

1960

The **Sudanese Republic** is renamed Mali after the withdrawal of Senegal from the Mali Federation.

1965

The **Indo-Pakistani War** of 1965 between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, ends after the United Nations calls for a ceasefire.

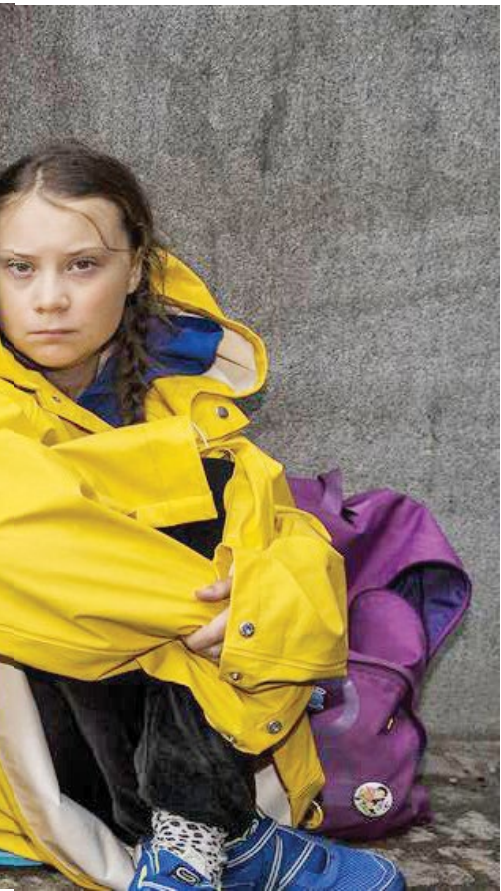
1975

Sara Jane Moore tries to assassinate U.S. President **Gerald Ford**, but is foiled by the Secret Service.



1979

A bright flash, resembling the detonation of a nuclear weapon, is observed near the **Prince Edward Islands**. Its cause is never determined.



ise awareness of climate change on 28 August 2018.

far more advance their case. One dubious counter-claim was that if a glass of juice and ice was filled to the brim, it would not spill over as the cubes melted.

Extrapolate this to the planet and the argument was that the polar ice caps could melt but sea levels would barely change.

A tranche of columnists found a lucrative niche in plugging these

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claims. In Britain the anti-climate change cause was promoted by controversialists such as Dominic Lawson, Matt Ridley and James Delingpole.

Not all the writers who share climate doubts are from the right. Piers Corbyn, the brother of the Trotskyite leader of the British Labour party, was a paid-up member of the gang.

A meteorologist, Mr Corbyn claimed to operate his own weather prediction service.

This was predicated on the assumption that the warming of the planet was part of the natural cycle – therefore it was neither man-made nor reversible by behavioural changes.

Denying the endangering of the planet provided a lucrative career path for writers with this outlook for the best part of two decades. The US media similarly afforded airtime to climate doubters.

If you asked these advocates now,

the majority would continue to adhere to their long-held views. There is a commonly held theory, for example, that global warming might be useful because the planet is entering a long-term cooling phase.

However, the appetite for such opinions is vanishing. The controversialists are finding their sometimes conspiracy-laden arguments have diminishing appeal.

A lot have moved onto other causes. The aforementioned names and others of their ilk are preoccupied with more homegrown issues, not least Brexit. Most are in favour of a blind leap into a brave new world of trade, and of ridiculing the array of experts throwing doubt on their arguments.

UNGA will be one of the few places where the doubters retain a strong voice. Certain world leaders balk at the idea of restraining growth or imposing supposedly nanny state policies to slow down the global rise in temperature.

Thus the climate summit is set to trigger rancour at the top table of international affairs in ways that it no longer does either in science or among the commentariat.

There is one sliver of hope as events kick off this week – that by airing differences on this and other topics, some of the wilder fringes of the argument ebb away.

At the UN, leaders have serious rebuilding to do on a whole range of issues. UN envoys to Libya and Yemen need real support and high-level backing this week. The plight of refugees must return to the spotlight. But first we must save the planet.

s infecting public life



al in 2017.

meron's account avoids comfortable fact that unced a referendum upon 16, membership of the an issue of little con- the vast majority of the people, and the vote was to appease Euroscep- ents in his own party, e expectation that the camp would win. He eful campaign, lost the his job to boot. erm "historical nega-

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been repeatedly confronted with controversial past statements he has made and responded with his own historical revisionism.



tionism" was first coined in 1987 by the French writer Henry Rousso to describe histories of the Nazi occupation and the puppet Vichy government in Second World War France. Rousso argued that many of these accounts ignored what the French call "collabos" – French men and women who collaborated with the Nazis and helped enable the deportation of Jewish citizens to the death camps.

The British historian Sir Richard Evans was called to give evidence in another very famous case of wartime historical negationism, that of David Irving. Irving was described as a "Holocaust denier" by the American historian Deborah Lipstadt, and he sued her for libel. Thanks in part to Sir Richard, Lipstadt won the case and Irving has been utterly discred-

ited. Sir Richard argued that "reputable and professional historians do not suppress parts of quotations from documents that go against their own case, but take them into account, and, if necessary, amend their own case accordingly".

His words should resonate in our political debates of today. It's not only historians who sometimes fail to "take into account" facts and documents which undermine their own views or prejudices. Politicians sometimes do the same. Tony Blair, otherwise a very successful prime minister, failed to take into account facts which suggested intelligence on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq was flawed. Most recently, US President Donald Trump defended his claims that a hurricane was predicted to strike Alabama. When he was corrected by climate experts, he refused to admit he had made a mistake and persisted in sticking to an account that was clearly not true, to the extent of brandishing a map in a White House briefing that had clearly been altered to back up his version. And British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been repeatedly confronted with controversial past statements he has made and responded with his own historical revisionism. He has simply denied he made certain controversial remarks, when television footage clearly shows that is not true.

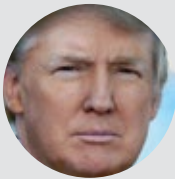
There will come a time when Britain's current struggles with leaving the European Union will result in historical essays on Brexit and perhaps a learned book or two. But historians will find it difficult to agree on any set of "lies" or "truths" when they look back over current events in Britain. We cannot agree on "truth" right now. This disagreement about truth and lies, fact and fiction, extends from politicians at the very top of governments to ordinary people. European Union leaders and diplomats, who have given Mr Johnson until the end of the month to come up with a solution, have made clear they do not believe he has a plan for Brexit or is even actively seeking an agreement. Mr Johnson says he is energetically working for a deal with all sorts of inventive plans – although what these might be, we still do not know. Perhaps we will agree the Brexit "truth" or "lies" in the end, but this kind of dispute extends much further.

It is difficult enough for historians to agree in drawing objective conclusions about the past, without those who are engaged in creating history right now attempting to rewrite it, even as we are living it. Their dishonesty is like a virus infecting public life, right down to the woman in Conway Hall who, no doubt, genuinely believed what she was saying, even though it is demonstrably false.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Now that the Democrats and the Fake News Media have gone "bust" on every other of their Witch Hunt schemes, they are trying to start one just as ridiculous as the others, call it the Ukraine Witch Hunt, while at the same time trying to protect Sleepy Joe Biden. Will fail again!

@realDonaldTrump

02



"Animal Farm" comes to India!! Orwell should be pleased, since his "1984" got here already....

@ShashiTharoor

03



It's our responsibility to work with vision, determination and wisdom to create a happier, more peaceful world. We need to take action, while respecting others and their needs, considering all 7 billion human beings alive today as belonging to one human family. #PeaceDayChallenge

@DalaiLama

04



I thank the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for conferring upon me the Global Goalkeepers Goals Award 2019. Over the last five years India has taken many efforts to improve cleanliness and sanitation, fulfilling Gandhi Ji's dream of a Swachh Bharat.

@narendramodi

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

Red alert against vaping



CAPT. MAHMOOD AL MAHMOOD

We all know of the terrible effects of nicotine, the killer chemical in tobacco.

But did you know that e-cigarettes contain a far more damaging ingredient called tetrahydrocannabinol, the psychoactive component of cannabis?

Since the use of any psychosomatic drug is forbidden in Islamic tenets, my question is, why have we allowed so many Vape shops in Bahrain which sell e-cigarettes and their paraphernalia?

Why are our MPs, who make a noise about so many so-called 'unIslamic' activities, simply turning a blind eye to the ill-effects of vaping, health-wise and spiritually?

Recently, the Indian government announced a ban on the production, import and sale of electronic cigarettes, backing it with stiff jail terms and fines.

This is because e-cigarettes are sold online where there is no guarantee that the buyer is above 18 and young people are particularly vulnerable to the addiction risk and the consequent neurological damage that vaping causes.

It took the world centuries to acknowledge the dangers of tobacco use and we are desperately trying to repair the damage and also to contain the immense power of tobacco lobby groups globally.

People can turn a deaf ear to health warnings but the irresistible lure of looking glamorous and receiving a confidence boost is more difficult to ignore.



The money that they have at their disposal to counter all claims and to put out false and reassuring research is frightening. Every year, new groups are found to fuel tobacco sales and it is done by positioning cigarettes, cigars and even pipe tobacco as a style statement.

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ignore.

The same story is being repeated with vaping. It is being projected to youth especially, as a style statement and the forbidden chemicals in it give it an edge of (mis) adventure.

In addition, the vaping industry is projecting it as a habit that helps to curb tobacco withdrawal symptoms when a person is trying to kick the smoking habit. Both are images that are false and misleading.

I urge MPs, Municipal Councillors and community leaders to come together and campaign for the banning of vaping.

For MPs – it is a duty to your country. For councillors and community leaders – it is your district and neighbourhood.

For all of us – it is our community, our youth, our children – Our Future. Let us save it from this scourge.

(Captain Mahmood Al Mahmood is the Editor-in-Chief of The Daily Tribune and the President of the Arab-African Unity Organisation for Relief, Human Rights and Counter-terrorism)