

1973

King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden has his investiture.



1983

Saint Kitts and Nevis gains its independence.

2006

The Thai army stages a coup. The Constitution is revoked and martial law is declared.

2017

The 2017 Puebla earthquake strikes Mexico, causing 370 deaths and over 6,000 injuries, as well as extensive damage.

If the Republican Party had not set out to destroy the Affordable Care Act, the legislation might have been amended to address its shortcomings. But on this signature issue, the Democratic Party is widely seen as the author of a policy that failed low-wage Americans.

ronmental concerns take them away.”

Saving the planet is important work. But an exclusive focus on environmentalism that ignores working people’s immediate needs can easily look like elitist indifference. Colcord, whose father worked in the mines, has watched in recent years as a coal-fired power plant in his region gets regulated out of existence — “and when all those jobs go and your tax base with it, the party just doesn’t care.”

In rural Colorado, Obamacare is a disaster. Insurance companies have pulled out, and when there’s only one left, premiums go way up. Few people can afford health insurance at that price. It’s perhaps the No. 1 concern of voters outside big cities. Some Coloradans worry that they will lose Medicaid if they take a job. The system is an anxiety-generating labyrinth.

Sure, if the Republican Party had not set out to destroy the Affordable Care Act, the legislation might have been amended to address its shortcomings. But

on this signature issue, the Democratic Party is widely seen as the author of a policy that failed low-wage Americans. Again, this looks like elitist indifference.

Colorado has some of the worst funded schools in the country. Some have gone to four-day weeks because there’s no tax money to support them and it costs too much to run the school buses. Imagine telling the parents of kids in affluent metropolitan Democratic strongholds, sorry, we have to skip a day a week of school. But I don’t see the Democratic Party owning the education issue.

Colcord calls himself an “ultraconservative Democrat.” He supported Trump’s tax cuts for businesses but hated the tax cuts for the wealthiest, and he says the biggest reason he’s a Democrat is growing income inequality, an issue Republicans dismiss. He believes strongly in Roe v. Wade, having witnessed a 13-year-old giving birth when he was an intern in a hospital (“That really set my feelings”). He can’t stand Trump’s lies. He thinks that the country desperately needs immigration — some Colorado farms can’t find workers, thanks to Trump — and that Trump’s proposed wall is a crazy waste of money.

At the same time, he’s disillusioned with a party that can’t find a political idiom comprehensible to Americans around him. To take back the White House in 2020, Democrats would be better advised to keep their eye on Colcord than on Manafort.

(Roger Cohen is a columnist with The New York Times.)

(In collaboration with New York Times)

## US should get behind

st it would bring peace

religious sites dot Kosovo. But if the proposed swap offers a face-saving way for Serbia to normalize relations with Kosovo and let the Balkans move forward, Kosovars and their international supporters should jump at it.

Admittedly, the Serbs that stay in Kosovo proper would be an even smaller minority if the north joins Serbia. Indeed, some Serbs will surely leave. Unsavory population transfers would also be likely in the Presevo Valley as ethnic Albanians move to areas destined to become part of Kosovo and ethnic Serbs leave them. But the establishment of formal relations between Kosovo and Serbia would bring a sense of normality and stability to Kosovo, encouraging those Serbs who remain there to become more invested in the country’s future. And Kosovo thus far has done a respectable job of protecting the rights of minorities.

Critics of the swap claim that it would set a dangerous precedent at a time when ethnic nationalism is already surging in Europe and beyond. In particular, the swap could fuel calls in other parts of the Balkans for borders to be redrawn along ethnic lines. Fair enough. Separatist

Pragmatism needs to trump principle in this case to secure a deal that promises to bring a close to the years of bloodshed and border changes that have resulted from the collapse of Yugoslavia.

sentiment among ethnic Serbs in Bosnia, ethnic Albanians in Macedonia or minorities elsewhere could strengthen.

But nowhere else in the Balkans is a consensual adjustment of borders on the table. If the proposed swap materializes, the international community should stress that it supports it as an extraordinary exception.

Rather than causing a contagion of ethnic separation, normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo may well do the opposite. Serbia is the region’s dominant player. If it settles its impasse with Kosovo, it may well transition from being

an aggrieved troublemaker to a satisfied stakeholder. Serbia’s help would be particularly welcome in discouraging Republika Srpska, the Serb-dominated region of Bosnia left behind by the war there in the 1990s, from seeking to break away. The positive effects of reconciliation between Serbia and Kosovo further justify a one-off sacrifice of pluralist principles.

Finally, the European Union has made clear that Serbia and Kosovo need to normalize relations if they are to join the union — a step that would immeasurably advance Balkan stability and prosperity. The envisaged land swap brings closer that better future.

The Serb and Kosovar presidents have tough negotiations ahead of them. But if Vucic and Thaci can pull this off, the United States and the European Union should embrace the deal. By offering a tentative green light now, Washington and Brussels can provide crucial encouragement and help build public support for an agreement in both Serbia and Kosovo.

(Charles A Kupchan is a professor of international affairs at Georgetown University and a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.)



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Hey, @Eminem -- you, HRap God ... your songs give me all the, uhm, “feels” (wink)... know you were bullied as a kid. could you (or your people) plz reach out to me on DM about trying to get you involved in an anti-bullying campaign for next month?

@MonicaLewinsky

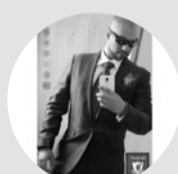
02



From reading the iPhone Xs/Xs Max reviews I’ve gleaned the following:  
- they’re exactly what you’d expect from watching the Apple keynote  
- if you’re an iPhone user without an X, they’re a great upgrade  
- great camera unless you’re switching from a Pixel 2 (few will)

@MartinSFP

03



Bahrain MPs will vote in two weeks time to approve the VAT. A 5% tax that the people of Bahrain will have to pay on goods and services.

@ATEEKSTER

04



The most successful people have had the some of the most difficult periods in life too.

The difference is how they respond to the situation. You take every situation as an opportunity. You learn, you strengthen, you grow.

#Leadership @sadhavi

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

### Wide Angle

## Women and voting rights



JOEL INDRUPATI

Exactly 125 years ago, on 19 September 1893, New Zealand made history, as it became the world’s first self-governing nation to give voting rights to all its adult women.

However, when it came to equal rights for women, several nations were still backward then.

Two years later, in 1895 however, the women of South Australia achieved the same right. And, one after the other, almost all democratic countries gave women the right to vote.

As we now look back at the 125 years of the history related to women’s suffrage, we must acknowledge a bitter truth -- that the so-called ‘advanced’ nations had been very reluctant to give women the right to become political participants in their governments.

In fact, in USA and UK at that time, there were still protests demanding for women’s right to vote.

But it was not until 1918 and 1920 that UK and USA, respectively, gave in to women’s demands, and allowed them to finally participate in the electoral process.

In New Zealand, when the elections were held two months after it had become the law, nearly two-thirds of New Zealand’s women, aged over 21, used their vote despite fears of harassment at the polling booths.

In 2009, I remember that when Saudi Arabia had announced that women will be allowed to run for local elections in 2015, an editorial of ‘The Washington Times’ was quick to criticise.

The editorial had said that since Saudi women are anyway not going to vote that year, the announcement was only a PR ploy. It had said that the announcement was not a big deal, because elections in the 178 Saudi municipalities were being held at a local level.

Yet, it was a giant leap for Saudi Arabia. A leap that all progressive-minded people should appreciate.

Not only had women voted but 17 women had actually won in the local elections of 2015. And great many changes have followed.

The 2016 Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum has ranked Saudi Arabia ahead of some countries like Syria, Pakistan and Yemen.

What The Washington Times had failed to understand then was that the centuries of tradition and the deep-rooted belief systems cannot change at the snap of a finger. And this phased manner of enabling women empowerment must be welcomed, not criticised.

In fact, the US must look back its own history before commenting on women’s suffrage. Here is the truth I learnt from a little bit of research.

On January 12, 1915, a women’s suffrage bill was brought before the US “House of Representatives” but was defeated by a vote of 204 to 174.

On January 10, 1918, another bill was brought before the House. President Wilson had then made a strong appeal to the House to pass the bill. It was passed by two-thirds of the House, with only one vote to spare. The vote was then carried into the “Senate” and on September 30, 1918, the amendment fell two votes short of passage. Again, on February 10, 1919, it was voted upon, and lost by only one vote.

With great anxiety among politicians of both parties to have the amendment passed before the general elections of 1920, the President called a special session of Congress, and introduced the amendment, which finally passed.

On Aug 18, 1920, with the ratification by the state of Tennessee, it became a law.

In fact, this ‘Nineteenth Amendment’ to the US Constitution, allowing women to vote came out of an extremely slow process. The state of Mississippi was the last state to ratify the amendment. And it did it as late as 1984.

Recognition of women’s voting rights in the 125 years has been slow, but steady.