

1635

The first public school in the United States, **Boston Latin School**, is founded in Boston.

1655

The Siege of Santo Domingo begins during the **Anglo-Spanish War**, and fails seven days later.

1660

**Treaty of Oliva** is established between Sweden and Poland.



1661

**King Charles II** of England, Scotland and Ireland is crowned in Westminster Abbey.

# Sri Lanka bombings

terrorism



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is intimately connected to Sri Lanka's origin narratives, dating from at least 100 BC; Hinduism arrived definitively a few centuries later. Muslims have been in Sri Lanka since the Middle Ages, by way of the island's commerce with the Arab world; and Christians have been there since at least the beginning of European colonialism in the 16th century.

These religions have not always lived in harmony, but such conflicts have generally been the exception, as peoples of different faiths, at least when it comes to faith itself, have generally figured out ways to live together in the distinctive shared space and comparative isolation of a small island country in the Indian Ocean.

That isolation is suddenly, undeniably gone. News reports about the recent attacks suggest that Sri Lankan authorities had already been monitoring local Islamic terror

groups, which they suspected were plotting attacks on Catholic churches, who were no doubt inspired by global currents and conflicts situated far beyond the island's shores.

At the same time, as the world responds, leaders from Pope Francis to President Donald Trump have condemned the suicide bombings of churches and hotels in words and ways that are immediately familiar. Since news of Sunday's attacks reached me in Toronto, I have been fielding a steady array of concern, and sending out my own, to loved ones back in Sri Lanka. For the first time, I can discuss a tragic situation in Sri Lanka with friends and colleagues with a searing, mutually assured comprehension.

Still, I wonder how these messages of sympathy and explanation are being received and felt by Sri Lankans. Islamic terrorism may be new, but suicide bombings are terribly familiar, after a decadelong break. They must wonder if anyone cares about the fraught efforts at political and economic renewal that have come in between, not to mention a necessarily imperfect but undeniably durable model of pluralist religious cohabitation.

Sympathy for Sri Lanka is not for what the island has lost. Rather, it is for what Sri Lanka has gained — membership in a global conflict that is at once fresh and familiar, for the island and for the world.

(Randy Boyagoda is a novelist and professor of English at the University of Toronto, where he is also principal of St Michael's College.)

## knowns

ates the process



Timely response efforts would be frustrated by poor knowledge about what is occurring and how to contain the threat.

ple threatened by the mosquito that carries the virus. Though probably not a direct result of climate change, Zika starkly illustrates the type of inconceivable surprises, and their demoralising consequences, that threaten to emerge with ever greater frequency should we fail to slow global warming.

Three millennia ago, Homer foreshadowed our dilemma. He wrote of Odysseus returning by ship across the Aegean Sea, headed homeward to Greece after his great victory over Troy. Odysseus

anticipated an arduous sea journey, but was unprepared for what followed: an interminable voyage punctuated by unimaginably difficult experiences one after another, from Sirens to the Cyclops.

Our decisions in the next few years will determine whether our climate journey follows a similar course. Perhaps current policy discussions will navigate society through the journey's recognised risks. If warming progresses rapidly, however, the known concerns — increasing temperatures, sea level rise, a melting Arctic — will not be the whole story. Nature's unforeseeable surprises, some unimaginable to us today, could become pivotal to our fate.

Without an aggressive policy commitment to mitigation by rapidly reducing our carbon emissions, our grandchildren could be destined to live in a world with nature's unknown unknowns around each year's turn.

(William B Gail is a co-founder of Global Weather Corp, a past president of the American Meteorological Society and the author of "Climate Conundrums: What the Climate Debate Reveals About Us".)



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TWEETS

01



“Our hearts go out to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives, to the Christian community, and to the people of Sri Lanka at this tragic time. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.”

@KensingtonRoyal

02



Maximum pressure on the Iranian regime means maximum pressure. That's why the U.S. will not issue any exceptions to Iranian oil importers. The global oil market remains well-supplied. We're confident it will remain stable as jurisdictions transition away from Iranian crude.

@SecPompeo

03



Seven days from today, you will get an opportunity to exercise your right to vote. Take that opportunity to make yourself heard, to strengthen our democracy and our country. Mumbaikars - Vote for a new India! 29th April 2019 #MumbaiVoteKar

@poonam\_mahajan

04



Today, too, let us join in prayer with the Christian community of Sri Lanka, which was struck by terrible violence on Easter Sunday. We entrust to the risen Lord the victims, the wounded and all the suffering. #PrayForSri-Lanka

@Pontifex

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

## Jointly build the belt and road and realise shared development



HE ANWAER

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is an important initiative for international cooperation proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping to enhance both China's development and its cooperation with global partners. The BRI represents a major breakthrough in both theory and practice, which the aim is to uphold multilateralism and promote world peace and development, and it carries far-reaching significance. Since its inception, the BRI has received strong endorsement and warm support of the international community. So far, a total of 124 countries and 29 international organizations have signed BRI cooperation documents with China. Meanwhile, the BRI vision has been included in documents of major international institutions including the United Nations, the G20, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Indeed, the BRI has proved a popular and worthy cause that goes along with the trend of our times and responds to the shared aspiration of countries for development through mutually beneficial cooperation. The BRI has become one of the most important and popular global public products in the new era.

The Second Belt and Road Forum (BRF) will be held in Beijing from 25 to 27 April this year. The theme of this year's BRF is: Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future. Representatives from over 100 countries, including about 40 leaders of foreign governments, have confirmed their attendance. As the host country, we will, together with other Forum parties, take stock of what has been achieved and draw a blueprint for future cooperation to further enrich BRI cooperation.

China hopes that the participating parties will further enrich the vision of advancing quality BRI cooperation. China hopes the participating parties will continue to follow the principle of consultation and cooperation for shared benefits, stick to people-centered development philosophy, forge extensive partnerships, and jointly promote all-round connectivity. Undoubtedly, the Forum will send a positive message of strengthening international economic cooperation, promoting global growth, and building an open global economy.

China hopes that the participating parties will set clear priorities for cooperation and make concrete progress toward quality cooperation. BRI cooperation is not a talk shop, but an action-oriented initiative that delivers real outcomes. The second BRF is expected to produce a full range of outcomes, including both governmental cooperation agreements and initiatives, and concrete cooperation projects involving participation of the business sector. China is confident that the sec-

ond BRF will produce even greater numbers of cooperation outcomes that are of still higher quality. China hopes that the participating parties will strengthen cooperation mechanisms for quality BRI cooperation. The parties concerned are currently involved in BRI cooperation in various forms. China hopes that the participating parties attending the Forum will build on successful practices and jointly develop a multi-tiered cooperation framework.

China believes that with the concerted efforts of all the participating parties, the second BRF will deliver fruitful outcomes, create more driving forces for the economic growth of both participating countries and other countries concerned, provide more opportunities for international economic cooperation, and contribute more to the vision of a community with a shared future for mankind and a new type of international relations.

Recently, some people have expressed different views about the BRI, claiming that the Initiative is China's geopolitical tool and could cause some countries to fall into a debt trap. Such

views are less than objective or balanced. They are simply a misunderstanding, misrepresentation and even biased view of the BRI. China has stressed on many occasions that the BRI is an initiative for economic cooperation that supports common development. All parties involved are equal participants, they have all contributed to the Initiative and benefited from it. The BRI is open, inclusive and transparent. It does not harbor any hidden geopolitical agenda, nor is it designed to form an exclusive circle or

impose discriminatory trade terms on others.

The friendship between China and Bahrain goes back to ancient times. The ancient silk road has long linked China and Bahrain, and has been told by many in the history of friendship between the two countries.

Bahrain is not only an important member of the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council, but also a significant cooperation partner in joint building of the BRI in the Gulf. China has always attached great importance to the development of friendly relations with Bahrain and cherished the friendship and cooperation with Bahrain. China is willing to continue to adhere the principle of mutual respect and trust with each other, catch up the important opportunity of 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between us, implement the important consensus reached by President Xi Jinping and HM King Hamad, and promote the development of friendly cooperative relations between China and Bahrain into a new level, and jointly safeguard regional prosperity and stability. I believe that with the integration and implementation of the BRI and Bahrain's Economic Outlook 2030, the future of our bilateral relations will be more and more beautiful!

(He Anwaer, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Bahrain)