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**POLYHEDRAL
VISIONS
OF THE
WORLD**

02

**—
SUMMER EDITION
STORM MAGAZINE**

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PREFACE

HOLA, HALLO, BONJOUR, OLÁ, XIN CHÀO, CIAO!

Welcome to the second magazine of the Media Committee 2020/2021. This year has been a crazy year and we all cannot wait to enjoy the summer that is waiting for us. What better way to do this than by digging into this summer edition of the Storm magazine?

As we are all excited that the borders are slowly opening up again and we get to travel to new places, we have decided to choose an according theme, being **Polyhedral visions of the World**, so we will be exploring different places and cultures this time via reportages, reflections, recommendations and much more.

The etymology of the term 'vision' refers to something seen in the imagination or in the supernatural, whereas the geometrical adjective 'polyhedral' aims to give our magazine a polyphonic tone, covering our own cultures and discovering other places through native voices.

Identifying and cataloging differences has always been the responsibility of those who establish the canon. They have looked at the "Other" as the divergent, as an object of analysis, i.e. the indigenous and the exotic. In this case, we have tried to bring an alternative framework which transcends this pigeonholing; in the end, we are all just citizens of the same Earth.

Get ready for take off, and say hello to an amazing trip!

enjoy!



Panoptical surveillance: dystopian nightmare, or the best for the greater good?

ARTICLE BY LEN



Imagine the following scenario: two people are insulting a third individual, who is not enjoying this situation. Within most modern-day societies this action would logically be determined as morally and ethically wrongful. Nevertheless, the philosophical movement of Utilitarianism would classify the situation as a righteous action if the joy the bullies receive from their action outweighs the pain and discomfort that the insulted person receives.

Utilitarianism is based on the principle of maximizing well-being, happiness (or “utility”) and preventing pain. This in itself might seem like a philosophy without flaws; who isn’t for maximizing happiness in the world? The cracks begin to show, however, when you take into account that Utilitarianism values all happiness equally; an action which results in the happiness of the greatest number of people within a society is, through the eyes of this ethical theory, always seen as a righteous action.

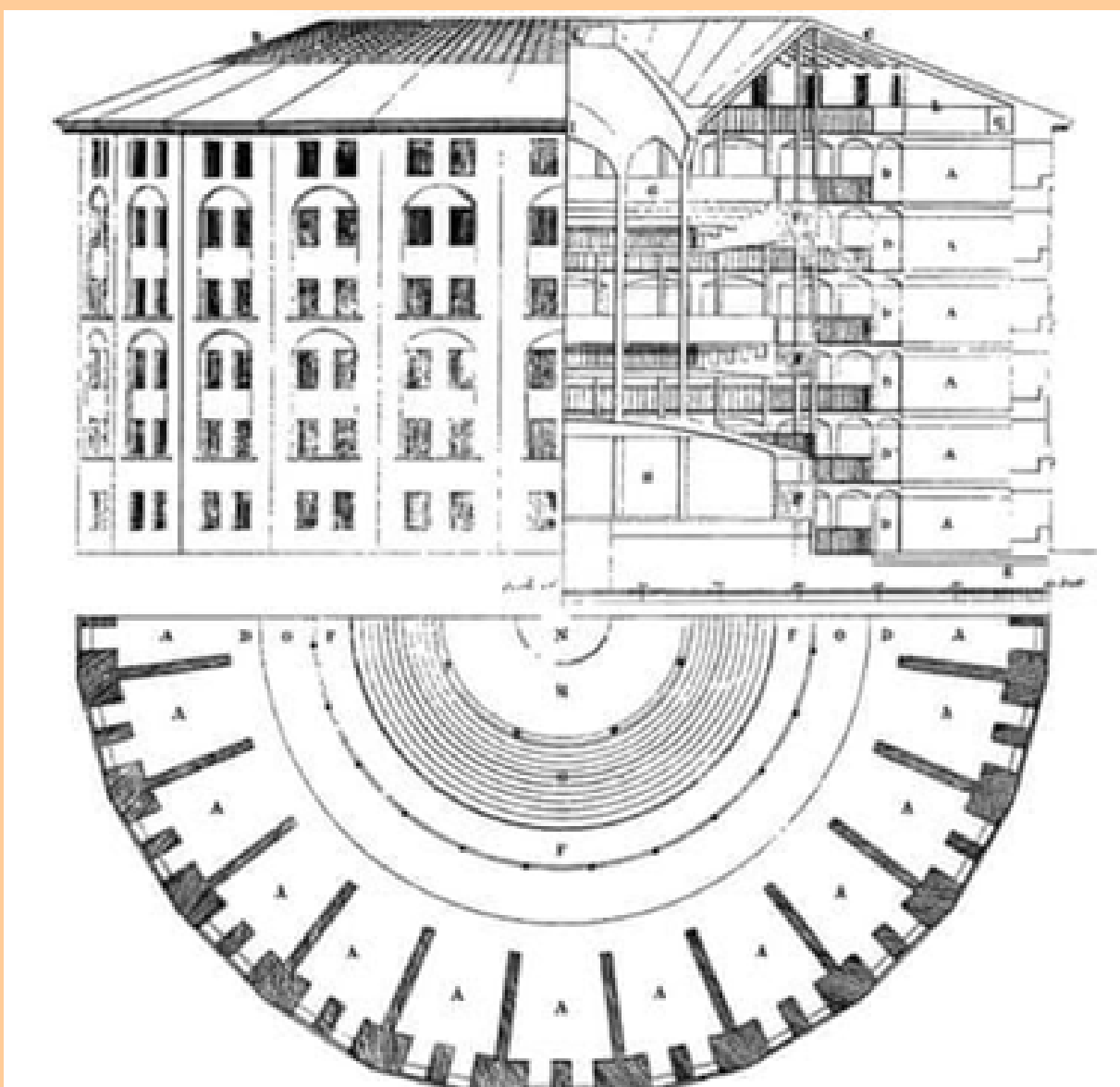
Ultimate efficiency: Bentham's panopticon

The founder of modern Utilitarianism, Jeremy Bentham, was a very pragmatic man. Besides devising a mathematical method of calculating happiness, his magnum opus has undoubtedly been the invention of the panopticon; a prison without guards. Even though most of you have probably never heard of Bentham or these inventions, his legacy carries on almost 200 years after his death. In fact, the idea of social panopticon influences several mechanisms and institutional structures in our society to this very day.

Bentham’s Prison is based upon the architectural design of a circular, openly-structured jail block, with prison cells alongside the outer circular wall and one guard tower in the centre of the sphere. A vital part of this design is that the guards’ tower works in a similar vein to a one way mirror: while the guards have full and ruthless vision on all prisoners at all time, enabled by the circular nature of the cell block, the prisoners can’t see the guards in their tower. The idea behind this seemingly unnecessarily complicated design is, as Bentham describes it himself, to create “the sentiment of a sort of invisible omnipresence”. As the prisoner does not know when or if they are being surveilled, they have no other choice than to constantly abide by the rules and behave in a way that the Almighty guards want. The risk of getting caught is always present, while being invisible and intangible at the same time.



The perpetual liability does not only greatly improve behaviour of prisoners compared to a conventional prison, it also decreases the (economic) costs as constant surveillance by guards isn't necessary whatsoever in this design: the prisoners' awareness of constantly being visible and potentially being watched acts as the system of discipline in itself. One could even argue that an empty watch tower would still have the same effectiveness as a panopticon which does use some guards, as long as the prisoners have the illusion of a surveying "invisible omnipresence".



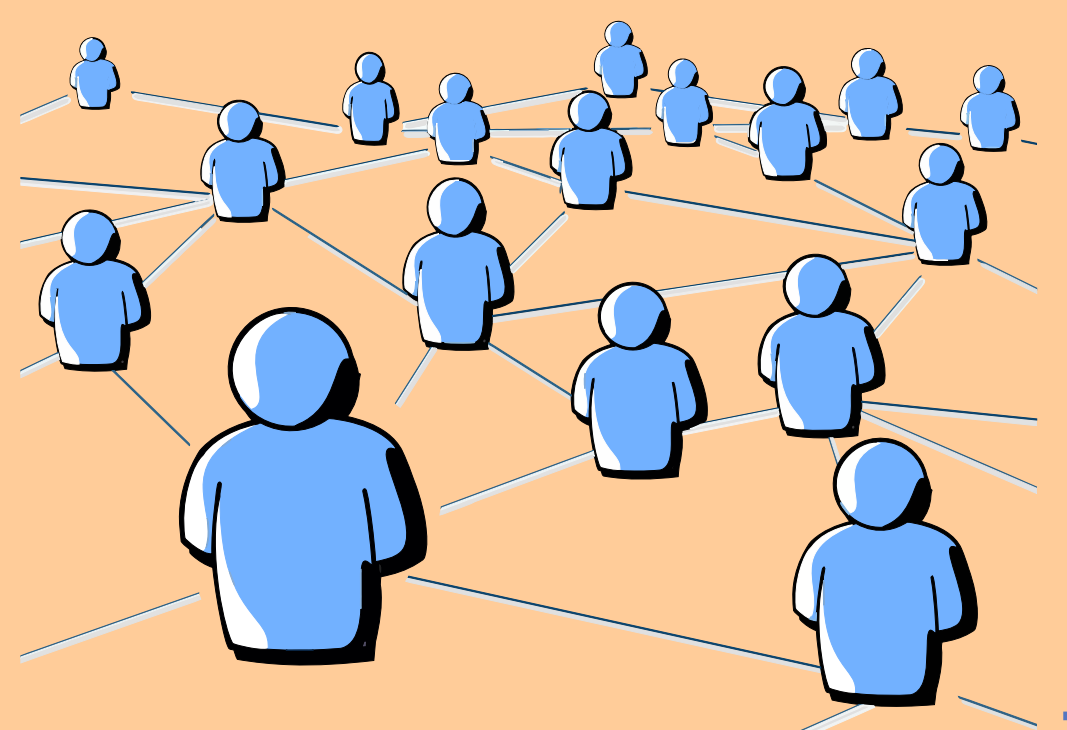
Bentham's panopticon, drawn by architect Wiley Reveley in 1791

Foucault's social panopticon

The fundamental idea behind the panopticon does not only apply to a prison model, its principle can be applied to many different mechanisms within our society. In his book *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (1975), French philosopher and historian Paul-Michel Foucault describes how Bentham's design can be generalized to everyday life:

according to him, the panopticon is the ultimate realization of a modern disciplinary institution since the complete loss of privacy and individuality due to the feeling of being constantly observed is the most effective way of creating discipline and docility. He argues that, in our modernized society, prisons are just one of the many ways in which the panoptical-principle is applied: schools, military training facilities, hospitals and the work environment are all institutions which bank on the invisible omnipresent observer to keep their clientele in check, creating what he calls a "panoptical society".

While this idea might've seemed a little far-fetched and conspiratorial in the 70's, it is difficult to ignore it's striking similarities in an ever-digitizing and modernizing world. While people are becoming more visible than ever, consciously achieved through the use of social media or unconsciously through the location services of apps or governmental mass monitoring systems, the observer is getting more and more invisible. Accurately, hundreds of people can follow your life through social media with relative anonymity, while governments continue to ramp up their (digital) surveillance methods and mechanisms. It is estimated that by the end of 2021 there will be 1 billion surveillance cameras worldwide, with half of those being positioned in China.





Facial recognition technology being shown at the World Artificial Intelligence Conference in 2019 in Shanghai, China

During the COVID-pandemic, the increase in governmental surveillance has been booming, with many governments rolling out contact tracing apps which aren't always fully transparent with their privacy policy, frequently facing information leaks and unclear data management. Of course, apps like these are a great tool in fighting a dangerous pandemic, but its usage should be with the care that something as fundamentally important as the human right to privacy deserves. As the deputy director of the Technology and Human Rights department of Amnesty (Amnesty Tech) has said: "We must not sleepwalk into a permanent expanded surveillance state".

With the rise of new surveillance technologies like facial and pattern recognition, fuelled by the constant evolution in Artificial Intelligence-technology, besides an increase in social surveillance systems like China's social credit system, the danger of falling into a digital panopticon is present.

Mister Bentham and his fellow utilitarians would have been great supporters of this development: after all, if mass surveillance stops crime and unwanted behaviour and therefore makes most of society happier, it is the right action to do. One of the main flaws of Utilitarianism though, attacked by critics even at that time, is that it doesn't take the wishes or the rights of the individual into account. Privacy, for instance, would be traded for the greater good. Of course, sometimes this sacrifice is necessary; no-one likes crime-ridden streets and surveillance could greatly increase public safety in dangerous places, with people being able to walk safely down an empty street at night because they're being watched, not despite. It is for us to think about where we draw the line however; how much privacy are we willing to give up for our sense of security? No matter your stance in this debate, there is one thing that we can all agree upon:

No one wants to live in a social panopticon.

ARABIC LANGUAGE MOVIES

أفلام باللغة العربية

CURATED BY LOTTA

When thinking about the movies from around the world I had watched, I quickly discovered the category of Arabic movies directed by women. I really liked this category, since the Middle East is not the first region that comes to mind when thinking about

great cinema or female emancipation. Even though not always lighthearted, these movies have really made me fall in love with the Arabic language and cultures, as well as the people starring in these movies.

Capernaum

كفرناحوم



Lebanon



Capernaum is one of most touching and impactful films I have seen in my entire life. Bordering between reality and fiction, it narrates the story of Zain, a young boy growing up in a very poor family in Beirut among his many siblings. Zain is named after his actor, the Syrian refugee boy Zain Al Rafeea who has lived in the slums of Beirut

himself. This gives his performance an authenticity and emotional depth that easily breaks through cultural barriers. Being confronted with crippling poverty, neglect, emotional abuse and a complete lack of perspective, Zain retains a fierce anger at the injustices in the world and a profound desire for a better life.

His performance is not only emotionally engaging, but also highlights the fraught, unjust world in which he has had to grow up. Zain is a survivalist, someone who always makes the best of his circumstances, a role no child should be forced to be in. While his situation constantly seems to turn out for the worse in the movie, the story is still brightened by small instances of hope. Kindness is shown by those who have almost nothing themselves, such as Rahil, an illegal immigrant from Ethiopia who takes Zain in even though she can barely provide for her baby son and fears deportation from the country.

Nadine Labaki, the director of Capernaum, found inspiration for her film in the streets of Beirut, where she

witnessed the profound suffering of children every day. Through this film

Labaki speaks up about this issue and lets her protagonists have their own voice, instead of being portrayed as passive victims. As the cast is entirely made up of non-professional actors, each of them brings their unique twist to the story. The film was one great piece of improvisation, with no film industry existing in Lebanon and with the aim of initiating some real social change. In a swamp of global headlines competing for attention, the stories of ordinary people often get lost quickly. This film is a great contribution to bringing humanity back to big debates about the poor and marginalised.



Wadjda

وجدة



Saudi Arabia



Wadjda is a great example of a more light-hearted Arabic language film. It revolves around the story of a young girl whose biggest dream is owning her own bicycle, which goes against societal expectations in Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, Wadjda tries to realise her dream by selling hand-made bracelets and mixtapes in school and even taking part in a Quran recital competition so that she can pay for the bicycle of her dreams herself, which she has spotted in a local bike shop. Ultimately, she is supported by her mother who is also struggling with the problems women have in the Saudi Arabian society, as she depends on a chauffeur to get to work and is confronted with the choice of her

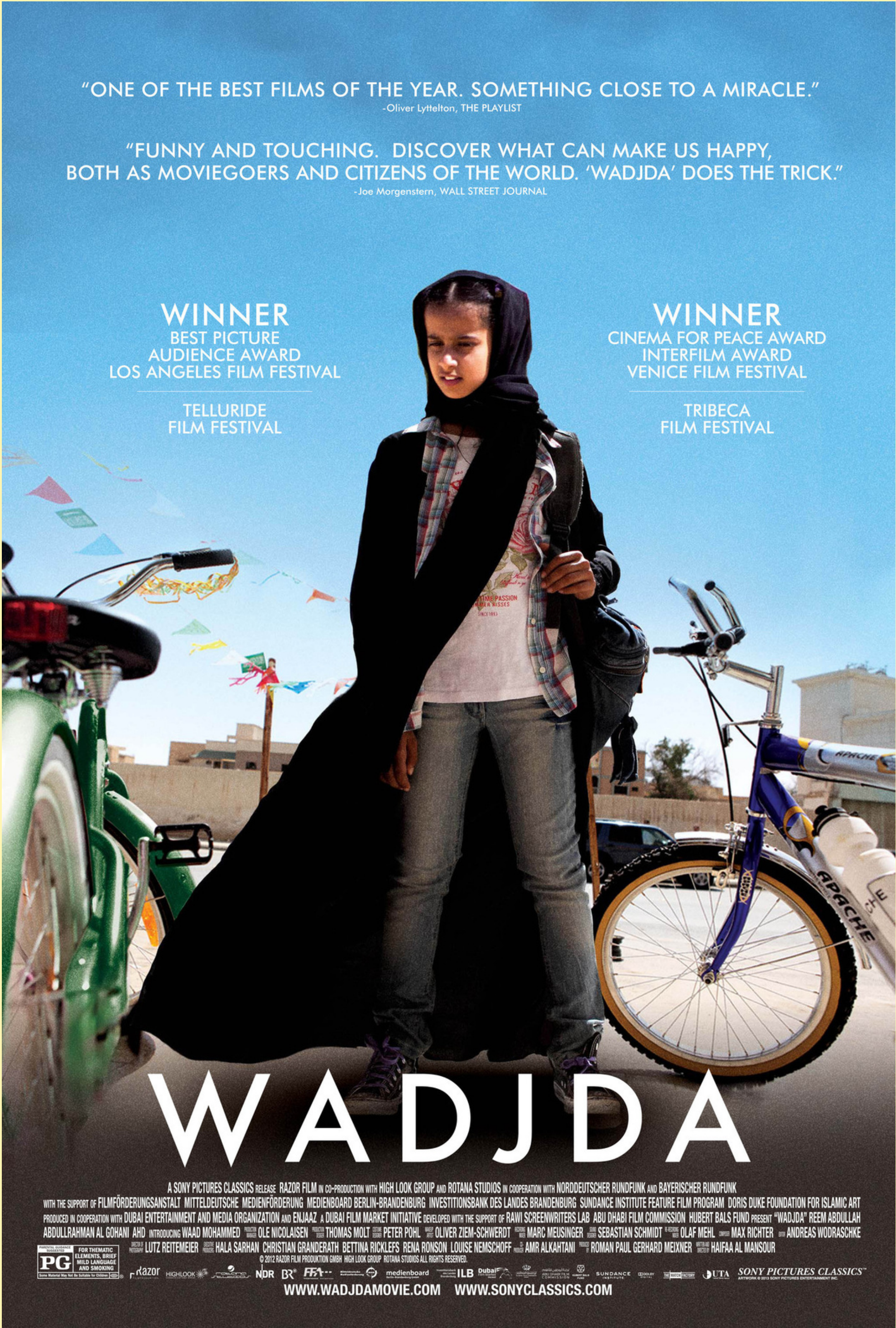
husband to take a second wife in order to finally have a son.

A young girl who dreams of owning a bicycle is such an everyday, mundane story that would maybe not be the first thing coming to mind when thinking of a country like Saudi Arabia, which, in the western world, is often reduced to ultraconservative Islam and strict laws regarding women's freedom, alcohol and homosexuality. Wadjda's story, on the other hand, is highly relatable, as almost anyone around the world can relate to dreaming about something that is difficult to obtain, even though the problems they face might be different. At the same time, the unique cultural and societal context of Saudi

Arabia gives this movie its own twist, as it highlights many of the particular issues women and girls have to face there.

Haifaa al-Mansour was the first female Saudi Arabian film maker and *Wadjda* the first film made entirely in Saudi Arabia. In an interview with the Guardian, Haifaa recounts how she grew up in a small, conservative town but had an open-minded family, which

made them quite the outsiders there. Making a film in Saudi Arabia as a woman also caused some difficulties, as it was not appropriate for her to interact with the male members of her production team in the open and to give them orders. Nevertheless, Haifaa succeeded in directing her movie and manages to celebrate even small victories, such as the abolition of the ban on women cycling in Saudi Arabia, if only for recreational purposes.



For Sama

إلى سما



Syria



Being a documentary rather than a fictional story, For Sama could not be more dramatic or heart-wrenching, surpassing the imagination of any screenwriter or director. For Sama shows the Syrian war from a civilian's perspective and is certainly not easy to stomach, as death and devastating violence are filmed through the camera of the amateur journalist Waad Al-Kateab. The film also features her husband who is a doctor at a hospital in Aleppo and their small daughter Sama, who gets born in the middle of the escalating conflict. The film starts with the peaceful protest of university students against Assad and for a more just and free country. As staying in the country gets more and more dangerous, Waad and her husband face the impossible decision between fleeing and bringing their daughter to safety or staying and treating wounded

civilians in the last standing hospital of the city.

For Sama is another story that brings a real perspective to an issue that we mostly view with a good dose of disconnect, something that is impossible to imagine for those who haven't lived through it themselves. The presence of Sama and other young children within the reality of daily bombings and destroyed neighbourhoods makes the story hit even closer to the heart. For these children, painting a bus completely burned out by bombings in bright colours represented a rare highlight in their daily lives. Between bombs hitting the hospital and horribly wounded bodies being brought in around the clock, the film shows the consistent fear and danger ordinary people are forced to live through when getting in the

Even though the film shows many horrific scenes, Waad Al-Kateab also said in an interview with the CW that she wanted to create a 'space of life and love' amongst all the chaos and destruction. The aim of documenting her life in the Syrian warzone was to get the world to care about the life and the

dignity of the Syrian people. At the same time, she is deeply disappointed by the ongoing inaction by the international community, especially by the European Union looking the other way while thousands of refugees continue to drown at the border or being forced to endure horrible conditions in overcrowded camps. For Waad, the struggle for freedom, dignity and democracy is far from over.



<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2019/feb/16/nadine-labaki-interview-capernaum-film-director-actor-lebanon-oscar-nomination>

<https://city-kinos.de/filme/capernaum-stadt-der-hoffnung>

<https://art-s.nflximg.net/a8b9e/44be87c92632df9549b63f844d41d16f7d5a8b9e.jpg>

<https://www.theguardian.com/theobserver/2013/jul/14/haifaa-mansour-wadjda-saudi-arabia>

https://www.salon.com/2013/04/01/saudi_arabia_lifts_ban_on_women_riding_bicycles/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ew_ggM_7a1k

<https://der-andere-film.ch/filme/filme/titel/def/for-sama>

https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/5c741e625239581b92fb47a4/1552099589233-X1Z06H2XM8SK3ZVVKD8A/1200x630_Facebook_ForSama.png?content-type=image%2Fpng

Documentary Recommendation:

The Cove

By Daan

The cove is a documentary from 2009 about illegal dolphin hunting on the coasts of Japan. In 2010 this documentary recieved the Oscar for Best Documentary and won the first price at the Sundance Festival. The documentary follows Rick O’Barry on his quest to put a spotlight on illegal dolphin hunting and is directed by former National Geographic photographer Louie Psihoyos. You may recognize Rick O’Barry from his appearance on another documentary; Seaspiracy.



In the 1960s, Ric O’Barry captured and trained dolphins for the hit television show Flipper. Regretful of his actions, he has since reinvented himself as a dolphin activist, working tirelessly to shine a light on the dark practices of dolphin capture and slaughter.

The Cove centres around O’Barry’s quest to expose the ugly reality of dolphin drive hunting — the practice of herding dolphins into a contained area where they will be caught and sold to aquariums or brutally killed for their meat.



In the Japanese seaside village of Taiji, this highly-profitable industry is conducted under a veil of secrecy. O’Barry is convinced that if the public could see actual footage of the butchery, they would demand tt to be stopped. The Cove is part nature documentary, part spy thriller as the activist filmmakers use state-of-the-art technology and old-fashioned trickery to uncover the horrific hidden truths behind Taiji’s cove walls.

Almost all critics, around 95%, were positive about the documentary. Critics do point to the fact that the documentary is only one sided, and doesn’t include interviews with the fishermen themselves. Another point is that the Japanese people felt they were being looked down upon by mostly western journalists.

What really appeals to me from this documentary is how genuine it is. It starts with the main character, who is in the dolphin industry, realizing what he is doing and then deciding to do something about it. This is the main reason I want to recommend this documentary.



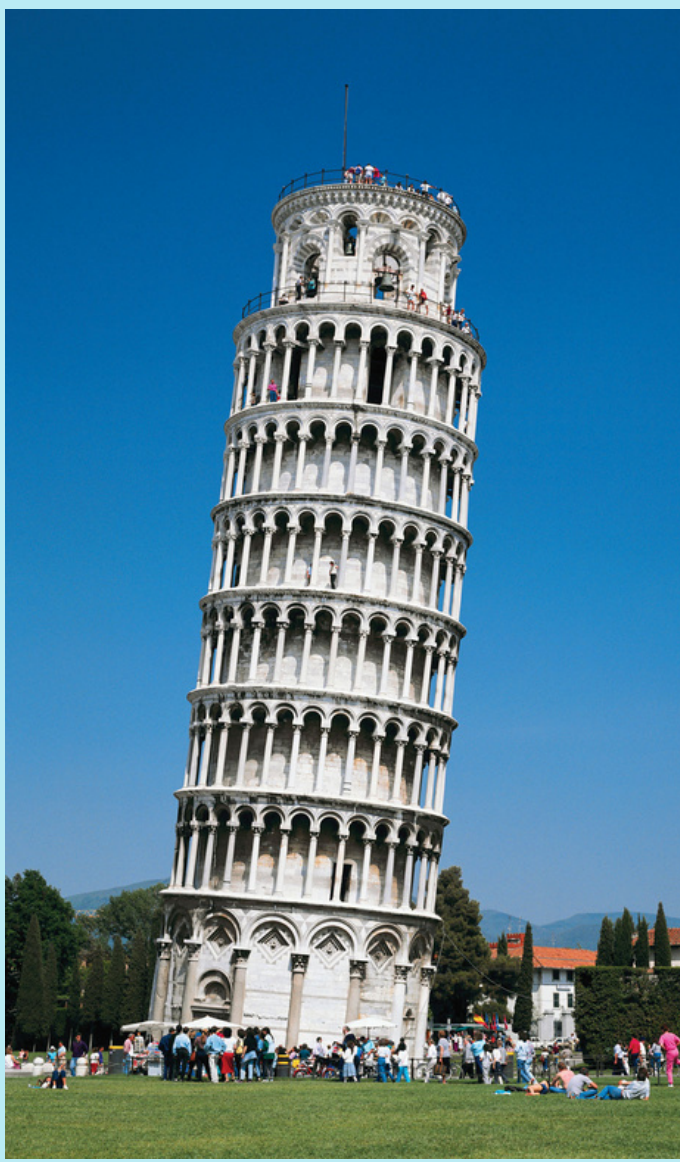
To The Bottom

ARTICLE BY LIA

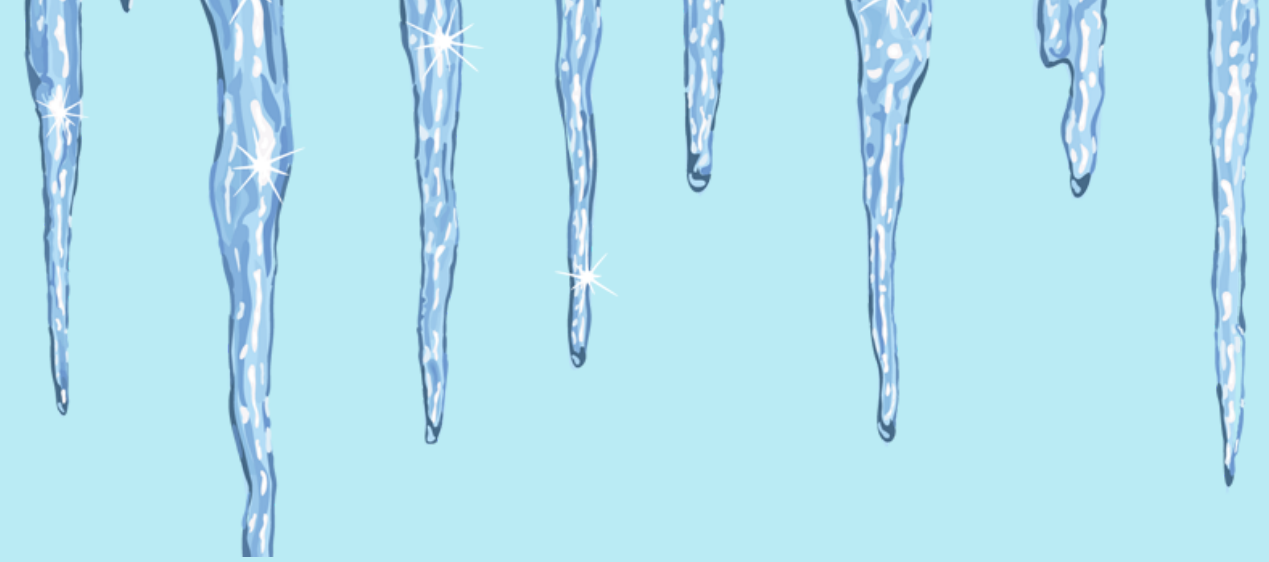
After knowing the topic of this magazine would be Citizens of the Earth, I immediately thought about researching the lifestyle of the few daring people who make the journey to the coldest and most remote continent of the planet, Antarctica. Antarctica is the fourth largest continent after Asia, America and Africa, which means it is actually larger than Europe. Curiously enough, it is not often shown in world map diagrams. Antarctica houses some of the most amazing species on the planet: Penguins, blue whales, orcas, seals, squids. Someone once said that when you shake the planet, all the weird stuff falls to the bottom.



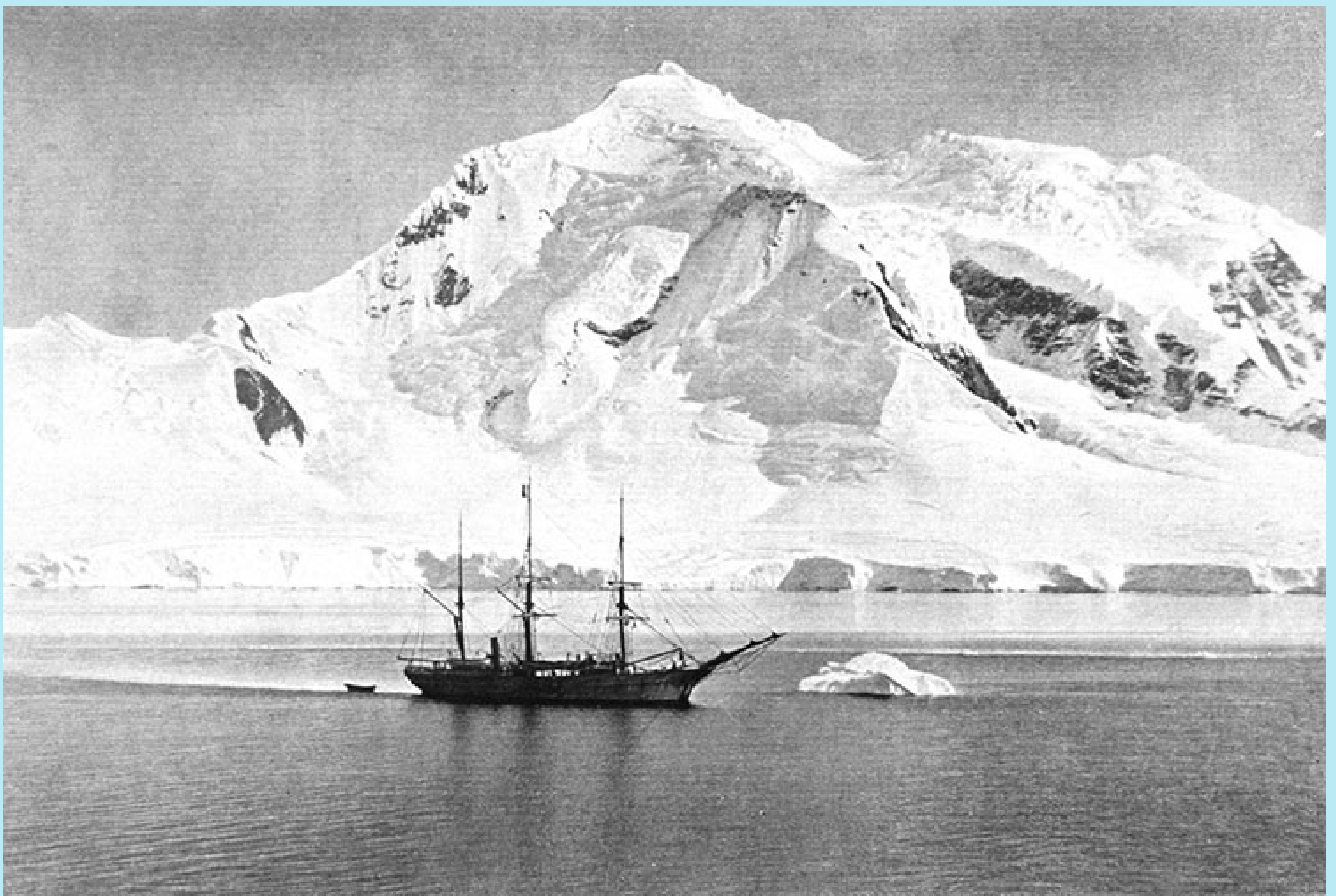
Antarctica represents 90% of the ice in the world as well as storing 70% of its sweet water. This is a lot of ice. If all of it melted the sea water level would rise 61m. Disney's Cinderella Castle and the tower of Pisa are shorter than that.



Disney's World Cinderella Castle 58m.
Tower of Pisa 56m.

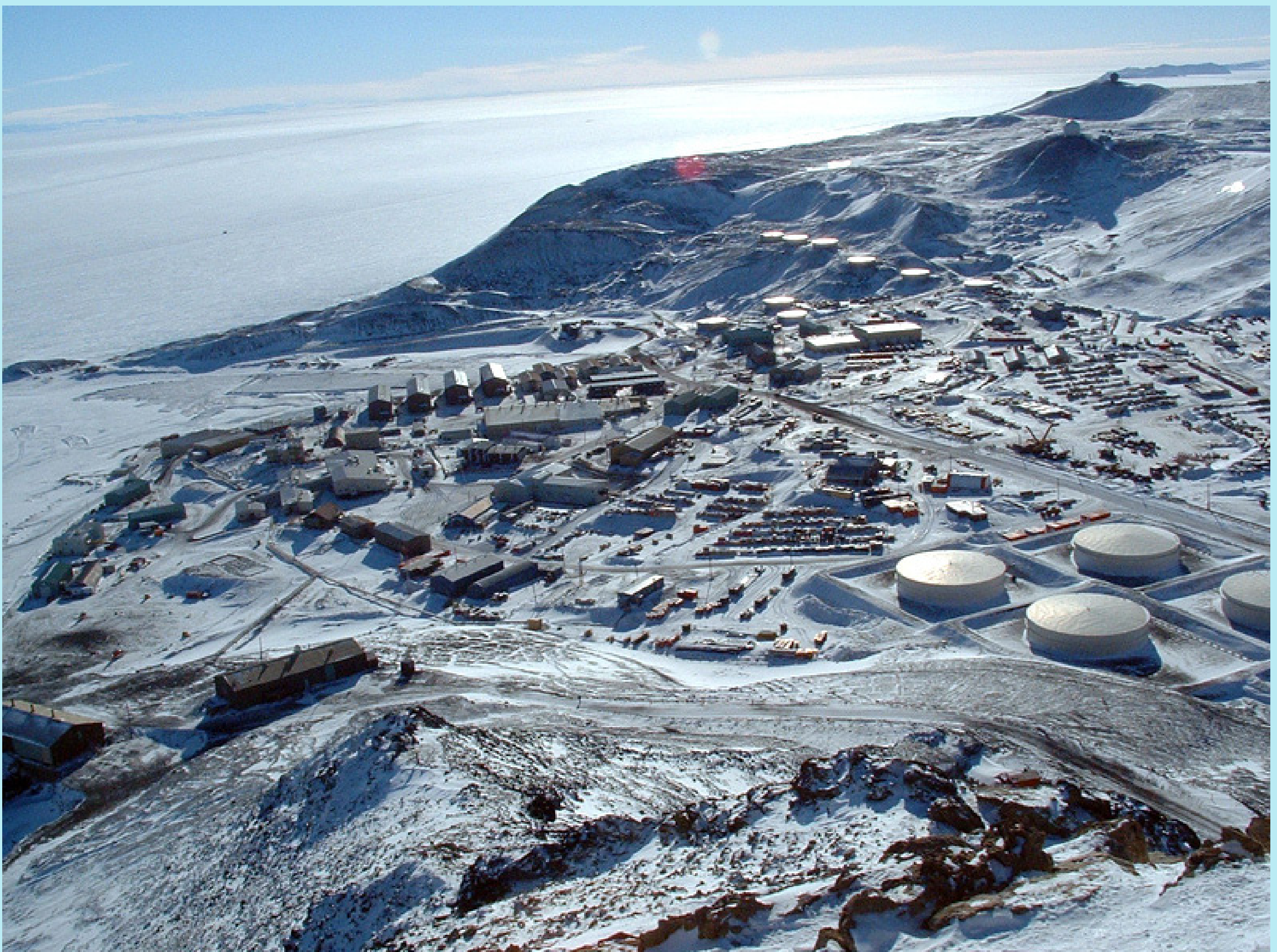


The first sighting of Antarctica was in 1820 by a Russian expedition. The first landing has been disputed by historians but dates around twenty years later and only to the coastline. The first explorers to spend a winter in Antarctica in 1898 only did so because their ship got trapped in the ice and plenty of them lost their sanity, an easy thing to lose when enduring a winter in the coldest place on Earth without the technological development we have today. Multiple expeditions took place since then making it the Heroic Age of Antarctic Explorations which ended in 1917. However, all of these were solely composed by men since the first woman to see Antarctica, Ingrid Christensen only did so because she was accompanying her husband, as well as the first woman to step into land, Caroline Mikkelsen who was there for the same reason. This happened in 1935, more than 100 years later than the first sighting. The Commander-in-Chief of the US 'Operation Deep Freeze' even described it as the "last exclusive men's club in the world".



The Belgian Antarctic Exploration 1897-1899

That was then, let's focus on now. Antarctica, just like the ocean and space, does not belong to a specific country, it is technically international land. However, some countries have claimed territories, with no legal ground behind the claims they are only functionally theirs because other countries recognize them. An Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959 initially by twelve countries and now by 54. This treaty prohibits military action, mining and nuclear explosions and aims to maintain Antarctica as a peaceful continent dedicated mostly to scientific research. The population consists of researchers, people who work supporting the researchers (cooks, trash-collectors, doctors,) and tourists. There are 66 scientific stations, where around 4,000 people live in the summer and around 1,000 in winter. McMurdo Station, a United States operated station houses 1,000 in summer and about 200 in winter. Why is there such a difference? You might imagine.



McMurdo Station

Antarctic weather is extreme. The monthly mean temperature in winter is -60°C but the constant winds makes the air temperature feel colder. The sunlight time during winter is inexistent making it way tougher. Antarctica experiences 6 months of complete darkness every year. Another factor contributing to the cold is the altitude, Antarctica is the highest continent on the planet and, as known, temperature decreases with altitude. One last factor making Antarctica the biggest freezer ever is its high level of reflectiveness. Because of the light color of the ice and snow, the surface has a high amount of albedo, almost reaching 1 which is the highest score. This is also why it's so important to preserve Antarctica as it is, to help us cool the planet that we are constantly warming up.



The weather conditions in winter make it impossible to fly in or out of the continent, meaning that the people who stay do so knowing that they will have no connection to the outside world in their long months of darkness. It is said that people who stay on Antarctic stations during winter are more isolated than the astronauts on the International Space Station. There is also no cellphone reception, all communication within Antarctica is done by radio or pagers. However, the stations are often described as highly sociable, some even compare them to college dorms, which makes sense, as building trustworthy relationships with other people is almost a necessary thing to survive. And so the “citizens” of Antarctic stations are friendly with each other and build a strong sense of community, a 24 hour working pizza place on one of the stations surely helps keeping people positive minded.

Talking about food, a cargo shipment that navigates through icebergs to reach the shore delivers a whole year of food to the stations. The food is easily kept frozen until needed and then prepared by the cooks. There is a meal 3 times a day and it even seems like enjoyable food. A man who was asked why he chose to work there said “good food, good salary”. The clothes brought by the cargo boat are also kept frozen to prevent them from having leaks and rotting in water. Clothing may be just as important as food in Antarctica. A normal day to day outfit consists of thermal underwear, multiple layers of pants and long-sleeved shirts, boots, hats and jackets twice your size. People now are much more prepared to live under such conditions as before, they follow completely different lifestyles there as the ones responsible for building it. Nevertheless, a little bit of the past is kept through language, marine slang is often used in the stations which come from the heroic explorations era.

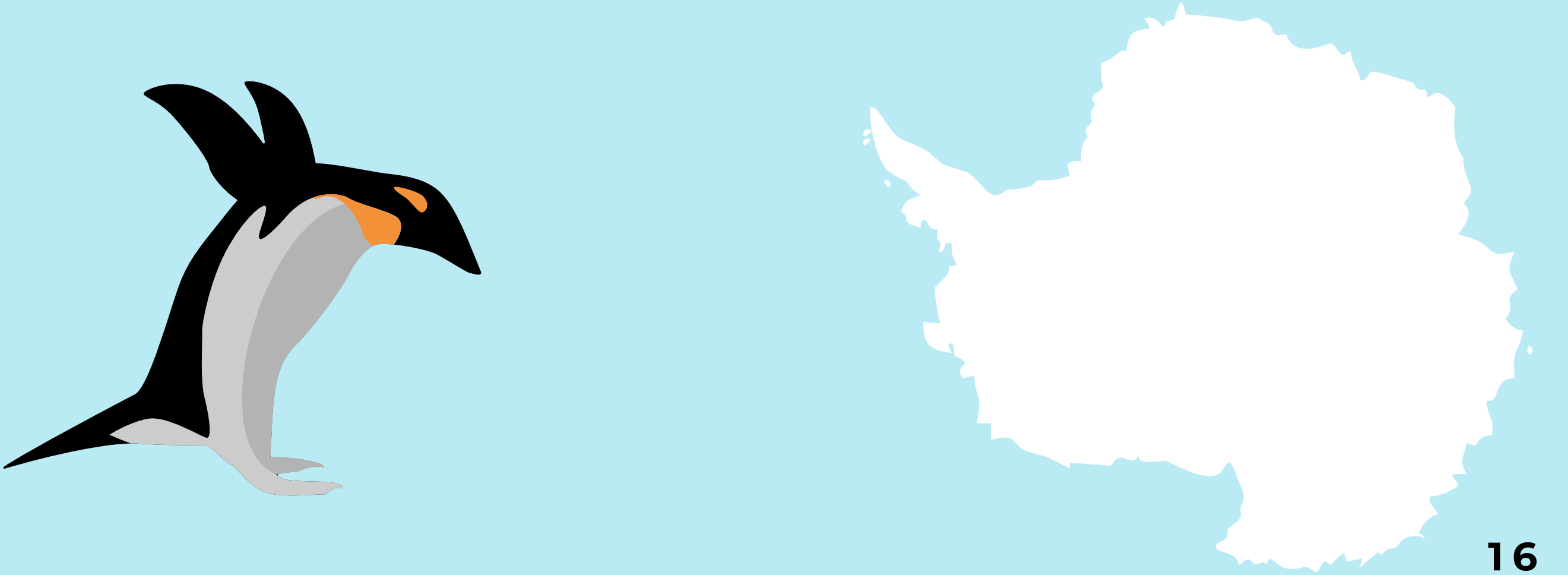


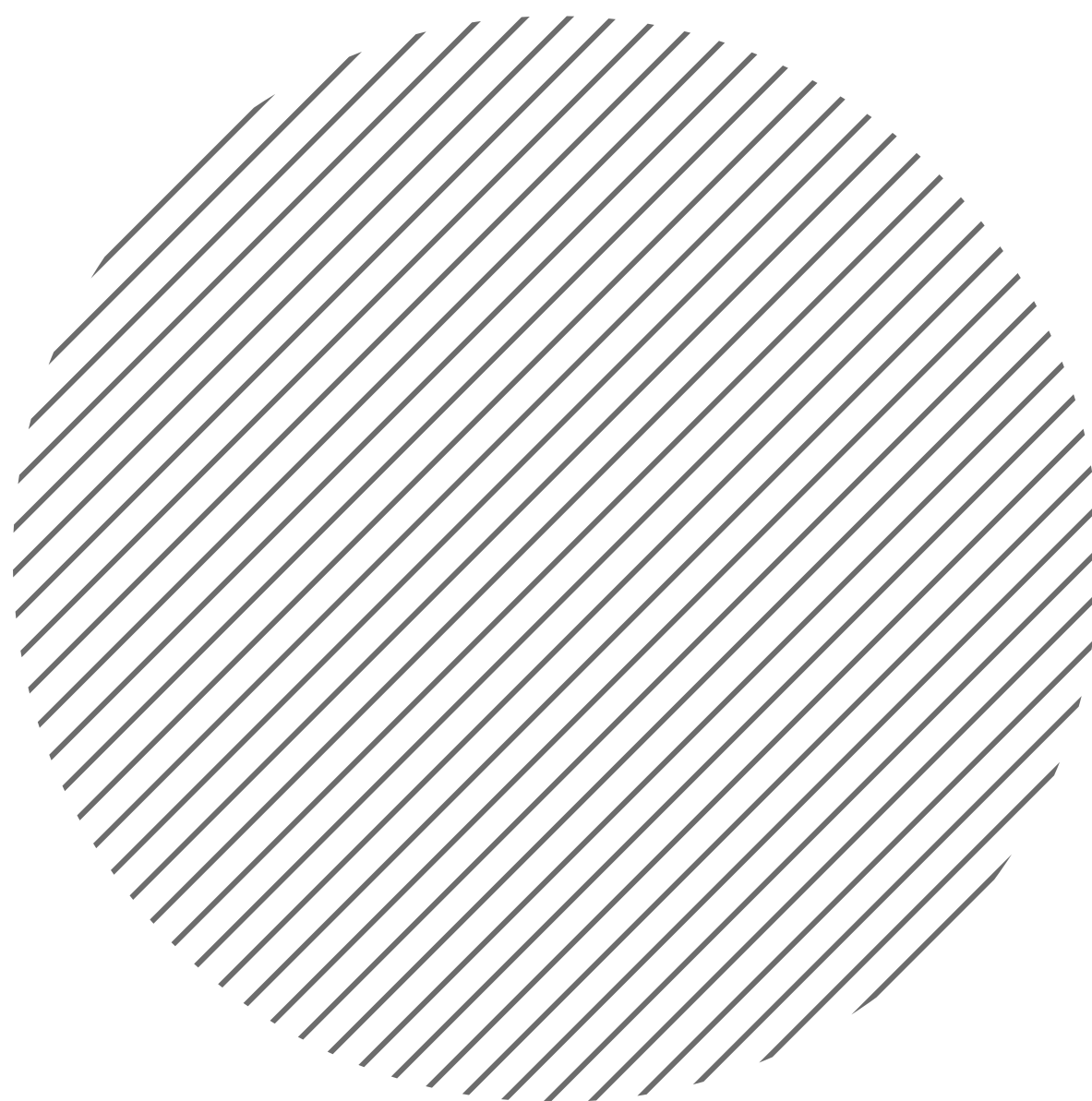
Model of an Antarctic Supply Research Vessel

But why do people choose to live under such harsh conditions? Well, it is said that the Antarctic teaches, heals and breaks you. It is a remote place where the everchanging view looks like you are on another planet. Going to Antarctica is testing yourself, you must always be ready for things to go wrong. You must rely on yourself and your team. It is said to bring an “addictive sense of satisfaction”. Especially for the people who do research on all kinds of things (the continent itself, historic atmospheric carbon levels, ancient microbial life, rising sea levels and even space!). It is not an easy decision to self-hibernate for months and risk your life and sanity. But it was never easy to make history. The “citizens” of Antarctica really are citizens of the Earth and we should all take a moment to thank what they do in the name of science and maybe take an extra minute to consider if maybe you would like to dare and take the journey someday.



Spanish Antarctic Explorers during a 1989-1990 campaign





A donkey, an old activist and an unattainable village

Margarita is small, she's shaggy and soft.

So soft to the touch, you'd say she was made of cotton with no bones.

Only the jet mirrors of his eyes are hard –like two black crystal scarabs.

*I turn her loose and off she goes to the meadow and with his muzzle she barely brushes
the little flowers of pink, and blue, and gold.*

Adaptation of "*Platero and me*" by Juan Ramón Jiménez

Text: ANE BREIONES & ROSANA BAUTISTA BENITO

Photographs: ROSANA BAUTISTA BENITO

Editor: LEN VAN BEUNINGEN



Raimundo Martínez

"The baker and the shopkeepers have stopped coming and the doctor only shows up if you make an appointment long beforehand."



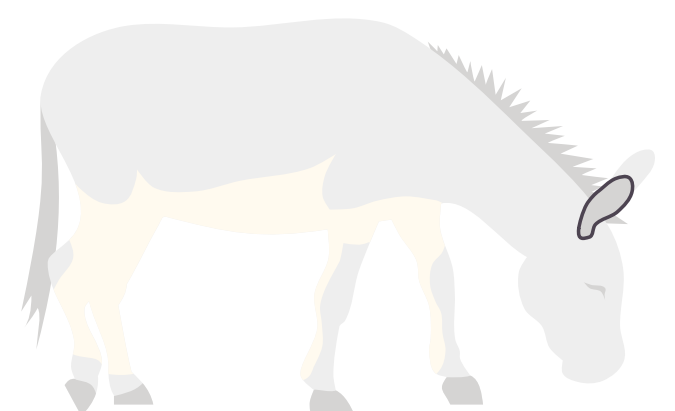
Once upon a time there was an old humble man who lived in a small and almost empty village in the central plateau of the Iberian Peninsula, Torrubia de Soria. In order to travel to the capital of the kingdom, he asked for a donkey to one of his friends. Margarita, the four-legged companion, walked with the old man miles and miles carrying water and other essential belongings for the ride.

Once arrived at a train station in Calatayud, four days and sixty kilometres later, the old humble man caught the high-speed train and took a comfortable seat.

One hour and over another two hundred kilometres later, he arrived in Madrid. Raimundo, feeling the adrenaline of an activist, was ready to attend the demonstration and protest against depopulation and the lack of infrastructure in his regions on the 31st of March, 2019.

Besides being an old humble and proactive man, Raimundo Martínez is a stockman and the major of his village. Due to his position in the public administration, Raimundo has been asking for a bus line connecting all the villages in Soria with Calatayud, the closest town with a train station, for years. So far, silence has been the

only reply. There are many sustainable mobility options citizens could envision; however, ambulating with a donkey for 60 kilometres should just be part of a nostalgic movie scene.



Raimundo impressed the media with his feat. However, all he wanted was to show the current situation in the rural areas of the province of Soria. As he complained: “Politicians from the Central Government of Spain and the European Union should be the ones paying attention to this.”

Five years ago, Raimundo collected 15,000 signatures from citizens asking for a bus line that connected the different villages in Soria with Calatayud at least once or twice a day. After taking the signatures to the government, Raimundo stated: “As the mayor of Torrubia de Soria, I visited the Ministry of Development. But the only thing I have collected from the Central Government are broken promises.”

As time goes by, Raimundo’s village becomes more and more abandoned, risking to wither away. Basic services don’t arrive anymore and the situation has worsened with the COVID-19 crisis. “The baker and the shopkeepers have stopped coming and the doctor only shows up if you make an appointment long beforehand,” said the mayor.

With only 60 people registered in the municipality, Raimundo claimed that “less than half of the people are actually established here.” On top of that, the average age of the citizens is 50 years old and the last time a child was born and raised in Torrubia de Soria was 37 years ago, according to the National Institute of Statistics. But this has not always been the case in the past. “Fifty years ago,” Raimundo remembered, “there were one hundred people living in Torrubia de Soria and the settlements around. The village was very lively with children playing and running on the streets.”

In order to understand the current situation, a throwback is required. The 1960s in Spain are known as the decade of the industry as the growth of the sector was skyrocketing,



turning around the labour situation of the country that, until then, was in a downward spiral.

Areas like Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and Bilbao benefited the most from the arrival of the industry. On the other hand, as in every fight, there are not only winners, but also losers. While big cities enjoyed this new wave, the rural world suffered the consequences: small towns like Soria, where agriculture and stockbreeding was -and still is- the main sector, were left out of the industrialization process, and later on, development of services.

Citizens want to clarify expectations. As Raimundo condensed: “if long distances between settlements and the region’s dwindling population make it virtually impossible to envisage a public transport system to

help residents get to work, study or attend a doctor’s appointment, I need politicians to say it loud and clear.”

“Human resources are the key to success,” Raimundo pointed out. “In the era of digitalization,” he added, “I can’t understand why companies are not willing to spread their workers around the national territory.” According to him, it would be a win-win situation. Employers would improve their quality of life and small villages would recover from their current “at death’s door”-situation. •

Pictures of Sauquillo de Alcázar
(Soria), the village where
Raimundo has his farmyard..



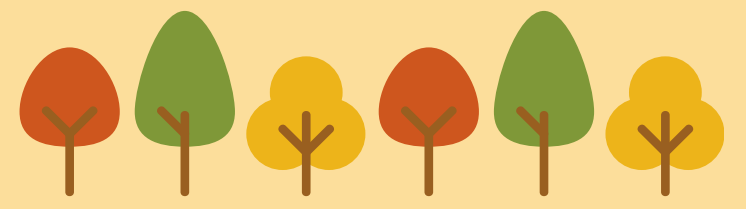


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PHOTO STORY: ARTIFICIAL VERSUS NATURAL FORESTS IN EUROPE

by Daan





When walking through forests in the Netherlands, you will come across the following: red markings, trees being cut down, completely paved paths to cycle on, benches and garbage bins. There are many of these types of forests in the Netherlands, which share use. They're often designed to serve multiple functions, such as walking your dog, going for a run or a walk, timber production, water protection, etc. This all may lead you to ask the question: Is this real nature? And if not, where do you need to go to find it?



Well, for starters, the history of forests in Europe is characterised by thousands of years of exploitation by people, so the term 'real nature' is quite a loose one. But of course, the degree in which the forests have been disturbed, changed, or recovered from all this human intervention differs greatly between different regions in Europe.

The remaining forests in (mainly west) Europe today are generally not considered natural forest, but rather a cultural landscape created over thousands of years which consists almost exclusively of replacement communities. But generally, a natural forest is one where nature can do its thing, and an artificial forest is one which is actively managed by humans (Surprising, I know).

Natural is most often associated with "better", whereas artificial forests are often looked down upon. However, the question is not so simple. If you have a forest for example, in which one tree has a disease, can cutting down this sick tree to prevent the disease from spreading be regarded as a bad or a good thing?

There is a correlation between the amount of larger animals there are in a forest habitat and how natural or wild an area is. Bears, wolves and hogs used to be quite abundantly present in western Europe, but can now only generally be found deeper into the continent, in eastern Europe for example.

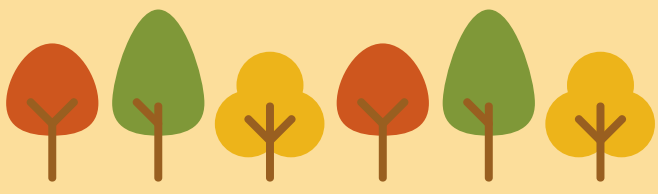
There are a couple of untouched forests left in Europe:



Białowieża Forest on the border between Poland and Belarus. This forest has been a UNESCO world heritage site since 2014 and stretches more than 141,885 ha. The forest is home to about 800 European bison and supports a variety of unique species.



Parque nacional de Garajonay is located in the centre and north of the island of La Gomera, one of the Canary Islands and is also recognized by UNESCO as a World heritage site. The Mediterranean coasts have been covered with thick forests for millions of years. These mostly disappeared because of the last ice age. But the forests still exist on the canary islands to this day, because the canary islands are located further south in front of the African coast. This one may be cheating, because of its location, but it is still technically Europe.



Muddus National park in Sweden: natural scenes include the old-growth forest with large trees, large boggy grounds, and deep ravines in between the rocks. Sweden's oldest known pine tree is also located here. It has been estimated to be at least 710 years old, as it was found to have withstood a forest fire in 1413. The forests in the national park have been safeguarded by nature itself. Large parts of Muddus/Muttos have been spared deforestation because of the many marshes and the difficulty of transporting timber here.

Until recently, ancient trees in the Romanian Carpathians were relatively safe for human hands. As a result, you will still find primeval forest, including wild inhabitants such as bears, wolves and lynx. Unfortunately, tens of millions of cubic meters of forest have been illegally cleared in the last twenty-five years, with devastating consequences for the unique fauna and flora. Two years ago, thousands of people took to the streets in 40 Romanian cities to encourage parliament to tighten forest clearing laws.



In conclusion, there are still a lot of untouched forests left in Europe. Almost all of them are recognized and protected areas, so they will probably stay for many centuries to come.

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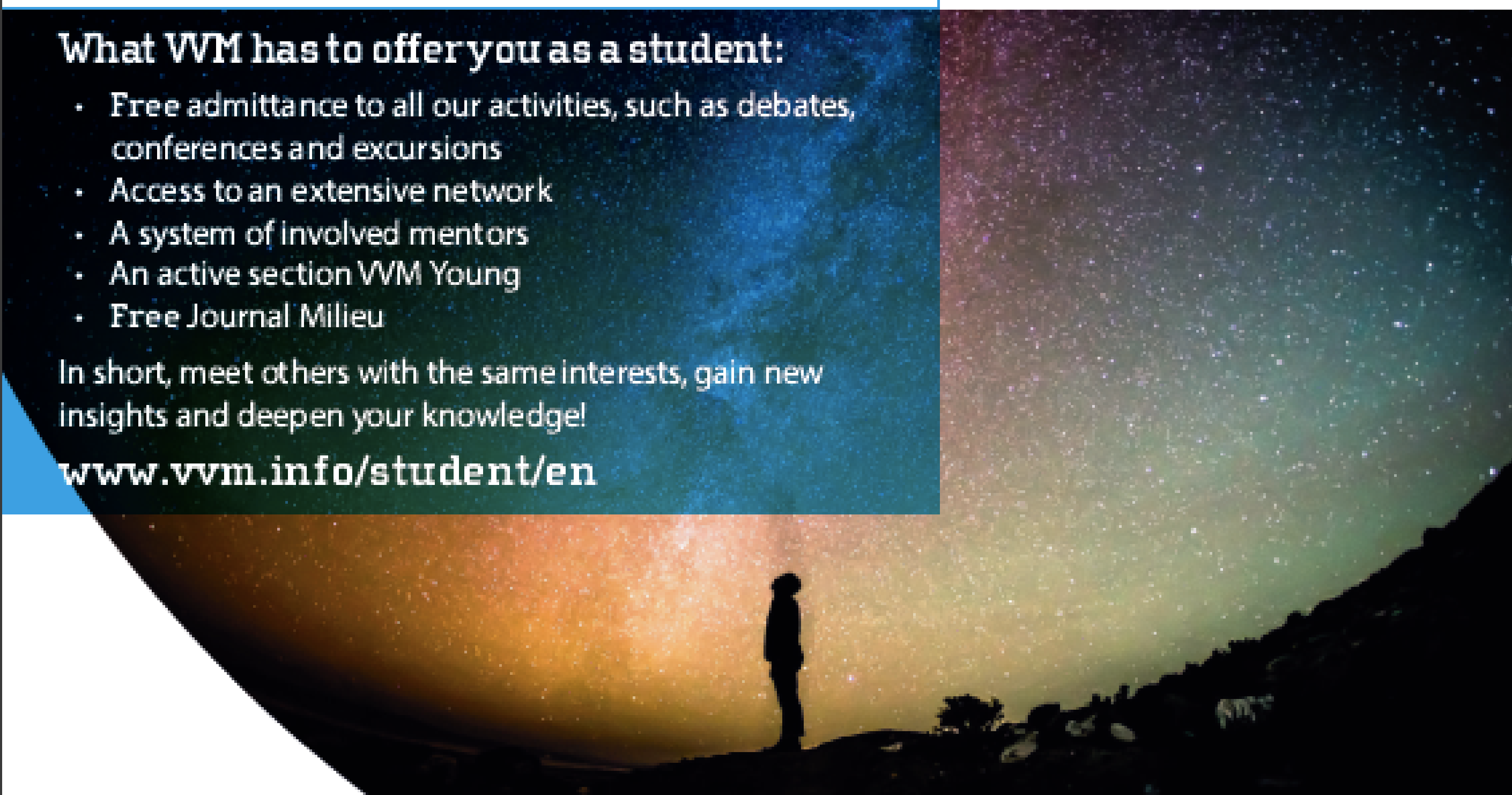
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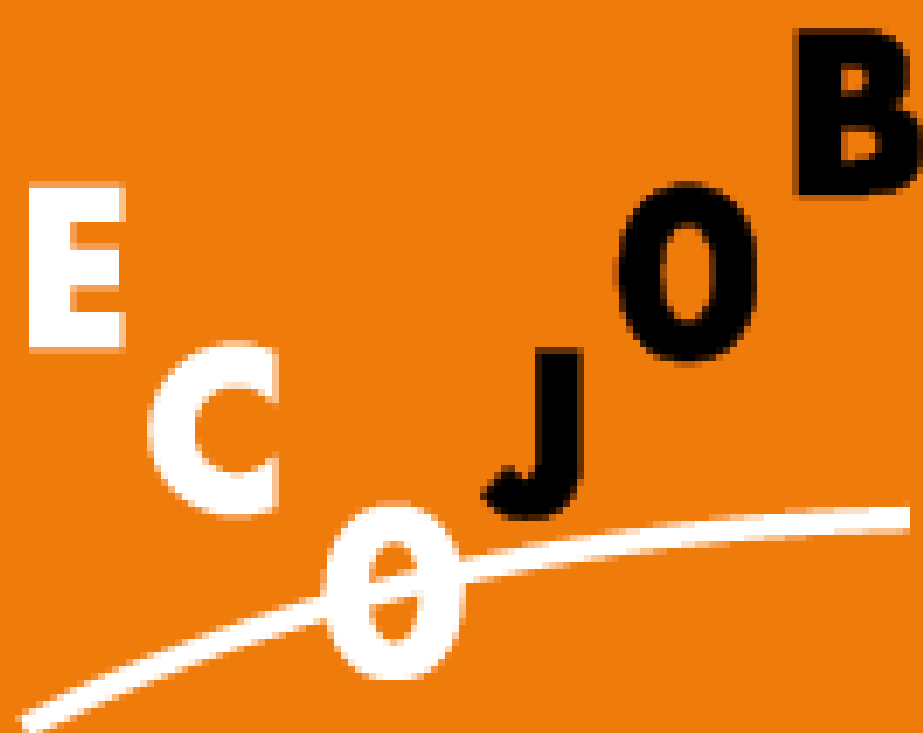
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ENERGIEPARTNERS



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RECIPE BY NIENKE

VEGAN SNICKER BARS

At the beginning of the year, the outdoor committee had an activity with a lovely snack made by Yanou. The appetizer was so delicious that I couldn't keep it as a simple memory! Therefore, I had to ask her for the recipe and share it with you all so you can enjoy a sweet treat too.

INGREDIENTS

- 200 g dark chocolate
- 8 vegan cookies (for example, verkade nizza)
- 60 g plant based butter
- 1 can (320 g) of sweetened condensed coconut milk (nature's charm)
- 6 tablespoons dark brown caster sugar
- 1 pinch of salt
- 60 g unsalted roasted peanuts, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon of peanut butter (optional)

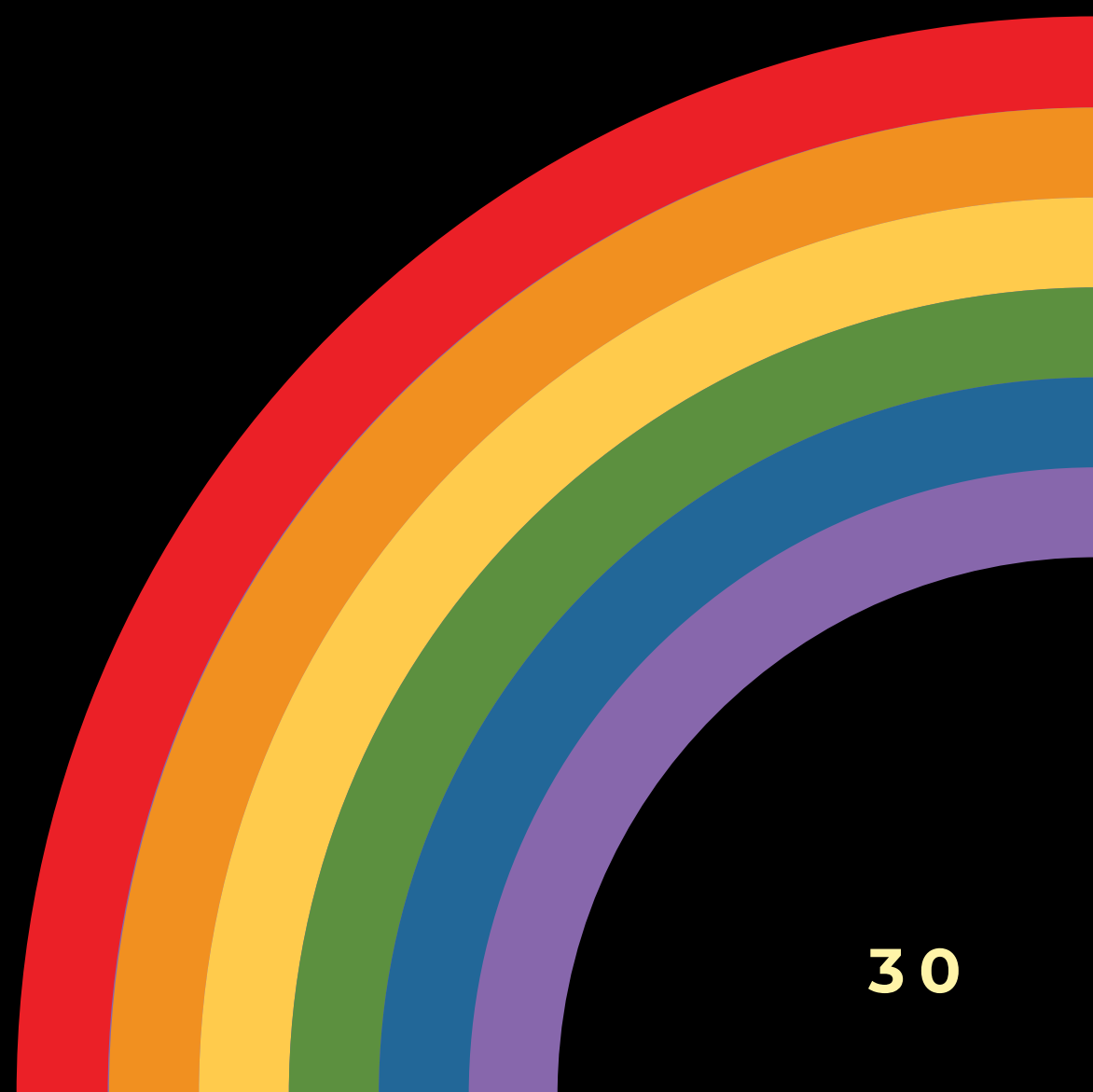
DIRECTIONS

- ***Cover a 15-20 cm baking tray with baking paper. Melt 75 grams of the chocolate au bain marie or in the microwave. Keep one block of chocolate and add it after heating so that it merges with the rest. This trick helps to 'temper' the chocolate so that it hardens nicely in time. Spread the chocolate in a thin layer over the bottom of the baking tin and place the cookies on top. Set aside to cool.***
- ***Now it's time for the caramel: place the butter, condensed coconut milk, sugar and salt in a saucepan until it starts boiling. Don't stop stirring during this process. Afterwards, let the caramel cool and thicken around 25 or 30 minutes, until it runs off the whisk in a thin ribbon. Stir it well regularly.***
- ***Mix the chopped peanuts with the thick caramel and spread the hot mixture over the biscuit base. Let it cool to room temperature. Then, melt the rest of the chocolate (125 grams). Again, keep one or two cubes behind to temper the chocolate after it has heated. Pour the melted chocolate over the caramel layer and spread it out nicely with a spatula.***
- ***If you wish to make a nice pattern you need to melt one tablespoon of peanut butter and spread it out with a skewer.***
- ***Let it cool down for some time and you are ready to enjoy this delicious snack!***



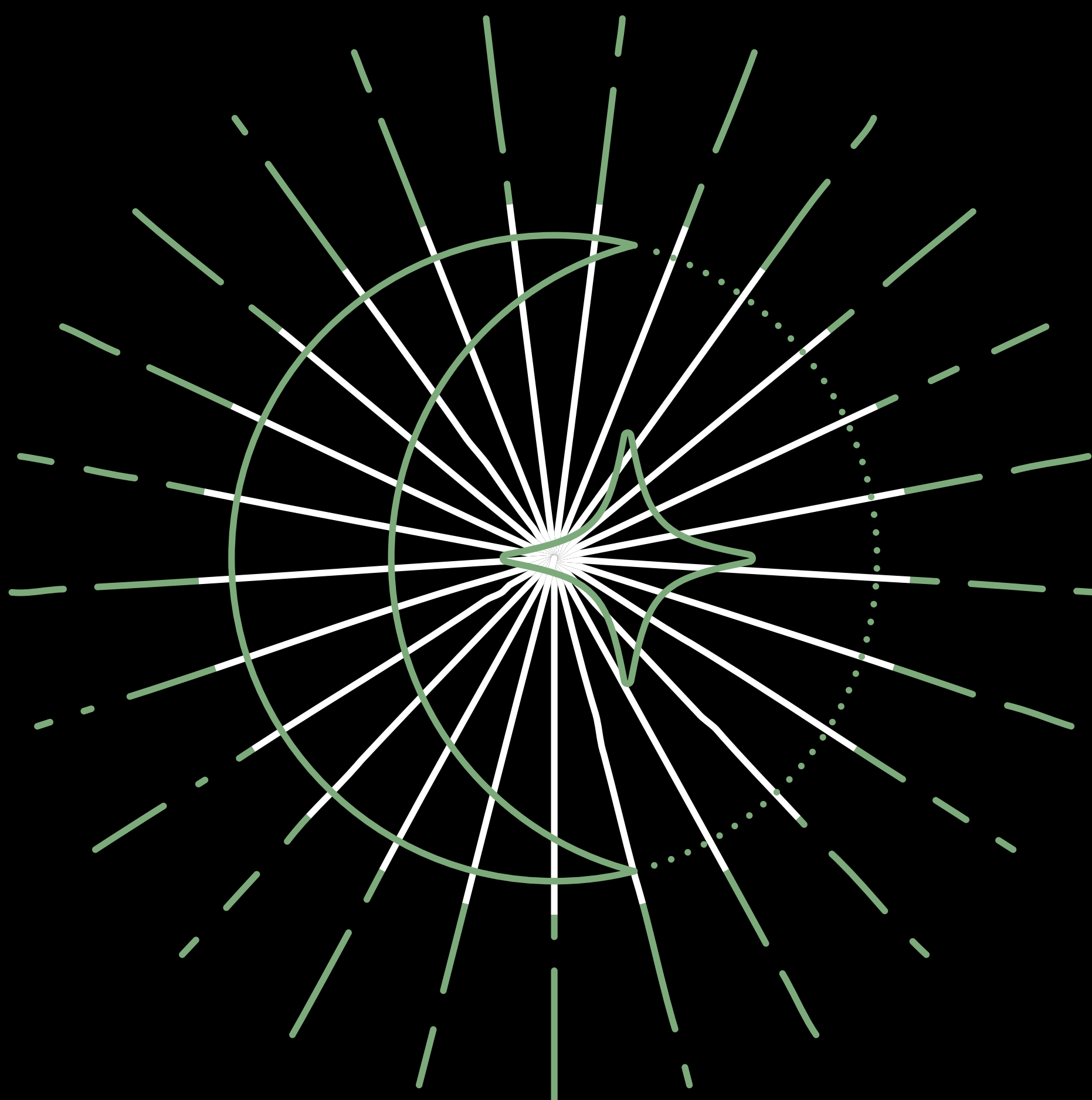
HOROSCOPE

BY ROSANA





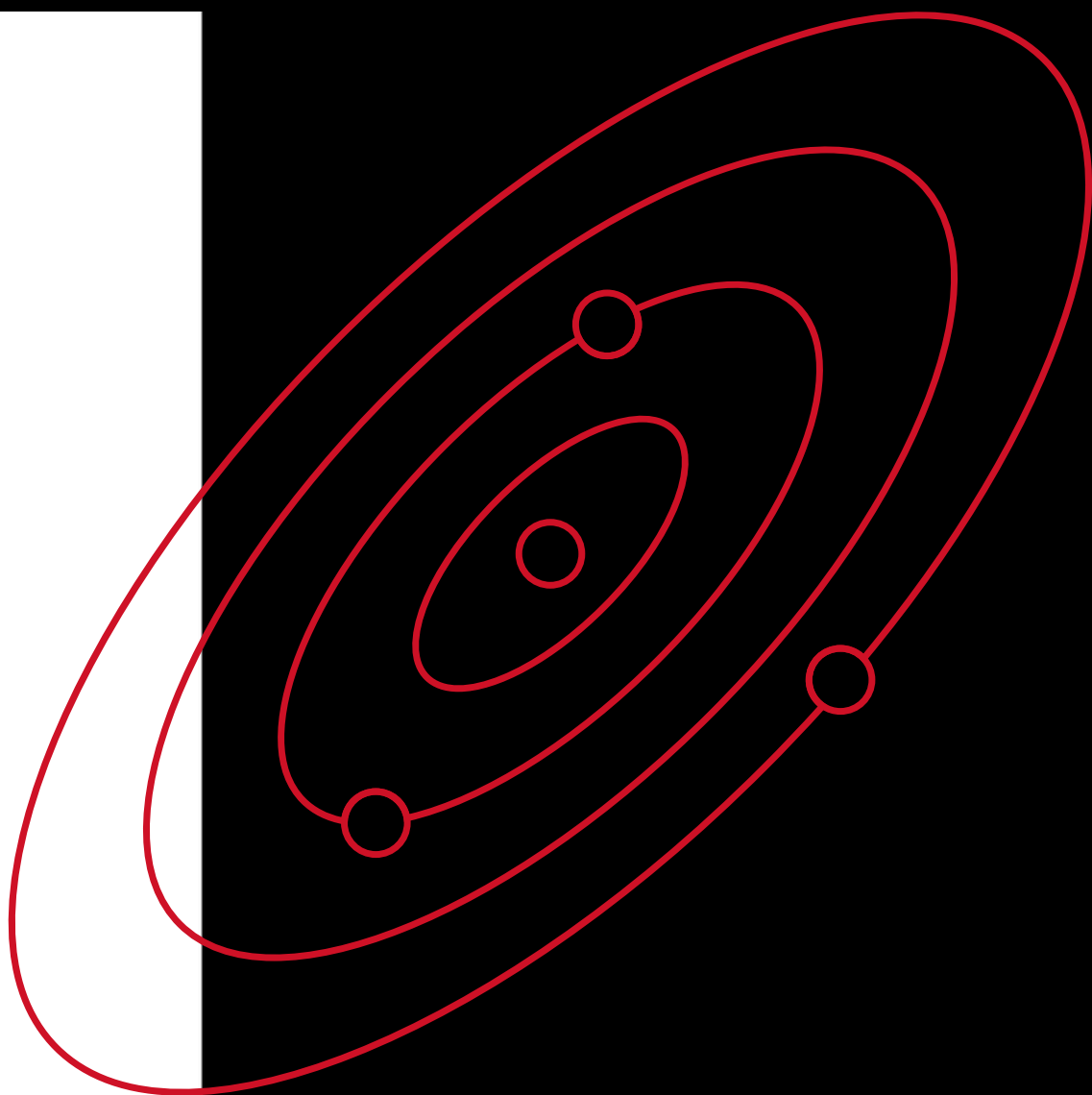
Which consequence of
climate change are you
according to your zodiac sign?



Aries – droughts



We all know you sometimes have dry and brusque character, but you are also quite resilient, like desert goats.



Taurus – sea level rise



We know, honey, you are not a big fan of changes, but some are better than others. Keep studying hard to lead a radical reorganization of our technological, economic, social, and economic systems!

Gemini – food shortage



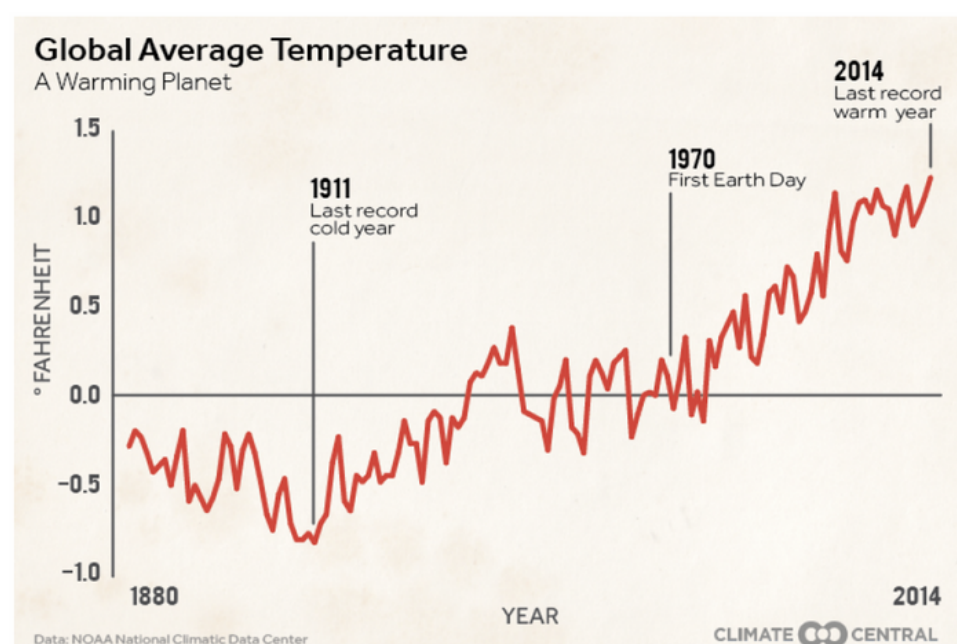
You are very curious and have a tendency towards activism. Your communication skills will convince the world about the countries' unbalance in climate change consequences.

Cancer – polar bears' extinction



You are like a soft teddy bear, everyone wants to hug you. However, you also appreciate having your own space and need freezing temperatures to survive.

Leo – temperatures skyrocketing



Temperatures are not just going to rise because you are on the dance floor. Hips don't lie but climate deniers do!



Virgo – climate denier, sorry ☹



You like feeling smarter than the rest and even when you know you're not right, you keep proving it.



Libra – forest fires



Forest in fire are a metaphor of your character: everything seems going okay from the outside, but you are burning inside. Breathing techniques and mindfulness tricks are not enough to calm you down.

Scorpius – new diseases



Those sentences could perfectly be yours:

“Don’t you know she is toxic?”

“I hope you DON’T think I am a kill-joy, but I would like to mention that eating a bat may not be the best idea”

Sagittarius – hurricanes



Chaotic Chaos is your nickname. Being intense and a drama queen is your inevitable way of living.



Aquarius – coral reef collapse



You have a tendency towards extremes, but coral reef collapse is too much to handle.

Capricornus – bees' extinction



Don't ruin my flowers, bish. You often show a bias towards the underdog.

Pisces – eutrophication



As the fish symbol, you've got a special empathy towards aquatic animals.



DOCTOR LOVE



Dear Dr. Love,

.....

I DIDN'T WANT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO YOU, BUT MY DESPERATION HAS FORCED ME TO DO THIS.. I'M A FIRST YEAR GSS STUDENT AND I HAVE THE BIGGEST CRUSH ON THIS GUY FROM MY YEAR. WE'RE PARTNERS FOR RESEARCH SKILLS AND EVERY ASSIGNMENT WITH HIM HAS BEEN LIKE HEAVEN. IMAGINE A GUY THAT CAN MAKE FILLING IN NUMBERS IN EXCEL HOT. HE'S SO CUTE AND HE HAS EVERYTHING I'M LOOKING FOR IN A GUY. BUT (OFF COURSE THERE HAS TO BE A 'BUT'..), HE'S KIND OFF A CASANOVA.. HE'S ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY OTHER GSS GIRLS AND I'M SCARED TO EVEN GO NEAR HIM. EVERY TIME HE POSTS A PICTURE ON THE GRAM, LIKE 15 GIRLS COMMENT UNDERNEATH IT AND IT MAKES ME SOOO SAD. I KNOW I SHOULD MOVE ON AND LOOK FOR SOMEONE ELSE BUT I GUESS I JUST CAN'T HELP MYSELF. I FEEL STUPID FOR FALLING FOR HIS TRICKS SINCE I KNOW BASICALLY EVERY GIRL FALLS FOR IT.. SHOULD I JUST MOVE ON AND ACCEPT THAT HE'S NOT FOR ME OR SHOULD I JUST GO FOR IT?? PLEASEEEEEEEEEEE HELP ME BECAUSE I'M CLUELESS.. ☹

XXXXXXXXX FROM A DESPERATE GSSER

HIIII DESPERATE GSSER!

NO NEED TO CALL YOURSELF DESPERATE AT ALL, SOMETIMES WE JUST FALL FOR PEOPLE FOR REASONS WE DON'T UNDERSTAND. IF YOU'RE GETTING THE FEELING THAT THERE REALLY COULD BLOSSOM SOMETHING BETWEEN YOU TWO, THEN I SAY GO FOR IT! WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE REALLY? PLUS GUYS LOVE IT WHEN GIRLS TAKE THE LEAD AND ASK THEM OUT FOR A CHANGE. HOWEVERRRRRRR, IF YOU'RE GETTING BAD VIBES AND KNOW IT'S NOT GOING TO END WELL AND YOU JUST THINK HE'S HOT: RUN. RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN, GIRL. ENOUGH CUTE SUSTAINABLE BOYS IN THIS PROGRAM WHO DON'T BREAK HEARTS AND FLIRT WITH EVERY MOVING OBJECT. I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST OF LUCK <3

XOXO DR. LOVE



CONTRIBUTORS

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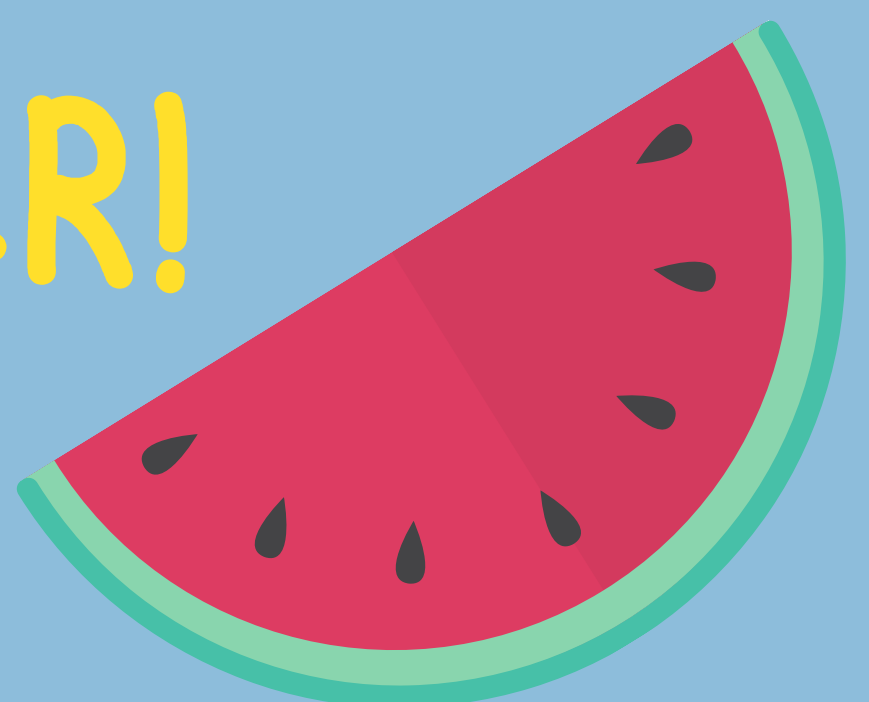
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