

### Why are people talking about these stories?\*

A Nazi party game

Paranoia in American politics

Zadie Smith on who owns black pain

In praise of idleness

A fresh take on Thomas Merton

The internet and the new age of authoritarianism

Homicides among the elderly: mercy or malice?





\*See page one of the enclosed letter. PLUS: Look for your special offer from HARPER'S Magazine. Look inside to find your link to the past ... your window to the present ... and your gateway to the future.



John R. MacArthur, Publisher

> A Nazi party game

- > Paranoia in American politics
- > Zadie Smith on who owns black pain

These are just some of the most popular stories chosen by the readers of *HARPER'S Magazine* this year.

Now, you can get complete access to every word ever published by *HARPER'S Magazine* if you subscribe today ...

Dear Reader,

George Santayana, the novelist and philosopher, famously said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Looking at the world today, Santayana's observation is truer than ever. It seems that the past is repeating itself to a disturbing degree right before our eyes:



THEN: In 1939, on the eve of World War II, Nazism had become an ideology of hate for millions of people.

NOW: In 2017, the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia, were flooded by hundreds of hate-mongering bigots spewing anti-Semitic venom.

THEN: In 1965, more than 100 members of Congress opposed the Voting Rights Act.

<u>NOW:</u> In 2013, the Supreme Court gutted a key part of the legislation and stripped away hard-fought protections for citizens of color.

THEN: In September 1963, four African–American girls were killed in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham.

<u>NOW:</u> In June 2015, nine African–American parishioners were killed in the gun attack on the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston.

THEN: Before the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, abortion was outlawed in nearly every state in the United States.

<u>NOW</u>: In 2019, Alabama made abortion a felony again, joining a growing number of states passing punitive laws that criminalize a woman's right to choose.

Through all these milestones, one publication has borne witness to the best and worst ... the famous and infamous ... the celebrated and sinful in American and international culture.

HARPER'S Magazine.

In a moment, I'll tell you how you can subscribe to *HARPER'S Magazine* at over 85% off the regular annual cover price.

But first, why HARPER'S Magazine? Why now?

HARPER'S Magazine is the oldest general-interest monthly in America, rolling off the press for the

Over please ...

SAVE \$70.9<sup>°</sup>

OFF

ANNUAL COV

PRICE

first time in June 1850—10 years before the election of Abraham Lincoln! Since then, for over 169 years ... We've been these for readers through good and bad times!

... from the turmoil of the Civil War to the despair of the Great Depression of 1929 ... from the rise of authoritarian dictators in the 1930s to the growth of suburbs in the 1950s ... from the explosion of pop culture to the valiant struggles of civil rights activists and freedom riders in the 1960s ... from Watergate, the energy crisis, and the fall of Saigon in the 1970s to the *Challenger* disaster and Ronald Reagan's challenge to tear down the Berlin Wall in the 1980s ... from the tech boom of the 1990s to the September 11 attacks and the historic election of Barack Obama in the 2000s ... from the Black Lives Matter movement to the racist rhetoric of Donald Trump in the 2010s ...

... readers have turned to *HARPER'S Magazine* for independent reporting, incisive commentary, and fearless truth-telling.

#### Get every issue of HARPER'S Magazine ever published!

I believe you're the type of reader *HARPER'S Magazine* was made for. That's why I've put together a special offer for you. If you subscribe today, you'll get:

- > 12 monthly print issues of HARPER'S Magazine
- > The famous HARPER'S Index with snapshots of life in fun, fascinating figures
- > Long-form narrative journalism and essays on the pivotal people, issues, and topics of our day
- > Provocative, eye-opening reports from the fields of science in Findings
- > Excerpts from documents and voices gathered from all over the world in Readings
- > Short fiction from masters like Joyce Carol Oates to fresh, emerging voices like Adam O'Fallon Price
- > The opt-in Friday newsletter that puts the week's events into context with curated articles
- PLUS: Your subscription entitles you to full and complete access to the Online Archive: every issue of HARPER'S Magazine from June 1850 to the current issue, easily searchable and utterly fascinating. Every article, every story, every word—at your fingertips. This is time travel at its best.

A one-year subscription to *HARPER'S Magazine* is only \$12.97—a savings of over \$70 off the regular annual cover price. Just send back the Subscription Card in the postage-paid envelope. No need to send any money now—we'll bill you later.

Or, if you prefer to start your subscription in the next few minutes and get immediate access to the searchable archive, just go online to www.harpers.org.

HARPER'S Magazine is your link to the past ... your window to the present ... and your gateway to the future. I hope you'll join us.



HARPER'S Magazine

P.S. William Faulkner said, "The past is never dead. It's not even past." In that spirit, HARPER'S Magazine gives you historical context and illuminates your understanding of today's turbulent times in ways you don't find anywhere else. Save over \$70 off the regular annual cover price when you subscribe today.

Don't miss this!

your link to the past ... vindow to the present ... and gateway to the future

## HARPER'S Magazine



## … рээи по⁄ иэчТ

Madison Square Garden, NY, February 1939





## Sorried that history is repeating itself?

### Holding up a mirror to our times for 169 years

Readers have been relying on HARPER'S Magazine since June 1850 for stimulating takes in stories such as these:

John Muir on the living glaciers of California (November 1875) Winston Churchill with a plea for the American tradition (January 1916) H. G. Wells on the idea of a world encyclopedia (April 1937) Thurman Wesley Arnold on how not to get investigated (November 1948) Charles Schaeffer and Art Cosing on the perils of air pollution (October 1959) David Halberstam on the face of the enemy in Vietnam (February 1965) Seymour Hersh on the My Lai massacre (May 1970) Carlos Fuentes on the Monroe Doctrine (August 1981) Kurt Vonnegut on his relationship with technology (September 1996) Barry Graham on America's toughest sheriff (April 2001) Thomas Frank on the N.R.A. and Hollywood (March 2013) Sam Frank on the apocalyptic libertarians of Silicon Valley (January 2015) Gemma Sieff on looking for love in the age of Tinder (February 2016) Alexandra Starr on sexual abuse and the Olympics (November 2017) Abe Streep on a Syrian refugee family settling in Montana (June 2018) Ferris Jabr on the story of storytelling (March 2019)

Save \$70.91 off the annual cover price when you subscribe today.

#### HARPER'S Magazine 666 Broadway New York, NY 10012

# SEEKING THE TRUTH

### ABOUT YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

**S** ince the first issue was published in June 1850, *HARPER'S Magazine* helped readers make sense of the world with honesty, integrity, and a commitment to democratic values.

HARPER'S Magazine gives you context. Perspective. Clarity. HARPER'S Magazine seeks to inform, enlighten, and entertain readers on the issues and personalities shaping their lives and times.

In an age when our institutions and the rule of law are under attack ... when hate groups stoke racism, intolerance, misogyny, and bigotry ... when screaming heads on cable TV promote lies, conspiracy theories, and character assassination without shame ... when the dark forces of history seem to be repeating themselves ... HARPER'S Magazine delivers incisive, independent journalism that honors our past and informs our present.

Your subscription entitles you to:

#### Penetrating feature articles and essays

HARPER'S Magazine publishes some of the finest journalists and writers of the day. You'll find thought-provoking, engaging, deeply reported work that tackles the people, topics, and issues affecting your life.

> Recent stories have explored the military-industrial complex, the troubled legacy of Julian Assange, and a community with little money that has found paradise living in abandoned boats off the coast of Sausalito.

#### **Online Archive with every issue**

You'll get full access to every issue of *HARPER'S Magazine* from June 1850 to the current edition. Every story, every article, every word in an indexed, easy-to-search archive. A fun and fascinating way to stay connected to the past and gain a clearer understanding of the present.

How's this for relevance: A piece on fake news from October 1925 by Edward McKernon and an essay on privacy from July 1955 by William Faulkner.

#### The HARPER'S Index

Perhaps the most well-known feature of the magazine, the *HARPER'S* Index serves up a heaping slice of life through offbeat, surprising, irresistible figures and stats.

Here's one: The number of states that allow roadkill to be salvaged for food: 31

#### A worldwide sampling of sources

In Readings, you'll get excerpts and short takes on everything from accounts of nonsexual orgasms from the *International Journal of Sexual Health* to a radio interview with psychic Uri Geller to public apologies by U.S. politicians and hear from voices that will have you shouting, "I didn't know that!"

#### Breakthroughs in science

In Findings, you'll get a one-page summary of the weird and wonderful, unusual and unbelievable discoveries, experiments, studies, and results from the frontiers of science—delivered in a deadpan style.

> Here's one: People have better working memory if, in their native language, meanings remain, until the end of the sentence, unclear.

#### Gripping, evocative short fiction

Take a break from the headlines and political battles and escape into the proverbially good story, rendered by grand masters and rising stars in the literary firmament, such as Robert Tindall · Joyce Carol Oates · John Barth · Lucinda Rosenfeld · Rick Moody · Alice Munro · Bob Shacochis · Heidi Julavits · Paul Yoon · and a galaxy of others.

#### Discerning arts coverage

Esteemed critics and guest reviewers wade through a plethora of media choices to steer you to noteworthy films, books, art exhibits, TV shows, and cultural events.

#### SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER

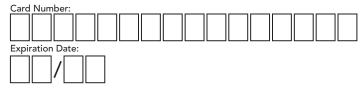
Get HARPER'S Magazine at a dramatic discount when you subscribe today

j St	art my subscription to HARPER'S Mag	gazine.
	l pay only \$12.97—a savings of \$70.91	
	r price. If I'm ever unhappy with the m	
can cancel and get	a refund on the balance of my subscri	ption.

#### Bill me later.

**I'll pay now.** Check made payable to HARPER'S Magazine.

Bill my: UISA MasterCard American Express



DETACH

**Start your subscription benefits right now.** Go to www.harpers.org and enter code **XXXX**.

#### MAGAZINE

SAMPLE A. SAMPLE **123 ANY STREET** ANY CITY, USA 12345-6789 

12 monthly print issues

Independent coverage of current events, politics, history, culture, science, and the arts

Fun, revealing view of the world in the *HARPER'S* Index

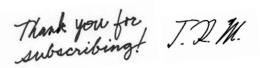
Award-winning short- and long-form journalism and essays

Fiction from old masters and rising stars

Unrestricted access to every issue ever published in the easy-to-search Online Archive Weekly opt-in e-newsletter that puts events in context

Breathtaking photo essays

Anytime/anywhere access to HARPER'S Magazine on any digital device



#### NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

### **BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 237 RED OAK, IA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

#### HARPER'S MAGAZINE

SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT PO BOX 6246 HARLAN, IA 51593-5746

<u>իսիս իկլոս իստոս վիսինին հսորդիսինիս հերկինը</u>ներու իստոլինինը։