



FOR FUCK'S SAKE

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2017 IS OVER, BUT THE WORLD IS STILL FUCKED

By Ronan Porter

NEWSFLASH! Time is a human invention and the shit that went down in 2017 isn't just wiped clean once the clock ticks past midnight. 2017 was a year in which a sexist, white supremacist, islamophobic, homophobic, transphobic, compulsive liar and ugly orange Cheeto became official leader of the free world. It's a dark time.

Sure, there was some good stuff – the day after said asshole was inaugurated up to two million people worldwide in 161 cities in all seven continents protested in the Women's Marches. *Moonlight*, an LGBT+ film with an all-black cast won the Oscar for best picture. There is now a international movement called "Time's Up" to combat sexual harassment in the wake of Wanker Weinstein and the #metoo campaign. Women in Saudi Arabia now have the right to drive.

We can't just ignore the bad shit though, that doesn't make it go away.

There's the ongoing war in Yemen that's on its third year, the Egyptian mosque attack that killed 305 people, the Manchester bombing, the earthquake in Mexico, the Rohingya refugee crisis.

Protests in Venezuela against their own government resulted in thousands of arrests and 66 deaths.

Hurricanes Irma, Maria and Harvey served as solid reminders of the very real threat of climate change, Irma being the strongest ever recorded from the Atlantic and Puerto Rico is still largely without power after Maria. This occurring within the same year as the United States withdrawing from, and being the only country to not take part in the Paris Climate Accords.



ILLUSTRATION BY RONAN PORTER

The Las Vegas shooting, where 58 people were killed, provoked discussions about gun control once again in a country rife with mass shootings, and Nazis openly marched in Virginia.

However, we have evidence that despots can be gotten rid of, Robert Mugabe's 37 year rule of Zimbabwe came to an end, he left the country with debts, a worthless currency and an 80%+ unemployment rate - but he's out of power.

Let's not just HOPE that 2018 is less shit, let's actually get involved and do something about it.

WHAT THE FUCK IS ALL THE NORTH KOREA SHIT ABOUT ANYWAY?!

By Gonçalo Alves

If there's a topic that can incite anxiety in even the most uneducated of people, it contains the words 'North Korea'. The country also known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was founded in 1948 by the current Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un's grandfather, Kim Il Sung after, following the events of WWII, the Peninsula of Korea had been divided in two.

The northern part was occupied by the Soviets, while the southern was under the control of the USA. After many

disagreements over what kind of government they wanted and whether they should reunite, both countries broke into war in 1950. In 1953, an armistice was signed that restored the original border at the beginning of the war.

Following the armistice, a sense of "peace" settled, but it would be shattered often due to skirmishes in the border separating both countries, and assassination attempts by North Korea, amongst other causes. There were attempts in the 1970s to hold talks between the Koreans, and plenty others followed throughout the 50+ years of their separation, even though most of them went nowhere.

Now, in the 21st Century, with North Korea often in the news due to missile launches and back and forth name-calling between Kim Jong-Un and USA's own dotard, Donald Trump, it seems nearly inconceivable to imagine North and South Korea having peaceful communications would be in the news.

Yet Kim Jong-Un left everyone flabbergasted in his New Years' Speech on the 31st, wishing the South luck with the Winter Olympics, which will be happening in February in the South Korean city of Pyeongchang. Not only that, but he also expressed the desire for his Nation to participate. So, for the first time in two years, both

nations will hold high level diplomatic talks with the goal to alleviate tensions before the event, and to improve Inter-Korean relations. Another reason might be to stop the orange man with small hands, and access to nukes, in the US from unleashing the apocalypse. These talks will happen on the 9th of January, in the Demilitarized Zone that separates the Koreans, and will be the first official talks since December 2015. Whether this is good news or not is left to be determined, it all seems well and good, but due to South Korea's relations with the USA and the shit-talking war between Trump and Kim Jong-Un, it might be best not to get our hopes up.

Once again, sophisticated, sensitive issues being discussed by nation leaders can be ruined by the tweets of a cheese ball turned president. We can only hope Melania decides to hide his phone for the next few years.

TRUMP OR NOT?

"My father gave me a small loan of a million dollars."

DID HE SAY THIS?

FIND OUT THE ANSWER IN OUR NEXT ISSUE OUT JANUARY 22ND

LAST ISSUE: YES, HE DID SAY THAT

DEFINITION OF THE WEEK

POPULIST

A political party or person that seeks to represent the interests of ordinary people.

