

Paris on Edge with Yellow Vest Protests

By *L M F*
& *Morgane P.*



The Yellow Vest movement is a national movement in France. The movement began in October, but activists have protested all around the country since November 17. They demonstrated every Saturday and blocked roads and roundabouts. There have been protests and confrontations with the police that have caused a lot of damage.

This movement began when Priscillia Ludosky, a protester, inaugurated a petition on the internet asking for a drop in gas prices in May. The petition wasn't successful until October, but a lot of newspapers wrote about it until it became very popular. Today, around 1.20 million people have signed it.

The triggering event was when the president of France, Emmanuel Macron, increased the gasoline price. At first, the government did not want to change its position, but the protests were so strong that the President proposed an alternative whose purpose was to negotiate with the activists and find solutions to stop the crisis.

The Yellow Vests include nearly 300,000 activists, and they have gained the sympathy and support of many French citizens who do not actively participate in the movement. The protests were very violent, and activists were arrested in Paris. They also degraded monuments like the Arch of Triumph. Moreover, 200 were injured among the police forces and 820 injured and 4 killed among the Yellow Vests.



United States: Wall Between Trump and Democrats

By *Estelle & Lory*

The government shutdown has lasted since December 22, 2018, a record for the United States. This paralysis of the public finances affects 800 000 American officials, thereby blocking many public services. Some ministries are completely shut. Even NASA and the SEC have been affected by this paralysis. The main reason for this blockade is the financing of a wall on the Mexican border (along 3000 kilometres) for more than 5 billion dollars, a project rejected by the Democratic majority in Congress.

This symbolic wall may or may not be built, but today we can say that there is indeed a figurative wall between Trump and the Democratic opposition. In the end, even if financing is forced through, the wall will not see the light of day quickly. It will take some time to lay the first stones, maybe three or four years, as problems of zoning and expropriation have to be taken into account. The tone is therefore not a friendly one. If the fiscal dispute were to continue, Trump could use some of the military credits and proclaim a state of emergency, therefore, using the money of the Pentagon.

One thing is certain; it is the American people who will assign blame for the administration's paralysis, and at this stage of the process, more than half of Americans believe that the shutdown is Trump's fault. The shutdown is expected to cost the country an additional \$1 billion per week. The White House's tenant was looking forward to instilling some kind of order in the administration with the shutdown, but he has only accentuated the mess.



Robert De Niro Against Trump

By Cam.S & L. R.

The famous actor Robert De Niro was interviewed about his opinions about Donald Trump's presidency in *The Guardian*. He quickly and clearly hinted that he disagreed with Trump's politics. He called him negative names several times in the interview, such as "buffoon" and "mundane," and said he was a real racist.

He told the interviewer that before, he had never really gotten involved in American political news. When Trump was voted as the new President of United States, he was doubtful but thought maybe Trump could change. He says now that Trump is worse. He also admits that he reacted for the first time about politics after the 2016 election, using his influence as a famous actor, to fight against Trump's presidency



At the Tony Awards, he yelled "FUCK TRUMP" to the audience. Subsequently, Frank Bruni, a *New York Times* columnist, said that De Niro, by insulting Trump, had demonstrated the same behavior as him, that De Niro was falling into a trap, and that anger was not the strategical way to fight Trump but the only way to fall as low as the President.

Although they do not have the same political opinions, De Niro and Trump are both restaurant and hotel owners. De Niro told *The Guardian's* interviewer that if Trump were in one of his restaurants, he would not throw him out. However, the actor stated that he would surely leave if they were in the same room, not because of fear but because of his disgust for the President. As the father of six mixed-race children and the grandfather of a gay person, he confesses that he is worried about Trump's presidency. That is why he is trying to change things now that a "fascist", in Robert De Niro's words, has so much power in the U.S. This is also exactly why a Trump fanatic tried to kill the famous actor with a bomb last October in New York, because now he is part of a long list of Donald Trump's critics.

Two Governments in Crisis : Brexit and U.S. Shutdowns

By A.M & Anatatsu.



An Anti-Brexit Protestor who has spent 17 months outside Parliament draped in an E.U. flag.

Both nations are politically in crisis. Trump wants to declare a state of national

emergency in order to be able to build his wall despite the disapproval of Congress. Britain will withdraw from the European Union in March, probably without reaching a deal with Brussels – a so-called hard Brexit. One worrying issue is that Great Britain and the United States are pillars of the NATO alliance, fighting for the liberty and security of the people, but the organization, depending on these two powers, will undergo various sorts of dysfunction causing deep divisions within it. These internal conflicts may be favorable to growing powers like China, for instance.

Trump and the Brexiters have also formed a kind of "nationalist army" in their countries so as to attract white voters desiring a homogeneous society, riding on a wave of nationalism. The nationalists' stance against immigrants is due to several factors. The US being a former colony of Britain, the two countries are based on the same electoral system, called first-past-the-post or winner-takes-all. Winner-takes-all tends to increase polarization between two large parties, and exaggerate geographical divides, leading to stark conflicts between sections of society. Trump's Wall would have no real consequences for Washington, unlike Brexit for London, where the political and economic consequences of a chaotic departure from Europe are much deeper, "it is much harder to compromise" said Michael Lind, a University of Texas professor. "The losing side will really, really lose a lot."

Harvey Weinstein Trial Date Set

By L.D and Associate



Last Thursday, Harvey Weinstein arrived in a Manhattan courtroom, hoping a state judge would throw out the remaining criminal charges against him, as he continues to plead innocent. However, the actresses who sat in the gallery hoped for the opposite outcome. But this time was different from the last time when Harvey Weinstein appeared in court. The same judge presiding, James Burke, had dismissed part of the indictment because it was revealed that a police detective on the case had withheld crucial evidence from prosecutors.

Weinstein's lawyer, named Benjamin Brafman tried to throw out the remaining sexual assault charges because the actress accusing him was said to have remained on friendly terms with the producer after the attacks. But the Manhattan district attorney's office said that what Benjamin Brafman stated was not valid. It didn't stop lawyer Brafman, who provided the court with a screenshot of emails exchanged between Ms. Haley and Mr. Weinstein, trying to prove they had a "friendly relationship." The actress's lawyer, the famous feminist attorney Gloria Allred, contended that remaining friendly with an

attacker was not evidence that the crime had not taken place. The case, which is far from over, is to be followed closely.

Murder of Saudi Journalist Kamal Kashoggi

By Minos M., Yasser and associate



On October 2, Kashoggi was assassinated in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. The media and the United States have accused King Mohammed Ben Salmane (MBS) of sponsoring the murder. A few weeks after writing articles about the radical laws of MBS, he received anonymous threats. On the video camera found by the Turkish police, some Saudi agents can be seen leaving the embassy using a backdoor and carrying trash bags with pieces of Jamal's body. One of them came back disguised as Kashoggi, left by the front door and faked his death. The police led an investigation and found strong sedatives in the embassy trash can. The police think that he was drugged, dismembered and put in different bags carried by employees of the embassy. However, his body is still missing. The United States Congress wants sanctions to be applied to Saudi Arabia and to halt military sales to the country, but President Trump does not agree.

Hull: Booking Cancelled at Christmas for Homeless

By Dorian F. & associate

A charity called “The Roof Homeless Project” had planned to book 14 twin rooms to house the homeless. The organizer, Carl Simpson, was informed a week before Christmas that the hotel had cancelled the booking with no explanation. According to the hotel, the reason was that there had been damages to rooms during the group’s Christmas stay at an Ibis hotel last year. “Raise the Roof” says the allegations are “lies,” but Ibis refuted their denial.



A spokesperson for the hotel said the company had been warned by a “former project worker” not to take the booking because last year homeless people apparently degraded the rooms. Subsequently, hundreds of people commented on the original post, describing the hotel’s behavior as “disgusting” and “disgraceful” and calling for a boycott of

Britannia hotels. Thanks to funds gathered on Facebook, the association is going to search for a new booking. The post on Facebook inspired other people to try to help the homeless at Christmas.

Rosanell Eaton, Civil Rights Activist Figure, Dies

By Witney Graw and Ryan B.



Rosanell Eaton died on Saturday, December 8, 2018 in Louisburg, North Carolina at 97 years old. According to the statement of her daughter, Armenta Eaton, she died in hospice care at the home they had shared until recently. Famed as a witness to history in America, she was a beacon of civil rights, thanks to her role as a lead plaintiff in a trial against the state of North Carolina about a restrictive voting law deterring African Americans from voting that reached the Supreme Court in 2016. Ms. Eaton was hailed by former president Barack Obama, “as a pioneer” in his response to a 2015 article in New York Times Magazine, about the growing efforts to dismantle the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Obama wrote “I was

inspired to read about unsung American heroes like Rosanell Eaton [...]. I am where I am today only because men and women like her refused to accept anything less than a full measure of equality”.

A year after the president’s letter, the Supreme Court in an average vote let stand an appeals court judgement in the lawsuit spearheaded by Ms. Eaton and other plaintiffs. In 2017, after it regained its conservative majority with the appointment of Justice Neil M. Gorsuch, the Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal to revive the case.



Rosanell came from a North Carolina farm family of seven children during segregation. She attended segregated schools, used segregated public accommodation and drank from a “colored” water fountain in her hometown, Louisburg, North Carolina. In her first act of defiance, when she was 21, she went to vote in Louisburg where she was threatened by three white men. Nevertheless, she persisted and became one of the first African Americans to vote in her county.

Doctor Who: After 55 years, the Doctor is a Woman for the First Time

Louis & Alexandre J.



Doctor Who is a British science fiction series which has been on air for 55 years. The show tells the adventures of The Doctor travelling through space and time aboard the Tardis. After 55 years of the series and 13 incarnations, The Doctor has been regenerated for the first time as a woman, played by the British actress Jodie Whittaker. She is 36 years old and famous for her roles in *Broadchurch* and in *Attack the Block* to name a few.

It is currently very important that a woman play the main role in this show because *Doctor Who* is the most popular series in the United Kingdom, and the fact that a woman can embody the Doctor sends the important message that everyone can play the Doctor, regardless of their origins, the color of their skin, or their religion. It seems like a logical choice for a show that often defends tolerance as one of its central themes. Having a female Doctor can

conjure some interesting situations as well, in different periods when women were badly perceived, such as in the episode “The Witchfinders” in season 11 in which the Doctor is accused of witchcraft because she is a woman.

Changes in Pop Music: Can the Old Stars Keep Up?

By Mariama L.

Musical genres such as K-Pop, Latin Trap and Melodic hip hop – once regarded as subgenres, and which the majority of the population would dislike – have become the center of the pop conversation and is now listened to by thousands of millennials.

This year may be remembered as the one in which pop music -which became famous thanks to stars such as Michael Jackson, Britney Spears and Justin Bieber – is becoming less popular.



Currently, new stars such as Cardi B, Ozuna, Bad Bunny and Khalid are frequently listened to by young people. They come

from all over the musical subgenres that we mentioned before: Latin trap, hip hop, pop punk as well as new musical subgenres that have yet to come. Many labels said that 2018 was the year in which unique voices such as Khalid, Halsey and Lauren Jauregui got more and more popular in pop culture. The spotlight is now on singers that are different from what we used to listen to before.

These artists have many things in common: their looks, their singing style, their personalities and the way they are making something ordinary like pop look trendy. Another thing that they have in common is that they all constitute a new pop rule book, one which made the old pop music simply fade from the spotlight. This is a new era for these artists and we will see and expect more to emerge in 2019.

2019 New Year Events for the Duchess of Sussex and her Husband Prince Harry

By C.M.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex had an eventful beginning of the year, what with their moving houses and the arrival of the baby in the spring as well as the appointment of a new private secretary. For the moment, her private secretary, Samantha Cohen, is the one guiding Meghan Markle in her first duties as Duchess. It will be difficult because there are many events to manage and many official documents to go through so the period of adaptation for the new private

secretary might be long. The relations between the Duchess of Sussex and Queen Elizabeth are very complicated, the latter being said to have a preference for Kate Middleton. This year will be difficult and complicated to manage for the royal couple. 2019 will be full of strong emotions.



Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle and her husband Prince Harry

Members of Parliament take resolutions

By Yona and Lysa A.

Greg Clark, the business secretary, said Parliament should be invited to say which option it would support.

MPS should be invited to say if they would agree with Theresa May's deal .

May notified the Assembly about her failed efforts to win new authorisations from E.U leaders. However, in her comments, the Prime Minister urged them not to back a 2nd referendum. Clark also rejected the option of a new referendum, as a matter of fact he had said: "One of the many problems with a second referendum, is it would continue to create that uncertainty for many months and would likely add to the divisiveness that has characterised the last couple of years."