

# CHAMPIONING

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Free of Charge

NOVEMBER 2019

EXCLUSIVE

CATALONIA AND THE POLITICS OF  
INTRASIGENCE



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# ALIGNED

The virtual & Alternative UN

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## UN-ALIGNED BELIEVES IN THE NEED OF A LINGUA FRANCA - **THE FREE LANGUAGE COURSES**

By Ariana Yekrangi

Communication is what enables individuals and societies to share their knowledge and feelings and enrich their potential. Language is an important feature of this exchange and individuals and nations should promote the learning of a lingua franca to facilitate international communications. So we decided to create an opportunity for UN-aligned members to learn and improve their English free of charge. We invite you to read Zhi's testimonial and what it's like being an UN-aligned language student.

# MY EXPERIENCE WITH UN-ALIGNED'S LANGUAGE COURSES

By Zhi Wang

I accidentally discovered UN-aligned through a post on Facebook and then joined the community as I found it quite interesting and inspiring. I also thought that reading articles of interest, such as those relating to climate change, could help me improve my English.

**“ I was amazed about the tutor's professionalism and wide range of knowledge.**

As I desperately need to improve my English, I later also registered onto the English course. My tutor, Adrian, reached out to me soon after, and unexpectedly, this course turned out to be totally free! But what amazed me the most, was the tutor's professionalism and wide range of knowledge.

Lessons are very well-managed and materials used, such as TED talk videos, poems, short novels, articles, are deliberately selected by my tutor with my preference taken into consideration. During our sessions, the tutor will break down the parts that I find difficult and then we will have a discussion over it. To enhance my understanding and writing skills, we also started doing summarizing and paraphrasing practices and like all other activities we are working on, it's been so helpful!

Learning could sometimes be difficult, especially given I don't know much about foreign literature and history, but Adrian has always been a great support, not just because of his professionalism, but also his patience, kindness, and generosity in time, which are surely highly appreciated. A thousand times, "thanks, Adrian!".

## Language Courses

### DO YOU WISH TO ENROL?

As an UN-aligned member you have full access to the courses that we offer. For more information simply visit: [un-aligned.org/language-courses](http://un-aligned.org/language-courses) If you are not a member yet, consider becoming one; it's free and it gives access to many different perks. Visit [un-aligned.org/register](http://un-aligned.org/register) to become a free member.

Courses are offered on a first come, first serve, basis as we may not always have enough volunteers to meet the demand.



# HOW THE RECENT CONFLICTS IN SYRIA COULD SHAPE ITS FUTURE

By Ariana Yekrangi

## What happened?

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Although people are long used to the erratic twists and turns of Donald Trump, his decision to sell the Kurds down the river by withdrawing American troops from Syria caught everyone by surprise. Whether Trump was right to extricate his forces from Syria remains debatable, but just as there is rarely a good time to start international military interventions, so there is rarely a good time to discontinue them. One would have thought that Libya's and Iraq's ongoing atrocities would have made this clear.

Unsurprisingly, Erdogan was quick to react and went on to ambitiously announce Turkey's commitment to create a "safe zone" where up to two million Syrian

refugees could be resettled. While this sounds reasonable, one must take into account Erdogan's hatred towards the Kurds, who were in charge of the region. Turkey considers the PKK as a terrorist organisation, Erdogan's hatred of the Kurds is well testified and the Kurdish culture in Turkey is suppressed to such an extent that even speaking or singing in Kurdish could well land you in prison. As expected, Donald Trump was faced with incessant criticism from friends and allies, so, in a letter which appeared to be written by a five-year-old, Trump enjoined Erdogan not to be a "tough guy" or else he (Trump) would "obliterate and destroy the Turkish Economy".

So far so good, but was Erdogan convinced by Trump's 'wise' words? Apparently, Turkish presidential sources told the BBC that the Turkish president threw that letter in the bin. Since then Turkish forces have been pummelling the region, killing Kurdish fighters and wounding civilians and illegally forcing Syrian refugees back into war zones. What an achievement!

Meanwhile, Russia's Putin, who enjoys new influence and power in the region, brokered a tactical arrangement between the People's Protection Units (YPG) and Assad and kept them away from each other while striking the deal.



DONALD J. TRUMP AND RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN

## The Unclear fate of Syria

The kurds have been left dealing with the legacy of the Islamic state: hundreds of thousands of refugees in camps and about 12,000 ISIS prisoners. After all that happened, it is completely unclear whether the Kurds can maintain the security of these prisons. Moreover, allowing Russia or Iran more influence over the region is a gamble that might not be worth taking.

## What now?

On Wednesday the 30th of October, a 150-strong committee met in Geneva to chart political settlement and negotiate an end to the Syrian civil war. The talks promised to be "Syrian-owned and Syrian-led", and could pave the way for reforms and elections.

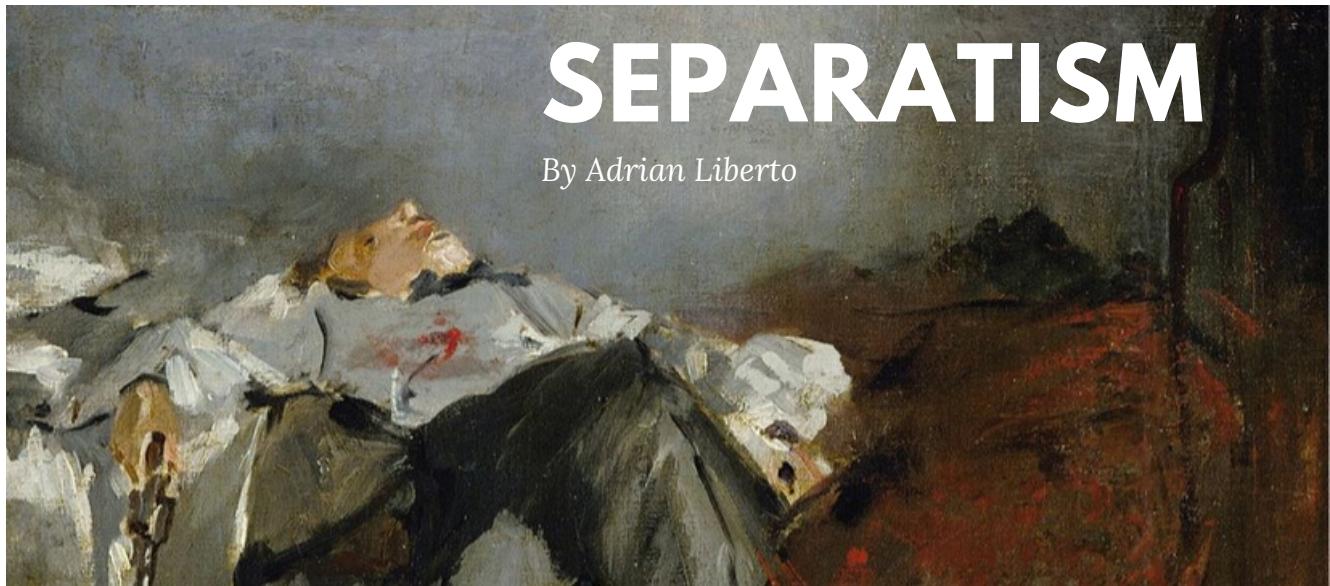
The meeting was a key proposal from Moscow and was being overseen by the UN special envoy for Syria, Geir Pederson, with expectations low that the Syrian government, in an increasingly strong military position, will see the need to make any major political concessions to secure western recognition. There are however no deadlines set for this talks.



GEIR O. PEDERSEN MEETS HADI ALBHARA

The future of syria still remains at the mercy of whims.

We wrote extensively about the kurds and their rich culture in UN-aligned magazine issue 3. You can have access to all UN-aligned magazine issues in our library page.



# SEPARATISM

By Adrian Liberto

## National Identity

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Villages and towns, built on cooperation, existed long before nations did. With time, however, the need for security threaded them together like a string of pearls. Sometimes, the unification was voluntary, sometimes it was not. The necklaces became kingdoms and empires; republics even. Polities and economies began to evolve, as did religion, language and culture. The process continues to this day. Nevertheless, threats to national borders remain. These threats come from abroad, as in the case of Georgia and Ukraine, or from within, as is happening in Spain. Most people would agree that aggression from other countries is unacceptable, as the widespread condemnation of the recent landgrabs from Russia and Israel clearly indicates. The situation is not so clear cut when we are dealing with assaults to national borders from within.

## Battles in the Arena

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Spain is a prime example, because it is made up of 17 autonomous communities that possess various levels of self-governance, which some communities consider insufficient. It also has two autonomous cities: the north African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla. Peripheral nationalism is therefore a significant problem for Spain, with many citizens, especially in Galicia, the Basque Country and Catalonia, considering their communities as nations within a “pluri-national state”.

Despite the devolution and a very federal-like setup, however, Spain does not think of itself as a federation. Although sovereignty lies firmly with the nation as a whole and its constitution, autonomous communities clamouring for more independence make it jittery. Paradoxically, it kept its calm during the bloody Basque conflict, but seems unable to do so when faced with Catalonia’s more calculated push for independence. The problem is that full Catalan independence would affect the remainder of Spain very badly.



MPS DEBATE BREXIT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Spain has functioned as a whole entity for centuries. Cutting off one of its wealthiest chunks will adversely impact its economy and infrastructure. The UK has only been part of the UK for a few decades, and yet the chaos that this attempted divorce is causing is more than evident. Does this mean that the UK should not be allowed to leave the EU? Of course not, but each side has the responsibility for the split to be managed as carefully as possible. If too many countries left, there may not be an EU at all; and if too many autonomous communities abandoned Spain, there may no longer be a Spain. Still, neither Spain, nor the EU have a divine right to exist, however nice it would be to have them.

## Vying for International Guideline

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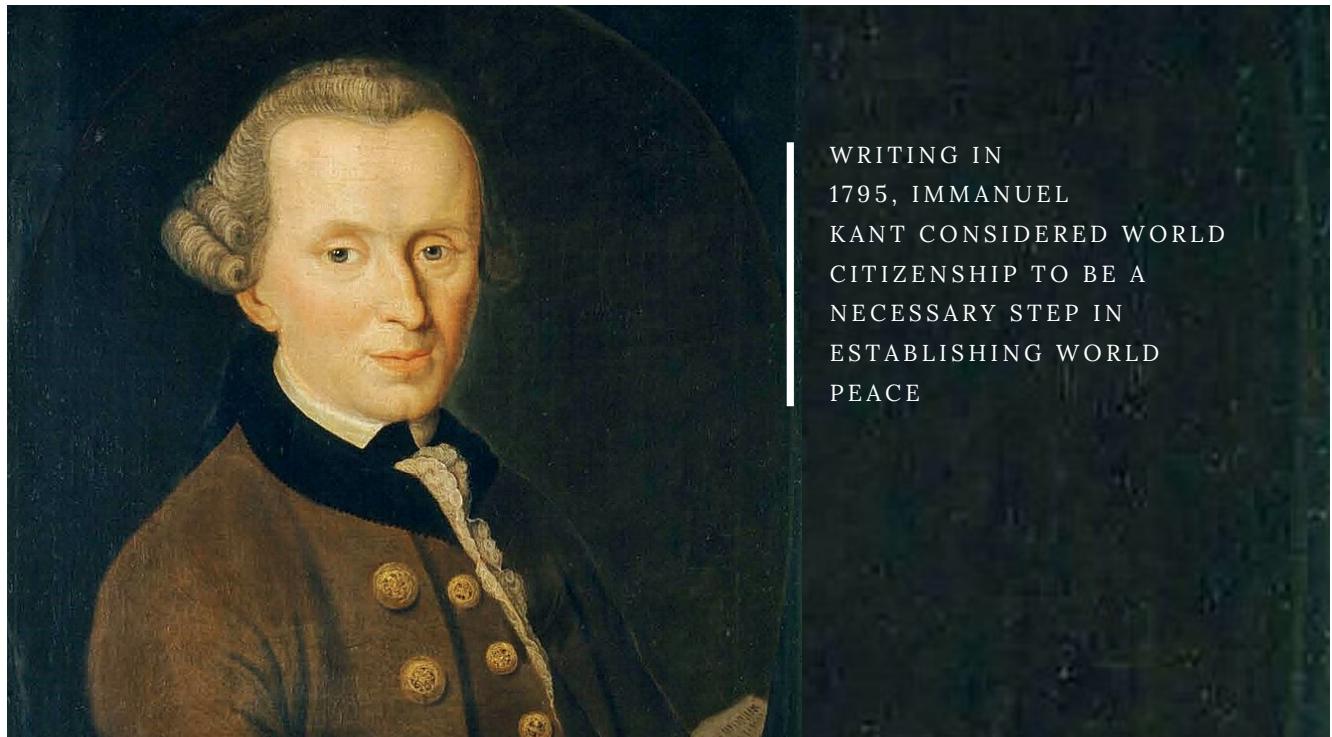
An international law, governing separatism, would certainly help clarify who the realistic candidates could be and it would surely facilitate a smooth transition. There is little chance that the initiative for creation of such a law would come from the Nations United, however, primarily because most nations have a vested interest in making separatism as difficult as possible. Nevertheless, the law would not necessarily have to stem from there. The proposal could come from anywhere, while gradually engendering support. It could revolve around certain points, such as:

- The population must be over X million within a self-contained region
- The region could span different countries
- The area must not contain extraneous pockets
- The people must have distinct ethnic or cultural characteristics, such as language or religion
- A referendum would have to take place and the vote for independence would have to exceed X%
- The separation must be negotiated in such a way as to ensure that the new country does not leave the original country in an untenable position through the devastation of its economy or the losing of its ports, for instance
- The new country must not be penalised for wanting to break away, through the hampering of its infrastructure, sanctions or other unfair means

Such a law would on the one hand help limit unfeasible claims, although on the other, it could encourage regions that may not have had separatist inclinations to start considering them merely because they fit the criteria. Of course, it may not be in the interest of many potential breakaways anyway.



CATALAN INDEPENDENCE MARCH



WRITING IN  
1795, IMMANUEL  
KANT CONSIDERED WORLD  
CITIZENSHIP TO BE A  
NECESSARY STEP IN  
ESTABLISHING WORLD  
PEACE

## The Aegis of a Federal Order

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Still the original problem remains: security. The answer could be a simple one; namely accepting independence within the context of an overarching organisation or federation. This would also guarantee a certain level of fairness, particularly if the federation in question was based on universal ethical principles.

UN-aligned is in the process of drafting a consultation paper on such an international law and would love to receive your suggestions.

If you have any ideas, or would like to be actively involved in this project, please contact us at [contact@un-aligned.org](mailto:contact@un-aligned.org)



# CATALONIA AND THE POLITICS OF INTRASIGENCE

By Adrian Liberto

Follow our Unrepresented Nations series to learn more about the voices of unrepresented and marginalised nations and peoples worldwide. You can get free access to older and future issues of this magazine by becoming a member at: [un-aligned.org](http://un-aligned.org)

## Bones, but no meat

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“Spain is fulfilling its duty to itself.” This was the boast of Socialist Prime Minister, Pedro Sanchez, on October 24th, as the remains of General Franco were removed from the public Mausoleum of the Valley of the Fallen, near Madrid, to a private burial site. The ghost of the dictator, who died in 1975, however, lags stubbornly behind. It lives on in the draconian policies of the Spanish establishment that has been ruthlessly crushing dissent from its citizens in ways that would make Franco proud.

The extremely heavy sentences handed out to Catalan politicians for their part in the 2017 Catalan Independence Referendum, is a case in point, but politicians are not the only ones being targeted.

On the 23rd May 2018, for instance, Spanish rapper, Valtònyc, fled from the country to avoid a three-and-a-half-year prison sentence he received because of his controversial lyrics. He was convicted on counts of slander, lèse-majesté and the glorification of terrorist organisations, even though there were none left in Spain. Fellow rapper, Pablo Hasél, was arrested on similar charges and received a total of five years and a hefty 24,3000 Euro fine, in two separate sentences.

ETA, the separatist Basque movement, was the last Spanish terrorist organisation and it had declared a complete ceasefire in 2011. Nevertheless, from then to the end of 2018, four times as many people had been convicted for exaltation of terrorism than in the previous seven years, when ETA was still active: a total of 121 people.

The crackdown does not even spare the police. The Mossos d'Esquadra, the Catalan police, have recently been put under investigation for allegedly not having done enough to stop protesters who were disrupting traffic. In this intransigent environment, the situation in Catalonia can only get worse.

## A Delicate Balance

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Catalonia's historic ties to Spain are complicated. The region's union with Aragon dates back to 1137, with the marriage of Ramon Berenguer IV, Count of Barcelona to Queen Petronilla of Aragon. Then, with the marriage of the Reyes Católicos, Queen Isabella I of Castile and King Ferdinand II of Aragon, in 1469, the region became firmly established as part of the Spanish realm. This was further consolidated when Charles I became the first sole-reigning King of Spain in 1516. Nevertheless, Catalonia maintained various levels of autonomy during its union with the rest of Spain and though Franco tried to suppress this, Catalonia's distinctive culture was not crushed. Negotiations with post-Franco governments culminated in the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia of 2006, which was also confirmed in a referendum.



FRANCISCO FRANCO IN REUS, 1940

In 2010, however, the Constitutional Court of Spain arbitrarily began to alter and reinterpret the decree.

Since then, the tensions between Catalonia and the Spanish Government have continued to escalate. In 2012, as the drive for independence was intensifying, the Catalonian Government highlighted its disassociation from the rest of Spain in an act of unmistakable defiance: it banned bullfighting.

## Crisis Point

The situation came to a head with the October 2017 Independence Referendum. The turnout for the illegal referendum was 43%, but 90% of those who did vote were in favour of independence. The crackdown from the Spanish authorities was swift and brutal. Some of those involved, like the Catalonian President, Carles Puigdemont, fled the country, while others preferred to stay and face the music. Of the 12 defendants that did face trial, nine received sentences that ranged from nine to 13 years.

Vice President Oriol Junqueras, chose to stay because of a sense of responsibility to his fellow citizens. "Socrates, Seneca and Cicero had the opportunity to flee, but they didn't take it." He said. "I find such civic and ethical responsibility very impressive." On October 14, the former history lecturer was sentenced to 13 years in prison.

Former government officials, Jordi Turull (Spokesman), Raül Romeva (Foreign Minister) and Dolors Bassa (Labour Minister) received a 12-year prison sentence. Carme Forcadell (Speaker) was given 11 and a half years; while Joaquim Forn (Interior Minister) and Josep Rull (Territorial Minister) were handed ten and a half. Jordi Sànchez, the former President of the Assemblea Nacional Catalana (that joined the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation in December 2018), and Jordi Cuixart, the leader of Òmnium Cultural, received nine years each.

To put this in perspective, one only needs to consider that these sentences are more or less equivalent to the penalty for murder. Article 138 of the Spanish Criminal Code states: "He who kills another will be punished, as a defendant of homicide, with a prison sentence of ten to fifteen years".



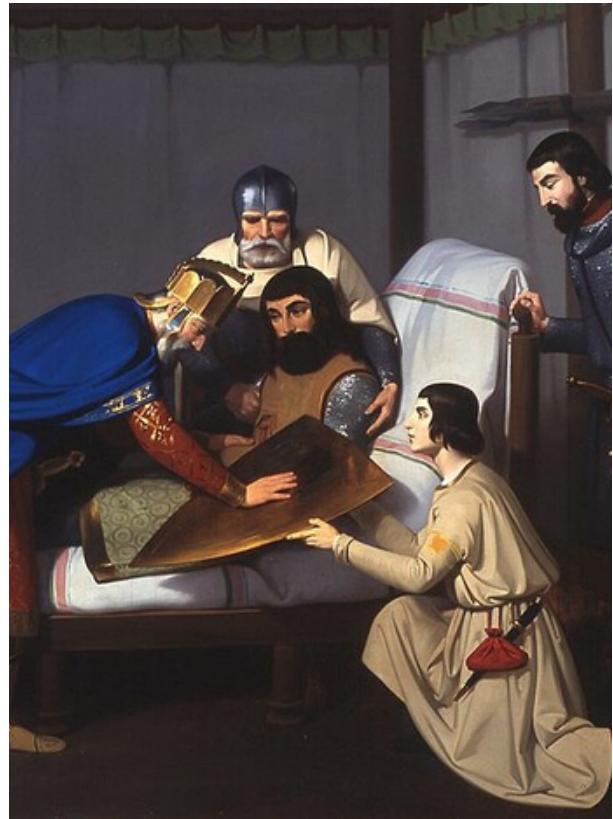
## **As writer and poet Antoni Puigverd, points out in a September article in La Vanguardia:**



**[T]he majority of prosecutors and journalists assume that there is no difference between Catalan independence and ETA. Although there is a subtle difference: ETA killed more than 800 people, wounded or kidnapped thousands and harassed tens of thousands. Yet no prisoner of ETA was accused of rebellion, as are these ‘independentistas’ who slept at home with their children and who were awakened at dawn while the family door was broken down.”**

## **By Turning its Back, the EU Thinks the Problem will go Away: It will Not**

Faced with such hostility, it should not be surprising that so many Catalans have taken to the streets in protest. They are alone. Europe is not only keeping a safe distance from the aspirations of the Catalan people, it is also undermining their progress. This is to be expected considering it behaved in the same obstructive way when Scotland was having its own Independence Referendum in September 2014, which, unlike that of Catalonia, was perfectly legal. It is afraid of opening a can of worms that would irritate Spain, as well as other EU members who could face similar separatist scenarios.



ORIGINS OF THE BLASON OF THE COUNTY OF BARCELONA,  
BY CLAUDI LORENZALE

Alfred Bosch, the Catalan Minister of Foreign Action, Institutional Relations and Transparency, accused the EU of “going against all it stands for” by denying access to the European Parliament of elected Catalan MEPs, including Carles Puigdemont, who is currently in self-imposed exile in Belgium. Writing in The Guardian, last June, Bosch pointed out that participation in the European elections was 13% higher in Catalonia than the European average and that Catalonia was a loyal European partner: “Unlike the Brexit supporters, Catalonia has never given up its feeling of being European or its conviction that it is part of the European Union.” Will the EU, he asks, lose “another chance to show the world that this is a space of freedom, democracy and support for fundamental rights?” All indications show that it will.



PUIGDEMONT ADDRESSES A CROWD FOLLOWING THE CATALAN DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE





PRO-INDEPENDENCE FLAGS IN BARCELONA

## All Sides Need to Take a Step Back to Reassess their position

Catalonia, is certainly powerful enough to be independent. It has a population of over seven and a half million in an area of over 32 thousand square kilometres and it enjoys the healthiest economy in Spain with respect to Gross Regional Product (GRP). Moreover, it is culturally homogenous, with its own language and traditions.

Still, many questions regarding the legitimacy of breaking away remain. Is it fair, for instance, that Catalonia should deprive the rest of Spain of its economic advantage? Could this not lead to a scenario where richer areas strive to shed poorer ones out of supremacy and greed? And what about the rights of the thousands of Spanish residents in Catalonia who are not Catalan?



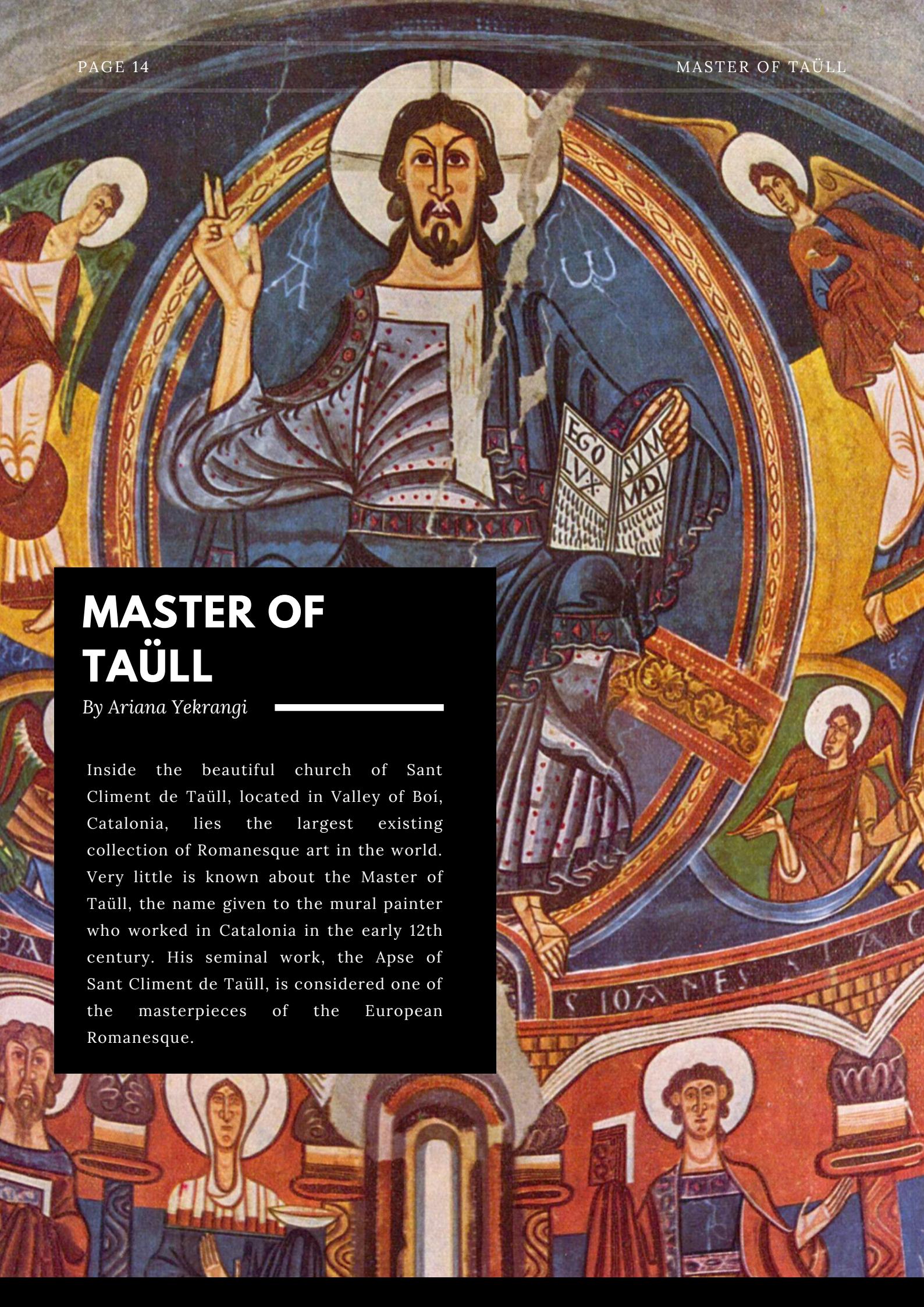
GOVERNMENT OF CATALUNYA (2018-). QUIM TORRA, PRESIDENT OF THE GENERALITAT, IS IN THE BACKGROUND, AT THE CENTER; PERE ARAGONÈS, THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ON HIS RIGHT FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW

Of course, these are not insurmountable problems and they would surely be more manageable with the support of an overarching organisation like the EU, but that may not happen. In the meantime, the judges need to back off, while the politicians on both sides must find some common ground. Headway can only take place with dialogue and goodwill and until that happens, we can have no doubt that the troubles will only get worse.

# MASTER OF TAÜLL

By Ariana Yekrangi

Inside the beautiful church of Sant Climent de Taüll, located in Valley of Boí, Catalonia, lies the largest existing collection of Romanesque art in the world. Very little is known about the Master of Taüll, the name given to the mural painter who worked in Catalonia in the early 12th century. His seminal work, the Apse of Sant Climent de Taüll, is considered one of the masterpieces of the European Romanesque.





The church was built to be a place for Christian worship, rather than a focus for pilgrimages, which was a common practice at the time. The artwork in Sant Climent de Taüll was important in bringing the art into the public atmosphere.

The painting's genius lies in the way it combines elements from different Biblical visions (Revelation, Isaiah and Ezekiel) to present the Christ of the Day of Judgement. Christ appears from the background causing an outward movement from the centre of the composition, which is presided by the ornamental sense of the outlines and the skilful use of colour to create volume. The exceptional nature of this work by the Master of Taüll and its pictorial strength have reached out to modernity and fascinated twentieth-century avant-garde artists like Picasso and Francis Picabia.

The exquisite fresco can be seen in the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC) alongside other artistic treasures of the period.

# THY SENSUAL FAULT

By Alex Liberto



shall continue to touch on some of Shakespeare's Fair Youth sonnet sequence, with sonnet 35. Here Shakespeare is addressing his young friend and refers to a sin he committed against him; a sin the poet struggles to forgive.

He tells the youth not to upset himself because of this bad deed. He reminds him that bad things are everywhere... Roses have thorns; clear fountains have mud; both the sun and moon are shadowed by clouds and eclipses; and horrible disease is found in the sweetest flowers.

*No more be grieved at that which thou hast done.  
Roses have thorns, and silver fountains mud;  
Clouds and eclipses stain both moon and sun,  
And loathsome canker lives in sweetest bud.*

The poet tries to console the youth by telling him that all men do bad things. He actually admits to having done them himself. The poet talks of sinning. He says he is guilty of sin because he authorised his friend's trespass. The religious connotation here with the use of words like sin and trespass (reminiscent of the Lord's Prayer) mix the sacred with the profane. Shakespeare admits he knows that he is corrupting the Fair Youth as well, and forgives his "sins" out of love. As a prosecutor, he strives for reason.

***All men make faults, and even I in this,  
Authórizing thy trespass with compare,  
Myself corrupting, salving thy amiss,  
Excusing these sins more than these sins  
are.***

Shakespeare highlights the sensual by referring to the sins of his young friend as being physical urges. He says that he looks at these sensual sins and tries to defend him, to protect him, and in so doing he is obviously working against himself. The poet feels that he is torn between love and hate, but he cannot resist helping that "sweet thief" who bitterly robbed him of his peace of mind.

***For to thy sensual fault I bring in sense—  
Thy adverse party is thy advocate—  
And 'gainst myself a lawful plea  
commence.  
Such civil war is in my love and hate  
That I an áccessory needs must be  
To that sweet thief which sourly robs from  
me.***

This sonnet reiterates Shakespeare's fraught feelings towards love. He paradoxically acts as a hypothetical lawyer to defend the one he loves and who has betrayed his trust. The poet uses an array legal imagery by choosing connotative words in this regard, like "adverse party", "advocate", "lawful" plea" and "accessary". Shakespeare defends his friend even though he himself is the injured party. This extended metaphorical picture also helps to shed light on the poet's tormented understanding of love, with all its irrationality and enigmatic forces. "Such civil war is in my love and hate", reveals the intricacy of the painful emotions he has felt, and his painful struggle in dealing with them.

***No more be grieved at that which thou hast  
done.***

***Roses have thorns, and silver fountains  
mud;***

***Clouds and eclipses stain both moon and  
sun,***

***And loathsome canker lives in sweetest bud.***

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# JAPAN AND ITS NUCLEAR WASTE PROBLEM

By Zhi Wang

Nuclear leaks are probably among the most horrifying accidents possible due to their long-term detrimental damage to life and environment. Eight years after the nuclear leak from Japan's Fukushima power plant, local residents, many of whom are fishermen, are still suffering the consequences.

## Dumping the radioactively contaminated water directly into the sea in order to dilute it

Tragically, they now have to face another nightmare. However, rather than being triggered by a natural disaster, like the nuclear accident was, this time, it was all caused by their government's proposal of dumping the radioactively contaminated water directly into the sea in order to dilute it. So far, the plant's operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), has already stored over 1 million tons of radioactive water used to cool destroyed reactors and the amount is still increasing. It is said that TEPCO does not expect to complete the decommissioning process until the 2050s. And the water, as confirmed by the company itself, still contains other radioactive materials beyond safety levels, like radioactive strontium, iodine, rhodium, and cobalt.



LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE STORAGE

Nevertheless, Japan's Former Environment Minister stated, on September 10, the last day of his office, that TEPCO had to release some of the radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean since it will run out of storage place by 2022. The government's act of rushing into this controversial plan, as early as two years ahead, rather than making efforts to fix the issue, has received much criticism. The government is suspected of attempting to pave the way for its new Minister by directing criticisms to the former one.

## Ocean pollution must be taken seriously

The disposal plan was soon furiously opposed, not only by local fishermen, but also by neighboring South Korea. Considering radioactive materials can travel very far through water, ocean pollution and potential human health issues caused by consuming affected seafood, become a serious problem. The Japanese officials claimed that this was the only option.

## Is there really no alternative at all?

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There were actually six disposal methods that had been discussed, including evaporation and burying. In fact, Japan had made plans to hold the waste for 30 to 50 years before burying it in stable rock formations at least 300 meters beneath the surface and it shared these during the G-20 summit in June 2019 with the hope of engendering support for the project.

It is unclear why the government has changed its mind and is now targeting the Pacific Ocean, but this is probably due to a backlash from some of its citizens. In May 2017, the authorities started selecting suitable sites to host the radioactive water, but they met opposition from all communities. When it comes to radioactivity, it is hard to reassure people about safety concerns, especially in this earthquake-active country.



COOLING TOWER NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

## “Time means chance”

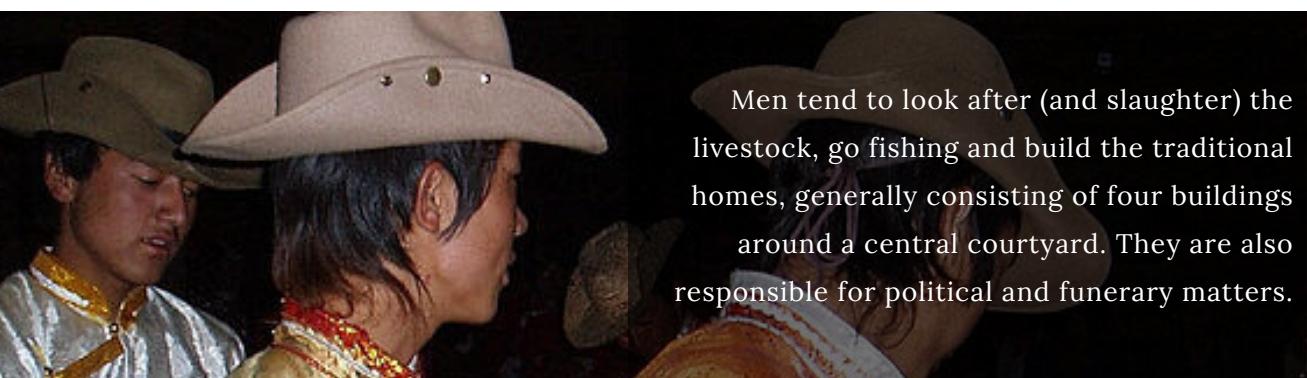
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As environmental issues have already been escalating at an overwhelming pace across the globe, the eco system can no longer afford carelessness or complacency... We believe “Time means chance”. However, Japan is setting a bad example. Despite the two years' margin, the government is preferring to risk the ocean's health in order to digest its own radioactive waste, rather than seeking better solutions...

# THE MOSUO: 10 INTERESTING FACTS

By Adrian Liberto

The Mosuo are a people with a unique lifestyle who live by Lake Lu Gu in southern China. Here are some amazing facts regarding the Mosuo and their culture.



Men tend to look after (and slaughter) the livestock, go fishing and build the traditional homes, generally consisting of four buildings around a central courtyard. They are also responsible for political and funerary matters.



Offspring may be swapped between families in order to create a gender balance in households. This way the balance of skills and duties is maintained



The institution of marriage does not exist in traditional Mosuo culture. When a girl reaches puberty, she is given a “flower chamber”, a personal boudoir, where she can “secretly” invite a partner of her choice. There is no time limit for these “walking marriages” and a woman may change partners as often as she likes. The partner discretely leaves in the morning and would need an invitation to return, though never for more than a night at a time.

Traditionally, neither men, nor women leave the family home, households could therefore span a number of generations. Only sexually active women would generally have their private chambers; other family members tend live communally.



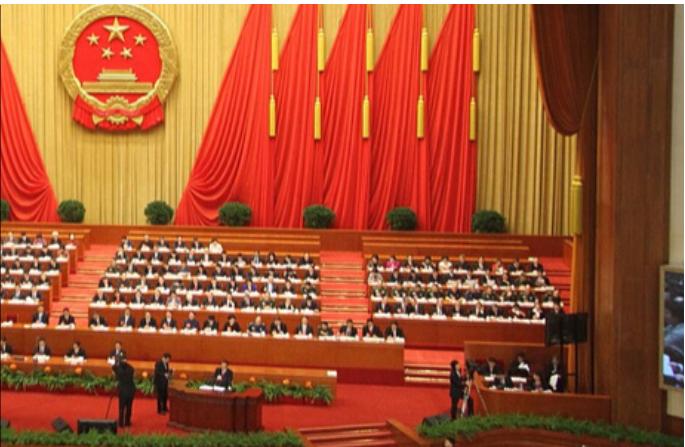
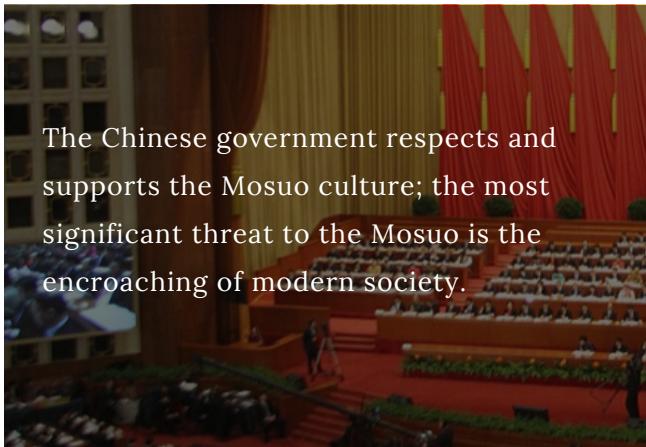
Most of the Mosuo are centred around, or in the vicinity of Lu Gu Hu ('Hu' means lake) on the borders of Sichuan and Yunnan, by the foothills of the Himalayas and not far from Tibet.

The original religion of the Mosuo is Dabaism, which incorporates animism and ancestor worship. Later, Tantric Buddhism was introduced and accepted, alongside the original beliefs and rituals.

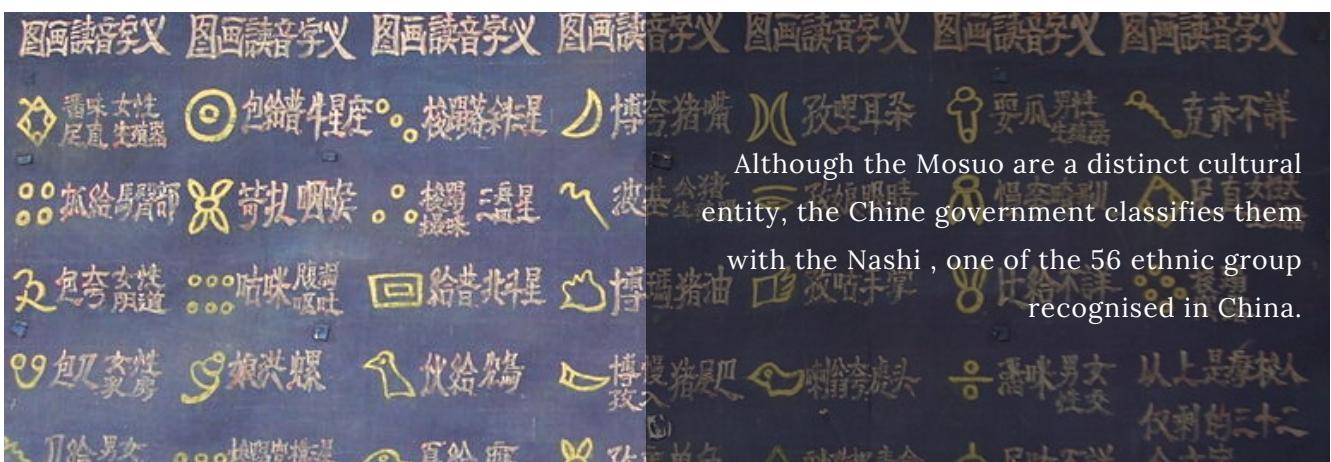




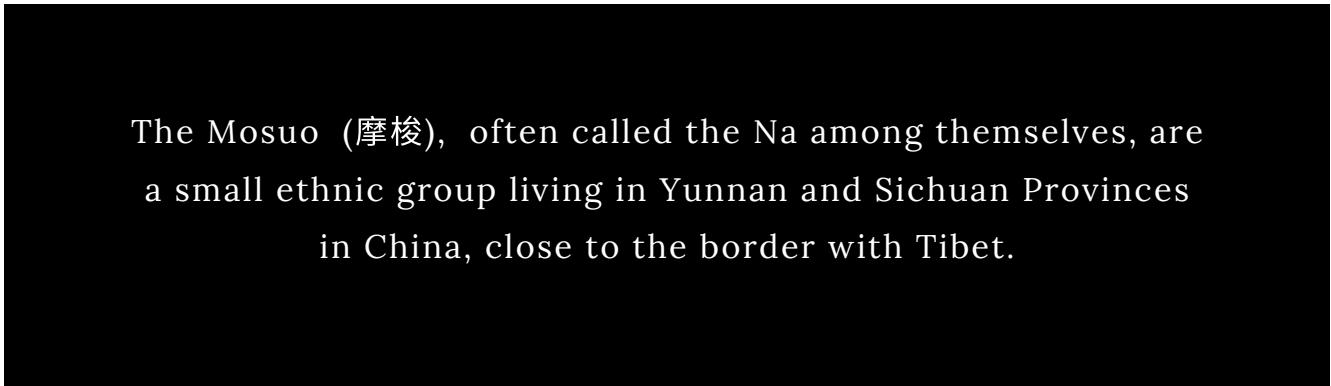
Despite the Buddhist element within the Mosuo faith, fish and meat form an important part of their diet. Nevertheless, dogs are highly respected, having exchanged their longer lifespan for humans' original shorter one, as legend would have it.



The Chinese government respects and supports the Mosuo culture; the most significant threat to the Mosuo is the encroaching of modern society.



Although the Mosuo are a distinct cultural entity, the Chinese government classifies them with the Nashi, one of the 56 ethnic groups recognised in China.



The Mosuo (摩梭), often called the Na among themselves, are a small ethnic group living in Yunnan and Sichuan Provinces in China, close to the border with Tibet.

# FANCY A SHORT QUIZ?

A COPY TO THE ANSWERS OF THIS QUIZ ARE  
AVAILABLE AT THE END OF THE MAGAZINE.

*For suggestions and feedback please write to us  
at contact@un-aligned.org*

**01** What famous brandy is made in the French Departments of Charente and Charente-Maritime?

**02** Halloween is the eve of which important Christian feast?

**04, A** Which heir to an African Chiefdom defied the racial prejudice of three countries (Britain, South Africa and his own) to marry Ruth Williams, a British clerk at Lloyds of London? Despite persecution and forced exile, he went on to become the first President of his country, while their son, Ian, was the fourth President and served for ten years from April 2008.

**04, B** What is the name of the country?

**04, C** What was the country previously known as?

**07** What are these places otherwise known as?

- Uluru
- Jo'burg
- Mount Godwin-Austen (or Chhogori)

**08** Who wrote The Book of Healing, published in 1027, and is considered the “father of modern medicine”?

**03** Three of these creative Spaniards were from Catalonia; who were they?

- Salvador Dalí
- Pablo Picasso
- Antoni Gaudí
- Joan Miró
- Luis Buñuel
- Federico García Lorca

**05** Name the famous male lovers or intimate friends of these mythical or historical characters:

- Achilles
- Gilgamesh
- Alexander the Great
- Emperor Hadrian
- Heracles

**06** What is the most notable ingredient of tonic water, which is also used to treat malaria?

**09** Who won this year's Nobel Peace Prize?

**10** What is the name of the new President of the European Commission?

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## Quiz Answer Sheet

- What famous brandy is made in the French Departments of Charente and Charente-Maritime? [Cognac]
- Halloween is the eve of which important Christian feast? [All Saints' Day]
- Three of these creative Spaniards were from Catalonia; who were they?
- Salvador Dalí
- Pablo Picasso
- Antoni Gaudí
- Joan Miró
- Luis Buñuel
- Federico García Lorca [i, iii & iv]
- A) Which heir to an African Chiefdom defied the racial prejudice of three countries (Britain, South Africa and his own) to marry Ruth Williams, a British clerk at Lloyds of London? Despite persecution and forced exile, he went on to become the first President of his country, while their son, Ian, was the fourth President and served for ten years from April 2008. [Seretse Khama] B) What is the name of the country? [Botswana] C) What was the country previously known as? [Bechuanaland].
- Name the famous male lovers or intimate friends of these mythical or historical characters:
- Achilles [Patroclus]
- Gilgamesh [Enkidu]
- Alexander the Great [Hephaestion]
- Emperor Hadrian [Antinous]
- Heracles [According to Plutarch, his male lovers were beyond counting, but the most famous are Iolaus, Hylas and Abderus]
- What is the most notable ingredient of tonic water, which is also used to treat malaria? [Quinine]
- What are these places otherwise known as?
- Uluru [Ayers Rock]
- Jo'burg [Johannesburg]
- Mount Godwin-Austen (or Chhogori) [K2]
- Who wrote The Book of Healing, published in 1027, and is considered the “father of modern medicine”? [Avicenna]
- Who won this year's Nobel Peace Prize? [Abiy Ahmed, the PM of Ethiopia]
- What is the name of the new President of the European Commission? [Ursula Von Der Leyen]

## Credits

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## THE VIRTUAL & ALTERNATIVE UN

**UN-aligned was created with the goal of uniting our globe by a federal world order, which is based on core principles of a shared humanity and a shared planet. It was this aim that united Adriano Liberto and Ariana Yekrangi to create this beacon of change in 2016.**