



# THE DIPLOMAT

Delta Phi Epsilon, Epsilon Chapter  
Fall 2018, Issue 2



# Letter from the *President*

Welcome to the end of days, my fellow brothers and sisters. Or rather, the end of my benign reign as President of Delta Phi Epsilon, Epsilon Chapter, for Fall 2018. My dictatorial tendencies aside, it is still so surreal to me that I, who pledged in Fall 2016 and witnessed the reigns of Spandi, Chris, Oliver, and Sasha, am writing my presidential letter of farewell for the semester. It seems comically long ago that I was delivering my election speech, if only to be emailed just a week after by Terry Boyle with threats to discharter our entire chapter. Oh, the passage of time.

Truthfully, none of this semester would have been possible without such an incredibly competent ExComm. With Tyler, for bringing our chapter together with internals that never failed to put a smile on my face. Avdeep, for utilizing her fearsome network to connect us with such a diverse array of speakers. To Nicole and Lhiam, for being the parents we all wish we had. To Maya, for sprinkling a little of your professional magic on the rest of us. Jean, for cracking a whip on attendance and keeping a level-head. To Tooba, for keeping a group of humanities majors afloat financially. Thank you all for your passion, your commitment, and for making my last semester on ExComm the most rewarding.

To the seven actives who qualified for subsidization this semester: Cassidy, Chance, Farah, Geraint, Lucas, Trevor, and Aastha. Thank you for being exemplary members of this fraternity and giving it life to carry on. To all the actives: whether you attended one event or all of them, you have left an impact here. From the hours you spend tabling, to the beautiful rage you contribute into correcting each other on jeopardy answers, and to the niche yet bottomless knowledge you all carry—you are the reason DPhiE transcends its title as a professional fraternity into something much more special: a home.

And of course, to the pledges about to cross: while your resumes left something to be desired, your level of hard-work and heart

from the beginning of your pledge process to its end never disappointed. From Irene and Marrec bickering over French, to Jonah's heated outbursts on Oklahoman politics, to Sean's almost too-polished cries for neocolonialism, I know DPhiE is in great hands. So, although I am already dreading my final banquet with DPhiE, I am excited to see where you all take this chapter for semesters to come.

In all honesty, it has been the biggest privilege and adventure of my undergraduate career to be your President. I can only hope I proved to be the dutiful president my Sunday mailings swore I would be. To next semester's actives, both newly-crossed and veteran, I have one thing left to say: Huzzah!

Your dutiful president,  
Mahshad Badii

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## *dear children...*

Dear Pledglings,

If Pain is the breaking of the shell that encapsulates understanding, then your first cracks appeared in inductions, under an interrogator's lamp (or was it for incubation?)

Chased from the nest by twin serpents  
You found your wings in the fall  
Driven relentlessly down  
(Momentum that propelled you into flight)

Though we lost one of our number  
Unhatched or devoured,  
You now soar  
(And never need look back)

Every single one of you has earned your place here.  
We could not be prouder.

Thank you for a wonderful semester. You have all come such a long way since you decided to embark on this marvelous, stressful, time-consuming, exciting journey that is DPhiE. We picked each and every one of you for a reason, and you proved to be everything we could have hoped for and so much more.

Thank you for giving it your all. Your willingness to engage with new topics, to challenge your peers, to share your knowledge with one another, to turn in thoughtful and exemplary work has helped each and every one of you grow, and we are so proud of all the work you have done this semester (and you should be too!)

Fear not, for your efforts have not gone to waste. You entered our Fall 2018 family young, naive, and unfamiliar with the "secrets" and "mystic lore" of DPhiE you swore to keep during initiation. You finish your pledging process knowledgeable on so much, from Machiavelli to Rwanda... researching such a diverse array of topics

that brought you to explore Chinese investments and Russian autocracy to Saudi princes and hopefully having formed lifelong bonds with your friends, pledge siblings, and even us your parents!

Remember that you are now active members of a fraternity full of talented, passionate individuals from diverse backgrounds just like you-- committed to global affairs, diplomacy, and pursuing opportunities abroad. Don't let the end of the pledging process be the end to your DPhiE journey. Continue to engage with your peers and the world. Seek mentors and provide mentorship to the generations that come.

Be free, little ones. Soar high and free.

-- Nicole Timofeevski & Lhiam Howard



# CATALONIA & THE LONG FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE

## SUMMER HARRIS

Catalonia is a region in the northwest of Spain most widely known for its lively beach resorts and vibrant capital Barcelona. However, recently the region has gotten attention for the outbreaks of violence that have occurred in response to the Catalan referendum on independence. On October 1st 2017, the government of Catalan held a referendum that had been declared illegal by the Spanish government. Spanish police attempted to shut down voting stations but 2.26 million votes were still counted despite the Spanish efforts. 90% of the votes cast supported Catalan independence, a seemingly unilateral vote. How has this movement for independence become such a pressing issue in Spain? Why are the Spanish so militant in their opposition towards Catalan independence? Why does Catalonia want independence from Spain in the first place? To answer these questions one must explore the history of the relationship between Catalonia and Spain, understand the vast differences in culture, language, politics, and economics that separate the two, and how these factors have culminated in the impassioned demands for independence for Catalonia.

What we know now as modern Spain all started in 1469 with the marriage of Infanta Isabella of Castille to King Ferdinand II of Aragon. Previously the Crown of Aragon had ruled over the territories including modern day Catalonia while the Crown of Castille controlled the majority of what is now central Spain. Even after the unification the various territories of the Crown of Aragon, especially Catalonia, retained their own languages, laws, and customs and essentially operated as an autonomous state under the Kingdom of Spain. It was not until the early 18th century with the War of Spanish Succession that the Spanish government became centralized in Madrid and the Crown of Aragon territories were forced to give up their autonomy.

Despite the loss of their self-rule Catalonia remained highly distinct from the rest of Spain. The first whispers of Catalan independence reach as far back as the 1850s where in a letter to the New York Times an unnamed Spaniard remarks "There is a Province in Spain which, at all times has shown a spirit of independence. That Province is 'Catalonia'". The first pro-independence political party, Estat Català, formed in 1922 and after a successful election a decade later Catalan representatives negotiated with the provisional government and were granted a Statute of Autonomy in 1932. This autonomy was short lived however as 6 years later in 1938 General Franco rose to power and abolished the Statute of Autonomy. Franco believed strongly in the idea of a single national identity and repressed regional governments and culture in an attempt to actualize this ideal. Catalonia was stripped of all rights to self-governance and had their language and culture heavily suppressed. Castille became the only language allowed in education, media, and administration while Catalan was restricted to family use.

After Franco's death in 1975 Spain began the transition to democracy with a constitution that restored Catalonia's right to self-governance and recognized Catalan as the official language of Catalonia. The constitution explicitly stated that Spain was unified and indivisible, leaving little room on the question of Catalan independence. But with 90% of Catalans supporting the constitution there was also little demand for it. It is not until the 21st century would strong demands for independence begin to arise once more. In the 2003 Catalan elections a coalition of parties including the Republican Left of Catalonia (ERC), a pro-independence party, rose to power. In 2005 this government put forward a proposal for a new Statute of Autonomy. One of the main goals of this proposal

was to improve Catalan self-governance and it passed through the Catalan parliament with an overwhelming 120 out of 135 votes. The statute was highly edited and watered down by the Spanish Parliament but was still approved and put up for a referendum. The statute was passed in 2006 but was very quickly challenged as unconstitutional by a Spanish political party and went under case at the Spanish Constitutional Court for four years and declared unconstitutional as the Statute was reversed in 2010. During this period the 2008 global financial crisis stuck Spain and spending cuts added fuel to the local resentment and separatism....In response to growing dissatisfaction with the central government the Catalan government held a independence referendum in November 2014 that was outlawed by Spain. Following the referendum separatist parties headed by Carles Puigdemont won the 2015 Catalan elections. Puigdemont declared in 2017 that another, binding, independence referendum would be held on October 1st to which the Spanish government responded: "You will not be holding a referendum because it is illegal." The referendum occurred anyway only this time there was significant Spanish effort to try to stop it. Spanish police monitored polling stations to stop anyone from voting and several conflicts broke out between voter and police, resulting in 1000 people being injured. The votes that did make it in, only 43% of the population, voted 90% for independence and on October 27th Catalonia declared independence from Spain. There was immediate and strong response from Spain who invoked Article 155 to dismiss Catalonia's parliament and leaders. Spain held snap elections in December and the pro-independence parties just barely held onto their majority. The anti-independence Ciudadanos party received the most votes of any party.

# FEMINIZATION OF LANGUAGE

IRENE YI



Despite what strides have been made in the feminist movement, woman is still often seen as lesser than man. In the not too distant past, *The Sunday Times* printed an article including these words: “The lack of vitality is aggravated by the fact that there are so few able-bodied young adults about. They have all gone off to work or look for work, leaving behind the old, the disabled, the women and the children.”

Not only does this excerpt have ableist and ageist connotations, it has a misogynistic message as well. By removing “women” from the categories of “able-bodied” and “adults,” the article essentially assumes that women are not capable of “[going] off to work or look for work.” The very language we speak--along with many other languages around the world--systematically built sexism into grammar and lexicon. We excavate history in search of a cause for misogyny and inequality, yet the reason is right here in today’s society. Countries suffering from severe sexism more than likely harbor a man’s language as the official one. “A man’s language” can appear in many ways: for one, a grammatically gendered language seems to fall to a masculine default; in addition, even in an increasingly gender-neutral language like English (the Standard American English dialect), the word “man” is used all too often to describe people of all genders.

Take French, for example. It’s a very gendered, and very well-protected language. In fact, the Académie Française exists to protect the French language. Members of the Académie are called “les immortels,” or “the immortals.” Further, the motto of this institution is “à l’immortalité,” which means “to immortality.” This should provide an idea on how adamant the French Academy is to keeping their language unchanged. However, language change is almost always inevitable, regardless of how

many protection institutions are established. Without change, a language will stray increasingly far from the lives of its speakers; especially with globalization, change happens ever rapidly with loan words, slang appearances, and social movements. Essentially, a language can either change or die fighting. Such is the case with the rigidly gendered nouns of French. A French noun almost always takes an article, whether definite (le, la, les, ce, cette, cet, ces, etc.) or indefinite (un, une, de, des, etc.). There is a significantly larger number of French articles than English ones (the, that, a, an, etc.) because of the way French is gendered. Not only does the gender of the article have to match the gender of the noun, all adjectives modifying the noun have to be accordingly gendered as well. From a purely technical standpoint, the linguistics behind gendered languages should not cause a social issue; on paper, the noun classes are merely ways to categorize words in a language, and the gender of a noun should not necessarily apply to real-life, breathing human gender.

However, because language plays such a large part in the human brain, gendered languages do influence the way speakers think and regard the respective human genders. The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis states that the way a language’s grammar and lexicon work can change the way a speaker perceives the world around them. For example, some Aboriginal languages do not have relative directional terms (in English, we have words like “right” and “left,” but in this Aboriginal language, speakers refer to direction with words like “north,” “south,” “east,” and “west”).

Tangents aside, the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis is supported by not only this example, but many others as well (including, but not limited to, experiments surrounding Man-

darin, Greek, and Russian). This means that language does, indeed, affect the way a speaker thinks. If a language has misogyny in its roots, speakers of that language are much more likely to adopt the same mindset. The language virtually opens up the possibility of misogyny to its speakers. While there are a plethora of languages with strict gender rules, French stands out above many because of the Académie Française’s existence.

Like most other Romance language-speaking countries, France has a history of sexism. Young girls could choose to attend school, but they were often taken out of the education system earlier than boys were. In addition, French society assumed that girls did not attend school for the purpose of holding any sort of political office; girls could not assume leadership positions within society because of the misogynistic views of the time. Conveniently, many French profession nouns do not have a feminine form. Whether the sexist mindset or the sexist language came first, the game of “chicken or the egg” is not necessary to see that this sexism is still prevalent in today’s world.

In French, the indefinite feminine article is “une” and the indefinite masculine article is “un.” Most nonhuman nouns have their gender set in stone, but a few French profession nouns can toggle between genders by adding or changing an affix (most of the time, this affix is the suffix) in the word. For example, “un pharmacien” is a male pharmacist, while “une pharmacienne” is a female pharmacist. Notice that in English, a pharmacist is just that--a pharmacist. The gender is not revealed; rather, the addition of the preceding “male” or “female” denotes the gender of the pharmacist.



# BREXIT:

## HOW'D WE GET HERE?

ALEXANDER ALPI

Well Britain, it looks as if you've gone and done goofed real hard here. For all of the action taken since the approval of the Brexit referendum in June 2016, it seems as if it were unavoidable for Britain to opt to simply stay. This is a major misunderstanding of Britain's law on the referendum and its non-binding traits. In this and the following blog posts, I will attempt to expand upon Britain's regrets on Brexit, and see if there is still a way out of this mess.

### History

Great Britain joined what was known as the European Economic Community in 1973, which would later become the European Union. In doing so, Britain sought to expand its influence by aligning itself with a major trading bloc. Britain at the time could stand to gain from being a bridge between the United States and the EU, and their membership would go on to be consequential to the growth of London into an international city, influential in business, and increasingly multicultural. In Making sense of Brexit, Seidler claims that this globalization was alienating to Britons who resided outside of these areas felt left behind, and that the 2008 recession aggravated this mindset further. During the late 20th and early 21st century, the UK signed onto treaties that eurosceptics saw as potentially dangerous to national sovereignty, including the Maastricht Treaty (1993) and the Treaty of Lisbon (2007). The process for ratification of these treaties was tenuous in Britain, as there was debate in Parliament as to whether these treaties should be ratified via a referendum vote. In both cases, they were ratified. within the Parliament. In the case of the Treaty of Lisbon, the lack of a referendum taking place required to ratify the treaty was cleared by the British High Court, upholding the ratification.

### Legalities

The Brexit referendum was also not simply a question of stay or leave, it was in fact a question of accepting new terms negotiated by the government of the UK and the EU. In early 2016, then-Prime Minister David Cameron had renegotiated terms with which the UK was a member country of the EU, with several provisions contingent on a 'Remain' vote later in the year. Upon the 'Leave' result of the referendum, the negotiated terms were immediately discarded in favor of new negotiations to take place for the process of the UK leaving the EU completely.

The European Union Referendum Act passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom on December 17th, 2015 simply mandated that a popular referendum be held before the end of 2017, in which voters would express their approval or disapproval with the EU. The results of the referendum were, according to the Act, to be non-binding and nothing more than to gauge popular sentiment towards the multilateral organization. The non-binding nature of British referenda is the result of the lack of any constitutional backing to allow for them to be enforced or otherwise acted upon. Following the referendum, the British High Court confirmed the non-binding nature of it under the same logic the same Court had used to uphold the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty by Parliament without referendum years before, citing the legal principle of parliamentary sovereignty.

### Fear and Loathing: The Brexit Campaign '16

The Brexit 'Leave' campaign was largely centered around two boisterous, eccentric personalities, motivated by their own political ambitions. Boris Johnson of the

Conservative Party, then Mayor of London, was initially expected to be a major ally to the 'Remain' campaign, but surprised political observers when he came out in favor of the 'Leave' campaign. It has been long speculated that he wished to use this process to one day secure the Premiership for himself. The other major personality in the campaign for 'Leave' was Nigel Farage, founding member of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) in 1993, who had been pushing for removal of the UK from the EU for decades. The famed Brexit Bus displayed a claim that £350 million Pounds were sent to the EU weekly, and claimed that the money would instead be reallocated to the National Health Service (NHS) in the event of a 'Leave' vote. This was clever political maneuvering on the behalf of the 'Leave' coalition, as the NHS has been a historically popular institution, with 82% of the population stating that they are concerned with funding for the program.

On the 'Remain' side was then-Prime Minister David Cameron, who had yet to learn the crisis he would plunge his home country into from promising to hold such this referendum during the 2015 general election. Theresa May, Cameron's eventual successor and fellow 'Remainer' failed to show any real political courage, by showing only tepid support for her side. With campaigners like these, who needs an opposition? The most destructive aspect of this entire referendum process according to Ridge-Newman, was the establishment of the Leave/Remain Paradigm, which had polarized the British people, which provided an opening for populist sentiment to grow.

# RESETTLEMENT & THE THREE GORGES PROJECT

MEGAN GROSSPIETSCH



According to Zhang and Donaldson's paper, *China's Agrarian Reform and the Privatization of Land: a Contrarian View*, rural land in China operates under a dual system of collective land ownership and individual rights to access the land. Unlike urban land, which is owned by the state, rural land is not owned by the state or even farmers. Land is owned by rural collectives, which are administrative villages with informally elected leaders. This means that households in the village have access to use and profit from their designated plots of land, but do not have private ownership of that plot. In addition, the state gave up some of its territorial claim to rural land with the Household Responsibility System in 1983, a system where the state deferred the farming decision making process of what to grow, who to contract from, and where to sell back to the rural collectives. This means that the practice of using rural collectives to govern the land is communist because the means of production, the land, are owned and managed collectively by the villages, where residence in that village grants membership for access to using the land.

The territorialization and land grabbing of the Three Gorges area is primitive accumulation because it enclosed the collectively held land and resulted in a landless population. The inundation of the land was the enclosure mechanism for primitive accumulation because it cut off access of households to benefit from the land. Subsequently, the land became privately held by the state. This privatization of the land by the state created a population of 1.2 million displacees that the government needed to resettle; Marx's landless proletariat. Even before the Three Gorges Project became approved, the government estimated that 40% of resettled peoples would have to find work outside of agriculture in secondary or tertiary industries. In this case, the en-

closure of land turned 40% former farmers into landless wage laborers, adhering to Marx's theory of primitive accumulation almost exactly. The farmers not turned into wage laborers were not expected to fair much better; the 60% of migrants resettled in rural areas are expected to never be able to regain the income they had prior to resettlement. These migrants were given smaller plots than that had before in the uplands, which are only suitable for growing citrus, tea, and other cash crops. More recent evidence indicates that the resettlement ratio for migrants was actually ratio 50% urban and 50% rural.

This conflict deviates from the Marxist definition of primitive accumulation because of the role of the Chinese government as the proprietor. Interestingly, despite its privatization, the land in the Three Gorges Area did not become privatized nor were its benefits excluded from the people. China is a communist party-led state, meaning socialist values like state owned and provided services are strongly encouraged by the party. For this reason, the land did not become commodified because it was never intended to be bought and sold on the market. In addition, unlike true primitive accumulation, the benefits of land are not held exclusively by the resource user. People living in the Yangtze Valley benefit from the Three Gorges Dam and its reservoir through flood prevention and all of China benefits from the dam through its electricity generation. Of course, these benefits come at the expense of the displacees. To summarize, if we use Zhang and Donaldson's analysis of land property rights where state ownership is separate from rural collective ownership, the government's flooding of land in the Three Gorges Area is socialist-driven primitive accumulation because the state acted through a socialist, rather than capitalist,

ideology to provide services that would benefit many people.

This argument can be completely derailed if we apply what Professor Biber had to say about the project. Professor Biber is a professor at the Berkeley Law School and the Director of Environmental and Energy Law Programs. I chose to speak with him about the conflict because of his background in teaching courses in Property, Public Lands, and Natural Resources Law. Contrary to what Zhang and Donaldson had to say about land rights, Professor Biber told me that these administrative rural collectives is a form of local government. This means that technically the state does, in fact, own the land in the Three Gorges Area, and that Marx's primitive accumulation theory could not apply because the land was already in the state's ownership. More research needs to be done on who owns the rural land in China: the people or the government.

I also spoke to Professor Biber on if he thought it was appropriate for the government to displace millions of people from their land for the sake of creating a dam. He responded with, "Well what are the goals of creating the dam?" Flood control and electricity generation. Lives are being saved not because of the dam itself, but because the government forced people to move uphill or into new provinces because their homes became flooded anyways. In terms of electricity generation, the goal of the dam was to contribute 11% of China's energy supply, but estimates put this amount at less than 4%. In my opinion, the proposed benefits of the Three Gorges Dam did not outweigh the displacement of millions of people.



# FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN S.E. ASIAN MARKETS

SEAN O'CONNELL

It's no secret China is extending its economic influence overseas while Xi-Jinping continues a policy of domestic consolidation and regional militarism. Accusations of "neo-imperialism" by China and its multi-national enterprises (MNEs) in East Africa in the past several years have refocused American concerns over China's economic intentions regarding trade imbalances and OFDI. However, these fears may be somewhat overblown, or at least slightly premature, in the current geopolitical context.

While East African investment might be getting the front page of the Times, Southeast Asian markets are both geographically closer to China than East Africa and far more export-productive and politically pivotal than other major recipients of US and Chinese FDI and trade contracts. China claims that recent increases in its ASEAN market activities simply reflect domestic economic demands, while the US has, up to now, largely ignored or accepted Chinese market movements. The question is, what are China's economic intentions in the region and what does the possibility of a Chinese market hegemony in Southeast Asia mean for the future of US-Japanese-EU investment and regional political stability?

## Statistical Analysis of U.S./China FDI and Trade

In initial analyses of Foreign Direct investment trends in the region it is not immediately apparent the US or Japan are being directly threatened by Chinese capital influx. From 2007 to 2012, according to the US Government's Accountability Office 2015 Report, the US invested 96 billion USD in ASEAN countries compared to 23 billion USD invested by China (GAO-15-724, p. 24). However, it's important to note the US Bureau of Economic Analysis also

shows a relative stagnation in American OFDI compared to a steady growth rate in FDI over the same period of time for Chinese MNEs. Further, Chinese FDI flows also appear to be directed to different ASEAN markets—namely lower GDP and GNP economies—from the US, which traditionally invests in established and larger capital regions. For example, Cambodia, Burma, Laos, and Vietnam (excluding Singapore and Indonesia) accounted for the majority of Chinese FDI distribution in Southeast Asia from 2007-2012 while these accounted for less than 10 percent of total US FDI in the same period (GAO-15-724 p. 26). This may indicate a Chinese grand investment strategy focusing on gaining political in ASEAN via investments towards the development of lower capital nations. Under this model, China would be "stretching" its political and economic capital as nations with low GDP respond more dramatically to OFDI than those with high GDP, and development projects in low-income countries are both cheap and required for basic growth and livelihood. Nevertheless, such strategic projections are merely speculation. The area of trade, however, shows less ambiguous trends towards far greater Chinese regional investment and possible geopolitical influence channels. According to a report by John Reed and Valentina Romi of the Financial Times in April, "In 2000, China was a less significant source of imports into Southeast Asia than either Japan, the US, or the EU. Now it accounts for about 20 percent of the value of all goods imported in the region," ("Who Dominates Economies" p. 5). China's trade with ASEAN amounted to 444 billion USD in 2013, and in 2010 it signed the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area that cut tariffs dramatically for Chinese trade enterprises in the region's most developed economies ("Geopolitical Centrality" p. 24). Thus, it appears trade growth with

China may be a harbinger for greater FDI and political inroads in ASEAN.

## Interpretation of Chinese Threat and U.S.-Ally Intentions

It's certainly easy to paint a fairly Manichaeic image of China as "the sleeping dragon" finally rising from its slumber to exert a form of economic imperialism on ASEAN Nations. However, a more objective analysis reveals China does not appear to have any immediate designs on greater sociopolitical influence in Southeast Asia, and, in any case, any such possible initiatives are likely to develop slowly. Dr. Michael Erie of the University of Oxford, speaking on the issue of Chinese law in international development, noted that while diplomatic initiatives and arrangements are certainly a large part of Chinese OFDI interests, "military intervention seems unlikely given China's historical outlook and potential image repercussions." Erie rather believes that China is currently relying on its over 136 bilateral trade agreements to reap the benefits of FDI without becoming embroiled in the resource-taxing job of host country governance issues: a problem the US confronted in the 1970s and 80s while pursuing economic neo-imperialism. Erie stated, "China wants to build roads, not legal influence. It's less about influencing politics and more about building consensus, laced with asymmetry."

Nevertheless, the Chinese approach to regional investment does show potential for Chinese influence to grow in ASEAN, which could inadvertently tip the economic and geopolitical status quo in the region. Dr. Erie argues China is looking to create an OFDI arbitration system standing above local legal systems mainly because it is investing in highly opaque and often corrupt nations.





# to the pledge class of fall 2018

Dear Pledge Class of Fall 2018,

I couldn't have dreamt up a better group of people to go through Delta Phi Epsilon's pledge process with. I knew from the test at initiation, when we all agreed we would not vote anyone out of our cohort, that our group was a loyal, compassionate, and fearless one.

From assignments on transitional justice to nuclear disarmament, this process has equipped us with a breadth of knowledge that will certainly be indispensable to our futures. Although Marrec's eyebrows sometimes interrupted our weekly discussions, we have greatly expanded our understanding of international relations and challenged each other's opinions in ways that have made us all more knowledgeable. And even though many of us had no previous experience in debate, we successfully put on four lively, intense

debates in which we had to argue extreme and difficult positions.

But that's not all we have under our belt. Our pledge event panel on climate change science and policy was a resounding success: we managed to attract over 45 people to our event to learn about the global effects of climate change from two very different perspectives-- and it went off without a hitch.

I don't think I'm exaggerating when I say that we have become our own little family. Whether it was from being vulnerable and sharing with each other what our formative moments of our lives were during retreat, or from the comradery of cleaning up the entire house at 8 am so many times, or even from just sharing our stress over being able to cross, we have built impeccable friendships that are bound to last.

In closing, I want to give a special thank you to our pledge parents, Nicole and Lhiam, for your infinite wisdom, patience, and love: without you, this process could not have shaped up to be as enjoyable and unforgettable an experience as it has been.

It has been my greatest pleasure to serve as your Pledge Class President and I am endlessly grateful to be able to watch you all continue to grow and become the best versions of yourselves.

With love and pride for you all,  
Jess

# THE PLEDGES

FALL 2018



## ALEXANDER ALPI

*Junior*

**Major:** Political Science

**Hometown:** San Francisco

**Favorite Place:** Undecided

**Dream Job:** Something that allows freedom

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

The outcome of the 2000 election, it was the beginning of a long, bad, and on-going domino effect.

**Defining Quote**

"The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend."

-- Abraham Lincoln

## ALEXANDER GELLAND

*Junior*

**Major:** Russian Literature

**Hometown:** Bellevue, Washington

**Favorite Place:** Mt. Rainier, Washington

**Dream Job:** Knight

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

Germany should have won WWI because Europe would have been better off.

**Defining Quote**

"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."

-- Soren Kierkegaard



## AMY MORI

*Junior*

**Major:** Political Science & Sociology

**Minor:** Women's Studies

**Hometown:** Santa Clarita, California

**Favorite Place:** My room back home but also Laduree's tea salon in Paris

**Dream Job:** Judge for the ICC

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

When the nuclear bomb was invented, for all the obvious reasons.

**Defining Quote**

"Maybe life isn't about avoiding the bruises. Maybe it's about collecting the scars to prove we showed up for it."



# THE PLEDGES

FALL 2018



## EMERSYN LYON

*Freshman*

**Major:** Rhetoric

**Hometown:** Shanghai, China

**Favorite Place:** Shanghai

**Dream Job:** Marketing CEO

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

I would change the shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I wonder how racial issues would be today if he was still alive.

**Defining Quote**

"I can survive well enough on my own if given the proper reading material"

-- Sarah J. Maas

## IRENE YI

*Freshman*

**Major:** Linguistics

**Hometown:** Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Favorite Place:** The subway stations in Beijing

**Dream Job:** Food blogger who gets paid to travel and taste fancy foods

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

The moment when the director of *How I Met Your Mother* decided to make the last season/last episode absolute trash because 1) let's be real, that ending was terrible and we all want to see something better and 2) then I could actually get closure on something for once in my life

**Defining Quote**

"Pizza rolls, not gender roles" or "uteruses before duderuses"



## JESS PARRY

*Junior*

**Major:** Political Science

**Minor:** Turkish Studies

**Hometown:** El Sobrante, California

**Favorite Place:** Bozcaada, Turkey

**Dream Job:** Human Rights Attorney

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

I would change the choices of colonists to Americans such as Andrew Jackson that led to the devastation of Native American populations because it has prevented us from having a full understanding of pre-colonial America and left a gap in our ability to create a vision of the spectrum of human experience.

**Defining Quote**

"One's life has value so long as one attributes value to the life of others, by means of love, friendship, indignation and compassion." -- Simone de Beauvoir

# THE PLEDGES

FALL 2018



## JONAH TOAY

*Sophomore*

**Major:** Political Science

**Minor:** Arabic & Public Policy

**Hometown:** Tulsa, Oklahoma

**Favorite Place:** Tijuana, Baja California/Telluride, Colorado

**Dream Job:** International Development Agent

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

Popularizing the aeolipile for potential industrial applications rather than just for novelty in the 1st century, reducing the need for slave labor and pushing metallurgy to new heights, leading to an earlier and more equitable industrial revolution.

**Defining Quote**

"Live in such a way that you would not be ashamed to sell your parrot to the town gossip." -- Will Rogers

## JOSHUA KIM

*Freshman*

**Major:** Business & Political Economy

**Minor:** Global Poverty & Practice

**Hometown:** Superior, Colorado

**Favorite Place:** Winter Park, Colorado

**Dream Job:** Making documentaries about soccer

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

I'd kill the researcher that said vaccines cause autism because he led to people dismissing scientific studies and now we are going to get more disease outbreaks because people actually believe vaccines cause autism.

**Defining Quote**

"Dude that was sick."



## KATHERINE ELIAS

*Freshman*

**Major:** Political Science

**Hometown:** Manhattan Beach, California

**Favorite Place:** Din Tai Fung

**Dream Job:** Screenwriter for SNL or Colbert

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

The day Hillary decided not to campaign in Wisconsin

**Defining Quote**

"Let's get this bread, Berkeley."

# THE PLEDGES

FALL 2018



## KEVIN CHUANG

*Freshman*

**Major:** Political Science

**Hometown:** Taichung, Taiwan

**Favorite Place:** Taiwan Night Market

**Dream Job:** Some job at a think tank, university, or diplomatic organization

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

January 1, 1979, when America switch its diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to the PRC. Cuz Taiwan is a COUNTRY. END OF CONVERSATION!!

**Defining Quote**

"To live is to suffer, to survive is to find some meaning in the suffering."

## MARREC SELOUS

*Junior*

**Major:** Political Economy

**Hometown:** New York & Paris

**Favorite Place:** France

**Dream Job:** Diplomat

**Defining Quote**

"Don't panic."



## MEGAN GROSSPIETSCH

*Junior*

**Majors:** Political Economy & Society and Environment

**Hometown:** Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

**Favorite Place:** Ireland

**Dream Job:** US Ambassador to the United Nations

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

Lincoln's assassination- Andrew Johnson's self-centered policies is a large reason of why reconstruction failed and the US remained a racist nation.

**Defining Quote**

"You forgot one very important thing, mate: I'm Captain Jack Sparrow."



# THE PLEDGES

FALL 2018



## RYAN FIORITO

*Freshman*

**Majors:** Political Science & Psychology

**Hometown:** Hermosa Beach

**Favorite Place:** Seattle

**Dream Job:** Non-Profit Work

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

I would go back and stop Marie Antoinette's execution. If you look past the surface level, she was a devoted and loyal ruler who was hurt more by circumstance than her own shortcomings and deserved better than the guillotine, and should not have been executed in my opinion.

**Defining Quote**

"Live fast die young."

## SEAN O'CONNELL

*Freshman*

**Major:** Economics

**Minors:** History & French

**Hometown:** Santa Clarita, California

**Favorite Place:** Paris, France

**Dream Job:** Foreign Service Officer

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

I think the decision to intern Japanese Americans during WWII was one of the darkest moments in US history and a low point in FDR's otherwise remarkable presidency. Differentiating between citizens and enemy combatants would have shown great resolve and respect for liberty in the face of tyranny, so I would change the decision to implement wartime interment.

**Defining Quote**

"Good order is the foundation of all good things." -- Edmund Burke



## SUMMER HARRIS

*Sophomore*

**Major:** Political Science

**Minors:** History & Journalism

**Hometown:** Cave Creek, Arizona

**Favorite Place:** London, next to the Thames

**Dream Job:** International Human Rights Lawyer

**If you could change one moment in history, what would it be?**

I would go back to Versailles 1919 and tell France to chill out a little bit with the whole "blame Germany 100% for the war" thing. There's a chance that could save the world a whole lot of trouble.

**Defining Quote**

"I'll keep all my emotions right here, and then one day I'll die." -- John Mulaney

# from south america, with love <3

johnny menhennet

I have been living in Santiago, Chile for the past six months. Never before have I embarked upon quite an adventure; despite the challenges I've faced, there's not a moment I would take back (well, except maybe the deportation from Brazil). Once July came and passed, I began my classes at Pontificia Universidad Catolica, Latin America's best college – from #1 to #1, baby! Alongside my coursework, I found an internship at the Chilean Ministry of Housing and Urbanism, where over the course of the semester, I designed the master plan for an upcoming 545-unit social housing development in the northern Chilean city of Copiapo. This experience proved to be incredibly valuable for me, as it gave me new insight into housing policy, taught me new technical vocabulary in Spanish, and I also

got to learn some new design programs to execute my visions.

Chile in general has so much to offer, and I have been fortunate to have traveled quite a bit around the country. From repelling into waterfalls and kayaking in the south, to bathing in the world's highest hot springs and geysers up in the Atacama, I have fallen in love with the landscape here. My one big upcoming trip is to Patagonia to hike in Torres del Paine with my boyfriend when he visits me next week (I'm writing this at Thanksgiving).

My favorite memories and experiences here in South America come from a week that I spent in Buenos Aires by myself. The friends I made took to me so quickly, and I can't think of the last time I was so embraced, loved, and encouraged in such a short time by people I was just meeting.



Now as I'm preparing to come back, I have so much that I'll be taking with me. I'm excited to come back to Berkeley to meet the new pledge class (except Irene) and finish senior year with all of those who have meant so much to me as I came up through this school and through DPhiE. Can't wait to be back soon!



I am the first person in my family to witness where the Atlantic and Pacific collide into the Southern Ocean, the place where Magellan set a path from West to East that would be used for hundreds of years until the construction of the Panama Canal. I was able to do all of this by virtue of my privilege of being a UC student -- and a lot of UCEAP scholarships.

Hi, my name is Lili Siri Spira, and I have been studying abroad in Argentina and Chile this semester. I had the honor and privilege to human rights, particularly during and in the aftermaths of their respective dictatorships, learning from the people who lived what I can only learn about.

My study abroad experience also served as a great opportunity to travel. I was able to go on two weekend trips in both Argentina and Chile in addition to several day trips. The weekend trip was to Punta Arenas, the last major town before the tip of Chile reaches out to Antarctica. My program also had a scheduled week off where me and some program friends went to São Paulo -- finally got the opportunity to practice my Portuguese!

However, I suffered from a lot of difficulties and setbacks while studying abroad. Not only was my program highly intensive but I also found myself

lili spira

in a very high school-like environment with cliques and drama. Not every study abroad program is like this, though, especially if you're simply taking classes at a university with normal students in your host country.

Ultimately, I do not regret my choice to study abroad. Study abroad afforded me the opportunity to see more of the world than I have ever seen, especially since my fees were partly subsidized. It also allowed me to go to places my entire family has not had the privilege to visit. But the real heart of the study abroad experience, the importance of it, is to break out of our traditionally western bubble. Our fraternity, rooted in the rightly controversial tradition of the Foreign Service, especially has an obligation to really listen to the communities we study and wish to reach out to. Study abroad.

# FALL 2018 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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