

1922

Japanese aircraft carrier **Hōshō** becomes the first purpose built aircraft carrier to be commissioned in the world.

1927

**Kern and Hammerstein's** musical play *Show Boat*, considered to be the first true American musical play, opens at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Broadway.

1929

Soviet General Secretary **Joseph Stalin** orders the "liquidation of the kulaks as a class".



1932

Radio City Music Hall, "**Showplace of the Nation**", opens in New York City.



constitution also reserves major, overriding powers for unelected, military-controlled bodies – for example, the one tasked with overseeing a vast 20-year development plan.

And at least until a new government is formed, the Constitution can be superseded altogether – thanks to a document that predates it. Section 44 of the 2014 interim constitution essentially allows the head of the junta – today, Prayuth – to do anything he deems necessary for the sake of not only national security, but also the monarchy, national economics or "public unity and harmony," among other things.

But Prayuth, or other generals, would be resorting to such strong-arm tactics at their own risk, for opposition to their regime is deepening and becoming more sophisticated.

Many Thais live at the country's periphery, geographic and otherwise, and the periphery still wants democracy. The March 24 election is unlikely to bring anything like that, but the campaign has shown that pro-democracy parties continue to make strides, strengthening their popular appeal and refining their platforms.

The great unknown of this election is what role Thailand's relatively new king, Maha Vajiralongkorn, might play, if only symbolically. (The Thai royal family is, avowedly, above politics.) Since coming to power in late 2016, King Vajiralongkorn has surprised some observers with his assertiveness, especially toward the military.

Last month, another member of the royal family also defied expectations. The king's older sister, Ubolratana Rajakanya Sirivadhana Varnavadi, announced her intention to run for prime minister – and on the ticket of the decidedly grassroots, northeast-centered Thai Raksa Chart, another party thought to be aligned with Thaksin.

Her candidacy lasted only a few hours, before the king – and later, the election commission – dismissed it. (Although Ubolratana renounced her title as princess years ago, her foray into politics was deemed to be "inappropriate.") Then, the military-dominated constitutional court disbanded Thai Raksa Chart, disqualifying its members from running in the March 24 election.

The party's dissolution was a setback for Thai democrats, of course. But looking past the twists and turns and apparent tensions exposed by this episode, it also seemed to suggest within the royal family a growing sympathy for a tranche of Thai society well beyond its traditional base, the generally moneyed and powerful, Bangkok-based hypermonarchists known as yellow shirts.

To put the point differently: Thailand's election on March 24 may not be quite what it seems. More than a vote of confidence in the military, it may be a test of the monarchy's willingness to listen to the majority.

(David Streckfuss, a historian, is the author of "Truth on Trial in Thailand: Defamation, Treason and Lèse-Majesté".)

recent weeks, and they were cautiously optimistic that together they could nonetheless take a majority of seats in the lower house. But even if they win, they could be relegated to being, curiously, a kind of majority opposition: Under the military-drafted 2017 constitution, the next prime minister is to be selected by a vote of the full Legislature – which also includes 250 senators nominated by the military.

The Constitution does allow a majority of the lower house to hold a no-confidence vote on the prime minister – meaning that Prayuth, even if selected for the post, might not be certain to keep it for long. On the other hand, the

## te terror

the title of his manifesto: "The Great Replacement."

Like the Norwegian, Tarrant is obsessed with birthrates and describes Europe as growing weaker and older. The Norwegian terrorist wanted to establish state-run birth clinics where blond, blue-eyed mothers would give birth to a dozen children each. Tarrant wants to restore what he calls "traditional family values."

Even though Tarrant's manifesto is tailored to his dark web audience, sometimes with coded language, he tries to create a background of normalcy by quoting poems by Rudyard Kipling and referring to more mainstream right-wing figures. Likewise, Breivik frequently quoted people like Thomas Jefferson, as if he were the rightful heir to well-established ideas.

Their main agenda is the same: to crush Muslim immigration. Tarrant wants to "deport those invaders already living on our soil." Breivik suggested that every Muslim should be given the opportunity to convert to Christianity and take a Christian name. Those who do not obey should be deported or executed. All examples of Islamic art should be destroyed including all mosques; languages like Arabic, Persian, Urdu and Somali would be banned.

One of the mosques targeted in New Zealand is built on the

**Both men wrote about sacrificing themselves to a greater cause and envisioned that they would be released from prison by their followers after a "conservative revolution".**

site where a church once stood. While the Christchurch gunman aimed straight at his targets, Breivik wanted to kill the so-called traitors, the members of the liberal elite and ruling Labour Party who had let Muslims into the country.

Both men wrote about sacrificing themselves to a greater cause and envisioned that they would be released from prison by their followers after a "conservative revolution" swept through the world.

Breivik was diagnosed with a narcissistic personality disorder by court psychiatrists; Tarrant displays similar traits. He wrote in his manifesto that he not only expects to be released but hopes to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He should be free after

27 years, he wrote, like Nelson Mandela, after serving "for the same crime."

While parts of Breivik's manifesto can be read as a manual for an act of terror, it is a call to action. Tarrant echoes that call, writing, "Whilst you wait for a signal, your people wait for you." Both described themselves as fascists and used metaphors of war to justify the murders.

Are we complicit in spreading the ideas of these fascists by writing about them? The answer is no. Radicalisation happens first and foremost on the internet, where violent extremists meet and incite each other, and where they should be tracked down and monitored.

We can't allow ourselves to be ignorant. To fight terrorism, we need to research how individuals become terrorists. We need to analyse and expose fascist thoughts and violence.

People like Breivik and Tarrant spread myths and conspiracies dressed up as facts. They use guns to be read. Their thoughts thrive in the darkness, tailored to an underground community. We need to expose the ideas and the lives of these white supremacists. Only then can we dissect them properly.

(Asne Seierstad is the author of "One of Us: The Story of Anders Breivik and the Massacre in Norway".)



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



Heading to the Senate floor to join my Democratic colleagues in lifting up the voices of people in my home state of Washington and around the nation who want Republicans to listen to the science and work with us to address the immediate threat of climate change.

@PattyMurray

02



Speech has impact. We need more empirical data to precisely tailor 'reasonable' restrictions on dangerous speech. May speech and acts rooted in generosity and affection flourish.

@karunanundy

03



Returning to Delhi after a sojourn in the Himalayas. India is a land of contrasts, from the world's highest mountains to the world's largest cities in a days drive.

@davidfrawleyved

04



Our goal is to pass Medicare for All and make health care a right. Today our job is to defend the Affordable Care Act from relentless attacks by the Trump administration.

@BernieSanders

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

## Wide Angle

### The growing menace of hidden cameras



JOEL INDRUPATI

We rave about the joys that new technology brings to us. But, are we neglecting the horrors it could also unleash on us?

We say that smart gadgets are a boon. But are we blind to the truth that they have also become our bane, robbing us of our privacy and security?

Take this latest news, for example.

A Hong Kong tourist has been arrested in Australia, on Monday 25 March, on charges of using a hidden camera to record a woman showering.

The 36 year old tourist allegedly concealed a spy camera, in a stick of a deodorant. He left it in the bathroom of a hostel in Bondi Beach, Sydney, New South Wales.

A 27 year French woman, who had to share the bathroom, found it, took the photographs of the deodorant-with camera, and informed the police.

When the police searched the man, they found numerous hard drives with videos of women, apparently, taken by secret cameras.

Now, this news has caught the world's attention because it comes in the wake of another, more horrifying story, less than 10 days ago.

In South Korea, 1,600 unsuspecting hotel guests have been filmed – actually, live-streamed – from 42 hotel rooms, in 30 budget hotels, across 10 cities of the country.

It was found that tiny cameras with one-millimetre lenses were hidden in hair dryer holders, satellite boxes and closed electrical sockets. And videos were being shown on a website that charged some viewers for a monthly subscription.

Two men were caught. But, anyone could surmise, they were a part of a very wide spy-cam ring, profiting from the voyeuristic network.

A shocking 6,500 cases of this type were reported in 2017, in South Korea alone. This is according to a BBC report, "South Korean women protest in Seoul over hidden sex cameras" (BBC News, 7 Jul 2018).

In UK, some 18 months ago, a young woman Gina Martin caught two men filming her at a music concert, with phone-cameras under her skirt, and complained to police. But the culprits could not be punished.

She realised there was no law in England and Wales, really, to arrest men who commit such crimes.

But, thanks to Gina Martin's stubborn and determined political campaign, with more and more women joining in, and giving their own experiences, the UK Parliament had to take it up, seriously.

Finally, in February 2019, just one month ago, UK passed the Voyeurism (Offences) Act 2019 which comes into force from 12 April 2019. It also made amendments to Sexual Offences Act 2003.

With UK's new law, 'upskirting' is now a criminal offence, and perpetrators could face two years in prison and be placed on the sex offenders register.

There are other such news-stories of couples finding hidden cameras in hotel rooms in US, in a cruise-ship room on the Caribbean, and even in an Airbnb flat in Toronto.

Not only in South Korea, Australia, UK, USA, Canada or the Caribbean, but across the world, hidden cameras, which can be easily bought online, have become a big menace. They are violating the privacy of individuals, and threatening the general wellbeing of the society.

Data protection laws of many countries demand that even the CCTV footage from public places must comply with specific laws related their recording, storage, retrieval, access, and deletion. The main aim is to protect individuals' privacy.

It is therefore a shame that many countries do not have effective laws to protect women from being secretly filmed, to meet the desires of some depraved minds.

Preaching moral values may be largely in the gamut of religious organisations, but making effective laws, to constrain technology from running amok, is one of governments' main responsibilities.