

Liberalism vs Bureaucracy: A Crisis at AUIS?

One of the greatest features of a liberal arts education is the ability to pick the classes that interest you outside of your core major requirements. It is one of the many qualities that makes AUIS different from other universities in this region. The same can be said of the Winter and Summer terms which, despite economic difficulties and ever-increasing tuitions, continue to thrive with enthusiastic freshmen and desperate seniors who need that one class in order to graduate.

For a number of reasons, the course I enrolled in for this year's Winter term turned out to be a bad idea after I attended the first class. However, there was no reason to worry as I could drop the course before the add/drop period ends and take another course instead. The second-best option was in fact one of great interest to me already and closer to my major. It was also a convenient move, as who would want to waste a good \$650? The professor had given his approval and all that was left to do was go to the registrar's office so that they would change my course on TopSchool. Or was it?

The registrar's office informed me that TopSchool would do no such thing. It was out of the question. Unless I paid. In order to make the switch, I had to pay another \$650, while the other \$650 went down the drain.

Apparently, this was always a rule. I should have known it even though, strangely enough, it does not appear on the Winter Term Policies and Procedures document. So intact was this unwritten rule that, when asked, even a registrar staff member could not answer how students were expected to just know.

There are two issues here. It is not only regarding the policy being unheard of among the student body (which should not be overlooked) but also the policy itself. We understand that there are no refunds (thanks to the many emphases in the Policies and Procedures), but why can't a student change her course when she is allowed to drop it without consequence? If the initial course was paid for by the student, he/she should also be able to change it before a given deadline, just as he/she normally would

during the two semesters.

Just when you'd think the increase in tuition wasn't enough, there comes along a wave of other policies, almost as if arbitrarily added in a last-minute bid to extract even more dough. The efforts by the Student Association last year were largely ignored when addressing the sudden increase in the Winter/Summer term tuition. Though it is a great way for students to create a venue for other students to voice their opinions, the Association is ineffective at best regarding this aspect. Perhaps the Student Association Election was enough for the university to feel they have done their part for democracy in this institution, or Iraq as a whole.

I understand that AUIS is taking austerity measures, but this should not be synonymous with ripping the students off. The students should not have to pay for the shortcomings of the university, notably its inability to manage its once flourishing finances.

There are, of course, many factors contributing to the problems we see today. Loopholes in bureaucracies tend to become more visible with time, and liberal arts universities are no exception. The example I mentioned is a minor one that is besides the main problem but still reflective of the

policies made at the expense of the students' limited choices.

Nevertheless, the philosophy to which we owe this kind of education and to which liberal democracies come about is going through a crisis everywhere in the world. The rise of Trump in America and far-right politics in Europe are only some of the more visible consequences. Of course, this is not to say that institutional problems and consequences are comparable to that of politics, but the students are to this university what citizens or customers are to a government or company, and they have reasonable concerns that are just as valid. Addressing issues of management whose outcome might distract students from the values this university upholds is, but the first step.

For those curious about what happened: I ended up dropping the course altogether. I wasn't going to change my mind about it, nor was I going to pay another \$650 just to enroll in another course. Read the policy and procedures first, ladies and gentlemen! But wait, I did, didn't I? Have a fruitful Spring Semester ahead!

Medya Rashid



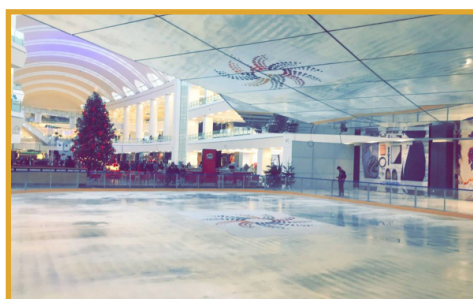
AUIS campus



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Winter is here (still), and so is Slemani's very first ice skating rink! If you and your friends have been sitting around bored at home, waiting for the obnoxious cold to soon be over with and are desperately looking for something fun to do, you need not wait any longer. Read more on page 4.



Earlier this season, Wayne Rooney scored his 250th goal for Manchester United, overtaking Sir Bobby Charlton as Manchester United's all-time top goalscorer. It served as a reminder to the football world of what an incredible career he's had. Read more about his career on page 5.

I Won't Die for my Country

Nationalism is always talked about as this glorious trait that every citizen of a particular nation should have and take pride in, which shows the love and loyalty you have for your nation and country. Likewise, when talking about war, nationalism must be mentioned as it's one of the main causes, and in many ways is used to justify the mass killing that results from war. But if you're willing to die for your country, what is it exactly that you're willing to die for? Is it your home? Well your home is only a small part of the nation. Is it your fellow citizens? Well you don't know and probably won't meet most of them, so what makes this particular group of people worth dying for and not another foreign group? Is it freedom or independence? Well there are many countries which have those, so why die for this particular country's freedom and independence? What links you to your country and nation?

According to the Norwegian sociologist Johan Galtung, nationalism is constructed out of a shared belief of trauma and glory. Here we see the link between nationalism and death. When nations believe that they share common points of glory, that's them believing that past acts of violence were legitimate and good. And when a nation believes that they share common trauma points, that's

also them believing that future acts of violence against those who inflicted the trauma would be legitimate and good. So maybe what links you to your nation is a shared sense of military history. Galtung says that after a war the nations can have a lingering DMA-complex (a system of beliefs and values about the war that makes future wars more likely). The "D" stands for Dichotomy, when the nation remembers the war they imagine that they and their enemy were completely different and there were no similarities. The "M" stands for Manichean, where they believe that the enemy was one hundred percent evil and they were one hundred percent good. The "A" stands for Armageddon, where they believe that the war was significant and eternally important. The upshot of this DMA-complex is that if there is any hint that this war might not really be over, people jump to legitimize further violence. To use an example, some governments would use their country's DMA-complex and a particular interpretation of the country's military history to justify a militarized future. By now, you might say that remembrance services aren't about justifying past or future violence; they're just about remembering them. It has been argued by a lot of people that the way we currently remember wars and honor

veterans reinforces the DMA-complex, which makes future wars more likely. Galtung, in an article about conflict and terror, states, "this DMA complex leads them towards an obligation, which becomes also, the natural thing to do – the world is made that way. You cannot sit down and negotiate with terrorists; they are only out to do evil and the only thing you can do is to try to deter them and if that doesn't work, to kill them, squash them."

History is a hugely interpretive process, so different nationalisms induce different interpretations of history. Remembrance services show us a country's official nationalism and the official military history which, of course, reflects the views and beliefs of the dominant group of people in that country. This history is what philosophers call "simulacrum", which means hyper-real, that is, it is not so much a reflection of the past as a reflection of us in the present.

Criticizing cultural symbols is not to devalue them, rather it is to appreciate their true value, to look at them honestly and in detail and say that they were products of their time; therefore, they present an opportunity to transcend their limitation and do better in our time. That's something we can't do if we romanticize our history, and especially the nasty parts. One thing I invite you to remember is that history is constructed, and you have to choose which events to believe and focus on to fit them in your story. The telling and remembering of history will reflect the beliefs and political views of the storyteller.

Zhalin Ibrahim



Peshmerga fighters in the front

KRG and Iraq: A Dividing Line for ISIS



Rebel fighters cheer as they fight ISIS Jihadists (Credit: NBC News)

Perhaps among the greatest threats to the stability of the Middle East is the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. The so-called caliphate is undoubtedly one of the biggest hindrances to world peace, but also a product of ill-devised politics.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant is a terrorist group that gained world exposure in early 2013. ISIL announced itself as a caliphate when it captured the city of Mosul, one of the largest cities in Iraq by population. Whereas once Mosul was a city famous for its breeding of intellectuals and a hub for trade, now it is garrisoned by a group who practices execution-style killings, suicide bombings, and the deliberate education of children to despise the West. The question then is what happened?

Before I begin to pick at a reasonable but succinct answer, I want to first note that there is nothing specific to the Middle East for it to become a breeding ground for homegrown terrorism. This phenomenon could occur anywhere if the conditions are right – or wrong. There are a few reasons as to why ISIL spread its roots in Iraq and the Levant and not elsewhere. After the Iraq invasion by the United States in 2003, ten years prior to the declaration of the so-called caliphate, Iraq witnessed a political power vacuum. The country scurried to form a legitimate republic. Because the legal framework of the republic was weak and the vital importance of checks and balances was overlooked, corruption soon got the better of the political scene. Officials were bought and bribery was rampant. Oil revenues skyrocketed and became the fuel and incentive for corruption.

Preliminary statistics reported that so much as 114,000 civilian deaths occurred during the US-led invasion, of which more than 1,200 were children. You can imagine, then, the contempt many Iraqis had for the admitted recklessness of the invasion. This hatred, in collaboration with a failed governing system, allowed terrorist groups to operate among the chaos. While the invasion was touted as a celebration for the toppling of a dictator—namely Saddam Hussein – by the Bush administration, many criticized the perceived recklessness of the invasion. A kind of hatred brewed among Iraqis.

The effects of the war, however, proved positive for other parts of Iraq, especially the Kurdistan Regional Government. Within the borders of the semi-autonomous and newly declared Kurdish government, the economy boomed and sky-scrapers grew out of Baathist-era ruins. While the Kurds enjoyed newly-found freedom, others who were directly under the jurisdiction of the Iraqi government were not as fortunate. So we are back at square one: what happened in contiguous Iraq that didn't in the KRG? The answer is simple, though incredibly vague: weak institutions and a failed judicial system that produced corruption left and right. One thing that the KRG got right that Iraq didn't was the creation of a functioning and practical judicial system. Of course, even the KRG practiced corruption on a high level, it managed to maintain a semblance of a legal system that flaunt-

ed justice and the rule of law. Historically, the Kurds have been friends of the US and even allies, though betrayed politically by the US in some instances. But the Kurds did not suffer from the Iraq invasion as much as other Iraqis did. This too is an underlying difference. The last point I am going to make is one about security. The Kurds had the Peshmerga (from Kurdish, literally 'those who face death'). The Peshmerga forces secured Kurdish borders and prevented militia forces and terrorist pockets to form or operate within the KRG borders. Iraq, however, had very little reign over militia forces. Forces that operate today like Hashdy Shaabi, have their roots in smaller militia groups that formed in opposition to the aftermath of the invasion and the ruling government. This issue is complicated even further when we take into account the religious element that divides Iraq. Shia and Sunni have historically been at odds and the separation became even more contentious after the invasion. The KRG did not have this conflicting religious tension, and that was an advantage.

I haven't even scratched the surface as to why the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant operated in Iraq and not in the KRG. The problems are many and the solution is incredibly difficult. But there is always hope. That hope lies in education, building strong institutions and making the rule of law top priority.

Arish Latif

Education: A Crisis in Kurdistan

When the teachers' demonstrations commenced in Slemani in a response to the austerity measures the government had undertaken in order to lean its expenditures, opinions came at crossroads. Some defended the teachers' basic rights- as to be paid for their work- and some thought that the economic recession is thorough and exhaustive; in which not only the teachers were affected, but all sectors were equally disrupted. The latter argument is based on the bandwagon logical fallacy. If everyone is in it then so should a group or individual, because our goals are common and we are on one ship, sailing to a common destiny. The fact that a fallacy is the building-block of their argument- usually the officials' rhetoric- needs no further ado.

The fact that teachers are workers and need their lives sustained so as to serve better is a strong, irrefutable claim. The case I will argue is not of the aforementioned argument.

The education system in the KRG is one aimed at providing a workforce for the government. The first words of a public-college graduate are: where are my government-established rights? As if being in an administration is an inalienable right, such as liberty. A government has the responsibility of executing the legislations that the people have voted their representatives to pass, not being a pool for almost all the people to feed on, which in turn serves

them a fixed standard of living.

Hence, an education system should be in service of the people. To cast aside the pay-cuts of the teachers, and ponder on whether the education system is in favor of the well-being and progress of the people should be the real issue.

In a system where one is expected and ought to memorize a bunch of worn-out, dusty knowledge needed to attain a diploma, its subjects will not become intellectuals, innovators, or entrepreneurs. Its subjects cannot critically assess their rights and duties, cannot have the necessary technical skills that the other members of the society demand so as to make a living off of it, and lastly, cannot consider themselves patriotic individuals who truly put forth the land and nation before any political party, identity group, and religion.

We perceive that this way of introducing knowledge to youngsters only induces apathy and boredom on their side. It is firmly established that knowledge is power. By having knowledge one can negotiate, sustain material needs, and communicate fluently. These are indispensable powers that advance individuals and, ultimately, communities. Therefore, to render a community powerful – morally and culturally – the individuals must possess a certain amount of invaluable knowledge.

An education system must provide a threshold to its stu-



Teachers protest against salary cuts

dents so that curiosity and thirst for new and significant knowledge is eternal and never quenched.

To speak historically, of Kurdish culture in specific, one must not forego the many divisions between Kurdish factions. These factions were mainly due to various tribal affiliations, mostly between 1890-1970s. After political party formations, homages were given to them by the tribes and other sources. It is quite paradoxical to be disunited amongst a national goal – which is the toil for the success of the Kurdish revolution against the Ba'ath regime – while all of the actors were Kurds. It was the absence of a common education system, even after the success of the Kurdish revolution, that could

form an individual who is excited to have more knowledge. A generation of thinkers, visionaries, and civilians will have been the bud of a new Kurdish society. Not only was the birth of a modern society inevitable, but even independence would have become much closer. Disunity is remedied by education and knowledge.

Ultimately, the teachers must strive to protest for a larger cause other than their fixed salaries. Until the philosophy behind our development and education is not altered, many other pay-cuts, corruption displays, and iniquities will repeat themselves costlier.

Kozhan Yaseen

Revolutionizing the Education System in Iraq through Technology

Before the US invasion, Iraq relied on teachers to educate the younger generation and to make the best use of the books they were provided with. Going to a classroom and listening to a teacher for an hour was routine. The rules were simple; whatever the teacher said must be true. No one was allowed to question teachers because of the authority they had over students, and if you did, you would be in trouble. This medieval educational system resulted in students being afraid to ask questions and stand up for their beliefs. Unfortunately, that generation became followers instead of leaders.

Fast forward to the present, and you will notice the education system has dramatically evolved around the world. A large part of the evolution in the education system has been down to advancements in technology and the advent of the Internet. However, Iraq's education system remains the same old medieval style of education. There have been some changes to the curriculum but it has not been enough. One major aspect that we are missing in the schools is technology. Today, when we have so many devices such as tablets, computers, and access to the Internet, why aren't we using them inside the classroom? Many students now have access to the Internet and can search for information that is relevant to their studies. If they learn to use it properly, they would get a faster and more reliable answer than if they were to ask their teacher. Many countries that use computers in the classroom have shown that it is easier and better for the students to learn. The problem is not the actual hardware, many students have it. The problem is how to integrate

the system and how the teachers can use it to better the educational system.



KRG makes most of its income from selling oil. However, oil will not last forever. When our oil income is gone, we will have to rely on knowledge to help us move forward. This means more of us will have to get the good quality education to be able to compete with other nations. We cannot just expect that students will realize that they are the nations future. It is an attitude that must be instilled in them from an early age. In about 20 years, they will become the leaders of our country. It is this generation's responsibility to teach them to become leaders. We need to turn into a knowledge based society. Computers can teach us to learn things in different ways. Instead of reading about a subject, why not visualize it. The internet can also

provide us with the same quality of education as other nations. Knowing about other cultures, and be learning from their mistakes, their style of life, and their educational system can make ours better. With technology, we can teach other students to search and think critically.

Needless to say, it is not easy for the KRG to integrate technology into schools; we need to make some changes. First of all, we need to let students use their devices in classrooms. Instead of saying it is bad, let's teach them how to use it to benefit them. Most of the young generation today use the Internet for entertainment. Updating their Facebook status, keeping up with the latest celebrity news, or watching a movie is more important to them than learning. If you ask them how to search for a funny video they can, but if you ask them to search for an important topic about math or any other educational subject they cannot. This is because neither their parents nor the school taught them how to do it. More importantly, the teacher should also be taught on how to use technology in the classroom. Many of the teachers cannot send an email, or even search

online. Instead of talking for hours about the subject, the teachers can show a video, and discuss it with the students. Teachers should spend the class time discussing the materials instead of wasting time on reading the book or writing notes on the board. Finally, the biggest problem our society has right now is the lack of Kurdish resources. It is easy to search online for an English topic, but we don't have many reliable resources in Kurdish. One group that is helping fix this problem, however, is Adiabene Academy. They provide videos on high school subjects online in Kurdish. Adiabene Academy wants to encourage students to use the Internet more and also gather in places that can provide reliable information. Teachers can encourage students to watch videos outside of the classroom and discuss them during the class. This makes the teachers' jobs easier since it provides them with an alternative way to explain the material to a group of more than 30 students. Other groups also try to create Kurdish programs and operating systems. Having Kurdish dictionaries, websites, and books online will encourage more people to use them. The Ministry of Education recently put the school books online to download. These are all big steps that we are making, but we need more.

With these changes, we can improve our educational system; to become an education-based country, where education is free and can be accessed any time. However, we have to know that the future starts now, and we should make it easier and better for our students to access information.

Hazhy Rozh

Five Generalizations about Introverts

If I had a dollar for every time someone asked me why I “look so down all of a sudden”, I’d have about one hundred dollars. Being an introvert comes with a lot of assumptions and misconceptions from surroundings and society. Overshadowed by the outgoing nature of extroverts, introverts are often seen as shy, anti-social, unsuccessful, rude, boring and distant. Though how can this be true when your best friend who identifies himself or herself as an introvert is probably your favorite person to hang out with? And some of your favorite, most outgoing professors may actually just prefer going home to a pleasant book. Most of us secretly misconceive and generalize introverts as negative and unfriendly, when in reality these are often not true. So next time you hope your new friend is an outgoing and exciting extrovert, think about

your extrovert bias and have a second thought. Here are some common generalizations about introverts that you should probably change:

- Introverts Are Shy.

Yes, some introverts are shy. Though this is not the case for all introverts. In fact, a lot of times people mistake themselves for introverts just because of their shy nature. Yes, introverts are silent at times, but that does not mean that they do not want to talk or are too nervous to. Being shy is more associated with low self-confidence and esteem. Instead, introverts prefer having meaningful conversations with a few people rather than small talk with a lot of people.

- Introverts Are Boring

Believe it or not, introverts like to have fun too! Just like their counterparts,

introverts enjoy going to parties and attending exciting events. In fact you might mistake that really outgoing guy you met at some party for an extrovert. Introverts just need less stimulation to sum up their day with “wow that was fun”. Instead of being extremely affected by the outside world, they prefer their internalized world.

- Introverts Are Rude

If being an introvert were correlated with hostility then I would be having a lot of arguments right now. On the contrary, since introverts are able to reserve some time alone, they are able to think things through a lot of the time. This instead makes most introverts really easy going! However, introverts aren’t usually the type to start a lot of small talk and this is what might brush them off as rude.

- Introverts Are Antisocial

Introverts can be actually social butterflies! Though, instead of constantly getting hyped up by small talk and constant conversations with a big group of people, introverts prefer to have meaningful conversations with small groups and often require a period of time on their own later on.

- Introverts Are Unsuccessful

The dual nature of introverts actually gives them great potential. Introverts are always planning things ahead and thinking internally to make sure everything is on board and going successful. This makes them more likely to be respectable leaders, hard workers, and highly cooperative people.

Shaveen Salih

Voice Go Ice Skating

Winter is here (still), and so is Slemani’s very first ice skating rink! If you and your friends have been sitting around bored at home, waiting for the obnoxious cold to soon be over with and are desperately looking for something fun to do, you need not wait any longer. Make some use out of winter and head over to Family Mall with your friends and family to the newly opened ice skating rink.

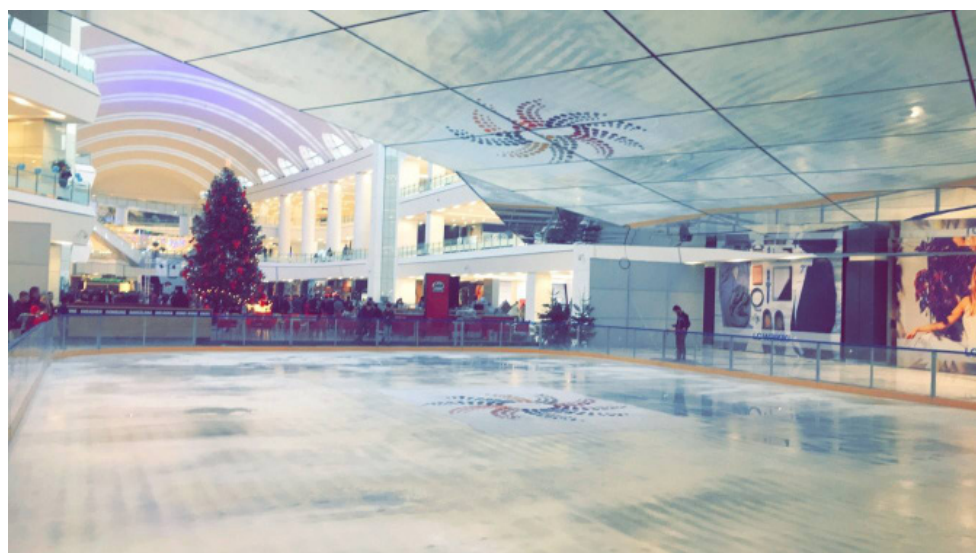
The AUIS Voice crew, a bunch of other AUIS students and, of course, our hard working alumni Shko Shwan (fun fact: he was crowned with the great honor of being our student of the month in December) and Berzy Majlis organized a wonderful event on its opening day. We all took the ice and, despite our best efforts, couldn’t avoid falling on the icy surface. Fortunately, no one got bruises - only mildly laughed at. There’s absolutely no shame whatsoever in laughing at your friends for falling, especially when they find it even more difficult to get up off the ice. Good times, good times.

Just when you think that is all the fun we had, there’s more! Our great alumni had some more fun in mind (or perhaps just other ways

to laugh at us). They planned for us to perform a Mannequin Challenge on the ice; because, most assuredly, AUIS students have this god given talent in the bag (check out our AUIS Mannequin Challenge in our main cafeteria if you have not already!). Although, it was more like a ‘trying to hold still and not slip in our ice skates’ challenge. Even so, it was great fun; and with a few good takes, we had a great shot of the Mannequin Challenge on ice. (Another fun fact: the legendary AUIS Tyrannosaurus Rex made a grand appearance – courtesy of Artin Barawi).

Family Mall has done a great job creating a fun and safe environment at the ice rink for all ages to enjoy. In fact, many of the children there were much better than us so-called pros. No shame in our game. But it does not end there. It is absolutely crucial to make sure we, the AUIS Voice Staff, have great fun over the holidays and throughout the winter break, making it possible to take the fun outside of campus for our community. There’s nothing better than upholding our university spirit!

Nazyan Soor



Ice skating rink at Family Mall

Where is my Versace?

With economic prosperity comes a wide range of opportunities, and with good opportunities comes progress. The economic and political instability in our region has been reflected in the unavailability of many services and among them famous international brands. Global brands such as ZARA, H&M, Starbucks, and McDonald’s have different contracting terms and conditions for expanding their brands worldwide depending on the demand they expect to get from different parts of the world.

The reasoning behind global franchises refusing to expand to certain regions lies in the economic and political instability in those regions, resulting in the small consumer demand that is expected. Also, the fear of putting the lives of hundreds of employees in danger by sending them abroad is another aspect that holds companies back from entering the region.

This is a situation that we are familiar with and we can link to the current financial crisis that the people of Kurdistan are facing and suffering from. Despite all the economic and political adversities of the region, just very recently, two shopping malls were opened in Slemani: Majidi Mall and Family Mall. The high expectations of the people of Slemani and the vision that the mall owners had for their projects were compatible, but unfortunately with the arrival of the destructive power of ISIS, things changed to our disadvantage. They were able to turn the booming economy of Kurdistan and Iraq in general into a devastating recession.

After the hostility and unrest that broke out in the region, big foreign companies that were either already partnering with local companies or planning partnership, withdrew from



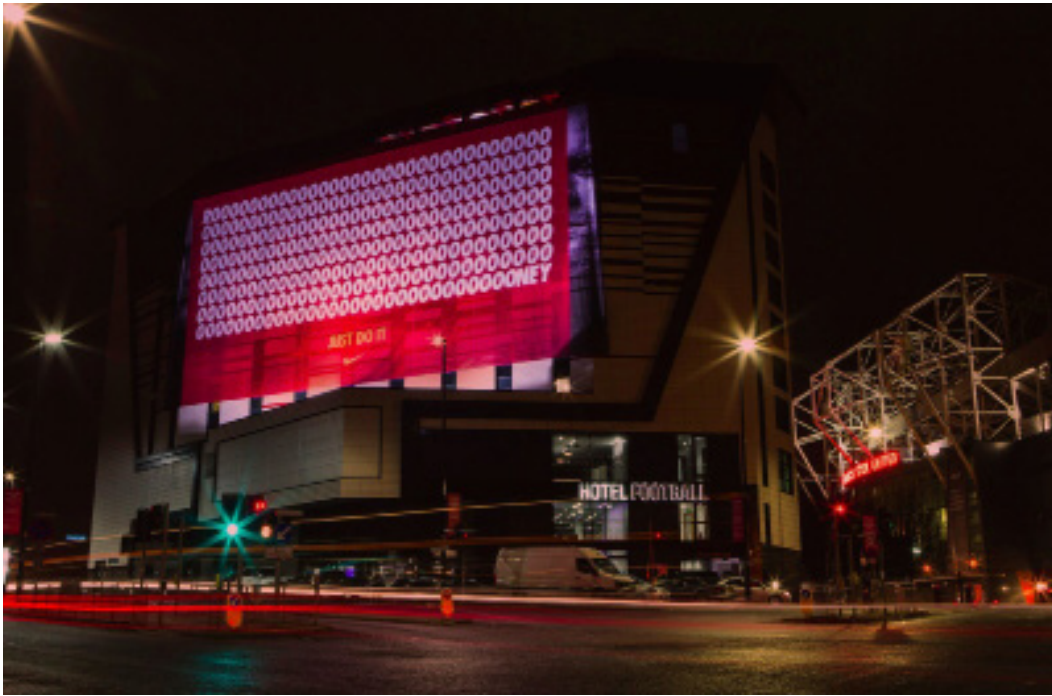
their contracts. Huge international brands such as Paul, Starbucks, Make-up Forever, H&M, Debenhams, and many more withdrew from their franchising contracts in Kurdistan right after the first few series of terrorist attacks broke out in Mosul.

From the privileges of traveling the world, and buying properties in Sitak and Mergapan, people from all social classes enjoyed new opportunities as a result of the sudden economic progress. A financial crisis was largely unexpected and caught many people by surprise, hindering the growth of many local businesses, which took away the optimistic hopes that the business owners had for our country.

By fighting ISIS, authorities will bring back hope and ambition to the people of Kurdistan. With their defeat, the economy will prosper and the chance of having new services with the best quality will become more accessible. There will be no progress unless we give opportunities to our youth, and with those opportunities they will have the power to work for a better future. With their limitless potential we will be able to gain the trust of foreign companies in our security, which will certainly attract global brands to region.

Bana Bamoki

Ode to Wayne Rooney



Nike unveiled this message following Rooney's 250th goal

Earlier this season, Wayne Rooney scored his 250th goal for Manchester United, overtaking Sir Bobby Charlton as Manchester United's all-time top goalscorer. It served as a reminder to the football world of what an incredible career he's had.

"It means a hell of a lot," said Rooney, moments after scoring the record-breaking last-minute equalizer in a game against Stoke City. "It's difficult at the moment to be over-pleased because of the result – two points dropped – but in the grand scheme of things it's a huge honour for me. It's something I never expected when I joined the club but I'm really proud and hopefully there's a lot more to come." The calm and reserved Wayne Rooney of present is a drastic change from the fiery sixteen-year old who first burst onto the scene at Everton fifteen years ago. No wonder Manchester United snapped him up just two years after his senior debut for Everton, at the age of 18. Rooney, in typical Wayne Rooney fashion, introduced himself to the Old Trafford faithfully with a hat trick against Fenerbahce on his debut. Fifteen years and 247 goals later, he now stands as the club's all-time top goal scorer.

Despite being the all-time top goal scorer for both club and country, Wayne Rooney has received a fair share of criticism over the years. He's been

called overrated, technically inept, and physically incompetent by fans. But somehow, Wayne Rooney always seems to prove his doubters wrong.

Wayne Rooney may not have the technique of Lionel Messi or the physique of Cristiano Ronaldo. He's not the fastest player on the pitch. His ball control lets him down sometimes. However, Wayne Rooney's real strength lies in his ability to do pretty much everything at an above-average rate. As a forward, he can score all kinds of goals, from tap-ins to overhead kicks. As a winger, he can run at defenses and find that killer ball to feed the forward. As a midfielder, he possesses the composure and poise of midfield greats such as Xavi and Scholes, and has the ability to dictate play with his wide range of passes. So well-rounded is his game that it has been suggested that Wayne Rooney could even do a job in defense if asked to.

Wayne Rooney isn't as good as he used to be, but like all other great footballers, he has found ways to accommodate his decline as a footballer. He is content playing as a support to other front-men such as recent signing Zlatan Ibrahimovic, or even starting from the bench. One thing that is for certain, however, is that Wayne Rooney will always be remembered as one of the greats of football.

Artin Barawi

A Blue Premier League

Ever since Chelsea Football Club confirmed Antonio Conte as their new first team head coach in April 2016, the team has put on an amazing performance, and is currently leading the Premier League Table with 55 points. With 47 points, Arsenal is holding the second place and the Tottenham Spurs is third with 46 points while last season's champions, Leicester City, is in fifteenth place with only 21 points.

Conte has previously managed the Italian national team as well as Juventus, and has enjoyed great success with both. Upon his arrival, he has reshaped Chelsea FC and has implemented a 3-4-3 formation which has earned him praise and astonishing results for the team. Even so, the first months were tough for the Blues but ever since fully implementing the new formation they have enjoyed a vast number of wins over their rivals. They have beaten Leicester City 3:0 and Manchester United 4:0, as well as having won against Everton 5:0. Conte was able to revive the Blues, especially Eden Hazard, who is fully back on track, performing and producing – unlike his performance in the previous season.

The Italian coach is very passionate and mobile on the sidelines. He is known – and sometimes mocked

– for his gestures and facial expressions with which he motivates his players. The key elements to Chelsea's great performance are the frequent passes between the center-backs and the wingers, Hazard and Pedro, who then pass forward to striker, Diego Costa. The center-backs, Cahill and Azpilicueta, usually move towards the midfield and put the team into an offensive rather than a defensive formation. The Blue's striker, Diego Costa, is the leading goal scorer in the Premier League with 15 goals and continues to rack up points.

Even though Chelsea is very dominant this season, it is hard to predict the winner of the Premier League yet, since the Blues seem to have many tough matches coming up. They still have to face teams like Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester United. On another note, star striker Costa has been linked with a transfer back to Atletico Madrid or to the Chinese Super League. If he were to decide to move to another club, it would leave the Chelsea front empty and problematic, and Conte's tactic and formation would have to change once again.

Kazei Kurda



Antonio Conte has led Chelsea to the top of the Premier League

The Eagles are Flying High



The Eagles team

The football field at AUIS has reopened its doors to our women's soccer team. There's no doubt that the university's women's soccer team called the Eagles

is not the best in the region, mainly due to the fact that they have not had proper amount of practice in years. Luckily, last year's fall semester was different following the relaunching of the team; the girls have practiced twice a week with coach Shad Rashid.

Shad is a senior technician at AUIS whose experience and passion for football pushed him toward coaching the girls. He says that football has always been the sport of his choice and something that

he has been enjoying since his childhood. "I am always looking for opportunities to be involved in football either by playing or coaching which is why I didn't think twice about coaching the girls' football team when I was approached to do so" he adds.

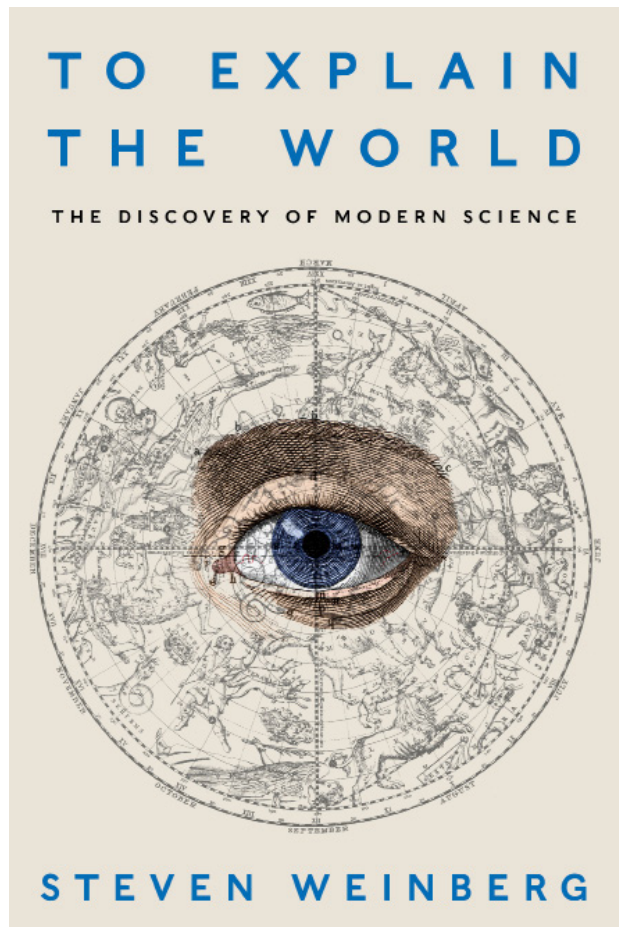
Like any other team, they started with the basics of football but with only four players in the first practice session. Later on, as the team became more popular among the students, more women showed interest in becoming a part of the team and joined the practice sessions which allowed them to develop more skills in the sport. Our new Eagles are more dedicated than ever before and their improvement is beyond expectations, as coach Shad Rashid describes: "I

was amazed by the quick improvement and willingness they showed, and they are very disciplined and punctual."

Despite their academic responsibilities, the players spend every Saturday and Thursday evening practicing in the stadium. On that note, Zryan Ibrahim, who is a current player, said that the training sessions were very helpful and stress-relieving in a way that even helped with her engineering classes. Each semester, AUIS faculty sends out emails regarding the women's soccer team trials which allow interested students to join these tryouts and become part of this incredible team.

Kali Yaseen

Book Review: To Explain the World



To Explain the World is the new book by the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Dr. Steven Weinberg. In this book, Dr. Weinberg tries to explain the

history of modern scientific theory; how and in which point in history we start to develop what we today call the scientific theory.

Dr. Weinberg attempts to give us a different perspective about the history of science. Usually, when we talk about the thinkers and intellectuals from Ancient Greece, Medieval Islamic, or the late Renaissance, we tend to think of them as great thinkers who built the foundations for modern scientific theories. However, Dr. Weinberg does not shy away from criticizing each and every one of them; he acknowledges when they made mistakes and points out when their proposed theories were not correct.

The book is divided into three sections. The first section tries to explore the Greek, Ionian and Hellenistic thinkers. He talks about theories of philosophers like Thales, who believed in the notion that everything was made of

a single fundamental substance. Next, he mentions Aristarchus, who was the first to predict that the earth was moving around the sun. He also talks about Pythagoras, Aristotle, Ptolemy, and many others. In addition to providing a summary of their works, he furthermore includes his own opinions and criticism.

After The Greek and Hellenistic period, the book talks about the scientific development in the medieval and Islamic worlds. Unlike the previous section, this section is very short and the book just gives a summary of some of the thinkers of that time. They include Al Razi, Al-Farabi, Avicenna, Averroes, among others. Unfortunately, the book does not go into detail about their life or their works but it simply tries to explore the connection between their scientific discoveries and how they are relevant to modern scientific theories.

The last section of the book is about The Scientific Revolution. It talks about the life and science of great figures like Copernicus, Brahe, Kepler, Galileo etc. The discussion here is about the way they used mathematics and

experimentations to verify their result and also the problems and shortcomings they encountered. Furthermore, the book also explores Francis Bacon and René Descartes and their contribution to the scientific method. When it came to Isaac Newton, Dr. Weinberg dedicated the entirety of Chapter 14 to him. He starts by providing a summary of his life and then continues to explore his achievements and contributions to science. Although Dr. Weinberg seems critical from time to time, it is clear that he holds Newton's theory of gravity as a modern theory of science. The last chapter of the book talks about the unification and standardization of science. The end of the book contains technical notes on the scientific topics he mentioned earlier.

The book deals only with the history of science and astronomy. It does not go into detail about any of the mentioned time periods; instead, it gives us a summary of scientific theories in those times. It is clear from his writing that Dr. Weinberg devoted much time refining the text and trying to simplify it as much as he could.

Mohammed Dler

Video Game Review: Ico

Instead of defining this cult video game or this type of video games, which is rather difficult, I will try to provide the many features that define it. The way we think about and play games has changed as some games have become something of an exemplar of the argument for "games as art". Many of these painfully short games have a puzzle-platform and are known for their simple combat system that would "disappoint players craving sheer mechanical depth and clear-cut adventures." Some of these esoteric games came to be called a game of perfect moments because the developers employ a "subtracting design" to create a high level of immersion. While simple in some aspects, as an experience some of these games are "near indescribable".

Minimalistic use of sound/dialogue (silent film quality) and subtle sound designs are two common features of these games. Astounding artistic visual details are another strength of these games. Vibrant worlds, muted, organic, or bleak colors, desolate landscapes, ethereal atmospheres, cel-shading touch, oversaturated lighting, and bloom lighting effects are some of the features. These games' visual art are similar to the otherworldly, a quality of hovering between dreamlike and nightmarish of experimental films such as Meshes of the Afternoon or Un Chien Andalou. They have a silent yet seismic visual language.

The influence of schools like magical realism and Surrealism and even individual artists like Boris Aronson, Giorgio de Chirico, Salvador Dalí, Joaquin Sorolla, and Miyazaki can be found in some of these games. Many

of them have an imposing architectural style against the frail characters. Influence of the Italian surrealist artist Giorgio de Chirico, who represents emotions through architecture can be found in Ico. Gravity Rush is another game that shares the feature of emphasizing on European-flavored architecture originating from the works of Jean Giraud, the paradoxical comic artist.

Many of these games have very high-quality writing, mysterious storylines, lynchian sensibility, emotions about solitude, a sense of Southern Gothic horror or irony, and elements of magical realism, which allow the games to treat supernatural features as another mundane part of the world. These games, as a form of entertainment, are the food for emotion and feelings of not knowing, not understanding, of wonder, and awe because these feelings are not empowered in many games. Spirituality, mythology, metaphysics, and religious allusions are integrated into the writings and concepts of the games to make them more interesting. In Final Fantasy X, Zanarkand and the fictional world of Spira are two examples of these kinds of elements. In the episodic ghost story of Kentucky Route Zero, there is an infusion with a kind of spiritual outlook. The cathartic experience in Journey is provided in both the pilgrim and the monomyth.

A minimalist approach in these games' overall composition and their categorization as indie games are two other features. The indie gaming market is expanding, and developers, without the pressures of publisher and financial restraints, are finding it easier to create experimental games. Some of

these experimental games are challenging the classical definition of games by offering an aesthetic experience and hassle-free gaming instead of a pure challenge, and more choir in a virtual world. Thatgamecompany is one of the companies that develop artistically crafted, meaningful, enriching experiences and entertainment that makes positive change worldwide. Both Flow and Journey are examples of their great works. Finally, the variety of puzzles and cultural cross pollination are two other features of these games.

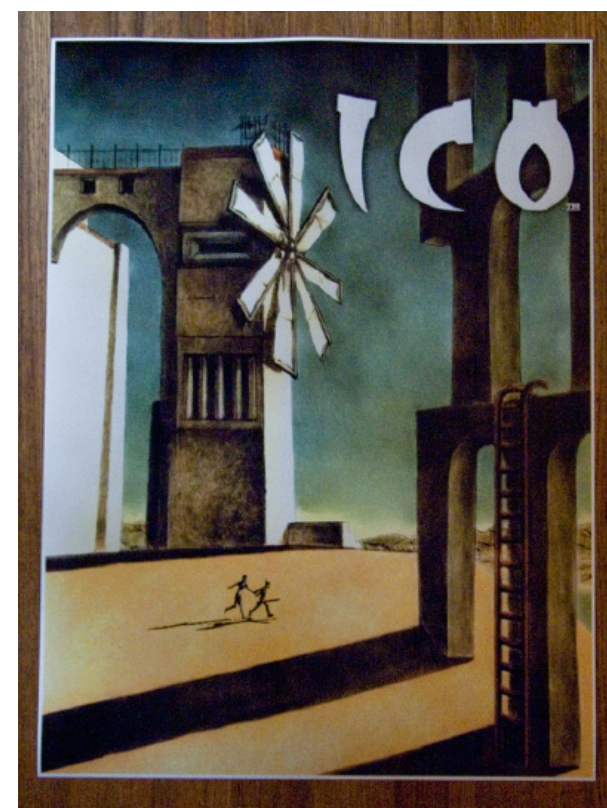
Many call Another World the ancestor of all these games, but in fact, Ico, which is still shrouded in mystery, came to define the feature of this cult video game. Ico, a captivating PS2 video game designed and directed by Fumito Ueda, is one of these minimalist puzzle games. Ico, the young protagonist born with horns, is ostracized and entombed by villagers in an abandoned castle that doesn't have an exit. Explorations of the fortress, encountering Yorda, a scatterbrained companion, and fighting shadow-like menacing spirits, ethereal creatures, and the castle's Queen are the events that follow. The game is considered by some to be one of the greatest games of all time.

Considered a work of art now, Ico flew in under the radar and only became a cult classic many years after its initial release. Team Ico later released two other sister-games named The Last Guardian and Shadow of the Colossus. Both of them were

heavily influenced stylistically by Ico. When players play a similar game to Ico, they no longer struggle to understand what sort of game it is because they refer to it as an Ico-style game.

Although The Ico & Shadow of the Colossus Collection bundle was released for PS3, they are still clearly a product of a previous generation. Many games later came to be inheritors to Ico or at least influenced by its style. I believe that Rime, Limbo, Proteus, The Witness, Below, Monument valley, Project White, Brothers: A Tale of Two Sons, and wild are some of the games that can be categorized as games that are similar to or heavily influenced by Ico.

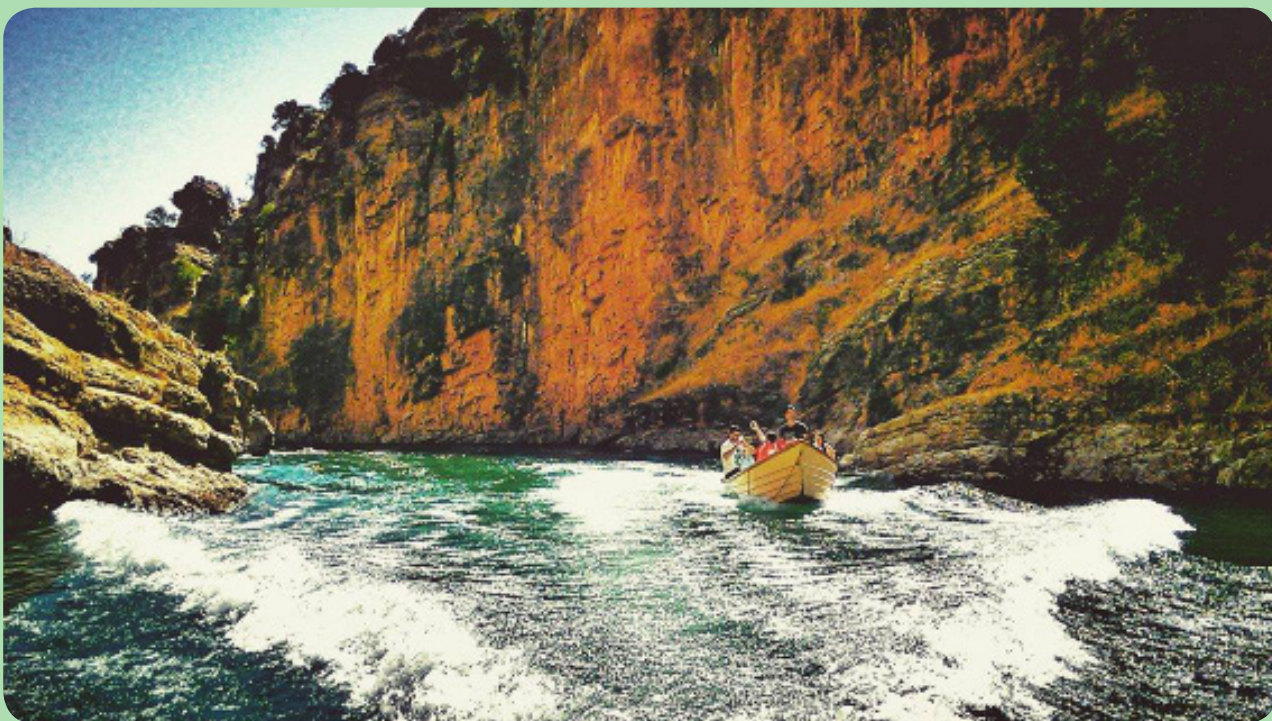
Mirko Fuad



Hiking Adventures



Every week, Arez Aso and the Hiking Club go on various adventures around Kurdistan. Here are some pictures from their adventures. They'll be organizing trips soon, so be sure to get in touch with them to join in on the fun!



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