

History for the People. By the People.

Donald Trump, widely denounced by pro-Democrats to be a racist, misogynistic, and politically-inept politician, has become president-elect despite the strong odds against his victory.

Sixtus Leung and Yau Wai-ching, two recently-elected Hong Kong legislators were ejected from the government after sparking independence protests that angered the strong central Chinese government. Serving on the legislative bodies for only twelve days as part of the Youngspiration party, this pair of legislators was formally removed from Hong Kong government.

Both of these events seem to be steps backward for democracy. Un-progress for society. Being the child of two immigrant parents who sought out America for its democratic, all-inclusive ideals of equality and opportunity, Trump's election and this restriction of opposition in China were slaps in the face. How could things go so wrong?

Actually, nothing went wrong. Nothing is backwards about it.

Considering the history of democracy, nothing here is unacceptable. Caught up in the excitement of the Twitter battle between Trump and Ted Cruz about each other's wives and in Trump's questioning of President Obama's American citizenship and in Hillary's email and Benghazi scandals, we lose sight of the past. And History patiently waits to consult Man, to reassure and to guide him. It promises a more positive outlook.

The balance of political parties was established when differing views between the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans emerged, and each party has been checking the other's power. And China acted no differently than the U.S. had before the Civil War. The South had repeatedly hinted at breaking free from the North due to economic and social differences, but was often not allowed to do so: President Jackson used the U.S. military to occupy the rebellious state of South Carolina to force its connection to the Union, no questions asked. But when President Buchanan decided to allow South Carolina to officially secede from the Union, all hell broke loose. National security was threatened because Buchanan had took the non-provocative approach, whereas Jackson broke any sense of constitutionality and peace to preserve his ideals. Likewise, the Chinese government unilaterally dismissed these statesmen in order to keep the nation together.

But whether it's justified or not is a different story. Only when looking back at the anti-secession motion by Jackson can we see that that nation blossomed as a single piece.

Our vision in the present is cloudy. Society, an ancient being, is far-sighted, both in wisdom and in vision. But it lacks the notion of spectacles that can tangibly be fitted to a person; rather, it scrambles around in the foggy present and only learns lessons from the visible past.

As a result, any form of political speculation is biased and openly challengeable. The victor writes history; Trump and his victorious Republican party are at the liberty of praising their party in any which way because they have the power to do so. History is made relative to the strongest, the survivors; for all we know, should North Korea or ISIS prevail in anti-Americanism in the distant future, our Western identity would be butchered and maligned and slandered beyond recognition.

But is this okay? The paradox of "if a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it, does it make a sound?" plays a large role here. History history constitutes not of what actually *happens*, but of what we *observe* and *believe*. Rather than being simple facts in a clear-cut world, history is dynamic and conforms to society's perspective. Aust as numbers and math are man-made concepts designed to solve practical problems, history is an artificial entity comprising our strongest beliefs and judgments. No matter how biased a historical stance is made out to be, it's not.

History is not observed. It's made.

Hence the issue with Trump or the Chinese legislators. They had their rationale for their actions, and societal will forever gain from the set precedents. And while their actions and behavior may of present seem detrimental to a democratic idealism, only time can tell the outcome.

Man will work the effects of current day into the history books. For now, all we can do now is to wait and see. The world is developing, growing, aging before our very eyes.