

Chapter 1 : Beyond the Headlines | ALM First Financial Advisors, LLC

*The Weekly: Cannabis Legalization. Beyond the Headlines is debuting its very first The Weekly episode! Tune in to our discussions of the societal implications of Cannabis Legalization in Canada.*

The opinions, facts and any media content in them are presented solely by the authors, and neither The Times of Israel nor its partners assume any responsibility for them. Please contact us in case of abuse. In case of abuse, Report this post. Most of them have been exceedingly kind, encouraging and grateful. Many thanking me for having the courage to speak out. Such is the world we live in. So I feel the need to clarify. Quite the opposite, a point which I had hoped to make early on in my piece. Though I may have fallen short of that standard at times, it has always been my aim to provide a thoughtful and non-partisan view. This is not about a color war. And a free press. And all the other founding principles that make our country great, and many of which have their roots in our own religion and religious view of how society functions. In fact, that phrase is meant to inspire a higher calling so that people will walk the walk and not just talk the talk. But there is an even bigger issue here which is this: I realized that a long time ago. At the most, I hope that I might share some insight that will elevate the thinking and stir our conscience. Because silence is complicity, and I refuse to be complicit. But I realize at the end of the day, my true purpose is not to change your mind. And perhaps appreciate the fact that we are indeed not so different. That we are more similar than dissimilar. That there is more that unites us than divides us. This all came more sharply into focus when I was forced to respond to a dear friend of mine who upon reading my comments asked me why I was only about hating Trump and not about what I stand for. I know this is long. Those of you who are worn out, or who already got the point or who have made up your minds can stop here. The rest of you—read beyond the headline. My grief is stuck in the anger phase. I long for the days when Facebook will return to a collection of bad jokes, silly one liners and making fun of foodies and selfies. But for now, this is what we have to deal with. And this is how I choose to deal with it. You cannot lead without vision. That said, I still put the immediate priority in favor of balance and keeping the current toxic style of leadership in check to hopefully bring us back to a more thoughtful center where I believe most of the country still lives politically. The only thing I hate is intolerance and ignorance. To me, Trump is the lead symbol of both. As Jews [and Americans], our failure to recognize and offer a clear rebuke in the face of it, is to me, an absolute moral failure I simply cannot fathom. Why is it so hard for Republicans to do the same? This is what I simply cannot comprehend. The day after Trump was elected, a confederate flag went up in my neighborhood! While so many are shocked and surprised [by the tragic events in Pittsburgh] , there are many of us who have been trying to sound the alarm for [at least] the past two years. I fail to see the relevance of the economy in any of this. Innocent people are dead because of hate and the speech that fuels it, emboldens it, and by failing to unequivocally denounce it time and time again, is complicit with it. I am for patriotism, not nationalism. I am for country first, but not party first. I am for a Republican party that once emphasized restoring honor and integrity to the White House. I am for a Democrat party that preferred empowerment by lifting all boats with a rising tide of innovation and ingenuity, rather than a shallow pool of mediocrity and handouts. I am for empathy and caring for our fellow citizens who are among the less fortunate, but making them leaders in their own destiny, not victims of their own circumstance. I hope that leaves you with a better understanding of my positions. We all want the same thing. While some may refer to my comments as vitriolic, I will say they are passionate and bold and intended to awaken and restore us to our sense of decency when many seem to be behaving like cultist zombies. I believe we all want the same things. We just disagree on how best to achieve them. Unfortunately we live in a climate where opposing views are labeled, mocked and derided. And I just wish we could all at least agree that when that happens, it is a failure of leadership. And the responsibility for that leadership belongs with the President, like it or not. He can make it better, or he can make it worse. He sets the tone. But it should at least be in the rest of us. In my own small microcosm, I have witnessed first hand the very negative and toxic effects of narcissism and self interest in leadership that comes at the expense of others. And I have also witnessed the very real transformation that occurs when that leadership changes. These are not simply theoretical or

philosophical concerns. To me, they are very concrete and observable. He is active in many Jewish organizations and charities and is an eternal optimist and advocate for reform, peace and global prosperity.

**Chapter 2 : Teresa Rodriguez: Stories Beyond the Headlines – reVolver Podcasts**

*A journey beyond the media's negative headlines. An American traveler finds more normalcy than tragedy in the world's supposedly most dangerous places.*

Seeking the other side of the story Browse: There is something about the word. Of all the countries in Africa, none seem to have quite the same sordid reputation for savagery and despair as the Congo. But sometimes fact is as foul as fiction. In the Congo, the facts are appalling. A hundred years later, a civil war ravaged the country, killing over five million. In the interim, first the Belgians and then a series of maniacal local leaders brutally dominated the country. There are two Congos: Both gained independence in 1960. But after visiting both, the more significant difference seems to be between the historical perception of both countries and reality today. Sunset on the Congo River. Congo-Brazzaville Our flying time to Brazzaville from Kinshasa will be 4 minutes at an altitude of 8, feet. As I sit on an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing wide-body jet with over other people, I wonder about the sanity of taking a 4 minute flight between the two closest capital cities in the world. I spend my days wandering around the city, visiting markets, eating in outdoor restaurants, and drinking beers on the Congo River. It is Kinshasa that gives me heartburn. Even the ever-upbeat Lonely Planet, which makes Detroit sound like an undiscovered gem, can only muster the following for Kinshasa: This is a city where Rwandans, who experienced a genocide less than twenty years ago, told me I needed an armored car to travel around safely. The two cities are closer than San Francisco and Oakland. Yet, bureaucracy and corruption makes the crossing challenging and expensive. Happy hour on Brazzaville side of the Congo River. Congo-Kinshasa I ultimately fly from Brazzaville to Addis Ababa and then to Kinshasa; or about 3, miles to cover a distance of 50 miles. I murmur a silent prayer of apology to the carbon footprint gods as the plane lands. At the Kinshasa airport, UN planes outnumber commercial aircraft by 10 to 1. After exiting the airport, I expect dirt roads packed with hordes of destitute people. I nervously check and re-check to ensure all the car doors are securely locked, as the State Department emphatically advises. Yet I am greeted with a freshly paved six lane wide highway. Locals wander from store to store on weekend shopping excursions. I ask Diego, my new Congolese friend, about politics. It seems that in both Congo-Brazzaville and Congo-Kinshasa things are currently quite calm, but there is uncertainty about the future – namely, whether the current leaders of the country would step down peacefully. Sadly, autocratic leaders staying on past their expiration dates is one of the stereotypes about Africa that has substantial truth behind it. I soon learn that everything that was possible in Brazzaville is also feasible in Kinshasa. My sidekick is a petite American female who regularly explores the city on her own. Walking around the city is no problem. We wander through the central market and not a single one of the thousands of other shoppers hassles us. I once again enjoy cold beers on the Congo River and dinners of fresh goat and chicken kebabs on the street. Happy hour on Kinshasa side of Congo River. To be fair, Kinshasa and the DRC have improved in the last five years. Yet, reputations linger despite evolving realities. For many, including myself until recently, a book published over a hundred years ago serves as the definitive source on the Congo. If you have not already, read more about my journey, sign-up for future updates, and follow along real-time on Instagram. Suddenly the lack of infrastructure seems much more reasonable. They certainly manage to excel at some things beer, chocolate, but colonialism never quite seemed to be their forte. Belgium was excellent at colonialism. The results of colonialism are not supposed to be positive for the colonized nation. They are supposed to be positive for the colonizing nation. And they have been. For the record, in addition to slow barge between Kin and Brazza that you mention, there are also speed boat between the two. The barge is for merchandise, vehicles, and people who cannot afford the speedboat. Personally, if I had the time and was looking for a cultural experience, I would totally take the slow barge across just watch out for pickpockets, as you would in any crowded place. Congolese people live for months at a time on barges like this, going upriver to Kisangani from Kin. As I understand, some were imprisoned, and some were just shot in the streets. The city changes A LOT once you leave the center, basically turning into a 10 million person village – dirt roads, mud brick buildings, and all that. And it gets more crowded, too! A common theme from this trip: I made it to the outskirts of both cities but never quite outside. As you mention,

the feel of both cities did change quite dramatically and quickly. I definitely want to explore more of both countries next time around, although perhaps not exactly replicating your entire epic journey. We read about the optimistic tourist look between the two locations and it was interesting to see that Kinshasa and Brazzaville are not as glamorous as the textbook makes them out to be. I love the pictures associated with this article. It is terrible that New York City spends ten times more on public schools than the DRC does on its entire national budget. While there were you able to learn about the lifestyles between the people? It is truly unfortunate that history can separate communities, even the ones that are so close. It is great to be able to see a real observation to fully comprehend the conflicts of the world, and that not all is what the media may tell us. The might, rapidly flowing Congo river with Congo B on the otherside. The juxtaposition of poverty with progress is a shock to the senses but the people are friendly and warm. I cannot wait to see this country develop and reach its full potential. What a pleasant experience once within the country itself. The processes to get here are another story of course. Rise beautiful DRC, rise! The lingering question is why is there such an economic difference, albeit narrowing over time between the two Congos? Fascinating read here about the tale of two. I like hearing these things about Africa. My numbers are from a few years ago. They are now in the US. The hellhouse you refer to is still there, burning in the females, needing support. The City of Joy could use so much more support. King Leopold II of Belgium massacred 10 million and practiced the cutting off of hands. The mineral conflicts of the 3TGs that end up in our electronics. However, It is well known that it should be the richest country in the world due to its numberless rich minerals. The instability of the country is not just because of the current situation or what has been happening perhaps 10 years ago but this links to the struggle and the corrupt leaders that the DRC have been placed with years ago. I think you should read much more about the DRC so the next time you go back you may even see ten times more the beauty of the country. They should employ Kenyan expatriates to set realistic 10 year plans and other long term development plans. They should further embrace democracy and stop shaming Africa with the mentality of recycling over-used leadership. How is that possible?. Keep the Congo destabilized so exploitation would be that much simpler. Africa, in particular the Congo, has always been the bread basket for the west. Your perspective helps me greatly in deciding, as well as in being less intimidated about visiting there. Your comparison was very helpful, while also seemingly reflective of how everyone outside of Oakland still thinks it or parts of it are perpetual scenes from the crack epidemic in the 90s. I look forward to sharing my experience one day, and contributing to holistic restoration in places like these. This article has been an eye opener for me, and I now have even a great desire to visit both sides of the Congo river. They are good students learning very well. I was then an English teacher in S. Korea for almost 20 years which allowed me to explore some countries in Asia. The funny thing about traveling is that the more you do so one realizes how little you actually know about the world! It is also considered one of the poorest and most dangerous countries in the world. Croatia â€” note to self to visit beautiful Split second largest [â€¦] The Democratic Republic of the Congo: Arguably the most overlooked country in the world, the Democratic Republic of the Congo DRC , different from the Congo, is currently experiencing one of the largest refugee situations in the world with 4.

### Chapter 3 : Beyond the Headlines | Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UCLA

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### Chapter 5 : Russia Beyond - Wikipedia

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