóttir Schlüter, Special Mention from the Short Film Jury for *Fár*
- Flóra Anna Buda, Short Film Palme d’or for *27*

Closing Ceremony

The Festival de Cannes was honored by the exceptional presence tonight of legendary filmmaker Roger Corman. The Jury handed out the awards and mementos to the artists. The Closing Ceremony marked the end of the 76th Festival de Cannes. It was followed by the screening of Peter Sohn’s film *Elemental* in the Grand Théâtre Lumière.

INTERNATIONAL URANIUM FILM FESTIVAL: A SPECTACLE TO ALL NUCLEAR PHENOMENA



Film festivals offer the opportunity to explore the art of film-making beyond its artistic and storytelling telling entities. The International Uranium Film Festival (IUFF) goes a step further to building awareness on all nuclear issues and the whole nuclear fuel chain: from uranium mining to nuclear waste, from nuclear war to nuclear accidents. This unique film festival made its inception in 2010 in Rio de Janeiro

and took place for the first time in May 2011 in two historical cultural centres at the Bohemian Quarter Santa Teresa.

Over the past 12 years, the Uranium Film Festivals have not only been held in Rio, but also in several other countries and cities such as Berlin, New Delhi, New York, Washington DC, Window Rock and Santa Fe. Since 2016, International Uranium Film

Festival hosted in partnership with Hollywood star Kat Kramer at the famous Raleigh Studios in Los Angeles, it is also known as Atomic Age Cinema Fest.

The 12th edition of International Uranium Film Festival, Rio de Janeiro commenced on May 18th, 2023. The in-the-world unique cinema fest about the atomic age showcased 16 films from 15 countries including the United

States, India, UK, Ireland, Spain and Sweden. The screenings were held in the Cinematheque of Rio's prestigious Museum of Modern Art.

British Herald takes a look into some of the movies screened at the festival.

The IUFF opened with the screening of US documentary *Downwind* directed by Mark Shapiro and Douglas Brian Miller. Matthew Modine and Adam Rackoff were the executive producers. The documentary cast included Martin Sheen, Claudia Peterson, Ian Zabarte, Patrick Wayne, Mary Dickson, Lewis Black, Joseph Musso and Michael Douglas.

The festival has invited a special guest from Los Angeles for the screening of *Downwind*: Libbe HaLevy, producer and host of the weekly podcast show *Nuclear Hotseat*. She recently received the Nuclear-Free Future Award presented by the German-based Nuclear Free Future Foundation.

The documentary chronicles the nuclear testing that happened in Mercury, Nevada where 928 nuclear weapons were detonated between 1951 - 1992. Over the 41 years of testing at the Nevada Test Site, 100 atomic bombs were detonated above ground from airplanes, towers, cannons and balloons. And 828 tests were conducted underground.

While there were several nuclear explosions in this area, these 928 took a toll as the wind blew the radiation to other areas in Nevada, Utah, and Arizona.

It also features members of the Shoshone Nation and people who were affected from the radioactive fallout of those tests. Miller and Shapiro, spoke to people

from Utah and Nevada about how this testing had impacted their communities.

Another US highlight screening in Rio de Janeiro is "Radioactive: The Women of Three Mile Island" by Heidi Hutner. This feature documentary explores the 1979 Three Mile Island meltdown - the worst commercial nuclear accident in US history - through a feminist lens. The film covers the never-before-told stories of four intrepid homemakers, two lawyers who took the local community's case all the way to the Supreme Court, and a young female journalist who was caught in the radioactive crossfire. The film features several women activists including famous actor Jane Fonda. The indomitable women fight back against the nuclear industry Goliath to expose one of the worst cover-ups in U.S. history.

One of European festival highlights is Scotland produced nuclear war film *Inter-Continental Bunker Mission (I.C.B.M.)* by young Swedish-Korean

director Julian Vogel produced by Jack Allen and Reece Smith. This humour-filled documentary talks about an adventure of two friends Nils and Julian, diving head first into a world of preppers, fallout shelters, and government survival plans - all in the name of preparing to survive a nuclear apocalypse in their parents' basement bunker.



From pretending the world has ended at a Post-Apocalyptic Festival in Poland, to encounters with hardcore survivalists in the United States, to meeting with survivors of the Hiroshima Atomic bomb attack in Japan, Nils and Julian hope their journey inspires others to join the debate on what we can do as a global community to prevent such disasters from happening.

The second European highlight is the Sew to Say by Spanish director Rakel Aguirre and UK producer Sebastián Thomas from Bristol. Sew to Say tells the story of Thalia, an artist and banner maker who in the early 1980s became part of a women-only peace camp on Greenham Common to oppose nuclear weapons.

Thalia was one of the 36 women who left their homes and marched from Cardiff, the capital of Wales, to Greenham Common near London to protest against the American Cruise missiles that were going to be deployed in the UK as part of the Cold War response. The film reviews the longest feminist protest in British history reflects on how collective action changed the lives of thousands of women inspiring several generations.

The festival's official selection includes two films from India: Tortoise Under the Earth (Dharti Latar Re Horo) by director Shishir Jha, produced in 2022. And Buddha Weeps in Jadugoda (Ragi Kana Ko Bonga Buru) by director Shri Prakash, produced in 1999. Both films deal with the topic of uranium mining in Jadugoda

in the state of Jharkhand from two different perspectives. With the presentation of these Indian productions, the festival also commemorated its first Traveling Uranium Film Festival in India in 2013.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The 12th International Uranium Film Festival award ceremony and party was held in the Cinematheque and Gardens of Rio's Modern Art Museum, a place with a curious movie history that just a few people know. It was the location of the key scenes of the famous film That Man from Rio with Jean-Paul Belmondo. The movie was directed by Philippe de Broca and filmed exactly 60 ago in 1963. The film festival concluded



on May 18th, 2023 where the winners were honoured.

“It’s always difficult to determine the festival winners. But this year it was especially difficult. Each of the selected films, dealing with the different aspects of nuclear industry and nuclear war, was of good quality or of great importance and moved the audience,” said festival executive director Márcia Gomes de Oliveira during the award ceremony in the Cinematheque of the Modern Art Museum (MAM Rio).

The best and most important films of the year were awarded the Uranium Film Festival. The trophy is a work of art made by Brazilian artist Getúlio Damado, who lives and works in the Santa Teresa neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro, where the inaugural Uranium Film Festival was held in 2011. Getúlio crafts the trophy from the trash found on the streets of Santa Teresa.

The Best 1st Feature Documentary Award was given to Julian Vogel from Sweden for his film Inter-Continental Bunker Mission

- I.C.B.M. He received the Award from the hands of the Honorary Consul General of Sweden in Rio, Jan Lomholdt.

“It takes many hands and efforts to make such a week and final night to happen. No form of art goes beyond ordinary consciousness as film does, straight to our emotions, deep into the twilight room of the soul”, said Ingmar Bergman.

He added, “The Uranium Film Festival has may be never been more actual. We are in the middle of an energy transition but also in a security situation that unfortunately is extremely sad, scary and horrible on all levels. Films and documentaries have always been an important part of understanding the stories told through the Lens of a camera. It’s one of the most important `weapons´ of free world speech. I want personally to thank you for the teachings it has brought me and I am sure all of you.”

The Best Investigative Documentary went to Heidi Hutner for here amazing film Radioactive: The Women of Three



An Indian Flashback

Ten years ago, in 2013, between January 4th and February 12th, the International Uranium Film Festival travelled with more than 40 selected films across India. The festival tour in India was coordinated by Award winning filmmaker Shri Prakash from Ranchi.

“It was a legendary tour across India”, remembers Brazilian Márcia Gomes de Oliveira who founded the film fest in 2010 together with German Norbert G. Suchanek.

“Our co-organiser Shri Prakash from Ranchi did a wonderful heroic job. Imagine, ten Cities, starting in New Delhi at Siri Fort Auditorium traveling to Shillong, Ranchi, Manipal, Hyderabad, Pune, Bangalore, Chennai, Thrissur and finishing in Mumbai at S. P. Jain Auditorium. Every city and festival venue was a highlight.”

“We met so many interested and interesting people including Indian filmmaker, social activist, former nuclear engineer Pradeep Indulkar who send his first film `High Power´ to our festival in 2013 and came in person to Rio to receive the festival’s Best Short Documentary Award”, she remembers.

“We are so saddened that Pradeep passed away last November at the age of just 59. He had a great future ahead of him as a filmmaker and activist.”

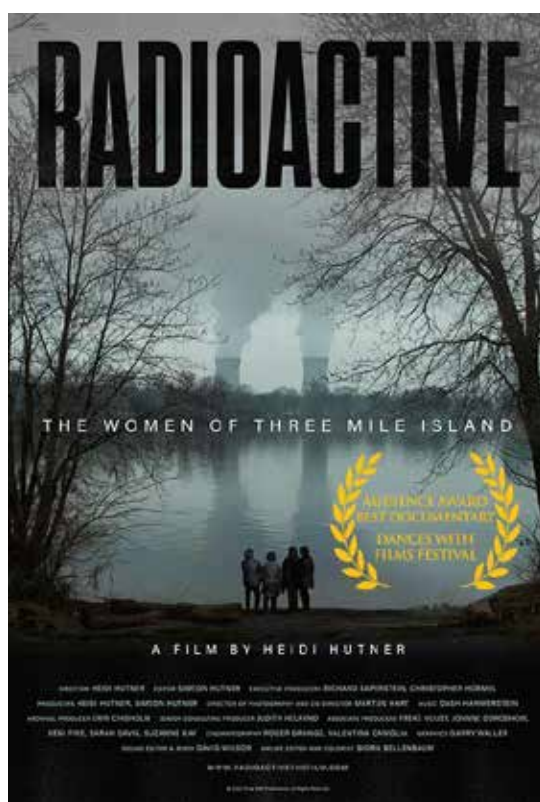


Mile Island, represented by the Special Guest from Los Angeles, Libbe HaLevy, producer of the Radio Podcast Nuclear Hotseat.

“The focus on the women's decades-long David vs Goliath fight against a seemingly insurmountable enemy brings a fundamental element of justice to the lives of the people involved, the kind of justice they may never find through the legal system”, the festival jury justified.

The Best Documentary Feature Award was given to the new US production Downwind by Mark Shapiro and Douglas Brian Miller. Special Guest, Filmmaker and Producer Missy Hernandez from Chicago received the Award for Downwind directors.

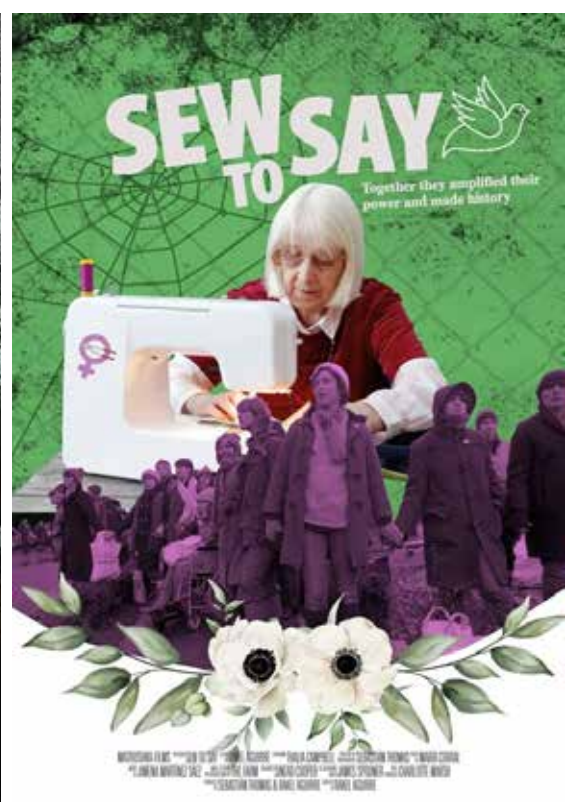
“Downwind has Hollywood star power, slick production value, as well as the historical and scientific



accuracy required for any film to be the big winner of the Uranium Film Festival 2023”, said festival judge, filmmaker and film scholar Miguel Silveira. “Downwind is a solid piece, the one with the largest reach and the potential for communicating the issues we all fight against to the largest number of people. It's a very important film that helps bring back the debate about nuclear energy - and war - to the mainstream.”

The Best Documentary Short Film Award was given to Small and Big by Serbian director Zelimir Gvardiol.

The feature documentary Sew to Say by Spanish director Rakel Aguirre and UK producer Sebastián Thomas from Bristol received one of the festival's Honorable Mentions. Other Honorable Mentions went to A Body in Fukushima by Director



Eiko Otake, How Far from Ground Zero by Brian Cowden, Chernobyl: The Lost Tapes by James Jones, Tortoise Under the Earth (Dharti Latar Re Horo) by Shishir Jha and Neutron Bomb by Peter Kuran.

The International Uranium Film Festival honoured special personalities of the Atomic Age with its Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award. This year, it was given to Libbe HaLevy from Los Angeles, producer and host of the weekly podcast/radio show Nuclear Hotseat. She recently received the Nuclear-Free Future Award. “Since 2011, Libbe HaLevy has done a tremendous and wonderful job enabling numerous nuclear activists, filmmakers and scientists to share their thoughts and opinions with hundreds of thousands of radio listeners around the world”, said festival co-director and founder Norbert G. Suchanek.

MANCHESTER CITY'S UNQUENCHABLE THIRST: ON A MISSION TO CONQUER EVERY TITLE



Manchester City is now on the verge of achieving an exceptional feat: winning the Premier League, FA Cup, and Champions League in a single season, a record previously accomplished only by Manchester United in the 1998-99 campaign. This remarkable treble is within City's reach, demonstrating their exceptional prowess and potential to etch their name in English football history. The FA Cup and Premier League titles are already in their pocket and one tiny step away from Champions League to mark their best ever season. Two down, one to go.

As City inches closer to completing their trilogy of trophies, the convergence of multiple factors becomes evident. The guiding hand of Guardiola, the uncharacteristic silence of Erling Haaland on the Wembley stage, and the formidable midfield presence orchestrated by Gundogan, De Bruyne, and Rodri all contribute to their success. Yet, the fundamental essence of City lies in their innate ability to emerge victorious, irrespective of the adversary or the obstacles they encounter. They possess

an unwavering knowledge and mastery of the art of winning, transcending any challenge that may stand before them.

Guardiola's Leadership Forged Manchester City's Championship Squad"

The sustained success of Manchester City can be attributed to two crucial factors: the depth and quality of their squad, as well as Pep Guardiola's leadership style. The club's squad depth results from strategic transfer activities undertaken over the past three seasons, focusing on acquiring players who align with Guardiola's vision for the team. This approach has allowed them to maintain a high-calibre squad beyond their starting eleven.



Even before Guardiola arrived in 2016, Manchester City had notable players like Kevin De Bruyne who performed at a high level. However, after Guardiola took charge, the club made strategic signings to ensure sufficient cover for the first team. Players such as Kalvin Phillips, Sergio Gomez, and Manuel Akanji were brought in to strengthen the squad's depth.

As a result, Guardiola has the luxury of having a pool of quality players who can form nearly two separate starting lineups without compromising the overall quality of the team or its style of play. This advantage sets Manchester City apart from their rivals, including Arsenal.

Guardiola has successfully instilled a distinct identity at Manchester City through his leadership. His approach can be likened to the "no dickheads" philosophy of the New Zealand national rugby union team, the All Blacks. This philosophy recognizes that the collective culture and harmony within a team can be disrupted by one selfish individual. Therefore, it places great importance on fostering a selfless and team-

oriented mindset. In essence, Guardiola's leadership style shares a similar belief that a team's overall success hinges on maintaining a positive and cohesive collective culture, free from detrimental individual attitudes.

City Claims FA Cup Glory with Electrifying Victory Over United

Manchester City clinched the FA Cup title with a thrilling 2-1 victory over their arch-rivals Manchester United at Wembley, edging closer to a remarkable treble.

In a record-breaking start, Ilkay Gundogan found the back of the net within a mere 12 seconds, etching his name in FA Cup final history. However, United managed to level the score before the halftime whistle with a penalty converted by Bruno Fernandes, granted after a VAR review due to Jack Grealish's handball inside the box.

The second half witnessed Gundogan's heroics once again, as he unleashed a sublime volley from outside the box, restoring City's lead six minutes after the break. Despite United's attempts, they struggled to carve out substantial opportunities, failing to find an equaliser. City's dominance was evident throughout the match,

barring a nervy period following United's goal. Their missed chances in the opening 30 minutes prevented them from establishing an even more commanding advantage at halftime.

Now, Pep Guardiola's squad sets their sights on Istanbul, where they will face Internazionale in the Champions League final, aiming to complete an extraordinary treble that will forever be etched in football history.

Gundogan- "The Prime Zidane"

City players have playfully coined a nickname for Gundogan, claiming that during the crucial stage of the season, he transforms into the equivalent of "prime Zidane." Once again, he lived up to this reputation at Wembley.

In a remarkable display, the German midfielder unleashed a perfectly executed volley just 12 seconds into the match, finding the back of the net with precision and finesse. And just after the halftime break, he

repeated this feat, albeit with a slightly less clean strike, as the ball sneaked past David De Gea and nestled inside the post.

"City Reign Supreme: Crowned Premier League Champions Once Again!"

Manchester City didn't leave it until the last day of the Premier League season to secure their title as champions for the 2022-23 season. They accomplished this feat with two games remaining, a week before the season's end. This marks City's fifth title in six seasons and their third consecutive championship.

Manchester City achieved success without relying on a conventional striker, instead employing a false nine formation. They also experienced the remarkable performance of Erling Haaland, a prolific goal scorer who shattered numerous scoring records in his first season with the team.

Their playing style was characterised by fluid and precise passing, with a focus on penetrating attacks and a resolute defence. The team possessed versatile and immensely talented midfielders who would



be coveted by any other club. Additionally, they benefited from the presence of one of the most determined goalkeepers in the sport. The world's most successful coach guided all of this, who demonstrated flexibility and astuteness in adapting to different situations.

Erling Haaland-Player Of The Year

Record-Breaking Haaland Clinches Player and Young Player of the Year Awards in Premier League Triumph

Manchester City's Erling Haaland has become the first player to win the Premier League Player and young player of the Year awards in the same season.



The 22-year-old striker's 36 goals have seen him break the Premier League record for most goals in a season.

Overall, he has scored 52 goals during the campaign.

"I am honoured to have become the first player to win both awards in the same season – thank you to everyone who voted for me," said Haaland.

Haaland, who received the most combined votes from the public

and a Premier League panel, joined City from Borussia Dortmund last summer and has helped the club win a third successive top-flight title.

He has already been named the Football Writers' Association (FWA) men's footballer of the year.

"It has been an incredible first season in the Premier League and lifting the trophy last weekend in front of our fans at the Etihad was a very special moment for me," added the Norway international.

Kevin De Bruyne-Playmaker Of The Year

Kevin de Bruyne, the Assist Maestro: Clinches Playmaker of the Year for Record-Breaking Third Time

In a league filled with brilliance, Kevin de Bruyne shines as Manchester City's assist virtuoso. Once again, he has claimed the coveted Playmaker of the Year award, cementing his name in Premier League history. With an impressive tally of 16 assists this season, the midfield maestro's vision and precision have set him apart.



De Bruyne's feat is nothing short of remarkable. He becomes the first player ever to win the award on three occasions, a testament to his unrivalled creativity and ability to unlock defences. His previous triumphs in the 2017/18 and 2019/20 seasons, with 16 and 20 assists, showcased his consistent brilliance.

Among the elite ranks of Premier League assist-makers, De Bruyne stands tall. Currently occupying the fourth spot on the all-time list, his journey to greatness has been swift. In April, he etched his name in the record books as the quickest player to reach 100 assists, achieving this incredible milestone in just 237 appearances.

The symbiotic partnership between De Bruyne and striker Erling Haaland has been electrifying. Eight of his 16 assists were graciously provided to Haaland, the Golden Boot winner with an astounding 36 goals. Their synergy on the pitch has left opponents in awe and propelled Manchester City to new heights.

As De Bruyne's mesmerising passes continue to mesmerise fans and inspire teammates, his legacy as one of the Premier League's greatest playmakers is firmly established. With each assist, he paints a masterpiece on the field, elevating the game and leaving an indelible mark on the history of English football.

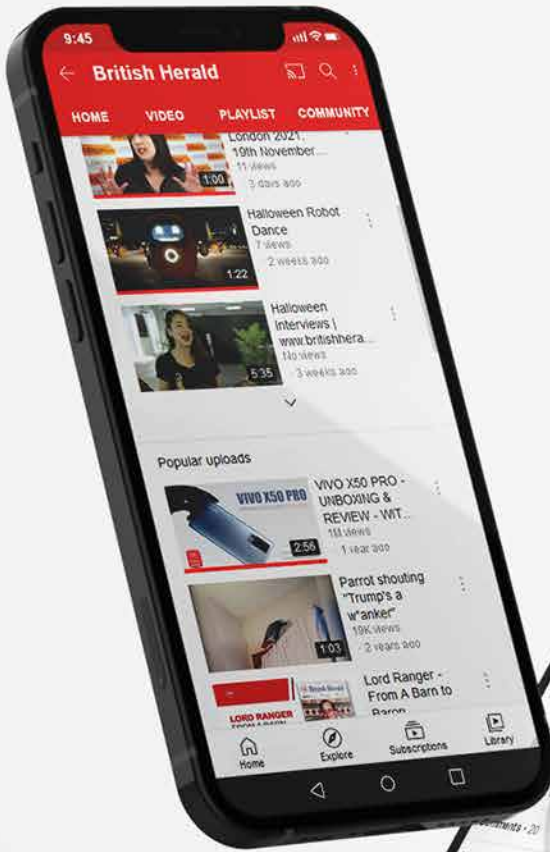




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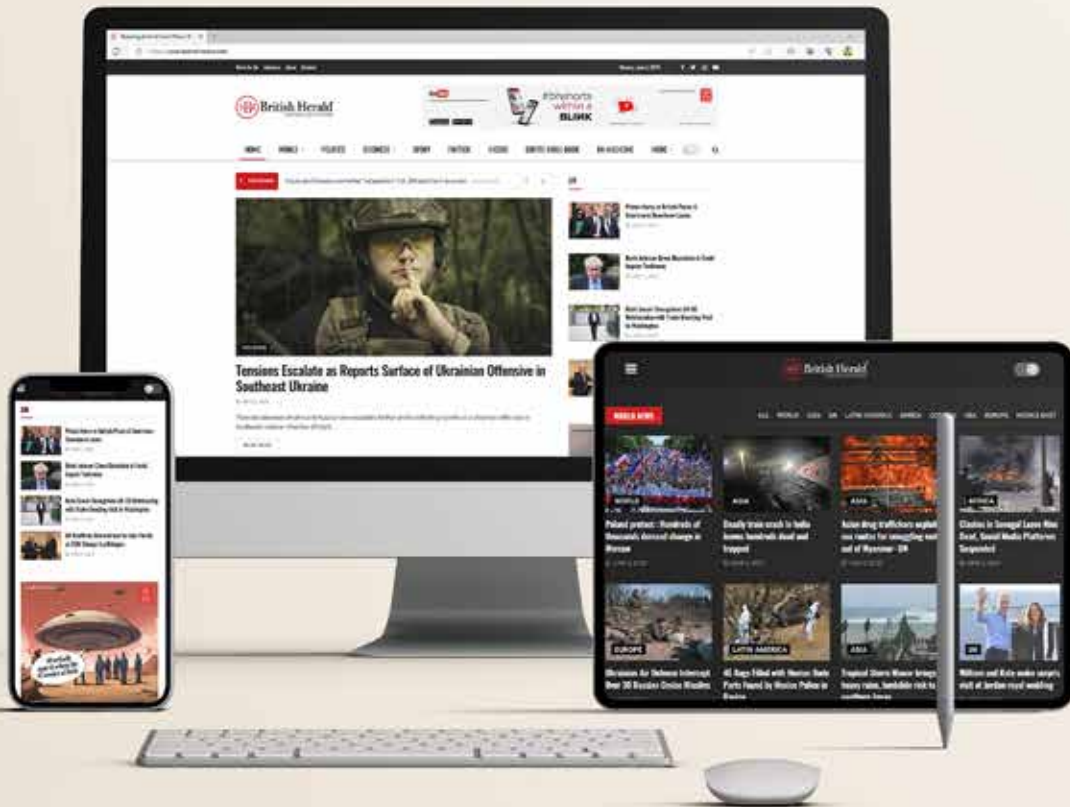
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