

1938

Douglas Corrigan takes off from Brooklyn to fly the “wrong way” to Ireland and becomes known as “Wrong Way” Corrigan.



1944

Port Chicago disaster: Near the San Francisco Bay, two ships laden with ammunition for the war explode in Port Chicago, California, killing 320.

1944

World War II: At Sainte-Foy-de-Montgomery in Normandy Field Marshal Erwin Rommel was strafed by allied aircraft while returning to his headquarters.

1945

World War II: The main three leaders of the Allied nations, Winston Churchill, Harry S. Truman and Joseph Stalin, meet in the German city of Potsdam to decide the future of a defeated Germany.



structive and collaborative role on the world stage to the benefit of all. Indeed, on climate change, some, such as the former UN official Christiana Figueres, think it can and will play the leading role after the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and President Trump's continued scepticism about the very concept of global warming.

More broadly, elements of the zero-sum approach appear to have been contributing factors to the disastrous Brexit negotiations. British leavers talked in terms of winning back control of fishing rights, which would have meant a loss of income to the continental fishing industry. Top European Union leaders, meanwhile, gave every impression that the UK must suffer a cost for daring to depart. I can't recall anyone, sadly, trying to work towards a British exit that would be positive for both sides.

Likewise, critics of Vladimir Putin regularly accuse him of seeing international relations as a zero sum game: that if Russia expands its influence, the US, in turn, loses it. But I am not alone in thinking that successive US administrations have acted in exactly the same way, and that opportunities to work with Russia to secure greater mutual stability have been missed, time and again.

For all that is disturbing about the Trump White House, the US president's keenness to reset relations with countries such as Russia and North Korea is to be applauded. These are confrontations that conventional wisdom has failed to solve. When it comes to China, Mr Trump should read Mr Bush's speech and take the lessons handed down from the late Republican president: that a zero-sum approach will fail and that the only way to make America great again will be to allow the Chinese the “win-win” scenario that, after the way they were treated by Western imperial powers in the past, they justly demand.

of influence”, while condemning China for having the temerity to suggest it should have the same.

Others present echoed Mr Bush's criticism of the “zero-sum game” approach, which I believe to be wrong-headed not just in terms of trade, but also in geopolitics. Too often a snappy and smart-sounding phrase can be produced that supposedly sums up a great power rivalry scenario and it then becomes generally assumed to be a revealed truth.

In the case of China, the “Thucydides trap” refers back to the writings of a Greek historian who witnessed the Peloponnesian war between the rising Athens and

the already established Sparta. The term was coined by Harvard's Graham Allison and elaborated upon in a book that concludes: “China and the US are currently on a collision course for war.” But there is no reason to suppose that China regaining its historic prominence necessitates war with the declining global hegemon, the US.

Just as the lifting out of poverty of nearly one billion Chinese since the early 1980s caused no harm to other countries – contrary to the presumption of “zero-sum” theory that one party's gain must mean another's loss – so there is every possibility, given sufficient good will, that China could play a con-

address political crisis



President Trump has managed to set back race relations by half a century with his hate-filled rants and his response to the deadly white supremacist rally in Charlottesville in 2017.

And to make it even worse, Ms Harris is unclear and muddy about where she actually stands in the busing debate (she says it was “in the toolbox” for desegregating American schools, but does not say how), even though she tried to seduce the audience with her emotional words “and that little girl on the bus was me ...”

I want to like Kamala Harris because I am a woman and a Democrat. But I don't find her nearly as impressive as her colleague in the Senate, Elizabeth Warren, who is less a politician and more a stud-

ious problem solver, prepared to roll up her sleeves and tackle the biggest issues in America: bankruptcy.

Ms Harris has also faced criticism because of her relationship with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, which according to the progressive activist group MoveOn, “has been known to peddle anti-Muslim and anti-Arab rhetoric”.

While Ms Harris did not go to the group's annual policy meeting in March, she did meet its key figures and tweeted a pho-

tograph. “Great to meet today in my office with California AIPAC leaders to discuss the need for a strong US-Israel alliance, the right of Israel to defend itself,” read the caption. It is true that Ms Harris has not actually made her Middle East policies clear, but I worry about someone who is susceptible to such Washington lobbyists. This, and the busing incident, make her an unreliable candidate, in my view.

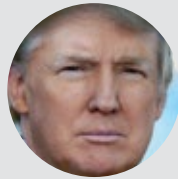
Whoever the next US president will be has to be someone as Corey Booker, the African-American New Jersey senator – who is also in the running – says, who can talk honestly and candidly about race. President Trump has managed to set back race relations by half a century with his hate-filled rants and his response to the deadly white supremacist rally in Charlottesville in 2017.

I have recently moved back to the US after nearly 30 years away. I try to remember those days of 1971, when things seemed so new: feminism, civil rights. We need to recall the wisdom of elders such as Martin Luther King and others who sacrificed so much to bring the country together – not tear it apart.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



The Dems were trying to distance themselves from the four “progressives,” but now they are forced to embrace them. That means they are endorsing Socialism, hate of Israel and the USA! Not good for the Democrats!

@realDonaldTrump

02



Donald Trump has decided he does not want to be President of the United States. He does not want to be a President to those who disagree. And he'd rather see most Americans leave than handle our nation's enshrined tradition of dissent. But we don't leave the things we love.

@AOC

03



I see Ilhan Omar being attacked in some conservative circles for not denouncing Al Qaeda. Her response was the correct one—she refused to dignify it with an answer. No American Muslim should have to spell out that they're anti-Al Qaeda. It should be the starting presumption

@shadihamid

04



Joe Biden raised his hand in support of giving free health care to illegal immigrants. Today he AGAIN suggested illegal immigrants deserve to receive Social Security benefits. So UNFAIR to American taxpayers and our great seniors!

@TrumpWarRoom

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

Wide Angle

Moon Landing: Its fascination in fiction



JOEL INDRUPATI

“There are more than 185,000 songs with the word ‘moon’ in their title.” That's according to Spotify, the audio streaming platform, with probably the largest database of songs.

On hearing this the staggering number of references to the ‘Moon’, I thought it might be worth dwelling on the topic of ‘moon’, as we commemorate now, the 50th anniversary of man's historic moon landing.

Man's fascination with the Moon – whether in song or in the story – has been going on for centuries; in fact, for millennia.

From poetic expressions in romance to serious inquiry through science, this lovely large white disc, which hovers overhead every night, in varied hues, in different phases on different days, has captivated mankind for ages.

So, how much did fiction help man dream a dream so big that he thought he could reach the Moon?

What were the small steps in fiction which led to this giant leap for mankind?

Investigating into these questions, I found a wealth of information that inspired man to journey to the Moon.

Many people regard an ancient Greek novel by Lucian of Samosata, a Syrian satirist, written around AD 120, as the first true piece of ‘science fiction’.

Titled ‘Vera Historia’ (A True Story), it actually begins by stating that the story is, in fact, an utter lie, and not true at all!

In the story, the ship of Lucian and his fellow travellers is blown off course, when caught up in a storm, and a whirlwind blows them up high – towards the Moon.

They get caught up in a full-scale interplanetary war. It is between the king of the Moon and the king of the Sun, over the colonisation of the Morning Star! Both armies with hybrid lifeforms could make us wonder if the second-century writer has

somehow got a sneak peek at the aliens shown in the ‘Star Wars’ movie series!

The prominent astronomer Johannes Kepler too had written some fiction. In his ‘Somnium’ (The Dream) published in 1634, four years after his death, he talks of a dream in which a demon describes the moon's inhabitants to an Icelandic boy and his mother who is a witch.

After Kepler's writings, many stories of moon voyages suddenly became popular; even by Cyrano de Bergerac and Daniel Defoe.

In 1638, an English historian and author Francis Godwin published a short novel called ‘The Man in the Moone’, describing the adventures of a Spaniard named Domingo Gonsales. Gonsales trains some migratory swans to wear harnesses and fly him around in an “engine” he had devised. He describes a 12-day journey watching the Earth recede from view as the swans take him to the lunar surface. And he tells us of a utopian lunar society there, where inhabitants are extraordinarily tall, with no illness, with no crime or with no need for any lawyers.

Around the same time another Englishman, the philosopher, and clergyman John Wilkins, composed ‘A Discourse Concerning a New World and Another Planet’, a full scientific discussion of the Moon and the possibility of voyaging there.

John Wilkins, in 1640, had apparently said, “I do seriously, and upon good grounds, affirm it possible to make a flying chariot, in which a man may sit, and give such a motion unto it, as shall convey him through the air.” (Many fictional moon voyages preceded the Apollo landing’ by Tom Seigfried, Sciencenews.org).

In 1865, Jules Verne's book ‘From the Earth to the Moon’ talked of a huge cannon, which can shoot a group of men into space, to land on the moon.

Even in the world of comic books, Tintin's adventures, in ‘Destination Moon’ and ‘Explorers on the Moon’, were written long before the actual Moon Landing.

None of us can deny the truth that science-fiction has in many ways inspired the real Moon landing.