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Xinhua Insight: President Xi's five years



**Inside C2** 

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## IEA sees U.S. oil output surge stealing OPEC share in next five years

HOUSTON/LONDON (Reuters) -U.S. shale oil output is set to surge over the next five years, stealing market share from OPEC producers and moving the United States, once the world's top oil importer, closer to self sufficiency, the International Energy Agency said on Monday. A landmark deal in 2017 between OPEC and rivals including Russia to curb output to reduce global oversupply improved the outlook for other producers as prices rose sharply throughout the year, the IEA said in Oil 2018, an annual report looking at the next five years.

With U.S. supply surging, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries will see demand for its crude fall below current production in 2019 and 2020, the report forecast, suggesting a return to oversupply if OPEC output keeps steady. U.S. oil output hit a record late last year, and is expected to rise by 2.7 million barrels per day (bpd) to 12.1 million bpd by 2023, as growth from shale fields more than offsets declines in conventional supply. Last year, the IEA forecast U.S. shale production to grow by 1.4 million bpd by 2022 with oil prices

of up to \$60 a barrel and by up to 3 million barrels with oil at \$80 a barrel.

Natural gas liquids will add another 1 million bpd to U.S. supply to reach 4.7 million bpd by 2023.

"The United States is set to put its stamp on global oil markets for the next five years," said Fatih Birol, the IEA's executive director, in a statement.

Birol, speaking at a media briefing at the CERAWeek energy conference in Houston, said U.S. output forecasts could be revised upward if oil remains above \$60 a barrel. He said he expects shale output to

keep rising, regardless of OPEC policies, and said OPEC and other established oil producers need to reconsider their future growth plans in light of 'huge growth' from U.S.

He also said he expects U.S. export capacity to double over the next five

With total U.S. liquids production set to reach nearly 17 million bpd in 2023, up from 13.2 million in 2017, the United States will be by far the world's top oil liquids producer.



Apump jack is seen at sunset near Midland, Texas, U.S., on May 3, 2017. Picture taken May 3, 2017. REUTERS/Ernest Scheyder Oil production growth from the United States, Brazil, Canada and Norway will more than meet global oil demand growth through 2020, the IEA said, adding that more investment would be needed to boost output after that. Non-OPEC production is set to rise by 5.2 million bpd by 2023 to 63.3 million bpd with the United

States alone accounting for nearly 60 percent of global supply growth.

Production in 2017 rose by 670,000 bpd as drillers added 200 rigs, "beating all expectations", the IEA said.

# Trump says he may travel to Israel for embassy move; Netanyahu calls out Iran on Middle East peace, prompting Trump to delay the rol

WASHINGTON/JERUSALEM (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday he might travel to Israel for the opening of the U.S. embassy there as he and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented a united front against Iran in White House talks. Trump's decision for the United States to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the embassy there from Tel Aviv reversed decades of U.S. policy, aggravated Arab allies and has complicated his administration's attempt to revive long-stalled Middle East peace talks.

Trump, with Netanyahu at his side in the Oval Office, said he was considering making what would be his second visit to Jerusalem as president. The opening of the U.S. embassy is planned for May.

"We're looking at coming," Trump said. "If I can, I will."

Mired in corruption investigations threatening his political survival, Netanyahu - questioned at his home by police on Friday - stepped into a different spotlight during his five-day U.S. visit.

Trump's push to change or scrap Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers and concerns over Tehran's foothold in Syria topped the agenda of his talks with Netanyahu, U.S. and Israeli officials said.

Both leaders have long railed against the deal, citing

ballistic missile program or its support for anti-Israel militants in the region.

"If I had to say what is our greatest challenge in the Middle East to both our countries, to our Arab neighbors, it's encapsulated in one word: Iran," Netanyahu said."Iran must be stopped. That is our common challenge."

Trump has threatened to pull out of the agreement unless European allies help"fix" it with a follow-up accord. An Israeli official said Netanyahu and Trump were likely to talk about how to overcome European resistance on the matter.

Israel has accused Tehran of seeking a permanent military presence in Syria, where Iranian-backed forces support Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in a civil war.

U.S. President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump (R) welcome Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (2nd L) and Mrs. Netanyahu (L) at the White House in Washington, U.S., March 5, 2018. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque

Netanyahu has also cautioned that Israel could act against Iran itself after an Iranian drone flew into Israel last month and an Israeli warplane was shot down while bombing air defenses in Syria. He has accused Iran of planning to build precision-guided missile factories in Lebanon, amid tensions along that border. [L8N1Q809R]

Trump suggested that the Palestinians are eager to return to negotiations and said if they do not, "you don't have peace." Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, angered by Trump's Jerusalem move, has refused to engage with the United States on Middle East peace, prompting Trump to delay the rollout of peace proposals.

Participating in the talks was Trump's senior adviser and sonin-law, Jared Kushner, who has been on the defensive amid investigations into alleged meddling by Russia in the 2016 presidential campaign.

Some analysts believe Kushner's ability to run the Middle East initiative has been handicapped by his loss of access to certain valued U.S. intelligence because of a White House clampdown on access to such secrets for those without full security clearance.

No major announcements or breakthroughs were expected from Trump's talks with Netanyahu, whose relationship with the president has been among the closest of any other world leader. Security clearance downgrade did not affect Kushner's Mideast role: White House

Trump says may visit Israel for embassy opening Trump says may visit Israel for embassy opening

"This is a routine check-in meeting," one U.S. official said of Netanyahu's second visit to the Trump White House.

For Netanyahu, however, the Oval Office meeting and address to the pro-Israel lobby group AIPAC on Tuesday offer a respite from his legal troubles.

Netanyahu awaits a decision by Israel's attorney general on whether to indict him, as police have recommended in two bribery cases. Netanyahu denies any wrongdoing.

U.S. officials have said the cases are not expected to affect Netanyahu's talks, which include meetings with members of Congress.on the task of overhauling the accord.



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### **World NEWS**

### Xinhua Insight: President Xi's five years

by Xinhua writers Xu Lingui, Huang Xiaoxi, Meng Na, Li Zhihui



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, who is also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, meets with delegates, specially invited delegates and non-voting participants of the 19th CPC National Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, Oct. 25, 2017. (Xinhua/Lan Hongguang)

BEIJING, March 4 (Xinhua) -- The imposing Great Hall of the People, in the center of Beijing, bears witness to China's democratic politics.

In 2013, inside its magnificent auditorium, Xi Jinping was elected

president of the People's Republic of China by nearly 3,000 deputies to the National People's Congress (NPC). This month when the congress convenes, deputies are expected to once again elect a president.

Xi took over the presidency at a time when public concerns were common about corruption, the wealth gap and pollution. After being elected, Xi said, "In face of the mighty trend of the times and earnest expectations of the people for a better life, we cannot have the slightest complacency, or get the slightest bit slack at work."

He expounded his vision of a Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation to be made true by and for the people.

Five years on, China has made historic achievements. The Chinese are much more optimistic.

much more optimistic.

Zheng Changzhong, a political science professor with Fudan Univer-

sity, said he would give the leadership a high approval rating.

"Not only did China achieve steady development, we have also created a model to advance human civilization," Zheng said. "Behind these achievements, Xi Jinping played his vital leading role as a lingxiu (charismatic leader)."

Re-elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee last October, Xi said the Chinese nation, which since modern times had endured so much for so long, achieved a tremendous transformation: it has stood up, grown rich and is becoming strong.

COMING CLOSER TO CHINESE DREAM

There is no better way for the ordinary people to feel that strength than having a fuller pocket.

Under Xi's leadership, the Chinese economy kept growing steadily over the past five years. The year 2017 ended on a strong footing, with an annual 6.9 percent growth rate.

The size of the economy expanded to more than 82 trillion yuan (13 trillion U.S. dollars) from 54 trillion yuan, retaining its place as the second largest in the world.

China's per capita disposable income stood at 25,974 yuan last year, up 7.3 percent year-on-year in real terms. Residents saw their salaries

rising steadily over the past five years.

Liu He, a prominent figure in Xi's economic team, revealed at the 2018 World Economic Forum that China's middle-income population had reached 400 million and was still growing.

The poor are getting rich much faster.

Experts expect the country's 282-million-strong migrant workers to become a major force to make into the middle-income group.

Zou Bin, 23, is one of the young migrants who have witnessed the change over the past five years.

past five years.

Zou started out young, laying bricks at a construction site in Hunan Province upon leaving high school. He took his job seriously and worked hard.

In 2015, Zou was already top of his trade and represented China in a global vocational skills championship. He also earned himself a place in the Fortune 500 firm China Construction Group, receiving higher pay and leading a team of his own.

This year, Zou even made it to the Great Hall of the People as an NPC deputy. To give hard-working people like Zou what they deserve, Xi took bold reforms to grow the economy and let wealth be distributed more fairly. These were not achieved by cranking up money printers but through a series of reforms.

Xi took the helm of the Central Leading Group for Deepening Overall Reform. More than 1,500 reform measures have been introduced by the central authorities: supply-side structural reform to balance the economy, cutting government red tape and bureaucracy to encourage medium-and-small businesses, and the opening of free trade zones across the country.

Over the past five years, 66 million urban jobs -- a number comparable to the British population -- were created.

To balance income, China cut perks and benefits for officials and limited state firm bosses' pay. On the other hand, workers and professionals received higher salaries, while old-age and health care pensions improved.

Xi made a solemn promise on poverty reduction, with an ambition to eliminate poverty in all poor counties and regions by 2020.

And the country is getting there.

More than 68.5 million people had been lifted out of poverty over the past five years. That means 37,000 people escaped poverty every single day. Xi vowed that "no one should be left behind."

To fulfill this mission, Party and government officials took turns to stay in poor villages. They helped craft out individualized poverty reduction plans for every family and

lages. They helped craft out individualized poverty reduction plans for every family and worked with them to achieve their goal.

Jiang Fu'an was one such cadre. In 2015, Jiang, then a prefecture government auditor,

arrived at a remote mountainous village in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province. He walked door to door to visit each of the more than a hundred poor households.

With his help, dozens of poor children got education near their home. But in 2016, before finishing his stint, Jiang collapsed on the job and died. He was just 26 years old.

The village was in grief. Jiang was remembered for sacrificing his life for a great cause. Liangshan, with its stubborn poverty, is a concern for Xi. Ahead of the 2018 Lunar New Year, he chose here for his inspection tour, visiting homes of the poor Yi ethnic villagers and pledging to "banish" the ghost of poverty. "Our socialist system is to let people of all ethnic groups live a great life," Xi said.William Jones, Washington bureau chief of the Executive Intelligence Review news magazine, said ending poverty had long been regarded a major task for humanity, but until recently was seen as a "utopian dream."

"With China, that dream is now becoming a reality," he said.

Xi also waged a war on pollution.

When he began the presidency, ecological degradation had become a major challenge facing humanity. Xi attended the Paris climate summit and a few months later China signed the Paris Agreement.Beijing, plagued by persistent smog, has been at the center of the struggle since the State Council launched a national air pollution control campaign in 2013.

Last year, Beijingers shelved their face masks as the number of "severely polluted" days dropped to just 23, compared with 58 in 2013. The municipal authorities said that for nine months in 2017, the PM 2.5 levels lingered around the lowest point in five years. Across the country, the average density of PM 2.5 in 338 cities was 43 micrograms per cubic meters, falling 6.5 percent year on year.

Progress was also made in the protection of water and soil resources.

China also began to set up national parks. At least 10 are in trial operation. A Giant Panda National Park, spanning three provinces, is three times the size of America's Yellowstone National Park.

Environmental protection features prominently in Xi's five-sphere integrated plan to promote coordinated economic, political, cultural, social and ecological advancement. The Party's leadership over all work is vital to turning plans into action, observers said. Also "cleaner" is the public office as Xi declared war on another age-old human cancer: corruption.In 2013, Xi described corruption as an existential threat -- capable of bringing down the Party and the state. And he was serious about it.

The ensuing crackdown achieved spectacular success. Every corner of the system was examined, leading to punishment of more than 1.5 million officials in five years. A total of 440 centrally-administrated officials had been investigated since November 2012, according to figures in the work report of the 18th Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the CPC. Sun Zhengcai, a former member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and former Party chief of Chongqing, was the latest senior official to be charged for graft.

Other "tigers" brought down include Zhou Yongkang, Bo Xilai, Guo Boxiong, Xu Caihou, Ling Jihua.

The campaign continued after the 19th CPC National Congress last October, with the Party's disciplinary watchdog having announced investigation into nine other senior officials -- including former State Councilor Yang Jing -- in a little more than 100 days since then.

Corrupt low ranking officials -- referred to as flies -- were swatted too. The anti-corruption drive was immensely popular. A public opinion poll showed an approval rating of a whopping 93.9 percent.

To install institutional checks, Xi initiated the supervisory reform. Supervision commissions were set up at the provincial, municipal and county levels just in four months after the 19th CPC National Congress. The reform aims to bring everyone in public office under oversight.

Jiao Hongchang, a law professor at China University of Political Science and Law, said the reform will help lock power in the "cage of institutions."

These moves denounce the hype of "power struggle" drummed up by people overseas attempting to smudge China's anti-corruption campaign. SHARING OPPORTUNITIES

Two action films recently rose to stardom of China's film industry.

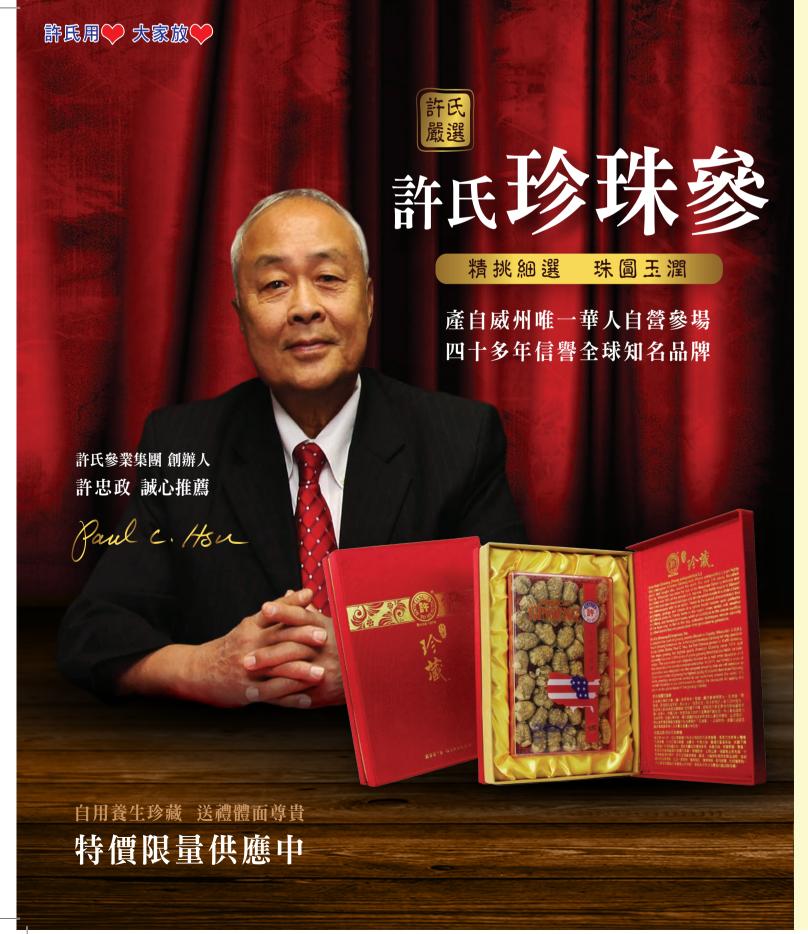
The plots of "Wolf Warrior 2" and "Operation Red Sea" were similar: Chinese soldiers fighting hard in fictional war-torn Africa or the Middle East to rescue Chinese citizens and their downtrodden local friends.

However, the plots were not pure fiction. In 2015, as war flared in Yemen, the People's Liberation Army Navy was ordered to repatriate Chinese citizens there. More than 600 Chinese nationals and 200 foreigners were evacuated just in days.

"Wolf Warrior 2" was the country's highest-grossing film ever. It ended with a picture of the Chinese passport with a line: "To Chinese nationals, when you run into danger overseas, don't give up! Behind you, there is a strong motherland!"

Across cinemas, audiences went wild, giving standing ovations, singing the national anthem, and many were even brought to tears. Such was the power of the film.

Indeed, traveling with a Chinese passport is easier than ever before. More than 65 countries and regions have scrapped pre-travel visa requirements for Chinese passport holders. Chinese travelers made more than 100 million overseas trips every year in recent years. Companies were eager to do business abroad as well. Last year, Chinese invested 120 billion U.S. dollars in 6,236 enterprises in 174 countries and regions, providing jobs and stable salaries to locals.



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### A Snapshot Of The World



FILE PHOTO: Flames emerge from flare stacks at the oil fields in Kirkuk



Worker cleans the site where the Trump name was removed from the Trump Ocean Club International Hotel and Tower in Panama City



2018 Vanity Fair Oscar Party - Arrivals - Beverly Hills



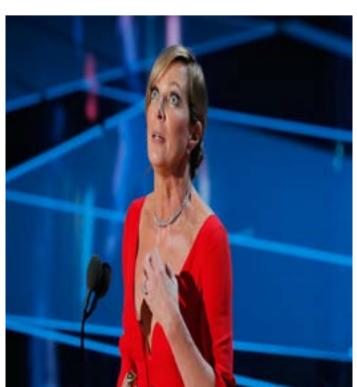
An official of India's CBI escorts men suspected of steering fraudulent loans to companies linked to billionaire jeweller Niray Modi outside a court in Mumbai



90th Academy Awards - Oscars Backstage - Hollywood



A model presents a creation by British designer Stella McCartney, during her Autumn/Winter 2018-2019 women's ready-to-wear collection show, at Fashion Week in Paris



90th Academy Awards - Oscars Show - Hollywood



90th Academy Awards - Oscars Show - Hollywood, California, U.S., 04/03/2018 - Meryl Streep congratulates Frances McDormand on winning the Best Actress Oscar for Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.



90th Academy Awards - Oscars Backstage - Hollywood



#### COMMUNITY

A rural school district has joined nearly 200 other Texas school districts in arming their employees to protect students under a "Guardian" program.

Last Monday, the Fayetteville Independent School District announced its new safety plan. Signs went up that read: "Please be aware that the staff at Fayetteville ISD may be armed and will use whatever force is necessary to protect our children."

The school district, which claims less than 250 enrolled students, houses all grades K-12 on one campus. Fayetteville is situated almost halfway between Austin and Houston and is so tiny it does not have a local police force, only a county sheriff. It also does not employ school resource officers.

In a letter to Fayetteville families, Superintendent Jeff Harvey wrote that, in light of the many recent events, schools are "being forced to prepare for the unthinkable — the potential of a school shooting." Harvey cited the Parkland, Florida, massacre but also clarified their Guardian program was already in the works. In fact, Fayetteville ISD school board records show trustees discussed this issue at their January 15, 2018, meeting. They changed local board policy allowing them to implement the program.



became a discussion at our school board about eight-and-a-half months ago," said Harvey. He told KVUE: "We came back in January, put it up as an action item and the board agreed to unanimously begin our 'Guardian' program." In his letter, Harvey noted that these guardians, undisclosed staff members who volunteer for the program, will have "the right to carry a concealed handgun on school grounds." He emphasized that these "hand-selected" school board approved guardians must hold a License

board approved guardians must hold a License to Carry (LTC) permit and undergo rigorous vetting. They must pass a series of requirements including police grade psychological testing, qualify annually with the specific handgun they carry, comply with and pass random drug testing, and be trained in tactics that deny intruder entry into a classroom or facility.

"So, may you carry a concealed handgun or open carry?", wrote Harvey, who made clear that other than approved guardians, Fayetteville ISD will remain a gun free zone. "No. No students, parents, nor most staff will be allowed to carry. Only those who have met all the requirements will be allowed to carry."

The superintendent also told KVUE the goal of the program was not to create vigilante teachers. He called the guardians "a protection for each and every student in this school district." Fayetteville ISD intends to utilize guardians as back up to their normal lockdown procedure. He said this will empower certain teachers and staff to fight back in a worst-case situation.

## **Another Texas School District Arms Employees To 'Protect Our Children'**

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern News Editor



Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

"We have numerous folks on staff that have military backgrounds." Harvey said: "Everyone here believes in that sense of protectiveness of their kids. Each one of these kids is ours. We treat them like they're our own and we want to make sure we're prepared to do whatever it takes to protect them."

Breitbart Texas reported that Harrold ISD was the state's first school district to institute the Guardian program in 2007. It permits trained and approved school personnel with a Texas Concealed Handgun License (CHL) to carry a weapon on campus to protect students. The Guardian program is authorized under Texas Government Code 411.1901. This program appeals to small, rural school districts that do not have a police force or are not close to local law enforcement. A similar Marshal plan w as the result of the 2013 Protection of Texas Children Act. It allows concealed handguns on otherwise "gun free" public school campuses; however, the Marshal program does not apply to schools with less than 400 students.

KVUE spoke to several parents, all of whom agreed with arming campus guardians. One mother said: "This is the only campus. We're

really small. So when we call 9-1-1...we're not going to have the law enforcement that we need here in five minutes."

Conversely, the Texas American Federation of Teachers (AFT), a chapter of the second largest teachers union in the nation, the American Federation of Teachers, opposes Guardian and Marshal programs. (Courtesy http://www.bre-itbart.com/texas)

**Related** 

Arming Teachers Unsettling To Some Minorities

The latest school safety proposals have been met with fear in black and brown communities

The recent school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School has renewed the debate about high national rates of gun violence and what to do about it. But as the debate has settled along the typical partisan divisions, one idea has emerged: Arming teachers could make schools safer.



"If you had a teacher who was adept with the firearm, they could end the attack very quickly," President Trump said during a February 21 listening session with students and parents affected by school shootings. He also proposed paying armed teachers "a little bit of a bonus."

Shifting the conversation away from gun control to focus on arming teachers and staff is arguably a distraction from confronting the causes of school shootings and gun violence. "In any other country in the world, the idea of arming teachers with guns in classrooms to protect children would be seen as the policy equivalent to random screaming," Vox's German Lopez wrote recently. "Yet in the United States, it's an idea that now has support."

Tweet From President Trump



Donald J. Trump

Armed Educators (and trusted people who work within a school) love our students and will protect them. Very smart people. Must be firearms adept & have annual training. Should get yearly bonus. Shootings will not happen again a big & very inexpensive deterrent. Up to States.

12:54 PM - Feb 24, 2018

Still, allowing teachers and other school employees to carry guns in schools isn't entirely new —several school districts in Texas, for example, already allow teachers with concealed carry permits to bring guns into schools, and similar policies have been considered or implemented in school districts in Ohio, Indiana, and California in recent years. But legislation is currently under consideration in states like Florida, Tennessee, and in a school district in Kentucky, raising a discussion about how arming teachers could actually play out in America's classrooms, especially for teachers and students of color.



"It's another layer to the conversation about how racialized the debate around gun violence can be," the Washington Post's Eugene Scott noted last week. "The current conversation about school safety appears to have more black Americans drawing attention to the consequences arming teachers could have in schools where implicit biases exist."

There's a broader issue magnified by the intensity of reactions to the Parkland shooting: When it comes to gun violence, race and the unique needs of communities of color are still

being overlooked in the national conversa-

For teachers of color, arming themselves could come with risk

The concerns that come with arming teachers are twofold. First, how would such a measure affect black students, a group that is already much more likely to face disproportionately harsh discipline in schools? And second, how would it affect teachers of color, especially black teachers, given the rates of black men and women wounded or killed in officer-involved shootings?

There's isn't any data out there that gives a clear picture of how people of color would be affected by arming teachers. But given broader trends, it is possible to make some reasonable guesses.



Teachers have been signing up for gun classes across the country.

For example, research from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, has shown that when participants were asked are asked to offer split-second reactions to images of weapons or tools after being shown a black or white face, people identify a weapon faster when shown a black face first.

A 2005 University of Colorado study, replicating an experiment that has been conducted by other researchers, found that forcing subjects to react in a split-second to a potentially armed person meant participants would move to shoot armed black individuals faster and more often than armed whites and take more time to determine to not shoot an unarmed black person than an unarmed white person.

These examples, and others, suggest that race influences how people identify the presence of a weapon, even if said weapon isn't actually there. In a scenario involving an armed teacher of color, these factors would likely be at play: A teacher could, in a split second, look like a shooter, instead of a protector of the students in their care.

When discussing how arming teachers could affect educators of color, many have noted the case of Philando Castile, a Minnesota school cafeteria worker and licensed gun owner who was shot and killed by a police officer during a police stop in July 2016. The officer said that he shot Castile, who had already informed the officer that he was carrying a legal weapon, because he believed Castile was reaching for his gun.

Teachers of color have expressed concern that instances like this, or ones where they would be mistaken for an active shooter, would only become more likely if they carried a weapon inside schools.

It isn't wrong to want schools and classrooms to be safe for students. But it requires an acknowledgement that for many students, schools have never been safe. (Courtesy https://www.vox.com/identities/





#### **BUSINESS**

The deadly school shooting this month in Parkland, Florida, has ignited national outrage and calls for action on gun reform. But while certain policies may help decrease gun violence in general, it's unlikely that any of them will prevent mass school shootings, according to James Alan Fox, the Lipman Family Professor of Criminology, Law, and

Since 1996, there have been 16 multiple victim shootings in schools, or incidents involving 4 or more victims and at least 2 deaths by firearms, excluding the assailant.

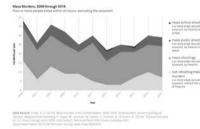
Of these, 8 are mass shootings, or inci-



dents involving 4 or more deaths, excluding the assailant.

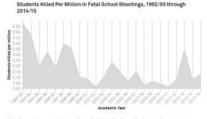
#### "This is not an epidemic"

Mass school shootings are incredibly rare events. In research publishing later this year, Fox and doctoral student Emma Fridel found that on average, mass murders occur between 20 and 30



times per year, and about one of those incidents on average takes place at a

Fridel and Fox used data collected by USA Today, the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Report, Congressional Research Service, Gun Violence Archive, Stanford Geospatial Center and Stan-



Public Policy at Northeastern.

School Shootings Are Not More Common Than They Used To Be **Research Shows Schools Are** Safer Than They Were In The 90s

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



ford Libraries, Mother Jones, Everytown for Gun Safety, and a NYPD report on active shooters.

Their research also finds that shooting incidents involving students have been

declining since the 1990s. Four times the number of children were killed in schools in the early 1990s than today, Fox said.

"There is not an epidemic of school ol Shootings and Mass Shootings, 1992/93 through 2014/15

shootings," he said, adding that more kids are killed each year from pool drownings or bicycle accidents. There are around 55 million school children in the United States, and on average over the past 25 years, about 10 students per year were killed by gunfire at school, according to Fox and Fridel's research. Fox said, however, some policy changes aimed at decreasing school shootings

and gun violence in general certainly have merit. Banning bump stocks and raising the age of purchase for assault rifles from 18 to 21 are good ideas, and may lead to a decrease in overall gun violence, he said. But he doesn't believe these measures will prevent school shootings. "The thing to remember is that these are extremely rare events, and no matter what you can come up with to prevent it, the shooter will have a workaround," Fox said, adding that over the past 35 years, there have been only five cases in which someone ages 18 to 20 used an assault rifle in a mass shooting

Fridel pointed to a few examples.

Fridel said increasing mental health resources for students is another strategy that might improve school safety, calling this a critical need that has been historically overlooked. She also said that the U.S. is facing a desperate shortage of guidance counselors. In 2014-15, the student-to-school counselor ratio was 482-to-1, according to the American School Counselor Association, nearly twice the organization's recommended ratio.

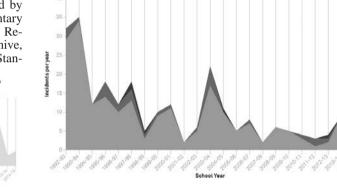
"You might have students in a very large school who are troubled but who are basically flying under the radar, because you have one guidance counselor for 400 students," Fridel said.

Should schools become fortresses?

After the Columbine High School shooting in 1999, schools across the country began holding active shooter drills in which they huddled together in a corner or hid under their desks. Such exercises-which may include someone walking around pretending to shoot students—can be very traumatic, Fridel said, and there is no evidence that they help protect students. "These measures just serve to alarm students and make them think it's something that's common," she said.

Other safety precautions, such as installing metal detectors and requiring ID cards for entry, have also proven ineffective in past school shootings.

In addition to being ineffective, Fox said increased security measures of these kinds can do more harm than good. He called the suggestion to arm teachers "absurd" and "over the top." "I'm not a big fan of making schools look like fortresses, because they send a message to kids that the bad guy is coming for you—if we're surrounding you with security, you must have a bull's-eye on your back," Fox said. "That can actually instill fear, not relieve it." (Courtesy https://news.northeastern.edu/2018)



In 1989, a shooter killed five and injured 32 elementary school children in Stockton, California, by targeting them on the playground.



In 2005, <u>a 16-year-old killed seven people</u> at his Minnesota high school by walking through the front door metal detector and fatally shooting a guard.



In a 1998 shooting in Jonesboro, Arkansas, two students pulled a fire alarm and began sniping people as they filed out to the parking lot, killing five and wounding 10 others.



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