

1980

After weeks of strikes at the Lenin Shipyard in Gdańsk, Poland, the nationwide independent trade union Solidarity is established.

1980

Former Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza Debayle is killed in Asunción, Paraguay.

1983

Vanessa Williams becomes the first black Miss America.



1988

The 1988 Summer Olympics are opened in Seoul, South Korea.



at the White House in Washington, DC.

people who publicly despise Greta Thunberg, Mr Monbiot suggested, know that the science is clear and cli-

mate change is real. They know that unchecked, it will destroy life on earth, so they compen-

sate for the uselessness of their own generation by transferring their guilt into being angrily

**A Sherlock Holmes investigation would conclude that the threat to the fossil fuel economy is not from a Swedish teenager or a touring rock band but from basic science and the human need to survive.**

patronising towards young people determined to resist. A kind of generational angst might be at work here, he suggested, but there is more to it. Recently a British Conservative MP, David Davies, jumped into the fray, attacking the rock band The 1975 for campaigning against climate change because they were also on a world tour. Mr Davies wrote an open letter, sarcastically asking: "I just wondered how you are going to get to these places?... Will you be sailing in a £4m superyacht like your mate Greta?" It's difficult to believe, given the chaos in British politics in Westminster, that attacking a 16-year-old girl and a rock band is top of any politician's agenda, but Mr Davies went ahead anyway. There is a common theme here. All those attacking climate activists appear to believe that be-

cause campaigners cannot avoid all use of fossil fuels, they should do nothing. Instead, the critics need to recognise that if we all do something, and do it quickly, we might be able to buy time for an orderly transition to other energy sources. Thinking governments are already trying. You can see it in the solar energy farms in the UAE, or the way education has become a top priority in the region, or in the UAE's status as - in the words of one contributor to a regional conference I attended - a kind of "Hong Kong" for the region, an economic and financial centre, preparing the future for generations to come. You can see it on the roofs of houses in rainy Britain where homeowners have fitted solar panels. And you can see it in the worldwide outrage over the burning of the Amazon rainforest.

A Sherlock Holmes investigation would conclude that the threat to the fossil fuel economy is not from a Swedish teenager or a touring rock band but from basic science and the human need to survive. It is clearly the truth.

Climate change is a problem created by humans. That means it can be fixed by humans - all of us. As Ms Thunberg says: "I'm not that special. I can't convince everyone." True - but she might just be irritating many of the right people.

## US-Iran relations

**Brokering deals requires flexibility and Mr Bolton proved an obstacle in this regard because he valued consistency and toughness even more.**

cently restated their loyalty to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as well as to the country's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. In a speech this week marking the Shia Muslim celebration of Ashura, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah said his party would accept being killed 1,000 times by the "Americans and Zionists" rather than abandon Mr Khamenei, whom he called the heir of Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Mohammed. Mr Nasrallah said his "axis of resistance" was prepared to take part in any war on behalf of Iran.

That Mr Nasrallah declared loyalty to Iran rather than his native Lebanon was telling, even more so at a time when David Schenker, the US assistant secretary for near eastern affairs, was making his first visit to Beirut. It was met with a robust response, with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reportedly calling for a "gloves-off approach" against Hezbollah and its backers. Mr Schenker himself told Lebanese officials: "The window of opportunity is still open but it has started to close. All those concerned must know we are very serious."

This could mean more sanctions. What is troubling, however, is whether it would translate to more than that.

Mr Schenker's Lebanon visit was purportedly to highlight the danger of Hezbollah's actions across the region, said to include manufacturing precision rockets in Lebanon. Lebanese leaders have been warned that unless they take action to rein in the group, their country could experience an outbreak of war. Confrontation remains a possibility.

## Terrorist strikes against Saudi Arabia are attacks against us all

**I**t doesn't matter whether the latest attacks against Saudi oil facilities came from Iraq or Yemen - whether they were launched by Kataib Hezbollah or the Houthis, it is obvious to us all that these attacks were authorised and planned in Tehran.

The latest attacks have grabbed news headlines because strikes against the world's most important oil installations endanger the economy and international oil supplies.

Yet there have been hundreds of such attacks; including against airport facilities, Saudi cities and even the holy sites in Mecca and Medina.

This is in addition to attacks against oil tankers and the use of militias and terrorists to undermine security in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria and elsewhere.

Whether or not the world knows it, Iran believes it is already at war against the Arab world and the West. Iran launches these attacks because it believes that it can get away with it and that it won't face consequences. On the contrary, Iran seems to believe that with such provocations it can force America and Europe to offer it concessions, even after it has restarted its nuclear programme.

Tehran appears to think that

the more aggressively and violently it behaves, the more it will win in some kind of future deal; no matter how many innocent people it kills or how much this damages the world economy.

We should therefore expect to see hundreds more such attacks, and they will perhaps get worse - UNLESS Iran is forced to realise that any such attacks against peace-loving states will incur a very high cost. Whatever happened to the UN? In the past these aggressions would have resulted in decisive action by Security Council members. European states try to appease Iran; yet if you appease a bully, they only get more violent and more ambitious.

Meanwhile, the US makes threats, but never follows through on them.

These attacks came immediately after Trump sacking John Bolton and asking President Rouhani to meet him. This sent a signal to Iran that the strategy of maximum pressure was dead; especially after America kept granting sanctions waivers to key states like China, India and Iraq, so that Tehran could continue to sell its oil and use the money to fund regional terrorism and militancy.

Iran's Ayatollahs are now out of control. They must

quickly be made to realise that when they attack great nations like Saudi Arabia, or fund terrorism in Bahrain and Iraq, or attack the ships of non-aggressive states like Japan and Norway; the full weight of international justice will land on their heads.

Meanwhile, states like Britain, France and Germany should acknowledge that Iran is not a normal state which they can do business with and which will play by the rules. Iran promised Britain that the tanker that was stopped in Gibraltar would not be used to transfer oil to the terrorist, genocidal Assad regime. Yet a week later, this same ship turned up on the coast of Syria. Iran lies so naturally and easily, that diplomats who should know better are deceived again and again.

Until the world comes to its senses, the GCC states and the Arab world as a whole should show a united face to Iran and the world, forcing acknowledgement that such aggressions can never be tolerated. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Saudi Arabia. Yet our thoughts and prayers alone are insufficient if we don't want to see such terrorist crimes - over and over again - targeted against us all.

*Citizens for Bahrain*



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Our day-to-day existence is very much alive with hope, although there is no guarantee of our future. There is no guarantee that tomorrow at this time we will be here. But still we are working for that purely on the basis of hope. So, we need to make the best use of our time.

@DalaiLama

02



Because we have done so well with Energy over the last few years (thank you, Mr. President!), we are a net Energy Exporter, & now the Number One Energy Producer in the World. We don't need Middle Eastern Oil & Gas, & in fact have very few tankers there, but will help our Allies!

@realDonaldTrump

03



We are all incredible creators. The only difference is our point of focus... Stop paying attention to other people's drama. Start focusing more on your own dreams and goals.

@MyPowertalk

04



Slovenia has made a niche for itself in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, defence and clean water technologies. India's growth and Slovenia's technology and manufacturing capacity complement each other.

@rashtrapatibhvn

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