

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

The West

House Democrats approved two articles of impeachment against Trump on Friday morning, increasing tensions and setting the stage for a showdown next week.

The East

The US and China reached a tentative deal that will scale back tariffs and eliminate those scheduled to take effect later this month. Asian markets rallied as a result. While the Chinese foreign ministry refused to confirm details, both Trump and China's Vice Minister confirmed the agreement.

Focus: A Tory Victory

Boris Johnson and the Tories took at least 364 seats in parliament while Jeremy Corbyn and Labour barely pushed past 200. The strongest showing for Conservatives since the Thatcher era, the new government nearly guarantees Brexit's completion by early 2020.

Volume X

This week was yet another a busy one, continuing the theme for December. We saw some substantial events: two articles of impeachment by House Democrats; Boris Johnson and the Conservative Party took a majority in Parliament; and a potential US-China deal caused markets to rally around the world. Additionally, there were a few follow-up headlines from last week's Naval Air Base shooting as well as some news out of Hong Kong. There is also a new lawsuit in California that will be challenging the legitimacy of the SAT in California college admissions.

Holidays in the City



Take a break from work this weekend and see some of the holiday sights in Manhattan! This picture is of the lights on Saks Fifth Avenue.

Letter From The Editor

Dear Reader:

As many of you know, our goal is not only to provide news summary but *to provide a basis for you to expand your knowledge of current events, and encourage you to seek more.* (We're working on a catchphrase.) We want to provide a respite from the usual buzz of every day life and instead give you a window in everyone else's busy lives—all while you sit, relax, and drink a coffee.

With this mission in mind, I am excited to announce that we will have our first outside editorial article next week! Editorials and other content focusing on current events are a vital component of The Week in Review, so I am looking forward to hearing your reaction to our first writer.

We are also reviewing and updating our website, and will be posting more content there during the upcoming weeks as news happens. This is a transition period—I won't promise you everything all the time—but our goal is to give you just enough to stay in the know while you do you.

Have a great weekend.

Warm regards,

Chris Sabaitis



Something Delicious

You know what I would really like to have this weekend? Pie, but not anything so traditional. Instead, I think it could be fun to try a chocolate Oreo pie, as the [New York Times suggested](#) earlier this week. Check it out, and let me know your thoughts!

Ingredients

- 2 cups Oreo crumbs
- 6 large egg yolks
- 6 tbsps unsalted butter
- 8 oz semisweet chocolate, finely chopped
- 1.25 tps salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 0.5 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 tbsp confectioner's sugar
- 3 cups whole milk
- 3 tbsps cornstarch
- 2 tbsps cocoa powder

Directions

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Add Oreos to the bowl of a food processor and process until fine crumbs form. Add melted butter and salt, and process until crumbs are evenly moistened. Tip mixture out into a 9-inch pie plate, and press crumbs evenly into bottom and sides of pan. Bake until crust is fragrant and set, about 12 minutes. Transfer to a rack to cool.
2. Set a fine mesh sieve over a medium bowl. In a medium saucepan, whisk together granulated sugar, cornstarch, cocoa powder and salt. Pouring just a little at first, whisk the milk into the sugar mixture until you have a smooth paste. Gradually add remaining milk, whisking constantly. Whisk in egg yolks. Cook mixture over medium heat, whisking constantly, until it has thickened and just come up to a low boil, about 8 to 9 minutes. Continue to cook, stirring constantly, for 1 minute.
3. Pour custard through sieve, pushing it through with a rubber spatula. Discard any solids. Stir in chocolate, butter and vanilla, and let it stand for 1 minute. Stir until smooth. Pour mixture into prepared crust. Let cool slightly, then cover loosely with plastic wrap and chill until firm, at least 6 hours.
4. To serve, whip cream and confectioners' sugar until soft peaks form. Top with whipped cream and sprinkle with crushed Oreos.

Finance and Markets

UK markets jumped following news of a Conservative Party win, with the pound rising by about 2% immediately following the first exit polls. Stocks of companies targeted by Labour for nationalization also showed gains and are expected to rally more in the near future. Headlines about a potential US-China deal improved US and Chinese markets as well, with the Hang Seng rising nearly 5% in early trading.

In other words, the theme of this week was *stability* and *openness*. Traders appreciate stable governments and open markets, especially when it comes from (perceived) pro-market deals and coalitions, and allocate investment into those markets. Whether this boost will continue to drive markets in the long term lies in the strength of the government's and the people's commitment to maintain political stability and to encourage economic growth.

Headlines

Boris Johnson wins the UK Election

UK voters delivered a harsh rebuke to Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party this week by granting Boris Johnson and the Conservative party a majority in Parliament. While the Tories were expected to gain seats, the most surprising part of the election was that the party gained support from traditionally left-leaning, blue collar districts.

The new majority nearly guarantees Brexit by the end of January and signals a potentially pro-American trade deal given Johnson's close ties with Trump.

Even More Impeachment

House Democrats approved two articles of impeachment early Friday morning, confirming that a vote will happen before Christmas. In a tense session on Thursday, the Judiciary Committee debated the topic for 11 hours before lawmakers decided to take a reprieve. Unfortunately not much else has changed in the non-stop coverage of this topic.

Navy Shooting

Last week saw a foreign officer from Saudi Arabia shoot and kill

several Navy personnel at Naval Air station Pensacola in Florida in an attack now considered a terrorist action. Earlier this week Deputy Defense Secretary suspended “flight and other operational training for all Saudi Arabian students in U.S. military programs.”¹ He also announced that an investigation into the vetting procedures of foreign military students will be completed in about three months

Hong Kong Foreign Investigative Panel Steps Down

When Hong Kong protestors demanded an independent investigation into police activity, the government responded by tasking the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) with the initial review. An independent panel of foreign experts was brought in to ensure and verify that the investigation was objective. According to the Wall Street Journal, the panel stepped down this week and announced that it wasn’t able “to begin to meet the standards citizens of Hong Kong would likely require of a police watchdog operating in a society that values freedoms and rights.”² Unfortunately this doesn’t inspire confidence in the future conclusions of the IPCC.

What’s the point of the SAT?

A new lawsuit filed in California argues that the SAT and ACT are illegal in California admissions, according to an NPR report. The lawsuit says that “this policy illegally discriminates against applicants on the basis of race and wealth, and thereby denies them equal protection under the California Constitution”³ since scores are generally correlated with family income. While the lawsuit could potentially take years to be completed, it pushes the discussion of the future of the exams back onto the national stage.

What’s up this weekend?

Luminocity Festival

Where

Randall’s Island Park

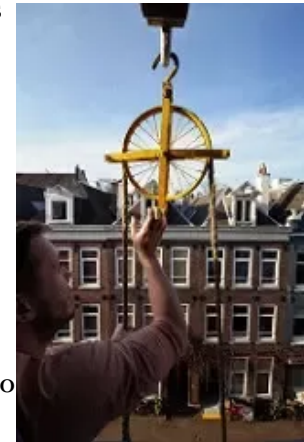
About

The Compendious Column

By Gilad Penn

Do you know why many buildings on the canals of Amsterdam have hooks protruding from the facades at roof-height? Did you know that many buildings in Amsterdam even had hooks?

Buildings in the city are so narrow that moving furniture to apartments can be incredibly difficult, if not downright impossible. Rather than navigate tiny stairwells and narrow hallways, city residents use *hijsbalk*—building hooks—to hoist their furniture into their apartments [\[read more\]](#)



This event includes holiday lights, musical performances, workshops, and more!

[Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone in Concert](#)

Where

The New York Philharmonic, David Geffen Hall

About

“Relive the film that started it all. Watch the wand choose the wizard, a troll run amok, and magic mirrors in high-definition while the Orchestra performs John Williams’s iconic score. Don’t miss this once-in-a-lifetime event as Harry, Ron, Hermione, and all your favorite characters return to the screen and enchant the world all over again.” *-the website*

[Handel's Messiah](#)

Where

The New York Philharmonic, David Geffen Hall

About

“Dazzling vocal solos, instrumental fireworks, and splendid choral writing make Handel’s Messiah the Philharmonic’s most beloved holiday tradition. This year Baroque master Harry Bicket leads all forces in the Messiah of Messiahs, the quintessential musical crown of the season.” *-the website*

[Radio City Christmas Spectacular](#)

Where

Radio City Music Hall

About

“The Radio City Christmas Spectacular is a hit every year, with tickets selling like crazy. Audiences of all ages will appreciate the singing, dancing, costumes and fabulous effects of the Christmas Spectacular Starring the Radio City Rockettes. Like many holiday events in NYC, this show is grand, well-done, and meant to impress. No one does it better than the Radio City Christmas Spectacular!” *-the website*

Further Reading

<https://www.economist.com/britain/2019/12/13/why-markets-surged-after-the-tory-victory?cid1=cust/ednew/n/bl/n/2019/12/13n/owned/n/n/nwl/n/n/NA/360436/n>

- ✦ The Economist provides a few reasons why the markets surged immediately following Johnson's victory.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/in-cities-across-america-the-fight-for-curb-space-heats-up-during-the-holidays-11576238403>

- ✦ Curb space in cities is a vital if not plentiful resource.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/money/fda-is-green-lighting-drugs-at-breakneck-speed-and-raising-alarm/ar-BBXRMMR>

- ✦ How fast is too fast to approve new drugs?

<https://theweek.com/articles/883023/trumps-shameful-deference-saudi-arabia>

- ✦ A take on US foreign policy towards Saudi Arabia in the wake of last week's shooting.

Citations

¹ <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/guid/0D82C0EC-1BA7-11EA-BD1C-8E6D8BA9BA5D>

² https://www.wsj.com/articles/foreign-panel-steps-down-from-probe-of-hong-kong-police-11576018800?mod=world_major_2_pos6

³ <https://www.npr.org/2019/12/10/786257347/lawsuit-claims-sat-and-act-are-illegal-in-california-admissions>