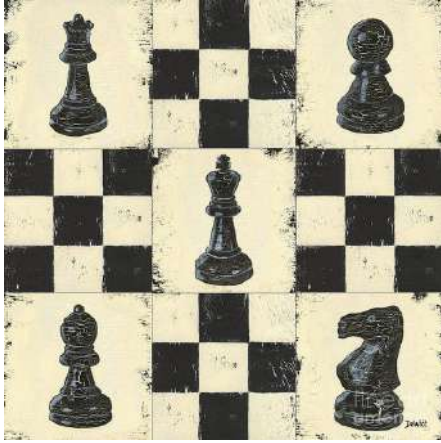


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First chess tournament online:

On April 7th there was a chess tournament organized by Tornike Kubaneishvili. The tournament included 5 rounds of 20 minutes each. There were around 17 players, and I was one of them. At last, we saw the Leaderboard. When the chart popped up I couldn't believe my eyes. I was in the first place. I couldn't believe it. I have never actually competed in a chess tournament before. Six months ago I watched series called "The Queen's Gambit". It was the series that inspired me to play chess. Days would pass and I still would be learning how to play chess. And now here I am, the winner of the school chess championship. There is a stereotype that chess is a game for nerds only, but that's not true. Chess is a very engaging and interesting game. In fact, I think anyone interested in games, should play chess!

By: Mariam Khurodze

The tough life of a woman

Women... a rare species, people who for centuries were underappreciated, beings, who when given the power and liberty can bend every rule and make amazing things happen. This is the definition of a woman.

For years, decades, no... centuries, women have been monetized as beings with no willpower, no strength, and in need of guidance. But is that true? Are our mothers, sisters, cousins, friends, or even just regular female classmates considered people of lower esteem? Why was it that for such a sickening amount of time, women had to beg for their voices to be heard? For them to be able to get together without the surveillance of male figures? For them to be able to go outside and rightfully vote for what they believe to be beneficial?

For such a long time women were labeled as weaklings. They were stereotyped, they were accused of things that they didn't even rightfully deserve. They were burned, said to be witches when they spoke of something which required intelligence. It is completely unacceptable. 'Till this day women cannot go outside without feeling the pressures or fright of the outside world. They still,' till this day, can't put on clothes which they feel comfortable in, because they get stares from people they want to avoid. Why is it that girls in third-world countries are unable to speak on their own behalf?

My answer to that is; sexism. Sexism has been apparent in most of our lives. Our parents, grandparents, great grandparents, have all experienced it. But sadly, most of them didn't have the right, nor the chance to try to even question this phenomenon. But all has to change, and gradually, it is. Men around the world, women around the world, people in general around the world are starting to realize the great input the female species brings to every one of our lives. Without a woman, neither me, nor you, nor anyone, would be here. It's ironic isn't it... boys don't want anyone mistreating their mothers, yet they have no problem mistreating girls their age. Is this right? Are their behaviors justified? Legally... sometimes. But morally? No one is going to come out and speak against men, labeling them as good or bad. Because they don't deserve to be put into the boxes that women are still trying to climb out of.

It is not that we ask for much. All we ask is for decency, understanding, respect, compassion, and most of all, liberty. I am my own human, you are your own. We may encounter one another at a certain time, but I, or any other woman in this world, don't owe anything to you. Let us all be free, live by not only legislative but also moral rules. Women were, are, and always will be the rare species everyone is dying to comprehend.

So, together, me, you, and all of the people in and out of our lives can come, to one conclusion. Women deserve to be treated better, feminism equals equality, moral consciousness should be part of daily decision making, respect is key. In general, everyone must be accountable for their actions. And men should start treating women as they would want someone to treat their mothers and sisters. One day, hopefully, sometime soon, girls will go out into the world, and not have a fear of not getting back home.

By: Mariam Jakhua



The book of imagination

In this article, I want to tell you all about one of my favorite books called “Harry Potter”. I decided to write about this book because it’s not only the books that are interesting, it’s also the invention of it. When I was writing this article, I thought that I should have written it as if I was writing to a friend, because if I only wrote the facts, it wouldn’t deliver my true message. Let’s start by getting to know a small backstory of the books.

In 1997, a book called “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone” was published by a British author-J.K. Rowling. When Rowling was writing the books, she had a lot of problems to stress and worry about-including being poor, which produced depression. Rowling herself described her economic level as: “poor as it is possible to be in modern Britain, without being homeless.” She wrote the “Harry Potter” books in Edinburgh, in The Elephant House Café. Even though she had huge financial problems, Rowling still created a book like no other, which became so famous that it was translated into eighty different languages. While I was reading those books, it was one of my greatest experiences, because it makes you imagine and discover a whole new world with incredible characters. The books make such a huge effect on your imagination skills, that it feels like you yourself are one of its characters. Reading the series also improves one’s vocabulary, since the books are filled with rich words.

The “ Harry Potter” series also taught me some important life lessons- how important friendship, bravery, and loyalty are, how our choices determine who we are... I suggest everyone read the “Harry Potter” series since it will surely have a big effect on your imagination skills, will improve your vocabulary, teach you many things, and will also be very enjoyable, entertaining, and interesting to read.



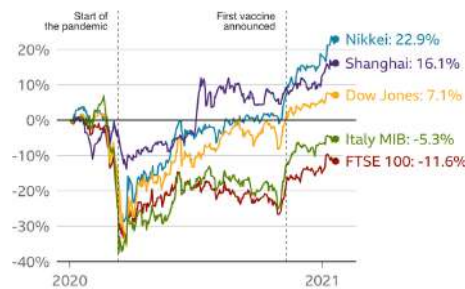
By: Ketevan Tergamadze

Economics Section

How has Covid-19 affected the economy?

It has been already more than a year since the big economic crashed caused by the pandemic, but the economy still does not seem to recover from the 2020 events. We are the ones who saw a huge change happen in front of our eyes, and now we are at the stage where we can at least partly assess it.

In March 2020, we saw a huge fall of all stocks, and the DJI suddenly falling but then starting to recover in a matter of months. The markets were hurt a lot, but most of them began to recover soon. We can also view how vaccination brings hope and helps markets to grow.

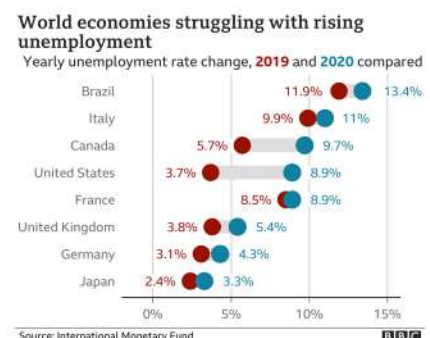


Source: Bloomberg, 24 January 2021, 00:01 GMT

Sometimes, the stock market is not the only measure of how successful is the economy. We should also look at other measures. While the stocks get better, there is a still huge problem with unemployment. Lockdown resulted in a lot of people losing their jobs, but not being able to find new ones. We can see statistics in this chart:

From this chart, we can see that unemployment has risen in a lot of places, because a lot of spheres, like restaurants, co-working, cafes, airlines were shut for a lot of time, and some turned bankrupt. It happened because of the lockdown and regulations on these spheres.

How can we go back to normal? For me, the answer is vaccination. Right now there are a lot of different vaccines developed, and we can say that they are helping to stop, or at least slow the spread of the virus. For now, they are our only hope to stop the pandemic and help the economy to go back to normal.



Source: International Monetary Fund

By: Alexandra Konovalova

Why do we need inflation?

You've been probably hearing that inflation is one of the greatest problems in economics and one of the biggest challenges for governments and financial institutions to control. Correct!

Now, you are reading that we actually need inflation. Also, correct!

Let's make sure we understand that Inflation is the rise of a price level. So, why zero inflation, in other words, a constant price level, is not desirable?

You will ask, how an increase in prices can be better?

Indeed, the high rate of inflation is a terrible problem. However, the Inflation of 0% imposes another type of trouble on the economy. Simply, 0% inflation is undesirable, to avoid the risk of deflation, which is feared by economists more than inflation because of the following dangers:

- Deflation discourages spending because consumers (us) expect prices to continue to fall.
- Deflation discourages borrowing by firms and consumers, as the real value of debt increases (because money is gaining value) as a result, business and consumer spending level falls.
- Unemployment increases.
- Incomes fall.

These factors lead to bankruptcies of firms and consumers who are unable to pay back the debts, and if this becomes widespread, a huge risk of financial crisis arises.

In conclusion, the economic objective for most governments is a low and stable inflation rate (around 2-3%) not a zero rate, assuming that higher levels of spending are crucial for economic growth.



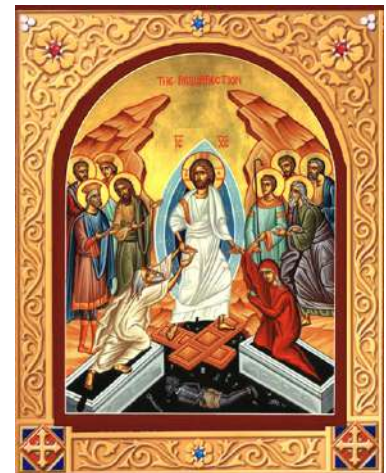
By: Ana Maria Iakobidze

World News

Eastern Orthodox Christian Easter/Pascha

So if anybody lately has looked at their calendar. They might have seen that Easter is coming soon. Easter is also known as Pascha. Orthodox Christians attend a church liturgy (church service). It can be held on Sunday morning or midnight liturgy between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday

Now, this might confuse some of our students who are not from Orthodox Christian countries. Because Easter Sunday for Catholics and protestants fell on April 4th. The eastern orthodox churches celebrate Easter Sunday on May 2nd. The reason for there being different dates is that the Orthodox Christian Orthodox Church uses a different calendar than the rest of the world. The Julian Calendar was designed by Julius Caesar in 45 BC - basing a year on the time it takes the Sun to go around the Earth. The Gregorian Calendar was created by Pope Gregory in 1582 to fix some of the glitches in the Julian Calendar as astronomy became more accurate. The Eastern Orthodox Church bases its Easter date on the Julian calendar.



Well, some people might be reading this right now and asking themselves: "Why do I need to care about a religion that I do not hold to?" Well, I believe that I as an international student living in this country have a responsibility to learn some general knowledge on the culture and religious practices of the country. By having this basic knowledge we can better learn and understand the world we live in. Seeing as the Eastern Orthodox Church is the main religion in Georgia. Statistics say that 82.4% Of the Georgian population belongs to the Georgian Orthodox Church. 1% belongs to the Russian Orthodox Church. For those that do know the Russian and Georgian churches are the same. The only difference is in leadership and the language used in services.

Now I would like to teach you the Paschal greeting. The Paschal Greeting is where a person is to greet another person with "Christ is risen!" - and the response is "Truly He is risen!". This is a fun fact that you can put into practice this Easter even if you are not Christian. It is a fun way to congratulate you, Christian friends, on the celebration.

Georgian - ქრისტე აღსდგა! ჭეშმარიტად აღსდგა! (Kriste aghsdga! Cheshmaritad aghsdga!)
 Mingrelian: ქირსეე გეთანდღე! ღორონთუმე (ემეთო ეთანდღე)! (Kirsek genthand'! Ghoronthume (emetho gethand')!)
 Russian - Христос Воскресе! Воистину Воскресе! (Khristos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!)
 Greek - Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς Ανέστη! (Christos Anesti! Aleithos Anesti!)
 Turkish - Hristós diril-Dí! Hakikatén diril-Dí!
 Afrikaans - Christus het opgestaan! Hy het waarlik opgestaan!

I hope that this article has taught you something. Hopefully, you can greet one of your Christian friends with the Paschal greeting. Maybe you learned some new information that changed your outlook on Georgian society.

By: Joah Steenberg

ES Gallery

