



Lesson 121

2023 Mid-Year Summary

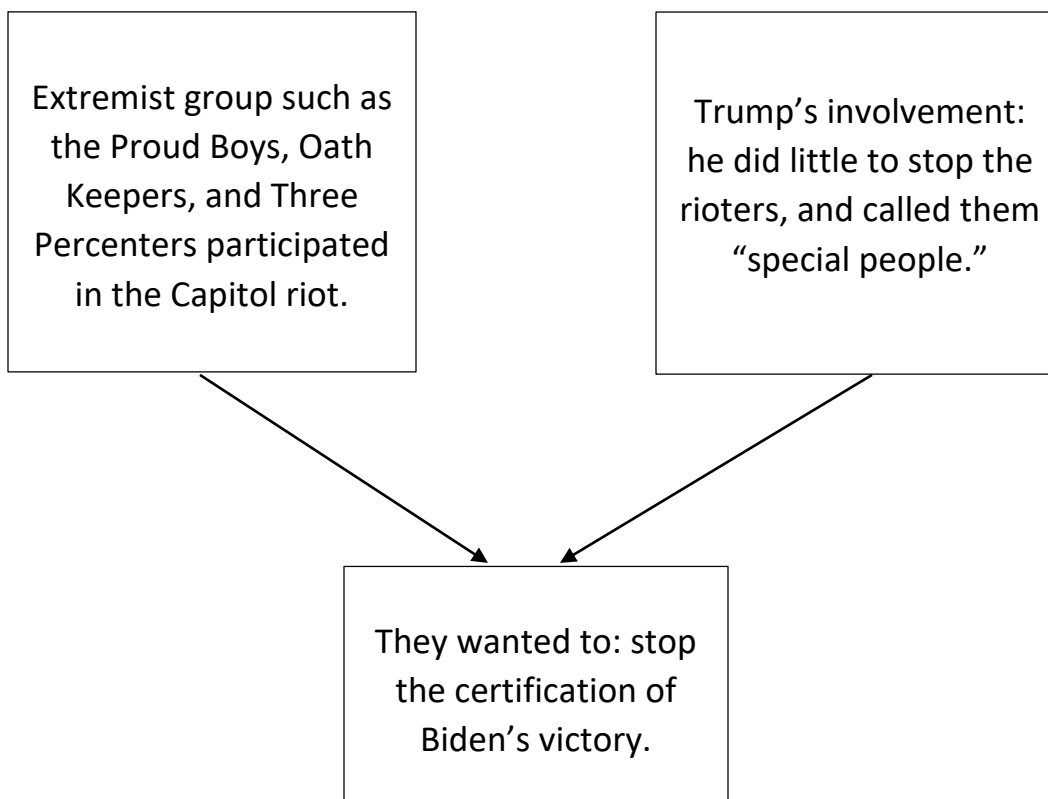
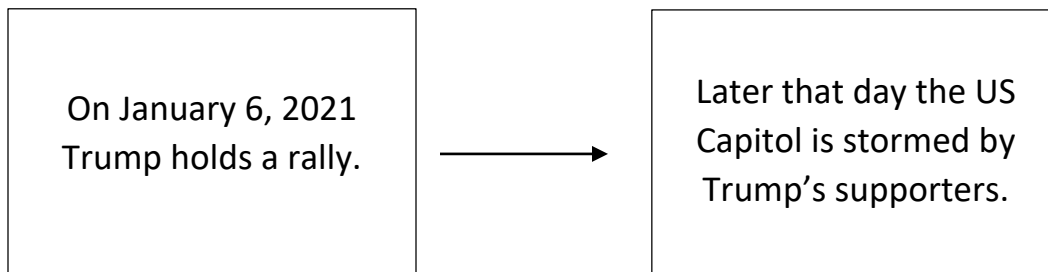
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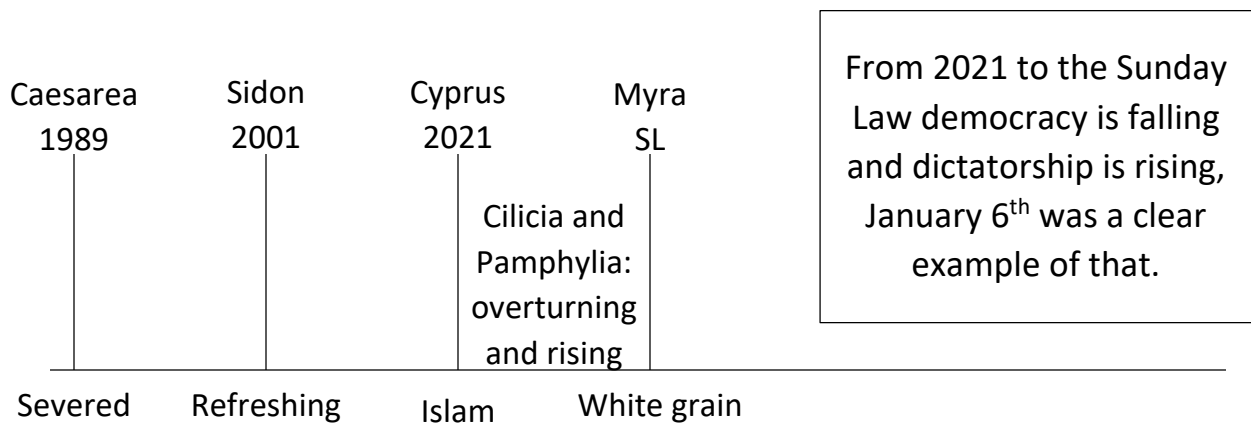
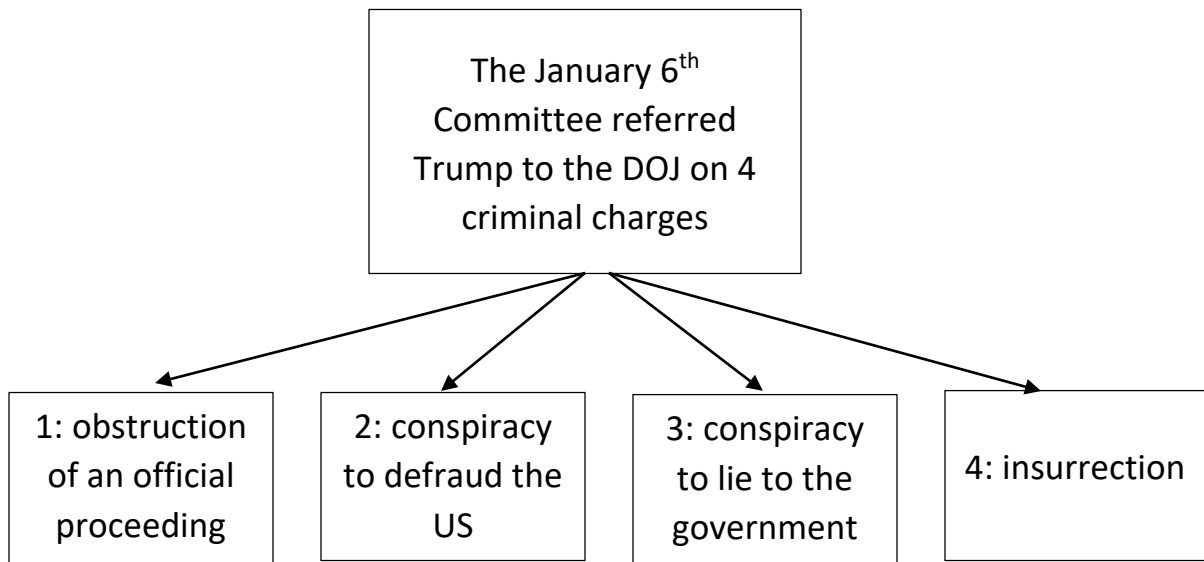
In this lesson, we are going to review what we discussed in the last five Youth Prophecy Group lessons, from lesson 116 to 120.

Lesson 116 - January 1, 2023

Attack on Democracy

Lesson 116, *Attack on Democracy*, was presented and published on January 1, 2023. In *Attack on Democracy*, we began by revisiting the events of January 6, 2021. On that day, Trump held a rally in Washington DC. He repeatedly mentioned how the 2020 election was stolen, and that he wanted his supporters to fight back; saying “everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard.” However, his supporters didn’t have a peaceful plan in mind. Less than half an hour after Trump finished his speech, his supporters were marching up the stairs of the Capitol, having overpowered the police. The rioters remained in the Capitol for hours: some wanting to arrest Pence for being a “traitor,” others threatening to kill members of Congress. Normal Trump voters weren’t the only ones at the insurrection, many of the rioters there were part of extremist groups - some of which include: neo-Nazis, Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, Three Percenters, and QAnon loyalists. Trump didn’t make an actual effort to stop the violence at the Capitol. His messages sent on Twitter during the insurrection were a blend of encouragement and discouragement. In one sentence he would tell his supporters to go home, but in another he would repeat the lie that the election was stolen, and that the rioters were special people. By 7:00 pm (January 6), a little over five hours after the insurrection began, the police re-took full control of the Capitol. The goal of both the insurrection, and Trump’s influence that led to its beginning is simple - they wanted to overturn the results of the election. January 6th was the day that Congress planned to certify the votes from the 2020 election, which would confirm Biden as the next president. Trump believes he won the election, and that’s exactly why his supporters stormed the Capitol, they wanted their leader to stay president. Because of the insurrection on January 6th, Congress organized a committee to investigate Trump’s involvement. At the end of the investigation, the committee referred four criminal charges against Trump to the Department of Justice. The committee said Trump was guilty of “obstruction of an official proceeding, conspiracy to defraud the United States, conspiracy to make false statements to the government and insurrection.” [usnews.com](https://www.usnews.com). So what do the events of January 6th mean for the United States? We can revisit Acts 27 to answer this question. The ship of Adramyttium stopped in four locations: Caesarea, Sidon, Cyprus, and Myra. Each of those locations parallel the waymarks 1989, 2001, 2021, and the Sunday Law, respectively. Between Cyprus (2021) and Myra (Sunday Law), the ship sailed through the sea of Cilicia and Pamphylia, which represents the overturning of one entity and the rising of another. January 6th was a clear example of something overturning - democracy. A peaceful transfer of power and the acceptance of election results are essential to a democratic government, but when a President and millions of his followers are unwilling to abide by those two rules, democracy can’t continue for long. And if democracy falls what will rise and take its place? A dictatorship. An overturning and a rising beginning in 2021 was predicted in the study of Acts 27 - and right on time, in January, democracy began to be overturned, and dictatorship began to rise.



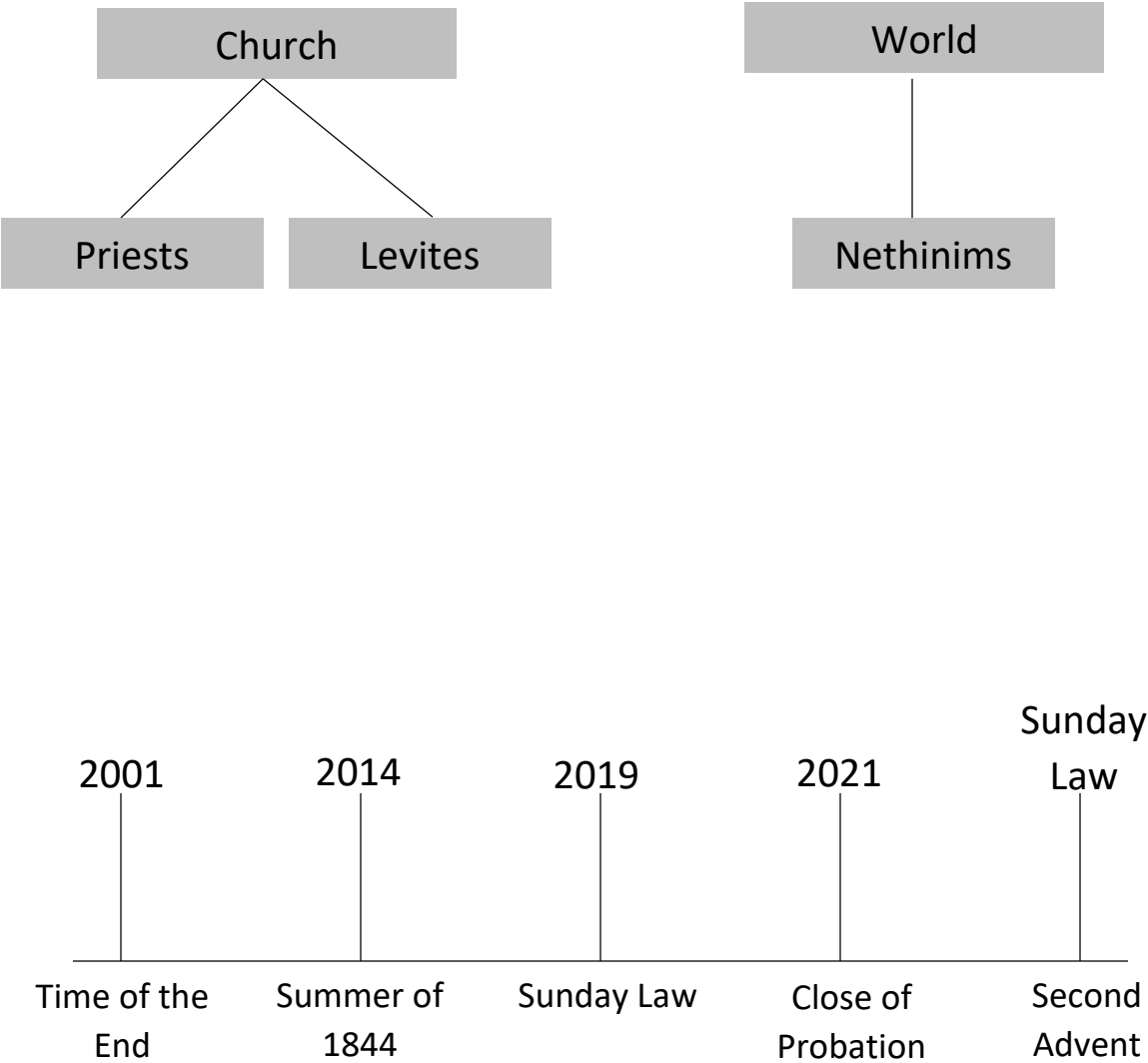


Lesson 117 - February 5, 2023

Where are the Levites?

In lesson 117, we explored a very important question: Where are the Levites? First we looked at where we got the concept of the Levites from. In the book of Ezra (chapter 8) there are three groups of people: the Priests, Levites, and Nethinims. The Priests and Levites are Israelites: Seventh-day Adventists and the Nethinims are non-Israelites: people from the world. We know that these three groups each have a reform line. For the Levites, their line began in 2001: their Time of the End, after that their 9/11 was 2014, their Sunday law was 2019, 2021 was their close of probation, and their Second coming will be the Sunday Law in the near future. This means that we are in the harvest of the Levites: between 2021 and the Sunday Law. In this lesson we then looked at the Parable of the Tares from Matthew 13. From that parable we know that there are both wheat and tares - good and bad people - in God's church. We applied this parable to the Levites, for a long time we knew there were good and bad Priests, but we assumed that good Seventh-day Adventists were the Levites. This parable shows us that there are good and bad Adventists, and Adventist is the same thing as Levite. But since we are in their harvest, we used to expect a lot of Levites to join the Movement, and since that has not happened people have come up with many different explanations. Some people say that the Priests have failed - but this is a Movement of success so that is not correct, others say that there are sinners in the Movement - so the Levites can't join, but according to the parable there are tares until the harvest (the 144,000 line) and many are overthrown at the Sunday Law, none of these explanations tells us why the Levites haven't joined. We then looked at an old study from 2014 that is related to this. At that time Elder Jeff started to teach about Exodus 40 and Isaiah 6; that is where this Movement got the concept of no public evangelism from. According to the study there will be no public evangelism until the Sunday Law (and since the Levites' harvest looked like that, the Nethinims' will too); this means that while people can do personal ministry, there won't be any big organized efforts, like many people imagined. Next, we looked at one last factor that can help us answer the question, Where are the Levites? the three-fold union. The three-fold union is made up of the dragon, the Beast, and the False prophet: atheism, Catholicism, and Protestantism; and while they are a union, they do not work together, they don't even like each other. They are a union because of their beliefs in inequality, especially sexism, are the same. That is the external, but the Priest, Levites and Nethinims are the internal. This means that these three groups won't join together: the Levites and Nethinims won't join us. The only way to be saved is joining this Movement, but Adventism and the world won't join - they won't be saved; this shows us how few people will ultimately be saved. Of course Levites will join on an individual basis, but Adventism won't.

Who are the Levites?



What are the Levites?



Good & Bad first group

=

Priests

so

Good & Bad second group

=

Levites

therefore

Levites

=

Adventists

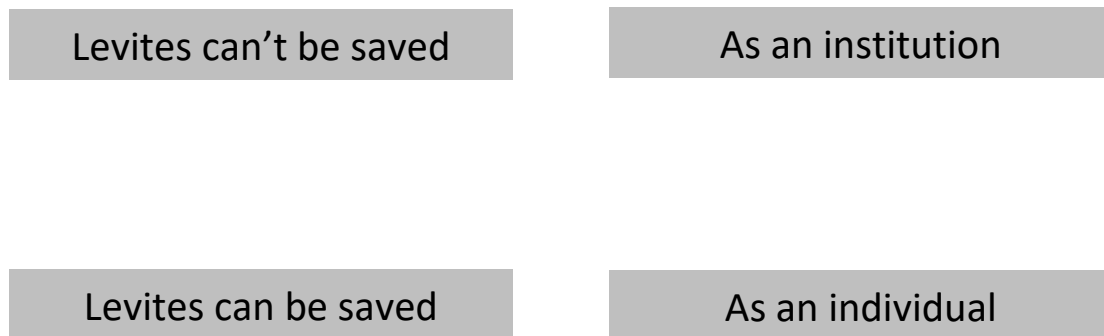
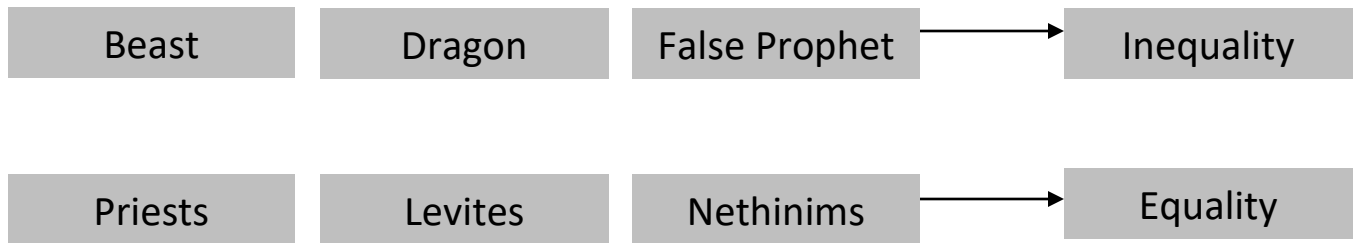
Where are the Levites?

Histories of:
Failure (1844)
Failure (1888)
Failure? (144,000)

Leadership failure
in preparing the
Movement?

Sinners in the
Movement?





Lesson 118 - March 5, 2023

Perils Facing the World part 1

Youth Prophecy Group Lesson 118 is titled *Perils Facing the World part 1*. We looked at four different categories of issues. The first was the war between Russia and Ukraine. We began by talking about the sanctions being placed on Russia by countries who don't support its invasion. Examples of this would be Germany suspending a gas pipeline to Russia that would have brought a lot of money into the country. Putin also partially withdrew Russia from the New START program, which allowed the United States and Russia to inspect each other's nuclear weapons and limit the amount each country could have. Putin said that NATO members could no longer inspect Russia's nuclear weapons. All of this was in response to the invasion of and subsequent war with Ukraine. Russia invaded Ukraine in February of 2022 and the next day countries imposed sanctions on it. The following month was the deadliest month for civilians. It wasn't until November of that year that Ukraine began to gain ground back from Russia. The second category that we looked at was China and its ruler Xi Jinping. In 2012, Xi was elected as the President of China. His political career began in 1982 when he was made the deputy of the Communist Party in a part of China. Xi has caused many issues within China. For example, he wouldn't let foreign made vaccines be used in the country. He also supports Russia in its war with Ukraine. Xi has no plans on stepping down from power anytime soon. The third category that we looked at was international threats like Iran. On September 14, 2022, Mahsa Amini was arrested by Iran's Guidance Patrol for wearing an "improper" hijab. She was then beaten and died two days later. This caused protests to break out across the nation. Streets were blocked with cars to stop the police and clothing like hijabs were burned. The Iranian government responded violently and hundreds of people have been killed and tens of thousands jailed. The majority of the protestors were women and Gen Z. Another issue Iran is facing is its crumbling economy since Trump pulled out of the nuclear deal, which also caused protests. When Biden became President, Iran refused to reenter the deal without reassurance that the United States wouldn't simply pull out again. This is a problem for the United States because now Iran, that is supporting Russia, can build nuclear weapons, which it has begun to do. The fourth category that we looked at was issues within the United States. Simply put, Democrats and Republicans don't want to work together. The House of Representatives is controlled by the Republican Party while the Senate is controlled by the Democratic Party. At a state level, some states recognize abortion in their Constitutions while others completely ban it. Another issue the United States is facing is inflation. The pandemic and China are the main causes of inflation which has forced companies to lay-off its employees and not be eager to hire new people. Finally, we talked about Canada. The United States isn't the only country where the political parties don't work together. But in Canada there are more than two major parties. Canadians consume a lot of United States' news, which is only fueling the issue there and is reflected in their politics. The parties are known to attack each other, such as saying they are not democratic, and it is likely to get worse.

Russia

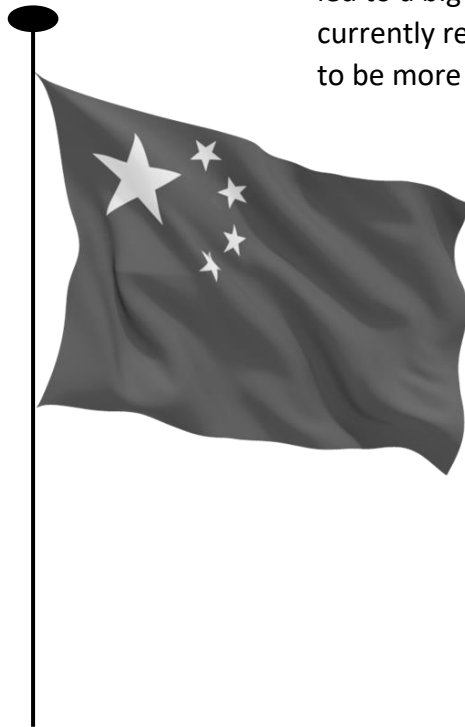
Putin has been isolating Russia from the rest of the world, and that will only get worse. We saw how on January 21st Russia partially backed out of the last nuclear weapons control program (New START) that it had with the United States.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 was a big move by Putin. March 2022 was the deadliest month for Ukrainian civilians, but Ukraine has been standing their ground, and even winning against Russia, like the bombing of the building of Russian troops last January.



China

Xi Jinping has been consolidating his power and control over China since he was appointed to the office of president in 2013 (after being made the leader of the Chinese Communist Party in 2012).



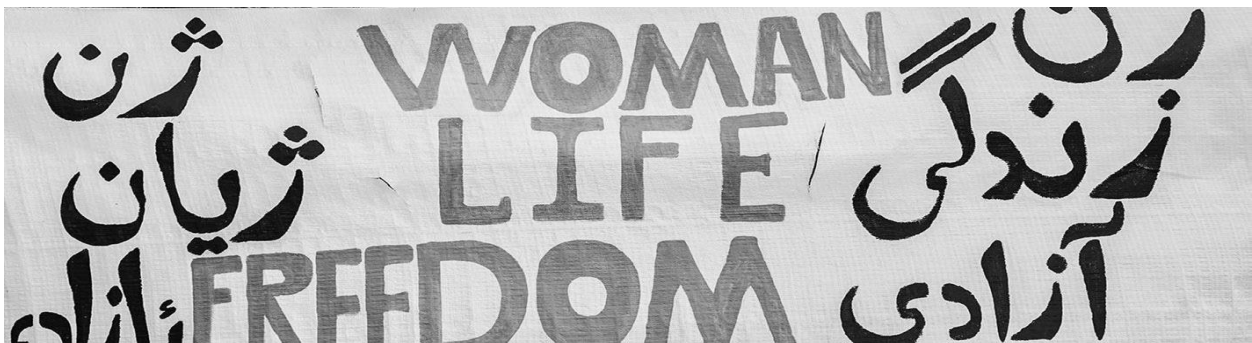
We saw how Xi, in using his power unilaterally, has done some things that are hurting China - like his sudden relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions that led to a big outbreak in China. And he is currently restructuring the government to be more fully under his control.

Iran

Iran has had several issues, both internally and externally.

Internally: Iran has been rocked by unrest and protests since Mahsa Amini's death on September 16, 2022 and they are still happening. Protests are rare in the country, but the Iranians, especially young people, and more specifically women, are tired of the regime's oppression.

Externally: Iran has also been increasing its nuclear weapons program since Trump pulled the United States out of the Iran Nuclear Deal in 2018.



The US and Canada



The political division in the US is another issue that we will face this year. Since the midterm elections late last year neither the Republicans nor the Democrats are in charge of both the Executive and Legislative branches. That means that this year there will be a lot of dysfunction in the federal government.

This political dysfunction is starting to be visible in other countries too, in this lesson we focused on Canada. Canada has more than two major parties but they still are plagued with polarization.

The Economy

The economy was not in particularly good shape at the beginning of this year. This is mostly because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the things that have happened during it: job loss and reduced spending for example. Inflation is a global problem that is still around.



Lesson 119 - April 2, 2023

Perils Facing the World part 2

Lesson 119, *Perils Facing the World part 2*, was presented and published on April 2, 2023. In part two, we studied five more of the world's perils: energy, water, social media, AI, generation Z, and equality. Firstly, there's the energy peril: the main source of energy, oil, is becoming more expensive. Many countries have stopped buying energy from Russia because of the Ukraine war, although Iran and China continue to do so. Higher oil prices have caused a divide to form between oil organizations lead by Saudi Arabia, and the United States' influence over oil. These conflicts and prices are causing energy shortages, which will result in food insecurity and social unrest. Next, the peril we hear about the most by liberal scientists and in liberal media is climate change. The emissions from burning fossil fuels are causing earth's average temperature to increase. Because of higher temperatures, ice melts and sea levels rise. Higher sea levels threaten people on the coast with increased flooding. In the dryer areas, higher temperatures evaporate away the little water that is there. Water quality can also worsen, since many microscopic organisms grow faster in a warmer climate. On the subject of water, that's another peril facing the world. Factors such as heat have led to a global shortage of fresh water. Rivers are drying up, which can slow or halt shipments and transportation. However, the main use of freshwater is for agriculture, which means food insecurity will be a major effect of water shortages. The next peril is social media. In 2014 Cambridge Analytica used social media to create profiles of millions of people in the United States. These profiles were detailed enough, to where Cambridge Analytica could specifically manipulate that person into doing certain things. One of those things was voting for Trump in the 2016 election. If social media is powerful enough to play a major role in getting a person elected, it will be an enormous problem if used in a very harmful way (which it already is). Social media isn't the only peril technology has produced, another one is Artificial intelligence (AI). A specific type of AI, called generative AI, can be trained on a large amount of data, and used to generate personalized information. An extremely popular example of generative AI is a chatbot called Chat GPT. While AI can be helpful in some cases, it can also be used to spread disinformation and impersonate people. Next, since we're on the subject of technology and information, let's talk about Generation Z (Gen Z). Generation Z is the first generation of people born after the internet was created, they are called "digitally native." Gen Z has become a political force all around the world; in the United States they worked to hold off the "red wave" in 2020. Large portions of Gen Z get their news from social media, which creates a peril to the world if their social media feed is manipulated and filled with disinformation. The final peril we studied in Lesson 119 was the decline in global gender equality. Because of the pandemic, human development declined. Women are now more likely to face more violence at home and in public. They are also more likely to be laid off from work, or subjected to unpaid work. The progress that has been made toward gender equality in recent years has largely been reversed, making this the most significant peril facing the world.

Energy

Oil and gas prices are high,
which will result in energy shortfalls.

Buying cheap oil from Russia
supports the Ukraine war.

Climate Change and Water

Climate change (caused by global warming) is causing sea levels to rise
which prompts flooding.

Climate change also causes
all kinds of severe weather
including high temperatures.

Climate change is one reason
why rivers are drying up
and rain isn't falling in some areas.

Countries all around the world
are being negatively affected
by the lack of fresh water.

Social Media and AI

Cambridge Analytica
utilized social media to get
Trump elected.

Artificial Intelligence has
become extremely
popular today.

They made millions of
profiles on people in order
to manipulate them.

It can be used for good, such as
summarizing large documents or
for bad such as spreading disinformation.

Generation Z

Gen Z was the first generation
to grow up in the information age.
Their world and political view are largely
affected by the internet.

One good thing Gen Z has done
was halting the “red wave”
in the 2022 midterm elections.

Gen Z has become a political force
which could threaten politicians into
making bad decisions.

Human Development

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic,
global human development decreased.

Women were affected the most:
being more likely (than men) to be
laid off from work or leave school.

Lesson 120 - May 7, 2023

The Destruction of Trans Rights

In our May lesson (lesson 120: *The Destruction of Trans Rights*) we looked at the current situation of LGBTQ+ individuals around the world, but especially in the United States. First, we defined gender-affirming health care, this form of care is used to help transgender and gender nonconforming people. Some of them suffer from gender dysphoria which is mental distress and anxiety because their bodies do not conform to their gender identity. Gender-affirming care can take many forms like: therapy, surgery, or puberty blockers. There are many states in the US that are attacking this form care which many transgender and gender nonconforming people need. Children are especially being targeted, they are being denied gender-affirming care, especially puberty blockers - even though they are safe. The Republicans in one state, Oklahoma, are even trying to ban gender-affirming care for people as old as 26 years of age. Health care for transgender people isn't the only thing under attack, we also looked at sports. Many conservatives believe that transgender girls, in particular, have an advantage over cisgender girls, so their ability to play on sports teams that align with their gender identity is being challenged. Idaho was the first state to ban transgenders from sports, and many states have followed - there are 22 in total now. This mostly happens in schools, but colleges are sometimes affected too. On April 6th Biden proposed a compromise: he said that transgenders couldn't be banned from sports outright, but he left the option open that transgender youth could still be banned on an individual basis. This is a compromise, and it still allows transgender youth to be discriminated against in sports. One of the biggest laws targeting LGBTQ+ people was actually passed last year (March 28, 2022); that was the "Don't Say Gay" bill in Florida. This bill bans public school teachers from speaking about LGBTQ+ issues, like gender identity and sexual orientation, and it allows parents to sue teachers if they do speak about these topics. Many states have followed Florida's example on LGBTQ+ topics in schools, for example Kansas allows parents to take their students out of lessons that are on these topics. In many states, schools are also banning books on these issues, making it even harder for students to learn about the LGBTQ+ community. Other states are not allowing students to use the bathrooms that correspond to their gender identity and some are trying to allow teachers to use the wrong names/pronouns to refer to their students. But we saw that this attack on LGBTQ+ rights isn't just happening in the United States, many countries are facing these issues. On March 21st, Uganda passed a bill that would punish the "crime" of homosexuality with death, and it is not the only country with such an extreme law. The LGBTQ+ community faces discrimination everywhere, and it has really escalated this year; we know it will continue to escalate because these are issues of gender and that is the Sunday Law test.

Gender Reassignment Bans

Gender-affirming care is a way that affirms a patient's gender identity rather than repairing it.

In Florida, Medicaid no longer covers gender-affirming healthcare. In Oklahoma, no one under the age of 26 years can have access to gender affirming healthcare.

Gender Identity and Sports

In March 2021, Mississippi and Arkansas banned transgender athletes. In April, Alabama and Florida pass similar bills. 22 states have banned transgender athletes.

Biden presented a compromised bill that wouldn't even solve the trans people in sports issue.

A New School Curriculum?

On March 28, 2022, Gov. DeSantis passed a law that said LGBTQ+ issues cannot be taught in classrooms.

Many books have been banned due to their inclusion, allusion of homosexuality.

Many LGBTQ+ children will grow up in school not getting the basics of homosexuality and the LGBTQ+ community.

LGBTQ+ Rights Around the World

In Uganda and other countries, homosexuality is a crime and is punishable by death, imprisonment, lashes, and/or fines.

Official Youth Prophecy Group website:

youthprophecygroup.org

If you have any questions or comments on any of the material contact us at:

youthprophecygroup@gmail.com

Find all the YPG lesson videos at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeltzVajTXgSQRL-o2XOq_g

Link to YPG Zoom meetings which are at 10:00am Pacific Time on the 1st Sundays of the month:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87170293849>