



Point of View

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US-Israel Iran War Shows No Signs of Stoppage as Conflict Enters Its First Month

by SEJIN TENNANT



Image Source: CNN

As the US-Israeli war against Iran approaches its first month, the conflict shows no signs of a clean ending, with peace talks stalled, energy markets in chaos, and an entire region bracing for what comes next.

The United States and Israel launched the war on February 28 with airstrikes that killed Iran's supreme leader and other top officials. Since then, more than 1,750 people have been killed in Iran alone, over 22,800 have been injured, hundreds of hospitals and schools have been destroyed, and roughly 3 million people have been displaced inside the country. Iran has retaliated by striking American and Israeli targets across the region, pulling in neighbors like Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.

The conflict has caused what the International Energy Agency has described as the largest supply disruption in the history of the global oil market. Crude oil prices have risen around 40% since the war began, and the cost of nitrogen-based fertilizers, critical to global food production, has climbed around 50%. The World Trade Organization has warned that sustained high energy prices could significantly drag down global economic growth for the year.

Recent diplomatic efforts have done little to suggest the war is near its end. Using Pakistan as an intermediary, Washington delivered a 15-point framework for a possible peace deal, while Turkey and Egypt have also pushed for mediation. However, the two sides remain far apart. Iran's foreign minister stressed that

the exchange of messages through third-party countries does not constitute real negotiations, only a statement of positions. The White House, meanwhile, has continued to describe the talks as productive. Iran has hardened its demands since the war began, calling for guarantees against future military action, compensation for losses, and insisting that Lebanon be included in any ceasefire agreement. On the American side, Secretary of State Marco Rubio has drawn clear red lines, including a full ban on Iranian uranium enrichment. The gap between these positions has made any agreement difficult to envision.

Among ordinary Iranians, the mood has shifted from shock toward something harder and more defiant, with many hoping that strangling global energy markets through the Strait of Hormuz will eventually force Washington to back down. In the United States, public opinion has grown increasingly uneasy, as questions mount over whether the administration overstated the threat Iran posed before launching the war.

With thousands of additional US troops deploying toward the region and the first month not yet complete, this conflict may only be getting started.

Rising Immigration and Border Policy Debate in the United States

by YEJU JANG

The issue of immigration at the United States - Mexico border has become one of the most urgent and controversial topics in America today. In recent years, the number of migrants attempting to cross the border has increased significantly, placing pressure on government systems and intensifying political debate.

Supporters of stricter border control argue that a nation has the responsibility to protect its security and manage the flow of people entering its territory. They claim that without clear limits, public resources such as housing, healthcare, and education could become overwhelmed. From this perspective, stronger enforcement is seen as necessary to maintain stability.

On the other hand, many believe that immigration is fundamentally a humanitarian issue. A large number of migrants are not simply seeking economic opportunities, but are fleeing violence, poverty, and political instability in their home countries. For them, the border represents not just a line between nations, but a chance for safety and survival. Critics of strict policies argue that turning people away ignores these human realities.

What makes this issue especially complex is that both sides raise valid concerns. The challenge lies in finding a balance between national security and human compassion. Should borders function primarily as barriers, or should they also serve as points of refuge?

Ultimately, the immigration debate reflects deeper questions about identity, responsibility, and values. As the United States continues to confront this issue, the decisions it makes will not only shape its policies, but also define what kind of nation it chooses to be.

Project Hail Mary skyrockets to \$141.9m

by JOE CHUN



Image Source: Space.com

Combining humour and science fiction may not be the most entertaining, nor an exiting thing to do. Yet, Ryan Gosling might just break every expectation. Project Hail Mary was a written science fiction novel by Andy Weir, and as of the book, it contains sophisticated space-related terms that, for some readers, may be daunting. The movie, however, seemed to contain more emotionally provocative scenes and a story.

Directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, widely regarded as the duo behind *Spider-Man: Into the Universe*, the film leans into its comedic and emotional instincts without ever letting them forget what is at stake. Ryan Gosling, the actor of Rylan Grace, is not a typical hero people think of. Rather, he's a science teacher who wakes up on the spaceship HailMary, with no memory or a living crewmate. The main plot follows Ryan Gosling holding the stake of saving planet Earth, and he soon realizes he is not the only one who is trying to save his own planet. In simple terms, Ryan Gosling met an alien creature who tries to save its planet.

Much of the emotional power sets in the relationship between Ryan Gosling and the alien. The friendship that develops throughout the film is unlike anything seen in mainstream science fiction for years, and viewers loved it. As of late March 2026, Project Hail Mary earned Amazon MGM's best debut, breaking the previous record set by *Creed III*, nevertheless taking the title of the largest opening weekend in 2026. Against

all odds, Phil Lord and Christopher Miller's attempt may have thrown the ultimate Hail Mary, and without any doubt, it has landed.

NO COMIC THIS MONTH



Artwork by Heidi Jang

The Journey of Voyager 1

by RIWON KIM

Did you know that something made by humans is now “one light-day” away from Earth? It sounds kind of amazing and unbelievable, but it is true. NASA's Voyager 1 just reached this point, and it is a very big moment.

First, we need to understand what “one light-day” means. Light is the fastest thing that can go around the Earth many times in just one second. So one light-day means the distance that light travels in one full day. That is about 26 billion kilometers, which is honestly really hard to imagine. Because of this distance, it now takes about 23 hours and 35 minutes for a signal from Voyager 1 to reach Earth. So if we send a message, we have to wait almost one whole day to get anything back, which feels very slow even though light is fast.

Voyager 1 started its journey in 1977. That is really long time ago, even before many of our parents were born. Now it is traveling in interstellar space, which is the space between stars. This area is very dark and also extremely cold. The spacecraft is moving very fast, around 38,000 miles per hour. It is hard to compare, but it is much faster than cars or airplanes.

What is even more surprising is that Voyager 1 is still working. It is almost 50 years old, but it still sends small amounts of data to NASA. This helps scientists learn more about the edge of our solar system. Also it carries something called the “Golden Record.” It has pictures of Earth, music, and greetings in different languages. Maybe in the future, something or someone could find it, which is kind of interesting to think about.

Voyager 1 is like an explorer, but in space instead of the ocean. It is the farthest object humans have ever sent. Even after many years, the spacecraft is still sending data back to Earth. This shows that human technology can last for a very long time. In the future, Voyager 1 will continue moving farther into space.

Why Is the Brain and the Universe So Similar?

by JIHOON CHOI

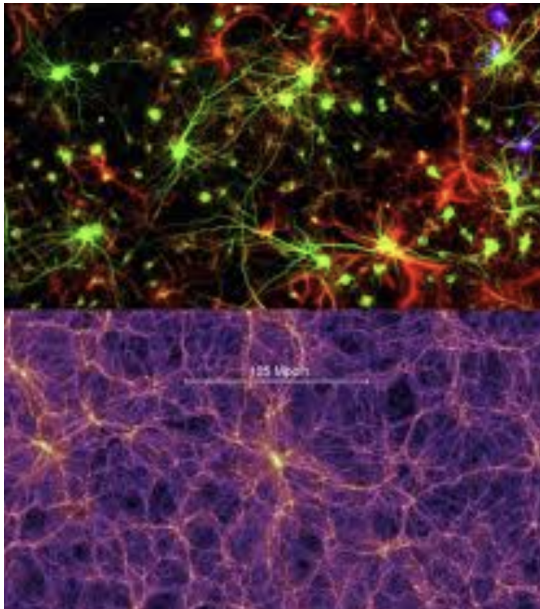


Image Source: Sci News

The human brain, containing over 86 billion neurons and 1 trillion synapses, is the most complex biological mechanism that exists in the universe. Its individual neurons stretch and form connections with other neurons, which grossly form the network that forms the brain. Compare this to the universe, where individual galaxies “connect” to other galaxies through dark matter and hydrogen, which make up the cosmic web. The similarity is evident. However, this is not coincidental.

One may observe the striking similarities between the two images depicting the brain (top) and the galaxy (bottom). This can be further analyzed through numbers. Both the brain and the universe contain 70% passive energy, fluid, and dark energy, respectively, while the rest are clusters of neurons or galaxies. The density of the nodes and the number of connections also show a similar trend when zooming in or out.

To explain this wonderment, discussing the Physarum polycephalum, also known as “the blob,” is necessary. The blob is a single-celled organism that, despite lacking neurons, displays intelligent behaviour. One of their most fascinating behaviors

is their ability to find efficient connections. For example, in a research where food was placed on a miniature map of Tokyo’s train stations, which are notorious for being highly complex, the path created by the blob closely matched that of the train routes established in Tokyo. Unsurprisingly, the blob on the map of the universe (with each galaxy marked with food) was able to mimic the cosmic web. This reveals the cosmic web’s ability to minimize the potential energy present between galaxies.

This fascinating fact underscores the universal law of nature: efficiently. “The blob” strives for efficiency when creating its patterns. Evolution tends towards efficiency. Our brain is wired to process efficiency. And even the universe follows this elegant law of life.

Book Review: *The Stranger* by Albert Camus

by LUKE SEO

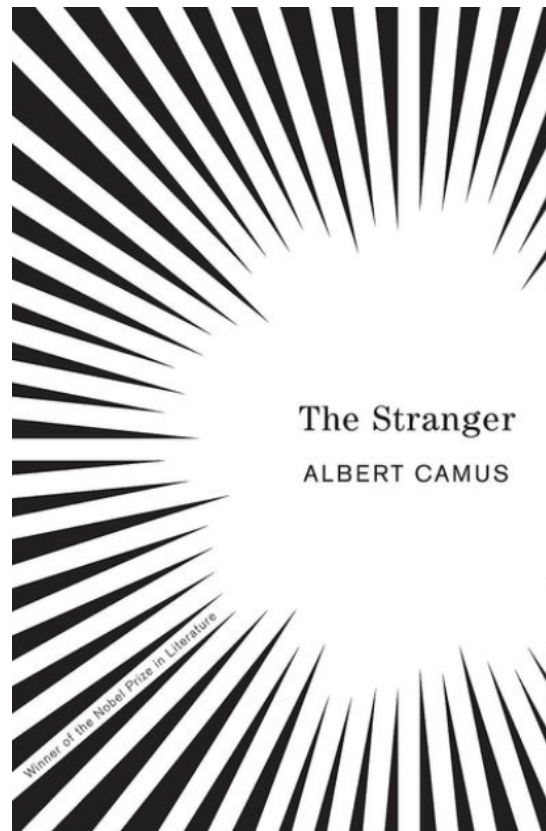


Image Source: 교보문고

“Maman died today, or maybe yesterday. I don’t know”. This opening line is the first sentence of *The Stranger* by Albert Camus, which is one of the most famous opening lines in the world. Camus introduced his ideology by expressing absurdity through *The Stranger*.

Albert Camus was born in 1913 in Algeria. His father died in World War 1, so Camus was raised by a deaf mother who was very poor. Thanks to Camus' elementary school teacher, he didn't give up on his studies and finally got into the University of Algiers. He studied philosophy in college. In 1942, with the publication of *The Stranger*, he was regarded as a worldwide writer. He kept developing his absurdity philosophy. Camus got the Nobel literature prize in 1957 and passed away in 1960 because of a car accident.

The Stranger starts with the death of Meursault's mother. Meursault, the main character of *The Stranger*, visited his mother's funeral. He felt neither sad nor tired at his mother's funeral. Soon after his mother's death, Meursault went to the beach and suddenly saw his former coworker, Marie. They talked with each other and became a couple. He also met the infamous neighbor Raymond, who had trouble with his lover. Meursault helped him and got close to him.

One day, Meursault went to the beach with Raymond. There was an Arab man who was related to Raymond's trouble before. Walking on the beach, Meursault encountered the Arab man. Strong sun, intense heat, and dazzling sunlight surrounded Meursault's body. Meursault felt extremely tired and unpleasant. Meursault instantly took out the pistol, impulsively shooting the man. Meursault was accused of killing the Arab man, and he went to court. In the court, Meursault was criticized by many for the reason he didn't express sadness in his mother's funeral more than killing a man. Meursault finally got the death sentence from the trial. Meursault was imprisoned, then suddenly a priest came to his room. The priest tried to persuade Meursault to believe in God so he could go to heaven. Meursault expressed deep anger toward a priest because all of society's parts force him to do "usual" behaviors. After his shouting, he felt stable and thought about life's absurdity. *The Stranger* ends up with Meursault's hope that people cry with the voice of hate when he dies.

Camus showed absurdity philosophy through *The Stranger*. He defined the word "Absurdity" as not having meaning. In the last part of *The Stranger*, Meursault shouted to the priest that all humans have the same endpoint called death, which is inevitable. During our lifetime, we do many behaviors like making relationships and accumulating knowledge. Camus said we are seeking meanings by our every behavior. However, the world tries to lose our meanings with a method called death. This paradoxical conflict between the world and humans is Absurdity, the main idea of Camus' philosophy.

Thus, *The Stranger* also criticized a uniform society. At first, Meursault was accused of killing a man. But, as the trial progressed, the prosecutor emphasized that Meursault didn't express sadness at his mother's funeral and met Marie the day after the funeral. Meursault is just honest and the man who focuses on the present. Meursault is judged not only for murdering but also for not following the expectations that society demands.

Though Camus claimed the world is full of absurdity, he also emphasized the importance of revolting against absurdity. In the last part of *The Stranger*, Meursault wasn't afraid of death, which shows us that Meursault finally accepted the absurdity

of the world. All humans die, but that's why every moment of life is valuable. Meursault realized this and was able to affirm life before he died. In this non-meaningful world, Meursault affirmed that life is meaningful. This paradox, which finds meaning in a meaningless world, is defined as accepting absurdity and revolting against it.

We can also apply Camus' absurdity philosophy in our daily life. Every time, we have our own goal. After reaching one goal, we find there is another goal that is further than before. We repeat this process again and again and finally realize that all of these goals disappear when we die, and this is a feeling of absurdity. But if we fully understand and accept absurdity, we are also able to utilize absurdity. As we accept absurdity fully, we know we are finding our meanings. If we set our goals every moment of life, we can create our own answers against absurdity. This is why Camus' message still matters today.
