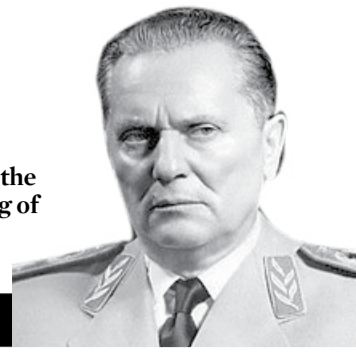


1961

Park Chung-hee leads a coup d'état to overthrow the Second Republic of South Korea.

1966

The Communist Party of China issues the "May 16 Notice", marking the beginning of the Cultural Revolution.



1969

Venera program: Venera 5, a Soviet space probe, lands on Venus.

1974

Josip Broz Tito is elected president for life of Yugoslavia.



are low, these same politicians insist that oil companies shouldn't drill, build pipelines or open new refineries. That one result is correlated to the other is irrelevant to the need to aim anger at someone.

The need to blame is a core driver of conspiratorial thinking. When bad things happen, we look for beneficiaries and then reason backwards that they must have been responsible.

MSNBC's Chris Hayes recently floated the idea on Twitter that Obama's failure to goose the economy was a conspiracy. The excuses big business offered for low investment or wage growth were proven wrong by today's economic boom, Hayes argued (with varying degrees of plausibility). But then he added, "... an even less charitable interpretation: they didn't get it wrong at all. They didn't want full employment, they didn't want wage growth and empowered workers and they certainly didn't want that happening under a Democratic president."

The idea that tens of thousands of businesses chose to needlessly keep wages low -- or even go out of business -- lest they lend aid and comfort to Obama is preposterous. Because what is true of politicians is also true of everybody else. No one is really in charge of anything, except for a few things in front of their noses and in their heads, and even then control is often an illusion.

There's nobody behind the curtain pulling the strings. We're all on the stage together, playing our parts.

*(Jonah Goldberg, a senior editor of National Review and the author of Suicide of the West, holds the Asness Chair in Applied Liberty at the American Enterprise Institute.)*

**Our brains are wired to expect someone to be in charge. When bad things happen, it must be because someone intended it. We get angry at perceived slights, inconveniences and tragedies, and our anger needs a target**



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Today as I head to Paris, my message to governments and internet companies is that we must work together to stop social media being used to promote terrorism or spread fear and hate. #ChristchurchCall @theresa\_may

02



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden: "Australia experienced a massacre and changed their laws. New Zealand had its experience, and changed its laws. To be honest with you, I do not understand the United States." Via CNN

@kylegriffin1

03



To the good people of Surat. According to our 2006 MOU, Surat is not one of the designated tier-2 cities Thai carriers may fly to. This can only be rectified if the MOU is renegotiated. I am so sorry about this. We can still discuss & strategise though.

@Chutintorn\_Sam

04



Peace in Yemen closer today - withdrawal of Houthis & deployment of UN monitors crucial to peace process. Thank you @OSE\_Yemen Martin Griffiths and General Lollegaard 4 heroic efforts. As I told both sides in Yemen in March, patience and painstaking diplomacy can do this

@Jeremy\_Hunt

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

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President Barack Obama greets a crowd in Fort Myers, Florida, after speaking at a town hall meeting on Feb. 10, 2009, as he campaigned for his economic stimulus plan

## Urgent global response to the plague of plastic

ates dumps of rubbish that pro-  
ceding grounds for rats, flies and  
ing mosquitoes. Rain collecting  
d packaging is considered no-  
e breeding of dengue-carrying

arely fatal but it is an unpleasant  
g to high fever and aching joints.  
ement of water and waste could  
mated 95 per cent reduction in  
of dengue.

unities resort to burning waste  
c chemicals and increasing air

cocktail includes black carbon,  
mercury – all of which are direct  
man health. They increase the  
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y ailments such as asthma and  
kin and eye diseases, nausea and  
d damage to the reproductive  
systems.

Health Organization estimates  
e 3.7million premature deaths  
a result of air pollution – and  
g is thought to contribute to  
of these.

ese impacts on human health,  
huge economic costs.

ld Nations Environment Pro-  
estimated that the damage to  
onomies caused by plastic pol-  
oceans amounts to \$13 billion



A seagull struggles to take flight covered by a plastic bag, on the seashore at Caleta Portales beach in Valparaiso, Chile

each year.

Plastic packaging in poorer countries is increasing at an alarming rate and the sheer quantity is overwhelming the ability of these countries to manage it. If production continues unabated, global production will double over the next ten to fifteen years. In sub-Saharan Africa, plastic and waste production is projected to treble by the year 2050. Growth is

fastest in the countries that are least able to deal with it.

This global problem can only be solved if there is an urgent global response. First and foremost, we need leadership from the companies and governments that are responsible for introducing plastic into countries where it cannot be properly managed.

Multinational corporations are now pack-

aging more and more of their products in single-use plastic. These companies should be required to disclose the number of single-use plastic items they sell in developing countries and to reduce this by half by the year 2025.

The throwaway culture supported by wealthy countries is worsening this crisis. Plastic is cheap because the fossil fuels used to produce it are heavily subsidised.

In the G7 alone, this amounts to more than \$100 billion. A more circular model of plastic production and use must be developed if we are to reduce this pressure on the planet.

Wealthy countries must also take more responsibilities for the waste they produce. In 2017, Europe exported one sixth of all the plastic waste it created to Asia. The UK exports 650,000 tonnes of plastic waste every year. Until recently, over half of this was sent to China. China closed its borders to this traffic last year, and now we are dumping on other countries our rubbish, our dangerous rubbish.

History is witness to the fact that when we put our minds to it, we can use our collective intelligence to solve our most pressing problems. It is now time for governments, companies and citizens to work together to find solutions to a crisis that is entirely of our own making, a crisis that now threatens the collective well-being of all the inhabitants, animal and human, that live on this planet.

*(David Attenborough is a vice-president of Fauna & Flora International)*