

The Inauguration Of Joe Biden And Kamala Harris We Should Write An American Story

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were sworn in at the U.S. Capitol. Harris has made history as the first Black Asian and female Vice President.

In his inauguration speech, the new president pledged to unite a fractured nation. He said, "Today on this January day, my whole soul is in this: bringing the American people together and uniting our nation, and I ask every American to join me in this cause."

Hours after he was inaugurated as the 46th president, Joe Biden signed 17 executive orders to begin overhauling the nation's approach to the pandemic and to undo some of the controversial policies of former President Trump. Biden also reversed many of Trump's attempts to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord and the World Health Organization where Dr. Anthony Fauci will lead a U.S. delegation to return to the world's leading health organization and join in their meetings.

Today we as the Asian American community will give full support to the new Biden administration including new immigration initiatives that will allow many

people to legalize their status and help those people who need it the most.

On the coronavirus pandemic, Biden wants one million people to get the vaccine shot each day for 100 days so that 100 million people will eventually be vaccinated.

We also hope that President Biden will change our foreign policy and repair the soured U.S. relationships around the world.

When all of us came to this land, our goal was to find a better life. We love this country. This is our home. We settled down. Our families are here and we need to contribute our best efforts and do our part to unite together for our future.



new chapter of American history.

Today we have a new leader in our country. We are teaming up to write a



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Stay Home!

BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

COVID-19 Is The Driving Force Of Change

Report: China Could Overtake U.S. As World's Largest Economy By 2028



A woman wearing a mask labors in a garment factory in Donghai county in east China's Jiangsu province Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020.

KEY POINTS

According to data from The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), China will overtake the U.S. to become the world's biggest economy by 2028

The report says China's "skilful management of the pandemic" and the overall long-term impact the pandemic are the reasons for the major change

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

China will overtake the US to become the world's biggest economy by 2028, five years earlier than previously forecast, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a report has found. The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), a UK-based think tank, said in its annual World Economic League Table released on Saturday that one of the impacts of the global health crisis as been "to redistribute economic momentum with Asia doing best and Europe worst".

China's "skilful management of the pandemic" and the long-term impact the pandemic will have on Western growth means China's "relative performance has improved."

"We now think that the Chinese economy in dollar terms will overtake the US economy in 2028, a full 5 years earlier than we

thought last year," the report states. It notes for instance that authorities reacted "vigorously" to the COVID-19 crisis, thus inflicting less damage on the economy. As a result, while most Western economies are expected to register negative growth for the year, China is forecast to record a 2 per cent growth rate.



It is then expected to grow by an annual 5.7 per cent between 2021-205 and

4.5 per cent annually from 2026 to 2030 and then 3.9 per cent the following five years.

In contrast, the US is projected to grow by an annual 1.9 per cent from 2022 to 2024 and then by 1.6 per cent following a "strong post-pandemic rebound" next year.

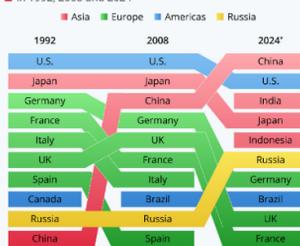
"For some time, an overarching theme of global economics has been the economic and soft power struggle between the United States and China. The Covid-19 pandemic and corresponding economic fallout have certainly tipped this rivalry in China's favour," the report says.

The US is the world's most impacted country having lost more than 330,000 lives to the pandemic and recorded nearly 19 million infections since the beginning of the outbreak, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

(Courtesy weforum.org)

Continental Shift: The World's Biggest Economies Over Time

Countries with the highest GDP on Earth in 1992, 2008 and 2024*



* projection Source: World Bank and IMF

statista

Related

World Economy Will Return To "Pre-Pandemic Levels" By 2022, Per Watchdog

Vaccinations and financial support from governments will help the global economy recover to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2021, a global economic watchdog has predicted.

But the forecast by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) also said the bounce back will be uneven in countries around the world and will depend heavily on the

success of battling COVID-19.

"The contribution of Europe and North America to global growth will remain smaller than their weight in the world economy," OECD chief economist Laurence Boone said introducing a report published last Tuesday.



"China, which started recovering earlier, is projected to grow strongly, accounting for over one-third of world economic growth in 2021."

OECD secretary-general Angel Gurría said it was a sign of "hope" for the first time since the pandemic hit at the beginning of this year.

"The good news about vaccines has instilled a degree of optimism... but we are not out of the woods yet," he said.

The OECD predicts the global economy will shrink about 4.2% this year and rebound by the same rate in 2021. It will grow by 3.7% the following year, the watchdog predicted. But Gurría warned that "this would still leave all OECD economies smaller at the end of 2021 than they were at the end of 2019".



Many European governments have been gradually reopening their economies as virus cases come under control and the winter shopping season begins ahead of Christmas and the New Year. Boone said the vaccine would be crucial to the turnaround: "Efficient vaccination campaigns and better co-operation between

countries could accelerate the distribution of the vaccine worldwide.

"Conversely, the current resurgence of the virus in many places reminds us that governments may be forced again to tighten restrictions on economic activity." (Courtesy <https://www.euronews.com/>)



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Editor's Choice



U.S. President Donald Trump reacts in a car as he drives past supporters in West Palm Beach, Florida. REUTERS/Marco Bello



Fireworks are seen above the White House after the inauguration of Joe Biden as the 46th president of the United States in Washington. REUTERS/Andrew Kelly



People wait to receive the coronavirus vaccine at a vaccination center inside the Salisbury Cathedral, in Salisbury, Britain. REUTERS/Paul Childs



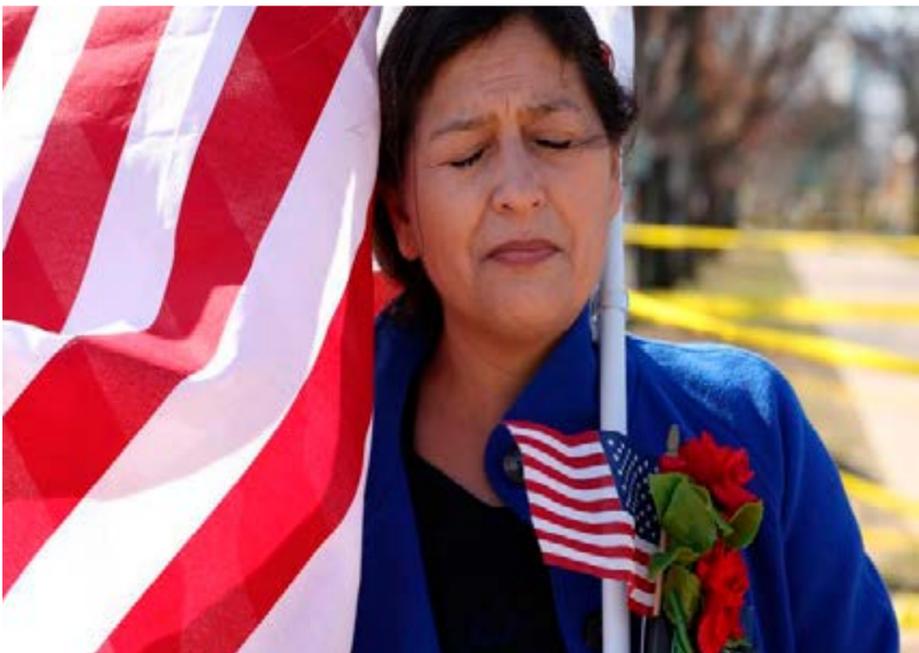
U.S. President Joe Biden delivers remarks at the "Celebrating America" event at the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, after his inauguration as the 46th President of the United States. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts



National Guard personnel wheel riot shields and baggage in hotel luggage carriers after checking out of their hotel in downtown Washington DC. REUTERS/Erin Scott



Tiffany Trump, Donald Trump Jr. and his girlfriend Kimberly Guilfoyle, Eric Trump with his wife Lara, and Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner pose at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



Edwina Rose prays while holding a flag, the bible and the U.S. Constitution on Inauguration Day in Washington. REUTERS/Caitlin Ochs



Firefighters work after a deadly explosion at a building belonging to the Catholic Church in downtown Madrid, Spain. REUTERS/Susana Vera

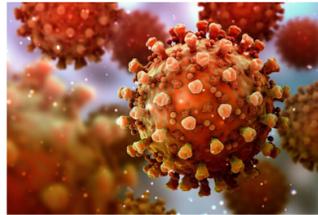
Several Countries Detect New COVID-19 Mutation



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The highly contagious mutation of the coronavirus first detected in the United Kingdom continues to spread, now being reported in parts of Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Australia and Canada. On Monday, South Korea became the latest country to report COVID-19 infections with the variation that could be more easily passed between people, according to the Korean Herald. Most cases have been linked to travel from Great Britain, where the variant was first detected, the newspaper reported. The United Kingdom initiated a lockdown, and several countries banned travelers from Great Britain last week, but researchers are concerned that the variation could have been circulating undetected in other countries for weeks. "Unfortunately, this is another twist in the plot," Alessandro Vespignani, director of the Network Science Institute at Northeastern University in Boston, told the New York Times. Canadian officials have detected at least two cases in Ontario, according to The Washington Post. A couple from a town north of Toronto contracted the variant but had no travel history, which means it like-

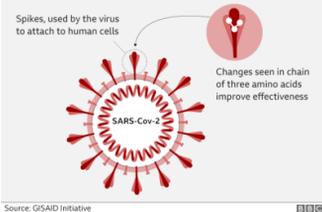
ly came from community spread.



The mutation has been found in seven people in Japan who had either traveled to Great Britain or been in contact with someone who did. Japan will close its borders to non-residents on Monday, a ban that will last through the end of January, according to the BBC. In Spain, the variant has been found in Madrid, where four cases have been confirmed and three are probable, according to The Guardian. All these cases are linked to recent travel to Great Britain. The first case in France was found in Tours, about 150 miles southwest of Paris, according to Reuters. The French citizen was living in Great Britain and traveled from London to central France on Dec. 19, a day before the British government

started the lockdown. The man doesn't have symptoms and is isolating at home. Sweden also detected its first case this weekend, Reuters reported. The traveler visited the country from Great Britain for Christmas and is isolating in Sormland, a city south of Stockholm. Viruses mutate often. Several coronavirus mutations have been detected this year, but they were minor, The New York Times reported.

One coronavirus mutation has become dominant



The latest version of the virus found in Great Britain has 23 mutations, which may change how it is transmitted. A new study published by British researchers last week found that the variant may be 56% more contagious, but they didn't find any evidence that it causes more severe COVID-19. Vaccine specialists say that current COVID-19 vaccines should be able to block the new variant.

"The preliminary findings are pretty convincing that more rapid vaccination is going to be a really important thing for any country that has to deal with this or similar variants," Nicholas Davies, the lead author and an epidemiologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, told the newspaper. Additional variants have been identified in South Africa, Nigeria, and other countries as well, according to CBS News. The U.S. hasn't yet reported any cases of the mutation. However, the U.S. will require airline passengers from the United Kingdom to test negative within 72 hours of their departure, the CDC announced. The new rule will begin on Monday. (Courtesy <https://www.webmd.com>)

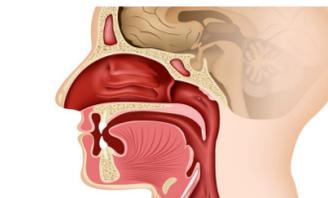
Related

How COVID-19 Affects Your Body

Doctors continue to learn about the short-term and long-term effects of COVID-19 on your body. For some people, it starts with basic flu symptoms. But it could eventually affect your lungs, liver, kidneys, and even your brain.



How It Spreads Usually the virus makes contact with you when a nearby infected person sends droplets into the air by coughing, sneezing, or talking. It spreads easily between people within about 6 feet of each other. An infected person can spread these droplets, even if they don't feel sick. The virus may infect you after you touch an object, like a doorknob, that has the virus on it. But that's not as common.



Upper Respiratory Infection Once the virus enters the body, it usually settles in the cells that line your nose, sinus cavity, and throat. For most people, this is where it stays. Symptoms often follow, but you may not feel anything for up to 2 weeks, as the virus starts to invade healthy cells and reproduce. You can transmit it to others even if you don't show any symptoms.



Other Common Symptoms The first

symptoms that typically appear include a fever, headache, sore throat, and dry cough. But what you'll feel can vary widely in this early stage. You may also have:

- Shortness of breath
- Chills, fever, body aches
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Unusual tiredness
- Stuffy or runny nose
- Nausea or diarrhea



Lower Respiratory Infection If your immune system can't subdue COVID-19 in the first week or so, the virus may move down into your lungs. There, it attacks cells that line them. Fluid and mucus build up and make it harder to get oxygen to your blood. It gets tough to breathe. This is pneumonia. Most people recover in a week or two, but it can take longer. (Courtesy [webmd.com](https://www.webmd.com))



好書閱讀 Daily News

李师江 著

六个凶手

他是洞房里的元凶，她是校边的杀手，他是隐秘的恋人，他们陷入不可自拔的宿命……

只有成为凶手，才能照亮她的生命！
中国小城残酷《白夜行》！

须一瓜 张静初 蔡骏 赵非 联袂推荐 张静初主演同名电影即将上映
同时收入《元凶》《两个凶手》《中国结》三篇实力佳作

她的故事，像一杯烈酒，喝下去，眼泪就出来了！

《六个凶手》 每个人都可能是受害者 每个人也都可能是凶手

画了爱背后的算计、伤害与自私，让读者惊讶地发现，亲情往往源于对孤独的恐惧，它并不是最后的港湾，甚至不是一种滋养。爱的背后是人性的狰狞，是精致的掌控技术。对于被剥夺了公共性的私民来说，这是精神上的一记重击。对于如此彻底的颠覆，读者拒绝去看，或看了拒绝去懂，懂了拒绝同意，则在所难免。

于是，《六个凶手》便有了它的价值。

从文本看，《六个凶手》是四个悬疑故事，作者小心翼翼地藏在故事背后，只是出于调皮，偶尔露了两次脸，一次冒充医学博士，一次冒充死者同事。李师江不评论、不抒情，他的叙事似乎漫不经心，甚至难见高潮。《六个凶手》在用故事的方式，追逐一份深入骨髓的慵懒，那正是莫里亚克的世界，对爱彻底绝望后的悲凉。

至少可以从三点，理出《六个凶手》与莫里亚克之间的精神谱系。

首先，在《六个凶手》中，所有人物都呈分裂状态。

以首篇《中国结》为例，受害者兰一梅在遭遇强奸时，意外获得快感，让她愤怒的是，这一隐秘情绪竟被强奸者许石城发现，这使她精神崩溃——她来自贫困家庭，靠个人奋斗取得“成功”，留在城里，得到一份体面的工作，还嫁给了国学大师诸岱山……在她的世界中，一切都是合理的，因奋斗而强大，因强大而取胜。可强奸犯将这一幻想打破，使兰一梅突然意识到，在自己的体内，还藏着如此强大的不合理一面。那些莫名的愤怒、恐惧、孤独之类，曾被认为是“失控”，但事实上，那才是她自己，是她被剥夺的童年、被掩盖的青春、被背叛的自我……

兰一梅迅速崛起的自我，让诸岱山感到威胁——他突然意识到，他已无法再用理性左右兰一梅，甚至他自己，也开始被非理性掌控。他突然意识到，他真正需要的是堕落。

不论是兰一梅，还是诸岱山，都是丧失完整生活世界的人。哈贝马斯说，社会、文化、人格共同构成了完整的生活世界。可在高速发展下，一切都在流动，兰一梅、诸岱山随着社会变迁，偶然流到一起。他们从一开始，便丧失了社会、文化的整体性，他们以为自己有人格，其实是获取社会身份的面具。

没有精神故乡，没有坚守，没有可依据的借口，

没有不可让渡的原则……只有变数才能唤醒他们，但他们并不因此去思考“意义”，而是迅速用行动来抚平疑问。

于是，从受害者到凶手，对他们来说，没有不可逾越的鸿沟，他们随时可能成为受害者，也随时可能成为杀人犯。在《六个凶手》中，不仅是兰一梅、诸岱山如此，林森、米鹿鹿、于龙川、苏贵妃、苏贵媚、吴燕、刘德寿……皆如此。

一旦自我被唤醒，一个凶手便诞生了。在习惯性相害的氛围中，醒来是残酷的。

醒来的代价，是爱无能

其次，无边的心灵沙漠吞噬了爱。进步主义者喜欢使用“未来”一词，它意味着更完美、更全面的时代。在此语境下，醒来被标注成美好的，因为感受了痛之后，还能发现更大的爱，而爱永远大于痛。可事实真的如此吗？

每一个觉醒的自我，都意味着一个主体性，人人觉醒的社会，则是主体性的丛林——为保证主体性，谁都不愿付出，不愿主动沟通，最终只好用误会替代情感，现代人因此落入了爱无能的陷阱中。

在本书第二篇《元凶》中，林森的婚姻是典型的权色交易，靠着丈人，穷小子林森得以上位，他以为给了妻子于雨川一切，如稳定的生活、不曾出轨的婚姻，但在“上进”中，另一个林森——周亮出现了。周亮生意失败，沉迷于堕落，因当年对林森有恩，周亮不断敲打他，林森只好将周亮收为私人司机，当林森下决心干掉周亮时，反而差点被周亮的车撞死……

在《元凶》中，作者展开了一个广阔的社会关系面，却让人惊讶地看到，在完美婚姻背后，岳父、妻子、准情人米鹿鹿、妻子的哥哥都不曾爱过林森，甚至从不想深入了解他。

爱真的存在过吗？还是社会交易的一种润滑剂？在本书第三篇《两个凶手》中，孪生姐妹因高考成绩不同，被纳入不同的人生轨道。在内心深处，她们是同样的人：自我中心、不择手段、梦想成功。妹妹苏贵媚因非法集资事败，成了众矢之的，姐姐带她藏于海岛时，却唤醒了她对曾经竞争关系的记忆，最终，苏贵媚亲手杀掉姐姐，却装成是自杀谢罪。

苏贵媚冒充姐姐，与姐夫生活在一起，与其说她内心受到良知的冲击，不如说她无法适应她曾嫉妒的、姐姐的人生——琐碎、动荡且缺乏安全感。苏贵媚以为抓住和钟细仔的爱就能彻底解脱自己，没想到，钟细仔也正以爱的理由，质疑苏贵媚自杀的结论，意外地揭开了杀人案的底牌。

自我觉醒后，爱反而消失了，似乎只有关上刚打

开的心灵之窗，才能重获安宁。

其三，永难超越的生活之恶。

第四篇《六个凶手》(全书以此篇的题目为题)堪称全书之胆，它讲述了一对情侣相遇几名流氓，女方被侮辱，人们因在群嘲不敢反抗的男方林健。女孩改名吴燕后，选择了“正常的婚姻”，却发现丈夫竟是几名流氓之一。林健原本是教师，靠个人努力，从农村进入城市，没想到，因在课堂上批评一名学生，学生当众反击，公开嘲笑林健的胆怯。林健的自尊被彻底打垮，社会死亡后，他改名刘德寿，成为一名屠夫，混迹在最底层，意外与吴燕重逢。在吴燕帮助下，刘德寿先后杀死了当年的几名流氓，最终落入法网。

表面看，该案只有一个凶手，可没有各方的共同努力，林健怎么可能成为凶手？

该篇暗藏着一个深刻的隐喻：不论是林健，还是吴燕，他们都没有本质，他们的本质是经历赋予他们的，在他们在深入思考“我是一个怎样的人”之前，生活已摧毁了他们，除了逃避与报复，他们没有其他选择。

这其实是现代人共同的经验。他们从一出生，人生便被规定好，集体进入幼儿园、小学、中学和大学，在漫长的规训中，经验被同质化、知识被同质化，谁能在同一张考卷中发挥更好，谁就会成为“精英”。生活以无比合理的方式呈现着它的魔幻色彩，一迈出大学校门，来不及思考与体验，他们就立刻长大，选择婚姻、职场等，只有遭遇挫折，才能让他们意识到，究竟需要什么。

现代人不再靠历史经验与公共记忆来获得自己，只有笼养状态下的、彼此近似的情感。当这种共同的情感被唤醒时，个体就很可能落入人性恶之网中。最终，5个凶手的人性恶凝聚为1个凶手的行为实践上。

当然，《六个凶手》与莫里亚克的写作，有很多不同处。莫里亚克更关注家庭，更关注女性，李师江则有更多的社会关怀。在小说中，虽然每个凶手都是亲人，但推动亲人拿起屠刀的，却来自外部力量。

一方面，说明莫里亚克的写作背景与李师江的写作背景有近似处，都是在经历了城市化发展后，人性的荒诞一面暴露了出来——越清醒，越绝望，所有解放自我的努力，其实也在囚禁自我，我们以在创造天堂，却发现它更像地狱。可随着传统的乐观精神被彻底推翻，我们该何去何从？相同的背景创造出相同的体验，并凝聚成近似的文学。在写法层面，李师江与莫里亚克迥然有异，在精神层面，却彼此押韵。

另一方面，也说明二者背景有相异处。莫里亚克的困境是人性的幽暗，当自我的空间被充分释放后，人性恶充分暴露，李师江则还要面对生活之恶，包括群己不分的大环境，包括集体自私，包括各种被认可的陋习……在莫里亚克的笔下，还有微渺的希望，李师江的笔下则有更多无奈，因为后来者看到的结局更丰富，更知挣扎的无用。

近年来，悬疑小说颇为走红，犯罪是城市读者较少接触的经验，因而更具娱乐性。作为悬疑小说，《六个凶手》的惊悚、控捏等技巧娴熟，不仅加入了传统“果报”的母题，也不乏心理渲染，但只是讲几个好玩的故事，李师江就不再是李师江了。可以从猎奇的角度去读《六个凶手》，但也是一批读者，会从这本书出发，更深入地去反省自己——毕竟，我们自己也正在受害者与凶手之间摇摆。