

STORIES BY ABE KENMORE
GRAPHIC BY ALICIA HANCHOCK

Kiev, Ukraine

This Friday marks the one-year anniversary of the Euromaidan movement, which started in the center of Kiev and resulted in the ousting of Prime Minister Yanukovich. The past year has seen not only a new Ukrainian government, but the annexing of Crimea by Russia, the downing of flight MH17, and the recent war between pro-Russian separatists in the east and the Ukrainian government in the west. Russian President Putin was heavily criticized at the recent G20 summit meeting for his aid to the eastern rebels and left the meeting early.

Buffalo, New York

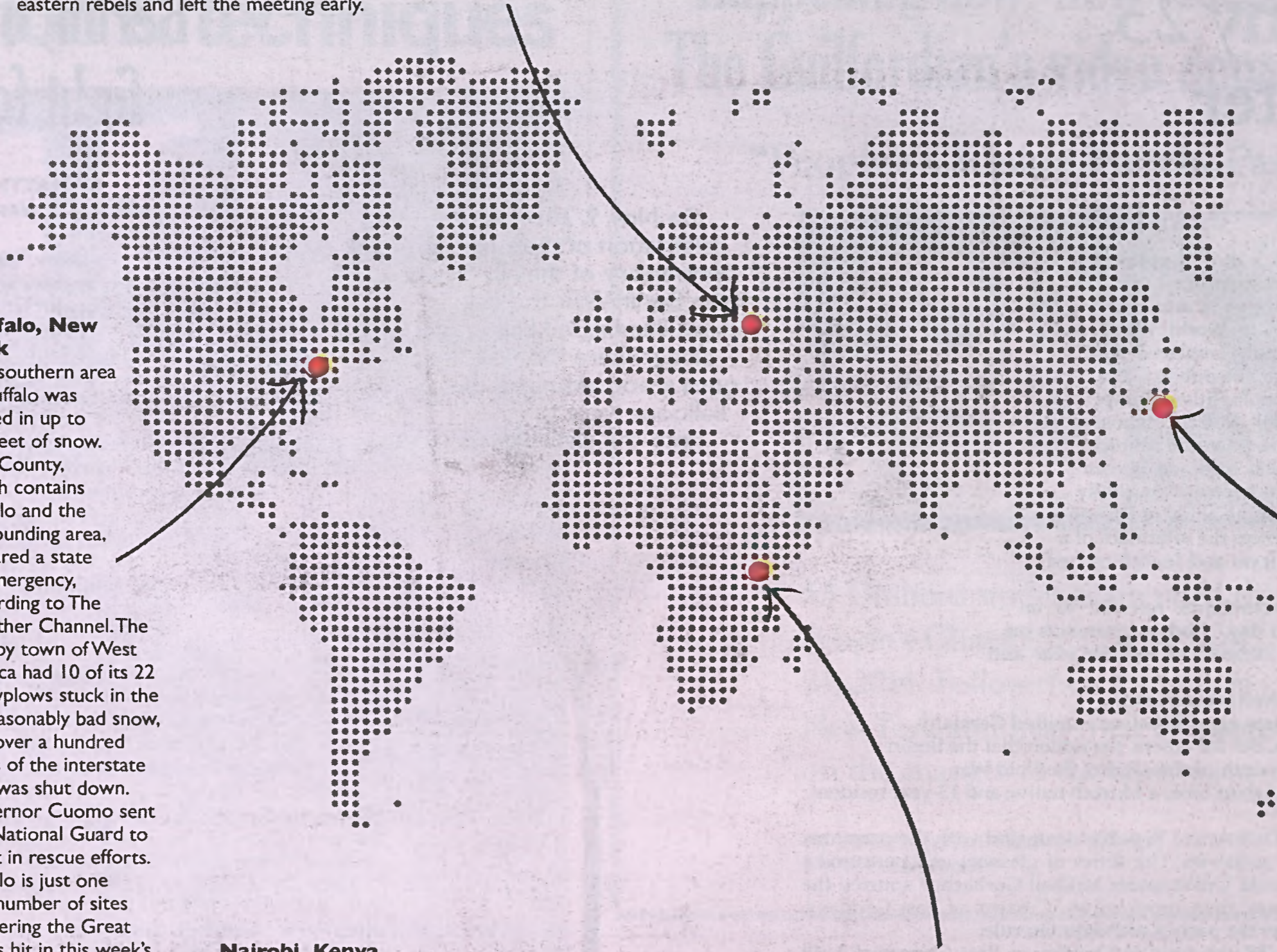
The southern area of Buffalo was buried in up to five feet of snow. Erie County, which contains Buffalo and the surrounding area, declared a state of emergency, according to The Weather Channel. The nearby town of West Seneca had 10 of its 22 snowplows stuck in the unseasonably bad snow, and over a hundred miles of the interstate I-90 was shut down. Governor Cuomo sent the National Guard to assist in rescue efforts. Buffalo is just one of a number of sites bordering the Great Lakes hit in this week's cold front.

Nairobi, Kenya

A woman was assaulted and stripped naked for appearing "indecent" in Kenya's capital on Monday, according to The Guardian. She was rescued by patrolling police and taken to a hospital for treatment. The police have arrested about 100 people in connection to the assault. The attack occurred shortly after a protest against a spate of similar attacks. Almost 1,000 people, both men and women, had marched in the protest. Such an outcry is relatively rare, as most sexual assault in Kenya goes un-prosecuted.

Tokyo, Japan

Prime Minister Abe has announced a December election, two years ahead of schedule, according to the BBC. He has been pushing his system of economic reform and government spending, known as Abenomics, and claims that this vote is his way of requesting a mandate for his bold reforms. Abe's popularity has been slipping recently, and some see this election as a way to lock in his position as PM for the next four years now, rather than waiting until 2016 and losing in a possibly much more difficult election.



Two-state solution seems unlikely, Israel offers new plan

BY REESE SETZER
STAFF WRITER

Increasingly, people are questioning the feasibility of the two-state solution between the Israelis and Palestinians.

"Israel has already claimed about 60 percent of the occupied West Bank," said Friends Center Director Max Carter. "Because of this alone, it is not possible to have a two-state solution."

According to Israeli Minister of Economy Naftali Bennett, the time has come to rethink this solution. In fact, Bennett has proposed his own four-part plan.

The first part is an upgrade to the Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank, mostly in areas under Palestinian control. The second is an upgrade of roads and infrastructure, including the removal of roadblocks and checkpoints throughout the West Bank.

The third is to build a metaphorical 'economic bridge of peace' between Israelis and Palestinians in the hope that they could work together in pursuit of economic prosperity.

The final step would see Palestinians who live in an area controlled by Israel, under the Oslo agreement, offered full Israeli citizenship. By targeting just this area, Bennett feels it will make it easier to reach a long-term agreement in the future with Palestinian residents.

Unfortunately, many Palestinians believe this proposal will not go over well.

"Underneath all the glitz and glamour of this proposal's supposed goodwill towards the Palestinians, it still maintains apartheid and occupation, albeit in a different guise," said Associate Professor and Chair of English



Israeli Minister of Economy **Naftali Bennett** has proposed his own plan for a 'two-state solution' but refers to Arab communities as 'fortresses of terror'.

Diya Abdo in an email interview. "This guise makes the proposal very dangerous because when the Palestinians challenge this seemingly generous offer, they will be blamed for not wanting peace, and this will justify further attacks on the Palestinian population."

This thinking is shared by many Palestinians who see this plan as a way for Israel to take advantage of them and as a way for Bennett to draw people's attention away from the main problems.

"(Bennett) describes Arab communities as 'fortresses of terror'

and reiterates the sentiment that the Palestinians and surrounding Arab nations need to wake up and agree to be peaceful," said Student Success Mentor Faris El-Ali '14. "This ignores the root of the conflict. In short, Israel forcibly took control of historical Palestine, murdering and displacing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and their families."

Other Palestinians see this plan as a way for the Israeli Government to expand their settlements.

"(Bennett's) quest for a new solution is not because of his

advocacy for equal rights and justice for Palestinians," says senior Walid Mosarsaa in an email interview. "It is because of the commitment to the expansion of settlements and further entrenchment of the apartheid government of Israel."

From the Israeli perspective, there does not appear to be much hope for a solution.

"I can't speak for the Israeli public, but my sense is that there has been a shift to the 'right' in Israel," said Carter. "Although the public is not on average as far-right as Bennett, there is a general

pessimism about a long-term peace."

Israeli journalist Gideon Levy, who has been criticized by the Israeli public for being anti-Israeli and supportive of Palestinian radicalism, has his own opinion on Bennett and the proposal.

In an article published by Haaretz, Levy states, "With Bennett, both the world will know and Israelis will know what his goals are; with him Israel will no longer wear its lying, false, pretty face, which has allowed it to continue its policies. That's why I'm for him."

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