

# November Article



## **The Hunger Crisis in America this Thanksgiving**

Kaushya Bhattu



Why is there a major hunger crisis this Thanksgiving when compared to the past years? Well, the clear outlier here is the pandemic. There are about 50 million Americans who won't have enough to eat this year due to the pandemic. Some Americans have been living like this for the past few months. Due to schools being out, the parents whose children would normally rely on the school's reduced lunches,

have to figure out a way to pay for breakfast and lunch. The largest hunger-relief group in the United States, Feeding America, says that “the number of hungry Americans in the US is trending towards recession numbers when 56 million Americans were food insecure.” In order to help out with this solution, thanksgiving baskets are being prepared for families who would otherwise go without a meal by the Agatha House Foundation in the Bronx. They are meticulously curated with fresh fruit, a signature Thanksgiving turkey, and even a small gift, such as candles and picture frames which are then put inside the baskets. Since the pandemic, the pantry has experienced a 100% increase in need, with many new people coming in. Even after Thanksgiving, the need for food continues. As stated by Babineaux-Fontenot, “We estimate that over the course of the next 12 months, the gap between what we have and what our neighbors are going to need is about 8 billion meals.” But there are steps that the administration can take to get food to the people who need it. Although there are hunger relief groups working to help out families in need, this Thanksgiving will surely look different for millions of Americans.

**Source:**

<https://cdn.cnn.com/cnnnext/dam/assets/201125161310-01-hunger-crisis-in-america-thanksgiving-exlarge-169.jpg>

## **Nationalism's effect on Globalism**

Ayemhenre Isikhuemhen



Throughout centuries nationalism has been a unifying factor for groups of people to collaborate for the collective benefit of their society, but while we have reached an age of globalism, we have begun to wonder whether nationalism should still be used as a unifying factor. I believe it should not, as nationalism hinders the potential of a globalized system because it acts as a dividing factor between different peoples

as well, it creates an unnecessary bias that corrupts how history is perceived, and the Global identity; which I believe is objective rather than one limited by pride.

Especially, because we are in an age of globalization where ideas, business, and technology are meant to be shared across many cultures and peoples, an outdated ideology like nationalism would only hinder the capabilities of this modern system. This is because Nationalism is made up of cultural, and historical identity. So when we look at very patriotic countries like South Korea, and Japan, both of these countries have had an intense history as enemies and perpetrators, and to this day these countries maintain an uneasy relationship with each other. I'd argue that these relations are the way they are because of the grudges of the past still being maintained by Nationalism, but what is important is that these relations led to an economic schism between the two countries in 2019, which was initially started by trade disagreements on technology. So this reasonable problem should easily be resolved at the table, but issues soon escalated among the peoples and politicians as they began to "perceive" "attacks" against their own Nation and people, negative feelings, and rumors of racism. Finally a series of boycotts and anti-sentiment spewing from both countries. and the most consequential being that South Korea initiated a Boycott on Japanese goods, and a bitter trade war commenced. When I look at this, I see that two strong economic powerhouses are uselessly hurting each other, for an issue that should have been resolved in a couple of hours at a table. Imagine if they had resolved the issue and took a step further and made an economic commonwealth, surely those two countries who have increased the quality of living for their citizens. Let's also not forget to mention that everyone else who is buying products from these countries like the U.S.A and China are experiencing product delays. So happens that many other countries experience conflict with each other, because of history, culture, religion, and ultimately pride.

It's clear that so long there is a difference between any groups of people, anything could easily escalate in a destabilizing manner, even if one culture was on Earth there will always be differences as one person could believe in another variation of something. Although the best

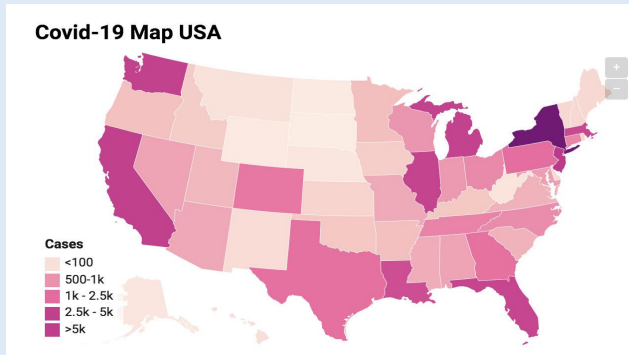
## Our News

thing I think humanity can do is take pride in the difference between each and every individual and to take pride in helping each and every one.

**Source: Adobe Sparks by Joshua Woronieke**

## **COVID-19 Updates**

Amruta Aradwad



COVID-19 is the current pandemic we are facing. We know that it has affected the USA the most and the cases are still skyrocketing. The USA has about 13 million cases of COVID-19 according to the latest updates. The coronavirus spreads mainly from person to person, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected coughs or sneezes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. According to CNN health, in the United States, the cases are

doubling almost every 2 months. The latest updates of John Hopkins University and Medicine states that on average the USA has 7 new cases per day. But we can surely prevent this by following safety methods like cleaning our hands often, limiting gatherings, wearing masks when going out, clean and disinfect objects once touched, etc.

**source:**

<https://www.langdonemison.com/firm-news-collection/2020/3/27/an-update-from-langdon-amp-emi-son-on-the-covid-19-crisis>

## **Humanitarian Conflict in Ethiopia**

Sanjita Suryadevara



In early November, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia claimed that forces from the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) of the country's autonomous northern region of Tigray, had attacked a national military base. As a response, the Ethiopian federal government sent troops to the region controlled by the TPLF. Abiy later announced that the Ethiopian forces had successfully bombed Tigray, destroying weaponry near the

regional capital of Mekele. Days later, news of a civilian massacre amid the conflict came to light. As of now, many Ethiopian civilians are fleeing the country, leading to one of the largest mass displacement of refugees in Africa. This military conflict has raised many concerns over humanitarian conditions in the country, and as the days pass by, the situation is seeming dire.

According to Amnesty International, scores of citizens were massacred on the night of November 9 in Tigray. Verified video footage and photographs revealed that people were attacked with knives and hatchets, hundreds thought to be dead. The victims were confirmed as day laborers, with no ties to the ongoing conflicts. Most of them were even reported to be non-Tigrayan residents, according to their state-issued ID cards. It is unknown as to who was responsible for these killings; however, there are fingers pointed to the TPLF in the accounts of witnesses, who claim that the offense was carried out by TPLF allies and troops after they suffered a defeat in the hands of Federal Ethiopian Defense Forces in a confrontation. Yet it is difficult to come to any conclusion, as the widespread telecommunication blackout across the country makes it close to impossible to verify information about the situation.

On November 14, Tigrayan forces launched missiles at targets in Eritrea, a neighboring country of Ethiopia, with which the country is attempting to rebuild relations after a two-year excruciating war and raising hostilities ever since. These attacks have prompted a mass exodus, tens of thousands of residents fleeing to neighboring Sudan. There will be an estimated 200,000 more refugees crossing the border in the coming weeks. The conditions of the refugee camps welcoming the Ethiopians are no different from the ones in every refugee crisis story; no proper sanitation, no legitimate shelter, and rising health concerns. If the conflict continues to deter, it may lead to the destabilization of the region and a mass displacement of approximately 110 million people. This may become the largest refugee exodus ever seen.

What prompted this brutal conflict? It dates back to the times of the newly blooming peace between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed had successfully established relations with the neighboring country and was even awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. However, not everyone was content with Abiy's leadership, or the turnout of the peace made with Eritrea. The TPLF, an armed movement, which controls the autonomous Tigray region of

Ethiopia, was threatened by the current government's democratic reforms and how it would affect their influence over their region. This is largely due to the TPLF's belief that Abiy's government was unfairly targeting their organization with the latest government crackdowns. Along with this, the TPLF state that they lacked input in Ethiopia's relations with Eritrea, unable to have a say in the country's affairs. In September of 2020, the TPLF held regional elections that were unauthorized by the federal government. Due to the coronavirus concerns worldwide, Abiy called for voting to be postponed until conditions were more hospitable. However, the TPLF continued with the illegitimate election, fostering more hostility between the two parties. It is clear that a conflict within leadership has spread to one involving weapons, blood, and more lives than accounted for.

The shades of this conflict mix together to create a painting of chaos and ever-growing anguish. However, with the curtain pulled down on telecommunications, we may not even be seeing the worst of it. The shutdown of information during this crisis on both humanitarian grounds and military control has prevented the ever most crucial stories of the common people during the war from coming out. Ethiopia is locked away from the rest of us. Yet, Ethiopia does not want to be locked up. It wants to be heard. And activists are finding a promising voice through Twitter. After the telecommunication blackout, a prodigious amount of Twitter accounts appeared and began to address the situation. In most political cases, such accounts are regarded as bots, used to spread propaganda during conflicts. But after an analysis of the majority of accounts, it has been clarified that these accounts do belong to real people. Most importantly, people who are locked in this calamity. Organized movements are using loose networks of activists to teach people how to use Twitter through Whatsapp groups. Using the Twitter hashtag resource, many are gaining attention from international organizations and may even influence the turnout of this issue. However, both sides of the conflict have been using social media in order to push their version of the narrative of Ethiopia into the spotlight. Even though the validity of the tweets is questionable, they may be our only inside source of what truly is happening in the country. And whatever may happen, it is clear that the use of communication through public networks has become the new face of the revolution.

The deadline for TPLF to lay down troops had expired. Ethiopian forces are set to encircle and shell the city. A bitter civil war is on the brink of explosion. Thousands are already displaced, their home forever is gone. Hundreds lay deceased due to heinous war crimes spewing through raising tensions. This is just the tip of the iceberg, our eyes forced to turn away because of the lack of access to the region, and our attempts to help futile as they are continuously turned down and blocked. Tigray may never be the same, its civilian infrastructure taking a hit. Ethiopia may never be the same, forced to continuously fight against someone. This time, Ethiopia is fighting itself, its own people. The question that we ponder as the despair sets in, is that if this war is truly worth it; and only time will tell.

**Source:**

<https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/ethiopia-tigray-war-a-debacle-of-democratic-transition>

## **Presidential Election Outcome**

Avyukth Bhattu



This presidential election was one of the wildest elections I saw but taking I only saw life three in my life isn't saying much. Starting with the debates, with the first one being impossible to understand for most people who are undecided on who they want to vote for, to the second debate getting canceled because Trump didn't want to do it online, many people looked for the third debate as last cry call to help them decide which was actually a good debate. With that being in mind the increased votes of new coming voters came into play since most millennials (from what I've seen and heard) either were republican and loved Trump or were democratic/independent and just hated Trump so

they voted for Biden. With most states that belonged to a certain party gave their candidate their electoral votes, some states didn't. States such as Wisconsin and Pennsylvania were key in determining who won the election. After Biden won Wisconsin, Arizona, and Michigan who many people thought would go to Trump, it all relied on Nevada if Trump and Biden won the states they were predicted to win. That's what we thought until it all changed. Everyone was waiting on Nevada to finish counting votes, but that's when Pennsylvania out of nowhere went from republican to democratic along with Georgia. With that switch, Biden already won and Nevada didn't matter, but Nevada did end up voting for Biden which would've decided who our next president would be in Pennsylvania never changed.

**Source:**

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/president-elect-biden-wary-trump-focused-in-vestigations-sources-say-n1247959>