



Fair Observer[®]

Annual Update

2022

DEAR FRIEND OF FAIR OBSERVER, Greetings for the festive season!

This has been an eventful year for Fair Observer. As I informed you a few months ago, Abul-Hasanat Siddique and Anna Pivovarchuk have left the organization after years of service. With such seasoned team members leaving, we had to adjust. You will be pleased to learn that we have done so with aplomb.

We now have a number of assistant editors at Fair Observer. When you read articles, you can sometimes see who edited the piece at the bottom. This is a change in our editorial model to give credit to young editors for their work.

Apart from articles, we have started publishing videos very regularly. This is in response to the request of our young readers who often get their information visually. These videos include a mixture of talks, discussions and snappy explainers. We have also been recording [podcasts](#) and will be publishing them very shortly. In short, we have been keeping busy and, more importantly, productive.



You will be pleased to learn that we have kicked off FO° Meetups in New York and Washington, DC. We will be launching them in other cities too. The idea is simple: Fair Observer is more than a website, it is a community spread across the world.

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

As the FIFA World Cup takes center stage in Qatar, we look at the history of this tournament. Nothing beats the drama, energy and passion that the World Cup excites. The greatest show on earth has billions biting their nails, enjoying what Pelé called the beautiful game, and bonding through common experience.

Again and again, our supporters are telling us that we have some first-rate content. For instance, Alexander Brenner really liked our timeline on the [FIFA World Cup](#). Speaking of the tournament, many readers liked veteran author [Ellis Cashmore's piece](#) on how Qatar will change the World Cup forever. Cashmore has an encyclopedic knowledge of sports and popular culture. Even those who disagree with him enjoy his pieces because they are thoughtful and nuanced.

The World Cup is not the only thing on our mind. This has been a year of war, inflation and tragedy. Interest rates have gone up. Stock markets have gone down. Crypto meltdown has hurt many who were dreaming of another form of currency. Even infallible tech giants such as Facebook and Netflix have taken a beating. Elon Musk has been thrown off his pedestal as the world's richest man by Bernard Arnault. We are clearly on the cusp of another tectonic economic shift.



Ah, one more thing: the White House called us before the midterm elections to discuss inflation and Bidenomics. None other than Jared Bernstein, whom *Politico* has called “the man behind Bidenomics” spoke with us. You can watch the interview [here](#).

To make sense of this changing world, we need open-minded, fact-based, well-reasoned journalism. With more than 2,500 authors from over 90 countries, that is what Fair Observer provides. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit (EIN: 46-4070943), we rely on stakeholders like authors, editors, volunteers, members and donors to keep going.

If you have not signed up to be a one-time or regular donor, I request you to do so now.

SIGN UP TO KEEP US GOING AND GROWING.



Thank you, happy holidays and all the best for 2023!

Atul Singh, Claire Price and Peter Isackson

Content

This year, we published some incisive content and great discussion on a range of important issues.

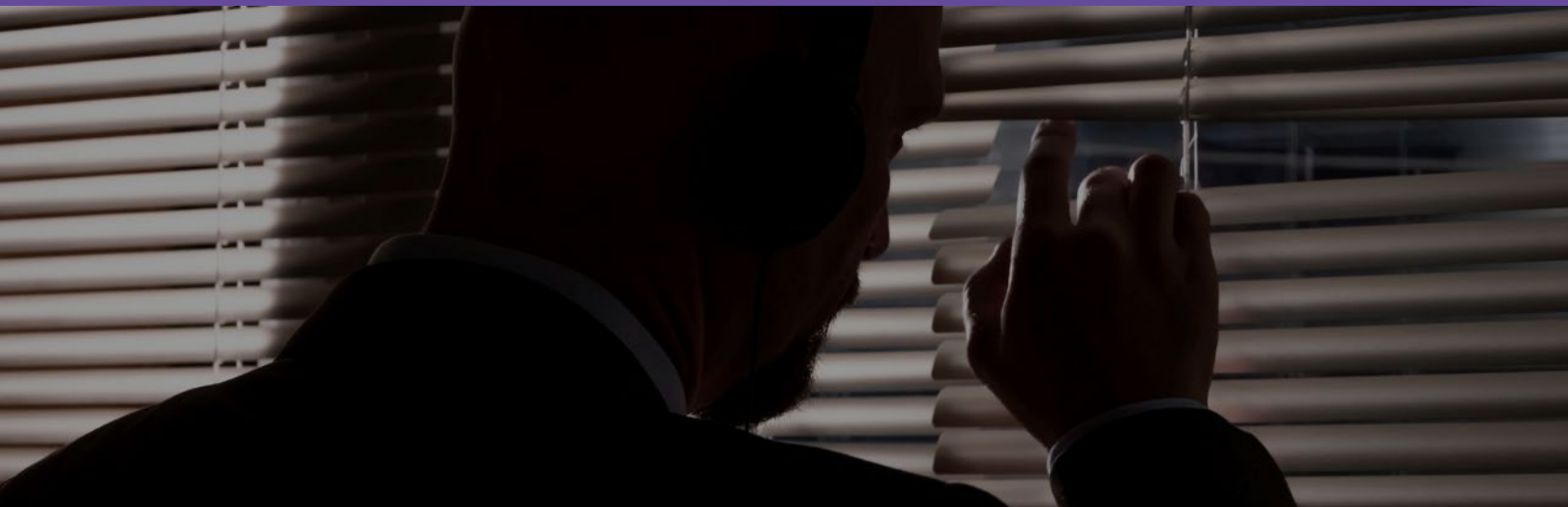
Our coverage of the Russia-Ukraine War was rich and diverse. The likes of Peter Isackson, Medea Benjamin and Nicolas Davies made a strong case that the US expansion of NATO was one of the operative factors that led to the current conflict. All of them advocated negotiations to end war and attain peace. The likes of John Feffer, Katarzyna Rybarczyk and Gary Grappo argue that Russian President Vladimir Putin is a Russian imperialist and the world must stand with brave Ukrainians fighting for their freedom.



Geneva Roy during her Oxford Union Debate

We have been working on improving our [YouTube channel](#) this year. We have a number of new playlists. One of them is [FO° Debate](#). This was launched by young Geneva Roy, our team member who is a star debater. She was the chair of the Debates Selection Committee at the Oxford Union and is currently the chair of the board at World Schools Debating Championships. This playlist is meant to be an educational tool not only for debaters but for students interested in arguments for, against and more on any issue.

We have launched many other playlists that you can check out on our [channel](#). We have the old stalwarts such as [FO° Live](#), [FO° Talks](#) and [FO° Insights](#). We have also just launched FO° Conversations in December. In this series, we will have wide-ranging discussions with some of the most interesting minds from around the world. In the three-part series [Meet the Spy](#), Atul Singh spoke to retired CIA officer Glenn Carle about his life and times. There are many such conversations lined up for 2023.





PODCAST

The Dialectic: A Podcast by Fair Observer

Atul Singh and Glenn Carle

We launched two podcasts this year. One of them is [The Dialectic](#) by Atul Singh and Glenn Carle. The two discussed many topics, including democracy in danger, the Russia-Ukraine War and Taiwan. The other one is [FO° Podcasts](#), which we are kicking off in earnest soon.

As usual, we examined the dominant media players and their narratives. In his patented analysis of journalistic rhetoric Peter Isackson deconstructed an [interview](#) with Indian Minister of External Affairs, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. This piece was not only well received in India but also caught attention in Paris, Berlin, London and Washington, DC.

We carried on shining the light on culture, the bedrock of any society. [Ellis Cashmore](#) wrote two sophisticated and nuanced pieces on the [Qatar World Cup](#) and [Taylor Swift](#). Two professors, Anne Hofmann and Srinivas Reddy titled, "[The New Global Significance of Buddhism](#)," This led to a [dialogue](#) on Buddhism involving Elleman, Reddy and Isackson who were based in three different parts of the world.

The above three-way conversation is in keeping with our goal to become a space for constructive dialogue on issues that matter to the world. Speaking of dialogue Roberta Campani had a marvelous [conversation](#) with the Tibetan writer and activist Tenzin Tsundue. They spoke about cultural identity, Buddhism and the difference in the *Weltanschauung* (worldview) of Tibetan Buddhists and Chinese communists. On Christmas, we [published](#) Sarah Stein Lubrano's piece, "Two Remarkable Things About Jesus (From a Jew)," which led to some wonderful conversations as well.

In a world of filter bubbles, echo chambers and polarization, Fair Observer is a forum for discussion, debate and dialogue across borders, backgrounds and beliefs.

Education Programs

Led by Peter Isackson, Fair Observer's team — Atul Singh, Mark Manners, Imrul Chowdhury and Sandeep Sharma — **conducted a month-long program to educate 100 underprivileged Indians going to the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).**



Students playing the “Soldiers” game, which involves speaking to the person in front of them at varying distances. They switch partners every three to five minutes. Students interacted with people they did not know and loved this game.

We conducted this program for the Dakshana Foundation and [Ruyintan Mehta](#) was the benefactor. Mehta is a Parsi married to a Hindu whose daughters-in-law are Chinese and Polish. Yet, like Raj Kapoor in his iconic 1955 song, “[Mera Joota Hai Japanese](#)” (My Shoe is Japanese), Mehta’s heart is still Indian. Hence, he focuses his philanthropic efforts on improving the lives of the most vulnerable Indians and giving opportunities to those with great potential.



Ruyintan E. Mehta

Events

We have continued our [FO° Exclusive](#) monthly analysis of the three most important issues of the month. Atul Singh and Glenn Carle have been doing this for nearly two years and they attract an eminent audience.



Fair Observer is more than a website.
It is a community spread across the world.

Now that the pandemic restrictions are over, we have also launched FO° Meetups.
We have held four of them so far, two in Washington, DC and two in New York.
We aim to launch them in different cities in 2023.



MAJOR GENERAL HIROYUKI SUGAI AND ATUL SINGH HOSTED TWO DINNERS FOR THE DIPLOMATIC, JOURNALISTIC AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON, DC.

This attracted interesting people from different countries and different walks of life interested in world affairs.