

A THOUSAND YEARS OF JUD  
WITH FAIRNESS AND WIT  
NEW STRUCTURES BUT  
FOUR NATIONS SEP

A THOUSAND YEARS OF JUD  
WITH FAIRNESS AND WIT  
NEW STRUCTURES BUT  
FOUR NATIONS SEP

Picture caption.  
Outside the UK  
Supreme Court  
October 10th  
2018

A THOUSAND YEARS OF JUDGMENT STRETCH BEHIND - THE WEIGHT OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS BALANCING  
WITH FAIRNESS AND WITH DUTY TO THE WORLD: THE CLARITY TIME-HONOURED THINKING BRINGS  
NEW STRUCTURES BUT AN OLD FOUNDATION STONE: THE MIND OF JUSTICE STILL AT LIBERTY  
FOUR NATIONS SEPARATE BUT LINKED AS ONE: THE LIGHT OF REASON FALLING EQUALLY

ANDREW MOTION  
POET LAUREATE  
1999 - 2009

## CONTENTS

Poem: The 592 from Halifax to Burnley. P2.

Comment: P3 and 4.

Quiz answers: P4. Quiz: P11.

News and news analysis: P5-7.

P5.

Future Perfect, International System of Units Revised. .

P6

Cluster munitions.

Star formation.

Fight continues against Global Warming at COP24 in Katowice, Poland. .

P7

World Trade Concerns.

Technical preparations for a low sulphur fuel-oil regime at sea continue.

Book review. SIPRI 2018 Year Book. P 8-12.

From British Courts. 13-15.

3rd edition, published 22.12.2018 with minor corrections noticed while preparing the html edition.

Front cover photograph taken by Helen Gavaghan©.

Back page advert for *Science, People & Politics* ISSN 1751-598x

### The 592 from Halifax to Burnley

Slipping through valleys

Past the private life of villages.

Eyes left! The Brass Band plays.

Eyes right for The Hippodrome.

Tributaries stream

From the Benefice's Christmas Panto

Crossing borders only people see.

There The Ram: here The Lion;

No parking at The Nag's Head.

So the winding Lancashire road

Weaves in to Burnley, leaving

Borough-Market memories

Sleeping in Halifax.

Road, rail, tunnels, canal,

Testaments of a peoples' will

To unite despite

Hills, politics and Church.

Helen Gavaghan© 10.12. 2018

**Editor:** Helen Gavaghan. Deputy editor: Martin Redfern.

**Editorial advisors:**

Professor Graham Dutfield, Dr Ferdinando Patat, Fred Pearce FRSGS, Martin Redfern.

**COMMENT****DISAFFECTION**

The SIPRI 2018 Year Book reviewed in this issue identifies in some regions and in some subject areas common factors behind murder, mayhem, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and the like. Causes where common to an issue, such as drug trafficking in central and south America, differ one from the other. In one example the authors, all specialists and/or experts in their own topic, say there is no identifiable common cause for what they report.

I hypothesize that, in fact, a metanalysis is possible. I am not saying singly or collectively the authors are wrong—that would be impertinent of me, and would be refutable immediately by the simple act of pointing to the footnotes, each relevant to the fact it nails into the texts of analysis and report. Rather I am asking readers to consider the concept of disaffection. I posit investigation of that concept explored and evaluated as an idea independent of its cause might be fruitful for the human race.

Let's say for the sake of argument that disaffection is not a synonym for clinical depression, boredom or exclusion from relationships because one has no legal tender for transactions and/or participation in society, misery because one is starving, anger because politics takes your country of nationality in a direction which was not your first choice, disempowerment because your freedom of speech is curtailed or disenfranchisement because you are the wrong gender or religion or colour for the societal group in which you live.

Instead—for the sake if argument—let us take disaffection as a Universal and question its relationship to consciousness and intelligence. Might disaffection be an independent emergent property of consciousness and/or intelligence. Do non-human animals exhibit disaffection? If so how could this independent possibly emergent property of consciousness and or intelligence be defined—what attributes of disaffection would make the concept unique and sufficient unto itself?

The point being that if disaffection is a Universal then disentangling that Universal from those actions and analyses which masquerade as disaffection, but actually are not disaffection, could be a valuable exercise for the planet's future. Is disaffection age related, impacted by developmental biology etc...?

If there is such a stand-alone Universal then we might have a new prism through which to analyse and relate to and understand politics, international relations, war, peace, history, geography and both the humanities and science. I would be tempted to leave art out of this quest. Not out of disrespect for arts – be they poetry, contemporary or fine art, dance, music, recital or theatre. But because if disaffection exists I would posit it does not impact motivation or creativity.

Let me propose that a possible attribute of disaffection is a lack of emotional relationship or connectivity to the surrounding world. Such an attribute might exist unconsciously or subconsciously, even though the state of disaffection itself might turn out to be an emergent property of consciousness. Such disaffection would be experienced by an individual irrespective of time, place, status, wealth, educational level, psychological well being, gender, or emotional

## COMMENT continued.

state, or biology. It would be known, consciously or not, irrespective of perfect neurochemistry or endocrinology. That is it would be an affective state having nothing to do with psychiatry or biology.

For that to be possible consciousness as an emergent state would, I would suggest, need to be separated from the number and complexity of neural connections.

Disaffection of this sort could be misinterpreted within or by an individual or group. It could seem to be unhappiness despite in reality being value neutral. If misinterpreted it could become a demotivator perpetuating an inequitable *status quo* and making the changeable seem immutable, or suggest change would be a waste of time.

If disaffection is an attribute of this sort it could vary in degree and extent from one human being to another, or among non-human animals. It could be something neither epigenetic, nor genetic.

How would one recognise disaffection for itself as an inner, value-neutral State emergent from an individual's consciousness, and such that that State could be harnessed effectively, and not in a chaotic or disempowering manner; where the negative without cause impacts the time and place of another human being or other inhabitant of the Earth?

If there is such a metaphysic it really could provide another prism for behavioural analysis.

So, for the sake of argument I posit a value-neutral, stand-alone concept of disaffection, which is independent of biological nature other than as an emergent attribute of consciousness and intelligence. Did you notice the sneaky twist there? I further argue that if understood and harnessed respectfully and lawfully and consensually and independently of gender, politics, religion or – possibly – species then disaffection could be a Universal analytic tool for those who will prepare the 2020 SIPRI Yearbook.

What do the philosophers, social scientists, neuro ethologists and others think?

### Quiz answers [Quiz on page 11]

1. 2014. Source the SIPRI 2018 Yearbook, reviewed from p8 of this issue.
2. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorty-Range Missiles (1987).
3. 2014. Source SIPRI 2018 Yearbook, p27 of the PDF.
4. President of Mexico.
5. 2018.
6. Philip Hammond.
7. Luminous intensity. See: <http://www.npl.co.uk/si-units/candela/>
8. Conference of the Parties.
9. Poland.
10. The 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions. <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2018/CN.585.2018-Eng.pdf>

**NEWS ANALYSIS****Future perfect:  
International System of Units Revised****By Helen Gavaghan**

We all measure things, be it flour for a cake, the distance to the shops or the temperature in a room. Politics, the climate change debate, international relations, pretty much everything humanity does in a transactional or investigatory manner depends on standards for such measurements, standards which cross borders, cultures and languages. National Metrology Institutes (metrology is the science of measuring things) have worked for decades with international bodies to slowly redefine the basic units of weights and measures in a manner relating to fundamental constants of nature and the properties of atoms, given the laws of nature as currently understood. As the culmination of that effort on 16th November 2018 the nations of the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) voted unanimously (according to voting rules) to adopt a new System Internationale of measurement units. The new regime comes into effect in May 2019.

The formal path to November's vote began at the 24th meeting in 2011 of the BIPM's ruling body, "The General Conference on Weights and Measures". BIPM is an International Governmental Organisation (IGO) which was established by convention in May 1875.

The basic units of the SI system are: the meter (length), kilogram (weight), the kelvin (thermodynamic temperature), the mole (amount of a substance), time (the second), electric current (ampere) and luminous intensity (candela). From these seven units all of the SI system is built. For example a Pascal is the SI unit of pressure/stress. A Pascal is constructed from the basic units for length, weight and time, and it is the inverse of a metre, times one kilogram, per second squared.

It is because the entire SI (System International) is built on the seven basic units of measurement that a universally accepted precise and unchangeable (as far as is understandable given current knowledge of the laws of nature) definition of a single metre, kilogram etc... is so important to science and politics today.

The final piece in this transitional jigsaw was shifting the definition of a kilogram from a physical object to being in relationship to a universal constant, namely Planck's constant. The 2011 meeting of CGPM wrote, "the kilogram will continue as the unit of mass, but its magnitude will be set by fixing the numerical value of the Planck constant to be equal to exactly  $6.626,070 \times 10^{-34} \text{ JS}$ " (a Joule is the SI unit of energy, and is metres squared, times a kilogram, times the inverse of seconds squared).

But the vote of 16th November 2018 was of much more profound significance than this change to the kilogram. It is the culmination of atomic, particle and astrophysics and math exploration, enabling the non material to define the material.

The 2018 CGPM: <https://www.bipm.org/en/cgpm-2018/> (Accessed 18.12.18).

Editor's recommendation: 10 out of 10. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qA67T7FPBME>

And the 2011 resolutions which set the transition in motion,

<https://www.bipm.org/en/CGPM/db/24/1/> (Accessed 17th December, 2018).

The critical resolution. <https://www.bipm.org/utis/en/pdf/CGPM/Convocation-2018.pdf#page=30>

## NEWS

### Cluster munitions

On 11th December, 2018 Gambia ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CMM), and the Convention will come into effect for Gambia in 1st June, 2019.

The CMM is related to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and their Use and Destruction, and other Conventions and Protocols covering conventional weapons. CMM was adopted as a Convention in 2008, and entered into force on 1st August, 2010 when it had been ratified by 30 countries. The text defines cluster munitions, and states what is not covered. In line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the CMM calls for adequate care and rehabilitation of victims of cluster munitions and for clearance of contaminated areas. **HG.**

Gambia Ratification of CMM: <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CN/2018/CN.585.2018-Eng.pdf>

Convention on cluster munitions: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/ccm/>

### Star formation

Hold out your thumb and line it up with my forehead, said Dr Paul Clark, an astronomer from the University of Cardiff. He was speaking to secondary school students as he gave the annual astrophysics lecture at The University of Leeds on 28th November. “Now keep your thumb still, and move your head to the left, now to the right,” said Dr Clark. “You look really funny when you do that, what are you doing?” Came the reply, “Parallaxing.”

The topic was star formation. “While colleagues here go and view from telescopes, I work with simulation on massive computers.” The upside of his job, said Dr Clark, is “I don’t have to wait 2 million years to figure out what is going on.” Needless to say, without the observational astronomers Dr Clark would have no guidelines for his astronomical algorithms. He showed spectacular photographs of starscapes, trying to give a sense of the immensity of the time and space encompassed. Within that single pixel, he said of one photograph, lies the Carina Nebula.

So much remains unknown, said Dr Clark. Perhaps when stars form in clusters they compete for mass? He told the audience dark matter drives the evolution of our visible structured Universe. To the student who asked what existed before The Big Bang Dr Clark said the correct physics answer is that before the Big Bang time did not exist. “The Big Bang created time and space.” **HG**

**Parallax:** <https://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/teachers/attachments/parallax.html>

### FIGHT CONTINUES AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING AT COP24 IN KATOWICE, POLAND.

A current consensus on implementing the 2015 Paris Agreement was reached 15th December this year. That outcome from an international meeting, COP24, is to be found at: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Informal%20Compilation\\_proposal%20by%20the%20President\\_rev.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Informal%20Compilation_proposal%20by%20the%20President_rev.pdf) See also the following link if you are new to the detail of UN climate change work: <https://unfccc.int/>.

The international meeting was held in Katowice, Poland, and is the most recent in a series of international conferences. It sought practical implementations of earlier agreements. **HG**

**NEWS****World Trade Concern**

Roberto Azevêdo, director general of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), on 11th December presented to the Trade Policy Review Body of the WTO his report on trade-related developments for the year from mid 2017 to mid 2018.\*

Entitled “Overview of Developments in the International Trading Environment” the work, which is a Trade Monitoring Report, notes a higher number of trade restrictive practises compared with last year. Those measures are commensurate with an increase to USD588 billion in the value of world trade impacted by such restrictions. That figure is 7 times larger than for the previous year. In the same period there was an increase in measures facilitating trade, which encompassed USD295 billion of global trade, some 1.8 times larger than the previous year. The report terms the situation a “proliferation” of trade restrictions, and calls on WTO Member States to de-escalate a situation which could jeopardise global economic recovery.

Member States concerned about restrictive trade practises, such as import substitution by, for example, favouring domestic producers when evaluating tenders, or dumping, or subsidised exports can initiate investigations via the WTO. Such inquiries are known as trade remedy investigations. The report estimates that the value of trade covered in 2017-18 by trade remedy investigations was USD93.6 billion, some USD17 billion higher than last year.

During the year there was protectionist rhetoric, as well as greater trade tensions and a slowing of global economic growth. World financial conditions tightened. Trade, concludes the report, should continue to grow in 2018-19, but less rapidly than forecast. **HG**

\*Overview of developments in the international trading environment. Item 2 (263 pages)

[https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S006.aspx?Query=@Symbol=%20\(wt/tpr/ov/21\\*\)&Language=ENGLISH&Context=FomerScriptedSearch&languageUIChanged=true#](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S006.aspx?Query=@Symbol=%20(wt/tpr/ov/21*)&Language=ENGLISH&Context=FomerScriptedSearch&languageUIChanged=true#)

Basis: Agreement on Trade Related Investment Measures.

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/invest\\_e/invest\\_info\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/invest_e/invest_info_e.htm) Accessed 20.12.2018.

**Technical preparations for a low sulphur fuel-oil regime at sea continue.**

The 100th meeting of the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Maritime Organisation concluded safety issues should not deter implementation of the new rules limiting fuel sulphur content to no more 0.5 percent. Implementation for the new rule is 1st January 2020. The aim is to reduce air born pollutants resulting from burning fuels in the maritime environment. The MSC also agreed safety of burning such fuels should be considered further at its next meeting. Questions arising include impact on operation of the equipment involved in burning maritime fuel. **HG**.

100th Maritime Safety Committee of 3-7 December, 2018. Summary of outcomes.

<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/MeetingSummaries/MSC/Pages/MSC-100th-session.aspx>

EU briefing on air pollution from maritime transport. <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/air/sources/maritime.htm> (Accessed 18.12.2018)

**SIPRI YEAR BOOK 2018: A REVIEW BY HELEN GAVAGHAN**

Armaments, Disarmament and International Security.

ISBN: 978-0-19-882155-7.

Published by Oxford University Press.

**Price £100.00.**

Print: 565 pages including index and three annexes.

Annex A. Arms control and disarmament agreements: universal, regional and bilateral.

Annex B. International security bodies.

Annex C. Chronology 2017.

A short list of acronyms.

The book is available online also.

In the hardback copy there is a short errata section making a few small corrections to dates.

Though the year book is predominantly about events in 2017, its content spills over into early 2018.

**[www.sipriyearbook.org](http://www.sipriyearbook.org)**

Internal evidence suggests this book was published in early 2018, however the publishers (Oxford University Press–O.U.P.) have not responded to the reviewer’s request for clarification of the exact date of the book’s first publication.

## **Central and South America: Cartels, Homicide and Narcotics in 2017.**

... in several countries in Central and South America the levels of political and criminal violence were high enough to place them on a par with ‘traditional’ armed conflicts, even though they could not necessarily be defined as such.

**P 34 (56 of 592 in the reviewer’s PDF) SIPRI 2018 Year Book**

In December, 2017 Mexico passed a law which, among other things, authorised the government to deploy armed forces to areas under the control of drug gangs, write Marina Caparini and José Alvarado Cobar in their chapter reviewing Armed Conflict in the Americas (P40, which is P62 of 592, ref. 40 in reviewer’s PDF). See: [https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5508716&fecha=21/12/2017](https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5508716&fecha=21/12/2017) Accessed 20.12.2018.

The pull quote at the start of this article gives context for that legislation and sums up the authors’ analysis of the nature, meaning and context of conflict in Central and South America. Additionally, Caparini and Cobar give short case studies of El Salvador, Mexico and Paraguay.

Referencing The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Development Bank of Latin America and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean the authors say that in Central and South America,

“Power grabs by sitting presidents, endemic corruption, elevated levels of violence and weak judicial systems have resulted in impunity and low confidence in public institutions.”

Many people in 2017 fled to the US from political and criminal violence in Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico and Honduras.

Intelligence from Salvadoran National Police says that in their country the biggest organised crime groups are “Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)” and Barrio-18. Together with some smaller groups MS-13 and Barrio-18 have some 600 operational cells and are responsible for the majority of crime in the country. In 2017 MS-13 sought a “peace” process which included possible disbanding of the gang. However two years earlier El Salvador’s Constitutional Court had designated gangs as terrorists, and that meant gang members could not be immune from prosecution.

In Mexico the “most serious conflict trend” was “narcotics-related crime”. In 2017 Mexico recorded 29,168 homicide, exceeding by nearly 2000 the number killed during the 2011 drug war. Sipri 2018 Yearbook says the increase results from a struggle for control of drug production areas and competition over trafficking routes (P38, which is P60 of 592 in the PDF of the reviewer’s copy). In this climate anyone with money to spare buys protection from police or private security. The poor have formed private militias in self protection, and cartels have infiltrated some of those groups which act as vigilantes with effective impunity. Opportunistic crime against migrants had in 2017 crept into that situation, taking advantage of official weakness or complicity. Only 4.5 percent of reported crime resulted in conviction, reports the 2018 SIPRI Yearbook. Hence need for the legislation reported at the beginning of the article, which the Mexican Congress passed to strengthen the role of the military in fighting organised crime. Abuses have not only been by drug traffickers, report the authors, but also by State actors such as some police and soldiers.

### **The price of drugs at dinner parties and on the streets**

SIPRI Yearbook 2018 reports that the border between Brazil and Paraguay “continues to be afflicted by drug trafficking and gang violence”. Paraguay is the second largest producer in central and south America of marijuana, while the junction between Paraguay, Brazil and Argentina is “an important transit corridor for cocaine produced in Bolivia, Peru and Columbia”.

Referencing a April 2017 InSight Crime report the Yearbook writes that Brazilian gangs are thought to be fighting for control of drug trafficking routes, and to be expanding into Paraguay.

This drug related activity in Paraguay seems inextricably linked with inequity of land distribution and failures in agrarian reform for the rights of farmers. As of the end of 2017 there was an undismantled left-wing guerrilla group in Paraguay, with some 40 percent of people living below the poverty line despite booming agriculture.

According to an article in “Global Risk Insight” the Paraguayan government favours big agribusiness, especially Soya production, and ignores small and medium sized farmers and indigenous groups, displacing them to towns (Footnote ref.51).

Against this backdrop the left-wing guerrilla group, asserts the SIPRI 2018 Yearbook, murders, kidnaps, takes a cut from local landowners and is “allegedly” increasingly involved in narcotics trafficking. Lack of co-ordination within a task force established by the Paraguayan Government to combat lawlessness is blamed for failure to dismantle the left-wing guerrilla group. **HG.**

## NORTH KOREA (Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea–DPRK)

By Helen Gavaghan

Shannon N. Kile and Hans M. Kristensen write in the SIPRI 2018 Yearbook that the DPRK maintains a “highly active” but “highly opaque” nuclear programme.\* Much the same could be said about other Nuclear Weapon and Non Nuclear Weapon States, both those which are party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and those like Israel, India and Pakistan which are not.

See:  
<http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt> (Parties to the NPT, a UN document, accessed 19.12.2018).

Much of the discussion of the DPRK's holdings of highly enriched uranium or plutonium for warheads is qualified with words such as “might be”, “indicates that”. What will be unarguable, though, to Western intelligence agencies such as MI6, because of seismology networks around the world, is whether or not the DPRK's declaration of having conducted underground nuclear weapons tests is true. Explosions have shape, not only raw power.

Kile and Kristensen write, based on a Korean Central News Agency report, that such a test took place on 3 September, 2017 and,

“Following the explosion, the North Korean Nuclear Weapons Institute announced that the event was a successful test of a hydrogen bomb that could be delivered by an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).”

(P280, P302 of 592 in reviewer's PDF)

Kile and Kristensen write, too, there is debate about the nature of the explosion: the difficulty being an alleged absence of radionuclide evidence.

On 6th March, 2018 Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, director of the US Defence Intelligence Agency briefed the US Senate Armed Services Committee on regional threats, telling senators that North Korea was the US's “Hardest collection target”. On the record Ashley continued, “North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un has pressed his nation down a path to develop nuclear weapons and deliver them with ballistic missiles that can reach South Korea, Japan, and the United States.” See: <http://www.dia.mil/News/Articles/Article-View/Article/1459039/dia-director-briefs-senate-armed-services-committee-on-worldwide-threats/> Accessed 19.12.2018

It was against this backdrop that in June 2018 President Trump sought demilitarisation of the Korean Peninsular. See: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/historic-summit-north-korea-tremendous-moment-world/> Accessed 19.12.2018.

For an article on forensic seismology and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty see: <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.earth.36.031207.124143> and <http://blacknest.gov.uk/> UK Atomic Weapons Research Establishment. Accessed 19.12.2018.

\*The SIPRI 2018 Year Book was published near the beginning of 2018, and so for the most part is based on knowledge from 2017 and earlier. In all circumstances it is worth evaluating its content in the light of later UN Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions and in context of open information published by Foreign Ministries. All urls in this short report were searched for and accessed by Helen Gavaghan, editor of *Science, People & Politics*,

## ARMS CONTROL FORTCOMING EVENTS

A review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is due in 2020. Preparation is underway, and can be followed here on the website of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA):

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt-review-conferences/>

The NPT came into being in 1968. It is known formally as The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Its aim is for Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to divest themselves of nuclear armaments, and for Non Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS) not to acquire nuclear weapons.

The ninth review conference of the Biological Weapons Convention will take place in 2021, and a number of intersessional events are planned from this year up to 2020. Central to preparations is how to strengthen the Convention given current rapid developments in science and technology.

The director general, Fernando Arias, of the Organisation for the Prevention of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) told delegates at the organisations annual meeting in The Hague this November that the organisation must adapt to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

See: <https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2018/11/opcws-strategic-course-be-set-during-conference-states-parties-and-review> and <https://www.opcw.org/our-work/preventing-re-emergence-chemical-weapons>. Accessed 19.12.2018.

The OPCW will meet next in November, 2019. HG

## QUIZ (answers on page 4)

1. In which year did Russian annex Crimea?
2. What does the acronym INF stand for?
3. What is the Year of The Arms Trade Treaty?
4. Who is Andrés Manuel López Obrador?
5. In which year did Obrador assume office?
6. Who is the UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer?
7. What are Candela (cd) the SI unit for? See news story on page 3.
8. What is COP in COP 24 an acronym for?
9. In which country was COP 24 held in December 2018?
10. Which international agreement did Gambia sign on 12th December, 2018?

**Armed conflicts**

António Guterres became UN Secretary-General at the beginning of 2017 on a platform of reducing armed conflict. Given the impact armed conflict has on food insecurity, famine and forced displacements of people it is hard it is hard to see what better theme Guterres could have adopted.

The SIPRI 2018 Yearbook reports that in 2017 armed conflict was active in at least 22 States, and that at the beginning of 2017 there were 65 million displaced people. Food insecurity was rife in Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia, the Central African Republic, the Congo and Afghanistan as a result of armed conflict, with at least a quarter of the people in those countries experiencing crises of food insecurity.

In sub-Saharan Africa the Yearbook reports two broad themes. First there are overlapping and transnational conflicts among overlapping States and regions. The author, Ian Davis\*, writes these conflicts are attributable to violent Islamist groups, criminal networks and other armed bodies. In the Sahel and Lake Chad regions, in particular, the armed conflicts are linked to extreme poverty. UN Security Council Resolutions, such as UN SC Resolution 2349 of 31st March 2017 have sought to formally address the complex problems. Davis also notes there appears to be a growing internationalisation of counter-terrorism activities in the region, led by the US and France.

Of the tragedy in Syria Davis writes half the population (figures from 2017) are internally displaced or refugees, while the other half are experiencing or at risk if severe food shortages.

Ian Davis is Executive editor of the SIPRI Yearbook.

**CONTENTS OF THE YEARBOOK**

The book contains 10 parts, with each part broken into chapters contributed by a variety of authors. Part 1 is Dan Smith writing an introduction covering the sub headings of: Nuclear weapons and international politics; International tensions and shifting dynamics of power; Human security and insecurity; and prospects for international institutions.

The following sections cover

- 2 - armed conflicts and peace processes.
- 3 - peace operations and conflict management.
- 4 - military expenditure.
- 5 - in international arms transfers and developments in arms production.
- 6 - world nuclear forces.
- 7 - nuclear disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.
- 8 - chemical and biological security threats.
- 9 - conventional arms control.
- 10- dual-use and arms trade controls.

There is a brief bio in the print version about each of the contributing authors.

**FROM BRITISH COURTS****17 unanimous not guilty verdict, advanced publication 27th November, 2018.**

A County Clare-born, 57-year-old Bradford man was today found not guilty of 17 very serious sexual misconduct charges. There were six complainants, and the jury heard how this was the second time the same defendant had faced similar charges. None of the complainants appeared in both cases.

His Honour Judge David Hatton QC made clear in his legal directions the age below which the Crown does not need to explore the issue of consent, because the act alleged is an offence whether or not there is consent. His honour clarified that the Prosecution was saying that the defendant, today found not guilty, was being accused in respect of another complainant of normalising the act which was an offence. His honour was referring to multiple incident counts.

The defendant took the stand in his own defence. Of one complainant the defendant spoke of his devastation on hearing that that complainant was making the allegations tried. Of another he said he had never met that person. In relationship to another count a police interview video went missing, then was found, though the associated file was not found. On the last day of the trial a witness, named by another of the complainants as having been present during an alleged offence, gave evidence that that alleged incident had not taken place.

After the case I asked the defendant, of good character, if he wished to comment. He shook his head to indicate no. His long term partner wiped tears from her eyes. Allegations extend back to 1975.

**HERE WAS EVIL advanced publication on 12th October,2018.**

Having regard to the principle of totality His Honour Judge Durham-Hall QC today sentenced Mr X (62) to 27 years in prison for sexual offences against three victims who, at the time of the crimes, were children. His honour stopped short of handing out a life sentence for one set of the charges, telling the jury who had chosen to remain in Court for the sentencing that the tariffs handed down were a matter for his conscience.

The crimes took place in Bradford at two different addresses from 1990 to the mid 1990s, and thereafter until 2002 in Skegness. Prior to the trial the defendant tried to take his own life. Defence counsel told the Court that as a child her client had also experienced many difficulties, and she asked the Court not to impose a life sentence. She further told the Court that she was unsure where her client's medical records were, but that they were supposed to go to HM Prison Leeds at Armley.

The judge spoke of the offences as being relentlessly cruel, and he asked where the authorities had been, naming a number of institutions generically as he made his remarks. His honour thanked the officer in the case, who was in Court, but she had little time to speak afterwards because, she said, she needed to be with the victims.

**16th October, 2018.** It might be I should have written "an" officer rather than "the" officer in the case was in Court in the news report above. **Editors note 11.12.2018.** Though the defendant's name was relevant to the news report, it is not relevant to the broader and global issue of adult attitudes to children, and consequences. **HG.**

## FROM BRITISH COURTS

Advanced publication on 5th October, 2018.

**Suspended sentence for ill-treatment by two care workers in Phoenix Court Care Home, Todmorden**  
XX (female 49) and XX (female 37) were today both given nine month sentences suspended for 12 months, each having pleaded guilty to ill treatment of a person who lacks capacity. His Honour Judge Jonathan Durham-Hall QC called the case troubling.

The Court was played covertly recorded footage of events which led to the two women being arrested and charged. The victim's family were given an opportunity to leave Court before the footage was played, but chose to remain. The victim is a 60 year-old woman with significant, profound and highly complex medical and physical disabilities, who needs 24-hour, one-to-one care.

The women sentenced today were recorded feeding the victim or moving around the kitchen undertaking domestic tasks. One could be heard using gentle language at one stage, yet she was feeding and interacting with the victim in a manner which would have made enjoyment of the meal impossible. At one stage in another incident the victim's fingers were pried from the door. His honour said, "I have seen much worse, but I shouldn't have to see this at all should I?" Judge Durham-Hall spoke of observing a chilling lack of compassion toward the victim. **HG.**

Advanced publication on 5th October, 2018 at *circa* 18.40 BST, 05.10.2018.

**Arsonist with paranoid schizophrenia still awaiting assessment for housing post release from Prison.**  
Counsel for XX ( male 66) wondered whether a way to ensure his client was assessed for housing post release from prison would be to compel those responsible for finding such accommodation to attend Court and explain to the judge why such an assessment had not taken place. His Honour Jonathan Durham-Hall QC said he was not going to do that. His Honour spoke of the authorities as being trapped within their own protocols.

Mr X was arrested by police in Keighley in June of this year having thrown a brick through a window (where he, Mr X, lived), assaulted a member of staff in the place where he (Mr X) lived, and having set a fire in his flat (Mr X's). Other residents were evacuated safely, and three fire engines attended. Mr X pleaded guilty to a number of charges, including arson with reckless endangerment to life. Mr X was interviewed by police after it was confirmed he had capacity.

Mr X had wanted to move to Skipton and get a cat. He is thought at the time to have stopped taking his medication for paranoid schizophrenia. **HG.**

Clarifications in brackets in the penultimate paragraph added by the editor on 07-10-2018. **Editors comment 11.12.2018.** I removed names above for *Science, People & Politics* because though, for news, the names mattered, as insight into British Society they do not. Senior care workers need training to degree level, to be paid well and hands on, People with schizophrenia, paranoid or not, ought to be able to have a cat and choose where they live. Clearly damaging property and assaulting people is wrong. And, respectfully, I think HHJ Durham-Hall QC or one of his colleagues in criminal law are exactly the people who should have reviewed the covert footage in the report about care workers. **HG.**

FROM BRITISH COURTS

## Justice, Fairness, Equality

News report by Helen Gavaghan, advance publication online 19 October, 2018.

<http://www.gavaghancommunications.com/hale.html>

Until the end of 2017 the chief justices of Australia, Canada and New Zealand were women\*. That was a fact placed by Lady Hale, President of the UK Supreme Court, before her audience yesterday evening of law students and faculty at The University of Leeds in the north of England. Her talk was entitled "Reflections on the First Year as UK Supreme Court President".

Favourite case of the year (2017) before the UK Supreme Court was the one involving the issue of what constitutes cheating at cards.

To reach the justices of the Supreme Court a case must meet certain tests. It must be arguable, involve debate about a point of law and be of general public importance. The facts must have been agreed, and, importantly, the case must answer the question of "Do we want it", where "we" is the Supreme Court.

The justices sit as five, seven or nine. "We have sat as 11 only once", and that, said her ladyship, was over the role of the UK parliament in triggering the UK's exit from the European Union [24th January, 2017. Judgement: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2016-0196-judgment.pdf> Accessed 20.12.2018.].

Though not an issue in any way before the Supreme Court Lady Hale's talk touched briefly on the controversy which took place, separately, about how the *Daily Mail* covered the legal wrangle in this matter before it reached the Supreme Court. The *Daily Mail* ran a headline "Enemies of the People" when judges in the Divisional Court of England and Wales concluded UK parliamentary authority was needed to trigger the UK's departure from the European Union. [See: <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/r-miller-v-secretary-of-state-for-exiting-eu-amended-20161122.pdf>]

Lady Hale told her audience that a UK government statement should have been issued saying "We have a free press, write what you want. My job is to tell you, 'you were wrong'."

Her Ladyship ran through aspects of the Supreme Court's jurisdiction, including in relationship to international agreements such as the Refugee Convention and the Supreme Court's constitutional role during the window between emergence as Statute from devolved legislatures and the time when Royal Assent is given. Lady Hale said of the Supreme Court, "We can't alter laws which Parliament has given us".

20th October, 2018: \*Readers of *Science, People & Politics*, who are the ones this news report was written for, might like to know that in the case of Canada a new chief justice was sworn in in mid December, 2017. Addition by Helen Gavaghan (Ed).

Item X of the html version of Issue 4 (October–December), Volume IX (2018)

**HOUSE  
ADVERT  
FOR  
*SCIENCE,  
PEOPLE  
&  
POLITICS*  
ISSN 1751-598x**

ISSUE FOUR (Oct.–Dec.), VIX (2018)