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territorial boundaries

Rise of man-made islands marks latest flashpoint in Asia's seas

MICHAEL PEEL in HANOI
AND
ROBIN HARGREAVES in TOKYO
TOM HITCHELL in HONG KONG

Nation-building has come to Asia's seas. It is a process that has already been underway in the Indian Ocean, where artificial islands are being built from the ocean.

The expansion of these man-made islands is the latest flashpoint in a region where relations have long been fractious and marked by mutual suspicion, and hotspots across the region.

Phan Binh Minh, Vietnam's foreign minister and deputy prime minister, has demanded China halt such activities, saying they are a threat to regional peace and stability.

"His action has really risked escalating tensions in the area, which is already complex," said Mr Minh. "This is a shared interest for maritime security and safety in this region."

Hitomenaka highlights the contentious politics around the arc of ocean surrounded by China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Cambodia and Vietnam. Others – if aptly named – places such as Des-

perous Ground, Mischief Reef and Prata Cruz. **China is also building islands in the Spratly Islands' battle for territorial control.**

Mr Minh called on countries outside Asia to join the US, which has expressed concern privately with Beijing, pressing "through all possible channels" for China to end such activities, but he acknowledged it was unlikely to do so.

"Many countries are making noise about this," said Koichiro Takagi, senior associate fellow at the Japan Institute of International Affairs think tank. "But I

would say China has a very thick skin." Beijing is also accused of building work in the Spratly Islands, claiming the past six months represents a change in tack by Beijing in the long-running South China Sea disputes.

After backing down from confrontations over territorial claims with Vietnam and Japan last year, Beijing shifted focus to fortifying islets that it already controls, perhaps with a view to reinforcing its military presence and control of the skies in the area, analysts say.

The dredging and construction work around the islands is also seen as a way to help shore up its claim to an exclusive economic zone around Okinawa, a coral atoll about 1,000 miles south of Tokyo. **China is an island, deserving respect, while China insists it is a natural feature.**

With typhoons constantly threatening to sweep the land away, Japan as long ago as 1967 began constructing concrete embankments and a research station to shore up the island.

Tokyo has also been investigating whether it can breed coral to extend the island "naturally". The move is aimed at complying with UN rules that say the land must be a natural feature to make a territory eligible for inclusion in the seas.

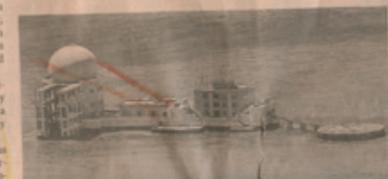
It marked a diplomatic protest from the Philippines in early February. Beijing rebuffed the complaint, saying the activity was well "within its sovereign rights".

While China's activities are the most visible, other countries have used similar methods. In February, Taiwan officials confirmed that building plans were under way at the Spratly island of Itu Aba, which boasts an airstrip and fresh water supply.

Japan has also engaged in island-building to help shore up its claim to an exclusive economic zone around Okinawa, a coral atoll about 1,000 miles south of Tokyo. **China is an island, deserving respect, while China insists it is a natural feature.**

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Chinese-controlled Subi Reef, part of the Spratly Islands

Short View

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Josh Noble

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Australians have a fondness for nicknames. Milk (for milkman) and Aussie (for Aussie) may lack imagination, but they do at least suggest an affinity for garcon.

The Aussie is the local currency, which has fallen so much that some are now dubbing it the Australian peach. Whatever its name, the Aussie has been a standout loser in Asia Pacific, dropping 12 per cent to A\$0.76 against the US dollar over the past six months. The tumbling euro has fared only slightly worse.

China's slowdown is often highlighted as the main culprit for Aussie weakness. Vanishing Chinese orders for iron ore have sent prices for Australia's biggest export to a multi-year low. With China's housing market still well overstocked, demand for steel – and so on – is not expected to rebound soon.

Though iron ore prices are still sinking, the China slowdown is not the only story.

The big change is what the Reserve Bank of Australia is doing about it. Markets got new pricing in a 75 per cent chance of a rate cut in the RBA meets next week, which would be a good such move this year. Sydney's runaway housing market remains a worry for policy makers – prices rose 3.5 per cent month-on-month in March alone. But the falling unemployment rate and an unbalanced economy are now deemed the greater concern.

The prospect of lower rates has brought yields on Australian 10-year government bonds down to 4.5 per cent, about 40 basis points higher than for US Treasuries. The spread was over 100bp six months ago, which helped entice global investors – like the Japanese – searching for yield. But with the Watanabe – the nickname for the typical Japanese retail investor – and his low income hunters now looking elsewhere, and more rate cuts to come, the Aussie should have further to fall.

A name change from the dollar to the peso may be too kind even for the poor Aussie. The region's leading performer – the Philippine peso – has been the strongest performer against the US dollar over the past six months, gaining 0.5 per cent. The Australian story has a better ring to it anyway.



Australian dollar the weakest currency in Asia-Pacific
Australian dollar against the US dollar (US\$ per A\$)

The Aussie has been a standout loser in Asia-Pacific, dropping 12 per cent to A\$0.76 against the US dollar over the past six months.

Source: Bloomberg
josh.noble@bfi.com

BY STEVE KNOPPER

NOT LONG AFTER stoppage for Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez and the rest of the "Fast and Furious" crew filmed their usual death-defying car chases on a twisty mountain road west of Colorado Springs, Colo. Richard Jansen received a call: Somebody from the movie had seen his "we buy junk cars" highway sign, and wondered if the owner of Foster's Car Crushers could find 25 or 30 vehicles smashed beyond repair, including several black Mercedes-Benzes, a Ford Crown Victoria and a Mitsubishi Montero. "Sure," Mr. Jansen said.

Then Mr. Jansen and his crew, based in nearby Peoria, spent several days loading the cars onto a "chickadee truck" to take them to Peoria. Filmmakers insisted he shred or crush them all, to prevent anyone from fixing one up and getting hurt in a damaged movie car. So today, a 2007 black Mercedes-Benz C300 sedan driven in a "Fast and Furious" car chase exists somewhere in the world. "It was kind of unusual, to see some relatively late-model Mercedes-Benzes, all crunched up and good for nothing," Mr. Jansen says.

How cars are built and equipped for action movies has been well documented. The process involves mechanical engineers, crash-test fuel cells, but after the movie ends, what happens to the cars that parachute out of planes, plunge off cliffs and are run over by tanks?

"It's pretty easy," says Dennis McCarthy, picture car coordinator for the "Fast and Furious" franchise, whose latest installment, "Fast and Furious 7," premieres in theaters this week. The film crew has to follow a specific protocol, documenting every step for



Vin Diesel, left, and Jason Statham in Peoria's Cinema Vehicles Services, where...

both insurance and liability reasons, he says. "We have to document every single car destroyed in each film." "Fast and Furious" filmmakers track hundreds of cars every movie—more than 230 alone for "Fast and Furious 7." Roadblocks "Fast & Furious 6," where a tank barrels out of a millisecond-long red light and smashes numerous cars on a highway in Terrell Island, Texas. Mr. McCarthy's people made deals with local junkyards and used-car lots. "We'd wreck 25 cars a day, they'd come out at night, scoop 'em up and bring us 25 more," he says. "It was a round-the-clock process, with multiple tow trucks and car carriers." For 2013's "Fast Five," in which the "Fast and Furious" crew had a massive bank vault through the streets of Los Angeles, filmmakers struck a deal with the government to transport used cars inexpensively from San Jose's working yard to the set, destroy them, then deliver them back to the yard.

After filming the "Fast and Furious" mountain-highway chase on Colorado's Monarch Pass, the car crew



stowed its crushed cars in the parking lot of the small Peoria Monarch...

Monarch Pass, the car crew stowed its crushed cars in the parking lot of the small Peoria Monarch Six Resort. Mr. Jansen had two days to remove them so the resort could prepare for its opening season. "We probably destroyed 45-plus vehicles just shooting that sequence," Mr. McCarthy says.

In the early days of car-chase

movie, producers arranged to haul the smashed cars to junkyards and forget about them. "That's what happened to Steve McCarthy's wrecked Mustang in 1967's 'Bullitt,'" according to the historical car website MustangSpec.com. In second Mustang, used mostly for the high-speed driving scenes, wound up in the hands of

"I don't like the liability issues."

Two years ago, Mr. Claridge and his crew assembled 25 vehicles for "Fast and Furious 7." After the movie finished filming in Cleveland, they showed up in Peoria at a warehouse to load the 25-day days to sort them into two categories: the no-hope vehicles, including a city bus, went to a local wrecking yard for crushing. The remaining 40 or so returned to Los Angeles for recycling.

The stories of what happened to crushed vehicles is largely unrecorded, but can be as dramatic as the movie themselves. After 1987's "Christine," about Stephen King's demonic car, filmmakers sold and donated the two Plymouth cars that survived the movie's destruction: MTV auctioned one of them, and a Santa Cruz, Calif., public-radio station bought another. "We bought and cannibalized 25 Plymouths. We ended up smashing, beyond recognition, 15 of those," says producer Richard Kobritz, who took over the Columbia Pictures franchise. "We ended up in a 100-gallon drum of the car sections and sold for about \$264,000. Then somebody in Florida bought it, installed the engine and sold it."

Every actor who drives a "Fast and Furious" car finds a way to bring it home. Two of the 1970 Novas that Kurt Russell's character Stuntman Mike swooped up and smashed in Quentin Tarantino's "Death Proof" were destroyed. "Straight to the junkyard," says Buddy Lee Tucker, track coordinator for the movie. Mr. Tucker kept a third version, used mostly for background shots. Mr. Tucker occasionally visits his friend, Mr. Farquhar. The stuntman takes the "Death Proof" Nova and the director drives the "Fast and Furious" "K2" Ford Focus. "Every once in a while, we'll go for a little drive," he says.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



Ray Claridge, above, owner of Cinema Vehicles Services; Dennis McCarthy, left, smashed cars for 'Fast and Furious 7.'

collections. Of the 300 high-flying Dodge Chargers that landed into production as the orange General Lee in the "Dukes of Hazzard" TV show in the '80s, many were recycled into set cars for the background of the show. Others went to the junkyard, sometimes not for long. "There were people down in the South that would actually go to the junkyard and try to restore them," recalls Doug S. Bradley, a veteran stunt coordinator and director who worked on the show.

As car-chase movies have evolved from cult classics to multimillion-dollar franchises, Hollywood car wranglers have strengthened their policies for disposing of smashed cars. Nobody wants to be sued when a fan makes off with a restored Mini Cooper from "The Bourne Identity" and drives it down a flight of stairs. "I don't handle anything that has a roll cage in it, like a stunt car—we will automatically get rid of them," says Ray Claridge, president of 30-year-old Cinema Vehicles Services in Los Angeles, which recycles and junks cars destroyed or damaged in films.

USA \$100 Canada C\$150

Nuclear deal first step to less hostile relationship with west, says Tehran

Iran crowds cheer 'historic' agreement • Obama and Rouhani face battle with sceptics

ALEX BARBER — LOS ANGELES
GEOFF GYER — WASHINGTON
NAJMEH BACHLOUBI — TEHRAN



Iran has heralded a "historic" nuclear deal as just the "first step" towards a new, less hostile relationship with the west as cheering crowds thronged the streets of Tehran for a second night and opponents scrambled to respond to the country's most promising move with the US since the 1979 hostage crisis.

President Barack Obama signalled that the deal represented a clear reference to the US.

Draft terms brokered through 18 months of painstaking diplomacy—and eight days of marathon talks in Lausanne—eventually paved the way for Iran's return to the international fold, with a nuclear programme re-legalised by UN Security Council resolutions.

Both US president Barack Obama and Mr. Rouhani staked their personal reputations on the deal and must now shield its precarious terms from ambush by hardliners.

Mr. Rouhani said the nuclear pact as his government's victory, saying yesterday that the "approach of this government bore fruits". He labelled challenging hawkish opponents "some [politicians] think we should either fight with the world or surrender. But we believe we can co-operate with the world."

Within minutes of Mr. Obama unveiling the deal in a press conference shown

Celebrations in Tehran after the deal was announced.

on Iranian television, sceptics in the US Congress, led by Sen. Bob Corker, the Republican chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, said the panel would vote against the deal.

Mr. Obama said the deal, after the House approves or rejects a final deal, after the Senate ratifies it. The White House believes the legislation could kill the talks.

Bill Galton, a congressional expert at the Brookings Institution, said the Corker bill had about 65 supporters in the Senate, near the 67 votes needed to override the presumed presidential veto.

Iranian premier Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the framework as a "grave" threat to global security and the existence of Israel, demanding that Congress pass a law to block the deal.

Under the terms of the deal, Iran must drastically shrink its nuclear programme and abandon stockpiles, as well as open up sensitive sites to inspections by international agencies that can be lifted.

In a sign that the deal may yet win over hardliners in Iran, a conservative cleric in Tehran backed the agreement and thanked the negotiation team. But

Ayatollah Mohammad Taqian Khatami said that while Iran was committed to the agreement, sanctions had to be "lifted" and not "suspended", highlighting the potential subplots that could still swirl a year from the months ahead.

Editorial Comment page 6
Nicholas Burns page 7



SWINGING SAFARI! You might fancy yourself a bit of a pro when it comes to golf, but in South Africa's Legend Golf & Safari Resort in the Waterberg mountains, it's a hole different ball game. Shown here is the Extreme 19th atop Hanglip Mountain, where a helicopter is par for the course. Because apart from being the world's longest par three at 391 yards, it's a rough drive to get to the tee!

CACHE IN HAND Scuba divers made a big splash when an underwater tour of the ancient harbour of Caesarea in the Eastern Med revealed a treasure trove that turned out to include as many as 2,000 gold dinars minted during the Fatimid Caliphate from 909 to 1171.



PHOTOS: CLARA AMER/PHOTOFEST; DIVYATI NARAYAN; WORLD WIDE PHOTO CENTER; SHUTTERSTOCK/STANISLAV

HELLO! lifestyle

BEAUTY

BRUSH WORK

THE LATEST MAKE-UP BRUSHES HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO FIT THE CONTOURS OF THE FACE - A STROKE OF GENIUS

- 1 Elizabeth Arden Pure Mineral Foundation Make-up Brush, £21, from Debenhams. Not new, but the subtle convex end means this is still the best blending brush around for mineral make-up
- 2 Real Techniques Bold Metals Collection 101 Triangle Foundation Brush, £22, from Boots. This brilliant applicator is triangular in shape, which means it not only fits into your facial contours but also enables you to use the three sides to apply different shades for contouring and concealer blending
- 3 Smashbox Arced Liner Brush, £16; visit smashbox.co.uk. Makes liquid liner much easier to control thanks to the fact that it is shaped to be held upright against the eye rather than pointing at it. Smart
- 4 Estee Lauder Sculpting Foundation Brush, £37; visit estelauder.co.uk. Want to contour your cheeks with two or three shades of foundation? With this you can get around those cheekbones with ease
- 5 Calyn Cosmetics Of Wow Brush, £20, from victoriahealth.com. Use this innovative domed, angular design to blend and buff in foundation, BB creams, concealer and blush for a flawless finish
- 6 The Vintage Cosmetics Company Fanfall Blush Brush, £14, from feelunique.com. If you love powder liner and shadow and need a brush to wipe away those speckles that drop onto your under-eyes and cheeks, then look no further
- 7 bareMinerals Perfecting Face Brush, £24; visit bareminerals.co.uk. Purposely designed with a dipple that holds and distributes serum foundation, plus short stipple bristles for seamless blending
- 8 Tweezerman Contour Concealer Brush, £15.95, from Boots. The concave shape may seem strange



Dust settles around Japan coal ritual



Australian miners are being paid a bumper premium amid signs of structural change

ASIA TRADING AND WEL JONES. Japan's annual supply agreements, which run from April, the start of the country's financial year, are one of the most important contracts in the commodity market. They are typically signed in late February or early March.

In it the Japanese utilities, whose call bill fell 17 per cent from last year, 2010 to 2011, are expected to sign the top coal contracts. The deal, at \$67 a tonne, was the lowest in eight years, but the fall in the Australian dollar means the miners are getting a better price than in the past.

"Over the past six years the contract has been set at an average premium of \$7 and \$4 a tonne, so the fall in the forward market is significant," says a trading desk analyst.

For all the excitement around this year's negotiations, there is a sense in the coal market that the importance of the deal has diminished.

The biggest consumers of sub-sea thermal coal, which is burnt to generate electricity, are Japan and Australia. Japanese utilities and Australian miners are competing for the same supply.

Historically, the April-March contracts have accounted for about half of Japan's annual coal imports. In 2011, however, the share fell to 30 per cent.

The change in the coal market has been driven by a number of factors, including the decline in demand for coal in China and the US.

It is still not clear how many times we will reference this year's first deal between Japan and Australia. It is likely to be a significant event for traders and analysts.

In addition to the price, structural changes in the coal market are extending the importance of the April-March contracts.

Contractual change is still the main method of pricing coal into Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, however, for Chinese buyers market transactions have become more common.

That is reflected in the rising volume of swaps on the open market for coal equipment, but the volume of the swap market remains relatively low.

Capital markets



Hackers take over French TV network

BY CAROL J. WILLIAMS

Hackers acting in support of Islamic State extremists knocked out the global broadcast network of France's TV5 Monde early Thursday, then hijacked its website and social media to post warnings about French participation in airstrikes against the militants in Iraq and Syria.

The computer system of TV5 Monde, whose Facebook page says it reaches 217 million households in 200 countries and territories, was invaded by malware late Wednesday that took over the network's transmission server and blocked its satellite signal, network executives told journalists.

All 11 channels were off for three hours until pre-recorded programming was directed to fill viewers' blank screens, said TV5 Monde Director General Yves Bigot. "For the moment, we are unable to produce our own programs," Bigot told France 24 TV, calling the attack "unprecedented in the history of television." He said one television channel had been restored but it would be hours, possibly days, before the entire network was again functional because the systems had to be secured for residual infection.

The hackers also temporarily controlled TV5's Facebook page and other social media accounts. For two hours before the network recovered those sites, an image of a masked militant filed the page under the title "Cyberalphase" and the French phrase "Ar Saifis," a co-opting of the message of unity — Je suis Charlie (I am Charlie) — proclaimed by militants in France in solidarity with those slain Jan. 7 by Islamic extremists at the Charlie Hebdo satirical magazine in Paris.

Another post said that French President Francois Hollande had committed

by joining Western forces in attacking Islamic State and that the offensive is "a war that serves no purpose."

Material posted on the network's social media by the hackers included identity cards and resumes of family members of French soldiers deployed with the coalition that has been waging airstrikes on Islamic State fighters in Iraq and Syria. The militants control about one-third of the territory of those two countries and have proclaimed a "caliphate" committed to invoking a harsh, medieval version of Islamic law.

"Soldiers of France, stay away from the Islamic State" a message on the network's Facebook page read overnight. "You have the chance to save your families, take advantage of it."

The posting of individuals' identity cards appeared to be a warning to French troops involved in the coalition that the militants know how to reach their families and harm them.

More than 1,500 militant Muslims of French origin or residency are believed to be fighting with Islamic State, providing the group insight and contact with broad sectors of the French public.

Wasim Nasir, a military expert for France 24, noted that some of the hackers' Arabic Internet postings contained numerous spelling and grammar mistakes, suggesting that the authors are not Arabs.

The Paris prosecutor's office said an investigation had been opened to identify the perpetrators of what it called a terrorist attack.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls joined other government officials in showing solidarity with the hacked network by visiting the Paris headquarters.

"We are up against determined terrorists," Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said. "We are determined to fight them."

The Fun of Wrecking Downtown

The entertainment industry has a long history of destroying Downtown, often to the detriment of Downtowners. The problem isn't the movies and TV shows that feature explosions, gun battles, car crashes, natural disasters and more. Rather, it's the process of making them, and legions of area workers and residents have been frustrated by shuttered streets, sometimes rude production crews and helicopters that whirl late into the night when residents are trying to sleep.

A new take from the entertainment industry adds to the wrecking crew legacy, and sometimes ramps the situation higher, such as having a crane fall into a Grand Avenue office building. However, the creators of Battlefield Hardline managed to do it all without stealing a single parking space or bothering local inhabitants with even the noise of a pop gun. The new work is a video game, and the destruction was handled remotely by people sitting at computers hundreds of miles away in Redwood City.

We're pleased that, for once, local commuters and residents were not inconvenienced. Also, despite the fact that Downtown gets beaten up pretty badly in Battlefield Hardline, we think it's cool that the designers chose this location. We're not saying that wrecking Downtown is a good thing, and the hyper-violence and attacks on police are disconcerting, but after all this is a game, with suspension of disbelief required as in any big-budget spectacle. Ultimately being the focus of an enormous imaginative effort is fun, in part because it is not real.

The work in the game is detailed and impressive, and there's a joy in spotting the landmarks, the same way that there is when you see familiar Downtown streets, restaurants or buildings in films, TV shows or commercials. In Battlefield Hardline motorcycles rip through Bunker Hill with police cars in hot pursuit (amusingly, a sign on what is Grand Avenue instead reads "Regal"). There's a segment on Lower Grand Avenue. There are even freeway shootouts and, something you don't see every day, bad guys going from building to building not on foot, but by zipline.

Battlefield Hardline is unlikely to have any sort of economic impact. There probably won't be gamers who, after shooting up the town or seeing KPMG Tower get smashed, decide that they need to visit Downtown. Still, there could be a more subtle effect, with players of the game later seeing the same sights in TV shows or movies. Maybe some of the upcoming coverage of the opening of The Broad museum or this summer's Special Olympics World Games will cause a flicker of recognition. Perhaps, over time, this recognition will build and get someone interested in the area.

There's even a degree of fun for Downtowners who pick up a game controller. Given all the traffic snarls and frustrations over questionable architecture, there's an amusing element in ripping things apart, knowing no one really gets hurt and that things will be reassembled the next time the game starts. We're enjoying this unlikely moment under the sun with our own skyline.

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Blackwater's Legacy Goes Beyond Public View

By JAMES HISEN and MATTHEW ROSENBERG

By the time four former Blackwater security guards were sentenced this week to long prison terms for the 2007 fatal shooting of 14 civilians in Iraq, the man who sent the contractors there had long since moved on from the country and the company he made notorious.

Erik Prince, the founder of Blackwater, a former member of the Navy SEALs and heir to a Michigan auto parts fortune, has spent the last few years searching for new markets, new fields of profit and new customers. He has worked in Abu Dhabi and now focuses his efforts on Africa, with the aid of the Chinese government, which is eager for access to some of the continent's natural resources. Mr. Prince's current firm, Frontier Services Group, provides what it describes as "expeditionary logistics" for mining, oil and natural gas operations in Africa, and has the backing of Citic Group, a large state-owned Chinese investment company.

Security Industry Is Now Sprawling Across Globe

Mr. Prince helped bring to worldwide attention the plight of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but the two conflicts spurred the maturation of security firms on the edge of global conflicts to multinational companies that guard oil fields in Libya, analyze intelligence for United States forces in Afghanistan, help fight insurgents in

parts of Africa and train American-backed militaries in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. This industry is now truly global," said Sean McPhee, author of "The Modern Mercenary," a book on the private security industry. They're the legacy of Blackwater — they didn't realize they were the business, but they've symbolized it. They've become the hood or narrows for an industry that was for centuries pretty much illegal, and now it's pretty much re-organized."

Security companies say they have taken steps toward ensuring that their guards are well-trained and behave professionally. Continued on Page A7

From Page A1

Industry officials say that one of the consequences of the 2007 shooting has been to impose more rigorous controls on contractors handling diplomatic security for the State Department, as Blackwater was doing when its security guards fired into Baghdad's crowded Nisour Square, killing unarmed Iraqis, marring the country.

"Those sort of reckless days with contractors running around like cowboys are over," said one senior industry executive, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "It is 180 degrees different. There is a lot more oversight and regulation."

Others, including Ryan Crocker, the former American ambassador to Iraq, agree that there are more controls over contractors. Still, there are calls for greater transparency.

Just tracking the growth of the industry as it has expanded beyond work for the United States government has proved exceptionally difficult. In Africa and the Middle East, most governments do not publicize the companies they hire, and private businesses are similarly tight-lipped. As a result, there are no solid numbers on how many armed contractors are currently working around the world, and estimates of industry revenues range from a few billion dollars to \$10 billion.

Even determining how many private security contractors are employed by the United States government is nearly impossible because the contracts are often opaque, subcontractors do much of the work on the ground and some of the business is classified. State Department officials refused on Tuesday to provide statistics on how many contractors it uses today.



Above, Erik Prince, the founder of Blackwater, in 2009. Left, Nisour Square in Baghdad, where company security guards shot and killed unarmed Iraqis in September 2007. Four former guards were sentenced to prison Monday in the shootings.

deployed, the Pentagon is paying for almost 40,000 private contractors, more than a third of whom are American, according to the

Continuum report. Only a few hundred, though, are involved directly in security, with others doing everything from serving food to

never really recovered from the Nisour Square shootings and its many other controversies and legal woes. In addition to the prosecution of the guards in the 2007 shooting, five top Blackwater executives were indicted on weapons-related charges, the company was forced to pay millions of dollars in fines to the State Department for export law violations, and it faced costly civil lawsuits from the families of the victims of Nisour Square and the families of four guards killed in Falluja, Iraq, in 2004.

Blackwater was eventually blocked from providing diplomatic security in Iraq, Myanmar, Afghanistan and other countries. Foreign military and diplomatic missions were exempted, however.

In response to the controversies surrounding Blackwater, Mr. Prince first renamed the company and then sold it in 2010. Now known as Academi, it has since been reeled and merged, along with one of its main competitors, Triple Canopy, into the Constellation Group. The consolidated company is still a major player in security contracting for the American government and other customers, while Blackwater's sprawling facility in Moyock, N.C., is now one of Academi's major assets in a training center.

Mr. Prince emerged from the wreckage of Blackwater relatively unscathed, never facing any criminal charges from the multiple government investigations into the company. But he was embroiled in the legal scrutiny and negative publicity, all part of what he believed were unfair political attacks on him and his firm.

He moved his family to Abu Dhabi in 2010, when one former colleague told The New York Times that Mr. Prince "needs a break from America."

In his 2011 memoir, "Civilian Warriors," Mr. Prince defended the actions of Blackwater as well as the guards who fired in Nisour Square, protesting that "shifting political tectonic plates crushed my company as an act of partisan theater."

A Wolverine Lands in Newark, and Reinforcements Are Required

A metal cage proves no match for a 40-pound animal on his way to Alaska.

In fact, "just to add another level of security, we had to have a metal cage around the wolverine."



Mr. Prince, the founder of Blackwater, in 2009. Left, Nisour Square in Baghdad, where company security guards shot and killed unarmed Iraqis in September 2007. Four former guards were sentenced to prison Monday in the shootings.

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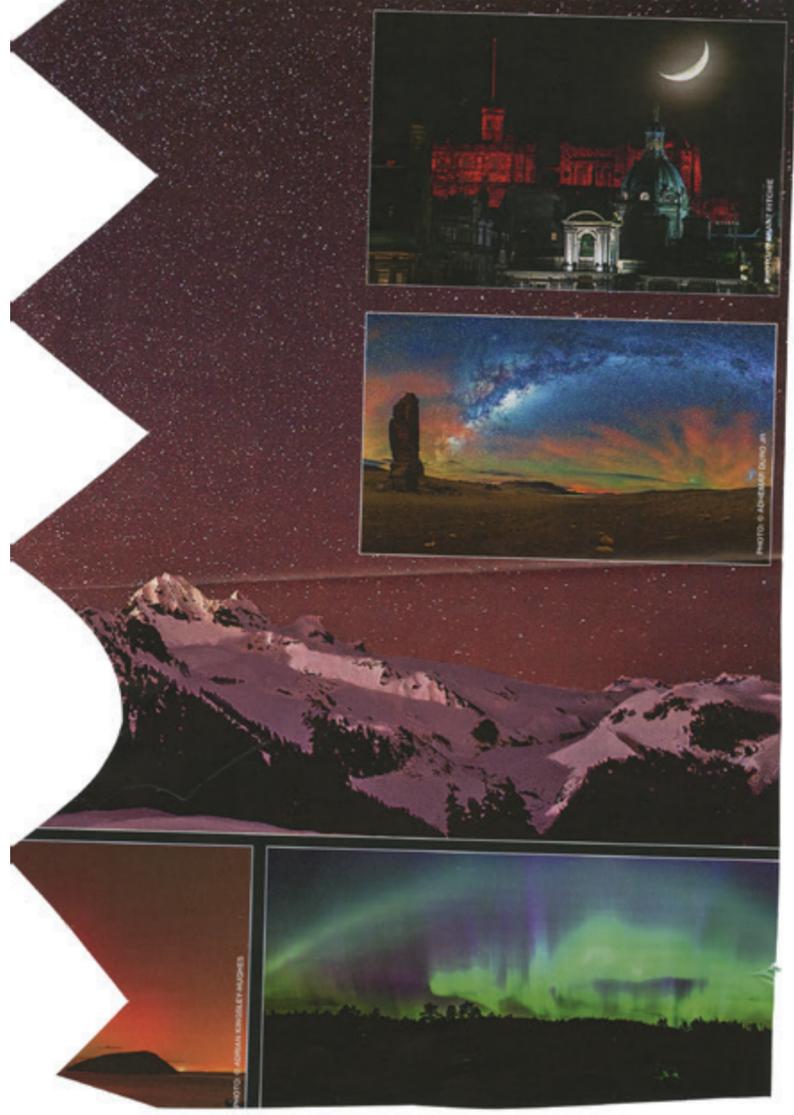
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War on extremists. Surveillance

Hostage deaths pile pressure on drone operations

Attention focuses on targeting of unidentified individuals and the killing of US citizens

CRONY OVER — WASHINGTON
Central Intelligence Agency surveillance aircraft monitored the compound in Pakistan's Shawal valley, close to the Afghan border, for several weeks before concluding with "high certainty" that the building housed al-Qaeda operatives. And, shortly before a US drone strike destroyed the compound in North Waziristan in January, they believed it had four occupants.

The first indication they were mistaken came when images showed six bodies pulled from the rubble. On Thursday, US officials confirmed the uncomfortable truth: the other two bodies were twin aid workers taken as hostages: Warren Weinstein, an American, and Giovanni Lo Porto, an Italian.

Their deaths have created the biggest crisis yet for the Obama administration's drone programme, which has become a central part of US counter-terrorism strategy but has provoked a

strong backlash in the countries where the strikes from remotely piloted planes take place, from Pakistan to Yemen.

Critics say the incident highlights the reality behind an operation shrouded in secrecy. As James Jaffer, deputy legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union, put it: "The US quite literally didn't know who it was killing."

The administration also revealed that two US citizens believed to be senior al-Qaeda operatives had been killed in separate strikes, even though officials did not know they were present at the sites.

The deaths, announced by a taciturn President Barack Obama at the White House, focus attention on two of the most questionable aspects — the targeting of individuals whose identities are unknown and the killing of US citizens.

Although they do not use the phrase, US officials acknowledged that the January bombing was a "signature strike", when intelligence officials choose a target based not on the confirmed identity of the individuals but because the behaviour which has been observed at the site fits a pattern of terrorist activity.

Critics say signature strikes are bound to result in more civilian casualties. The

Bureau of Investigative Journalism has calculated 421,160 civilians have died in drone strikes in Pakistan since 2002. US officials have played down reports of civilian casualties, although they have provided no figures of their own.

Last month John Brennan, CIA director, said: "A lot of these strikes you hear about — in terms of 'Oh, my God, there are hundreds of civilians killed' — a lot of that is propaganda that is put out by elements that are very much opposed to the US coming in and helping."

But aware that signature strikes were feeding the backlash against the use of drones in countries such as Pakistan, Mr Obama indicated in 2013 that the strikes would be curtailed once combat operations in Afghanistan ended in 2014. Thursday's revelation, however, indicates that such strikes still exist.

The deaths of the supposed al-Qaeda leaders, Ahmed Farooq and Adam Gadani, taken to eight the number of Americans killed in strikes, according to researchers, although only one, the cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, was targeted by the US authorities.

This highlights a Catch 22 element to the guidelines for targeted killings. Off-

icials are only allowed to order a strike on US terror suspects if they perceive an "imminent threat" of an attack. Yet, as the CIA did not know the two Americans were present at the sites bombed, these restrictions did not apply.

While the legal reasoning for targeting Americans has been published, the opinions that underpin the rest of the drone programme remain classified.

Josh Earnest, a White House spokesman, says US protocols allowed drone strikes on the basis that other methods involve greater risks for civilians. "The truth is that narrowly tailored counter-terrorism actions are actually the least likely to result in civilian or innocent loss of life," he adds.

While Mr Obama's announcement is likely to provoke tough questions within the administration, as some officials have long questioned their legality and political consequences, he has so far largely had bipartisan support.

Lindsay Graham, a Republican senator, said: "I have been a big critic of President Obama [but] I am not going to blame him for this. I blame al-Qaeda."

... ..

THE LIFE OF A SONG

ENTER SANDMAN



The riff, a great swaggering blast of a thing, came to Metallica's guitarist Kirk Hammett while he was jamming in a hotel room in the early hours. It was 3am, the spookiest time of the night when shades peak and the spirit world is at its most restless. "Jimi's hour" scribbles call in for bits is the opposite of Jimi, supposed time of Christ's death.

Hammett's inspired, or possessed, moment of madness was the foundation for one of the most famous songs in heavy metal. It is "Enter Sandman", the lead single of Metallica's self-titled 1991 album. Also known as *The Black Album*, this was the LP that marked the California band's accession to superstar status, selling 16m copies in the US alone and spending more than 300 weeks in the charts.

"Enter Sandman" is about a boy suffering nightmares after being visited by a macabre Sandman, a figure of dreams in European folklore. The song opens with an ominous acoustic guitar melody, a dark lullaby summing sleep. Then Lars Ulrich's drums and Hammett's chugging riff rise up like rolling monsters from the deep. Singer James Hetfield's roar comes next, bellowing to a chorus as bleak as any Samuel Beckett stage direction: "Exit baby! Enter night!"

Despite its winking hour theme, "Enter Sandman" marked a move towards a crisper, more streamlined sound for the thrash metal pioneers. It was produced by seasoned producer Bob Rock, starting a long and, to Behard Iana, controversial partnership



Kirk Hammett of Metallica

was even blasted out as retro music to a 2013 speech by Republican presidential hopeful Rand Paul.

It might seem odd that a song about night terrors should be clasped so close to the American bosom — until you realise that "Enter Sandman" is actually not at all scary. Lately even the most literal reader to find for the hills as Hetfield growls about "heavy thoughts tonight / And they aren't about Snow White".

Hammett's guitar solo at the bridge is pure metal peacockery, not a temperate wall of anguish. The song is a display of power, not an exercise in tension.

That's chilling music is different. It is higher pitched, highly strung, full of anxiety. Think of the straining chords of Bernard Herrmann's score for *Psycho* or the shrieking strings in Krzysztof Penderecki's masterpiece of dread, "Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima". The violin is the prime generator of fear here. Celebrated as the musical instrument closest to the human voice, its screeching tones evoke the scariest sound of all, the scream.

The gap between "Enter Sandman's" ostensible scariness and its actual non-scariness has been ably exploited by parody songs, such as a twinkie-themed band version by veteran musical Fat Boon. But there is a sinister twist to the tale.

After the invasion of Iraq in 2003, "Enter Sandman" was among a perverse playlist of songs used by the US military to torture prisoners, blasted at disorienting volume with strobe lighting for 24 hours at a time. It was America's very own 3am moment, the dark side of the "war on terror". Hetfield's indifferent response to the nightmare's message of his song is far scarier than his cartoonish lyrics. "It's just a thing," Metallica's singer said. "It's not good or bad."

Ludovic Hunter-Tilley
For a podcast with clips from the songs, visit ft.com/culturecast



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India, China Mobilize Aid for Quake Zone

Search crews arrive from Nepal's neighbors, who are rivals for regional influence

India and China rushed rescue teams and other assistance to earthquake-hit Nepal, a strategically important neighbor for the two Asian giants, which are jostling for influence in the Himalayan nation.

By Niharika Manchanda in New Delhi and Charles Hutzler in Beijing

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has sought to rebuild India's position as a regional power, responded quickly after the quake, naming his counterpart in Nepal of "support and assistance during this tough time," according to a tweet from his personal account.

By the end of the day Saturday, four Indian aircraft carrying nearly 300 disaster-response personnel and a mobile hospital had landed in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu. More aircraft landed Sunday carrying food, medical supplies and rescue equipment, India's Foreign Ministry said.

China responded by sending a 62-member search-and-rescue team to Nepal on Sunday, along with six smaller dogs and medical equipment, the Chinese government's news agency Xinhua said. China's Ministry of Commerce said it was coordinating with other agencies and providing about \$3.2 million in tents, blankets, generators and other materials to be sent by charter flights to Nepal.

The U.S. also ramped up disaster assistance for Nepal, with several aid groups dispatching humanitarian specialists, search-and-rescue workers and supplies. The government set aside an initial \$1 million for relief organizations to address urgent humanitarian needs.

Chinese leaders sent messages



Bodies were strewn among the rubble of Bhatapur, near Kathmandu, on Sunday, as rescue workers searched for survivors. More than 2,400 people were killed across Nepal.

expressing shock at the disaster and condolences to victims' families.

"The Chinese side is willing to offer all necessary disaster assistance to the Nepalese side," Chinese President Xi Jinping said.

India has long seen Nepal as part of its sphere of influence. China has been making inroads for decades, and the rivalry with India has gathered momentum with the increasing pace of Chinese invest-

ment in recent years. This rivalry has emerged across South Asia, from the island nations of Sri Lanka, Maldives and Mauritius to Bangladesh and Pakistan, where an expanding Chinese footprint has spurred Indian officials to reevaluate India's often fraught relationships with its neighbors.

"Nepal is located between these two superpowers and there is a competition within Nepal for influ-

ence," said Michael Hutt, professor of Nepal and Himalayan studies at the University of London. In Nepal, China is committing billions of dollars for highway projects, power plants and factories, and the Chinese government pledged last year to increase its annual aid to \$100 million, as it seeks to discourage the Himalayan nation from offering refuge to Tibetans fleeing China. Since coming to power in May

last year, Mr. Modi has tried to play catch-up, offering \$1 billion in loans to help build infrastructure in Nepal and moving forward on power-trading deals to help India harness Nepal's abundant hydro-

electric power potential. But with fewer resources to commit overseas, Mr. Modi is also trying another tack: highlighting the historical closeness and cultural ties between the two Hindu-majority countries.

In a monthly radio address on Sunday, Mr. Modi said the priority of India's rescue teams would be to find survivors trapped in debris and save lives. In the coming days, he said, India would also assist with relief and reconstruction work. "My beloved brothers and sisters of Nepal, India is with you in your sadness," Mr. Modi said. "India will wipe their tears. We'll hold their hands. We'll support them in this hour of pain."

es Rock Baltimore After Funeral; Curfew Is Set

National Guard Is Called Amid Looting

By SHIRLEY GAY STOLBERG
BALTIMORE — Maryland's National Guard on Monday and the city of Baltimore announced a curfew for the residents as a precaution for the 25-year-old Freddie Gray, the nation's latest symbol of police brutality, ended with racing by rioters and at least 15 police officers injured.



Rioters standing guard Monday night. At least 15 officers were injured and dozens of people were arrested.

The violence that shook the city on Monday night in the Midtown neighborhood of northwest Baltimore, where the 25-year-old Gray, "barely had three hours of life left," died, drew bottles, rocks and chunks of concrete at officers who fired tear gas with shields deployed in the street. Curfew was set at 10 p.m. and rioters were arrested. A large fire burned in east Baltimore, consuming a party store and a restaurant. The city's Southern Baptist Church was also targeted at the city's Lexington Market.

The chaos continued as the city's National Guard and police officers patrolled for curfew violators. Looting and rioting continued as the city's National Guard and police officers patrolled for curfew violators. Looting and rioting continued as the city's National Guard and police officers patrolled for curfew violators.

On the Street
Scenes of riot and looting

Enlists National Guard and Curfew to Halt Riots and Looting



Above, a young man jumping on a Baltimore Police patrol car on Monday as riots and looting hit the city. Left, police officers carrying a comrade injured in a clash with protesters in the streets near Midtown Mall. Below, marchers on South Avenue. Pastor Jamal Bryant, who delivered the eulogy for Gray, is seen in the background.

With curfew, Baltimore sees a calmer night

Most protesters comply with calls by community leaders to leave the streets.

By Noah Bierman, W.J. Hennigan and Tina Susman

BALTIMORE — With the National Guard on patrol and the city under curfew, officials struggled Tuesday to prevent a second night of rioting and appeared to succeed.

Baltimore Police Commissioner Anthony Batts said at a late-night news conference that 10 people had been arrested, two for looting, one for disorderly conduct and seven for violating the 10 p.m. curfew. "The city is stable," he said.

The night before, more than 200 people were arrested after unrest that followed the funeral of a young black man whose spine was nearly severed in police custody. The riots drew rebukes from the mayor, residents and President Obama.

At darkness, helicopters blanketed the city Tuesday, helicopters thundered above crowds defying the curfew, and officials used loudspeakers to urge people to get off the streets. Some defiant protesters were met with pepper spray from riot police, who stood in long lines holding shields for protection.

Community leaders joined officers in appealing for stragglers to go home and prevent another round of looting, arson and rock-throwing.



CHUCK SHAW/GETTY IMAGES

POLICE ATTEMPT to disperse protesters and reporters at an intersection in Baltimore after the curfew. Officials later said only 10 people had been arrested.

"Please go home to your families. I'm not asking you, I'm begging you," Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-Md.), whose district includes much of Baltimore, told a crowd lingering outside a looted CVS pharmacy on the city's west side, the center of Monday's violence.

Darren Ford, 35, said that standing their ground was how demonstrators' voices could be heard. "It looks like this is the only way to get some attention here in Baltimore," he said.

Nevertheless, the crowds soon thinned.

Baltimore, a city of 622,000, had erupted in anger after the funeral of Freddie Gray, 25, whose death is the latest in a string of incidents to fuel allegations of police abuse of minority men. Gray died April 19, a

week after his injury. Six officers have been suspended with pay during the investigation into the incident.

The toll from Monday's violence was staggering. More than 235 people were arrested, including at least 34 juveniles; 15 buildings were set on fire, 144 vehicles were destroyed, about 20 police officers were injured, including one who was hit in the head with an object and remained hospitalized.

Public schools closed Tuesday, keeping nearly 85,000 children out of classes. Schools were to reopen Wednesday.

The Baltimore Orioles postponed until May home games against the Chicago

White Sox that had been scheduled for Monday and Tuesday. But in a first for Major League Baseball, the Orioles' Wednesday game against Chicago was to be closed to the public and played in an empty stadium.

At the White House, Obama said Gray's death was part of a "slow-rolling crisis" affecting America.

"We have seen too many instances of what appears to be police officers interacting with individuals — primarily African American, often poor — in ways that have raised troubling questions. And it comes up, it seems once every couple of weeks," he said. "And so I think it's pretty understandable why the leaders of civil rights organizations, but more importantly moms and dads

across the country, might start saying this is a crisis."

Obama also denounced "criminals and thugs" who he said hijacked what had been peaceful demonstrations.

Residents of the afflicted Baltimore neighborhoods were distraught over the damage. Their city had not seen such violence since race riots in 1968.

Tears streamed from behind Rodas Kenly's dark sunglasses as she looked at North Avenue, its shops marked by broken windows and barren shelves. "I have love for my city, but I can't support what's happening here," said Kenly, 32, a veterinarian technician.

"There's just no excuse for this," said Earl Johnson, a resident who pleaded unsuccessfully with looters not to attack a Rite Aid drugstore in his east-side neighborhood Monday night. "Think about the absurdity of trashing your own neighborhood to make a point."

Parts of Baltimore resembled a city under military occupation, with National Guard troops in camouflage guarding key intersections and strategic infrastructure, including City Hall. Occasionally, a phalanx of Humvees carrying troops raced down streets, accompanied by police cars with sirens screaming.

The Mondawmin Mall, where the riots began, was a scene of shattered glass and desolation.

Police defended their response, saying they had to show restraint because of the ages of many of those in-

volved. Batts said the looting began after teenagers swarmed over the mall in response to social media calls for a "purge" at 3 p.m. Monday. Such calls have circulated before and are based on the film "The Purge," which posits a dystopia where all laws are suspended for 12 hours.

"Do you want people using force on 14-, 15-, 16-year-old kids?" Batts said. "They're old enough to know better — but they're still kids."

Some parts of Baltimore tried to return to a semblance of normalcy. Volunteers bringing brooms and shovels from their homes showed up in droves Tuesday to clean up riot debris. Many offered bottled water to police who stood guard over damaged shops.

But there was a fear that the goodwill could sour at any time.

"The anger you saw is about decades of pain and abuse in our community," said Megan Kenry, 38, as she joined others in cleaning up North Avenue. "The movement isn't going to end. I mean, how do you end racism?"

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Hennigan and Susman from New York Times staff writers Joseph Tunfoni in Baltimore and Michael A. Memoli and Christi Parsons in Washington contributed to this report.

Inner-city residents tell of their despair

Demetri Sevastopulo — Baltimore
Sam Fleming — Washington

The four young men, standing on a corner where the worst riots in Baltimore since 1968 erupted on Monday, are inmates at the fate of Freddie Gray, who died last week from spinal injuries suffered in police custody.

As police helicopters hover over the inner-city ghetto of Sandtown, the unemployed black youths warn that more violence will flare if prosecutors do not indict officers over the death of Gray, the latest African-American man to die because of alleged police brutality. "If they don't get convicted, all hell will break loose," says Chris Johnson, 21, who is in jail. "They will have guns and cocktail bombs."

Gray's death was the spark for the worst riots since the assassination of Martin Luther King in 1968. They say that spark ignited mounting grievances over alleged police brutality and appalling economic conditions in the area.

"What they did to Freddie Gray gave us an excuse to express ourselves," says one of the four friends. "We were waiting for a way to express ourselves."

The street from the corner to the housing projects where Gray lived paints a portrait of urban decay, with many houses boarded up or derelict.

Residents say the area is rife with drug-related crime of the kind depicted in the Baltimore-set TV series 'The Wire.'

One building contractor says he has to pay the man who runs the drug dealers \$100 occasionally to ensure his properties are protected. "I know who it was [on Monday]. It was all the crack heads, the drug addicts and the kids," he says.

Baltimore has been turning round its decline and depopulation, having lost nearly a third of its residents since 1960



Defiance: a protester breaks a curfew and taunts police officers in Baltimore on Tuesday night.

when it was the sixth-largest US city. It has attracted a younger, well-educated population and the jobless rate has fallen to 8.2 per cent from more than 12 per cent after the financial crash.

Still, it ranks as the 12th most unequal among 50 cities tracked by the Brookings Institution. Research by the Justice Policy Institute and the Prison Policy Initiative shows that, between 2008 and 2012, 45 per cent of residents in Greater Moselem — where the riots started — aged 16 to 64 were unemployed.

Figures for nearby Sandtown, where Gray lived, reveal an even higher rate of unemployment, 52 per cent, and 23 per cent of its properties were abandoned.

Minutes after urging agitated young men to be more peaceful, Bishop Douglas Miles, co-founder of Build, a group that strives to rebuild neighborhoods, says the community is "under siege from social issues and police brutality".

The bishop says Baltimore city council has ignored the inner city, and instead poured money into central dis-

tricts more appealing to tourists and businesses. One big problem is many men are convicted felons, meaning they have little chance of finding jobs.

Sitting on the steps of an empty house, Mack Coker, unemployed and in his late 50s, says the situation is not so different from 1968 as the "same basic set of circumstances... is repeating itself".

He says a zero-tolerance approach to policing had resulted in many men going to jail for "non-serious" crimes such as for loitering. "It was the same when we were teenagers. Nothing has changed... no training, no money, no hope, no way of getting out of where you are".

Much of the media focused on the rioters being teenagers. Latoria Powell, a single mother, says it was not surprising that the youths were frustrated, as they have no outlets for their energies.

"We have no resources, we have nothing, we have no community centres. You know how kids used to come and play in the rec centres. We don't have that, so there is an outcry," she says.

Nothing has changed... no training, no money, no hope, no way of getting out of where you are

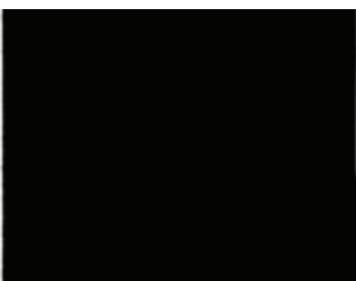
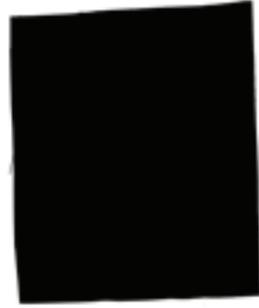
Police urged parents to take their children off the streets, but Cynthia Swann, one of many volunteers trying to clear the area, says: "Their parents are in jail, their parents are on drugs... some of these kids are only doing what they're doing because they have got to eat. We don't have to go across the sea to save children. There are children right here in Baltimore city that need to be saved."

Jay, 37, says the riots were the "symptom of the cancer" of police brutality and "zero economic opportunity".

"You will see in a 30-block radius how many jobs are available in this area that make more than \$20,000 a year," he says. "You can't feed a family, you can barely feed yourself on \$20,000 a year."

The single father accuses the police of aggression, saying he has been arrested several times while walking to the supermarket to buy food for his son.

"My seven-year-old son woke up this morning crying and said 'I don't want to be black any more'... he has seen them drive guns on me."



In 2014 I began working on a series of paintings based off of the front pages of various newspapers. These works used the the front page texts both as sets of instructions for their own making, in addition to being their primary source of content. The paintings up to this point have engaged specific newspapers rather than specific articles, and I have maintained a rather distant relationship with the fragments of articles contained on the front page. Furthermore, dates are chosen as arbitrarily as possible. For this project I take a slightly different approach. Articles are chosen for their potential to exist as future paintings, and the dates are not only specific, but sequential.

Three abstractions occur.

Contained in the thirty clippings is a very narrow glimpse of the month of April, 2015. The articles come from a wide variety of international newspapers. This is the first abstraction, the articles are removed from their original contexts. The second abstraction relates to time, memory and language. The final abstraction is forced, though perhaps the first two are as well. This occurs when an individual article becomes a painting, it dies.

Dashiell Manley
Los Angeles, May 2015.

Old News is a project about information, media and recycled, reprinted news. It is a non-profit newspaper presenting a selection of articles, images and words clipped from newspapers.

The articles in Old News have all been chosen by individual artists for the purpose of redistributing the news. Guidelines are given, which change slightly from issue to issue, but it is essentially up to the artist to interpret them in each instance. Sometimes the artists follow the guidelines, sometimes not.

Old News is a second-generation, copyright-free newspaper. Apart from the newspaper you hold in your hands, the Old News project will be presented at different exhibition venues and take on many different shapes and forms. The Old News newspaper is for free.

Thanks to the artist, writers, photographers and contributors to Old News. – Jacob Fabricius, May 2015

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